

AZOY

“Is that so?”

2017
JULY
5777



**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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2017 Annual TBI Congregational Meeting

New TBI Board Members Elected

Among the many items covered at the Annual TBI Congregational Meeting was the election and installation of new Board officers and trustees. Elected for a one year term beginning July 1, 2017 were:

President – Mike Starkman
Vice President – Pavel Amromin
Treasurer – Lisa Rahn
Secretary – Linette Sternlicht
Trustee – Robert Goetz
Trustee – Stevie Theberge
Trustee – Mary Starkman

They were installed into their new positions by Lois Oswald, who delivered a charming and meaningful ceremony equating each position to a comparable fruit (e.g. President = top banana as Mike was handed a banana). We wish the new Board success in their work to lead our congregation and synagogue. They face some tough challenges and we trust they are up to the tasks before them.

Thanks to Outgoing Board Members

Thank you to our outgoing Board members who presented their successes and remaining challenges to the congregation at the Annual Meeting in June. Among the top rated successes over the past year were the re-hiring of our wonderful Rabbi, Alana Wasserman, and expanding her presence here by two months. Other positives included the celebration of every Jewish holiday at the shul, continuing our Shabbat Dinners and full weekends with the Rabbi, encouraging lay services and those led by our had'rachim (Mary and Mike), 100% attendance at Sunday Shul by our students.

Some challenges we face include growing our temple membership and establishing successful fundraising events. It was noted at the Annual Congregational Meeting that our membership dues only make up half of the total expenses needed to run the shul for a year.

Thank you to our outgoing Board members. We appreciate your efforts and willingness to give your time, energy and ideas to helping our Jewish community: Stephen Sickerman, Mike Starkman, Steve Theberge, Bob Goetz, Nate Mewhinney, Pavel Amromin and Sarah Farkas.



Rabbi Alana Wasserman



Bikur cholim, visiting the sick, is an important *mitzvah*. In our weekday morning blessing, *Eilu d'varim*, we say, "These are the precepts whose fruits a person enjoys in This World but whose principal remains intact for him in the World to Come." One of these precepts is visiting the sick. The rabbis teach us in a midrash that God models this behavior for us. After Abraham is circumcised, God goes to visit him to make him feel better.

Normally, I am the one visiting the sick. However, last month, I had a tonsillectomy. And, while I live in another state, so many of you heeded this commandment. I received so

many get well cards, emails, and phone calls from you. Your outpouring of love and support has been wonderful. You really cheered me up! And, I am pleased to report that my recovery is going very well.

It can be very isolating to be sick. But, knowing that friends and family are there to love and care for you can help the healing process. If you or anyone you know of is ill, please let me know, as well as the members of the caring committee. It is important for all of us *bikur cholim*.

I look forward to seeing all of you on my next visit!

Message from President Mike Starkman

This being my first message as your president, I would like to thank the previous board and officers for all of their efforts in the past two years. For those that did not attend the Annual Congregational Meeting last month, it was announced that we have extended Rabbi Wasserman's contract for another year, which will include a monthly visit. She will be presiding over most of the major religious holidays, including Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Chanukah. Our Rabbi will also lead our Passover Seder this year. Obviously there is more information to follow.

We need your help, both financially and through your service. Our now approved budget, a copy of which members received earlier this month, shows that it takes about \$45,000 dollars to operate our congregation. Membership pledges do not cover this amount. The fund raising committee chaired by Sarah Farkas will be working to develop and execute a plan to alleviate the shortfall. She needs for you to volunteer to serve on this committee and help develop the plans necessary to keep us in operation.

Growing our membership is a critical part of the plan. Each of you is an ambassador of this Temple. Please be active in this role. Also, this year we ask that you be as generous as possible, within your means, and to pledge more than the basic amount. All of the committees of our congregation need your support and help. Together we can resolve our issues.

L'shalom
Mike



— CHAI NOTES —

Mitzvah cards were recently sent to —

Alvin Gingold, with get well wishes:
The Sternlicht Family

Nate Mewhinney, with sympathy on the death of his brother:

Sonny and Alma Glass
Mike and Mary Starkman
Sarah Farkas and Judith Scott

Rabbi Wasserman, with get well wishes:

Mike and Mary Starkman

Please do not hesitate to contact Mary Starkman at 850-708-1766 or mary_starkman@comcast.net if you wish to send a Mitzvah card!

