

The Kibbitzer

Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon

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From the Rabbi's desk...



The updates on Israel are deeply distressing. There have been over one thousand people murdered, thousands injured, and over one hundred individuals abducted by terrorists. In the coming days, the I.D.F. soldiers will go into Gaza to try to save the abducted and combat the terrorists.

The Torah teaches us that the physical protection of each of us is intrinsically connected to our spiritual activism. When we pray or dedicate a good deed to our brothers and sisters in Israel, we create a spiritual defense shield to help them through difficult and dangerous times.

What can we do to help?

We can use the power of prayer to reach the Gates of Heaven and plead with the Almighty to make things better. Psalms are especially appropriate for times like this. Feel free to go off-script and speak to God directly in your own words. While praying, keep in mind those who were injured in the attacks. Psalm, Chapter 20, has a special significance in times such as these. Reach out to friends and family in Israel or even strangers and tell them that you are one with them and tell them that you are sure that they will prevail.

Let us pray together for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Lefkowitz



Jerusalem From The Mount Of Olives by Lucy Willis

The President's Corner



Steve Billor

Shalom Everybody!

This is my Kibbitzer article following our High Holy Day Services. We had such a busy month, and I would love to recap it. We had a beautiful Sukkot built by Myron and his merry band of Sukkot builders. We had beautiful services that would not have been possible without the efforts of many people who prepared the building and services for our prayer. We had a wonderful Break the Fast due to the efforts of Carol Anne Friedman, Julie Shienbaum, Petie Maguire, and many other wonderful ladies. We also enjoyed a tasty end of Sukkot with a Wine and Cheese party prepared by my lovely wife, Jennifer. There were wonderful turnouts for these events which was very gratifying. I have a dream of filling the Synagogue with members, praying, and socializing together, becoming a stronger community. It was a wonderful experience.

I would also like to thank the many who have donated to CBS with wonderful High Holy Day mitzvah gifts. This helps our synagogue grow and will help maintain our building for future generations of Jewish Families. If you haven't made your High Holy Day mitzvah gift to CBS, please donate what you can afford. Remember, we have anonymous donors who will match our contributions up to \$12,500. This will allow us to move forward with the necessary repairs and upgrades.

Several members were generous in sharing their thoughts on how to make our High Holy Day services more meaningful and spiritual, for which I am grateful. Please feel free to give feedback to me or any board member about our services. We strive to make our services meaningful and special, and we can only do so with your input.

In regard to Israel, it has been a devastating week. Additionally, antisemitism is at an all-time high in the United States. With this in mind, I have been in contact with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, and they are providing us with a Law Enforcement Presence as needed. The first Friday and Sunday (Faith Family Service and CBS Food Bank) will have a patrol car/deputy on site for presence and security. We will continue to evaluate our security needs and plan accordingly.

In closing, I would like to continue to challenge you to bring a new member, or previous member to Congregation Beth Shalom and let them experience our CBS magic. As always, Todah Rabah (Thank you very much) for being a part of the Beth Shalom Family and your time in reading this article.

Steve Billor



By Elena Kotliarker

Candle Lighting Times

Friday, November 3	6:20 PM
Friday, November 10	5:16 PM
Friday, November 17	5:13 PM
Friday, November 24	5:12 PM



Oneg Schedule

November Sponsors

There can be no joy without food and drink.

Talmud, Mo'ed Katan

November 3	Anna & Steve Feldman	In honor of Steve's birthday
November 10	CBS Congregation	Veterans Day Oneg
November 17	Debbie & Ben Miller	In honor of their 46th anniversary
November 24	CBS Congregation	Please bring a dish to share

**If you'd like to sponsor an oneg, please call
Anna Feldman at (707)628-5399**

Parashot

November 3

Vayeira

The three angels appear to Avraham and foretell the birth of Yitzchak. Upon hearing the news, Sarah laughs to herself.

The angels depart to destroy Sodom, and Hashem [G-d] tells Avraham about His plans for destroying Sodom. Pasuk 18:18-19 proclaims G-d's confidence in Avraham to teach the world the concept of justice. Avraham negotiates, unsuccessfully, on behalf of Sodom.

The story of the destruction of Sodom is told. Lot's generosity to the "two visitors" is rewarded and he, his wife, and only two of their children are saved from Sodom.

Lot's wife looks back upon the destruction of Sodom and dies, and Lot and his two daughters escape into the mountains. Lot's daughters conspire to rebuild humankind, and taking advantage of Lot's drunkenness, they become pregnant from Lot resulting in the birth of Ammon and Moav. Avraham encounters Abimelech after which Sarah gives birth to Yitzchak in the year 2048.

Yishmael and Hagar are forced out of Avraham's home, and an angel reassures Hagar of Yishmael's destiny.

Abimelech and his general Phichol resolve their conflict with Avraham over water rights, and they "sign" a covenant of peace.

