Scheck Hillel becomes first Florida school to host annual Global Maker Day

By Sergio Carmona
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When Scheck Hillel Community School in North Miami Beach hosted the recent 2019 Global Maker Day, it became the first school in Florida to host the annual educational event.

Global Maker Day was created by technology enthusiast Jaime Donally in 2016 with the intention to virtually connect and inspire makers from around the world using #GlobalMakerDay on social media. This year’s event hosted by Scheck Hillel, a Jewish school that educates students from 18 months through 12th grade, brought together 80,318 students in 42 countries and 45 states. In total, there were 941 people registered. During the event, a new session and maker challenge led by students and industry leaders from around the world took place every half hour.

“The objective of Global Maker Day is to continue strengthening awareness of a different kind of learning, learning while doing, which is something we do here on a daily basis,” Craig Carpentieri, Scheck Hillel’s chief academic officer said.

During the event, Scheck Hillel senior Samuel Levy shared the award-winning invention “Safe Stop,” which he created with fellow senior classmates Jaime Burstyn and Elliot Shiro. The students won first place in the fourth annual Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education Young Engineers Conference in 2018. Safe Stop is a smart intersection device that is designed to makes a four-way stop more safe and efficient.

“I enjoyed being able to share what we’ve done and what we know,” Levy said. “That’s really how people continue learning and how we inspire others.”

Donally said the decision to bring the event to Scheck Hillel was prompted by a conversation she had with Nancy Penchev, the school’s FLab instructor and lower school technology coordinator, on how it has impacted her and her students.

Scheck Hillel students demonstrate their enthusiasm during Global Maker Day, which virtually connected 80,318 students in 42 countries and 45 states.
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Hundreds of students from Jewish high schools across South Florida for the Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education’s Innovation Day back in May. For the past three years during the spring, Brauer Maimonides Academy in Fort Lauderdale has hosted an annual Maker Expo where students have led demonstrations of hands-on projects they created. Arthur I. Meyer Jewish Preparatory School in Palm Beach Gardens has also hosted an innovation expo the past two years.

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