

AZOY

"Is that so?"

5777
DECEMBER
2016



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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Hanukkah, Chanukah, Chanukkah...PARTY! However You Spell It, It's always Good!

11:00 am Sunday December 31



Celebrate the **Festival of Lights** with your like-minded friends as we light the menorah and feast on latkes and sufganiyot, and support our kids in Religious School. On Sunday, December 31st join us for our Annual TBI Chanukah Party. The festivities begin at 11:00 am -- so you can still go out to celebrate the new year of 2017!

This year, the students and their teachers will regale us with songs and stories of Chanukah, the Maccabees, long-held traditions like why we eat jelly doughnuts on Chanukah. Bring your own menorah and we'll all light it up with 8 candles each. Enjoy the holiday food and camaraderie and be proud of our young learners.

See you there!

 Save the Dates: December 16th - 18th ISJL Fellow Leah Wittenberg visits Panama City 

❧ The President's Message ❧

Thanksgiving is such a hopeful holiday. One in which we're encouraged to look for those things in our daily lives that make life worth living, things that make us joyful, things for which we are grateful. I hope each of you shared those things with family and friends along with the abundance of good food and good humor.

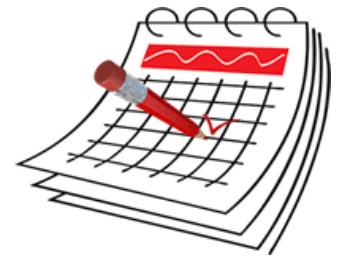
And now we are just a few short weeks from the end of year 2016. My parents used to tell me that the weeks, months and years go by faster as they aged. I thought that was just some sort of senioritis. But time does, indeed, seem to speed up as I get older. So it's even more important to make the most of our time here, to find joy in each day, to take stock of the good things in life, to make each day better than the one before.

Making memories is a worthy goal.

L'shalom - Sarah

DECEMBER CALENDAR

SUN	12/04	9:30 am	Religious School
FRI	12/09	7:00 pm	Shabbat Service led by Barbara Shykoff
SAT	12/10	9:30 am	Interfaith Jewish-Muslim Women's Breakfast Meeting
SUN	12/11	9:30 am	Religious School
WED	12/14	6:30 pm	Monthly Temple Board of Directors Meeting
FRI	12/16	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Shabbat Dinner Shabbat Service led by Leah Wittenberg, ISJL Fellow
SAT	12/17	12:00 pm 5:00 pm	Lunch & Learn with Leah Wittenberg - <i>bring a bag lunch, we'll provide beverages</i> Havdalah at Oaks by the Bay in St Andrew - <i>followed by dinner at local eatery</i>
SUN	12/18	9:30 am 11:30 am	Religious School with Leah Wittenberg Lite Brunch - "Get to know Leah and ISJL"
WED	12/21	6:30 pm	Sisterhood Meeting
SAT	12/24	4:32 pm	First Light of Chanukah
SUN	12/25		No Religious School
SUN	12/31	11:00 am	Chanukah Party! <i>Latkes, Sufganiyot, Menorahs, FUN! Bring your menorah. Let's Light it Up!</i>



The Rabbi's Message

Chanukah is all about miracles. We celebrate the miraculous triumph of the tiny Maccabee army over the humongous Greek-Syrian army. We celebrate the miracle of the oil, which was only supposed to last one day, but miraculously lasted for eight.

We all know the story of Chanukah, and all the miracles it entails. But what about today? Are there any miracles in today's world? YES! And I have seen them with my own eyes. And so have you.

Last month, our Sisterhood gathered together with women from the local mosque multiple times. We had breakfast together, and decided that we were going to do a mitzvah project together. Then, the women (and some of their children) got together to fill backpacks with food to feed children who would otherwise not have enough food to eat over the long Thanksgiving weekend.

Every time I come to the Temple I see a bin full of canned food to donate, and the Religious School children bring things from their own homes to donate to those in need as well. I see miracles all around me, and I see them through you.

