

The Kibbitzer

Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon

706 Bryan Road, Brandon, FL 33511

Phone (813) 681-6547

www.BethShalom-Brandon.org

December 2021
Volume 32, Issue 6

Upcoming Events

Thursday Evenings

6:30 PM:

Hebrew Class with Rabbi
Torah Study to follow

Friday Evenings

7:00 PM:

Shabbat Service

Friday, December 3rd

Love a Latke Chanukah
Dinner to follow Shabbat
Service

Tuesday, December 7

6:00 PM

Executive Board Meeting.
Regular Board Meeting to
follow

Tuesday, December 14th

7:00 PM

Men's Club Dinner
Jesse's Steakhouse

Saturday, December 18th

6:30 PM

Dinner with the Tribe
Sushi Yama

Friday, December 31st

6:30 PM

Be Our Guest Dinner
Dinner to follow Shabbat
Service

FROM THE PULPIT

Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz



Running After Your Desires!

A person is led by G-d in the way that they are eager to go. There has to be a desire! The word *rozteh* means to want and is related to the word *rahtz*, to run. If you want something, you run towards it. You do not just sit. You do not even walk – you run. The beginning of any successful achievement in this world is the desire and determination to realize a goal.

So now we begin to see how important it is to contemplate about our desire for what is good. (Rahzoan). That means, we must first decide what is worthwhile in this world. We must study and spend time thinking what is important. What are the great ideals? Do not think you know them already because many of our conceptions come from the outside world. If you do not first attempt to shape your mind with the right desires, your mind will not wait around; the outside world gets busy molding your attitudes.

Of course, everyone will say, "I desire everything that is good. I want to be a good person." The truth is in someone's heart. If we could pry open and look inside, we might be able to see the truth of what that person desires. There might be wishes for good health or having great riches. There may be yearnings for travel, or just wanting other things. However, some people's minds might be empty of the true ambitions or desires that could make one great. They didn't learn what is good and worthwhile. So, to be on the road to greatness and have a fulfilling life, we must take the time to learn what worthwhile ideals, Rahzoan, should inspire our actions.

Rabbi

Robert Lefkowitz

Cantorial Soloist

Sandy Santucci

Executive Board:**President**

Steve Billor

Past President

Gerry Pliner

First Vice President

Gerry Pliner

Second Vice President

Toby Koch

Third Vice President

Sheryl Finke

Secretary

David Friedman

Treasurer

Sandy Schwartz

Members at Large:

Anita Clifford

Lynn Kaler

Meral Ginsberg

Gabe Lifschitz

Allan Weber

***The Kibbitzer***

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706 Bryan Road
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Phone 813-681-6547
Email: CBS-brandon@outlook.com

Email and articles for publication:
TheKibbitzer@hotmail.com
For current news and events
see the congregation's website:
<http://www.bethshalom-brandon.org>

Congregation Contacts

813-681-6547 • CBS-brandon@outlook.com

Office hours:

By appointment.
Voicemails and emails will be monitored daily.
Office is closed on holidays

Weekly Email Blast submissions**BEN FERNANDES & KEITH BALOT**
OWNERS

phone: 813.657.6200
fax: 813.413.2045
Keith@krkvalrico.com.

4321 Lynx Paw Trail
Valrico, FL 33596
Ben@krkvalrico.com

www.krkvalrico.com

MEMBERSHIP

Becoming a partner in our congregation offers an opportunity for enduring friendships and a personal spiritual journey. A place in our Jewish community.

Members also have free access to many of our educational and entertainment events.

The President's Corner



Shalom Everybody,

For my December issue of the Kibbitzer, I would like to share some personal thoughts. I have spent the last 6 months caring for my Mother-in-law who was diagnosed with Aggressive Brain Cancer. She passed on November 13th before sunset on Shabbat. My mother-in-law and I have always had a GREAT relationship, so I was fortunate that I didn't have any "catching up" up to do with her. She was a phenomenal women, parent, mother-in-law and beloved friend to so very many people. She had nothing to fix in her life, other than she was not ready to leave us all behind. She knew that she had many people who loved her and had her back.

I bring this up, for all of us to learn from. We should live our lives to the fullest, being happy and content with the directions we take. To be angry and not happy, is a waste of life. We at Congregation Beth Shalom can live a just and fruitful life. We have a wonderful and caring Rabbi and a wonderful and caring congregational family. I have always been strong in my faith and in times of need, faith and religion can help us navigate to calmer waters.

I invite you all to become more involved in Beth Shalom and our congregational family. We have a rejuvenated board of directors and excited and enthusiastic volunteers. These volunteers spend their valuable time creating new activities and fundraisers to keep Beth Shalom alive and healthy. Please become more involved in Beth Shalom and help where you can. I look forward to seeing you all at future events.

