

AZOY

"Is that so?"

2019
JANUARY

POST-STORM EDITION



The Monthly Newsletter of Temple B'nai Israel

The Reform Jewish Congregation of Bay County

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UNITED WE STAND #850 STRONG



Our synagogue survived the Category 4 winds of Hurricane Michael on October 10, 2018 with relatively little damage.

From the Temple President
Mike Starkman



We are starting a new calendar year and it is wonderful to report that we celebrated a beautiful simchah this past month.

Pearl Amromin had her bat mitzvah and she beautifully conducted the Friday evening and Saturday morning service. We had a full sanctuary

for both services. The services were officiated by visiting Rabbi Loewy, Rabbi Emeritus Congregation Gates of Prayer in Metairie, LA. We greatly appreciated his presence for both leading the bat mitzvah service and for his spiritual leadership during these trying times. His reflections on the congregation's current emotional and spiritual needs and his reflections on what happened to his congregation during hurricane Katrina provided some greatly needed comfort.

I would like to let you know how the Temple survived the storm. The building suffered some "minor" damage. The insurance estimate for repairs is approximately \$32,000 and our wind and hail deductible on our policy is approximately \$24,000. We are currently looking for a general contractor who will help us repair our building. We are also raising funds through a GoFundMe account and individual direct contributions. In total, we have so far collected just over \$12,500. We are also looking

into a Small Business Administration Disaster Loan if we cannot raise sufficient funds to complete repairs.

To the best of our knowledge, no one from our congregation or friends were injured by the storm. That is the good news. Several of our members and friends, however, had significant property damage, and some will be leaving the area. Sonny & Alma and Lisa & Stephen have already moved, and we wish them well and great success in their new location.

Just as a reminder, we have a few resources that have asked us to provide a comprehensive list of individuals needing assistance. Please contact me or Robert Goetz if you are in need of assistance and we will ensure that the information is passed on to those agencies that may be able to help.

B'shalom

- Mike

We hope y'all had a



**HAPPY
HANUKKAH**



*The TBT
Board of Directors
wish You and
your Family
a Safe,
Happy,
and Healthy
2019!*

JANUARY JOYS & REMEMBRANCES

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

01/09	EDNA EARL WILLIAMS — MOTHER OF KAY STRIPLING
01/10	JANET SUTTON — MOTHER OF PAM SUTTON
01/10	MARVIN EUZENT — HUSBAND OF MARGE EUZENT
01/12	BRENDA KELLY — SISTER OF MARSHA KRASELSKY
01/23	ROSE MILLER — MOTHER OF NATHAN MILLER
01/28	LAUREN BIDLEMAN — GRANDDAUGHTER OF JUDITH SCOTT & SARAH FARKAS



BIRTHDAYS

01/08	CYNTHIA GINGOLD	01/22	SUE GULKIS
01/12	PAUL ZIPES	01/23	CINDY ARNOLD
01/13	RABBI RICHARD BAROFF	01/24	MIKE STARKMAN
01/15	NATHAN MILLER	01/29	LISA RAHN
01/19	BRIAN HUMBLDT	01/31	MICHELLE DEAM

ANNIVERSARIES

01/01 ROBERT & JOANNE GOETZ

If your Joy or Remembrance is missing or incorrect,
please e-mail The AZOY Editors at theazoy@gmail.com.

TODAH RABAH - Chai Card Donations

Tzedakah is a mitzvah, a unique privilege granted to every Jew. Remembering friends and family in this manner is an appropriate way to show our feelings towards both our loved ones and our community. We want to thank the following for their contributions:

With sympathy to Ed Nagler on the loss of his father, Arthur Nagler, from –
Robert & Joanne Goetz
Mike & Mary Starkman
Sonny & Alma Glass

With sympathy to Greg Yordon on the loss of his father, Leonard Yordon, from –
Robert & Joanne Goetz
Mike & Mary Starkman

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Pearl Amromin, from –
Pavel Amromin & Tammy Marinuzzi

Thanks to Mary Starkman for tutoring Pearl for her Bat Mitzvah, from –
Pavel Amromin & Tammy Marinuzzi

If you'd like to make a donation, please contact Mary Starkman at mary_starkman@comcast.net.

