

AZOY

"Is that so?"

MAY 2016
Nisan / Iyar 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>

Hellos and Goodbyes

Our congregation bid farewell to Rabbi Richard Baroff last month. Rabbi Baroff served as our part-time spiritual leader for the past seven years. We thank him for his friendly demeanor, knowledge of Jewish and ancient history, teaching our b'nai mitzvah and conversion students, as well as presiding over numerous life cycle events. Rabbi Baroff drove from the Atlanta area for one week-

end nearly every month for 7 years. He loved our beautiful beaches and made "havdalah on the beach" a mainstay of those weekends. We sincerely hope he does well in whatever he chooses to do and will feel free to visit here any time.

At the same time, our congregation welcomes our newest convert, Phornsuda (Amanda) Nantvikom, who studied Jewish history, traditions and Hebrew with Rabbi Baroff.

She gleefully became our "newest Jew" after a chilling and thrilling dunk in St Andrew Bay on April 10. Amanda, who was given the Hebrew name Ahava, is very happy to join "the tribe" and we're equally delighted to welcome her....as evident in the photos in this issue.

The community shared a "goodbye-hello" luncheon to recognize both events. Please introduce yourself to Amanda next time you see her.



"Scholar in Residence" Weekend May 20 - 22, 2016

Rabbi Alana Wasserman of Greenville, SC will be our "Scholar in Residence" the weekend of May 22nd.

For more information, see The President's Message and the May Calendar on page 2

Save the Date: June 12, 2016

Temple B'nai Israel's **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held Sunday, **June 12** at 11:00 am

Brunch will be served, followed by our Annual Meeting | Watch for an Agenda in the June issue of The Azoy

❧ The President's Message ❧

April was certainly a busy month for TBI: Saying good-bye to Rabbi Baroff, welcoming Amanda (Phornsuda) as our newest convert, a full weekend with Shira Moskowitz (our ISJL Fellow), a Childrens' Seder and another wonderful Community Seder with ISJL Rabbi Dreffin. I hope many of you took part in one, some or all of these events. There's something comforting in the familiarity of celebrating Jewish holidays and events with fellow members of the TBI community as well as the greater Panama City community.

The month of May will highlight a special "Scholar in Residence" weekend with Rabbi Alana Wasserman, who led our High Holiday services last fall. She'll start the weekend of May 20th by welcoming Shabbat with dinner at the shul, followed by a Shabbat service. On Saturday morning, Rabbi Wasserman will join members of the Sisterhood as we engage with members of the area Muslim community for brunch to hopefully begin finding common ground within the framework of an international movement called "Salaam Shalom." At noon on Saturday the Rabbi will help us learn about "Unsung Heroes of the Bible." Then, for a special treat for the Rabbi, weather permitting, she will have the opportunity to experience Havdalah on the Beach. And on Sunday, Rabbi Wasserman will work with the Religious School teachers and students to round out a busy weekend. Please note that our monthly Shabbat Dinner and Service will occur on the third weekend in May, instead of the customary second.

I also ask each of you to mark your calendars for Sunday, June 12 when we will have our Annual Congregational Meeting. This year we will have brunch prior to the meeting... and hope that you have enough coffee to not doze off during the meeting! Seriously though, we want you to participate and make your voice heard.

L'shalom - Sarah

MAY CALENDAR

SUN	05/01	9:30 am	Religious School
THUR	05/05		Yom HaShoah: Holocaust Remembrance Day
SUN	05/08	9:30 am	Religious School HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
WED	05/11	6:00 pm	Temple Board of Directors Meeting
SUN	05/15	9:30 am	Religious School
WED	05/18	6:00 pm	Sisterhood Meeting
FRI	05/20	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Shabbat Dinner <i>"Scholar in Residence" weekend with Rabbi Alana Wasserman</i> Shabbat Service with Rabbi Wasserman
SAT	05/21	9:30 am 12:00 pm 7:00 pm	Salaam Shalom brunch at The Egg and I, Thomas Drive, Panama City Lunch & Learn: <i>"Unsung Heroes of the Bible"</i> - bring your lunch, beverages provided Havdalah at Rick Seltzer Park, Panama City Beach - weather permitting
SUN	05/22	9:30 am NOON	Religious School with Rabbi Wasserman Religious School Picnic - <i>Everyone is invited</i>



Shira Says:
Shira Moskowitz
 ISJL Education Fellow



I want to start this article by saying thank you! Thank you to each and every person who helped to make all of my visits to Panama City such a success. I have had a wonderful

time learning and praying together. I truly cannot believe that this year is coming to a close. And what an incredible year it has been!