Thank you all for your time reading this.

Steve Billor

President

Congregation Beth Shalom

December Oneg Schedule

There can be no joy without food and drink.

Talmud, Mo'ed Katan

Oneg Sponsors

12/03 Love a Latke Dinner
12/10 Helene Rosenbaum
12/17 Lynn & Larry Kaler - Anniversary
12/24 RV Roamers - Be Our Guest Dinner
12/31 New Year's Eve Dairy Potluck



Men's Club



Myron Feldman



Men's Club Monthly Dinner

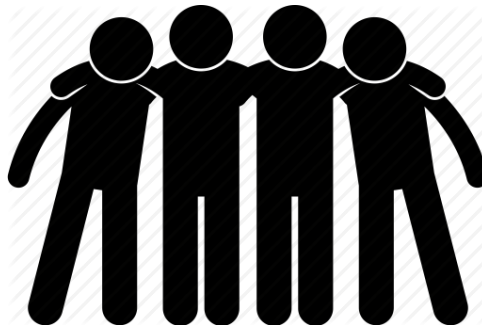
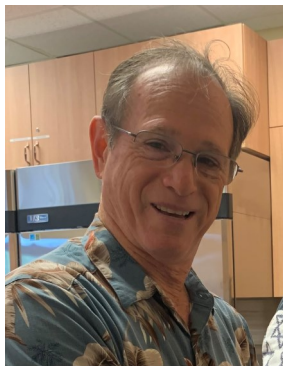


Tuesday, December 14th at 7:00 PM

Jesse's Steakhouse & Seafood
524 West Brandon Blvd
Brandon, FL 33511

The Men's Club will be meeting for their monthly dinner at Jesse's Steakhouse & Seafood. Come join us for a bite and renew friendships or make some new ones. Please RSVP to Myron Feldman at 813/361-9590 or by email at Feldmanmyron@hotmail.com.

The Men's Club met Sunday, November 21st. The latkes were made for the Chanukah dinner which is scheduled for December 3rd, following services.



Dinner with the Tribe



Sushi Yama

10017 E. Adamo Drive
Brandon, FL 33619



Anita Clifford

Saturday, December 18,

Our December event will have us go to Sushi Yama in Brandon which serves both Japanese and Asian Cuisine. It is located in the previous site of Sweet Tomatoes. Even if you are not a sushi lover, you can try their hibachi and other cooked dishes. Dinner is all you can eat at \$24.99 + tax and tip. For the quality and quantity, this can't be beat.

Come and join us for the friendship as well as the food. Please be sure to be vaccinated for everyone's protection. You must email Anita Clifford at niewdnarb@yahoo.com to reserve your seat with us.



Members enjoying dinner at the Vineyards in Apollo Beach and Jasmine Thai in Brandon.



Seleucid fortress destroyed by Hasmonean army revealed ahead of Hanukkah

From the Jerusalem Post
By Rossella Tercatin
November 16, 2021

Some 2,100 years ago, the Hasmonean army was marching toward the Hellenistic city of Maresha in Israel's Shephelah region, also known as the Judean foothills. Leading them was John Hyrcanus, a high priest and the ruler of Judea, a nephew of the [Hanukkah](#) hero Judah Maccabee, who a few decades earlier had led the victorious revolt against the Seleucids in the region.

The Judean army was first spotted by Seleucid soldiers stationed in a fortress on a hill overlooking the city. Some two millennia later, the structure was uncovered in an archaeological excavation – a unique testimony to the conflict that raged through the land of Israel in the second century BCE – just ahead of Hanukkah, the Antiquities Authority (IAA) announced on Tuesday.

“Our theory is that the Seleucids blocked the entrance of the fortress and fled to the city as their enemies approached,” said archaeologist Ahinoam Montagu, excavation director on behalf of the IAA together with Saar Ganor, Vladik Lifshits. “As the Hasmoneans reached the structure, they set it on fire.” The building, around 15m. x 15m. (approximately 50 ft. x 50 ft.), featured seven rooms. Steps that are likely connected to a second floor are still visible and well preserved. Burnt beams offer dramatic insight into its last moments. “The structure presents a clear destruction layer, which was preserved because the area was not resettled,” Montagu said. “Likely the roof collapsed first and then the highest parts of the wall followed.”

The archaeologists found hundreds of pottery shards and several coins that allowed them to date the building with precision. Among the artifacts were also a few well-preserved small jugs, often used to store expensive liquids – and possibly not so different from the little jug that according to the Jewish tradition was instrumental for the Hanukkah miracle, in which a small jug that contained pure olive oil kept on refilling itself to allow the menorah in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem to be lit for eight days.

