

# The Kibbitzer

**Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon**

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## From the Rabbi's desk...



The word Chanukah means dedication. It commemorates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem. in 165 B.C.E. by the Hasmoneans/Maccabees three years after it had been desecrated by Antiochus IV, Epiphanes. We are thankful for the mighty acts of Mattathias and his sons leading up to the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem. Antiochus had repressive and brutal policies. He attempted to impose Hellenism upon the Jews of Judea which led to the Hasmonaean revolt of 168 - 165 B.C.E.

The story of Chanukah can be found in the book of the Apocrypha, which was not included in the Hebrew Bible. It was included in the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox Canon. There are two books in the Apocrypha I and II of the Maccabees.

There is a Yiddish term for Chanukah money which is Chanukah Gelt which we customarily give to children, chocolates covered with foil or a small trinket which may be given on each night of Chanukah.

A special Menorah or Candelabra with nine branches, one for each day along with one servant candle. It is used only on Chanukah.

We eat potato pancakes on Chanukah. In Yiddish we call this Latkes and in Hebrew Levivot. These potato pancakes are fried in oil symbolizing the cruse of oil that was found after the desecration of the Temple in Jerusalem that lasted for eight days when the Temple was rededicated.

We spin a four-sided dreidel or top with different Hebrew letters on each side. The Hebrew word for dreidel is Sivivon which means to turn. The Yiddish word for top is called Dreidel. The Hebrew letters on the dreidel means that there was a great miracle that happened in Israel. We also use the dreidel to play games.

We also eat jelly filled donuts on Chanukah this is called Sufganiyot. Like the Latke it is also fried in oil. which symbolizes the miracle of Chanukah. This is a story how we struggle for freedom as is happening today in Israel. We praise God for the miracles of days gone by and we are forever grateful for the miracles that God has given us.

Have a Happy Chanukah,

Rabbi Lefkowitz





# The President's Corner



Steve Billor

Shalom Everybody!

We continue to watch what is happening in Israel and around the world. As I stated last month, as a Jewish congregation in the United States, I believe it is our goal to represent the Jewish population in a positive light and exemplify what it means to be a “Good Jew”. Don’t go down the rabbit hole and get drawn into negative discussions with people who are ignorant of the facts as to what is happening and why.

My ongoing communications with the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office led to them providing us with law enforcement presence as needed, and as workforce will allow them. Remember the training that was provided before our High Holy Days and know that there should always be someone within our congregation who is prepared to act if needed. We will continue to evaluate our security concerns as world and local situations change. We mustn't let these evil people dictate the way we pray as a congregation and interact with each other. If anyone has any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me, so we can address them and make you feel more comfortable at Congregation Beth Shalom.

On another note, I want to thank our old and new members for stepping up to make our services, onegs, and other events welcoming, warm, and enjoyable.

I would like to end my article each month with my earlier challenge of bringing in people. I challenge you to bring a new or former member to Congregation Beth Shalom and let them experience our CBS magic. We are increasing our membership and welcoming new families to our CBS family every month.

As always, Todah Rabah (Thank you very much) for being a part of the Beth Shalom Family and for your time in reading this article.

Steve Billor



# Candle Lighting Times

<b>Friday, December 1</b>	<b>4:11 PM</b>
<b>Friday, December 8</b>	<b>4:10 PM</b>
<b>Friday, December 15</b>	<b>4:11 PM</b>
<b>Friday, December 22</b>	<b>4:14 PM</b>



## Oneg Schedule

### December Sponsors

*There can be no joy without food and drink.*

Talmud, Mo'ed Katan

<b>December 1</b>	CBS Congregation	Please bring a dish to share
<b>December 8</b>	CBS Congregation	Chanukah Celebration Potluck
<b>December 15</b>	JoAnn & Harvey Sernovitz	In honor of the birthdays of Seema, Neil, and Harvey
<b>December 22</b>	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

December 2

## Vayishlach

Jacob returns to the Holy Land after a 20-year stay in Charan, and sends angel-emissaries to Esau in hope of a reconciliation, but his messengers report that his brother is on the warpath with 400 armed men. Jacob prepares for war, prays, and sends Esau a large gift (consisting of hundreds of heads of livestock) to appease him.

That night, Jacob ferries his family and possessions across the Jabbok River; he, however, remains behind and encounters the angel that embodies the spirit of Esau, with whom he wrestles until daybreak. Jacob suffers a dislocated hip but vanquishes the supernal creature, who bestows on him the name Israel, which means “he who prevails over the divine.”

Jacob and Esau meet, embrace and kiss, but part ways. Jacob purchases a plot of land near Shechem, whose crown prince—also called Shechem—abducts and rapes Jacob’s daughter Dinah. Dinah’s brothers Simeon and Levi avenge the deed by killing all male inhabitants of the city, after rendering them vulnerable by convincing them to circumcise themselves.

Jacob journeys on. Rachel dies while giving birth to her second son, Benjamin, and is buried in a roadside grave near Bethlehem. Reuben loses the birthright because he interferes with his father’s marital life. Jacob arrives in Hebron, to his father Isaac, who later dies at age 180. (Rebecca has passed away before Jacob’s arrival.)

Our Parshah concludes with a detailed account of Esau’s wives, children and grandchildren; the family histories of the people of Seir, among whom Esau settled; and a list of the eight kings who ruled Edom, the land of Esau’s and Seir’s descendants.

December 9

## Vayeishev

Jacob settles in Hebron with his twelve sons. His favorite is seventeen-year-old Joseph, whose brothers are jealous of the preferential treatment he receives from his father, such as a precious many-colored coat that Jacob makes for Joseph. Joseph relates to his brothers two of his dreams which foretell that he is destined to rule over them, increasing their envy and hatred towards him.

Simeon and Levi plot to kill him, but Reuben suggests that they throw him into a pit instead, intending to come back later and save him. While Joseph is in the pit, Judah has him sold to a band of passing Ishmaelites. The brothers dip Joseph’s special coat in the blood of a goat and show it to their father, leading him to believe that his most beloved son was devoured by a wild beast.

Judah marries and has three children. The eldest, Er, dies young and childless, and his wife, Tamar, is given in levirate marriage to the second son, Onan. Onan sins by spilling his seed, and he too meets an early death. Judah is reluctant to have his third son marry her. Determined to have a child from Judah’s family, Tamar disguises herself as a prostitute and seduces Judah himself. Judah hears that his daughter-in-law has become pregnant and orders her executed for harlotry, but when Tamar produces some personal effects he left with her as a pledge for payment, he publicly admits that he is the father. Tamar gives birth to twin sons, Peretz (an ancestor of King David) and Zerach.

Joseph is taken to Egypt and sold to Potiphar, the minister in charge of Pharaoh’s slaughterhouses. G□d blesses everything he does, and soon he is made overseer of all his master’s property. Potiphar’s wife desires the handsome and charismatic lad; when Joseph rejects her advances, she tells her husband that the Hebrew slave tried to force himself on her, and has him thrown into prison. Joseph gains the trust and admiration of his jailers, who appoint him to a position of authority in the prison administration.

In prison, Joseph meets Pharaoh’s chief butler and chief baker, both incarcerated for offending their royal master. Both have disturbing dreams, which Joseph interprets; in three days, he tells them, the butler will be released and the baker hanged. Joseph asks the butler to intercede on his behalf with Pharaoh. Joseph’s predictions are fulfilled, but the butler forgets all about Joseph and does nothing for him.

# Parashot

December 16

## Mikeitz

Joseph's imprisonment finally ends when Pharaoh dreams of seven fat cows that are swallowed up by seven lean cows, and of seven fat ears of grain swallowed by seven lean ears. Joseph interprets the dreams to mean that seven years of plenty will be followed by seven years of hunger and advises Pharaoh to store grain during the plentiful years. Pharaoh appoints Joseph governor of Egypt. Joseph marries Asenath, daughter of Potiphar, and they have two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

Famine spreads throughout the region, and food can be obtained only in Egypt. Ten of Joseph's brothers come to Egypt to purchase grain; the youngest, Benjamin, stays home, for Jacob fears for his safety. Joseph recognizes his brothers, but they do not recognize him; he accuses them of being spies, insists that they bring Benjamin to prove that they are who they say they are, and imprisons Simeon as a hostage. Later, they discover that the money they paid for their provisions has been mysteriously returned to them.

Jacob agrees to send Benjamin only after Judah assumes personal and eternal responsibility for him. This time Joseph receives them kindly, releases Simeon, and invites them to an eventful dinner at his home. But then he plants his silver goblet, purportedly imbued with magic powers, in Benjamin's sack. When the brothers set out for home the next morning, they are pursued, searched, and arrested when the goblet is discovered. Joseph offers to set them free and retain only Benjamin as his slave.

December 23

## Vayegash

Judah approaches Joseph to plead for the release of Benjamin, offering himself as a slave to the Egyptian ruler in Benjamin's stead. Upon witnessing his brothers' loyalty to one another, Joseph reveals his identity to them. "I am Joseph," he declares. "Is my father still alive?" The brothers are overcome by shame and remorse, but Joseph comforts them. "It was not you who sent me here," he says to them, "but G-d. It has all been ordained from Above to save us, and the entire region, from famine. The brothers rush back to Canaan with the news. Jacob comes to Egypt with his sons and their families—seventy souls in all—and is reunited with his beloved son after 22 years. On his way to Egypt he receives the divine promise: "Fear not to go down to Egypt; for I will there make of you a great nation. I will go down with you into Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again."

Joseph gathers the wealth of Egypt by selling food and seed during the famine. Pharaoh gives Jacob's family the fertile county of Goshen to settle, and the children of Israel prosper in their Egyptian exile.

December 30

## Vayechi

Jacob lives the final 17 years of his life in Egypt. Before his passing, he asks Joseph to take an oath that he will bury him in the Holy Land. He blesses Joseph's two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, elevating them to the status of his own sons as progenitors of tribes within the nation of Israel.

Jacob blesses his sons, assigning to each his role as a tribe: Judah will produce leaders, legislators and kings; priests will come from Levi, scholars from Issachar, seafarers from Zebulun, schoolteachers from Simeon, soldiers from Gad, judges from Dan, olive-growers from Asher, and so on. Reuben is rebuked for "confusing his father's marriage bed"; Simeon and Levi, for the massacre of Shechem and the plot against Joseph. Naphtali is granted the swiftness of a deer, Benjamin the ferociousness of a wolf, and Joseph is blessed with beauty and fertility.

Jacob is taken to the Holy Land after his death, where he is buried in the Machpelah Cave in Hebron.

Joseph, too, dies in Egypt, at the age of 110. He, too, instructs that his bones be taken out of Egypt and buried in the Holy Land, but this would come to pass only with the Israelites' exodus from Egypt many years later. Before his passing, Joseph conveys to the Children of Israel the testament from which they will draw their hope and faith in the difficult years to come: "G-d will surely remember you, and bring you up out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

Ending the Book of Genesis, Joseph dies.





# CBS Business

## 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.

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/89710744448?pwd=dkpTR2RFcGtNzdZVFciUk5wMFpiQT09>

Meeting ID: 897 1074 4448  
Passcode: 721348

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/>

The Mishkan Tefilla (Siddur) is available at: <https://www.ccarnet.org/publications/mishkantfilahforshabbat/>



## Advertise in The Kibbitzer

Business Card - \$20/month.

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

[jzelatis@zomesa.com](mailto:jzelatis@zomesa.com) or call the

CBS office at  
813-681-6547.

## CBS Office Hours

The administrative office is currently open by appointment only. We can be reached at [cbsbrandon@outlook.com] and 813-681-6547 or you may contact Rabbi Lefkowitz directly at 407-222-6393 or [rlefkowi@bellsouth.net](mailto:rlefkowi@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](mailto:thekibbitzer@hotmail.com) with their name and accomplishment, engagement or birth. It's important during these times to see the good in our community.





# Chanukah

Chanukah, the Jewish festival of rededication, also known as the festival of lights, is an eight-day festival beginning on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev.

Chanukah is probably one of the best known Jewish holidays, not because of any great religious significance, but because of its proximity to Christmas. Many non-Jews (and even many assimilated Jews!) think of this holiday as the Jewish Christmas, adopting many of the Christmas customs, such as elaborate gift-giving and decoration. It is bitterly ironic that this holiday, which has its roots in a revolution against assimilation and suppression of Jewish religion, has become the most assimilated, secular holiday on our calendar.

The story of Chanukah begins in the reign of Alexander the Great. Alexander conquered Syria, Egypt and Judea, but allowed the people under his control to continue observing their own religions and retain a certain degree of autonomy. Under this relatively benevolent rule, many Jews assimilated, adopting much of Hellenistic culture, including the language, customs, dress, etc., in much the same way that Jews in America today blend into the secular American society.

More than a century later, a successor of Alexander, Antiochus IV was in control of the region. He began to oppress the Jews severely, placing a Hellenistic priest in the Temple, massacring Jews, prohibiting the practice of the Jewish religion, and desecrating the Temple by requiring the sacrifice of pigs (a non-kosher animal) on the altar. Two groups opposed Antiochus: a basically nationalistic group led by Mattathias the Hasmonean and his son Judah Maccabee, and a religious traditionalist group known as the Chasidim, the forerunners of the Pharisees (no direct connection to the modern movement known as Chasidism). They joined forces in a revolt against both the assimilation of the Hellenistic Jews and oppression by the Seleucid Greek government. The Temple was then rededicated; this is the Chanukah miracle found in the Books of Maccabees.

According to tradition, as recorded in the Talmud, there was very little oil left that had not been defiled by the Greeks at the time of the rededication. Oil was needed for the menorah (candelabrum) in the Temple, which was supposed to burn throughout the night every night. There was only enough oil to burn for one day yet, miraculously, it burned for eight days. This was the other Chanukah miracle and the reason we celebrate the festival for eight days.

Rabbinically, Chanukah is a minor religious holiday on par with the less well known Purim. Chanukah is not mentioned in Jewish scripture; the story is related in the Books of the Maccabees.

The holiday is celebrated religiously by lighting candles or oil to commemorate the miracles. They are placed in the Chanukah Menorah or Chanukiah. Many people refer to the Chanukiah incorrectly as a menorah. The name menorah is used only to describe the seven-branched candelabrum that was housed in the Jewish Temple. The Chanukiah holds nine candles: one for each night, plus a shamash (servant) at a different height. On the first night, one candle is placed at the far right. The shamash candle is lit and three brachot (blessings) are recited: l'hadlik neir (a general prayer over candles), she-asah nisim (a prayer thanking G-d for performing miracles for our ancestors at this time), and shehekhianu (a general prayer thanking G-d for allowing us to reach this time of year). The first candle is then lit using the shamash candle, and the shamash candle is placed in its holder. The candles are allowed to burn out on their own after a minimum of 1/2 hour. Each night, another candle is added from right to left (like the Hebrew language). Candles are lit from left to right (because you pay honor to the newer thing first).

Because of the law prohibiting the lighting of a fire on Shabbat, Chanukah candles are lit before the Shabbat candles on Friday night, and they are lit after Havdalah on Saturday night. The following blessings are said:



<p>בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.</p>	<p><b>Blessed are You, our God, Creator of time and space, who enriches our lives with holiness, commanding us to kindle the Chanukkah lights.</b></p>	<p><i>Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik neir shel Chanukkah.</i></p>
<p>בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בְּיָמִים הָהֵם בְּזֶמַן הַזֶּה.</p>	<p><b>Blessed are You, our God, Creator of time and space, who performs miracles for our ancestors, in the days of long ago and in this time.</b></p>	<p><i>Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam she'asah nisim la'avoteinu bayamim haheim baz'man hazeh.</i></p>

On the first night, the Shehecheyanu blessing is also recited.

Why the *shamash* candle? The Chanukah candles are for pleasure only; we are not allowed to use them for any productive purpose. We keep an extra one around (the shamash), so that if we need to do something useful with a candle, we don't accidentally use the Chanukah candles. The *shamash* candle is at a different height so that it is easily identified as the *shamash*.

It is traditional to eat fried foods on this holiday, because of the significance of oil to the holiday. Among Ashkenazic Jews, this usually includes latkes (pronounced "lot-kuhs" or "lot-keys" depending on where your grandmother comes from), or "potato pancakes." It is also customary to eat donuts, the traditional food of Israel known as sufganiyot.

Gift giving is not a traditional part of the holiday. However, in North America, due to its proximity to Christmas, gift giving has become a major aspect of the holiday. Traditionally, one only gives gelt, Yiddish for money, but rather than actual money, chocolate coins are given to add to the sweetness of the holiday. Chanukah gelt is a Jewish custom rooted in the Talmud: "The Talmud states that even a very poor person must light Chanukah lights, even if he can't afford it. A person with no money is required to go 'knocking on doors' until he collects enough to buy at least one candle for each night of Chanukah. The Torah concept of charity -- tzedakah -- requires us to help the recipient in the most dignified manner possible. Therefore, the custom arose to give gifts of money during Chanukah so that someone who needs extra money for Chanukah candles can receive it in the form of 'Chanukah Gelt.'"

Another tradition of the holiday is playing dreidel, a gambling game played with a square top. Most people play for matchsticks, pennies, M&Ms or chocolate coins. A dreidel is marked with the following four Hebrew letters: *Nun*, *Gimmel*, *Heh* and *Shin*. On Israeli dreidels, there is no *Shin* but rather a *Peh*, which stands for *Po*, meaning here. This supposedly stands for the Hebrew phrase "*nes gadol hayah sham*," a great miracle happened there. Actually, it stands for the Yiddish words *nit* (nothing), *gantz* (all), *halb* (half) and *shtell* (put), which is the rules of the game! There are some variations in the way people play the game, but the way I learned it, everyone puts in one coin. A person spins the dreidel. On *Nun*, nothing happens; on *Gimmel* (or, as we called it as kids, "gimme!"), you get the whole pot; on *Heh*, you get half of the pot; and on *Shin*, you put one in. When the pot is empty, everybody puts one in. Keep playing until one person has everything. Then redivide it because nobody likes a poor winner.

There are many Hebrew Chanukah songs, the most famous of which is Maoz Tzur or Rock of Ages which tells the story of God's deliverance, the major theme of Chanukah. Less traditional, but more amusing, are the four versions of Adam Sandler's Chanukah Song, which makes reference to celebrities who are Jewish.

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***The Kibbitzer***

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**Office hours:**

By appointment.

Voicemails and emails will be monitored daily.

Office is closed on holidays

**Weekly Email Blast submissions**[bethshalominfo@gmail.com](mailto:bethshalominfo@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.*





# Chanukah Celebration



**Friday, December 8 - 6:00 PM**

Come celebrate Chanukah with us on Friday, December 8. We will begin with our Erev Shabbat at 6:00 PM to be followed by our Chanukah potluck dinner. Remember to bring your menorah with 3 candles and we will have an amazing group lighting.

Diana Gutenstein will be organizing the festivities, so please contact her to tell her what you'd like to bring. We need: dairy main dishes, salads, desserts, soft drinks, paper goods, etc. Volunteers are also needed to help with set up and clean-up. Whatever you bring should be Chanukah themed.



**Diana Gutenstein (706)781-5679 or  
gabsgran@icloud.com**



# Building and Grounds



Gabe Lifschitz

While there is much to discuss about the current state of events and bringing young people into our congregation, I plan to write about these topics in a near future article. Right now, I am bringing up some projects that need our attention.

1. South gutter temporary repair. I am seeking help in late January 2024 to clear debris from the gutter, wash, and then reseal to confirm the gutter does not leak for a couple of years until we can gather donations for a long-term repair.
2. Replace failed compressor in large rooftop unit. Since July of 2022, we have held off on replacing the compressor due to the high repair costs. If you know someone who can work with us to replace the compressor, please send me an email to: [cbs-building@outlook.com](mailto:cbs-building@outlook.com)
3. Other small jobs. No later than late January we need to replace failed exhaust fans in the restrooms.
4. Clearing around the temple grounds and general housekeeping. Even though there is a contract to do lawncare and weeding, there are areas outside the scope of work, and we could use some help. One of the classrooms needs housekeeping to organize chairs and relocate chairs to storage. If you know a teen who is not in the Boy Scouts and needs to do community hours, send me an email to: [cbs-building@outlook.com](mailto:cbs-building@outlook.com). Thank you.

Regards,

Gabe Lifschitz



# Kudos



Gabe Lifschitz

**G  
A  
B  
E**

Think about your dwelling place: your home, apartment, etc. It takes work to keep it livable. The synagogue building and grounds are your second home. It is considered our Beit Knesset, the house of gathering. The next time you are at the synagogue look at the grounds. Look at the interior of the building. It is a comfortable place to be. One man is responsible for keeping our CBS house comfortable, Gabe Lifschitz. Yes, he has help, however, he is the driving force. It takes time, physical effort, and planning to keep up our house.

Gabe has worked on other projects as well. For example, the Homeland Security grant. Gabe put a lot of time and effort into getting this grant and now he will be the focal point for administering the funds.

He has been working with the JCC to help us attract new members and to ensure that the JCC keeps the communication lines with us open.

If you are unable to attend our Shabbat services in person, you have Gabe to thank for being our go-to tech person for Zoom.

We have a crew of volunteers that keep our synagogue operating. Gabe is one of them. The next time you see him tell him how much you appreciate all he does.



**“The greatest gift is to be able to give.”**

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks





# 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



## Welcome New Members!

Gilly and Jack Frost  
Jennifer and Eric Silverstein  
Emma and Addison

## Jewish Podcast: The Tikvah Project

### Bruce Bechtol on How North Korean Weapons Ended up in Gaza

When Israeli officials examined shells and munitions that have been fired into Israel recently by Hamas, they realized that they look like they were not made in Gaza. Similarly, when IDF inspectors looked at some of the rocket launchers Israel captured near the Gaza border, they discovered units with the word Bang-122 written on them in Korean. Bang is evidently an abbreviation of the Korean phrase *bangsapo*, which means “multiple rocket launcher,” and 122 is thought to indicate the caliber—122 millimeters.

It turns out that North Korean arms dealers have been supplying Hamas with rockets, rocket-propelled grenades, laser-guided anti-tank missiles, and more. North Korean engineers, meanwhile, have taught Hamas how to design and build the many tunnels that underneath Gaza.

Bruce Bechtol, a political scientist at Angelo State University and a former Marine, is the author of the recent article “Hamas Is Using North Korean Weapons Against Israel” at the website [19fortyfive.com](http://19fortyfive.com), and the book, *North Korean Military Proliferation in the Middle East and Africa*, published in 2018. Here he joins *Mosaic*’s editor Jonathan Silver to discuss how Hamas connected with North Korea, what weapons are involved, and what each side gets out of the arrangement.

## Broken Borders: AP & Reuters' Pictures of Hamas Atrocities Raise Ethical Questions

from HonestReporting.com

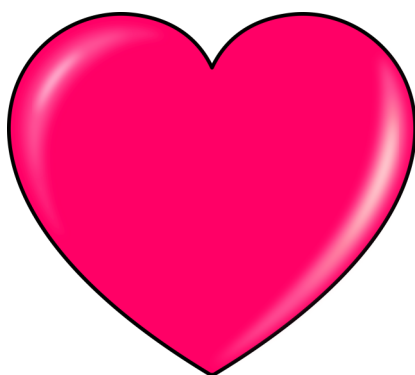
In reporting on the Israel-Palestinian conflict, the news media rely heavily on journalists and stringers based in the Gaza Strip, who must tell the story Hamas wants them to tell or risk imprisonment, death, or even the deaths of their family members. For this reason, for instance, one almost never sees pictures of rocket launchers in Gaza. A recent investigation by the watchdog group **Honest Reporting** has revealed an entirely different level of journalistic cooperation with terrorism:

On October 7, Hamas terrorists were not the only ones who documented the war crimes they had committed during their deadly rampage across southern Israel. Some of their atrocities were captured by Gaza-based photojournalists working for the Associated Press and Reuters news agencies whose early morning presence at the breached border area raises serious ethical questions. What were they doing there so early on what would ordinarily have been a quiet Saturday morning? Was it coordinated with Hamas? Did the respectable wire services, which published their photos, approve of their presence inside enemy territory, together with the terrorist infiltrators? Did the photojournalists who freelance for other media, like CNN and the *New York Times*, notify these outlets?

Even if [the journalists] didn't know the exact details of what was going to happen, once it unfolded did they not realize they were breaching a border? And if so, did they notify the news agencies? Some sort of communication was undoubtedly necessary—before, after or during the attack— in order to get the photos published.

*To read the entire article, I've given the link below. There you can also see the photographs in question, which I will not put into our Kibbitzer.*

**<https://honestreporting.com/photographers-without-borders-ap-reuters-pictures-of-hamas-atrocities-raise-ethical-questions/>**





# Our Congregation

## Yahrzeits



12/2	Joan	Sherer	Mother	Of	Carol	Roberts
12/5	Joel	Zazulia	Brother	Of	Iylene	Miller
12/6	Berne	Lubonne	Father	Of	Carole	Plesur
12/7	Elaine	Freedman	Mother	Of	Randy	Freedman
12/8	Jenny	Siegel	Grandmother	Of	Eric	Miller
12/13	Rita	Weiss	Mother	Of	Alan	Weiss
12/17	Theodore	Sernovitz	Father	Of	Neal	Sernovitz
12/19	Arlene	Melcer		Of	Marshall	Melcer
12/23	Florence	Plesur	Mother-in-Law	Of	Carole	Plesur
12/26	Pat	Bricklin	Cousin	Of	Stephen	Feldman

## Birthdays

12/1	Seema	Sernovitz
12/11	Judith	Pliner
12/25	Jameson	Newport
12/25	Conner	Newport
12/29	Mark	Finke

## Anniversaries

12/21	Lynn & Larry Kaler
-------	--------------------



# Donations

## High Holidays

Jennifer & Steve Billor  
 Karen L.M. Brown  
 Anita Clifford  
 Marilyn N. Ellis  
 Anna & Steve Feldman  
 Sheryl & Mark Finke  
 Brett Gross  
 Diana & Gerry Gutenstein  
 Brad Higginbotham  
 Steven Hindin  
 Margaret Kahn  
 Lynn & Larry Kaler  
 Janet & Neal Kavesh  
 Irving G. (Gerry) Lawrence  
 Debbie & Ben Miller  
 Lois & John Mistretta  
 Carol Plesur  
 Judith & Gerald Pliner  
 Susan Reckner  
 Carol Roberts  
 Sandra & Howard Saviet  
 Arlene Schindler-Slater  
 Ilene Schwartz  
 Brian Slater  
 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  
 Arlene Schindler-Slater  
 Lee & Sandy Schwartz  
 Brian Slater  
 Neil Spindel  
 Allan Weber



## In Loving Memory:

### **Richard Glaser**

Barbara Glaser

### **Sharon Leibowitz**

Gail Verlin

### **Thelma Silber**

Anna & Steve Feldman

### **Carol Hindin**

Anna & Steve Feldman

### **Aline & Morris Brandwein**

Anita Clifford

### **Jack Kaler**

Lynn & Larry Kaler

### **Regina "Becky" Smith**

Lynn & Larry Kaler

### **Mildred Spindel**

Neil Spindel

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Anita Clifford

Neil Spindel

### **Building Reserve Fund**

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?

A CLASSIFIED AD IN THE KIBBITZER!

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





# Dinner With the Tribe



Anita Clifford

## Bernini of Ybor



**Bernini of Ybor**  
**1702 East 7th Avenue**  
**Tampa, FL 33605**

**Saturday**  
**December 16, 2023**  
**6:00 PM**

In December we're returning to a favorite, Bernini of Ybor. What makes it a favorite? How about their \$3 martinis? How about their 1/2 priced entrees before 7:00 p.m.? The food is delicious Italian fare and its presented in the atmosphere of the historic Bank of Ybor bank building. We'll be eating not far from their vault. The food has a nice variety so everyone can get what they like. Food is very tasty and is exquisitely prepared. Portions are large and a great value during their happy hour. Our space is separated and quieter so that we can chat amongst ourselves.

**There's easy parking in the nearby public garage.**

**Come and join us on Saturday night, December 16. Please email Anita Clifford, [niewdnarb@yahoo.com](mailto:niewdnarb@yahoo.com) to make sure that a place is saved for you.**

## Food Bank



Meral Ginsberg

Thanks, Reed & Reed!

Many of you are probably familiar with the law firm of Reed & Reed. Their office is right on the southeast corner of Lumsden and Parson. Over the years you may have seen them promoting our Food Bank on their signage on the weekend. We certainly appreciate that!

This month they have been even more generous –at a time when we need it the most, they are donating \$1000 worth of food to our Food Bank! What a fantastic gift! Thank you so much, Reed & Reed, for your overwhelming kindness. If you do any business with Reed & Reed, please give them a big thank you for their generous contribution.

Also, we would like to announce that we will be doing a Bingo at the synagogue every three months to support our Food Bank. We will be offering food, snacks, and beverages for sale. The date will be on the Sunday before the next Foodbank, from 1-3 PM. The first one was held on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The future dates will be February 11, May 12, and August 11. Everyone, including friends and neighbors, is invited, so come and have some fun, and win some prizes. Hope to see you there!

