

AZOY

"Is that so?"

FEBRUARY 2016

Shevat / Adar I 5776



**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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SAVE THE DATE FOR PASSOVER

Our Annual Congregational Passover Seder will be Sunday, April 24, 2016 with ISJL Rabbi Matt Dreffin

TAX INFO FROM OUR TREASURER

If you're a Member of Temple B'nai Israel and wish to receive an annual donation receipt for tax purposes, please send your request to Treasurer Mike Starkman at: treasurer.templebnaiisrael@knology.net

❧ The President's Message ❧

Now that the new year is well underway, it's time to get down to business...to work on those resolutions, to turn plans into actions. One such plan that involves our Jewish community is to encourage each and every one of you to attend activities and services at the temple. We hold Shabbat Services every second weekend of the month when Rabbi Baroff leads a Friday night service preceded by a wonderful home-cooked Shabbat dinner. The dinners are a great time to get to know your fellow congregants, welcome the Sabbath and show off your culinary talents. Rabbi weekends include an adult learning session on Saturdays, Havdalah – often accompanied by glorious sunsets on an area beach – and brunch with the Rabbi for “Stump the Rabbi” and good conversation.

On the fourth Friday of every month we welcome Shabbat with a Friday night service led by one (or more) Temple members followed by an oneg. I encourage each of you to take a turn leading a service. It's not difficult. And you'll learn more than you think. We can help you prepare, just let us know when you'd like to give it a try. The children of the Religious School have been working hard with their teachers to prepare to lead a Shabbat service on Friday, February 26. Come and support their efforts and show them you care about their Jewish education.

The TBI Programming Committee is planning a musical event to be held at the Temple in early March (or April). If you haven't yet had the chance to experience the Ukulele Orchestra, you're in for a real treat. They bring 12 to 15 local musicians together with ukes, guitars, washboards, flutes and an infectious attitude of glee to the stage. You'll be delighted. Watch for more info, date and time.

The month of March brings Purim followed by our Community Passover Seder on April 24. In May Rabbi Alana Wasserman, who led our High Holiday services, will be our “Scholar in Residence” for an entire weekend of Jewish thought, prayer, education, conversation and fun! Parents of young children should note the application on page 8 for a \$1,000 scholarship to any Jewish camp this summer. The TBI Board has also offered to match up to \$1,000 to help send a youngster to camp. Don't miss this opportunity!

Our small community is active and full of life. But we need you to take part. We need you to join us in keeping our shul alive and thriving. I hope to share one or all of these activities with you.

L'shalom - Sarah

Religious School Report by Cynthia Gingold

January was a very busy for our students in Religious School. In addition to practicing for next month's Charlie Brown Shabbat Service, on January 17 we held a special children's morning service which connected

the concept of **Tikkun Olam** with Dr. King's vision. This service was distributed by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, under the tent of URJ. Additionally, the children continue to learn the prayers of our faith.

Shabbat Candle-Lighting Times for February 2016

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

02/05 | 5:05 pm

02/12 | 5:10 pm

02/19 | 5:16 pm

02/26 | 5:21 pm

My Friends -

The Holocaust looms over us as Jews of the second half of the twentieth and now in the twenty first century. We wonder what can we do in response to such a profound and massive loss that would make a difference, and that would honor the memory of so many of our people who were murdered.

Israel of course has been the main answer.

The establishment of *Medinat Yisrael* – the State of Israel – has transformed Jewish life, and Hebrew as a language and culture, in revolutionary ways. The in gathering of the exiles to the Jewish State gave a home to the survivors of the Shoah and also stands as a place of refuge for Jews from future oppressions should they occur. Israel gives us hope.

Beautiful and poignant memorials such as Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and the Holocaust Museum in Washington represent another response which is important in that both Jews and Gentiles can be meaningfully educated in the perils of anti-Semitism, racism and totalitarianism.

Most of the people who were killed by the Nazis were Yiddish speakers. An entire Yiddish speaking civilization was lost, centered in Poland. Even

after the defeat of Hitler, what remained of eastern Russian Yiddish civilization was crushed by the Soviet Union. Many Yiddish writers in the USSR were executed on Stalin's orders in 1952.

Yiddish culture lived on in a small way in the United States – especially in New York, and in other places, where older Ashkenazi Jews and the very Orthodox used it. In Israel in the mid twentieth century to promote Hebrew, the language of Yiddish was not encouraged. But in recent decades that has changed.

In America Yiddish continues at the YIVO Institute of Jewish Research, the Yiddish Center at Hampshire College and as an academic language at colleges and universities.

No one can replace that which was lost, when the loss is so monumental. But the resuscitation of Yiddish language and culture must be part of our answer and is a worthy and sacred effort.

Join us on the Saturdays at the Shul when we learn Yiddish together.

