

# AZOY

*"Is that so?"*

2015  
JUNE  
5775



**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*  
Mailing Address: PO Box 16556, Panama City, FL 32406  
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## **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** Wednesday June 10 7:00 pm

Please join members of the TBI Board for the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at the shul. It is required by our by-laws that we meet annually, but more importantly, it behooves each TBI member to learn what's happening at the shul, what plans are being made, what TBI's finances are and how they are being used. And it helps the Board to know what you're

thinking, what concerns you have and what ideas and plans you want us to pursue. It's a win/win if we all participate.

In addition to information, and some schmoozing, this is also the time when we elect and install new officers and trustees on the TBI Board. The slate for the coming fiscal year 2015-16 which begins on July 1, 2015 is:

**President** – Sarah Farkas  
**Vice President** – Steve Theberge  
**Treasurer** – Mike Starkman  
**Secretary** – Alvin Gingold

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

We thank each of these folks for stepping forward to lead our congregation in the next year. A ballot has been mailed to each of our members and should have already been received.

In addition, the Board has revised the TBI By-Laws to make them more practical and more in sync with how we do business. The By-Laws Committee has guided this process and the Board has approved the revisions. A copy of the revised By-Laws has also been sent to each congregant for review prior to the Annual Meeting. The revisions cannot go into effect without the approval of the congregation. So the Board respectfully asks that each of you examine the By-Laws with the changes and vote on your mail-in ballot or in person at the June 10th meeting.

Our treasurer, Mike Starkman, has prepared a proposed budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year as well. The Board has already approved this budget, and now it is time for the congregation to do so as well. A copy of the proposed budget has also been mailed to members for review. Any questions you have concerning the budget can be asked at the Annual Meeting.

Please look for the ballot in your mail, vote if you cannot attend the June 10th meeting and be sure to mail back your ballot so it is received no later than June 10, 2015.

Please mark your calendars for the Annual Congregational Meeting on June 10th so you can be there to share your comments, ideas and concerns.

## Message from Temple President Alvin Gingold

My Dear Friends -

I want to give the Sisterhood "A JOB WELL DONE" for a successful Art Auction. Congregants that could not attend the event April 25, missed a great time.

In the month of May, Benjamin Tuvyana was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on May 9, 2015. Benjamin did an excellent job. Way to go Benji!

A Special Shabbat Service was held on May 22, 2015. Our Religious School Children conducted services. All I will say is "WOW." What a excellent job the children did. The parents were beaming with joy.

The Congregational / Religious School Picnic at St Andrews State Park capped off the month of May.

We will have our Annual Congregational Meeting June 10, 2015. It is important that all members of our Synagogue attend. We have many important matters to discuss. Bring your questions, suggestions, and ideas. See you there.

Shalom - Alvin

### NOTES FROM THE RABBI

As I write this Palmyra, Syria is in great danger. This is true for both the citizens and for the ruins. The ruins are the heritage not only of the Syrian people but also of all humanity.

Palmyra – the City of the Palms – was a flourished center of trade during the early days of the Roman Empire. It also was at the western end of the Silk Road which connected the Empire with Han China. Palmyra became the capital of Queen Zenobia's Empire. Zenobia was a fierce enemy of the Romans. As a result, the Emperor Aurelian destroyed much of the city.

In the Middle Ages Palmyra was sacked by the Mongol warlord, Tamerlane.

Legend had it that the city was founded by King Solomon of Israel. The Bible calls the city Tadmor. It is northeast of Damascus – an even older city.

Today Palmyra is under siege again by the jihadis of the Islamic state. Palmyra's ancient stone buildings survived the seventh century jihad, when Syria fell to the warriors of the Islamic caliphate.

For nearly 14 centuries these architectural treasures of the past have mostly survived under Muslim rule. But ISIS is different.

The Islamic State grows stronger through the implementation of evil. Usually this evil takes the form of torture and murder. Sometimes the evil takes the form of the destruction of the world's cultural heritage.

The Islamic State in this way is following the example of the Taliban in Afghanistan who destroyed the two giant Buddhas as pagan idols.

ISIS is a wicked terrorist organization which must be stopped. They are greatly adding to the suffering in Syria and in Iraq. They are monsters who believe in igniting a jihadi apocalypse.

