

AZOY

"Is that so?"

2017
AUGUST
5777



UNION for
REFORM JUDAISM
האיחוד ליהדות רפורמית

SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

The Monthly Newsletter of Temple B'nai Israel
The Reform Jewish Congregation of Bay County
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Located at: 1910 Frankford Avenue, Panama City, Florida
850-522-8685 / www.bnaiisraelpc.org

Message from Temple President Mike Starkman

It is my pleasure to announce that we have a new ISJL Education Fellow assigned to us. Carly Abramson will be joining us in August to develop a curriculum for our religious school children. We all look forward to a meaningful exchange of ideas.

I feel compelled again to mention that we need your help. This is your congregation and your Temple. New member or old member, we are too small to make a distinction. Everyone needs to participate in the activities. Here is a list of the opportunities that are available:

1 Caring Committee needs a new chairperson.

- 2 Public Relations Committee needs an e-mail manager and someone to monitor our Facebook page.
- 3 Fundraising Committee, as it stands now is a committee of one. We cannot survive this way. There is a lot to do this year and one person cannot do it all.
- 4 Cleaning Committee just doesn't yet exist. This is your Shul and we all need to care for it and help prepare for events held at the Temple.
- 5 We have a vacancy for a religious school teacher to teach traditions and holidays to our children. If you are interested please contact me or our Religious School Director, Dan Sternlicht.

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Not a Member of B'nai Israel?

Perhaps you might like to join us for the **New Member Social** on Saturday, August 19 at 7 pm at the home of Robert and Joanne Goetz located at 109 Palm Bay Blvd, Panama City Beach. We'll have the Havdalah Service conducted by Rabbi Wasserman, followed by a poolside barbecue. You'll get to visit with B'nai Israel members, chat with the Rabbi, and learn more about what's happening inside our local Jewish community. Just RSVP no later than August 17th to RobertJayGoetz@gmail.com.

Robert Goetz, Chair, Membership Committee



On July 14, Rabbi Wasserman called up Board members Mary Starkman, Linette Sternlicht, Mike Starkman and Robert Goetz to the Torah for an aliyah, with Sonny Glass assisting as gabbai.

The Month of Elul



August 28th is the beginning of the Hebrew calendar month, Elul. Elul is the month before Rosh HaShanah

and Yom Kippur. And while it is the month prior to the high holy days, it is an important time for us. It is our time to reflect, and to begin the process of making amends with those whom we have a wrong in the past year. It is our opportunity to begin to clean the slate for ourselves. In Aramaic, the word Elul means “search,” which is fitting, as this is the time for us to search our souls.

In Hebrew, Elul is spelled *aleph-lamed-vav-lamed*. Some believe that it is an acronym for *Ani L’dodi V’dodi Li*, which means “I am my Beloved’s and my beloved is mine, (Song of Songs 6:3).

As we search our souls, and reflect on the past year, I hope we learn from our mistakes, and do our best

to right any wrongs we may have committed. I also hope each of us takes a moment to remember all the good that has happened in the past year. Let us reflect on new friendships, and think of ways to strengthen them in the coming year. Let us remember all the ways we helped to make the world a better place, and think of new ways to do good in the coming year. And, let us remember all the joyous times we shared at Temple B’nai Israel, and think of all that we can do together in the coming year!

I look forward to seeing all of you on my next visit!

L’shalom,

Rabbi Alana Wasserman

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Message from Temple President Mike Starkman

If you have a specific interest that isn’t covered by one of our current committees, please feel free to let me know what you’d like to do and we’ll work something out. We can always use your help.

The Rabbi is coming August 18th and someone is needed to host the Shabbat dinner at the Temple. Please let me know if you are able to sponsor the entrée at this meal. The Ritual Committee has started preparing for the High

Holy Days. If you are asked to accept an honor, please accept it. It will add to the overall observance of these important days. Also planning for a holiday is the Sisterhood’s Passover Committee. Alma is starting to plan for the Annual Community Seder, which will be held on the second night and led by our very own Rabbi Wasserman.

