

AZOY

"Is that so?"

5778
MAY
2018



TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

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 / www.bnaiisraelpc.org

An Important Message from Temple President Mike Starkman

Dear Fellow Congregants,

Now that we have announced that the Rabbi will no longer be with us after her June visit (see page 2), we as a congregation, need to decide how we will proceed.

In July 2015, we received a grant of approximately \$10,000. The Board decided that one of the key uses of these funds would be for additional rabbinic visits. This we have done and those funds are now exhausted. To keep our current pace of rabbinic visits will require additional funds. The need for additional funds to maintain this quality and quantity of rabbinic visits, as I've mentioned several times before, will need to come from either or both significant fund raising or significant pledge increases.

The other option we have is to reduce the rabbinic services we have. Currently the rabbi's fixed salary included her airfare. Let's be clear, all of the cost for having the rabbi visit once a month were not covered by temple funds. As examples, there were no hotel fees, car rental fees, or reimbursements for meals. Most

of these additional expenses were covered by congregants, by providing a vehicle for her to drive, a place for her to sleep, and paying for her meals. These conditions may or may not be acceptable to a future rabbinic candidate.

Our Year to Date (YTD) income is \$29,726 – with:

\$18,474 coming from dues,
\$900 from Religious School, and
\$10,352 from other sources.

Our YTD expenses are \$31,222 –
by major category:

Rabbinic services \$15,950;
Building operations \$9,546;
Ritual Celebrations \$4,132;
Religious School \$1,045; and
"other" \$549.

As you can see, our income doesn't meet our expenses, and I am forecasting an approximate shortfall of \$4,000 for the year. We will have to transfer funds from our Building Fund reserve to cover the deficit.

This year's budget was a \$15,000 deficit budget, with significant fundraising required. We have had difficulties in developing and executing

fundraising events, with getting volunteers being the greatest issue. No one from the congregation volunteered to work on the Fundraising Committee.

Another option we have is to conduct services with lay leadership. I mention this even though for the past several months, attendance at lay-led services has been poor, while attendance when the rabbi is here has been very good. Therefore, I am not sure that lay-led services are an option that the congregation desires.

I am requesting your input as to what rabbinic services you desire and what will you do to help cover the expenses that these services will incur.

Please contact me at: president.templebnaiisrael@knology.net.

Also, please plan to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting on June 23rd so that we may discuss this and other issues.

B'shalom - Mike

Last Call for Board Nominations for FY 18-19 — Please see page 3 for more information!



Good-bye, Panama City
by Rabbi Alana Wasserman

It is with tremendous sadness that I announce that I will be leaving my role as rabbi of Temple B'nai Israel when my contract ends at the end of this June.

This was not an easy decision. As you may already know, my family and I are moving to Springfield, Massachusetts in June. While I originally thought I would be able to continue my monthly visits to Panama City from Springfield, I realize now that it will not be feasible. Instead, I have accepted the position of monthly rabbi at Gishrei Shalom Jewish Congregation in Southington, Connecticut – 40 minutes away from my new house.

ingful to me. I have made many special connections with all of you. My time here at Temple B'nai Israel will always be incredibly special to me and I will miss you all so much.

The leadership of the Temple is working on what the next steps will be for the synagogue. I know that the Board has the best interest of the synagogue at heart, and I have no doubt that they will continue to lead B'nai Israel in a positive direction.

Although I have two more visits to Panama City, I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for all that you mean to me and all that you have meant to me. It has been an honor to be your rabbi. Thank you.

Dear Congregants -

I want you all to know that the past three years have been deeply mean-

May Shabbat Candle-Lighting Times

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

05/04 | 7:04 pm

05/11 | 7:09 pm

05/18 | 7:13 pm

05/25 | 7:18 pm

Sisterhood Update by Judith Scott

Judith Scott resigned as President. After careful consideration, new leadership and new directions have been determined. Tammy Marinuzzi will be the new President, and continuing in their official capacities will be Sharon Yordon as Vice President, Linette Sternlicht as Secretary, and Joanne Goetz as Treasurer.

We want to formally thank all of those who came forward to cook for, help, and support our Annual Commu-

nity Seder. Without your efforts we could not have created such a lovely event. Special thanks to Alma Glass for her leadership in this successful project.

In closing, I would like to thank the Sisterhood for allowing me to serve as a founding mother, Vice President, and President over these last six years. Our Sisterhood is a powerful, caring, and committed group of amazing women. I am so proud to be among their number.

CONTACT US

Alana Wasserman
Michael Starkman
Pavel Amromin
Linette Sternlicht
Robert Goetz
Mary Starkman
Stephen Theberge
Daniel Sternlicht
Judith Scott
Carly Abramson
Sarah Farkas
Stephen Sickerman

Rabbi
President
Vice-President
Secretary
Trustee & Webmaster
Trustee
Trustee
Religious School Director
Sisterhood President
ISJL Education Fellow
Azoy co-Editor & IPP
Azoy co-Editor

rabbi.templebnaiisrael@knology.net
president.templebnaiisrael@knology.net
vp.templebnaiisrael@knology.net
secretary.templebnaiisrael@knology.net
RobertJayGoetz@gmail.com
mary_starkman@comcast.net
fishhead51@gmail.com
ddsternlicht@yahoo.com
farcott@gmail.com
cabramson@isjl.org
farcott@gmail.com
sickerman@comcast.net

MAY JOYS & REMEMBRANCES

Y A H R Z E I T S - T H E I R M E M O R I E S A R E F O R U S A B L E S S I N G

- 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



BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|-------|----------------------|-------|---------------|
| 05/02 | JUDITH SCOTT | 05/14 | JOEY SOSTHEIM |
| 05/03 | RIC STRYNAR | 05/18 | LOIS OSWALD |
| 05/10 | SARAH FARKAS | 05/29 | ARTHUR NAGLER |
| 05/11 | SHANNON SKOULA-CLARK | | |

MAY CALENDAR

- | | | | |
|------------|----------------|--------------------|--|
| THUR | 05/03 | | Lag B'Omer |
| FRI | 05/04 | 7:00 pm | Lay-led Shabbat Service |
| SAT | 05/05 | 12:00 pm | Lunch & Learn Cinco de Mayo |
| SUN | 05/06 | 9:30 am | Religious School |
| WED | 05/09 | 6:30 pm | Monthly Temple Board of Directors Meeting |
| SUN | 05/13 | 9:30 am | Religious School Mothers Day |
| FRI | 05/18 | 6:00 pm
7:00 pm | Dairy Potluck Shabbat Dinner
Shabbat / Shavuot Service with Rabbi Wasserman |
| SAT | 05/19 | 12:00 pm | Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Wasserman |
| SUN | 05/20 | 9:30 am | Religious School with Rabbi and parents Shavuot |
| WED | 05/23 | 6:30 pm | Sisterhood Meeting |
| SAT or SUN | 05/26 or 05/27 | | Religious School Picnic for entire Congregation at TBD location |
| MON | 05/28 | | Memorial Day |



LAST CALL FOR BOARD NOMINATIONS

As chair of the 2018 Nominating Committee, Robert Goetz is in charge of the the important task of finding next year's leadership. If you're asked, please say "yes!"

Any member in good standing of the Congregation interested in being considered for a position on our Board can contact Robert at TBIpcWebmaster@gmail.com

or directly submit his or her name, and the office for which they wish to run to Temple Secretary Linette Sternlicht. Nominations will be closed following the May Board meeting, to allow for notification to the Congregation of the nominations, including the Board's recommended slate. Election of officers and trustees will be held at our Annual Congregational Meeting on June 23rd.

Shavuot: The End of the Counting of the Omer by Sarah Farkas

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. 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.

During the Omer, Jews refrain from having celebratory events like b’nai mitzvot, weddings and so forth. But on the 33rd day of the Omer, called Lag B’Omer, it is permissible to en-

joy such events for this one day only. This year, Lag B’Omer begins at sunset on May 2 and ends the following day on May 3.

On Shavuot Jews celebrate in several ways. One 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 prod-

ucts. 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 on Friday, May 18, at 6:00 pm for a great Jewish dairy Shabbat dinner at 6:00 pm, followed by a Shabbat and Shavuot service led by Rabbi Alana Wasserman.

Eating and learning – two of life’s greatest activities!

TODAH RABAH March Donations for Mitzvot and to Remember

Tzedakah is a mitzvah, a unique privilege granted to every Jew. Remembering friends and family in this manner is an appropriate way to show our feelings towards both our loved ones and our community. We want to thank the following for their contributions:

To Mr and Mrs Chuck Silverman, in memory of Ed Silverman, from –
Robert and Joanne Goetz

Additional Passover donations from –
Sarah Farkas & Judith Scott
Dimitriy Trunin & Phornsuda Nantvikom
Ronnie & Martha Chappell

If you'd like to make a donation, please contact Mary Starkman at mary_starkman@comcast.net.



Spring Flowers: Israel Post issued these 4 stamps, designed by Tuvia Kurtz and Ronen Goldberg, on April 9, 2018.

2018 National Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony at Naval Support Activity Panama City



On Thursday morning, April 26 Naval Support Activity (NSA) Panama City held their annual Holocaust Remembrance ceremony.

This year the theme was “Access Denied,” highlighting the severe emigration and immigration challenges faced by Jewish refugees during World War II – and recognizing similar challenges faced by refugees today.

Key note speaker Chaplain John Gibson also spoke of the positive economic impact that immigrants bring to America. Robert Salit served as emcee, and the National Anthem was sung by Neysa Wilkins.

In a dramatic presentation, four Mosley High School students read letters written by young Jews in occupied Europe, expressing their hopes to escape the war by relocating to a country that would accept them and their families; see photo above on left.

The ceremony concluded with *El Malei Rachamim* (God, Full of Mercy), beautifully sung by Lori Zipes.

WMBB-TV Newschannel 13 covered the event and Nate Mewhinney was interviewed by reporter Kirsten Mitchell; see photo above on right.

You can also view the aired TV segment online at: <http://www.mypanhandle.com/news/nsa-panama-city-hosts-holocaust-remembrance-ceremony/1143678958>.

Photos by Stephen Sickerman



This beautiful flower arrangement by Beach House Florist, of Panama City Beach, was on display on the *bimah* at our annual Community Seder, and passed to Unity Spiritual Center for their Easter service the next day.

Photo by Lisa Rahn