In the year 2085, when Avraham was 137 and Yitzchak was 37, Avraham is commanded to sacrifice Yitzchak. This amazing story heralds the end of Avraham and Sarah's era, and the beginning of Yitzchak and Rivkah's era.



November 10

Chayei Sarah

Avraham negotiates with Ephron the Hitite to purchase the Cave of Machpelah as a burial place for Sarah. Tradition says that this is also the burial place of Adam and Chava.

Avraham sends Eliezar, his trusted servant, to Aram Naharayim, (between the Tigris and the Euphrates) to find Yitzchak a shiduch – a bride.

Leading a caravan of supplies and riches, Eliezar arrives in Nachor. While resting by "the well", he devises a test to ascertain the worthiness of a potential mate for Yitzchak. Rivkah (Yitzchak's 1st cousin once removed) meets all the criteria and Eliezar presents her with the appropriate gifts.

Eliezar is invited into Bisuel's home (Rivkah's father) and he relates the entire story of his mission and his encounter with Rivkah. Eliezar asks for her hand in marriage to Yitzchak. Bisuel and Lavan (Rivka's brother) agree.

Rivkah expresses her desire to depart immediately. Her family blesses her, and Eliezar brings her to Canaan. Yitzchak marries Rivka in the year 2090.

Avraham marries Keturah (some say she was Hagar) and has 6 more sons. Avraham dies in 2125 – 1636 b.c.e. at the age of 175. His two sons Yitzchak and Yishmael bury him in the Cave of Machpelah. Yishmael's 12 sons are listed and Yishmael dies at 137.



November 17

Toldot

Yitzchak is 40 years old when he marries Rivkah. After 20 years, Esav and Yakov are born. The Parsha jumps from their birth to Yakov's purchase of the 1st born rights from Esav at the age of 15. (2123 – the day Avraham died)

The Parsha returns to the story of Yitzchak and Rivkah and the famine which forces them to settle among the Plishtim. Yitzchak, like his father before him, has a moral confrontation with Avimelech, after which his fields are uniquely prolific and financially successful.

Yitzchak's financial success leads to jealousy with his Plishtim neighbors. He re-digs Avraham's wells, resulting in a confrontation with the Plishtim over water rights. He moves back to Beer Sheva.

Hashem (G-d), in a dream, confirms for Yitzchak the future of his children. Avimelech, the King of the Plishtim, and his General, Phicol, approach Yitzchak to make a peace treaty.

The treaty between Yitzchak and the Plishtim is celebrated. The Parsha returns to the story of Yakov and Esav. Esav's marriage to two Canaanite women at the age of 40 brings disappointment to Yitzchak and Rivkah. When Yakov and Esav are 63 and Yitzchak is 123, Yitzchak blesses Yakov and Esav. The Parsha details the duplicity of Yakov and Rivkah in fooling Yitzchak.

Yitzchak blesses Yakov with spiritual and material gain, after which Esav returns to discover Yakov's plot. He receives his own blessing for material gain, and is determined to kill Yakov. Rivkah, fearful for Yakov's life, convinces Yitzchak to send Yakov to her brother Lavan in search of a shiduch – a wife. Yitzchak confirms on Yakov the future of the Jewish nation before his departure to Lavan.



November 24

Vayeitzei

Yakov experiences the famed prophecy of "Jacob's Ladder".

Yakov arrives in Charan, encounters Rachel, and contracts with Lavan for her hand in marriage.

Lavan switches Leah for Rachel forcing Yakov to negotiate another 7 years of service for Rachel. Leah gives birth to Reuven, Shimon, Levi, and Yehudah. Rachel marries off Bilhah to Yakov who gives birth to Dan and Naftoli. Leah marries off Zilpah to Yakov, and she gives birth to Gad and Asher.

Rachel contracts with Leah for Reuven's mandrakes, after which Leah gives birth to Yisachar and Zevulun. Rachel finally gives birth to Yoseph, and Yakov approaches Lavan to negotiate a proper salary for continued service.

Yakov's uses his vast knowledge of nature and husbandry to amass a fortune in sheep and cattle. After 6 years he decides with Rachel and Leah to flee from Lavan.

They flee and Lavan catches them. Hashem (G-d) intervenes and Yakov, while confronting Lavan for his years of duplicity, unwittingly curses Rachel.

Yakov and Lavan separate and Yakov arrives at the border of Canaan



CBS Business

Shabbat Services

Meeting ID: 897 3400 8923
Password: 770549

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.

We established a new Zoom link. You will be able to login from our weekly eNews. The process has not changed, just the link. For your information here is the new link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89734008923?pwd=WEtGZXN1UVVNMDlCa3BoTzJyZUcoUTo9>

We are glad that you enjoy our shabbat services and hope to see you on the Zoom screen this Friday.

Facebook Information for Shabbat Service:
<https://www.facebook.com/BethShalomBrandon/>



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To reserve your place in the next issue, email John Zelatis at

jzelatis@zomesa.com or call the

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8136816547.