It would be characteristic of the jihadis of ISIS to raze the ruins if Palmyra. We must pray that they must be spared. We should of course pray that the people of Palmyra are spared.

If they spread into Jordan the Islamic State could threaten Israel's borders as well.


This great evil must be stopped.

*B'shalom* (in the spirit of peace) -

Rabbi Richard Baroff

# BAY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD GETS A TASTE OF HEBREW

The Bay County School Board began their May meeting with what is believed to be their first invocation in Hebrew. Sarah Farkas, representing the Interfaith Harmony Council of Bay County (IHC) and Temple B'nai Israel, delivered the opening prayer in Hebrew with an English translation. This was the first attempt by the School Board to increase diversity in this way. The IHC has been working to help broaden understanding and acceptance of different faiths beyond the more mainstream Christian religions. If you want to learn more about the work of IHC or join them in their work, please contact Judith Scott at [farcott@gmail.com](mailto:farcott@gmail.com).



## BUBBE'S BAUBLES: JUNE IS FOR JUDAICA

Summer's right around the corner. It's a great time to check out the bargains at our little Judaica Shop – Bubbe's Baubles.

We've got the perfect gift for the one who does the grilling, think Father's Day – a nifty chef's hat called a toque. This one says "Shalom" so it's extra special. Regular price is \$24.00, but this month it's on sale for just \$20.00! And keeping with the head-covering Father's Day theme – all kippahs are 20% off as well.

Don't forget to include a TBI cookbook for the master chef – just \$3.00 and full of your favorite (and delicious) Jewish recipes.

## JUNE CALENDAR

WED	06/10	6:00 pm	Monthly Temple Board of Directors Meeting
		7:00 pm	Annual Congregational Meeting - <i>see front page for details</i>
FRI	06/12	6:00 pm	Shabbat Dinner
		7:00 pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Baroff
SAT	06/13	12:00 pm	Adult Hebrew with Rabbi Baroff
		7:00 pm	Havdalah Service on the beach at Richard Seltzer Park
SUN	06/14	10:00 am	Brunch with Rabbi Baroff - location TBA
WED	06/17	6:00 pm	Sisterhood Meeting
FRI	06/26	7:00 pm	Lay-led Shabbat Services with Nate Mewhinney - <i>oneg to follow</i>

Richard Baroff	<i>Rabbi</i>	Nate Mewhinney	<i>Trustee</i>
Alvin Gingold	<i>President</i>	Stephen Sickerman	<i>Trustee &amp; Azoy Editor</i>
Pam Sutton	<i>Vice-President</i>	Stephen Theberge	<i>Trustee</i>
Mike Starkman	<i>Treasurer</i>	Lori Zipes	<i>Trustee</i>
Sarah Farkas	<i>Secretary &amp; Azoy Editor</i>	Cynthia Gingold	<i>Religious School Director</i>
Lisa Rahn	<i>Sisterhood President</i>	Leah Apothaker	<i>ISJL Fellow</i>

# JUNE JOYS & REMEMBRANCES

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

- 06/02** JOSEPH SHUMAN — FATHER OF MARILYN NATIONS  
**06/04** HEDY KRAKAUER FARKAS — MOTHER OF SARAH FARKAS  
**06/10** JOANNE PELL — MOTHER OF BOB PELL  
**06/14** RICHARD HAIMAN — FATHER OF DARREN HAIMAN  
**06/15** JOHN DEJOHN — FATHER OF ANNE MILLER  
**06/20** NINA STUKELMAN RAHN — MOTHER OF LISA RAHN  
**06/29** FRITZ SOSTHEIM — FATHER OF PETER SOSTHEIM

## BIRTHDAYS

- 06/06 SARAH BRANDT HAIMAN  
06/17 PRESTON LEVY  
06/17 DANIEL STERNLICHT  
06/23 CAROLYNN SICKERMAN  
06/24 MAX NAGLER

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 06/21 MIKE & JILL GINIGER

If your Joy or Remembrance  
is missing or incorrect please e-mail  
The AZOY Editors at [theazoy@gmail.com](mailto:theazoy@gmail.com)



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organizations. Special terms and restrictions may apply. Please see the relevant promotion for complete details.

Additional information is available at: <http://smile.amazon.com/about>.

To access the TBI "store," which is registered as **Bay Jewish Community Inc**, go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3151696>.