

AZOY

"Is that so?"

5778
JANUARY
2018



TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

The Monthly Newsletter of Temple B'nai Israel

The Reform Jewish Congregation of Bay County

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Special Community Service to Honor Human Rights

Rabbi Alana Wasserman will conduct a special Shabbat Tzedek service – Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance, honoring Dr. King, civil and human rights, on January 19 at 7:00 pm.

With human rights currently dominating national and global events the service is both timely and extremely relevant. In the legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – strong, vibrant communities are fostered through unity and understanding of one another's views and perspectives.

The special service is open to all faiths within the community.

An oneg will follow the service.

Prior to the service we will hold our monthly potluck Shabbat Dinner at 6:00 pm. Please bring a side, salad or dessert, and RSVP to Mike Starkman at president.templebnaiisrael@knology.net.

We look forward to seeing you at the Temple!

Temple B'nai Israel to Host Interfaith Pot Luck Dinner

Temple B'nai Israel will be hosting the quarterly Interfaith Harmony Council potluck dairy dinner starting at 4:30 pm on Saturday, January 20, 2018. We hope you'll be able to participate, and bring a vegetarian or dairy dish to share. For more information, please contact Mike or Mary Starkman.

Tu B'Shevat – The New Year for the Trees

The Jewish New Year for the Trees is *Tu B'Shevat* and this year it begins at sunset on January 30th. The holiday has undergone an evolution from its original purpose – recognizing agricultural progress – to an opportunity to practice environmental stewardship today.

Agriculture was of the utmost importance during the era of the first and second temples in Jerusalem. Farmers planted crops and orchards, fig trees and nuts. Back then the first four years of the trees' growth were

meant to be maturation years for the plants. But after the fourth year and on *Tu B'Shevat*, farmers could reap the benefits of their plantings. Farmers were also asked to tithe one tenth of their produce as a tax to the government.

When we were kids, most of us remember being asked to fund the planting of trees in Israel. And, if you've ever been to Israel, you can see the multitude of trees that have helped to "green" the Holy Land. In addition, modern observance of

Tu B'Shevat includes having a Seder similar to a Passover Seder but one showcasing grains, nuts and fruit as the centerpiece of the meal.

Today's Jews also observe *Tu B'Shevat* by joining in activities that help our environment – recycling drives, plantings, taking advantage of educational opportunities about ecology and saving our planet, and so on. It can be a good holiday to plan and participate in earth-centered projects as a family.



Tu B'Shevat Quiz

by Rabbi Alana Wasserman

1. What does Tu B'Shevat celebrate?
 - a. the birthday of trees
 - b. the birthday of M'kor Shalom
 - c. Rabbi Schwartz's birthday
2. What month does Tu B'Shevat take place in?
 - a. Nissan
 - b. Shevat
 - c. Kislev
3. We celebrate Tu B'Shevat by:
 - a. planting a tree
 - b. planting a tree in Israel
 - c. having a Tu B'Shevat seder
 - d. all of the above
4. What is the Hebrew word for tree?
 - a. Sefer
 - b. Shalom
 - c. Eitz
5. What do we sometimes refer to as "The Tree of Life?"
 - a. the Torah
 - b. the bimah
 - c. the prayerbook
6. Why were Adam and Eve expelled from the Garden of Eden?
 - a. they couldn't get along with each other
 - b. they ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil/they ate the apple
 - c. they found the afikomen at the Passover seder
7. In the story of Noah, what kind of branch did the dove bring back to let everyone know that the flood was over?
 - a. an olive branch
 - b. a palm tree branch
 - c. an oak tree branch
8. What is the holiday that comes after Tu B'Shevat?
 - a. Rosh Hashanah
 - b. Passover
 - c. Purim
9. What is the first tree that blooms in Israel?
 - a. the apple tree
 - b. the maple tree
 - c. the almond tree
10. On Tu B'Shevat we eat:
 - a. fruits
 - b. chicken soup
 - c. latkes
11. There are 613 commandments in the entire Torah. There are also 613:
 - a. seeds in 1 piece of rye bread
 - b. seeds in a pomegranate, a fruit we eat during Tu B'Shevat
 - c. Jewish holidays in one year
12. A Tu B'Shevat seder is similar to a Passover seder because:
 - a. we drink four cups of wine
 - b. we eat matzah
 - c. we retell the story of the Exodus
13. Two trees were given names in the Garden of Eden. They were called:
 - a. the tree of joy and the tree of sadness
 - b. the tree of God and the tree of man
 - c. the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil
14. We celebrate the holiday of Tu B'Shevat in the winter because:
 - a. the early winter rains are mostly over and the period of budding is just beginning
 - b. the snow is so beautiful and white
 - c. we needed another holiday besides Chanukah in the winter
15. How do trees help people?
 - a. they give us shade
 - b. they give us food
 - c. they give us wood
 - d. all of the above