CBS Office Hours

The administrative office is currently open by appointment only. We can be reached at [cbsbrandon@outlook.com] and 8136816547 or you may contact Rabbi Lefkowitz directly at 4072226393 or rlfkowi@bellsouth.net. Rabbi Lefkowitz will be available for in person meetings on Fridays. Call him at 4072226393 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.

SHARE A MAZEL TOV!

Do you have a family member, friend, spouse or congregant you would like to wish Mazel Tov to in our Kibbitzer? You can send an email to thekibbitzer@hotmail.com with their name and accomplishment, engagement or birth. It's important during these times to see the good in our community.



How to Pray When You Don't Pray

What I love about Judaism, at least the kind that I have come to embrace as an adult, is that it's there for you when you need it, in the way that you need it.

Like many Jewish Americans, I grew up attending a Hebrew school in which I was taught how to read and recite Hebrew for the purpose of learning prayers. As someone who loves both memorizing things and karaoke, I took this challenge in stride — and I still love the way my brain can unlock the words to the Aleinu decades later.

But I don't know what the words of those prayers actually mean. And even when I look up the translations, I don't exactly feel them deep in my soul.

I'm hesitant to call myself “not religious” because I think religiosity can take on many forms, just like I'm hesitant to say “I don't believe in God” when I think God can be defined in so many different ways. But I think it's safe to say that I am not traditionally religious. I don't observe the Sabbath or the laws of kashrut; I don't always fast on Yom Kippur; I don't pray.

Yet these days, I find the language of prayer rolling off my tongue with increasing frequency. I am praying for the victims of the vicious Hamas attack that rattled Israel earlier this month. I am praying for the innocent Israeli and Palestinian civilians that are now at the center of a grueling war. I am praying for my friends and colleagues living in the area who may be physically safe for now but emotionally scarred in ways beyond my comprehension. I am praying for the swift return of hostages. I am praying for the end of violence. I am praying for peace. But am I, really?

What does it mean to pray when you don't pray?

Part of me feels like it is disingenuous to say that I am praying when I'm not opening up a siddur and davening throughout the day. I don't know if thinking *a lot* about something really counts as prayer, if hope is the same as a blessing, if a wish can be a benediction.

What I do know is that what I love about Judaism, at least the kind that I have come to embrace as an adult, is that it's there for you when you need it, in the way that you need it. That a Jew is a Jew is a Jew no matter what practices you may or may not maintain, and that those practices can shift and morph throughout your life, as you change, and as the world around you does, too. And that, like those Hebrew words buried deep in the back of my brain, Judaism is yours to access, especially during moments of despair.

Last week, looking for some comfort in community, I attended an impromptu solidarity program at a local synagogue after putting my daughter to bed. I didn't know exactly what I was looking for, just that I wanted to be in a room with other Jews who might be feeling the way I feel. As local politicians and community leaders made passionate, rightfully angry screeds from the bimah, I realized that it was not actually the vibe I was hoping for. I wanted to sit and stew in my sadness. I wanted to let my emotions run through my body. I wanted to cry.

Back in my car afterwards, I plugged my phone into the sound system, and after a comical attempt to use the voice recognition button on the steering wheel while I maneuvered my way out of the busy parking lot, I successfully got Spotify to play a version of “Od Yavo Shalom Aleinu,” one of my favorite Hebrew songs from my Jewish summer camp days.

As I drove home through the quiet, dark streets of my suburban town, I sang along. I cried. And I prayed.

Molly Tolsky

Molly Tolsky is the editor of Kveller and Hey Alma.

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The Kibbitzer

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By appointment.

Voicemails and emails will be monitored daily.

Office is closed on holidays

Weekly Email Blast submissionsbethshalominfo@gmail.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.

Building and Grounds



Gabe Lifschitz

How often do you find yourself with someone else where you share an activity or experience and you do not realize you do something that ends up harming the other person and may seem like the other person just had bad luck? This is the schlemiel/schlimazel syndrome. This happens all the time.

The example I present is a short clip in Youtube from Sesame Street with actress Susan Sarandon and the Count. They both go out to dinner, when they leave it starts to rain and end up at the entrance to a castle. Susan is getting soaked from the rain, and the Count asks her to use the door knocker and the Count counts the knocks. Susan keeps using the knocker while the Count continues to count the knocks. Susan brings up the reality to the Count that no one is in the castle. The Count agrees, stating that he is the one who lives in the castle. He cannot be inside to open the door when he is outside. Susan is frustrated and tells the Count to open the door so she can get dry. The Count ends up counting the locks to open the door. While the clip is instructive to kids to learn to count, if you stop and think there is a schlemiel/schlimazel aspect to the story. The Count sees this as an opportunity to count, but Susan is soaked, cold, and obviously unhappy. How come the Count is so involved in his world that he cannot be considerate to Susan?

