

AZOY

"Is that so?"

MARCH 2016

Adar I / Adar II 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
Mailing Address: PO Box 16556, Panama City, FL 32406
Located at: 1910 Frankford Avenue, Panama City, Florida
850-522-8685 / <http://bnaiisraelpc.org>



Our Religious School students take to the bimah as they prepare to lead the ISJL's Charlie Brown Shabbat service on February 26, 2016. The program was directed by Cynthia and Alvin Gingold, with musical accompaniment by Daniel Sternlicht.



OUR ANNUAL COMMUNITY SEDER
with ISJL RABBI MATT DREFFIN
SUNDAY ❖ APRIL 24, 2016 ❖ 6:00 pm



See page 8 for Reservation Form

❧ The President's Message ❧

Ah...Spring....it's springing all around us. The weather is fairer, the sun is warmer, the birds are chirping, the buds are growing getting ready to burst into bloom! And so, too, are we at TBI. Spring means Purim and Passover – two Jewish celebrations that recount some of the good in our history.

On April 3rd our Sunday School children will showcase the fun in Purim with a holiday carnival. On April 24 ISJL Rabbi Matt Dreffin will retell the story of Passover at our Community Seder – an event not to be missed. Please make your reservations early.

Yes, Spring is definitely an awakening for our Jewish community. Come enjoy the festivities, the food, the music and each other. And, of course, sprinkled among the special events are Shabbat dinners, services, havdalah, and quality time with the Rabbi in our spiritual home. You don't have to look very far to get your Jewish juices flowing.....we're right here!

L'shalom - Sarah

MARCH CALENDAR

SUN	03/06	9:30 am	Religious School
WED	03/09	6:00 pm	Temple Board of Directors Meeting
FRI	03/11	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Shabbat Dinner at Temple Shabbat Service with Rabbi Baroff
SAT	03/12	12:00 pm 5:30 pm	Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Baroff Havdalah with Rabbi Baroff at Oaks by the Bay Park, St. Andrews to be followed by dinner out at a local eatery
SUN	03/13	2:00 am 9:30 am 12:00 pm	Spring Forward to Daylight Savings Time Religious School Stump the Rabbi over Lunch @ TBD
WED	03/16	6:00 pm	Sisterhood Meeting
SUN	03/20	9:30 am	No Religious School - SPRING BREAK
THUR	03/24		HAPPY PURIM
FRI	03/25	7:00 pm	Lay-led Shabbat Service, also celebrating Purim
SUN	03/27	9:30 am	Religious School

FIRST CALL FOR BOARD NOMINATIONS

The 2016 Nominating Committee is conducting a search for qualified nominees for the next slate of officers and trustees. Any member in good standing of the Congregation wishing to run for office should submit his or her name and the office for which you wish to run in writing to the Secretary, Stephen Sickerman, Temple B'nai Israel, PO Box 16556, Panama City, FL 32406. Your letter must be received no later than May 11, 2016.

Nominations will be closed following the regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting in May (May 11,

beginning at 6:00 pm), to allow for notification to the congregation, prior to the Annual Meeting, of the nominations, including the Board's recommended slate. The election of officers and trustees shall be held at our Annual Congregational Meeting, to be scheduled in June 2016. No nominations may be made from the floor.

If you wish to discuss the possibility of your nomination, please contact Stephen Sickerman, Nominating Committee Chair at 814-2610 or sickerman@comcast.net.

Remember, it's a *mitzvah* to serve on the Board!

SISTERHOOD IS GOOD!

The TBI Sisterhood is pleased to have donated a new dishwasher for our kitchen. Special thanks to Heather Mewhinney and Joan Prows for doing the legwork and finding a good deal on a new appliance. We are continuing to collect needed items for the Bay County Family Services Agency for our Tikun Olam project. Many items are always appreciated, from individual sized personal hygiene products to adult diapers and clothing of all kinds. A Donation Box is located in the TBI lobby and donated goods are delivered to the agency on a regular basis.

Sadly, our two co-presidents, Cynthia Gingold and Mary

Starkman have resigned. Leadership transition is moving along smoothly and we'll post updates as they occur. We are very pleased to welcome Linette Sternlicht as our newest member.

We have an active committee planning this year's Community Seder. Many thanks to Lois Oswald for providing us with a detailed guide for getting the job done. We will need help from members of the congregation as we get closer to the Seder date. Look for a list of tasks in the April Azoy, where you can apply your special talents. You'll find a Reservation Form for the Seder on page 8 of this issue of *The Azoy*. We were able to lower the price a bit and urge you to complete and submit the form early to reserve your space at the table.



BUBBE'S BAUBLES : MARCH MADNESS

With two Jewish Holidays on the near horizon, our Judaica shop is offering some fantastic deals for you! Purim is a gift-giving time for Jews, so surprise your friends and family with a beautiful mezuzah. All mezuzahs in the shop are 20% off during the month of March. And to prepare for Passover, any Pesach-related item will be marked down 20% as well. That includes matzo trays and holders, Seder plate. Matzo puzzle and children's book!

Shop at the only Jewish Gift Shop in town and save!

CARING COMMITTEE FOCUSES ON INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

by Judith Scott

Responding to the needs of the lonely, ill, dying and grieving is a vital part of Jewish life in our community. The Caring Committee is available to all Jews in our area. If you or a family member or friend are in need of support, a caring phone call, a friendly visit, a prayer or just a chat with another Jew, please call us at 850-522-3685. A member of the Caring Committee will return your call.

Caring Committee responders for the first 6 months of 2016 are: Nate Mewhinney, Judith Scott and Heather Mewhinney. 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.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REPORT

by Cynthia Gingold

Plans for Purim are not yet finalized. The children are requesting that EVERYONE come in costume. They also agreed that since Purim is a charity-giving holiday, anyone who doesn't wear a costume, will have to pay \$5.00, which will be donated to a charity of the children's choice.

