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**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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TBI Elects New Leadership Board

One of the major objectives of the Annual Congregational Meeting is to elect new Temple officers and Board members. And this year, the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee was unopposed. So congregants had only to accept the slate as presented, and they did so without hesitation. The leadership of Temple B'nai Israel for the new fiscal year is:

President: Sarah Farkas
Vice President: Stephen Theberge
Treasurer: Mike Starkman
Secretary: Alvin Gingold

Trustee: Robert Goetz
Trustee: Marsha Kraselsky
Trustee: Nate Mewhinney
Trustee: Lori Zipes

Returning trustees are Nate and Lori, with new trustees joining us this year – Marsha and Bob.

Lois Oswald performed the installation service for new and returning Board members assuring that each Board member understands their responsibility to the Temple and will contribute to the improvement and growth of the Temple and Jewish community in Panama City.

We all congratulate new and returning members of the Board and wish them success in shaping the future of our Temple. *Complete election and meeting coverage appears in this issue!*



President's Message

First, I want to thank the members of the congregation for placing their trust in me and the Board to guide them for the next few months. I am delighted to be working with such a lively, creative and smart group of individuals who will help shape a bit of Temple B'nai Israel's future.

I also want to thank the outgoing members of the Board – Alvin Gingold (as President, now Secretary), Pam Sutton, Stephen Sickerman and Daniel Sternlicht – for giving their energy, ideas and dedicated efforts to keeping Temple B'nai Israel relevant and growing. They have guided our shul with steady hands and sincerity and they are leaving us with a solid foundation on which to continue building.

We have good momentum to continue moving forward and I am confident that the newly elected Board will make every effort to “take it and run with it.” We will keep Jewish traditions, culture and faith alive and well in Bay County. Congratulations to Steve Theberge, Mike Starkman, Alvin Gingold, Lori Zipes, Nate Mewhinney and Bob Goetz.....Let's get to work!

B'shalom - Sarah



In case you missed it, here's what happened: A Recap of the 2015 TBI Annual Meeting

Members of Temple B'nai Israel gathered on June 10th for our Annual Congregational Meeting. A lively crowd heard President Alvin Gingold summarize the year's events including the successful Shabbat dinners, lay-led services on the 4th Friday of each month, Annual Congregational Picnic at the end of the school year, Community Seder and more.

Mike Starkman, Treasurer delivered a positive review of the Temple's financial health, noting that this is the first year in a long while that we are essentially breaking even - with only a projected deficit of \$350. He reviewed the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year, which starts July 1, asking the congregation to approve it, which they happily did in a unanimous vote.

Stephen Sickerman, representing the efforts of By-Laws Review Committee members Barbara Shykoff and Alvin Gingold, presented needed revisions in our Temple By-laws. The two biggest changes are the discontinuation of the semi-annual congregational meeting in January, leaving only the June Annual Meeting, and the reduction of the number of Board members from nine to seven. Both changes reflect a more realistic view of how we operate. The congregation voted to accept the by-laws as revised by a unanimous vote.

The Annual Meeting is the setting in which our Volunteer of the Year is honored. This year that honor goes to Daniel Sternlicht. Daniel has served our congregation in many ways including lending his

beautiful voice and considerable musical abilities to High Holiday services, teaching Jewish songs and prayers to our religious school students and serving as a trustee on the TBI Board. Congratulations to Daniel!

Alvin Gingold gave a brief report outlining ritual activities over the past year including the Chanukah party, Purim celebration, *Tu B'Shevat* mini-Seder, Passover Seder, Shabbat dinners with Rabbi Baroff, fourth Friday lay-led services, Havdalah on the Beach and more. Leah Apothaker, our Fellow with the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL), was in Panama City three times conducting services and working with the religious school children. Alvin and his wife Cynthia will be attending the annual ISJL Education Conference in Jackson, MS in late June to prepare for the 2015-2016 religious school year. Alvin also noted that we have not yet secured a rabbi for the coming High Holidays as Rabbi Rutberg, our HHD Rabbi the past three seasons, has accepted his own pulpit. Alvin has enlisted the help of national organizations to locate an available rabbi, and is confident that we will be able to do so.

Cynthia Gingold reported that the religious school has grown from five students to eleven! They have been actively learning the Hebrew alphabet, Jewish songs, prayers and traditions as well as participating in the celebration of Jewish holidays.

Lisa Rahn spoke briefly about the successes of the Sisterhood

including fundraising efforts and community involvement. The Sisterhood is welcoming new members and invites anyone interested to join for a mere \$36 per year.

