

Mayor Eisinger

The “rachmanus” rule sets an example for kids & adults alike



by COOPER CITY
MAYOR DEBBY EISINGER

Over the summer, I spent a week in Memphis, Tennessee, where I had the privilege of volunteering as the swim coach for the Ft. Lauderdale JCC delegation at the 2012 JCC Maccabi Games. The JCC Maccabi Games are similar to the Olympics in that they provide a venue for sports competition in a wide array of team and individual sports. Different from the Olympics, the JCC Maccabi Games are specifically geared to Jewish athletes and are limited to teens from 13 through 16 years of age. The

JCC Maccabi Games originated as an offshoot of the larger international Maccabiah Games, which are held every four years in Israel and which offers competitive athletic competition for Jewish athletes of all ages. In response to the overwhelming success of the international Maccabiah Games, the JCC Maccabi Games were established. The JCC Maccabi games are hosted yearly and held at various locations throughout the United States and Canada.

Historically, the Maccabi movement began in 1895 as a response to global wide-spread discriminatory practices of barring Jewish athletes from participating in various sporting events or belonging to athletic clubs because of religious affiliation. While the first world Maccabiah Games took place in Israel in 1932, the first JCC Maccabi Games took place in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1982 with 300 athletes. Today,

their teammates and their opponents. The JCC Maccabi Games strives to achieve this goal by ensuring that all events and activities are offered in a supportive environment which fosters mutual respect and good sportsmanship, and within an atmosphere that encourages healthy competition, fun, and opportunities for developing life-long friendships.

In the wake of today's societal climate, where violent acts, tragic events, and negative campaign election coverage appear daily as featured stories in the news, perhaps it is time for each of us to heed the lessons taught through the JCC Maccabi Games. As adults, it is incumbent upon us to become more mindful and sensitive to the need of paving the road for our children and grandchildren to live in a kinder and more gentle society.

As Immediate Past President of the Broward League of Cities with a long history of volunteering for the betterment of society, I'm honored to give my full support to the initiatives of our current President, Fort Lauderdale Commissioner Bobby DuBose. This year, President DuBose has adopted the theme: "Together We Serve." Similar to the precept of rachmanus, President DuBose is promoting volunteerism in an effort to encourage citizens to demonstrate their concern and compassion for others. Currently, municipalities throughout Broward County are in the process of adopting resolutions recognizing the week of October 21-27, 2012, as "Together We Serve" week and encouraging all citizens to support and take part in increasing volunteer efforts within our community.

Should you wish to join the effort, please log onto the Broward League of Cities website at www.browardleague.org for additional information and the opportunity to be recognized for your contribution to the community.

As always, I welcome your input and comments. Feel free to contact me with questions, suggestions or ideas on ways to make government more efficient, effective and community friendly. I can be reached by e-mail at mayor_eisinger@coopercityfl.org.

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