

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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WHAT I LEARNED AT THE INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN JEWISH LIFE (ISJL) CONFERENCE BY CYNTHIA GINGOLD

The keynote address, entitled "Jewish Identity: Jewish Education," was delivered by Dr. Jonathan Krasner, Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Associate Professor of Jewish Education Research at Brandeis University. Krasner made several points. He said that Identity needs to be affirmed. We, as Jews, struggle with this. The term, Jewish Identity, is a modern concept. Before 1950, the term "identity" was used.

Before tracing the history of the term "identity", Krasner asked, "Where did it come from? Is identity a good thing? Does it make us approach life in a certain way or in our approach to our roles?" Krasner went on to state that Erik Erikson coined the term "identity crisis," especially in terms of being a teenager. Thus the idea of adolescence began to develop. Erving Goffman said that identities are like a performance. We act out our identities. We act differently in different situations. We have lots of identities. Identity is something dependent on culture. We are always performing for someone else. Krasner asked, "What's your real identity?" His answer was there isn't one authentic identity.

Stuart Hall is credited with the concept that Cultural Identity is a matter of becoming as well as being. It belongs to the future as much as to



Alvin & Cynthia Gingold stand shoulder to shoulder with Rabbi Marshal Klaven

the past. It is not something which already exists, transcending place, time, history and culture. Cultural identities come from somewhere. There are associations that connect us to identities in relationship to history and personal relationships. Identity is fluid, always changing.

According to Krasner, Marshall Sklare stated that Identity is the sum total of measurable behaviors and attitudes. Identity is no longer about how one sees oneself in the world.

Instead, it is indexed to a norm or a set of norms. It's difficult to remain Jewish, Jewish education is the path to strengthening the Jewish Identity. When boundaries fall, we lose identity. Identity is about individual identity rather than communal. In order to determine one's Jewish-ness, a set of variables must be developed. Identity is personal identity as opposed to communal identity.

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❧ The President's Message ❧

I am delighted to be able to share some very good news with you. Temple B'nai Israel has received an anonymous donation from an organization calling itself "Chai Minded" which seems to help Jewish congregations throughout America. Administered through Schwab Charitable Trust, a donation in the amount of \$10,368.00 (*chai* x 576) was made to our shul to be used in a way that betters our synagogue, congregation and/or Jewish community in Panama City. Otherwise there are no stipulations in how the money is used. If you Google "Chai Minded" you'll see that almost 200 Jewish congregations have been pleasantly surprised in this way.

We are most grateful for the windfall. Now we are tasked with answering the question, what do we do with the money? Do we tuck it away for a rainy day? Do we use it to beautify the temple? Do we purchase new *siddurim*? New *machzors* for the High Holidays? Do we engage a Rabbi for more on-site time in Panama City? Do we change the red carpet? Should we make a major pledge toward a new ark? These and many more possibilities come to mind. What I want to know, what the TBI Board members want to know is, what do you think we should do?

We want you to tell us your ideas. What pressing needs does our small Jewish community have that we were not able to address because we lacked the funds? What not-so-pressing needs would it be nice for our community to have? What projects might we now start with such funds? Please send us your thoughts and ideas. The email address for each Board member is published in this issue of *The AZOY*. Use it to let us know what you think. We'll be discussing this topic at our August Board meeting and would very much appreciate your input.

I also want to announce that Rabbi Alana Wasserman from Simpsonville, SC, will lead us in prayer and joyful song for the High Holidays. Look for more information about Rabbi Wasserman in the September *Azoy*. And please welcome Shira Moskowitz, our ISJL Fellow for the coming year. We are happy to get to know and to learn from both of them.

L'shalom,

Sarah

TBI Receives Gift

by Sarah Farkas

Temple B'nai Israel has received a very generous monetary gift through the Schwab Charitable Trust. A little-known organization named ***Chai Minded*** has made gifts to nearly 200 synagogues and Jewish associations nationwide. Each monetary gift is a multiple of "*chai*" or 18, the Hebrew symbol for "life." We were pleasantly surprised to receive a donation of 576 x "*chai*" or \$10,368.00. TBI Treasurer Mike Starkman received the check in July after answering a simple request to verify our status as a not-for-profit Jewish organization/temple.

That is all that is known about the special gift except that it is to be used to better our Jewish community, congregation, temple and its programs and services. In Jewish culture, the true meaning of *tzedakah* is giving freely without the giver being known. We are most grateful for this expression of *tzedakah*.

We will have no problem meeting the donor's requirement to use the gift for the betterment of our shul and members. The TBI Board has begun to discuss how best to utilize the windfall and with input from congregants, ideas will be shared and prioritized. This is a *mitzvah* that should bring a smile to all of us.

Mir Zyn'n Nebechdyq

(Mea Culpa) - by Sarah Farkas

One of the AZOY editors failed to mention a new Board member's name in an article last month. My apologies to Marsha Kraselsky for the omission. She is no less important a member of the Board. The editor, however, has proven to be a less than stellar proofreader. So sorry.

Yerushalayim shel Zahav – Jerusalem of Gold!

That is how it always has felt to us as Jews.

Optically when you are there in the middle of the day it gives one the impression of being a glittering city. The sun reflects off of the Jerusalem marble in such a way to make it so.

A venerable city which three millennia ago was taken from the Jebusites (ancient Canaanites) by force by King David, Jerusalem has since then been the center of Jewish life and consciousness. The paradox of the city of Jerusalem is that this City of Peace (the word *Shalom* is embedded in the name *Yerushalayim*) has clearly been the City of Strife.

Jerusalem has been the central city – usually the capital of the Land of Israel – over thousands of years. Jerusalem has been one of the world's principal destinations of pilgrimage. In fact as a place of pilgrimage to both Jews and Christians, and as a sacred city to all three religions of the West – Judaism, Christianity and Islam – Jerusalem is unique in the world. No other place – not Rome, Mecca or the Forbidden City in Beijing – commands the imagination of fully half the religious people in the world.

Most recently it has been unified under Israeli political control since June 1967. Before that time for almost twenty years it was riven between Israel and Jordan. Jewish religious sites suffered badly during that time. The Israelis treat all religious sites of all three Western faiths with great respect. That is one reason why traditional Christians are so supportive of the Jewish State.

It is ironic that the Dome of the Rock is the dominant feature of Jerusalem – in the same way Big Ben signifies London. A beautiful shrine looming above the Kotel (the Western Wall) it reflects the

double nature if the City of Gold: it is one of the world's most recognizable spiritual structures and at the same time a monument of dominance. It was built soon after the Islamic conquest of Jerusalem from the Greek Christians.

The Old City of Jerusalem holds other great places as well: the Church of the Holy Sepulcher for Christians and the retaining wall of the Second Temple – the Kotel of the Jews spoken of above.

Can the City of Peace ever really be just that? As Jerusalem itself goes, so too would the nation of Israel. Perhaps even the entire Middle East?

Yerushalayim Shel Zahav – Jerusalem of Gold.

Maybe one day also *Yerushalayim* – the Place where Peace abides.

Ken yihy Ratzon – May this be God's will.

Rabbi Richard Baroff



WHAT I LEARNED AT THE ISJL CONFERENCE *continued from page 1*

The next informative session Alvin and I attended was entitled Big Tent Judaism. Rabbi Kerry Orlitzky, Executive Director of Big Tent Judaism/Jewish Outreach Institute. Rabbi Kerry introduced the attendees to alternative models of financial support for synagogues, from traditional dues to fair share, to gifts from the Heart. With Voluntary Dues, members are permitted to pay any amount to maintain their membership in the synagogue. Members are guided by being told how much it costs to operate the synagogue, so that they have a benchmark for their contributions.

The No Dues model is based on a religious notion that no one should be denied access to a synagogue. This model provides that the institution has members, but they are not obligated to contribute any synagogue dues. Transactional Membership is sometimes called Fee-for-Service Model. Members are charged only for those services that they use.

Open Membership offers the benefit of membership to anyone living in the community. Combined with a program of outreach, it provides the congregation the opportunity to engage large numbers of community

residents. The focus for this model is not seeking new members, but keeping those engaged and involved.

The No-Membership Model allows that anyone can participate in the programs the synagogue offers, and take advantage of the services provided without paying dues. This model allows synagogue leaders to focus on deepening engagement of all interested and active participants rather than seeking new members. Chabad employs this model.