Nathan Miller introduced the idea of acquiring a new ark for the synagogue. Nathan, Ed Nagler and Lori Zipes have started researching costs and vendors. Many attendees expressed their opinions about such an endeavor and it seems there is interest. But should we purchase an ark? Should we design and build an ark ourselves? What requirements exist, if any, to build an ark? How much will it cost? What style should it be? These are only some of the important questions that need to be explored. Nathan would like to start raising funds for this project as soon as possible, so Sarah recommended that a committee made up of Nathan, Lori, Ed and Mike Starkman be formed to investigate the possibilities. The Board will add this item to the next meeting agenda as well.

One last objective of the Annual Congregational Meeting remained: Election of officers and board members for the new term. The congregation unanimously approved the new slate, as described on page 1 of this issue. Congratulations to all!

Alvin thanked the outgoing Board members – Stephen, Pam and Daniel – for their service. Joan Prows led the attendees in applauding Alvin for his leadership over the past two years. And, with that, the 2015 Annual TBI Meeting was adjourned.

The Gavel Passes

Alvin Gingold has served Temple B'nai Israel as its president for the last two years. During his term he has focused his energies on creating more spiritual and communal opportunities for members. Alvin was instrumental in developing and maintaining the Friday night Shabbat dinners when Rabbi Baroff is in Panama City. These dinners have grown to be quite popular and tasty. They serve to bring congregants together to welcome Shabbat and

learn more about each other and the Rabbi.

In addition, Alvin has spearheaded the effort to add lay-led services on the fourth Friday of each month, extending the spiritual reach of the temple. Most congregants have volunteered to lead a service during the year, offering a diverse approach to welcoming the Sabbath.

During his tenure, Alvin has seen

new families join the temple community, increasing the number of students in the religious school. He has served on the Ritual Committee, tutored many b'nai mitzvah students, and fried countless latkes.

The community extends a heartfelt thank you to Alvin for his hard work and commitment to ensuring a Jewish presence in Panama City. Alvin will remain on the Board filling the role of Secretary.

TBI's Volunteer of the Year

Temple B'nai Israel is proud to name Daniel Sternlicht as this year's recipient of our annual Volunteer of the Year award. Daniel is most deserving of this award. He has shared his considerable musical talents with our religious school students, teaching them Hebrew songs, holiday melodies and Jewish prayers. He has also delighted our

congregation with beautiful cantoral renditions of sacred melodies during the High Holidays with an especially moving and soulful interpretation of Kol Nidre.

In addition, Daniel has served as a very capable trustee of the Temple as a Board member for the past several years. He has been a

reliable and reasonable voice amid the many debates that are a natural part of temple leadership.

We are proud to honor Daniel in this way and we wish him good health and happiness and hope he will continue to share his talents with all of us. Congratulations Daniel!

Thank You for Your Service

The TBI Community wishes to thank our outgoing Board members for their service to the Temple. Daniel Sternlicht, Stephen Sickerman and Pam Sutton completed their terms as leaders and trustees.

Pam served the Temple as Vice President, offering her expertise in legal matters without pause. Pam helped write the Temple by-laws, and helped revise them when needed. Pam's unwavering support for the Temple always took precedence when tough decisions

needed to be made. Pam will continue to use her considerable debating and negotiating skills, just from a different vantage point.

Stephen has served on the Temple Board in many roles, most recently as trustee. He spent many hours reviewing the Temple by-laws in order to update them and make them more relevant to our needs. He worked with the Board to adopt the latest changes. He will continue his role as co-editor of the Temple newsletter, *The Azoy*.

Daniel has served as trustee on the Board and, unfortunately, stepped down a couple of months early due to health concerns. Daniel provided a voice for the parents of religious school children for the rest of the Board. He maintained a steady and reasoned approach to Board decisions and will be missed. We hope that Daniel will be able to continue to add his beautiful voice to our High Holy Days services.



Lois Oswald performed the installation ceremony for the new line-up of the Temple B'nai Israel Board of Directors at the 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting on June 10. The ceremony was to recognize the new officers and trustees and to assure that each member understands their responsibility to the Temple and the Jewish community in Panama City, FL.

Changing of the Guard

The small, but mighty, Sisterhood of Temple B'nai Israel will have a change of leadership effective July 1, 2015. After three dedicated years of service, Lisa Rahn is stepping down as President (previously Vice President) and Michelle Kraut as Treasurer. We welcome our new (with one exception) officers for the 2015-2016 fiscal year:

Co-Presidents: Mary Starkman and Cynthia Gingold

Vice President: Judith Scott (returning)

Treasurer: Joanne Goetz

Secretary: Heather Mewhinney

We look forward to another great year of working together to build a sense of Jewish community at Temple B'nai Israel and in Bay County at large! Won't you please consider joining us? The more the merrier!