The simple story with the count explains why people see things differently and have difficulty communicating. It is not that the County did not mean well. He surely did in his own mind. What was missing is what awareness did he have and what space he allowed for Susan to ensure she would be ok? It is a matter of stopping for a moment to take a breath, look at the person, and think, am I doing the right thing? In crucial conversations, people end up in bad arguments because of missed signals, or not looking carefully at the person in front and figuring out a shared common conversation. Something that could be done to do the other person well ends up with someone feeling in a very unlucky situation, or worse. Many of the bad events in our world going on right now are the result of doing something clumsy and could be prevented.

What do you see as your role for yourself, others, and the community? Where possible, look after signals that prevent someone in a schlimazel situation.

Gabriel Lifschitz



Susan Sarandon and the Count from Sesame Street

Opinion | Degrees of Evil in Israel's Calamity

October 11, 2023

2023 Israel-Hamas War, Featured, Latest, Opinion Moment Magazine

Content warning: This article contains graphic descriptions of violence.

Shot in the neck, in the emergency ward of an overcrowded hospital in southern Israel, a very fortunate young survivor told her family the following story: When Gazan rockets started falling in the Re'im Forest early on Saturday morning of the cursed day of October 7, 2023, the young partygoers at the music festival ran for shelter. She and ten of her girlfriends found refuge in a large garbage bin. Holding their breath, they heard machine-gun fire and jubilant voices shouting in Arabic. They heard people trying to flee, screaming and getting butchered by the dozens. For hours the young women sat trembling and silent as the massacre continued, still with no sign of the Israeli army making headway; the policemen securing the festival had been murdered too. Then one of the hiding women made an inadvertent noise. The Hamas killers were immediately upon them. She was the only survivor.

The butchers were well organized. Some of them pretended to be Israeli soldiers, telling the fleeing victims to gather in one space before gunning them down. These trained assassins were followed by "ordinary" Gazan men in jeeps and motorcycles, collecting those who remained alive into their vehicles, beating, humiliating, and abducting them to the Gaza strip. Reports of mass rape and post-rape executions are still unconfirmed.

[Editor's note: This paragraph contains especially difficult imagery]

Meanwhile, 22 towns and kibbutzim were infiltrated or conquered. We already know that whole kibbutzim, including Be'eri and Nir Oz, are effectively dead: Hundreds of their residents were murdered or abducted, and most of the homes bombed or set on fire, forcing families out of the safe rooms only to be mowed down by submachine guns. We know of three-generation families eradicated, of children killed in front of their parents and parents in front of their children, of a baby shot in the head at close range in her mother's and siblings' presence, of other kids and elderly women and men dragged into Gaza and horribly abused. I try not to watch the so-called snuff videos, gleefully taken and aired by Hamas, but I did see a five-year-old Israeli child being beaten by Gazan youngsters while crying for his mother.

The people justifying Hamas's "war of liberation" and making comparisons between Israel's bombings in Gaza and the mass murder of civilians in southern Israel are brazenly supporting these new Nazis. Many of these purported peace-lovers are Americans. This is no time to mince words: These Hamas cronies are the scum of the earth.

Never has the Israeli army gathered and butchered Palestinian civilians, elderly and disabled persons and children and babies and nursing mothers, and shot them to death. Never have civilians been deliberately massacred, with not a military target in sight. Never has the mass slaughter of innocents been met with such jubilant celebration and glee. Israel has made numerous mistakes, over-bombed crowded areas while trying to reach armed militants and headquarters, and civilian deaths were the collateral damage, possibly avoidable and possibly not. "Collateral" is an awful word, to be sure, but it means "unintended". Not deliberate, not jubilant, not Nazi-like.

My father, Amos Oz, is blissfully dead for the last five years. So many of us here are glad today that their parents, the founding generation of Israel, the fighters and dreamers and peace activists, are not here to see the calamity that befell us. I leaf through his harrowing account, in *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, of the Nazi massacre of the Rovno (Rivne) Jewish community. There, at the killing holes in the Sosenki Forest in the early 1940s, his mother's family and friends and schoolteachers were exterminated. I find little difference between that atrocity and the Re'im Forest massacre. Both were genocidal. In both, not a single civilian was granted mercy. In southern Israel as in Eastern Europe, jubilant killers went from house to house, making sure no Jew remained alive.

Opinion | Degrees of Evil in Israel's Calamity, pg 2

As these words are being written, the northern front is heating up and Hezbollah is likely to join the fray. The consequences for civilians in northern Israel may be grave. Whether or not Benjamin Netanyahu finally agrees to a joint war cabinet with the experienced Benny Gantz, his government remains the worst batch of crooked and hapless politicians ever to lead Israel in peace or, disastrously, in war.