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# Adopt a 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. 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. Several families have adopted months, but more are needed. Please pick a month and send the check marked "cleaning" or we can incorporate your donation into your due's commitment. Contact our treasurer, Sandy Schwartz; [drsandy18@gmail.com](mailto:drsandy18@gmail.com).





# Time for a Nosh



Old-fashioned cake doughnuts were deep-fried in hot fat; NEW-fashioned cake doughnuts are baked in a hot oven! I know it's Chanukah and that means fried sufganiyot. However, I don't like to deep fry foods, so I went in exploration of baked doughnuts. I found this recipe at KingArthurBaking.com and while I haven't tried this recipe yet, every recipe I have used from this website has been really good! Use a doughnut pan, I ordered mine from Amazon, and this tasty recipe to create your choice of doughnuts. As my grandma used to say, "A guten appetit!"



## Ingredients:

4 tablespoons (57 g) butter  
 1/4 cup (50 g) vegetable oil  
 1/2 cup (99 g) granulated sugar  
 1/3 cup (71 g) light or dark brown sugar, packed  
 2 large eggs  
 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
 1/4 teaspoon baking soda  
 1/2 to 1 teaspoon nutmeg, to taste  
 3/4 teaspoon table salt  
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
 2 2/3 cups (320 g) Unbleached All-Purpose Flour  
 1 cup (227 g) milk

*For best success, measure your ingredients with a scale, rather than measuring cups.*



## Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 375°F. Lightly grease two standard doughnut pans.
2. In a medium-sized mixing bowl, beat together the butter, vegetable oil, and sugars until smooth.
3. Add the eggs, beating to combine.
4. Stir in the baking powder, baking soda, nutmeg, salt, and vanilla.
5. Stir the flour into the butter mixture alternately with the milk, beginning and ending with the flour and making sure everything is thoroughly combined. The batter will be fairly thick; when you draw your spatula through the batter, it will leave a furrow.
6. Spoon the batter into the lightly greased doughnut pans, filling the wells to about 1/4" shy of the rim.
7. Bake the doughnuts for 10 to 12 minutes. Remove them from the oven, and wait 5 to 7 minutes before turning them out of the pans onto a rack.
8. For cinnamon doughnuts, shake warm doughnuts in a plastic bag with about 1/4 (50g) to 1/3 cup (68g) cinnamon sugar. For sugar-coated doughnuts, shake doughnuts in a plastic bag with about 1/2 cup (57g) non-melting topping sugar (for best results), or confectioners' sugar.
9. For frosted doughnuts, see our three easy doughnut glazes. Sprinkle the glazed doughnuts with toasted coconut or chopped nuts, if desired.



<p><b>Adult Education will now be on Zoom.</b> <b>In person classes to be determined.</b></p>					<p>1 Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 PM</p> 	<p>2 Vayishlach</p>
3	<p>4 Jewish Heritage Night</p>	<p>5 6:30 Ex Bd Mtg 7:00 Board Mtg</p>	6	7	<p>8 <b>Chanukah Shabbat Svc</b> 6:00 PM</p>  	<p>9 Vayeishev <b>Chanukah 2</b></p> 
<p>10 <b>Chanukah 3</b></p> 	<p>11 <b>Chanukah 4</b></p> 	<p>12 <b>Chanukah 5</b></p> 	<p>13 <b>Chanukah 6</b></p> 	<p>14 <b>Chanukah 7</b> Adult Ed 7:00 PM</p> 	<p>15 <b>Chanukah 8</b> Erev Shabbat Service 7:00</p>  	<p>16 Mikeitz <b>DWTT</b> 7 PM</p>
<p>17 Food Bank 1:00 PM</p> 	18	19	20	<p>21 Adult Ed 7:00 PM</p>	<p>22 Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 PM</p> 	23 Vayigash
24	25	26	27	<p>28 Adult Ed 7:00 PM</p>	<p>29 Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 PM</p> 	30 Vayeichi
<p>31 Happy New Year</p> 	1	2	3	<p>4 Adult Ed 7:00 PM</p>	<p>5 Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 PM</p> 	<p>6 Shemot</p> 