L’shalom
Mike

Chai Notes: Mitzvah cards were recently sent to:

Rick Stryner, in memory of his father – *Sarah Farkas and Judith Scott*
Lisa Rahn, with congratulations on her new job – *Sarah Farkas and Judith Scott*
Mike & Mary Starkman, in memory of Helen Hahn – *Sarah Farkas and Judith Scott*

Mitzvah cards may be sent for all occasions, such as get well wishes, anniversary, birthday, congratulations, recognizing a birth or passing. A suggested donation is \$18 (*chai*) or a multiple of \$18. However, any donation for this project are deeply appreciated! Please contact Mary Starkman at 850-708-1766 or mary_starkman@comcast.net.

Tisha B’Av 2017 by Sarah Farkas

The ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av is literally *Tisha B’Av*. It commemorates the time when both Temples in Jerusalem were destroyed: first in 435 BCE and again in 70 CE. It’s a solemn date that in modern times recalls all of the hardships that have

befallen the Jewish people throughout history. Reform Jews remember all of the hardships in our long history on this date. *Tisha B’Av* is the “Darkest of All Days” in which Jews mourn and read the Book of Lamentations. Traditionally, Jews fast on *Tisha B’Av*. In

addition, Jews do not participate in celebratory events like weddings and other mitzvot, and do not cut their hair on this date as a symbol of Jewish suffering and loss. This year *Tisha B’Av* begins sundown July 31 and ends the following day at sunset.

Carly Abramson
ISJL Education Fellow



Shalom! My name is Carly Abramson and I am very excited to be B'nai Israel's new Education Fellow from the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL).

I grew up in the sweeter part of Houston, Texas known as Sugar Land. For college, I said goodbye to my familiar suburb and embraced the city of Austin at the University of Texas. There, I majored in Jewish studies and minored in Hebrew. The more I dove into my Jewish identity I noticed that I was no longer as attached to my reputation as a proud Texan, but rather I was willing to follow the journey of being a proud Jew.

Growing up I spent my summers at a URJ camp known as Greene Family Camp. At Greene Family Camp it was easy for me to own my sense of Judaism, though back in Sugar Land I felt as if I had to exchange my "Jewishness" for the approval of my non-Jewish friends. Fortunately enough, as I started getting more involved with the Jewish community it was becoming evidently clear which path I needed to take. For my first stop, I made the decision to study abroad in Israel during my junior year of High School with a program called Eisen-drath International Exchange (EIE). After my semester in Israel I no longer felt the need to play coy with my Jewish identity... to reiterate I majored in Jewish Studies and now work for a Jewish non-profit, and that is only a minor fraction of my story. If there was Shabbat or High Holiday services at Hillel, I was leading them. If there was another opportunity to study in Israel, I absolutely took it.

My semester abroad in Israel take-two, was a defining moment for me and became a critical stop on my Jewish journey. When I was a junior in college I got accepted to participate as a fellow with the Nachshon Project. This opportunity awoke my passion to make Judaism tangible for those of us who have to drive over an hour to get to synagogue, or to those of us who have to complain to our grocers about

not having enough gefilte fish in stock because we have approximately one shelf for Jewish foods during the holiday season. In other words, after my experience with Nachshon I discovered that I wanted to help Judaism flourish in the South, which brings me to where I am now – Jackson, Mississippi.

I knew that I wanted to expand my knowledge and experiences in Southern Jewry, so it didn't take long for me to stumble upon an organization known as the ISJL. The ISJL is committed 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 cannot stress enough how grateful I am to work with your community and make a difference alongside you.

If you are interested in learning more about the ISJL and the benefits of your partnership with us, or if you are dying to learn more about me and my Jewish journey feel free to send me an email at cabramson@isjl.org or give me a call at 601-362-6357. For more information please visit our website at www.isjl.org.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you!



The Passover Haggadahs featured on these stamps - Ein Gev, Haganah and Kibbutz Artzi - represent Zionist values of security, Aliyah and settlement. Designed by Zina & Zvika Roitman, they were issued April 4, 2017 by Israel Post.