The reckoning will come. Hamas must cease to exist, preferably after the enactment of a prisoners' exchange. At the same time, Israel is still by no means exempt from wartime moral duties, including viable concern for civilian lives. We are not like Hamas. We never have been and we never will be. A different sort of reckoning will be made with Crime [sic] Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his extremist government, who have led us into this valley of death. In so many ways have Israel's citizens been betrayed: Some of our ministers, with Netanyahu's full espousal, have been provoking the Palestinians for months. Others are currently sitting uselessly in their offices while the country is screaming for security, organizational and logistical support. As hastily conscripted reserve units report lack of military equipment, bullet-proof vests and even food, the government is still, to this day, shifting millions of taxpayer shekels to the ultra-Orthodox communities in previously agreed-upon election bribes. Even the emergency database of missing persons has been set up and running, for the last three days, not by officials but by civil society volunteers.

The time will come, too, for the tales of heroism: soldiers, retired officers and ordinary civilians who ran into hell's fire to pull survivors out. A woman named Inbal Liberman, a community security coordinator, who saved a whole kibbutz (Nir Am, where my relatives live) by her speed and wit in organizing civil defense on its fences. Grandmother Rachel, who calmly kept five terrorists from killing her and her husband by giving them coffee and cookies and chatting to them in her apartment in Ofakim, until a police force was able to break in.

Civil society's greatest good fortune, during these days of governmental near-nonexistence, is the former protest movement. The pro-democracy network, which was already in place since the beginning of the now-obsolete judicial overhaul, has turned overnight into a highly effective civil rescue force. Groups such as "Brothers in Arms" and the Women's Protest are currently organizing transportation and housing for thousands of displaced families, providing food and equipment for reserve military units and sending physical and psychological support to myriads of victims. Thank goodness for the existence of Israel's pro-democracy movement and for its newly established civic superstructure, energies, and resilience.

There will be reckoning. There will be rebuilding. There will be stocktaking. We shall learn from our horrible mistakes and oust our hideous leadership. It will take a large amount of time, tenacity and tears.

My father is not alive to see the Rovno-like atrocity that hit a whole region of Israel only a few miles from his home in Arad. But his words echo with me. "Whoever does not discern between degrees of evil," he wrote, "is doomed to become a servant of evil."

As Israel reels and returns fire, more deaths will follow, unfortunately also of innocents on both sides. But we vow that, while fighting for our lives, we shall not lose our humanity. Please look straight into the eyes of Hamas's atrocious backers, and then spit in their faces. Actively resisting evil is one vital way of promoting the good.

Fania Oz-Salzberger is an Israeli essayist, professor of history emerita at the University of Haifa and a regular contributor to Moment.

Adult Education



What You Can Do Now to Prevent Dementia Tomorrow

Sunday, November 5 3:00 PM

Recently celebrities and politicians have disclosed that they are suffering from some sort of Alzheimer's. Knowing what to do to prevent late-onset brain problems - including Alzheimer's disease - may make all the difference in life for you and your loved ones.

Waiting until symptoms of memory loss are obvious may be too late. Cutting-edge medicine is finding many contributing factors that take decades to develop, most of which can be modified with corrective action on your part. Genetics is thought to be only 20% of the cause of any late-in-life chronic illness, whereas life habits contribute 80% of the causal factors.

If you are curious about this subject, come to a talk at Congregation Beth Shalom on Sunday, November 5, at 3 P.M.

Dr Carol L Roberts has been a practicing physician (MD) for four decades, most of that time in holistic/integrative/preventative medicine. Her practice has included many patients with dementia, stroke, Parkinson's, brain injuries, and other conditions that may impact cognitive abilities in later years. Prevention beats rescue, especially when there is no satisfactory treatment in conventional medicine for these conditions.

Dr Roberts will emphasize simple changes that you might find helpful. She is also familiar with the latest medical therapies, with an emphasis on prevention. Bring a pen and paper, there will be many pearls you will want to remember. Q & A will follow the 40-minute talk. This seminar is free and open to the public.



How Coffee and Cookies Helped an Israeli Hostage Survive Terror

Rachel kept her captors distracted with snacks during rescue attempts by Israeli security forces.

BY RACHEL MYERSON | OCTOBER 10, 2023

On Saturday morning, October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists from the Gaza Strip invaded Israel, some of them making their way to the southern town of Ofakim. There, five terrorists entered the home of David and Rachel, holding the couple hostage for 15 hours. How they survived is a story of bravery, strategy — and coffee and cookies.

The terrorists entered the couple's home through a ground floor window. They were heavily armed, Rachel told Israel's Channel 13, with a LAW anti-tank missile, guns and grenades. They repeatedly told the couple that they would kill them. "I said to my husband, if we will die, we will die together," Rachel told Israel's Channel 12 News.

The situation was not looking good, particularly when Israeli security forces arrived, sparking an exchange of fire. After being informed that Rachel and David were being held hostage inside their home, the Israeli special forces began to negotiate with the terrorists, aided by the couple's police officer son Evyatar, who was outside the house.

Among various demands from the terrorists were medical equipment for one of them who'd been injured, food and water. When some demands, such as a cell phone, were denied, they became angry.