The Tiered Model includes a basic fee. Anyone prays for free. Other services as offered for separate fees. These services vary in price according to standards established by the synagogue leaders. Three other models were offered.

On Monday night we were entertained with the haunting, lovely voice of Batsheva. She sings in Yiddish, Hebrew, and, of course, English. When Batsheva sang "Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen, the room was silent.

The ride to Jackson, MS, was long, and tiring. We got to see old friends and make new ones. The food was good. The energy of many minds focusing on Jewish education was special. We plan to attend in 2016 again.



Cynthia with Leah Apothaker (left) and Alachua Haskins (right)



The Israeli port city of **Tel Aviv-Yafo** celebrated its centennial in 2009; Israel Post issued this stamp (above) last September. The website noted that "more than 100 years after the founding of Tel Aviv, the city is the gateway to Israel... an urban economic and culture center on a global level." The stamp below is from 1966.



HIGH HOLIDAY CARDS AVAILABLE

A nice selection of greeting cards for the upcoming Jewish Holidays is available at your Temple Judaica Shop. They will be available from August 1st through the holidays. Shop Local!

SISTERHOOD FUNDRAISER COMING SOON

***Attention all Collectors,
Packrats and Hoarders!***

The TBI Sisterhood will host their 2nd Annual RUMMAGE SALE on October 16th. Save the date -- and all your stuff -- so you can donate it to this fundraising effort.

HELP BREAK- THE-FAST

Mary Starkman, co-president of TBI Sisterhood, informs The AZOY that the Sisterhood is already planning for our annual High Holiday Break-the-Fast next month.

"We need people to sign up to bring Lox, which can be purchased locally at Sam's Club. We will need 3 to 4 of these. We also need salads, kugels, blintzes, tuna and egg salad and cucumber, tomato and onion for the lox. We also cannot forget dessert! We will all be ready for some. Please let us know what you will bring." See the last page of this issue for more information.

"We also have a box at the back of the Synagogue for donations to The family Service Agency."



BUBBE'S BAUBLES: AUGUST BONANZA!

Just in time for Shabbat – A beautiful set of candlesticks designed by renowned Israeli artist Yair Emanuel. These candlesticks make up for their short stature with a colorful pomegranate design in blues, reds and yellows.



We also have a Shabbat candle-lighting set, including two lovely glass candlesticks and matching glass and metal matchbox holder, all sitting atop a lovely glass and metal tray. The beautiful set is a design from Lily Art in Israel.



Please stop by the shop for even more Judaica — right here in beautiful Panama City, Florida!

AUGUST JOYS & REMEMBRANCES

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

- 08/04 E. MARY RIGANO** — MOTHER OF MARY STARKMAN
08/05 MAX NAGLER — GRANDFATHER OF ED NAGLER
08/06 SIDNEY WEDEEN — FATHER OF JILL GINIGER
08/06 HERBERT NASH — STEPFATHER OF LOIS OSWALD
08/13 HY WAKSTEIN
08/15 JOHN STONE — FATHER OF MIKE STONE
08/19 RENA KLATZY — MOTHER OF LIZ BERMAN
08/22 ERNEST OSWALD, JR — BROTHER-IN-LAW OF LOIS OSWALD
08/28 FANNYE FELDSTEIN — MOTHER OF RON FELDSTEIN
08/28 MARVIN SUTTON — FATHER OF PAM SUTTON



BIRTHDAYS

- 08/02 JOHN MALLARY
 08/02 JOHN OSWALD
 08/06 DON NATIONS
 08/09 STEPHEN THEBERGE
 08/20 DIANNA NAGLER
 08/24 RYAN JOSEPH

ANNIVERSARIES

- 08/08 ANDREW LEVY & GAYLE LITTETON
 08/13 PAUL & LORI ZIPES
 08/15 MARILYN & DON NATIONS
 08/24 DANIEL & LINETTE STERNLICHT

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Lighting times for Shabbat candles:

August 7th - 7:14 pm
 August 14th - 7:07 pm

August 21st - 7:00 pm
 August 28th - 6:52 pm

AUGUST CALENDAR

WED	08/12	6:00 pm	Monthly Temple Board of Directors Meeting
FRI	08/14	6:00 pm	Shabbat Dinner - Entrée by Nate and Heather Mewhinney
		7:00 pm	Shabbat Services with Rabbi Baroff
SAT	08/15	12:00 pm	Adult Hebrew with Rabbi Baroff
		7:00 pm	Havdalah Service on the Beach at Richard Seltzer Park Followed by conversion ceremony of Kay Stripling Enjoy dinner out with everyone!
SUN	08/16	10:00 am	Lox and Bagels – Have a Nosh and Stump the Rabbi
WED	08/19	6:00 pm	Sisterhood Meeting
FRI	08/28	7:00 pm	Shabbat Service with Joan & Harold Prows - <i>oneg to follow</i>
SUN	08/30	9:30 am	Religious School begins



On July 19, the Gingles hosted ISJL Fellows and TBI President Sarah Farkas for dinner and conversation.
Standing: Arielle Nissenblatt, Alvin, Sarah and Ali Duhan | Sitting: Becca Rosenthal, Shira Moskowitz and Cynthia

Shalom!

My name is **Shira Moskowitz** and I am thrilled to be B'nai Israel's new Education Fellow from the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL). I am originally from Long Island, New York but recently moved to Jackson, Mississippi to begin my work at the ISJL.

Prior to moving to Mississippi, I attended the University of Michigan, where I majored in Organizational Studies with a minor in Judaic Studies. My goal in combining these two seemingly unrelated programs was to use my understanding of organizational theory to enhance Jewish communities that will sustain and advance American Judaism.

The ISJL, an innovative organization committed to strengthening Jewish life, is the perfect place to put this education into practice. At the ISJL, we are dedicated to providing educational and rabbinic services, preserving the rich history of the Southern Jewish experience, sharing Jewish cultural and artistic programs, and facilitating



community engagement opportunities throughout a thirteen state region. I'm honored to be part of a team committed to serving communities like yours.

Throughout my time at U of M, I served as a tour guide and helped to create a group called the Smile Bringer Singers, which traveled to nursing homes, homeless shelters, and community centers to perform upbeat songs and dances and visit with the residents. However, my most influential college

experiences were the ones that helped strengthen my Jewish identity, including my time on my campus' Hillel governing board and on staff at URJ Eisner Camp. In my Hillel leadership role, I organized a Shabbat Across UM in which I helped students plan and host their own Shabbat dinners, encouraging them to take ownership of their own Judaism. Additionally, I worked hard to enhance our Reform community on campus through social programming and concerts. At camp, I learned how to build an inclusive and safe community where my campers could grow personally and explore their Judaism.

These experiences reflect my goals for my time with your community. I hope that as your Education Fellow we can work together to help enhance and build a sense of Jewish community that makes Judaism exciting and fun for people of all ages. I hope that together we will be able to create a space where students feel comfortable taking ownership of their Judaism. And I hope that as your Education Fellow I can help Temple B'nai Israel get the most out of their partnership with the ISJL.



Recap of July 2015 TBI Board Meeting

Present: Mike Starkman, Alvin Gingold, Lori Zipes, Marsha Kraselsky, Bob Goetz, Sarah Farkas.

Guests representing Sisterhood: Mary Starkman and Cynthia Gingold

Treasurer's Report:

- We ended FY 2015 with a deficit of \$680.59
- Board agreed to pro-rate TBI dues on a monthly basis

Ritual Report:

- Rabbi Alana Wasserman from South Carolina has been contracted to conduct High Holiday services
- Mike Starkman will personally visit Navy Base and Tyndall to invite military personnel
- Pledge cards will be handed out during HHD services, a letter will go out asking for pledges as well
- By consensus, the Board agreed to sending press release(s) to local newspaper announcing and explaining High Holy Days and to make an effort to be more visible through local TV coverage

Sisterhood:

- Made a generous \$750 donation to Temple with \$250 designated for school
- Collecting donations for Family Services – collection box in entryway
- Will set up displays in area libraries and bookstores for Jewish Book Month

ISJL:

- Cynthia and Alvin attended ISJL Educational Conference returning with info, materials and enthusiasm
- Shira Moskowitz, our new ISJL Fellow will make first visit on July 19

Committees:

- Ritual – Mary Starkman, Alvin Gingold, [Ed Nagler]
- Programs/Entertainment: Marsha Kraselsky
- School: Cynthia & Alvin Gingold
- Budget: Mike Starkman
- Website: Bob Goetz
- New Ark: Nathan Miller, Lori Zipes, Ed Nagler, Mike Starkman, Sarah Farkas
- *Chevra Kadisha*: Heather Mewhinney, Mary Starkman, Joan Prows, Judith Scott
- Committees still open: Fundraising, Outreach, Caring, Building/Beautification, Policy/Rules

New Business:

- A Board Workshop facilitated free of charge by URJ will be held in mid to late August
- Shul bulletin board will be utilized to post monthly schedule, recap of Board meetings
- The *Azoy* will publish recap of Board meetings monthly and add email addresses of Board members so congregants can communicate more easily
- New lock and keys have been obtained due to a breach last month

No Old Business: Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.



Wedding Ring - Italy
17th Century

"The wedding ring plays a central role in the ceremony in which bride and groom are declared husband and wife. These extremely lavish rings were inscribed with the words mazel tov and featured a tiny house that probably symbolized the Temple or the establishment of a new home."

Bridal Head Ornament - Bukhara
late 19th Century

"Unlike the local women's jewelry, which is usually made of silver, the jewelry of the Jewish bride from Bukhara is made of hammered gold and inlaid with green and pink tourmalines."

Bridal Jewelry - Yemen
1930s

"Covering her from head to toe, the jewelry of the Jewish bride from Sana'a is characterized by its abundance and the fixed order in which it is worn."

New postage stamps from Israel

The three 4.10 new Israeli shekel Bridal Jewelry stamps pictured above were issued June 2015 by Israel Post.

The 4.10 NIS Hanukkah Lamp stamp at the right was issued in May 2015 to mark the 50th anniversary of The Israel Museum in Jerusalem, Israel's largest cultural institution and one of the leading museums worldwide. The stamp depicts a 19th Century Synagogue Hanukkah Lamp from Eastern Europe, which was designed to stand by the Torah ark in the synagogue as a reminder of the Temple Menorah.

The images and information on this page were taken from the Gifts and Collectables (philatelic) section of Israel Post's English website:

<http://www.israelpost.co.il/mall.nsf/Category?OpenForm&cat=2&L=EN>



HELP US BREAK-THE-FAST!

The High Holidays are once again almost here. In preparation for our annual Break-the-Fast, we're asking everyone to pitch in. Below you will find a list of items that were donated in the past. Please call or e-mail either Cynthia or me to let us know what you would like to bring. Please let us know ASAP so that planning can proceed. Thanks.

Mary Starkman and Cynthia Gingold, Sisterhood Co-Presidents

Please do not bring bagels and cream cheese; these will be provided.

Please feel free to bring more than one dish! Remember: There is no such thing as too much food!

Salads: Each dish should be enough to feed 8-12 people

Tuna: 1 _____ Tuna: 2 _____ Tuna: 3 _____
Tuna: 4 _____
Egg: 1 _____ Egg: 2 _____ Egg: 3 _____
Deviled Eggs: 2 dozen 1 _____ 2 _____
Mixed Salad: 1 _____ 2 _____
Fruit Salad: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

Misc. Salads: green bean/pea/potato/hummas/tabuli, etc, enough to feed 12 people

Green Bean Salad _____
Smoked Tuna _____
Chick Pea Salad _____
Corn Casserole _____
Slaw _____

Herring: 3 large jars (2 jars cream/1 jar wine) _____

Condiments: Onions: 3 sliced large onions _____ Tomatoes: 50 slices _____

Lox: enough to feed 12-16 people

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

Kugels: 9x13 pan size please (or 2 small ones), enough to feed 12 people

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

Dessert: enough to feed 12 people

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

Ice: 1 _____ 2 _____

Anything else you want to bring:

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

Please bring your dishes table-ready. Our kitchen is small and services will be going on. This way you can bring it in the door and directly to the table! No fuss, no muss! And we can keep the noise to a minimum.

Thank you very much!

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