

## **Presenters**

### **The Duality of Gun Violence & Mental Illness (9am)**

#### **Joan E. Childs, LCSW**

Joan E. Childs, LCSW received her undergraduate degree from the University of Miami and her Masters in Social Work from Barry University. Ms. Childs is certified in a variety of modalities including NLP, EMDR, Hypnosis, PAIRS, Grief Counseling, Family Mediation, Hypnosis, Inner Child Work and was the first affiliate of the John Bradshaw Center in the United States. She is a graduate of Hedy Schliefer's 3-year master class in Encounter-Centered Couples Therapy.

Currently, Ms. Childs maintains a private practice with locations in Hallandale, specializing in individual, couple and group therapy. In addition, Joan Childs is a nationally recognized public speaker who has also appeared on numerous radio and television programs including Oprah Winfrey, Sally Jesse Raphael, Montel Williams, Maury Povich, and many others. She is a frequently sought-after presenter of workshops and trainings and created her own cable television programs on mental health, produced and hosted for WLRN.

A published author (*Myth of the Maiden: On Being a Women*), Ms. Child's book, *Why Did She Jump? My Daughter's Battle with Bipolar Disorder* is currently in pre-production for the movie version.

### **Living & Leaving a Legacy (1pm)**

#### **Merle Saferstein**

Merle Saferstein received her B.Ed. from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. She has worked as the Director of a pre-school and camp, the South Florida coordinator for Anne Frank exhibit in Miami, and the Director of Educational Outreach for the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center in Hollywood, FL.

Currently, Merle works as an author, editor, teacher and speaker which she has done for over 40 years. Her articles have been published in the Huffington Post and Thrive Global. In addition to books and manuscripts, manuals, brochures and booklets, Ms. Saferstein has also developed and edited the *State of Florida Resource Manuals on Holocaust Education*.

Her program, Living & Leaving a Legacy, has been presented at numerous venues to a variety of populations receiving great acclaim.