Hurricane Michael is now 12 weeks behind us, but its effects will be felt for many months to come. No lives were lost, but property and

family treasures were destroyed, and many of our members adversely affected. Because of the severity of damage to their apartment, Sonny &

Alma Glass were forced to relocate, and are now living in Lebanon, TN. Look for more information on our members in next issue.

Hurricane Michael

by Robert Goetz, Trustee/Webmaster

As you all know, the Frankford Avenue neighborhood, as was much of Panama City and Bay County was devastated on Wednesday, October 10, 2018.

Temple B'nai Israel's disaster plan was activated Monday, October 8th in advance of Hurricane Michael with the synagogue, Torahs, books, and computer all being secured. Although I have trained at the US Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD, every natural disaster is different, and this storm posed its own unique challenges. Fortunately, our synagogue building sustained only minor damage; the Torahs and prayer books were unharmed.

Good disaster plans have three components: 1) people, 2) facilities and equipment, and 3) processes. All three have and continue to be

addressed. During the days immediately following the hurricane, the TBI leadership actively worked to account for all congregants, along with assessing property damage, and help that any member may require. At this time all congregants have been accounted for. Unfortunately many are unable to live in their homes and are in temporary housing. Several have left the area.

During this post-disaster phase TBI is determined to first help stabilize the situation of each congregant. A rapid return to normal is the obvious goal. Additionally, as an integral part of the community, TBI has been working to the fullest extent possible to help Bay County recover from this horrific event.

As we are learning, recovery can be difficult and daunting. We continue to hear about the different resources available during storm recovery. The numerous phone calls and emails received by TBI from rabbis,

synagogues, Jewish organizations, and concerned individuals worldwide to date have been extremely heartwarming. Many were accompanied with donations to the TBI Hurricane Michael Relief Fund. Each has received a timely and personalized response.

With so much to deal with during this time of recovery, it is understandable that you may feel overwhelmed. TBI wants to help. Please let any board member know of your situation and allow us to confidentially be of assistance.

Many of you may recall that last year after Hurricane Irma, we reached out to the Jewish communities of South Florida and welcomed displaced persons to join us at TBI for High Holy Day services. Now the tables have been turned. As Jews, we have learned how to remain strong during the most difficult of times.

[#bnaisraelstrong](#)

[#850strong](#)

[#panhandlestrong](#)



< Carolynn Sickerman cleans up after the storm, October 13, 2018.

No, you're not seeing double. Hurricane Michael disrupted communications for many weeks, leaving many Bay County residents – including your Editors – without

the ability to text and email, causing us to skip publication for the past 2 months. Below are the yahrzeits, birthdays and anniversaries for last November and December.

NOVEMBER JOYS & REMEMBRANCES

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

11/01	ANNIE PELL - GRANDMOTHER OF BOB PELL
11/05	HERMAN MILLER - FATHER OF NATHAN MILLER
11/07	ROBERT KENNETH BRUCE - FATHER OF CAROLYNN SICKERMAN
11/14	JOSEPH RAHN - FATHER OF LISA RAHN
11/20	ARTHUR NAGLER - FATHER OF ED NAGLER
11/22	HELEN PEIROS SICKERMAN - MOTHER OF STEPHEN SICKERMAN
11/23	ROSE BELLA MILLER - MOTHER OF NATHAN MILLER
11/25	LOUIS SCHATZ - BELOVED OF MIRIAM GILBERG & FORMER BOARD MEMBER
11/27	SHERWOOD BERMAN - HUSBAND OF LIZ BERMAN



BIRTHDAYS

11/18	LIZ BERMAN
11/21	JACOB HAIMAN
11/24	ANNA ZIPES
11/28	LORI ZIPES

ANNIVERSARIES

11/14	SONNY & ALMA GLASS
11/15	RICK & SANDY STRYNAR
11/21	NATHAN & ANNE MILLER

DECEMBER JOYS & REMEMBRANCES

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

12/01	ANNE ALPER — MOTHER OF SARAH FELDSTEIN
KISLEV 25	MAURICE STARKMAN — FATHER OF MICHAEL STARKMAN
12/07	JIM NORMAN — HUSBAND OF HELAINE NORMAN
12/10	WILLIAM ROSEN — FATHER OF ALMA GLASS
TEVET 4	ZELIG WAJSFELNER — GRANDFATHER OF MIKE STARKMAN
12/14	DELOY KELLY — FATHER OF MARSHA KRASELSKY
12/19	WILLIAM ALPER — FATHER OF SARAH FELDSTEIN
12/24	ARTHUR SKOULA — HUSBAND OF ANITA SILVER SKOULA



BIRTHDAYS

12/03	ANNE MILLER
12/09	ALVIN GINGOLD
12/09	JOHN OSWALD
12/19	MARILYN NATIONS
12/22	ROBERT GOETZ

ANNIVERSARIES

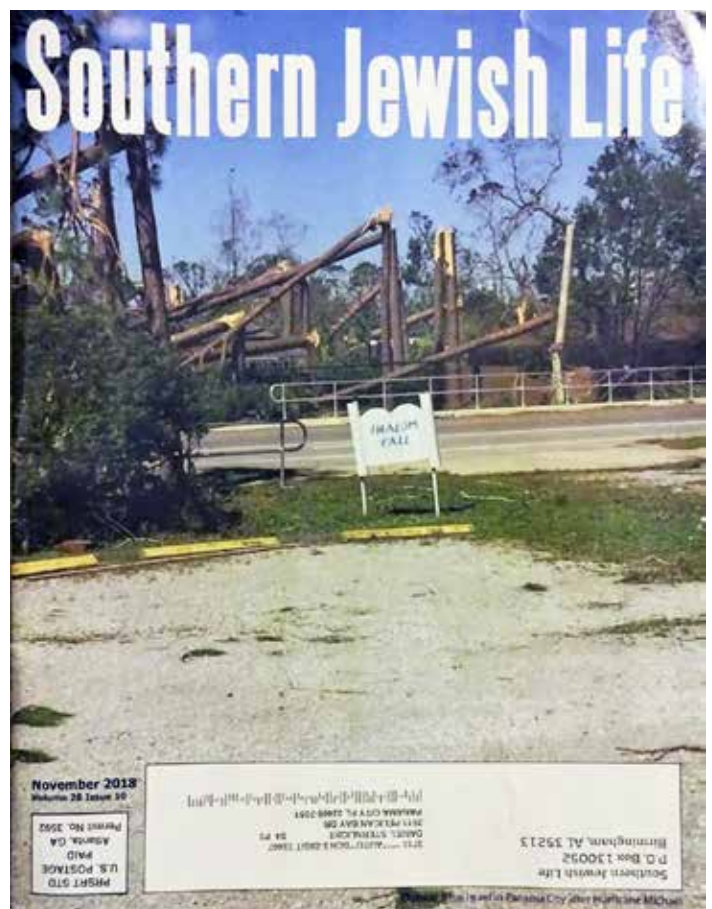
12/02	DARREN & BRANDY HAIMAN
12/07	LISA RAHN & STEVE THEBERGE
12/07	GEORGIE & TERRELL HARTZOG
12/16	NATE & HEATHER MEWHINNEY
12/21	AVIVA & JOHN MALLARY

JANUARY 2019 CALENDAR

TUE	01/01		Happy New Year, y'all!
SUN	01/06	9:30 am	Religious School
WED	01/09	6:30 pm	Temple Board of Directors Meeting
FRI	01/11	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Shabbat Dinner – <i>please bring a side dish</i> Lay-led Shabbat Service
SUN	01/13	9:30 am	Religious School
WED	01/16	6:30 pm	Sisterhood Meeting
SUN	01/20		no Religious School Martin Luther King Jr Day
		10:30 am	Tu B'Shevat Family Service & Tree Planting
SUN	01/27	9:30 am	Religious School



Issue #1 of “Fantastic Four,” Marvel Comic’s first family of superheroes, appeared in the fall of 1961. Created by sons of Jewish immigrants – writer Stanley Martin Lieber (Stan Lee) and artist Jacob Kurtzberg (Jack Kirby) – the team included Benjamin Jacob Grimm, known as the Thing. Grimm, who grew up on New York City’s Lower East Side, recently married his long-time sweetheart, Alicia Masters. Artist Esad Ribic depicts the groom wearing a kippah and tallit – to which we say: *Mazel tov!*



Each month “Southern Jewish Life” magazine features local Jewish news for Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and the Florida panhandle, including Bay County. The cover of their November issue pictured Temple B’nai Israel – or at least our parking lot and roadside sign – and some of the catastrophic damage inflicted by Hurricane Michael. Under those downed pine trees across the street is the home of Mary Ellen Adamcryn, who temporarily resides in a trailer on our property until her house is rebuilt. A tip of the hat to Daniel Sternlicht, who brought this to your editor’s attention. For more information, visit SJL online at www.sjlmag.com.