Montagu said their interpretation that no fighting took place in the fortress is also supported by the fact that no human remains were found. “We uncovered only a few animal bones and a fragment of a sword,” she said. “If a battle was fought here, there would have been a lot more remains, including human remains and artifacts. “Our goal is to finish uncovering the destruction layers and find more artifacts,” she added. “After we finish digging, the site will be opened to the public.”

The archaeologists believe that the building was not the only fortified structure guarding Maresha. More might have been built on the other hills surrounding the area where the city stood, still visible today. Maresha was conquered by John Hyrcanus around 112 BCE.

The newly-revealed fortress was first uncovered a few years ago during a survey, and has been excavated since 2020 as part of the Kings of Judah Road project, conducted in cooperation with Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael-Jewish National Fund, funded by the Jerusalem and Heritage Ministry, with the collaboration high-school students majoring in the Ministry of Education's Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology program, and students from the Asher Ruach Bo pre-military program in Mitzpe Ramon for youths at risk.

“The stories of the Maccabees are coming to life before our eyes, and this is the most fascinating part of the Israel Antiquities Authority's work, when dedicated, hardworking archaeologists breathe life into the historical annals of the people who passed through this land,” said IAA general director, Eli Eskozido. “In a few days, we will be celebrating Hanukkah, whose central theme is the Hasmoneans' defeat of the Hellenists, leading to the establishment of the first independent sovereign Jewish entity. The Hasmoneans could have had no idea that 2,000 years later, students living in the State of Israel would be following in their footsteps. It is extremely exciting.”



FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

Chanukah Dinner

CBS Love A Latke Dinner

Friday, December 3rd, 6:00 PM

Following Shabbat Services

Come join us as we celebrate the first night of Chanukah with dinner following Shabbat service. It's an exciting menu that you don't want to miss. Julie Shienbaum is in the kitchen with her helpers and this will be a fabulous dinner. If you would like to participate with meal prep, serving or set up, please contact Chef Julie at jul78clint@aol.com or her sous chef, Meral Ginsberg at meralgins@gmail.com.

Donations are always appreciated, too. Latkes courtesy of the Men's Club.



Reservations must be in by November 28th.

Adults: \$20

Children 12 years and younger: \$10

Under 3: Free

Non-members are welcome, \$25 per adult
and \$10 per child

At the door: \$25



BE OUR GUEST DINNER

Shalom Roamers

Friday, December 24th, 6:30 PM

On December 24th, CBS will be hosting a Shabbat dinner for Shalom Roamers. Shalom Roamers is a chapter of the Jewish RVing community. We will have our Shabbat Service from 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM. Dinner will begin following the service. There will be a film presentation from the Roamers introducing us to their unique group.

Dinner costs \$30.00 for adults and \$10 for children under 13. Children under 3 are free. Please RSVP by December 8th, 2021, to Julie Shienbaum at jul78clint@aol.com. If you have any questions, please leave a message on our temple voice mail at (813)681-6547 and your call will be returned.



New Year's Eve



Friday, December 31, 2021

7:00 PM

Come celebrate New Year's Eve with us following Shabbat Services. We will have a potluck dinner, so please bring your favorite dairy dish. Make sure you call Judith Pliner at (856)816-2174 to let her know what you'll be bringing. We will have a vote on our favorite dish so don't tell anyone what you are bringing. Prizes will be awarded. Also, please bring your favorite game as we will be enjoying game night.



Happy New Year

Donations

General Fund

In Honor of Steve Feldman's birthday

Anna Feldman

Donation for Chanukah Dinner

Steve and Anna Feldman

In Loving Memory of Annette Feldman

Steve and Anna Feldman

In Loving Memory of Patricia Morris

Mother of Jennifer Billor

Steve and Anna Feldman

In Honor of our 35th Anniversary

Lynn and Larry Kaler

In Honor of Laura Kaler's Birthday

Lynn and Larry Kaler





In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that Congregation Beth Shalom announces the death of Mike Hall. For those who did not know Mike, he graciously supported CBS by being a sponsor for numerous past fundraisers through his business, Side Pools. Several of our Temple members had the good fortune to have their pools maintained by Mike and he will be truly missed.

We are also saddened to announce the death of Patricia Morris. Patricia passed away on November 13, 2021 after a long illness. She was the mother of Jennifer Morris Billor and mother-in-law to Steve Billor. Steve has been a long time member of CBS and is our current president.

May their memories be a blessing.