Answers on bottom of page 4

TBI Welcomes H. Scott Sewell to the Jewish faith

The warm and friendly family of Temple B'nai Israel welcomes our newest member and convert Hodalee Scott Sewell. Scott recently joined "the Tribe" as he converted to Judaism in a beachside ceremony encircled by the beauty of the area's beaches on a chilly morning in December. Scott gleefully found inspiration in the chilly waters of the "Mikvah of Mexico" as Rabbi Wasserman performed the ceremonial conversion.

Scott has been learning and studying for this mitzvah for years. He has read a multitude of books on Judaism,

Jewish history, learning traditions, prayers, songs and Hebrew. His contributions to "Lunch & Learn" discussions, Hebrew School, Shabbat services have been many. He has a unique way of looking at issues and shares that perspective and deep knowledge readily. His personal journey is fascinating and intertwines with his spirituality.

If you have not yet met Scott, please introduce yourself and help him feel at home.



From the Temple President
by Mike Starkman

Happy New Year. It is Mary's and my wish that y'all have a healthy and joyous new year. We had a wonderful Chanukah celebration this year.

The children as well as the adults enjoyed the festive activities at the Temple. I would like to thank Greg and Cameron Yordon for preparing the wonderful latkes. Also, I'd like to thank Lisa Rahn for her help in setting things up in the social hall and running to get additional supplies. Your efforts were greatly appreciated by all those in attendance.

In the evening, the adults got together for a lovely event at Emerald Coast Olive Oil, Panama City Beach, to sample appetizers made with different olive oils and vinegars. We enjoyed the tasting of many different oils and vinegars while we schmoozed. We thank Mary Starkman for coordinating this lovely event while we all remembered the miracle of the oil. Also, Rabbi thanks for a great idea. Everyone looks forward to a kosher for Passover wine

tasting in the spring.

This month we are hosting the Interfaith Harmony Council's quarterly Potluck Dinner on January 20th at 4:30 pm. Our friends from around Panama City will be joining us for our Havdalah Service ending Shabbat and then participating in a dairy potluck dinner. Please plan to attend and let the other faiths in the area know that we are a vibrant community.

Again, I am asking for you to email me at president.templebnaiisrael@knology.net with your birthday and anniversary dates. Please include the year. Each month at the Shabbat service we intend to honor those with special birthdays and anniversaries.

Happy New Year!

– Mike

JANUARY 2018 CALENDAR

MON	01/01		Happy New Year, y'all!
FRI	01/05	6:30 pm	Lay-led Shabbat Service
SAT	01/06	12:00 pm	Lay-led Lunch & Learn
SUN	01/07	9:30 am	Sunday Shul
WED	01/10	6:30 pm	Temple Board of Directors Meeting
SUN	01/14		no Sunday Shul Martin Luther King Jr Day
WED	01/17	6:30 pm	Sisterhood Meeting
FRI	01/19	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Shabbat Dinner – <i>please bring a side dish</i> Shabbat Tzedek Service with Rabbi Wasserman
SAT	01/20	12:00 pm 4:30 pm 6:00 pm	Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Wasserman Interfaith Harmony Council Dairy Pot Luck Dinner @ TBI Havdalah @ TBI
SUN	01/21	9:30 am 11:30 am	Sunday Shul “Stump” the Rabbi
SUN	01/28	9:30 am	Sunday Shul - Celebrating Tu B'Shevat with ISJL Fellow Carly Abramson

January Shabbat Candle-Lighting Times

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

01/05 | 5:54 pm

01/12 | 5:58 pm

01/19 | 6:01 pm

01/26 | 6:04 pm



Add a Cultural Dish to the Mix!
by Carly Abramson, ISJL

Hi everyone!

I hope you are getting used to the sound of 2018! As you know this month, your community is hosting the Interfaith Harmony Council’s quarterly Pot Luck Dinner. If you are having trouble coming up with ideas for perfect dish to bring, then you have come to the right article! [My Jewish Learning](#) offers a variety of delicious traditional and non-traditional Jewish recipes that

would be perfect for the occasion. In light of having an interfaith potluck dinner, I thought it would be interesting to share with you a small taste of the different cultures within our faith.