Editor's note: Look for more photos of the religious school children during the Charlie Brown Shabbat service, on pages 6 & 7. Photos by Matthew Alter and Stephen Sickerman.

IF YOU NEED A NOTE FOR THE IRS, THEN SEND A NOTE TO OUR TEMPLE TREASURER!

Any member wishing to receive an annual donation statement for their 2015 taxes may contact Temple Treasurer Mike Starkman at:

treasurer.templebnaiisrael@knology.net

TBI members are welcome to contact Mike regarding any other financial questions that they may wish to discuss.

OUR VERY OWN JUDITH SCOTT RECEIVES STATE HONOR

Florida State Parks honored Judith Scott with the Volunteer of the Year Award in February. Judith has been an avid volunteer for St. Andrew State Park in the Interpretive Programs area. She has created programs for Park visitors and rangers that include Edible Native Plants, Bugs that Eat Us and Bugs We can Eat, and a program depicting the life of Teddy, the State Park Hermit who called St. Andrew State Park home. She's currently working on a new program about reptiles in our area.

Many campers and Park visitors have benefited from Judith's programs, and some area organizations have requested the programs be delivered off-site as well. In February, Don Phillipott, President of the State Park Board of Directors, presented Judith with a beautiful plaque. Also pictured in the photo below are Melissa Shoemaker, St. Andrew State Park Volunteer Director, and St. Andrew State Park Manager, Brian Addison. Congratulations Judith!



Shabbat Candle-Lighting Times for March 2016

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

02/04 | 5:26 pm 02/11 | 5:31 pm 02/18 | 6:35 pm 02/25 | 6:39 pm

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MARCH JOYS & REMEMBRANCES

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

03/03	ARNOLD KLATSKY - FATHER OF ELIZABETH BERMAN
03/03	ALICE NAGLER - MOTHER OF ED NAGLER
03/06	BOB KRASELSKY - HUSBAND OF MARSHA KRASELSKY
03/14	ARTHUR PELL - FATHER OF BOB PELL
03/19	BEVERLY JOAN ROTMAN - COUSIN OF STEPHEN SICKERMAN
03/22	EUDANEL DEJOHN - MOTHER OF ANNE MILLER
03/30	ANN SILVER - MOTHER OF ANITA SKOULA



BIRTHDAYS

03/04	JACKIE & LIZZIE STERNLICHT
03/09	PAM SUTTON
03/18	MIKE STONE
03/19	BENJAMIN ZIPES
03/23	ED NAGLER
03/25	PAMELA SOSTHEIM

ANNIVERSARIES

03/10	ED & DIANNA NAGLER
03/24	MIKE & MARY STARKMAN

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



Shira Says:
Shira Moskowitz
 ISJL Education Fellow

This year is an exciting one on the Jewish calendar, it's a leap year! Not only do we gain an extra day, but we gain an entire extra month. This extra month helps the Jewish calendar, which follows the lunar cycle, stay on track with the solar

calendar. It is the reason you may have already heard your friends grumbling about how late Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur fall this year.

The additional month is a second Adar. On a leap year, we have two months of Adar, Adar one and Adar two. Because Purim is typically celebrated in the month of Adar, we are left in a tricky situation: when should we celebrate Purim if the month of Adar happens twice? Well, the rabbis figured out a solution. They added in a minor festival day called Purim Katan (minor Purim) that is celebrated in the first month of Adar on the same date (the 14th of Adar) that Purim is traditionally celebrated. Both Adar and Purim are joyous celebrations as the Jews commemorate Esther and Mordecai's triumphant acts that saved our people from execution. On a leap year, we are granted the opportunity to have an extra month of joy.

So, now you know what Jewish tradition would do with an extra month: Celebrate! But it is an interesting question to consider. What would you do if you had an extra month? or even an extra day? How would you spend it?

May your leap year be filled with joy and *chag Purim Sameach!*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

I will be back in Panama City April 15-17th! Look out for more details about my upcoming visit in the next edition of *The Azoy*! I am looking forward to being back in your warm and welcoming community!





PASSOVER SEDER

Our Community Seder Service will be conducted by ISJL Rabbi Matt Dreffin

In order to give everyone plenty of time to make reservations please review the details and use the RSVP Form below.

For more information, call or text: Sarah Farkas at 507-990-6724 or e-mail her at farcott@gmail.com



DATE: Sunday, April 24, 2016
TIME: 6:00 PM
PLACE: Temple B'nai Israel, 1910 Frankford Ave
SEATING: Limited to 110

Please note that **TICKET** prices are greater if you are not a member of Temple B'nai Israel

MEMBERS	Adults: \$30.00	Children under <i>Bar/Bat Mitzvah</i> : \$10.00	MEMBERS
NON-MEMBERS	Adults: \$40.00	Children under <i>Bar/Bat Mitzvah</i> : \$15.00	NON-MEMBERS

RSVP Deadline : Payment with form must be received by **April 21, 2016**

Printed Name: _____ Phone: _____

Signature: _____ e-mail: _____

Address: _____

MEMBERS _____ # of Adults @ \$30.00 _____ # of Children @ \$10.00 _____ TOTAL

NON-MEMBERS _____ # of Adults @ \$40.00 _____ # of Children @ \$15.00 _____ TOTAL

Form of payment: _____ Cash _____ Check - payable to: Temple B'nai Israel

Additional donation: _____ **AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** _____

Please complete and photocopy or cut out this RSVP form and mail with payment to:

SARAH FARKAS
 2100 W BEACH DR APT K101
 PANAMA CITY FL 32401-1609