

AZOY

"Is that so?"

JUNE 2016

Iyar / Sivan 5776



**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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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday June 12 - 11:00 am

Your presence and participation are requested at our 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting. Indeed, your participation is required! The meeting will take place on Sunday, June 12 at the synagogue. We'll begin with a tasty brunch at 11:00 am so you'll have the energy to participate in the meeting.

Mike Starkman, Treasurer, will present the 2016-17 Proposed Budget which requires approval by you. Stephen Sickerman, Secretary, will present proposed changes to our By-Laws which require approval by you. Bob Goetz, Board Member and Public Relations chair, will present our new TBI website. We'll also talk about the hiring of our new Rabbi and plans for the coming year.

This is also the time when we elect and install a new slate of officers and trustees on the TBI Board:

President – Sarah Farkas

Vice President – Steve Theberge

Treasurer – Mike Starkman

Secretary – Stephen Sickerman

Trustee – Pavel Amromin

Trustee – Robert Goetz

Trustee – Marsha Kraselsky

The meeting is the only time during the year that TBI business is discussed with all of our members. It's your time to ask questions, get clarification, and voice your opinion. We want to hear from you. Please join us.

Meet TBI's New Rabbi, Alana Wasserman

We are very excited to welcome Rabbi Wasserman!

Many of you enjoyed our recent "Scholar in Residence" weekend led by Rabbi Alana Wasserman. We are delighted to announce that she has agreed to be Temple B'nai Israel's new Rabbi for the coming year. Rabbi Wasserman is originally from Greenville, SC, where her husband, also a rabbi and two children, Peri and Dara, reside.

Rabbi Wasserman hails from New Jersey but spent many years in Texas while growing up. She was ordained at Hebrew Union College in New York in 2004 and returned to NJ to lead a congregation there. She met her husband, Rabbi Jeremy Master, while in Israel as part of their rabbinic education. In 2009, they moved to Greenville when Rabbi Master accepted the pulpit at Temple Shalom Israel.



She will make the trip from Greenville approximately once per month to spend a very full weekend with us, leading services and havdalah on the Beach, working with our religious school students, visiting our members who are ill or unable to leave home, teaching us and leading us in song and prayer. She will again lead our High Holiday services as we welcome the new year and are inscribed in the Book of Life for another year.

Rabbi Wasserman is equally excited to serve our congregation. She has met many of you already and loves this beautiful area! She is available between her visits by phone or email to answer questions, offer a prayer or just talk with you. Please introduce yourself to her when she next visits TBI in July.

❧ The President's Message ❧

Once again I want to welcome Rabbi Alana Wasserman to our shul and congregation. I'm looking forward to a year of inspiration, learning, song and prayer. I hope each of you will make an extra effort to attend Shabbat weekend activities while the Rabbi is here (and even when she's not). Her official start date is July 1st and we will post her schedule in the July issue of The Azoy.

I encourage each of you to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 12th. We'll begin with a brunch at 11:00 followed immediately by the meeting. Our Board has worked diligently to keep TBI a vital center of Jewish worship and tradition in Bay County. We want to share our successes with you, talk about our challenges and ask you to participate in planning our future. We want and need your input.

I want to thank Cynthia and Alvin Gingold for their years of teaching our next generation. They've done an admirable job and deserve our appreciation. I also thank Daniel Sternlicht and Georgie Hartzog for stepping up to continue teaching our youngsters with help from Linette Sternlicht, Heather Mewhinney and Judith Scott. Georgie, a retired teacher, will attend the ISJL Education Conference in Jackson, MS later this month and bring back inspired ideas for Sunday school. Our young people will be in good hands.

And . . . another wonderful opportunity is coming our way as Mary and Mike Starkman have agreed to attend *Had'rachah* training in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin in July. The Hebrew word *Had'rachah* means "guide," and they will learn more about leading lay services and other traditional ceremonial events.

Hope to see you all at Shabbat/Shavuot services on June 10th. Until then, *I'shalom!*

- Sarah

The End of the Counting of the Omer: Shavuot



Shavuot, Hebrew for "weeks," marks the end of counting the Omer from Passover (49 days or 7 full weeks). This is when Moses descended Mt. Sinai with the Torah for all of the Israelites. It was also a time in ancient Israel when Jews made fruit and grain offerings to commemorate the end of one

growing season and the beginning of another.

Today, Jews celebrate this occasion in several ways. One of those is to engage in the study of Torah all day and night during *Shavuot*. Studying the Torah is a mitzvah and a commandment for Jews the world over. It is said that reading the Torah is like having "milk and honey."

Another tradition while celebrating this holiday is to only eat dairy products. It's customary to eat cheesecake, blintzes, noodle kugel and similar foods, along with fresh fruits of the season. Why do we only eat dairy on *Shavuot*? Good question! You can find the answer by joining us at shul on Friday, June 10th for a great Jewish dairy *Shabbat* dinner at 6:00 pm followed by a *Shabbat* and *Shavuot* service led by Mary Starkman. Eating and learning: two of life's greatest activities!

JUNE CALENDAR

WED	6/8	6:00 pm	Monthly Temple Board of Directors Meeting
FRI	6/10	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Shavuot Dairy Dinner Shabbat Service with Mary Starkman
SUN	6/12	11:00 am	Brunch and Annual Congregational Meeting
WED	6/15	6:00 pm	Sisterhood Meeting Salad Days
SUN	6/19		Happy Father's Day
MON	6/20		Summer Begins! Enjoy!
SUN-TUE	6/26 - 6/28		ISJL Education Conference in Jackson, MS

THANK YOU TO OUR SEDER VOLUNTEERS!

A Great Big Thank You to all those who made our 2016 Congregational Seder a success. To those who attended and participated; those who made food stuffs like matzo balls, charoset and chopped liver;

those who helped set up and clean up; those who planned the event; and those who shopped for groceries.....**THANK YOU!**

Cynthia Gingold steps down as Religious School Director

The TBI family of congregants, children and their parents wish to thank Cynthia Gingold for her years of service as School Director. Her recent acceptance of a full time position in the Bay County School District requires more of her time and energy.

Cynthia's background in education

and love of Judaism spurred her decision to take on the task of educating our youngsters. Along with Daniel Sternlicht and Alvin Gingold – and others – she taught our kids about Jewish traditions, rituals, prayer, the meaning of holidays and more. Each year the kids gained a greater understanding of their Jewish roots and a more solid

foundation of Jewish values.

During the summer months, Daniel Sternlicht will meet with others who wish to teach our kids to organize and prepare the next full year of Religious School at TBI. Watch future issues of *The Azoy* for more information.

Shabbat Candle-Lighting Times for June 2016

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

6/03 | 7:23 pm 6/10 | 7:26 pm 6/17 | 7:28 pm 6/24 | 7:30 pm

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June Joys & Remembrances

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

6/02	JOSEPH SHUMAN — FATHER OF MARILYN NATIONS
6/04	HEDY KRAKAUER FARKAS — MOTHER OF SARAH FARKAS
6/10	JOANNE PELL — MOTHER OF BOB PELL
6/14	RICHARD HAIMAN — FATHER OF DARREN HAIMAN
6/15	JOHN DEJOHN — FATHER OF ANNE MILLER
6/19	RITA DIAMOND — AUNT OF PAUL ZIPES
6/20	NINA STUKELMAN RAHN — MOTHER OF LISA RAHN
6/29	FRITZ SOSTHEIM — FATHER OF PETER SOSTHEIM



BIRTHDAYS

6/06	SARAH BRANDT HAIMAN
6/17	DANIEL STERNLICHT
6/23	CAROLYNN SICKERMAN
6/24	MAX NAGLER

ANNIVERSARIES

6/02	ARTHUR & MICHELLE KRAUT
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If your Joy or Remembrance
is missing or incorrect, please e-mail
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When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, 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, we 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. 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>.

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.

Until July, members of the Caring Committee ready to respond to your needs are:

Nate Mewhinney, Judith Scott and Heather Mewhinney. 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.

"The warm hand of a friend can carry us through the hardest of times."