For more information, go to: [http://www.israelpost.co.il/PostBooIae.nsf/AlIbulim/9213CoADA0050BBC2-2580EA0049ACA0/\\$File/alon%20Hagada%20Pesach.pdf](http://www.israelpost.co.il/PostBooIae.nsf/AlIbulim/9213CoADA0050BBC2-2580EA0049ACA0/$File/alon%20Hagada%20Pesach.pdf)

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.



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.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com - - but with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to TBI.

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, AmazonSmile may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. Special terms and restrictions may apply. Please see the relevant promotion for complete details.

To access the TBI "store," which is registered as **Bay Jewish Community Inc**, please go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3151696>

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TBI Online Business Directory Update by Webmaster Robert Jay Goetz

Have you got a business that could use more customers? Do you offer services, goods, or both across the Bay County area? Perhaps you know of a business that would enjoy more clientele. Then why would you miss out on Temple B'nai Israel's online business directory? Talk about broadening your digital footprint! TBI's website, www.bnaiisraelpc.org

received over 100,000 hits during the past 12 months.

An online business listing is FREE for members; non-members may list for only \$108 for 12 months. Send your business name, address, contact information, and a brief description of 50 words or less to TBIpcWebmaster@gmail.com. We'll take care of the rest.

Shabbat Candle-Lighting Times for August 2017

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

8/4 | 7:16 pm 8/11 | 7:09 pm 8/18 | 7:03 pm 8/25 | 6:55 pm

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** **HERBERT NASH** – STEPFATHER OF LOIS OSWALD
- 08/07** **HYMAN GLASS** – FATHER OF SONNY GLASS
- 08/13** **HY WAKSTEIN** – CHARTER MEMBER OF CONGREGATION
- 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

- 07/06 MARLA CLARK
- 08/02 JOHN MALLARY
- 08/02 JOHN OSWALD
- 08/06 DON NATIONS
- 08/09 STEPHEN THEBERGE
- 08/19 MARE WHEELER
- 08/20 DIANNA NAGLER
- 08/30 MARSHA KRASELSKY

ANNIVERSARIES

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

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

AUGUST CALENDAR

- | | | | |
|-----|------|---------------------|--|
| FRI | 8/4 | 7:00 pm | Lay-led Shabbat Service |
| SAT | 8/5 | Noon | “Quad-L” – Lay-Led Lunch & Learn |
| WED | 8/9 | 6:30 pm | Temple Board of Directors Meeting |
| WED | 8/16 | 6:30 pm | Sisterhood Meeting |
| FRI | 8/18 | 6:00 pm
7:00 pm | Shabbat Dinner - <i>please bring sides, salads, desserts</i>
Shabbat Service with Rabbi Wasserman |
| SAT | 8/19 | 12:00 pm
7:00 pm | Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Wasserman - <i>please bring a bag lunch, drinks provided</i>
Havdalah and New Member Social - <i>followed by poolside BBQ at home of Robert & Joanne Goetz – Please RSVP to RobertJayGoetz@gmail.com</i> |
| SAT | 8/26 | 11:30 am | Meet & Greet Carly Abramson, our new ISJL Education Fellow
<i>followed by lunch at a local eatery</i> |





This summer, Religious School students Jackie and Lizzie and their parents visited the historic Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island, America’s oldest Jewish house of worship. During Shabbat services on July 14, they spoke about their visit and read George Washington’s

now-famous Letter to the Hebrew Congregations of Newport, assuring Jews of a “... a Government, which to bigotry gives no sanction, to persecution no assistance ...” For the entire letter, see <http://www.tourosynagogue.org/history-learning/gw-letter>.



The US Post Office, and its successor, the US Postal Service, has issued postage stamps acknowledging our nation’s history of religious freedom.

This 20c Touro Synagogue stamp was issued August 22, 1982 in Newport, RI.



The 3c Religious Freedom stamp on the right, was issued December 27, 1957 in Flushing, NY.

The 1c Four Freedoms stamp was issued February 12, 1943 in Washington, DC.

President Franklin Roosevelt personally selected the image for stamp, believing it should convey to the world the reasons the US had joined WW II – the Four Freedoms outlined in his 1941 State of the Union address; see <https://www.mysticstamp.com/Products/United-States/908/USA/>.