The Sephardic cuisine, for instance, has an elaborate history that is rooted in Islamic world. Before the Spanish Inquisition, Jews flourished in the Islamic society and they certainly left their mark. Today, we joke that matzah ball soup is our homemade version of penicillin, but what if I told you that Jewish food truly did have the power to heal people? According to an [article](#) from My Jewish Learning, “Cookbooks that cataloged medical advice alongside recipes were a common genre of literature in the Muslim world. The 13th-century *Cookbook of the Maghreb and Andalusia*, one of the most important of these books, lists five Jewish recipes.” After their expulsion from Spain, their recipes still managed to bring a lot to the table. In fact, to this day Morocco considers the Sephardic cuisine as one of their four “national food styles.”

If you are interested in cooking up a unique dish for the potluck that offers a blend of rich spices and flavor, you may feel inspired by the following recipes:

- [Stuffed Grape Leaves with a twist](#)
- [Sephardic Jeweled Rice](#)

The Jewish food of Yemen has quite the story to tell because the flavor is a direct result of intermarriage between the Jewish men of India and Yemenite women. Here are a few eye-popping recipes that would serve as a unique symbolic dish.

- [Vegetarian Yemenite Soup](#)
- [Yemenite Kubaneh Bread with Grated Tomato Dip](#)
- [Hawajj Hot Cocoa with Cinnamon Whipped Cream](#)

I hope these dishes will inspire you to explore the different cultures within Judaism.

I look forward to seeing you all on January 26th-28th for my Fall Visit!

**From Webmaster
Robert J Goetz**

< New member Scott Sewell (right), shown with Robert and Joanne Goetz at a recent Havdalah on the Beach.

In December, the TBI website, www.bnaiisraelpc.org surpassed 200,000 hits to its homepage since its launch in March 2016. Thank you to all that have helped share the TBI website with family, friends, and coworkers. Please continue doing so in 2018!

TBIpcWebmaster@gmail.com



From page 2, answers to Rabbi’s Quiz:

1) a, 2) b*, 3) d, 4) c, 5) a, 6) b, 7) a, 8) c, 9) c, 10) a, 11) b, 12) a, 13) c, 14) a, 15) d

*Tu B’shevat means the 15th of the month of Shevat

JANUARY JOYS & REMEMBRANCES

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

TEVET 4	ZELIG WAJSFELNER – GRANDFATHER OF MIKE STARKMAN
01/09	EDNA EARL WILLIAMS – MOTHER OF KAY STRIPLING
01/10	JANET SUTTON – MOTHER OF PAM SUTTON
01/10	MARVIN EUZENT – HUSBAND OF MARGE EUZENT
01/12	BRENDA KELLY – SISTER OF MARSHA KRASELSKY
01/23	ROSE MILLER – MOTHER OF NATHAN MILLER
01/28	LAUREN BIDLEMAN – GRANDDAUGHTER OF JUDITH SCOTT & SARAH FARKAS



BIRTHDAYS

01/08	CYNTHIA GINGOLD
01/12	PAUL ZIPES
01/13	RABBI RICHARD BAROFF
01/15	NATHAN MILLER
01/15	NORM GULKIS
01/19	BRIAN HUMBOLDT
01/22	SUE GULKIS
01/23	CINDY ARNOLD
01/24	MIKE STARKMAN
01/29	LISA RAHN
01/31	MICHELLE DEAM

ANNIVERSARIES

01/01	ROBERT & JOANNE GOETZ
01/26	NORM & SUE GULKIS

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

TODAH RABAH December 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:

Dr. John & Aviva Mallory –

In honor of Chanukah and remember those that have departed of blessed memory

Kay Stripling –

In honor of Chanukah

Ric Strynar –

To the General Fund

Stephen & Carolynn Sickerman –

In honor of the graduation from FSU of their daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Edgeworth Sickerman

In honor of the graduation from UCF of their nephew, Oren Zener

Robert and Joanne Goetz –

In memory of Martin Bisker

Mike & Mary Starkman –

Judith Scott and Sarah Farkas –

Stephen and Helen Krulik –

In memory of Dr. Herbert Rosen, brother of Alma Glass

Robert & Joanne Goetz –

Mike & Mary Starkman –

Stephen & Carolynn Sickerman –

In honor of the conversion of Hodalee Scott Sewell

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



SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

Our annual Chanukah Party was held December 17, 2017, hosted by the Religious School. There was music, lighting of multiple menorahs and plenty of delicious holiday food. Thanks to Marla Clark, for contributing the photos shown on page 6.



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