As we approach this season of miracles, I hope you are able to take note of the miracles all around us, and savor them. For they are precious. Chanukah Sameach! Happy New Year! See you in January!

L'shalom, Rabbi Alana Wasserman



SHOP FOR CHANUKAH AT BUBBE'S BAUBLES



We're celebrating Chanukah with you this month. As luck would have it, the first night of Chanukah is also Christmas Eve. What would be better than lighting your first candle on a brand new menorah – either on a modern classic or on a very cool beachy menorah?

Need candles?

We've got plenty, and at lower prices than anywhere else – guaranteed! You might even find a special Chanukah gift for that special someone.

Check us out.

The Shop is open every Sunday morning through December and by appointment by contacting Linette Sternlicht or Sarah Farkas.



Sisterhood Snippets by Lisa Rahn, President

The Sisterhood's second Interfaith Jewish-Muslim Women's Breakfast on Saturday, November 5th was another joyous gathering. Our goal was to decide on our first outreach project for the greater Bay County community. After discussing several options, we agreed to join forces on a project the Muslim members had undertaken the previous year – providing groceries for students at the Deane Bozeman School from food-insecure households for the 9-day Thanksgiving school break. Over the next 10 days we collected supplies.

In lieu of our regular Sisterhood meeting on Wednesday evening, November 16th we met at the Bay County Islamic Society's Mosque on Token Road to fill 100 reusable Publix bags marked "Food for Sharing." Many hands made light work, new friendships were formed, laughs were shared, and the local media did a great job of covering it. TV news channels WMBB and WJHG and the Panama City News Herald all reported on the event:

<http://www.mypanhandle.com/news/local-group-of-muslim-and-jewish-women-band-together-to-give-back>

<http://www.wjhg.com/content/news/Local-Jewish-Muslim-women-combine-forces-for-good-will--401607695.html>

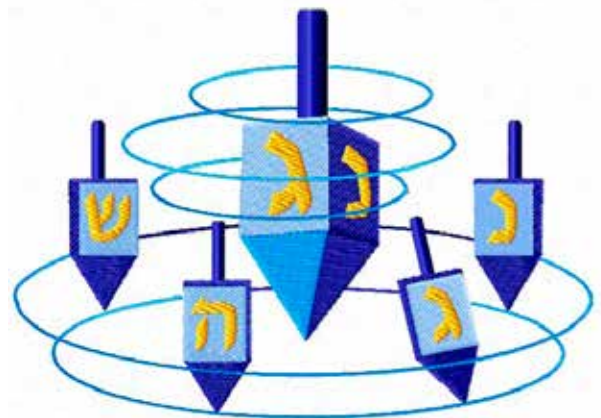
<http://www.newsherald.com/videos/C1981E0E-BFC5-4DF4-870E-9F6DCA2AFB91/Muslim-and-Jewish-women-unite-to-donate-food-to-students?start=2>

The feedback from the larger community has been overwhelmingly positive, with people of other and no faith affiliation wanting to know how they can get involved.

The Interfaith Jewish-Muslim Women's group will meet over a pot luck breakfast at Temple B'nai Israel at 9:30 am on Saturday, December 10th to discuss next steps and to vote on whether to become a chapter of the national non-profit Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom (www.sosspeace.org). All who are interested are welcome to join us. Please contact me for more information at (503) 338-0449 or larahn@gmail.com.