Any Jewish mother knows that an empty stomach can contribute to all manner of problems, including anger, so Rachel asked the terrorists if they were hungry. Presumably the answer was "yes," as she ended up serving them coffee and cookies.

Exactly what kind of coffee and cookies Rachel gave her captors has yet to be revealed. Israel has a strong coffee culture, ranging from very strong, black Turkish coffee introduced in the Ottoman era (aka Arabic coffee or botz, Hebrew for "mud," which refers to the grainy sludge that remains in the bottom of the glass) to "hafuch," somewhere between a cappuccino and a latte. As Rachel was serving under immense pressure, it's likely that it was instant coffee, known in Israel as "nes" (which means "miracle" but is actually a shortened version of "Nescafe," one of the original instant coffee brands).

As for cookies, the possibilities are endless: from the plethora of cookies found in any Israeli bakery to an array of grocery store delights, including an enviable selection of wafers.

But Rachel didn't just feed her captors; she hosted them, in an incredible display of bravery and balaboosta-ship. She offered them lunch, telling Channel 13 that she chatted with them to distract them and bandaged one of their hands that was injured. In turn, they sang to her: songs by Israeli Mizrahi singer Lior Narkis.

Like all the events of October 7, the couple's story reads as a surreal nightmare. Unlike many others, their story, thankfully, has a happy ending. At 2:30 a.m. they were rescued by security forces, and reunited with their son.

"We were very close to the terrorists, but we were saved. I thank God that I am alive, I couldn't believe it," Rachel told Channel 12. Rachel's story has touched the hearts of many Israelis, who are desperately clinging to good news in these dark times. Her unlikely hospitality has also provided some comedic relief, with various memes and jokes about the quality of "Rachel's cafe" and coffee and cookies circulating on Israeli social media and WhatsApp groups. This good-natured teasing is testament to the tenderness that Israel feels for their new hero, Rachel, and everything she represents: survival, kindness, foresight and hope.

SAVE THE DATE



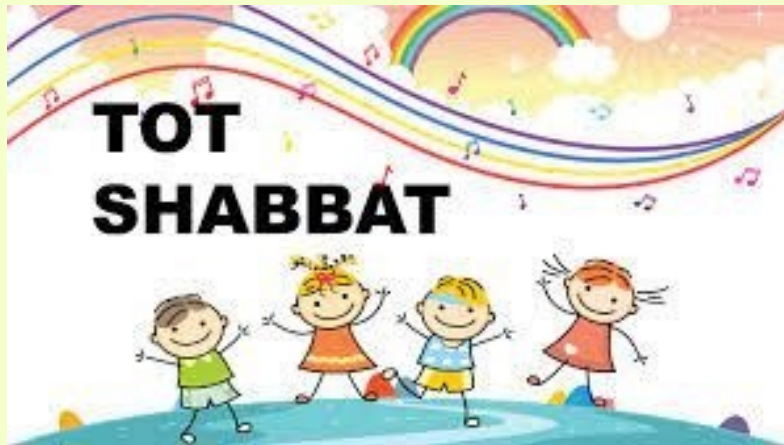
**Carol Anne Friedman is
being honored as
Women of Distinction
for CBS**

**Thursday November 30
at 7:00pm at Kol Ami
3919 Moran Rd. Tampa**

**Tickets are \$25 per person(including a
dessert reception) or \$36 per patron
with preferred seating.**

**Check future eNews for more
information including how to purchase
tickets.**

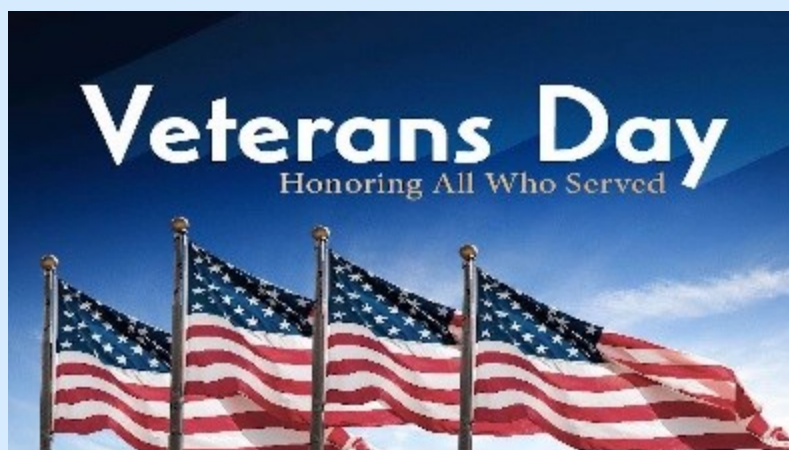
Programming



Friday, November 10 at 6:30 PM Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon will have a Tot Shabbat. Toddlers, preschoolers, and children in early grades of elementary school are all welcome. Rabbi Lefkowitz and Cantorial Soloist, Sandy Santucci will be running the program.