Mitzvah card may be sent for all occasions, such as get well wishes, anniversary, birthday, congratulations, recognizing a birth or passing, etc.

Proceeds benefit Temple B'nai Israel. The suggested donation is \$18 (*chai*) or a multiple of \$18. However, all donations for this project are deeply appreciated!



JULY CALENDAR

MON	7/4		INDEPENDENCE DAY - <i>Celebrating 241 years of freedom</i>
FRI	7/7	7:00 pm	Shabbat Service led by Mary Starkman
WED	7/12	6:30 pm	Monthly Temple Board of Directors Meeting
FRI	7/14	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Shabbat Dinner - <i>please bring sides, salads, desserts</i> Shabbat Service with Rabbi Wasserman
SAT	7/15	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Wasserman - <i>Please bring a bag lunch, drinks provided</i> Havdalah on the Beach at Richard Seltzer Park - <i>followed by dinner at local eatery</i>



Sisterhood Snippets by Lisa Rahn

This is my swan song as Sisterhood President (for now). I am moving into a challenging new role as Treasurer of the Temple B'nai Israel board, and so am passing the baton into the very capable hands of Judith Scott. The other Sisterhood members who have stepped up to assume leadership positions are: Sharon Yordon (Vice President), Joanne Goetz (continuing as Treasurer), and Linette Sternlicht/Tammy Marinuzzi, (Co-Secretaries). Many thanks to these and all of the other wonderful women of the Sister-

hood for all they do! I look forward to continuing to serve with them in supporting the TBI congregation, the community and the continuity of Judaism in Bay County and beyond.

Before I sign off, I would like to ask your help with a project (that will allow you to declutter your home at the same time!). Sisterhood member – and Queen of Rummage Sales – Gayle Paynter has graciously offered to designate a table at her personal rummage sale in October to sell jewelry to support the TBI Sisterhood.

We need your donations – costume or costly, stylish or retro...bracelets, necklaces, anklets, earrings (pairs or singles) of any description! Please bring them to the shul the next time you come, or call a Sisterhood member for pickup. We'd like to gather as much as possible by the Sisterhood meeting on Wednesday, August 16th to give Gayle time to price and package them for the sale. Please ask your friends, family and neighbors for their contributions! We thank you in advance.

TBI Online Business Directory Update by Robert Jay Goetz, Webmaster & Trustee

Have you got a business that could use more customers? Do you offer services, goods, or both across the Bay County area? Perhaps you know of a business that would enjoy more clientele. Then why would you miss out on Temple B'nai Israel's online business directory? Talk about broadening your digital footprint! TBI's website, www.bnaiisraelpc.org

received over 100,000 hits during the past 12 months.

An online business listing is FREE for members; non-members may list for only \$108 for 12 months. Send your business name, address, contact information, and a brief description of 50 words or less to TBIpcWebmaster@gmail.com. We'll take care of the rest.

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
07/15	PAUL PINK – FATHER OF JOANNE GOETZ
07/28	RAY GLASS – MOTHER OF SONNY GLASS

BIRTHDAYS

06/12	ALMA GLASS
06/28	ADAM BRAUN
07/12	NATE MEWHINNEY
07/25	ANN STRYNAR
07/26	PETER SOSTHEIM

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

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

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times for JULY 2017

07/07 7:30 pm	07/14 7:28 pm	07/21 7:25 pm	07/28 7:21 pm
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Temple B'nai Israel Committees looking for Volunteers

Interested in volunteering at TBI? Please contact the chair, the first name listed for each committee below:

Ritual	Mary Starkman, Sarah Farkas, Ed Nagler
Fund Raising	Sarah Farkas
Building	Nate Mewhinney, Mike Starkman
Outreach/Membership	Robert Goetz
Facebook Administrator	Lisa Rahn, Robert Goetz
Sisterhood	Judith Scott
Azoy	Stephen Sickerman, Sarah Farkas
Caring Committee	Judith Scott, Mary Starkman, Nate & Heather Mewhinney, Alma Glass
Webmaster	Robert Goetz, Phornsuda Nantvikorn
Rules & Policy	Sarah Farkas, Lisa Rahn, Nate Mewhinney, Rabbi
House	<i>vacant</i>
Education	Dan Sternlicht
Library	Judith Scott
Choir	<i>vacant</i>
Mitzvah Card	Mary Starkman
Programming	Liz Berman, Sarah Farkas

The Passover seder, Break-the-Fast and Tu B'Shevat seder are organized by the Sisterhood.