Israel issues Stamps for Sukkot

In ancient times, the Date Palm tree was a vital resource for the inhabitants of Eretz Israel and it became a symbol of success and prosperity. The date palm was considered to be the perfect tree, as in “the righteous bloom like a date palm” (Psalms 92:13). The Talmudic midrash in Rabbah Genesis 41:1 explains the date palm tree’s preferential status and qualities: “As no part of the palm has any waste – the dates being eaten, the branches used for Hallel, the twigs for covering, the bast for ropes, the leaves for besoms and the planed boards for ceiling rooms – so are there none worthless in Israel.”

Lulav and Dates

On the first day of Sukkot the Israelites were commanded to take the 4 species, as stated in Leviticus 23:40 – “On the first day you shall take the product of the citron trees, branches of palm trees, boughs of leafy trees and willows of the

brook.” Tradition has identified the term “branches of palm trees” as the lulav (frond) that grows at the top of the date palm tree. The 4 species mitzvah includes blessing the lulav and the Talmud explains (Sukka 27:2) that one specifically blesses the lulav because it is the highest and most prominent of the four species. The Rabbah Leviticus midrash 20:12 equates the 4 species to different groups within the Jewish people and notes the palm frond “has flavor, but no scent.” The “flavor” refers of course to the sweet taste of the date fruit.

Palm Fronds and Fibers

The leaves of the Date Palm were called by various names in different biblical sources. For example: “palm branches” (Leviticus 23:40) and “palms” (Nehemiah 8:15). The midrash in Rabbah Genesis emphasizes the use of palm branches as covering for the huts in which the Israelites were commanded to dwell during the days of the Sukkot fes-

tival. Strong fibers that were woven into rope grow in the base of the palm fronds. These ropes were used to make baskets and mats. Talmud tractate Yevamot (102:72) mentions a “fiber sandal” and so the stamp tab features an illustration of a sandal woven from palm fibers, Roman period, Dura-Europos, Syria.

Roofed with Palm Frond Bases

The trunks of felled date palm trees provided material for building houses and huts. The whole trunks served as pillars and the worked beams were used as the base for the ceiling. The palm frond bases, which are the thin stems where the date fruit grows, were woven to create sieves for sorting grains. The sieve shown on the stamp tab is from the Israelite Period (8th century BCE) and was discovered in archeological excavations conducted at the Kuntillet Ajrud site in the Sinai Desert.

Stamps issued August 2018
Text courtesy of Eretz Israel Museum



October 22: Volunteers helped Sonny & Alma Glass salvage possessions and pack up after their apartment was flooded by the Hurricane, and Tammy Marinuzzi & Pavel Amromin graciously provided lunch at their home.



November 2: Our 1st post-storm Shabbat Service was led by Mike & Mary Starkman, in memory of those killed at Tree of Life - Or L'Simcha Congregation in Pittsburgh. Afterwards Mike displayed the Torah for the benefit of visitors.

You can purchase with purpose this holiday season

Buy your holiday gift and supplies at **smile.amazon.com** and Amazon donates

You shop. Amazon donates.
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AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support **Temple B'nai Israel** every time you shop, at no extra cost to you. The AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible

purchases. To access the TBI "store," which is registered as **Bay Jewish Community Inc.**, all you have to do is visit: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3151696>. Thank you!



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**UNION for
REFORM JUDAISM**
האיחוד ליהדות רפורמית

SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

The TBI Sisterhood & Sunday School

presents

Tu B'Shevat Family Service & Tree Planting

Sunday, January 20 at 10:30 am

For more information contact Tammy or Cynthia

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