Shalom -

- Rabbi Richard Baroff



Shira Says:

ISJL Education Fellow
Shira Moskowitz

This past month we celebrated *Tu Bish'vat*, the new year of the trees. *Tu Bish'vat* literally means the 15th of the

Hebrew month *Sh'vat*. On this holiday, we are reminded of how thankful we are for the nature that surrounds us and allows us to live. One of my favorite *Tu Bish'vat* traditions is hosting a seder – just like we have on Passover. At most *Tu Bish'vat* seders, Jews enjoy eating fruits and nuts that are native to Israel, particularly the “seven species” – pomegranates, dates, figs, grapes, barley, wheat, and olives.

My family likes to add an 8th:
Pistachios.

We absolutely love pistachios! Growing up, there was always a bowl of pistachios sitting on our kitchen table. I recently learned that the tradition to have a bowl of pistachio nuts on the table dates back to the American colonial period when Jewish merchants

would have glass bowls filled with these nuts for their visitors.

One of my family's favorite *Tu Bish'vat* recipes is the pistachio macaroon, found in the cookbook ***Jewish Cooking in America*** by Joan Nathan. My grandma discovered this recipe when my dad learned he needed to keep a gluten free diet. She thought these macaroons could be a good alternative to the desserts that the rest of the family was enjoying. Lo and behold, the pistachio macaroons were a hit for the entire family! My grandma bakes them for every occasion, but none is more fitting than *Tu Bish'vat*, considering the pistachios middle-eastern origins.

See the next page for the Pistachio Macaroons recipe.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

SUN	02/07	9:30 am	Religious School
WED	02/10	6:00 pm	Monthly Temple Board of Directors Meeting
FRI	02/12	6:00 pm	Shabbat Dinner
		7:00 pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Baroff
SAT	02/13	NOON	Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Baroff
		5:00 pm	Havdalah with Rabbi Baroff at Oaks by the Bay Park in St Andrews <i>followed by dinner out at a local eatery</i>
SUN	02/14	9:30 am	Religious School
		NOON	Stump the Rabbi over Lunch
WED	02/17	6:00 pm	Sisterhood Meeting
SUN	02/21	9:30 am	Religious School
FRI	02/26	7:00 pm	Special Shabbat Service led by Religious School students
SUN	02/28	9:30 am	Religious School
		10:00 am	Temple Board of Directors Workshop

TBI Redesigned Website Soon to Launch! by Robert J. Goetz, Website Chairperson

A completely new and expanded Temple B'nai Israel website is currently under construction and expected to launch over the next several weeks. Our Jewish communities across Northwest Florida may be small in size but united and strong in many ways. The new website has been crafted to enable faster and more reliable communication and sharing of information across both member and the general community. The website was designed to ensure a natural flow and easy navigation for all. The planning committee was keenly aware that the new

website needed to prominently feature the synagogue current calendar of events posted on the home page.

Also featured are welcome messages from our President and Rabbi encouraging member and guest visitors to the site to join us for an upcoming service or other event and experience the warmth of our congregation. Guests are also invited to subscribe to the free *The Azoy* monthly newsletter to stay abreast of Judaism across Bay County and the Florida Panhandle.

Additionally the site features sections dedicated to our religious school, a Gallery of Photos, and archive of Newsletters, along with links to TBI social media channels.

TBI's new website is both web and mobile enabled and contains keywords such as Jewish, Hebrew, Judaism, and synagogue to ensure the site comes up on page one of searches across Bay County and remains highly visible. Look for a special email next month containing a link inviting you to visit the new website.

Pistachio Macaroons

INGREDIENTS:

3 cups shelled pistachio nuts
1 cup sugar
3 egg whites
Sugar for dusting

from Joan Nathan's *Jewish Cooking in America*

DIRECTIONS:

Whirl the pistachio nuts in the food processor until ground but not pureed.

Line 2 cookie sheets with parchment paper and set aside. In a medium bowl mix the ground pistachio nuts, sugar, and egg whites. Refrigerate for about 10 minutes. Drop the batter from a tablespoon onto the cookie sheets, leaving ½ inch between macaroons. Bake in a preheated 325 degree oven for 12-15 minutes or until lightly brown. Dust with sugar when cool.

Yield: about 2 dozen

FEBRUARY JOYS & REMEMBRANCES

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

02/01	JACK WETCHLER - BROTHER OF GAYLE PAYNTER
30 SHEVAT	CECIL STARKMAN - GRANDMOTHER OF MIKE STARKMAN
02/12	JEROME SHUMAN - BROTHER OF MARILYN NATIONS
02/12	BARBARA WEINSTEIN - SISTER OF MARILYN NATIONS
02/15	HOWARD LIST - FATHER OF JUDITH SCOTT
02/16	YETTA NAGLER - GRANDMOTHER OF ED NAGLER
02/16	LOUIS GINGOLD - GRANDFATHER OF ALVIN GINGOLD
02/20	ROSE SHUMAN - MOTHER OF MARILYN NATIONS
02/28	LAUREN BIDLEMAN - GRANDDAUGHTER OF SARAH FARKAS & JUDITH SCOTT



BIRTHDAYS

02/05	JOANNE GOETZ
02/10	MICHELLE KRAUT
02/13	ANITA SILVER SKOULA
02/15	GAYLE PAYNTER
02/17	ARTHUR KRAUT
02/19	DANIELLE NAGLER
02/23	BRANDI HAIMAN
02/25	DARREN HAIMAN
02/28	LINDA JOSEPH
02/28	BOB PELL
02/28	NATHANIEL SICKERMAN

ANNIVERSARIES

02/06	JUDITH SCOTT & SARAH FARKAS
02/13	PAM SUTTON & MIKE STONE

If your Joy or Remembrance is missing or incorrect please e-mail
The AZOY Editors at theazoy@gmail.com
and let Sarah & Stephen know about it ASAP!

Soul Food: Send Us Your Favorite Jewish Recipe

The editors of *The AZOY* thank Shira Moskowitz for submitting her favorite recipe for *Tu B'Shevat*, Pistachio Macaroons, which appears on the previous page.

We want you to submit your favorite recipes. The editors will chose one to publish in each issue for the remainder

of the year. Please send your recipes to our email address, theazoy@gmail.com We'll publish them with credits and in a size that will fit your recipe box. At the end of the year we may issue a challenge to actually cook the recipes and judge the results. So go ahead and tempt us. We dare you!

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Tu B'Shevat Seder: Celebrating Trees and Their Bounty

Many people enjoyed a *Tu B'Shevat* Seder at the shul last month. *Tu B'Shevat*, known as the “New Year for the Trees” recognizes the close historical relationship of Judaism and agriculture. In more recent times, a special Seder has been added to the celebration in which different “levels” of the trees’ fruits are sorted into categories that are also applicable to human characteristics. For instance, fruits that are “hidden” by a shell and must be opened in order to taste the fruit - such as walnuts, almonds, pistachios - can be seen as people who have a hard outer shell and therefore difficult to get to know or to open up.

The Seder, led by Judith Scott, was well attended and appreciated. A short, but meaningful, “Hagaddah” kept the order of the Seder. Sharon Yordon provided holiday music. Everyone got a chance to participate and taste the varieties of fruits while pondering the deeper meaning of each grouping of fruit.





GOLDRING JEWISH SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM

2016 INFORMATION & APPLICATION

Send your child to camp this summer through an exciting program underwritten by the Goldring Family Foundation and administered by the Jewish Endowment Foundation of Louisiana. Experts agree that one of the most effective ways to develop children's commitment to living Jewish lives is to expose them to a Jewish sleep-away camp experience. Your children will meet other Jewish boys and girls and savor the precious heritage of Jewish traditions while enjoying wholesome summer fun and sports activities.

The Goldring Family Foundation wants to make this lifetime experience available to every Jewish child. Each of your children is eligible for a one-time-only incentive grant of up to \$1,000* to attend a nonprofit Jewish summer camp. To meet the criteria for JEF funding, children must be:

- First-time campers at a nonprofit Jewish sleep-away camp;
- Currently in grades 1 through 9;
- Residents of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, or the Florida Panhandle.

Grants are not based on financial need. Both parents need not be Jewish. Temple or synagogue affiliation is not required.

Interested? Complete the attached form and mail by March 31, 2016 to: Goldring Jewish Summer Camp Experience, c/o Jewish Endowment Foundation of Louisiana, 615 Baronne Street, Suite 150, New Orleans, LA 70113, fax to (504) 524-4259, or email to ellen@jefno.org. Limited funds are available, so please apply early. Award notification will be by May 31, 2016.

*Programs costing less than \$1,000 will be funded up the amount of camp tuition.

ELIGIBLE CAMPS

Your child may attend any nonprofit Jewish sleepaway camp. A list of approved camps is available at jefno.org or by contacting Ellen Abrams at 504-524-4559 or ellen@jefno.org.

APPLICATION FORM

Parent(s) or Legal Guardian:

MOTHER _____

FATHER _____

Mailing Address (include Zip Code):

Please check address we should use for correspondence.

☐ MOTHER _____

☐ FATHER _____

Telephone Numbers/Email:

MOTHER

FATHER

HOME _____

WORK _____

CELL _____

FAX _____

EMAIL _____

List each child's name separately. You may apply for all eligible children in the family.

1. CHILD'S NAME _____ DOB _____ GENDER _____

SCHOOL _____ CURRENT GRADE _____

SLEEP-AWAY CAMPS YOUR CHILD HAS ATTENDED _____

CAMP YOUR CHILD WISHES TO ATTEND* _____

2. CHILD'S NAME _____ DOB _____ GENDER _____

SCHOOL _____ CURRENT GRADE _____

SLEEP-AWAY CAMPS YOUR CHILD HAS ATTENDED _____

CAMP YOUR CHILD WISHES TO ATTEND* _____

*If known. Otherwise, you may submit application without specifying.

This form may be reproduced and used for additional names. You will be notified in writing of your child's incentive grant award. Checks will be mailed directly to your child's approved camp. Camp tuition above the amount of \$1,000, travel costs, and other camp-related expenses are the responsibility of the child's family. For more information, call Ellen Abrams at (504) 524-4559 or email ellen@jefno.org.