Honoring our Veterans

During our November 10th Shabbat worship service, we will honor our CBS Veterans. For our oneg, we are asking our members bring an appropriate dairy dish. Please let Anna Feldman what you plan to bring. You may reach her at smfeldman01@gmail.com



Our Congregation

Yahrzeits



11/2	Ellen	Fuksman	Grandmother	Of	Jason	Howard
11/2	Elisabeth	Ballou	Mother	Of	Christine	Stockelman
11/4	Rose	Bond	Mother	Of	Selma	Silber
11/4	Peter	Ronay	Brother	Of	Gary	Ronay
11/13	George	Santucci	Husband	Of	Sandy	Santucci
11/16	Stanley	Weiss	Father	Of	Alan	Weiss
11/17	Marshall	Silber	Brother	Of	Joanne	Ronay
11/24	David	Gould	Father	Of	Sandra	Saviet
11/25	Anette	Feldman	Mother	Of	Stephen	Feldman
11/28	Douglas	Miller	Brother	Of	Eric	Miller
11/28	Geoffrey	Miller	Brother	Of	Eric	Miller
11/30	Al	Smith	Father	Of	Caren	Magdovitz

Birthdays

11/1	Stephen	Feldman
11/4	Howard	Saviet
11/15	Julie	Shienbaum
11/19	William	Kalbas
11/23	Ireland	Newport
11/25	Carol Anne	Friedman



Anniversaries

11/12	Iylene & Jeffrey Miller
-------	-------------------------



Donations

High Holiday

Anonymous
 Jennifer & Steve Billor
 Marilyn N. Ellis
 Sheryl & Mark Finke
 Brett Gross
 Diana & Gerry Gutenstein
 Brad Higginbotham
 Steven Hindin
 Margaret Kahn
 Lynn & Larry Kaler
 Janet & Neal Kavesh
 Irving G. Lawrence
 Debbie & Ben Miller
 Lois & John Mistretta
 Judith & Gerald Pliner
 Susan Reckner
 Carol Roberts
 Sandra & Howard Saviet
 Ilene Schwartz
 Michael Spaier
 Bruce Sperry
 Neil Spindel
 Gail Verlin
 Cheryl & Kevin Walkover
 Allan Weber
 Rosalie & Joel Weinberger
 Stephen M. Zweibach

Book of Remembrance

Rhoda Adler
 Jennifer & Steve Billor
 Ruth Bresnick
 Anna & Stephen Feldman
 Sheryl & Mark Finke
 Sheila & Errol Fishman
 Carol Anne & Dave Friedman
 Lynn & Larry Kaler
 Iylene & Jeffrey Miller
 Carole Plesur
 Sandra & Howard Saviet
 Lee & Sandy Schwartz
 Arlene Schindler-Slater & Brian Slater
 Neil Spindel
 Allan Weber

In Loving Memory

Richard Glaser

Barbara Glaser

Sharon Leibowitz

Gail Verlin

Thelma Silber

Anna & Stephen Feldman

Carol Hindin

Anna & Stephen Feldman

Aline & Morris Brandwein

Anita Clifford

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Anita Clifford

Building Reserve Fund - To AC unit

Anita Clifford

Temple Cleaning

Anita Clifford

General Fund

Anita Clifford

Gold Leaf

Randi Lannak



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

Toby Koch

Facility and Safety

Gabe Lifschitz

Social Action

Meral Ginsberg

Religious School

Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz

Christine Stockelman

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

Steve Hindin

Men's Club

Myron Feldman

Page Turners

Toby Koch & Anna Feldman

Web Administrator

Toby Koch

Got something to sell?

What's better than a garage sale?

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A 5line add is just \$9 for members
\$18 for nonmembers



Congregation Beth Shalom

provides a meaningful spiritual home for people of all ages and levels of knowledge, a place to learn and to question, a place to worship and to celebrate, and a place to find a community that cares.

We offer:

- ✧ Friday worship services at 7:00 PM
- ✧ Complete B'nai Mitzvah preparation
- ✧ Adult Education classes
- ✧ Communitywide events
- ✧ Community Food Bank

We ♥ Advertising



CBS Break the Fast



"We can forgive the Arabs for killing our children. We cannot forgive them for forcing us to kill their children...We will only have peace with the Arabs when they love their children more than they hate us."

Golda Meir,
Former Israeli Prime Minister

Dinner With the Tribe



Sushi Ushi



Sushi Ushi

**1713 State Road 60
Valrico, FL 33595**

Sunday

**November 12, 2023
5:30 PM**

Sushi Ushi - Winner - Best Sushi in TAMPA Magazines 2021 Best Restaurants List

Let's have some delicious sushi! In November we'll be going to Sushi Ushi in Valrico. It's a favorite of many. They have excellent and fresh ingredients beautifully presented. It's a small place, so please email me, Anita Clifford, at niewdnarb@yahoo.com, so that I can save a place for you.