**Advertise in
The Kibbitzer**

Business Card \$10/month

Get a 10% Discount by
Prepaying for one year.

To reserve your place in the next
issue, e-mail John Zelatis
at

jzelatis@zomesa.com or call the

CBS office at
813-681-6547.




Did you know that every time you shop at AMAZON, you can support Congregation Beth Shalom? Sign in to smile. Amazon.com and .05% of your qualified purchases will be donated to our congregation. This donation is at no extra cost to you.

*Improving the health
of women every day.*


Our Doctors:
Stephen Zweibach, MD
Natasha Champion, MD
Mariel Rotundo-Patino, DO

Our Services:
• Gynecology & Obstetrics
• Bladder Problems
• Bleeding & Pain Problems
• Weight Management
• Botox

Now Accepting:
Tricare Members


TRICARE

Women's Care Florida offers obstetrics and
gynecologic care for women through all phases of life,
from your pre-teen years to post-menopausal years.
Call today to schedule an appointment!

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www.womenscarefl.com

515 S. Kings Ave., Suite 1300 • Brandon, FL
13148 Vail Ridge Dr., • Riverview, FL
813.571.2777 *Se Habla Espanol*

Wish List



Interior wish list:

- Large print copies of Mishkan HaNefesh
- Two 4-foot tall bookcases for classrooms
- 60 wine glasses and water glasses (plain not decorative)
- 8 white large round table cloths
- 3 large round tables (to replace the broken ones)
- 10 deadbolt door locks
- School supplies and crafts

Exterior wish list:

- Exterior wall paint for the temple
- Pressure treated privacy fence sections 6 X 8 (non-overlapping slats) and 4X4 by 8 feet long Fence posts. Available at Home Depot or Lowes

The temple has a Mitzvah list for items of work. When you visit the temple, the mitzvah board is in the hallway. You can select an item from the list by adding your name and contact information.

If you can help with our wish or mitzvah list, please contact: Gabe Lifschitz at (571) 277-1416

Free fire wood available next to the wood shed. Just pick your log and bring an axe.



Your 100% Satisfaction is Absolutely Guaranteed !

Clarke Automotive Systems

If you have a problem with your car, let us give you our honest, expert & straightforward advice so the job is done right—the first time !

Bob Clarke
(813) 685-2939

131 Central Ave
Brandon, FL 33510

Shabbat Services

Our Shabbat services will take place Friday Nights at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary as well as online. Our livestream feed is available on Zoom and Facebook. For outdoor services, the Zoom link will not work, so please sign in to Facebook. Join us in the celebration of Shabbat and you are welcome to like, comment, and share.

Zoom info for Shabbat Service:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82310839346?pwd=ZER2bkVBTUxIRDcvRWdBMZocZSmVMQT09>
Meeting ID: 823 1083 9346
Password: 259255

Facebook Information for Shabbat Service:

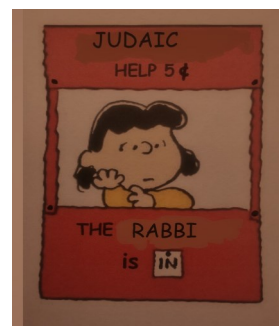
<https://www.facebook.com/BethShalomBrandon/>

The Mishkan Tefilah (Siddur) is available

at: https://www.ccarnet.org/publications/mishkan-tfilah-for-shabbat/?fbclid=IwAR2sT9TxlbC-vAT_VGvYArkHVRfMZTkvxVuSjKXSxOdExMFCl7LWOACMzwA

CBS Office Hours

The administrative office is currently open by appointment only. Someone can be reached at [cbs-brandon@outlook.com] and 813-681-6547 or you may contact Rabbi Lefkowitz directly at 407-222-6393 or rlefkowi@bellsouth.net. Rabbi Lefkowitz will be available for in person meetings on Fridays. Call him at 407-222-6393 to schedule an appointment.



Although our hours are limited, we are always here for you. Do not hesitate to reach out with any needs, concerns or questions.

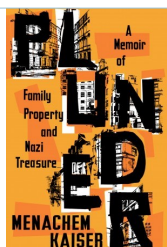
The Library Corner

L'Shana Tova from the Library Committee. We are still organizing the library from when we were closed for Covid. The Food Bank donations have been cleared out, but there is still much to get done. We're making progress and hopefully the library will be open soon for your viewing pleasure.