Sisterhood Donates to TBI

The Sisterhood has generously donated \$750.00 to the Temple, putting them in the black for the first time in several years. After hosting successful fundraising events this past year, the Sisterhood is supporting the shul in two ways: earmarking \$250.00 for the religious school – the future of our Jewish community in Panama City, and \$500.00 to the Temple to use in whatever ways they deem necessary.

The Sisterhood is proud to be a functioning vital part of the Jewish family of Panama City and is happy to share its good fortune with the Temple. Outgoing Sisterhood President Lisa Rahn said that “we are meeting one of the major goals and objectives of our small but mighty organization” by making this donation and we hope to do even more in the future.

More Sisterhood News

Sisterhood co-Presidents Cynthia Gingold and Mary Starkman would like to announce that the Sisterhood of Temple B'nai Israel will be starting to collect items for the Family Service Agency, located at 114 East 9th Street, Panama City, FL.

They will have boxes in the back of the synagogue where you can place your donations. They will put a note on the boxes so we all can see what the Family Service Agency is most in need of. This is a good way to get the Sisterhood's name and the Temple's name out in our community. We look forward to your participation!



Our little Judaica Shop is getting new items all the time. Check out the newest caps from Israel. And we have some new necklaces and pendants for both sexes. We have a lovely Mogen David set on the side of a delicate gold necklace...looks classy! And we also have very masculine Stars of David set in steel circles, one surrounded by the words to the “shema”.... popular necklaces for men or women.

All of these items sell for less than \$20.00 each. In addition we have a variety of mezuzahs to choose from – to meet every taste. Just in, are hanging wall plaques welcoming guests with “Shalom Y'all,” done in the Armenian pottery style – only \$10.00 each. Next time you're in shul, be sure to check out the shop. You might be pleasantly surprised!



JULY JOYS & REMEMBRANCES

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

07/02 MINNIE GINGOLD — GRANDMOTHER OF ALVIN GINGOLD
07/08 DAVID SICKERMAN — UNCLE OF STEPHEN SICKERMAN
07/12 BRUCE FRETZ — FATHER OF LORI ZIPES
07/14 MARK DEJOHN — BROTHER OF ANNE MILLER



BIRTHDAYS

07/09 ROB JOSEPH
 07/12 NATE MEWHINNEY
 07/21 SAM BASSIN
 07/25 ANN STRYNAR
 07/26 PETER SOSTHEIM
 07/30 HANNAH JOSEPH

ANNIVERSARIES

07/12 JACOB & ELIZABETH SICKERMAN
 07/23 BOB & MARCIA PELL

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

JULY CALENDAR

SAT	07/04		INDEPENDENCE DAY
WED	07/08	6:00 pm	Monthly Temple Board of Directors Meeting
FRI	07/10	6:00 pm	Shabbat Dinner
		7:00 pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Baroff
SAT	07/11	12:00 pm	Adult Hebrew with the Rabbi
		7:30 pm	Havdalah Service on the Beach - <i>followed by dinner out</i>
SUN	07/12	10:00 am	Brunch with the Rabbi at Temple
WED	07/15	6:00 pm	Sisterhood Meeting
FRI	07/24	7:00 pm	Lay-led Shabbat Service with Alvin & Cynthia Gingold
SAT	07/25		Tisha B'Av



Richard Baroff *Rabbi*

Sarah Farkas *President & Azoy Editor*
 Stephen Theberge *Vice-President*
 Mike Starkman *Treasurer*
 Alvin Gingold *Secretary*

Cynthia Gingold *Sisterhood co-President*
 Mary Starkman *Sisterhood co-President*

Robert Goetz *Trustee*
 Marsha Kraselsky *Trustee*
 Nate Mewhinney *Trustee*
 Lori Zipes *Trustee*

Leah Apothaker *ISJL Fellow*
 Stephen Sickerman *Azoy Editor*

Benjamin Tuvyana Bar Mitzvah

On Saturday, May 9, 2015 Benjamin Tuvyana became a bar mitzvah. It was a very moving ceremony. Benjy led the congregation in prayers. His reading of his Torah portion and Haftorah were outstanding! The luncheon that followed was an extraordinary feast from Israel: burekahs, felafels, Israeli salad, and much more. Kudos and thanks to Laura, Avi, Laura's mom, Benjy, and Judah!





A Very Special Friday Night Service

On May 22, 2015 the children of our Religious School led the Friday night service under the direction of Mr. Alvin. It was fabulous! All the children had parts. Davis (age 5) and Ari (age 6) welcomed all and led us in the singing of “Bim Bom.” The rest of the children read prayers in English and Hebrew. Everyone was kvelling! Such a precious moment in our synagogue’s history! It was unfortunate for those congregants who couldn’t make it to miss such a positive event!

The 40 minute service was followed by ice cream, sprinkles, and toppings. A very sweet ending to a very sweet experience!





