



NEWS RELEASE

5201 Paylor Lane
Sarasota, FL 34240
p. 941.351.0024
f. 941.351.0034

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Jamie Smith, PR Manager
(941) 351-0024

A Night to Celebrate Israel Commemorates 20 Years of Jewish Federations' Dedication to Jewry Worldwide

SARASOTA, FL – January 18, 2011 – The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee celebrated Israel, the worldwide Jewish community, and the power of one with A Night to Celebrate Israel at the Van Wezel, January 12, 2011. Those who attended were inspired, engaged, and honored with the presence of former Deputy Israeli Prime Minister, Natan Sharansky, and Israeli pop star, Noa.

“We were so honored to have Mr. Sharansky join us for the event,” said Nelle Miller, president of The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee. “He is one of the greatest living heroes of the Jewish and non-Jewish community who has set an example and motivates an individual to make change.”

The Federation had envisioned a night where community members of all faiths and backgrounds could come together to celebrate and recognize the contributions of individuals and Israel to the world at large. This included, Operation Exodus, a movement founded by the Jewish Federation of North America, resulting in the rescue and resettlement of more than one million Soviet Jews. The Federation succeeded with over 1775 members of the Sarasota and Manatee communities attending the extraordinary event, which sold out within a month of tickets becoming available.

Israeli pop star, Noa, performed a combination of Hebrew and English songs, ending her hour-long performance with accolades to The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee for their efforts and emulating the message of supporting Israel and finding peace.

“We would like to thank the leadership and staff of The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee for their dedication and tireless efforts on behalf of our entire community,” commented Jack and Susan Benson-Steenbarger, event co-chairs. “What a privilege and thrill it was to stand alongside so many outstanding leaders while we paid tribute to the honorary chairs of the Jewish and Christian communities.”

The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee is a community staple that provides a number of invaluable ongoing community support programs and initiatives for early childhood, teens, students, and seniors. The Federation’s Annual Campaign also supports numerous local, regional, national and international humanitarian organizations. Additional celebratory events for this year include the Jewish Film Festival in partnership with the Sarasota Film Festival to be held March 27 – 31, 2011.

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About The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee

The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee's mission is to save Jewish lives and enhance Jewish life in Sarasota-Manatee, in Israel and around the world. The Federation works to advance this mission by meeting the human needs of the local Jewish community and of fellow Jews worldwide with support programs and initiatives. All The Federation's efforts are aimed at promoting a positive Jewish identity, supporting Israel, and strengthening ties between the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish community and the broader society in which it exists. For more information, visit www.jfedsrq.org.

Photo attached: Israeli pop star, Noa

Grapevine Communications, a full-service, award-winning Advertising, Marketing and Public Relations firm based in Sarasota and serving clients nationwide, was awarded the 2010 Frank G. Berlin, Sr., "Small Business of The Year" Award by the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce. For more information on Grapevine Communications, contact Jamie M. Smith at 941-351-0024 or email pr@grapeinc.com.

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