

AZOY

"Is that so?"

5778
FEBRUARY
2018



The Monthly Newsletter of Temple B'nai Israel
The Reform Jewish Congregation of Bay County
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Interfaith Harmony Council by Lisa Rahn

Temple B'nai Israel hosted the Interfaith Harmony Council's quarterly pot luck for the first time on Saturday, January 20th. The event was a great success with approximately 60 people in attendance! Rabbi Alana Wasserman provided an excellent overview of Judaism (Reader's Digest version – 15 minutes) for our guests and led us in a Havdalah service. Contributions to the dairy meal were plentiful and delicious.

The Interfaith Harmony Council was formed to increase intercultural understanding and solidarity following an interfaith open house at Unity Spiritual Center of Panama City several years ago. Unity will present a second event

entitled "Living the Golden Rule: Interfaith Gathering and Celebration of Diversity" on Saturday, February 3rd from 10 am – 4 pm at their beautiful sanctuary at 1764 Lisenby Avenue in Panama City. Members of Temple B'nai Israel will staff a booth as will representatives of Baha'i, Christian Scientist, Muslim, New Thought Christian, Pagan and Unitarian Universalist communities. Information, literature, cultural artifacts and food samples will be shared. The event is free, and the public is warmly welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Please contact Mike or Mary Starkman if you'd like to help with our booth.



From the Treasurer

An IRS required Statement of Donations is available upon request by contacting the Treasurer at treasurer.templebnaiisrael@knology.net.





Celebrating Purim

by Rabbi Alana Wasserman

This month, we will celebrate the holiday of Purim. Jewish people around

the world will read from the book of Esther, a story that was meant to be a farce. The silliness of the story is exacerbated by the costumes we wear and the noise we make upon hearing our enemy’s name. We eat delicious Hamentaschen, cookies shaped like triangles, to remind us of Haman’s ridiculous 3-cornered hat/his pointy ears (in Israel, these cookies are called Oznei Haman, which means “Haman’s ears”). However, in the midst of all this mishigas (Yiddish for “craziness”), there is a very serious message in the story of Purim.

Anti-semitism is no laughing matter. The Jewish people have been persecuted throughout history. And yet, we persevere. We persevere because we have Esthers and Mordechais in our midst. Brave, courageous

people who are willing to speak up and speak out against hatred and oppression. The story of Purim reminds us that we were once oppressed. It reminds us that anti-semitism still exists today. However, it also reminds us that each of us has the potential to be like Esther and Mordechai and stand up and speak out when we experience prejudice, and when we see it happening to others.

This year, as we shake our graggers to drown out Haman’s name, let us think of more ways that we can be like Esther and Mordechai to drown out hate in our own day. I look forward to celebrating Purim with all of you on my next visit!

Chag Purim Sameach!



From the Temple President

by Mike Starkman

January was a full month at the Temple. We did a lot. We started the month with a lay led service on Fri-

day and then a lunch and learn on Saturday where we had an interesting discussion about how one word in Torah can provide insight into the actions of our leaders. We discussed the importance of being counted within your group.

This was followed by our rabbinic visit where the Rabbi led a Shabbat Tzedek (justice), where we honored the work of Dr. Martin Luther King. During the Saturday lunch and learn we discussed the contribution that Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel made to the Civil Rights Movement as a supporter of Dr. King. The Rabbi then held an ice cream Tu B’shevat seder for the children of the religious school.

On Saturday night the Temple also hosted the Interfaith Harmony

Council’s quarterly Pot Luck dinner. There were approximately 60 members of various faith groups in attendance. Everyone had an excellent time eating and schmoozing. For several of the attendees it was the first time that they had ever been in a synagogue and they left with a greater understand of our faith.

This was followed by a visit from out ISJL fellow, Carly Abramson, where she led a joyous, youthful service on Friday night. Saturday, she led the adults of the congregation in a Tu B’shevat seder, where we all enjoyed wine, fruits, and nuts.

I look forward to your involvement in our activities as we continue to add to our calendar of events.

L’shalom - Mike

February Shabbat Candle-Lighting Times

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

02/02 | 6:07 pm

02/09 | 6:09 pm

02/16 | 6:10 pm

02/23 | 6:11 pm

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
 02/04 **MOLLIE ROSEN** – MOTHER OF ALMA GLASS
 02/07 **DAVID STERNLICHT** – BROTHER OF DANIEL STERNLICHT
 02/11 **JOSEPH WHEELER** – FATHER OF MARE WHEELER
 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
 30 SHEVAT **CECIL STARKMAN** – GRANDMOTHER OF MIKE STARKMAN



BIRTHDAYS

02/05 JOANNE GOETZ
 02/13 ANITA SILVER SKOULA
 02/15 GAYLE PAYNTER
 02/19 DANIELLE NAGLER
 02/23 BRANDI HAIMAN
 02/25 DARREN HAIMAN
 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!*