Jewish Book Month

"Jewish Book Month is celebrated during the 30 days leading up to Hanukkah each year, roughly around the month of November. During this time, there are author events, reading lists, and Jewish book fairs held at synagogues, community centers and libraries. It's a time to celebrate the thriving culture and literature of Judaism, and to do a little holiday shopping.." by Heidi Rabinowitz

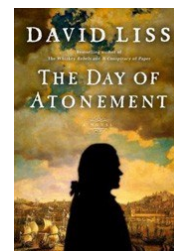


Plunder: A Memoir of Family Property and Nazi Treasure - Review by Amy Spungen 06/21/21

Nothing is straightforward in Menachem Kaiser's *Plunder: A Memoir of Family Property and Nazi Treasure*. During a trip to Poland in 2010, Kaiser impulsively decides to visit Sosnowiec, the hometown of the grandfather for whom he was named. At the time, Kaiser is unaware that he will soon take up his grandfather's twenty-year fight to reclaim a building stolen from his father by the Nazis. This quest forms the basis of his engaging book.

The Day of Atonement by David Liss Review by By Edyt Dickstein – October 23, 2014

"a gripping novel set in eighteenth century Portugal. The protagonist, Sebastião Raposa, is a descendant of New Christians who were forced to convert from Judaism in the late fifteenth century. Centuries later, his parents are imprisoned and executed by the Inquisition under the accusation of practicing Judaism, and Raposa flees to England. There, he changes his name to Sebastian Foxx and converts to Judaism, an act of defiance motivated by his hatred of the Inquisition. Soon after, Raposa returns to Lisbon, determined to take revenge on the priest responsible for the deaths of his parents."

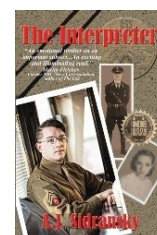


Evening: A Novel by Nessa Rapoport

Two sisters, lost youth, and youthful obsessions; organized by day as the family sits *shiva*, *Evening* unfolds the paradoxes of love, ambition, siblings, and the way the past continues to inflect the present, sometimes against our will.

The Interpreter by A.J. Sidransky Review by Barbara M. Libel 11/02/2020

Kurt Berlin is a young American soldier serving in the Philippines during World War II. A refugee from Nazi-occupied Austria, he is fluent in German. When the OSS recruits him to work as an interpreter for Americans interrogating Nazi war criminals, he reluctantly accepts and goes to Brussels. In the course of his assignment, Kurt discovers that the SS officer being interrogated is responsible for the terror and misery that his family suffered during their escape. He also realizes that the man may have information about a young girl that he loved and left behind. His desire for information and the discovery that the Americans interviewing the Nazis may be interested in more than war crimes offer a moral dilemma.



Social Action



**Meral Ginsberg and Hilary Konigsberg
getting ready to disperse groceries
from our Food Bank.**

Congregation Beth Shalom will be opening a Food Bank for the greater Brandon area. The first distribution of goods will be December 19th from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Thereafter, our Food Bank will be open for deliveries the third Sunday of each month. We will have signage showing where recipients should drive, and they will remain in their vehicles. Volunteers will bring the donations outside and place them in their trunks.



Food insecurity can affect anyone: our neighbors, friends, and the elderly. Many people who need our help work, but are one layoff, tragedy or natural disaster away from needing assistance. "We embrace our similarities and differences alike to reinforce the strength of our impact. We honor and serve all of our neighbors compassionately and free of prejudice." ("May 30 Sermon: For Love & Country – Spirit of Life ...")

We are asking our members to donate food and personal care products to CBS. If you cannot bring your contribution to the Temple or wish to donate money or a gift card, we will arrange to pick up your items. Tikkun Olam is a concept in Judaism whereby we are responsible to help repair the world. Please join us in the Mitzvah of Tikkun Olam and donate today. For more information, you may contact Meral Ginsberg at meralgins@gmail.com or (813)690-5713. You may also call Congregation Beth Shalom at (813)681-6547.

We Do Things Better

When We Do Them Together.



Our community food pantry is open for all in need. If you or someone you know needs help, please contact Meral at (813)690-5713 or meralgins@gmail.com.

We are currently seeking donations of the following for our pantry:

- bar soap
- body wash
- laundry detergent
- feminine hygiene products
- kid's cereals
- spaghetti sauce
- toilet paper

If you would like to donate any of these items, please contact us. Thank you.

Our Congregation

Birthdays



12/10 Steven Hindin
12/11 Judith Pliner
12/26 Denise Weber
12/29 Mark Finke
12/30 Peter Jacobson

Anniversaries



12/21 Lynn and Larry Kaler
12/31 Randy and Danita Freedman

Yahrzeits

12/1	Seymour	Ponemon	Father	Of	Arthur	Ponemon
12/1	Ron	Miller	Uncle	Of	Russell	Berman
12/3	Abraham	Kaplan	Father	Of	Elisa	Criden
12/5	Robert	Greenfield	Father	Of	Andrew	Greenfield
12/5	Joel	Zazulia	Brother	Of	Iylene	Miller
12/5	Rita	Weiss	Mother	Of	Alan	Weiss
12/11	Gloria	Bolnick	Mother	Of	Jay	Bolnick
12/12	Rose	Frye	Relative	Of	Christina	Frye
12/12	Ann	Edelson	Grandmother	Of	Joel	Edelson
12/15	Florence	Plesur	Mother-in-law	Of	Carol	Plesur
12/15	Morton	Rabinowitz	Father	Of	Mark	Rabinowitz
12/18	Pat	Bricklin	Cousin	Of	Steve	Feldman
12/18	Schura	Dimant	Mother	Of	Murray	Dimant
12/20	Craig	Neuman	Husband	Of	Collette	Neuman
12/21	Francis	Honaker	Aunt	Of	Steve	Feldman
12/23	Anna	Pearlstein	Relative	Of	Christina	Frye
12/24	Tatyana	Gudz	Grandmother	Of	Lana	Goldfarb
12/27	Virginia	Finke	Mother	Of	Mark	Finke
12/29	Robert	Lange	Father	Of	Sandee	Pelk
12/29	Sally	Bloom	Mother	Of	Gail	Verlin
12/31	Louis	Verlin	Father-in-law	Of	Gail	Verlin

Committees/Chairpersons**Building/Capital Fund**

Gerry Pliner

Finance

Gerald Pliner

Fundraising

Open

Life Long Learning

Open

Strategic Planning

Steve Feldman

Membership

Judith Pliner

Caring Committee

Judith Pliner

Oneg

Open

Publicity

Toby Koch

Ritual

Open

Facility and Safety

Gabe Lifschitz

Social Action

Meral Ginsberg

Religious School

Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz

Eblast:Toby Koch and Carol Anne
Friedman**Other Programs****CBS Singles Over 50**

Anita Clifford

Chavurah

Open

Dinner With the Tribe

Anita Clifford

Kibbitzer Editor

Lynn Kaler

Library

Sandy Saviet

Men's Club

Myron Feldman

Page Turners

Anita Clifford

Web Administrator

Toby Koch

Kibbitzer Kudos

Julie Shienbaum

Julie has devoted many hours to CBS in so many ways. Whether she is cleaning the Temple, cooking for all of our CBS dinners, and getting the Food Pantry up and running, she is a MENSCH. She has organized the latke cooking for the Men's Club, organizing and preparing the Chanukah Dinner and coordinating the RV Shalom Roamers Fundraiser Dinner, Be Our Guest.

Meral Ginsberg

Thank you for the many hours you have devoted to CBS. We appreciate all your hard work on the Rabbi's dinner and everything you are doing to get the Food Pantry up and running.

Debbie and Ben Miller

Thank you for so generously hosting the Oneg numerous times!

Janice Perelman, Debbie and Ben Miller, and Petie Maguire

Thank you for hosting our November Onegs!

Rabbi Lefkowitz

Todah Rabah for helping with the Onegs

Sandy Schwartz

Mazel Tov for taking on the role of Treasurer

Sandy Santucci

For continuing doing a wonderful job as our Cantorial Soloist

Myron Feldman, Dave Friedman, Meral Ginsberg, Sandy Santucci, Julie Shienbaum and Allan Weiss

For making the latkes for Love a Little Latke Party



Donations

Congregation Beth Shalom accepts donations for many purposes, with a variety of opportunities for donors to support the good works of the Temple. You may contact the office either by phone or email to contribute, or head to our website to make a secure online payment through a PayPal account or by using a credit card.

Funds:

- **General Fund** (unrestricted): An unrestricted gift to the General Fund allows the temple to use those funds wherever they may be needed most. This fund incorporates contributions received from our High Holy Day Appeal, Yahrzeit donations, Bricklets, Adopt-A-Book, Tree of Life (unless otherwise indicated) and other non-restricted gifts.
- **Building Fund:** A fund to ensure the continuing physical growth of our spiritual home. Intended for capital improvements and major building repairs.
- **Endowment Fund:** Gifts to this fund are placed in an investment account and temporarily restricted or can be defined/restricted by the donor. This fund ensures the future of our temple.
- **Religious School Scholarship Fund:** These funds will be made available to Religious School students who are in need of tuition assistance, as determined confidentially by the Treasurer.
- **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:** a fund for assistance to families in need, scholarship assistance, interfaith council, Holocaust museum and other endeavors at the Rabbi's discretion.
- **Youth Group Fund:** a fund that supports the ongoing engagement of post b'nai mitzvah youth, providing meaningful and fun experiences for our teens, and keeping them connected to their Jewish community.