Food Bank



Our High Holiday Food Bank drive this year was a great success thanks to the generosity of our members and those of our partners at Faith Family United Church of Christ. We were delighted to receive numerous bags filled to the brim with many of the foods and products we requested. These acts of kindness enabled us to help fulfill the personal needs of those we serve, the numbers of whom are unfortunately increasing each month.

Meral Ginsberg On behalf of our committee, we want to take this time to thank everyone for their gracious participation in this important mitzvah and hope all enjoyed a very happy New Year!

Our Food Bank is almost always on the third Sunday of the month, so if you have anything to donate it would be appreciated if you would bring it in on the Shabbat before that (or sooner) and place the items in the bins on the tables in the lobby. We are usually in need of canned fruit, toothbrushes and toothpaste. We also accept gift cards from Publix, Winn-Dixie and Walmart. Thank you very much for your consideration in helping those with food needs.

Sukkot Wine & Cheese



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ADOPT A CLEANING MONTH



It is nice to come home to a clean house. CBS is our home. The cleaning crew does an excellent job.

They need to be paid monthly: \$400.00. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year we are looking for people who want to adopt a month of cleaning or even a partial donation is welcome. Steve Billor adopted June. Gerry Pliner adopted July and Neil Spindel adopted September. Pick a month and send the check marked cleaning or we can incorporate your donation into your dues commitment. Contact our treasurer Sandy Schwartz; drsandy18@gmail.com

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, AdoptABook, Tree of Life (unless otherwise indicated) and other nonrestricted 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 Rab-

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:

- **AdoptABook:** 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

Tzimmes Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting

Makes 1 (9 × 13-inch) sheet cake

Prep Time: 30 min-utes, plus cooling time

Cook Time: 40 minutes



Carrot cake, but make it Jewish! The classic Ashkenazi spiced side of stewed carrots, sweet potatoes, and prunes always deserved to be turned into a dessert, and it just works so well. Grated carrots and sweet potato provide so much moisture to the cinnamon- and orange-zest scented batter, while chopped prunes add a fudgy quality that I'll choose any day over raisins. And, in my very best Mommie Dearest voice, "NO NUTS IN MY CAKE." I'm partial to the soft texture being uninterrupted, but I won't be too mad if you feel strongly about throwing in some chopped walnuts. The cake is finished with a swoosh of luscious cream cheese frosting, though the cake itself is dairy-free so you can also take your topping in a pareve direction. The biggest take-away should be that it stays moist for days in the fridge so you can always prepare it ahead. And if you're looking for a stand-out host gift, my power move is to bring one of these cakes baked in a new fancy ceramic baking dish to leave behind for an extra sweet memento.



For the Carrot Cake

Non-stick cooking spray, for greasing the pan

1 cup olive oil

1 cup (200 gm) granulated sugar

1 cup packed (213 gm) light brown sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

4 large eggs

2 cups (270 gm) all-purpose flour

2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt

1 teaspoon baking powder

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 pound carrots, coarsely grated

8 ounces (1 medium) sweet potato, coarsely grated

1/2 cup chopped prunes

1 tablespoon finely grated orange zest

For the Cream Cheese Frosting

8 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature

8 ounces (2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature

2 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar













1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt



1. Make the carrot cake: Pre-heat the oven to 350°F. Grease a 9 × 13-inch baking dish with non-stick cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together the olive oil, granulated sugar, brown sugar, vanilla, and eggs until smooth. Add the flour, cinnamon, salt, baking powder, and baking soda. Gently stir together the dry ingredients piled above the wet ingredients a few times before folding together into a smooth batter. Fold in the carrots, sweet potato, prunes, and orange zest until incorporated. Pour into the prepared baking dish and spread in an even layer.
3. Bake the cake for 40 to 50 minutes, until golden brown and it reaches an internal temperature of 190°F. (Timing is going to depend on the moisture content of your carrots and sweet potatoes, so while on average it takes me 45 minutes, occasionally the proper internal temperature is reached after 40 minutes, so that is when I start checking.) Let cool completely in the dish.
4. Meanwhile, make the frosting: In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, whip together the cream cheese, butter, confectioners' sugar, vanilla, and salt until light and fluffy.
5. Spread the frosting over the cooled cake, then slice and serve. Store the leftovers in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 5 days.

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Adult Ed 7:00 PM 	3 Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 PM 	4
5 Daylight Saving Time Ends	6	7	8	9 Adult Ed 7:00 PM 	10 Tot Shabbat 6:30 PM Veterans' Day Shabbat Svc 7:00 PM 	11 DWTT Veterans' Day 
12	13 World Kindness Day 	14 Pickle Day 	15	16 Adult Ed 7:00 PM 	17 Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 PM 	18
19 Food Bank 1:00 PM	20	21	22	23 Adult Ed 7:00 PM Thanksgiving  	24 Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 PM 	25
26 Cake Day 	27	28	29	30 Adult Ed 7:00 PM 