FEBRUARY 2018 CALENDAR

SAT	02/03	10:00 am	“Living the Golden Rule” event at at Unity Spiritual Center - see page 1
SUN	02/04	9:30 am	Religious School: <i>How to lay Tefillin with Mike</i>
FRI	02/09	6:30 pm	Shabbat Service led by Religious School Children
SUN	02/11	9:30 am	Religious School: <i>Preparing for Purim</i>
WED	02/14	6:30 pm	Monthly Temple Board of Directors Meeting
SUN	02/18		No Religious School - <i>Presidents Day weekend</i>
WED	02/21	6:30 pm	Sisterhood Meeting
FRI	02/23	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Shabbat Potluck Dinner - <i>please bring a side dish</i> Shabbat Service with Rabbi Wasserman
SAT	02/24	12:00 pm 4:30 pm	Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Wasserman - <i>bring a bag lunch, we'll provide beverages</i> Havdalah at Oaks by the Bay Park, St Andrews - <i>followed by dinner at local eatery</i>
SUN	02/25	9:30 am 11:30 am	Religious School with Rabbi Wasserman + Purim Costume Party + Hamenstaschen Stump the Rabbi

SAT 03/31 6:00 pm **ANNUAL COMMUNITY SEDER**

> **SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 31st**

Sisterhood Update *by Judith Scott*

In January Sisterhood celebrated its first Rosh Hodesh celebration. This is the holiday of the renewal of each month. In history, women were not required to do any work at the time of the new moon. This first celebration was hosted by Tammy Marinuzzi. While the weather and the flu limited attendance, those present enjoyed good wine, good food, and meaningful conversation. Thank you Tammy.

Sisterhood would like to express our condolences to the Gulkis family. Norm was a voice for Judaism in the community, a leader in the development of TBI, and a unique character. We hope his memory is a blessing.

This month, Sisterhood made a special gift to our newest member Mr. Scott Sewell. Scott, we are all so proud of you!

On the horizon: The next Sisterhood meeting is February 21 at 6:30 pm at TBI. The community Seder will be held Saturday, March 31st at 6:00 pm. Rabbi Wasserman will be officiating.

Our preparation for this year's event is under the able leadership of Alma Glass. We will soon be sending out a reservation form, with a reservation deadline date, to all members. We will also make the form available in the March issue of *The Azoy*.

Webmaster Robert Goetz submitted these 2 articles on the right for this issue of the AZOY >

Jewish American Heritage Week is February 12 - 16

The Florida Legislature has designated the week of February 12 – 16 as *Jewish American Heritage Week in Florida*. Both the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives passed identical bills last month. According to the Florida Legislature:

- Nationally, Jewish American Heritage Month resulted from a congressional initiative launched in 2005 to recognize the more than 360-year history of Jewish contributions to North American culture
- The population of Jewish Americans in the United States has grown to 5.7 million, of which 654,860 Jewish Americans reside in Florida
- Jewish Americans have made vital contributions to the development of our communities, academic institutions, civic organizations, and businesses
- While contributing to every facet of American society, Jewish Americans have infused our nation's civic, social, economic, and cultural life with their own unique culture, customs, and dynamic heritage
- Jewish Americans have worked to promote civil rights and build bridges of mutual understanding between the world's religions

Help us celebrate Jewish American Heritage Week February 12 – 16!

Survey request received from Arlee Boyett, 4th-year student at New College of Florida

My name is Arlee Boyett and I'm a fourth-year student at New College of Florida. In order for me to obtain my bachelor's degree focusing on psychology with an honors denotation, I am completing a thesis project which includes a psychological study. My topic focuses on experiences of antisemitism, Jewish ethnic identity, and conversion. I am contacting you to request that you forward this email which includes a link to the survey to your congregation email list so that I have enough participants for my study and that I am able to learn about a diversity of individual experiences. This research is important because there is little research on the topic, particularly the aspect of conversion, and the results could aid in outreach and counseling to Jewish populations, whether they be Jews-by-birth or Jews-by-choice. Once my results are compiled and analyzed in the spring, I would be happy to send your congregation the aggregated results so that you may have access to any information acquired. Results are fully anonymous and the shared results will be aggregated across multiple congregations.

Please follow the following link to take the survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L589JV6>

TODAH RABAH January Donations for Mitzvot and to Remember

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:

Judith Scott and Sarah Farkas –
with sympathy to Mike and Mary Starkman on the death of Mary's Aunt, Helen Zamblera
with get well wishes to Nate Mewhinney

Mare Wheeler – to the General Operating Fund

Nathan Miller – to the Rabbi's Fund

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



Carly Abramson
pours a cup of wine,
as she leads our
Tu B'Shevat Seder,
January 27, 2018



Sunday Shul Update by Linette Sternlicht

In January, the Religious School children celebrated Tu B'Shevat with a delectable ice cream seder led by Rabbi Wasserman, and spent some time with our ISJL fellow, Carly Abramson. They have also been working hard preparing to lead Shabbat evening services on February 9. You won't want to miss that!



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