You Can Count on the Caring Committee to Help in Times of Need | The Caring Committee is available to all Jews in our area. If you or a family member or friend is in need of support, a caring phone call, a friendly visit, a prayer or just a chat with another Jew, please call us at 850-522-8685. A member of the Caring Committee will return your call. Ready Responders will change for the second half of the year. We will be happy to hear from you how we might respond to your needs and the needs of the Jewish community in any other ways. Just give us a call.



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support **Temple B'nai Israel** every time you shop -- at no extra cost to you.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com -- but with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to TBI.

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item

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>

Needed: Shabbat Dinner Entrees

As you may already know we enjoy a community Shabbat Dinner once a month before services on weekends when Rabbi Wasserman here in Panama City. We try to rotate the responsibility of providing the entrée each month so no one person is saddled with that expense. The entrée can be meat, dairy or parve. It's often some rendition of chicken. The rest of the congregation supplements the meal with various sides, salads and desserts.

We have filled most of the calendar until the end of the year, but we are in need of volunteers to provide the entrée on:

Friday, August 18th and Friday, December 15th

Please consider being one of these two volunteer chefs. Call Mike Starkman with your info. Thanks.



Judith Scott Volunteer of the Year

Every year the TBI Board selects a deserving member of the congregation to be honored as Volunteer of the Year. This year Judith Scott has been so honored. Judith, who served as FLOTBI – First Lady of Temple B'nai Israel – for the past two years, worked feverishly to assure that the shul was cleaned and ready for Shabbat services, holiday celebrations, Sunday Shul and more. She not only cleaned and straightened up the shul she sorted and arranged the books, video and audio selections in the Library.

The Board is grateful for members like Judith who show their devotion to the temple in such meaningful constructive ways. Thank you Judith, from all of your fellow congregants.



The Six Day War by Rabbi Richard Baroff

It was 50 years ago last month that Israel fought and won a decisive war against several Arab states. These states were led by the Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser, Israel's greatest enemy of that era.

Nasser used the common hatred of Israel as part of the foundation for his doctrine of Pan-Arabism, the idea that Arab solidarity should cross the lines of national states.

Here was a project that Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Egypt could agree on: the destruction of the state of Israel. This would make Nasser the hero of the Arab world, even more than the Suez Crises of 1956 had done.

It was thought that the Arab armies attacking the Jewish State might succeed where they had failed in 1948. As the Egyptian armies massed in the Sinai, and as Egypt blocked Israel's southern port, the Israeli Air Force struck on June 5, 1967.

Very quickly the Egyptian and other Arab air forces were destroyed. Their armies fell within a week in the Sinai

and Golan Heights. Also the Israeli army had reunited Jerusalem for the first time under Jewish control since ancient times. Israeli soldiers prayed at the Wall in the Old City.

The ancient biblical lands of Judea and Samaria on the Jordan River's West Bank were captured as well.

The relief among Jews throughout the world was intense. Israel was not at the time thought of as a military power.

No one expected Israel to quickly and completely defeat its enemies. The Holocaust had happened only two decades before. Many Jews were fearful of a second Holocaust. Nasser was thought of as a Near Eastern version of Hitler. The much harder victory of the War of Independence in 1948-49 had felt like a miracle, the Six Day War even more so.

Israeli leaders became household names in America, like Foreign Minister Abba Eban, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, and Chief of Staff

Yitzhak Rabin.

The war left a much more complex Middle East. Israeli control over the Sinai, Gaza, Golan Heights and West Bank have been challenging diplomatically. In particular, hundreds of thousands of West Bank Arabs, called Palestinians, came under Israeli control. The Sinai was returned in stages to Egypt by 1982. The Israelis left Gaza in 2004. Terrorists took over there.

This week we remember the great Israeli victory which changed everything. It ensured the survival of the Jewish state, destroyed Nasser and Pan-Arabism, and left the Israeli government many headaches.

In spite of these headaches, we thank God for this victory, for the reunification of Jerusalem, and for the opportunity to search for peace through a position of strength.

Am Yisrael Chai — The People of Israel live.

www.guardiansofthetorah.com



This souvenir sheet was issued by Israel Post in April 2017 to recognize the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem.