

For the past few years I have had an opportunity and privilege to lend a hand in strengthening the Jewish community in the Greater Venice area. I am happy to report that we are close to completing, within an estimated 3 months, Phase I of the Chabad Jewish Life Center of Venice & North Port. On **March 6, 2016, at 2 PM**, we will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for Phase II, the construction of our 11,000 square foot Synagogue --- 1681 Jacaranda Boulevard, Venice. When completed, the 4 ¼ acre campus will consist of a Synagogue (sanctuary, social hall, classrooms, library, kosher kitchen and mikvah), a Youth Center and the Rabbi's home. Chabad provides services to our entire community, Jewish and non-Jewish. On behalf of Chabad of Venice & North Port, it would be my honor and pleasure to have you join me for the groundbreaking ceremony. Please see below the Press Release and renderings of the Main Synagogue, the Youth Center and an Aerial View of the Property.

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**PRESS RELEASE: 2/7/2016**

**CHABAD OF VENICE TO HOLD GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY  
FOR NEW 11,000-SQUARE-FOOT SYNAGOGUE COMPLEX**

**VENICE, FLA.**—Chabad of Venice & North Port is set to break ground on a new 11,000-square-foot Center to service the area's growing Jewish community on Sunday, March 6 at 2:00 pm. The ceremony will mark the start of the largest phase of the expansion project.

Designed by renowned architects FleishmanGarcia, and construction by J2 Solutions, the building will meet the needs of a diverse community, including a social hall, library, classrooms, mikva, kosher kitchen and 144-seat sanctuary. An additional 3,600-square-foot Youth Center, nearing completion, will serve as the Chabad Center during construction.

"In recent years, we have had to rent larger locations for holidays and major events. Our current spot just can't hold us anymore," says Rabbi Sholom Schmerling, Director of Chabad. "People have been asking when and to where we will expand. The time is now and we have the perfect location—right in the heart of Venice."

Since 2005 Chabad has worked to serve an expanding community in South County with programs for all ages. Starting with their first Hanukkah Celebration, when 200 attended, this past year over 500 attended. Bursting at the seams in their present location, the timing for the new building could not be better.

Robert Goldman, a Realtor with Michael Saunders & Company, was instrumental in finding the land, negotiating its sale, and developing the building plan. He has attended Chabad since 2010. Studying Torah he was amazed by its continued relevance. "I sat there thinking, this is a blueprint for life. Every business and ethics book I ever read is right here. And it was written over 3,300 years ago." Having been involved ever since, Goldman feels spiritually touched in a way he never experienced. "Chabad has helped me align myself with who I am and who I was meant to be," he says.

After receiving a contribution to purchase a significant portion of the property, the community came together to form a plan of action. A multi-phased building plan was adopted for the campus. The first phase is centered on the 3,600-square-foot building that will eventually serve as the Youth Center. With the first phase nearing completion, the second larger phase is ready to begin.

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**Event Recap:**

What: Chabad of Venice & North Port - Groundbreaking of new synagogue and community center

Where: 1681 Jacaranda Blvd., Venice, Fla.

When: Sunday, March 6, 2016 at 2 p.m.

[www.chabadofvenice.com](http://www.chabadofvenice.com) 941.493.2770

**About Chabad of Venice & North Port:**

Established in 2005, Chabad of Venice & North Port works to strengthen the Jewish community in Venice. Through their various programs, classes, and prayer services, the Chabad House has connected with over 600 Jewish families in the area. Their goal is to improve the world through education, action, and loving kindness; to help realize a moral, G-dly world in which honesty, integrity, and a sense of meaning and purpose are the driving force in our lives.

**PHASE II – Main Synagogue:**



**PHASE I – Youth Center:**



**AERIAL VIEW of PROPERTY – 4 ¼ ACRES**

