

# AZOY

“Is that so?”

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*The Monthly Newsletter of Temple B'nai Israel*  
*The Reform Jewish Congregation of Bay County*  
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## Recap of June 12, 2016 Annual TBI Congregational Meeting

While we did not quite have a quorum at this year's meeting, those in attendance were not shy about voicing their opinions, participating in discussions and asking questions of the board. Topics covered included: a budget proposal for the next fiscal year, an update on TBI's website, accomplishments over the last 12 months, and challenges for the future.

The biggest goal achieved was, of course, the hiring of a new Rabbi, who begins her year with us this month. Rabbi Alana Wasserman from South Carolina is just as excited to serve our congregation as we are to have her. In addition, Board members identified three other goals to realize this year: define and explain roles and responsibilities of TBI officers, board members, spiritual leader, committee chairs, etc; define a mission statement for TBI; and increase one to one communication with TBI members and the community.

Board Trustee Lori Zipes completed a written document defining the responsibilities of various roles within the

shul. That document is available in the Temple office for anyone to review. The remaining two goals are in process and progress is being made.

Challenges for our Temple were also discussed, namely the need to grow our membership and to create fundraising opportunities and events to help our shul meet its financial obligations. Any ideas are welcome. And each of you is welcome to join a committee (or two) in order to help. In addition to covering the shul's business during the meeting, awards were presented to the Volunteers of the Year, Nate Mewhinney and Harold Prows, and a thank you gift was presented to the outgoing Education Director, Cynthia Gingold. See page 2 for photos.

Because a quorum was not present, votes by proxy will need to be made to approve the proposed budget for fiscal year 2016-17, the slate of officers, and the proposed changes to our By-Laws. Please respond promptly when you receive your proxy in the mail.



## From The Rabbi | by Rabbi Alana Wasserman

Shalom from Greenville, South Carolina! I am thrilled to be the new rabbi at Temple B'nai Israel! After spending High Holy Days with you last year, and coming back to be your scholar-in-residence in May, I feel like this is kind of a homecoming in a way.

During my monthly visits, I will lead Shabbat services, adult education sessions, and Havdalah services on Saturday night (at the beach, as long as the weather cooperates!). On Sundays, I will be spending time with the Religious School students. Of course, throughout the weekend, I plan on having a nosh or two with all of you! In addition to these events,



I would also like to get to know all of you. If anyone would like to schedule some one-on-one time with me, please feel free to e-mail me at [alanamwass@yahoo.com](mailto:alanamwass@yahoo.com).

As we start this new year together, I cannot help but think of the words of the *Shehecheyanu*. After all, it is the blessing we say when we begin something new, or renew something. In our case, it is a little bit of both. *Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has granted us life, sustained us and enabled us to reach this occasion!*

### Harold Prows and Nate Mewhinney recognized as TBI Volunteers of the Year

With gratitude the Board of Temple B'nai Israel presented the Volunteer of the Year award to two deserving individuals: Harold Prows and Nate Mewhinney. Each received the award for their dedicated work at the Calhoun Correctional Institution in Blountstown, FL. They lead Shabbat services for the Jewish inmates on Friday evenings and on two Tuesdays a month they visit with the inmates on a more casual basis.

This mitzvah began nearly three years ago when Harold learned that no one was filling this need for Jewish prisoners. Nate joined him a short time later. TBI helped by providing some *siddurim* that are no longer used by the congregation. But because the prison rules are so strict about bringing anything into the facility, *kippot*, the small portable ark in TBI's storeroom and other ritual objects could not be donated. Still,

Harold and Nate persisted in their efforts to serve the spiritual needs of these folks. One of the prisoners confessed to Nate that these visits make him "feel human," as visits from these two traveling leaders is often the only contact with the outside world for many of them.

So, thank you Nate and Harold. You are performing a true mitzvah and we thank you!



Left: Harold Prows and Nate Mewhinney were presented the TBI Volunteers of the Year Award by Treasurer Mike Starkman. Right: Cynthia Gingold was recognized as outgoing Religious School Education Director.





Long may it wave!

## JULY CALENDAR

MON	7/4		<b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b>
WED	7/13	6:00 pm	Monthly Temple Board of Directors Meeting
FRI	7/15	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Shabbat Dinner - <i>please bring sides, salads, desserts</i> Shabbat Service with Rabbi Wasserman
SAT	7/16	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Wasserman - <i>Please bring a bag lunch, drinks provided</i> Havdalah on the Beach at Richard Seltzer Park - <i>followed by dinner at local eatery</i>
SUN	7/17	10:00 am	Brunch with the Rabbi - <i>as you try to stump her with tough questions</i>
WED	7/20	6:30 pm	Sisterhood Meeting
FRI	7/22	7:00 pm	Lay-led Shabbat Service



### ❧ The President's Message ❧

Another year is beginning for our shul. We are pleased to see many of you return to enjoy another year of Jewish prayer, celebration and learning. Getting in touch with what's inside our souls warms not just our hearts but the hearts of those around us, because we are then our authentic selves. Being Jewish, in whatever ways are comfortable for you, is a journey into a rich past and a sometimes uncertain but formidable future. And for the present, TBI offers a home for practicing our traditions, honoring our heritage, worshipping our faith, and encouraging questions about the world in which we live.

It is just that support and encouragement to question that makes me proudest of my Jewish roots. From early on, my parents encouraged my siblings and me to ask questions. They didn't always have answers but they delighted in shooting a question back at us in such a way that we were often satisfied. Responding to a question with another question is not just a Jewish practice, but it sure seems like it. It led me to surmise that not everything has a pat answer. Maybe it's okay to wonder about things, to not be so sure of everything....to have curiosity and face the world with some wonder and awe.

I've retained much of that to this day, leaving me suspicious of those who claim to have all the answers. How about you?

*L'shalom!*

*- Sarah*



**SISTERHOOD SNIPPETS** by Lisa Rahn, Sisterhood President

The Sisterhood continues to make great progress in fulfilling our mission: “to engage in the pursuit of *Gemilut Hasadim* (Acts of Kindness), *Tikkun Olam* (Healing the World through Social Action) and *Tzedakah* (Righteousness).”

Members of the Sisterhood participated in our first interfaith Jewish-Muslim women’s breakfast on May 21st, which proved to be a very vibrant, informative and enjoyable gathering. We compared life experiences, learned about each other’s faith, families and customs, and realized that we have far more in common than we are different. We left vowing that we would meet again soon and regularly, and are now

considering becoming a chapter of the non-profit Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom ([www.sosspeace.org](http://www.sosspeace.org)).

We’ve changed the Sisterhood meeting time to 6:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month to better accommodate family schedules, and at our June meeting initiated the Salad Days of Summer. Each attendee contributed one or more ingredients, and we each made our own salad creation to enjoy while we brainstormed about fundraising and FUN raising ideas for the Sisterhood and the shul.

We continue our community outreach to the Family Service Agency (FSA), and encourage all members

of our congregation to bring household items, clothing and shelf-stable food donations to the Temple. FSA also has volunteer opportunities if you have an hour or two to spare. In July, we will be holding an ice pack drive for FSA; please pick up one or two and bring them to Shabbat services!

The Sisterhood is always looking for new members (and you don’t have to be a member of the Temple to join). We even have our first Junior Sisterhood member – more are welcome! Call me at (503) 338-0449 or e-mail me at [larahn@gmail.com](mailto:larahn@gmail.com) for more information.

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**You Can Count on the Caring Committee to Help in Times of Need** | The Caring Committee is available to all Jews in our area. If you or a family member or friend is in need of support, a caring phone call, a friendly visit, a prayer or just a chat with another Jew, please call us at 850-522-8685. A member of the Caring Committee will return your call. Ready Responders will change for the second half of the year. We will be happy to hear from you how we might respond to your needs and the needs of the Jewish community in any other ways. Just give us a call.

# JULY JOYS & REMEMBRANCES

## Y A H R Z E I T S - THEIR MEMORIES ARE FOR US A BLESSING

- 07/02** MINNIE GINGOLD – GRANDMOTHER OF ALVIN GINGOLD  
**07/08** DAVID SICKERMAN – UNCLE OF STEPHEN SICKERMAN  
**07/12** BRUCE FRETZ – FATHER OF LORI ZIPES  
**07/14** MARK DEJOHN – BROTHER OF ANNE MILLER

## BIRTHDAYS

- 06/28 ADAM BRAUN  
07/12 NATE MEWHINNEY  
07/25 ANN STRYNAR  
07/26 PETER SOSTHEIM

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 07/12 JACOB & ELIZABETH SICKERMAN  
07/23 BOB & MARCIA PELL

*If your Joy or Remembrance is missing or incorrect please e-mail The AZOY Editors at [theazoy@gmail.com](mailto:theazoy@gmail.com)*

## TBI Thanks Lori Zipes

The Temple Board and Congregation are grateful to Lori Zipes for her service on the Board for the past two years. From the beginning of her term on the Board, Lori proved to be an ardent advocate for our shul and community. She never shied from challenging the status quo and

offered thoughtful opinions and ideas for us to consider.

When ideas turned to the need for action, Lori stepped up to help make it happen. Her last effort resulted in a much needed handbook describing the roles and responsibilities of various positions within the shul,

from the Rabbi and Board members to committee chairs. This handy reference is now available as a resource for everyone.

Lori, we thank you for your valuable service in improving our Jewish home.

## Mary and Mike Starkman are Going Camping!

The TBI Board is very pleased to send Mary and Mike Starkman to Camp Oconomowoc in Wisconsin this month. They will be attending the URJ's *Had'rachah* Seminar July 13-17. *Had'rachah* is the Hebrew word meaning "guide." The training will help them learn more about Jewish worship and prayers, Jewish life-cycle events, and provide educational information. In addition, Mike and Mary will be able to help other congregants learn how to lead a lay service – so don't hesitate to sign up for one elsewhere in this issue of *The Azoy*.

Small congregations like ours benefit from such training as we cannot afford a full-time Rabbi. This will allow us to offer more services and provide guidance for life-cycle events. Our membership in URJ offers grants to small congregations to help pay the fee for one person, so that attendees will only have to pay their travel expenses.


We are delighted that both Mary and Mike have volunteered to attend. Take lots of photos and bring bug spray. We're anxious to hear and see what you learn.

## Sign Up for One, Two or All Three

Please review the following opportunities - on the next 3 pages - for you and your family to help TBI provide Hospitality for the Rabbi, Shabbat Dinners, and Worship. Then sign up for one, two or all three. A brief description of what you will be asked to do is included for each sign-up sheet. The sign-up sheets cover the period from July 2016 through June 2017 (TBI's fiscal year). Do not fear signing up far in advance. If the need to change or cancel your commitment arises, just let us know and we'll make other arrangements. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Sarah at 507-990-6724, or e-mail [farcott@gmail.com](mailto:farcott@gmail.com). Your prompt response will assure you get the dates of your choice and it will help relieve the Ritual Committee's stress of having to find volunteers at the last minute. Thank you!



..... **Home Hospitality for Rabbi Wasserman for Weekends when she is here** .....

 This requires picking her up at the local PCB airport on Friday afternoon or making arrangements for her to be picked up, making a bedroom or space available to her for the entire weekend, returning her to the Airport on Sunday afternoon. She will have use of a car for the weekend, she will have a key to the shul and her lunches and dinners are taken care of – only breakfasts need to be supplied.

**2016:**

- July 15 - 17 \_\_\_\_\_
- Aug 12 - 14 \_\_\_\_\_
- Sept 16 - 18 **Joanne and Bob Goetz**
- Oct 2 & 3 **Judith Scott and Sarah Farkas**      *Rosh Hashanah*
- Oct 11 & 12 **Carolynn and Stephen Sickerman**      *Yom Kippur*
- Nov 4 - 6 **Lisa Rahn and Steve Theberge**

*Rabbi Wasserman will not be here in December*

**2017:**


- Jan 20 - 22 **Mewhinney Family**
- Feb 10 - 12 \_\_\_\_\_
- Mar 3 - 5 \_\_\_\_\_

*Rabbi Wasserman will not be here in April | Passover Seder with ISJL Rabbi*

- May 12 - 14 \_\_\_\_\_
- June 9 - 11 \_\_\_\_\_

To sign up, please call Sarah at 507-990-6724 or e-mail [farcott@gmail.com](mailto:farcott@gmail.com)

..... **Shabbat Dinner Entrée for Weekends when Rabbi Wasserman is here** .....

 This requires the preparation of an entrée for our pot luck style Shabbat dinners, bringing a challah (homemade or available at Publix if pre-ordered), setting tables, pouring wine/grape juice (available at shul), setting out Shabbat candles (available at shul), and helping to clean up.

**2016:**

**July 15**

\_\_\_\_\_

Aug 12

Marsha Kraselsky

Sept 16

Zipes Family

*No Shabbat dinner in October due to High Holy Days*

Nov 4

Mary and Mike Starkman

*Rabbi Wasserman will not be here in December*

**2017:**

Jan 20

Mewhinney Family

Feb 10

Lisa Rahn and Steve Theberge

Mar 3

Mary and Mike Starkman

*Rabbi Wasserman will not be here in April | Passover Seder with ISJL Rabbi*

**May 12**

\_\_\_\_\_

June 9

Joanne and Bob Goetz

To sign up, please call Sarah at 507-990-6724 or e-mail [farcott@gmail.com](mailto:farcott@gmail.com)

..... **Lay Leader and Oneg for Friday Night Service** .....



This requires learning and leading a Friday night service (help is available). You may determine how much of a “regular service” you wish to do. (You might even wish to add a discussion on a relevant topic.... just let folks know ahead of time.) Lay Leader must also provide an oneg – after the service, challah (can be pre-ordered from Publix or homemade) and, if you wish, other noshes. Wine, grape juice and Sabbath candles are available at the shul but must be set up.

**2016:**

**July 22** \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 26 **Mary and Mike Starkman**

**Sept 30** \_\_\_\_\_

*No Lay-led Service in October due to High Holy Days*

*No Lay-led Service in November due to Thanksgiving*

Dec 9 **Mary and Mike Starkman**

**2017:**

Jan 6 **Judith Scott and Sarah Farkas**

Feb 24 **Mary and Mike Starkman**

**Mar 24** \_\_\_\_\_

**Apr 14** \_\_\_\_\_

**May 26** \_\_\_\_\_

**June 23** \_\_\_\_\_

To sign up, please call Sarah at 507-990-6724 or e-mail [farcott@gmail.com](mailto:farcott@gmail.com)



Please help the Temple Sisterhood support the nonprofit Family Service Agency (FSA) of Bay County.

This week FSA needs frozen ice packs to keep food cold for clients. FSA lists their current needs on a weekly basis in each Sunday's edition of the *News Herald*. They also have these needs listed on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/familyserviceagencypc/?fref=nf>.

Please pick up a few ice packs the next time you go shopping and bring them to Shabbat services at the Temple - - or you can drop them off at FSA, which is located at 114 East 9th Street in Panama City. For office hours or more information, please contact FSA at 785-1721.



### ***Shabbat Candle-Lighting Times for July 2016***

*Take a break from the hectic work week and mark the Day of Rest with lighting of the candles.*

7/1 | 7:30 pm      7/8 | 7:29 pm      7/15 | 7:27 pm      7/22 | 7:24 pm      7/29 | 7:20 pm

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