This past weekend I had the pleasure of being in Panama City for my final visit. I had a wonderful time praying with many of you Friday evening as we celebrated Shabbat. I enjoyed a restful Shabbat afternoon discussing women in the Passover story at our lunch & learn and spent the duration of the day exploring your breathtaking beaches. Although it was sad to say goodbye to such a lovely Shabbat, Havdalah on the beach at sunset was the perfect way to end the day.

As my role as ISJL Education Fellow focuses primarily on working with the religious school students, no visit would be complete without spending time with the students. We had a great time at our interactive mock

seder learning about the different customs associated with Passover and the story of our Exodus from Egypt. The highlight was Ten Plagues Yoga and a puppet show about the dolphins in the Red Sea.

While I was sad to say goodbye, I have learned so much from my first year as an Education Fellow and my time in Panama City. Most notably, I have been inspired by all of the hard work each of you contribute to ensuring that Jewish life in Panama City not only exists, but thrives. Thank you for welcoming me into your community with open arms. A special thank you to Lisa Rahn and Stephen Theberge for hosting me this past weekend.

We at the Institute of Southern Jewish Life, look forward to continuing to partner with Temple B'nai Israel for years to come!

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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 850-522-3685. 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."



May Joys & Remembrances

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

05/03	JOSEPH KIMMEL - GRANDFATHER OF HELAINE NORMAN
05/06	BEATRICE WETCHLER - MOTHER OF GAYLE PAYNTER
05/16	JUDITH PINK-GOLDIN - SISTER OF JOANNE GOETZ
05/25	DONALD GOETZ - FATHER OF ROBERT GOETZ
05/28	FLORENCE PEIROS - GRANDMOTHER OF STEPHEN SICKERMAN
05/-	ANNIE ELIZABETH HART - GRANDMOTHER OF KAY STRIPLING



BIRTHDAYS

04/07	MARY STARKMAN	05/13	MIRIAM GILBERG
05/01	JUDITH SCOTT	05/14	JOEY SOSTHEIM
05/03	RIC STRYNAR	05/18	LOIS OSWALD
05/10	SARAH FARKAS	05/29	ARTHUR NAGLER
05/12	JILL GINIGER		

Donations and Mitzvah Cards

We want to acknowledge gifts that the Temple has received over the last couple of months, whether they are outright donations to the Temple or come in the form of a Mitzvah Card recognizing someone's special achievement, a get well wish, a condolence, birthday or other simcha!

These cards serve as recognition to friends and family while at the same time, helping to support our Jewish congregation and temple in Panama City. The Temple is most appreciative to those who make monetary (or other) gifts to help our congregation remain vital in Bay County.

In order to send a Mitzvah/Chai Card just email Sarah at farcott@gmail.com or call/text 507-990-6724 with your request, name and address of recipient, Then send a check to TBI, PO Box 16556, Panama City, FL 32406. Any amount you wish to donate is appreciated,

but one reason they are called "Chai" cards is that Chai means "life" and represents the number "18," so an \$18 donation or multiple thereof is suggested. Any amount though, is greatly appreciated. Recent donations are:

Mitzvah Cards

Wishes for a speedy recovery to Judith Scott from:

Mike & Mary Starkman

Get well wishes to Gayle Paynter from:

Mike & Mary Starkman

Passover Donations

Georgie Hartzog

Betty Gehrken

The Sternlicht Family

Barbara Shykoff

Judith Scott & Sarah Farkas

Amanda & George Prager

GET WELL SOON WISHES TO NATHAN MILLER, GAYLE PAYNTER AND SARAH FARKAS!