If you wish to designate a gift to a particular purpose, for example, Food Bank, Choir, Oneg, Social Action, etc., you may do so by noting as such on your payment method or with an accompanying note; otherwise, your gift will be used where it is needed most.

Opportunities:

- **Adopt-A-Book:** A dedication label will be placed in one of our prayer books, to commemorate a simcha or in honor or memory of a loved one for just \$54.
- **Bricklets:** For as little as \$9 you can send a Bricklet Card instead of buying a card for birthdays, condolences, etc. A Bricklet Card in your name will be sent to the person you wish stating that a donation has been made in his or her name to Beth Shalom to honor the occasion.
- **Tree of Life:** The Tree of Life is on the back wall of our Sanctuary. An engraved leaf or stone can commemorate many simchas, b'nai mitzvah, wedding, birth, graduations, etc. Leaves are \$180, and stones are \$1800.
- **Yahrzeit Plaque:** To honor the death of a loved one, you may purchase a plaque that will be cared for in perpetuity for \$350. The name of the deceased along with their date of death is included on the plaque.

Congregation Beth Shalom - Donation Form

At times of sorrow & memory, as well as at times of joy, tradition teaches us that we honor others by giving of tzedakah. Please return your completed donation form to the temple office.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Donor's Name: _____

Address: _____

\$18_____ \$36_____ \$54_____ \$180_____ Other _____

Designated Fund:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Group Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Endowment Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious School Scholarship Fund |

- ☐ My check is enclosed
☐ Please bill me

"Tzedakah weighs as much as all the other commandments combined" - Talmud

Congregation Beth Shalom 706 Bryan Rd. Brandon, FL 33511 813-681-6547

Caring Committee

The Caring Community of Congregation Beth Shalom reaches out in times of need and special challenges. Members of the committee extend support through calls, visits, meals or transportation. Unique challenges, such as during hurricane season and the COVID-19 pandemic are always addressed as needed. We strive to honor our mission statement to **offer a warm and welcoming presence and a nurturing environment**. This not only helps foster the wonderful feelings of connection and support, but those who assist another experiences the opportunity of fulfilling *mitzvot* by helping another person.

If each of us contributes just a little, we can do a great deal, do a great deed, and truly be a caring congregation.

Our Caring Community helps in many ways, such as:

- ♦ Providing support to families who are grieving the loss of a loved one
- ♦ Supply and deliver cooked meals to members who are ill
- ♦ Assist members with various transportation issues
- ♦ Visiting the elderly and ailing
- ♦ Responds to the needs of our members

Please inform Rabbi Lefkowitz at 407-222-6393 or Judith Pliner at 856-816-2174 if you know of an individual who is in the hospital or in need of some type of assistance.

We need your support and help. The Caring Community needs to be comprised of every member of our wonderful Congregation Beth Shalom family who unite through volunteering their time and support. Join the Caring Committee to support the bereaved, to visit the sick, to lend a hand to those in need in our community. We have no committee meetings. If we all pitch in and work together to support one another, we surely will live up to our mission statement to be a warm, welcoming presence and engage in the mitzvot of helping our community.



“Kindness I’ve discovered, is everything in life.” Isaac Bashevis Singer

Time for a Nosh

When I lived in Cleveland, there was a great bakery called, “Davis Bakery”. They made these wonderful cookies, and they became my favorite dessert. Leaving Cleveland to move to Tampa was difficult. I was not only leaving my family but wondered if I’d ever find these amazing cookies again. I planned on searching for a recipe and make them myself, but it took years before I found the correct one. I finally discovered the recipe in a cookbook by Joan Nathan, “The Jewish Holiday Baker.”

KICHEL (Bow Tie Cookies)

From Ben Moskovitz

Kichel, coming from the same root as kuchen in Yiddish, means “cookie” and is either sweet or savory. This particular version, rolled in sugar before baking, is very light – it melts in your mouth. “On Saturday night in Apsha, before the war, people had tea and *kichel*” said Ben Moskovitz while making this recipe.