Photograph by Patti Blake, Panama City News Herald
www.newsherald.com



December Shabbat Candle-Lighting Times

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

12/02 | 4:24 pm 12/09 | 4:25 pm 12/16 | 4:27 pm 12/23 | 4:30 pm 12/30 | 4:35 pm

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
12/07	JIM NORMAN – HUSBAND OF HELAINE NORMAN
12/10	WILLIAM ROSEN – FATHER OF ALMA GLASS
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
25 KISLEV	MAURICE STARKMAN – FATHER OF MICHAEL STARKMAN



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

Leah Wittenberg - ISJL Education Fellow



When most people think of Chanukah, they think of a holiday around the same time as Christmas, the miracles of the oil lasting for eight days and the Jews defeating a stronger army, and exchanging presents with our friends and family. But Chanukah isn't just a holiday celebrated in North America. There are fascinating ways Jews all over the world celebrate this winter holiday. Test your knowledge of Chanukah celebrations around the world with some trivia, and try out some of these traditions this year!

1. In what country do Jews replace latkes with a food called "burfi," a confectionary made with condensed milk and sugar?

2. After the Shabbat that falls during Chanukah each year, Jews in Avignon, a city in the south of what country go from home to home, sample the cooking of their neighbors, and toast the holiday together?

3. In what country do Jews sing a song commemorating the eight Chanukah candles called "Ocho Candelas," and eat oil-fried fritters known as "burmelos?"

4. What type of oil do Indians of Jewish heritage use to light their chanukiot?

5. In what country do Jews share recipes for a lightly sweetened, olive oil infused, honey-covered treat called "precipizi?"

6. In what city in Israel are there spaces cut into the sides of buildings so people can display their chanukiot outside?

7. In Santa Marta, Colombia, instead of eating fried potato latkes, they eat "patacones," or fried what?

8. In what country were double-decker chanukiot with space for 16 lights common?

Bonus Question: In which Polish city did Jewish school students have a competition to see who could make the best Chanukah?

Answers on next page --->



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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>

TBI Online Business Directory to Launch in January by Robert Goetz

Have you got a business that could use more customers? Or perhaps you know a business that would enjoy more clientele. Then you do not want to miss out on Temple B'nai Israel's new online business directory launching this January!

Talk about broadening your digital footprint! TBI's website, www.bnaiisraelpc.org, received over 57,000 hits during the six month period from May through October. An online business listing is currently free for members for 2017. Non-members may list for only \$144 for 12 months.

Send your business name, address, contact information, and a brief description of 25 words or less to TBIpcWebmaster@gmail.com.



Answers to Leah Wittenberg's Quiz:

1. India
 2. France
 3. Turkey
 4. Coconut oil
 5. Italy
 6. Jerusalem
 7. Plantains
 8. France
- Bonus: Warsaw

Alana Wasserman
 Sarah Farkas
 Stephen Theberge
 Michael Starkman
 Stephen Sickerman
 Pavel Amromin
 Robert Goetz
 Nate Mewhinney
 Georgie Hartzog
 Daniel Sternlicht
 Lisa Rahn
 Leah Wittenberg

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Sunday Shul Update by Georgie Hartzog

November, due to the Holiday Schedule, was brief, but loaded with exciting and meaningful lessons. The best part were the guests that presented wonderful and sacred messages.

During her visit, Rabbi Wasserman spoke about prayer and the significance of it in our daily lives. She even taught us to do the *Shema* in sign language. This was particularly exciting since Mr. Daniel had just taught us to recognize Shabbat in Hebrew.

Mr. Daniel continues to offer meaningful Hebrew lessons during our 1st hour of Shul. Even with the addition of some adult students – Scott and Georgie – he does not miss a beat and surges on. I, Georgie, still depend on the kids to help me.

The second lesson of the month was entitled

“DOORS.” Our guest was our own Temple President, Sarah Farkas. The story, about a grumpy bear with no where to spend Shabbat, dealt with welcoming strangers into our mix. Besides reading the story, complete with unique voices, our President spoke to the students about what it is like to be the leader of a group of people with different ideas and personalities.

Following our story, the students, with the leadership of Mr. Scott, decorated doors made from file folders. Selecting winners of the Art Certificate this week was way too difficult. This week we had two winners: Ari and Lizzy. The session was capped off with each student receiving a small wooden door, complete with Star of David, constructed by Georgie’s husband, Terrell Hartzog.