TBI Redesigned Website!

Visit www.bnaiisraelpc.org to preview a completely new and expanded Temple B'nai Israel website! The new website has been crafted to enable faster and more reliable communication and sharing of information across both member and the general community. Upcoming synagogue events are prominently displayed on the homepage as are menu options for Membership, Religious School, Sisterhood, Calendar, Newsletter, Photo Gallery, URJ Newsfeed and more.

The website was designed to ensure a natural flow and easy navigation for all. Please be sure to bookmark the page and visit regularly as this is a great resource to keep abreast of Jewish activities, local and afar. Social media links are readily displayed to enable easy reposting of events.

We're still Beta testing so there may be some sporadic breaks in program code that arise and will be corrected promptly as we move forward and continue to add content.

TBI's new website is both web and mobile enabled and contains keywords such as Jewish, Hebrew, Judaism, and synagogue to ensure the site comes up on page one of searches across Bay County and remains highly visible.

A gracious thank you goes out to fellow committee members Phornsuda (Amanda) Nantvikom and Stephen Sickerman for assistance and guidance, as well as those TBI members who provided input.

Robert J. Goetz
Board Member and Website Chair

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Temple B'nai Israel website. The header includes the URL 'bnaiisraelpc.org' and a navigation menu with links for Gift Cards, Stamps + Coins, ZIP, Music, Food, Work, Travel, News, Wikipedia, Library, Hurricane, and Weather. The main banner features the Temple B'nai Israel logo and the text 'Temple B'nai Israel The Reform Jewish Congregation of Bay County Serving Florida's Emerald Coast Panama City, Florida'. Below the banner is a photo of a group of people outdoors. The main content area includes a 'SHALOM Y'ALLI!' section with a welcome message and a photo of Sarah Farkas, the Temple President. To the right is an 'UPCOMING EVENTS' section listing various activities with dates and times. At the bottom, there is a 'CONTACT INFO' section, a 'SHABBAT TIMES' section, and a 'UNION for REFORM JUDAISM' logo.

Shabbat Candle-Lighting Times for May 2016

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

05/06 | 7:06 pm 05/13 | 7:10 pm 05/20 | 7:15 pm 05/27 | 7:19 pm

FINAL CALL FOR BOARD NOMINATIONS

The 2016 Nominating Committee will conclude its search for qualified nominees for the next slate of officers and trustees on May 11.

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 Temple 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.

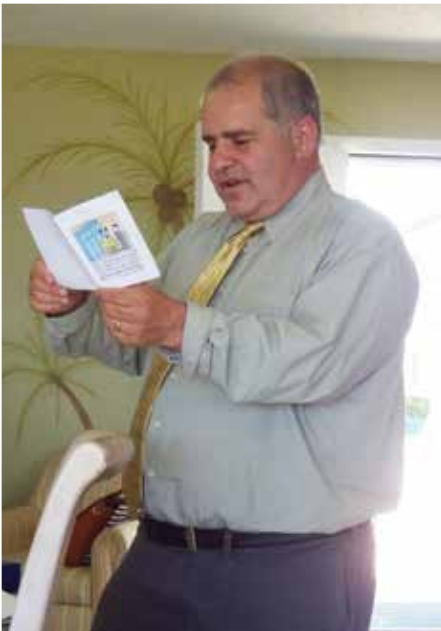
Nominations will be closed following the May Board of Trustees meeting, to allow for notification of members, prior to our Annual Congregational Meeting in June, when elections are held. No nominations may be made from the floor.

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!



Amanda's conversion ceremony and farewell luncheon for Rabbi Baroff on April 10. Photos by Stephen Sickerman





Visting ISJL Fellow Shira Moskowitz leads
Havdalah at Rick Seltzer Park,
Panama City Beach, on April 16, 2016.
Photos by Stephen Sickerman





Religious School Director Cynthia Gingold, Music Director Daniel Sternlicht and visiting ISJL Education Fellow Shira Moskowitz engage the children with Passover activities, music and a mock seder, on April 17, 2016. *Photos courtesy of Cynthia Gingold*