5 large eggs
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
2/3 cup vegetable oil
1 teaspoon sugar, plus 1 cup for rolling
2 1/3 cups high-gluten or unbleached all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt



1. Place the eggs, vanilla, vegetable oil, 1 teaspoon sugar, the flour, and salt in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle and blend on low speed until incorporated; then beat on high for 5 minutes.
2. Remove the paddle and scrape the batter down the sides of the bowl. Rest the dough in the bowl, covered, until soft and spongy outside, about 1 hour. Then remove it from the bowl – it will be sticky – and make a ball out of it.
3. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and grease 2 cookie sheets.
4. Sprinkle a work surface with the 1 cup sugar, about 1/8 inch deep. Place the dough in the center, flatten it slightly with a rolling pin, and sprinkle the dough liberally with sugar. “Don’t be bashful with the sugar,” says Mr. Moskovitz. Roll the dough to a thickness of 1/8 inch, a rectangle about 18 by 12 inches. Then, using a pastry cutter or a dull knife, cut the dough into strips 3/4 inch wide and 2 inches long. Lift each strip, twist in the middle to make a bow tie, and place on the cookies sheets, leaving 1/2 inch between each strip.
5. Bake the *kichel* for 25 – 30 minutes on the middle rack of the over, until the cookies are hard to the touch on all corners and golden brown. (If using 1 oven, put the cookie sheets on the top and center racks; then switch them midway). To test for doneness, break a *kichel* in half. If it is doughy or too soft, it is not done yet. Return to the oven for a few minutes more.

Yield: about 70 *kichel* (P)



A Little Bit of This and That



Guess who this cutie pie is and win a prize!
Send your answers to thekibbitzer.com.



Top Jewish Instagram Accounts



Lital Rozenshtein (@litalrozenshtein)
Photographs personified food in interesting places.

Nick Kroll (@nickkroll)
Comedian, actor and producer

Lindsey Fraley (@lindseylivingwell)
Health, fitness, life in medical school

Sue Bird (@sbird10)
One of the top WNBA players

Omer Koren (@omerkoren_photography)
Israeli based photographer, "light lover"

Adina Sash (@flatbushgirl)
Comedian turned Jewish activist

Top Hebrew Songs of 2021



Hanan Ben Ari - If You Want

Noa Kirel - Million Dollar

Eden Hason – Sivuvim (Rotations)

You can find these songs/videos on YouTube.com.

If you'd like the translations of the songs, let me know and I'll send it to you.

Most Recommended Jewish Websites

<https://www.haaretz.com/>

News from Israel

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/>

Everything you need to know from Anti-Semitism to Zionism

<https://www.jfedstl.org/community-engagement/brodsky-library/>

Amazing Jewish Community library

<https://www.aish.com/>

One Stop for everything Jewish

<https://www.jewishgen.org/>

Jewish Genealogy



Best Jewish Cookbooks



Modern Jewish Cooking
Bubbe and Me in the Kitchen
Kosher Revolution
Olive Trees and Honey

Joy of Kosher

The Barefoot Contessa Cookbook

The Smitten Kitchen Cookbook

Jewish Holiday Cooking

Zahav

Jewish Humor



Back in the days when millions of Jews lived in the villages of Poland and Ukraine, a young Torah scholar was soon to be wed. He heard about an old couple that never had a fight in 60 years of marriage. Eager to learn their secret, he walked for days to visit them. Upon hearing why the young man had come, the elderly husband agreed to share his wisdom for a peaceful marriage.

The day after we married, I came to my in-laws' house with a donkey-cart to move my wife's possessions to our new home. We loaded up and departed.

After a couple hours of walking, the donkey took an unauthorized break. My wife looked the donkey in the eye and said, "That's one."

An hour later, the donkey took another unauthorized break. My wife looked the donkey in the eye and said, "That's two."







An hour after that, the donkey took a third unauthorized break. My wife looked the donkey in the eye and said, "That's three."

Then she took out a gun and shot the donkey dead. I said, "Don't you think maybe that was a little excessive?" She said, "That's one."



Congregation Beth Shalom
of Brandon

December

			1 Chanukah day 3 	2 Chanukah day 4 Adult Education 7:00pm 	3 Chanukah day 5 6:00pm Erev Shabbat service 6:30 Chanukah Dinner 	4 Chanukah day 6 
5 10:00 am Religious School Chanukah 7 	6 Chanukah day 8 	7 6:00 pm Executive committee Meeting 7:00pm Board Meeting	8	9 Adult Education 7:00pm	10 7:00 pm Erev Shabbat Service Kibbitzer deadline	11
12 10:00am Religious School	13	14 7:00pm Men's Club	15	16 Adult Education 7:00pm	17 7:00 pm Erev Shabbat Service	18 Dinner w/the Tribe
19 10:00am Religious School	20	21	22	23 Adult Education 7:00pm	24 6:00pm Erev Shabbat Service 6:30pm Shalom Roamer's Dinner	25
26 10:00am Religious School	27	28	29	30 7:00pm Torah Study	31 7:00pm Erev Shabbat Service 8:00pm Special Oneg and New Years Eve Celebration	