

AZOY

"Is that so?"

5776
NOVEMBER
2015



**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

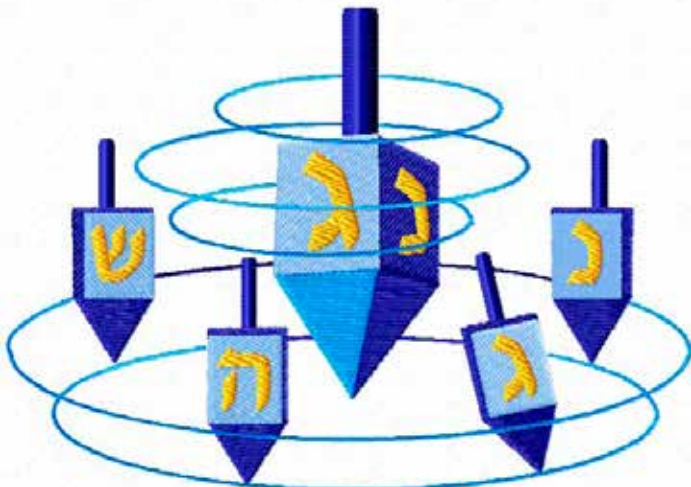
Located at: 1910 Frankford Avenue, Panama City, Florida

850-522-8685 / <http://bnaiisraelpc.org>



For more photos of our Religious School students and congregants celebrating Sukkot, please see pages 4 and 12.

HUGE CHANUKAH SALE!



The TBI Sisterhood Shop will again offer a variety of Chanukah stuff at HUGE discounts. All Chanukah related decorations, tchotchkes, dreidles, etc. are 50% off! That includes everything displayed on the special Chanukah Sale Table! In addition, anything that can be construed as a Chanukah Gift is 20% off the marked price. So, what are waiting for? We don't have any Ugly Chanukah Sweaters...

... but we do have lots of good stuff!



❧ The President's Message: Thankfulness ❧

With Thanksgiving only a few Thursdays away, my thoughts turn to thankfulness and wondering just what I'm grateful for. While I have many personal reasons to be thankful – a wonderful loving family, great supportive friends, reasonably good health – I'm also grateful for Social Security, Medicare, being debt-free, having a nice place to live in an area with gorgeous beaches, fresh fish and beautiful sunsets.

I am also grateful for having a spiritual home where fellow Jews meet, pray, celebrate and always find a reason to eat. I appreciate the folks who work to keep our shul here including those who do the more mundane tasks of maintaining the building and grounds, as well as those who keep her spirit alive. And I'm grateful to be able to look forward to doing more to make our shul relevant, to keep the doors open longer and more often, and to welcome new and old members to share our Jewish home.

I wish each of you a peaceful and happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy!

L'shalom - Sarah

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

SUN	11/01	9:30 am	Religious School
SUN	11/08	9:30 am	Religious School
WED	11/11	6:00 pm	Monthly Temple Board of Directors Meeting
FRI	11/13	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Shabbat Dinner - entrée by the Goetz's Shabbat Service with Rabbi Baroff
SAT	11/14	12:00 pm 6:00 pm	Yiddish Class with Rabbi Baroff Havdalah at Oaks by the Bay Park in St Andrews with Rabbi Baroff followed by dinner out at a local eatery
SUN	11/15	9:30 am 11:30 am	Religious School Stump the Rabbi over Lunch
WED	11/18	6:00 pm	Sisterhood Meeting
SUN	11/22	9:30 am	No Religious School this week
THUR	11/26		Happy Thanksgiving, y'all
FRI	11/27	7:00 pm	Shabbat Service with an oneg to follow
SUN	11/29	9:30 am	Religious School

Shabbat Candle-Lighting Times

*Take a break from the hectic work week and mark the Day of Rest with lighting of the candles.
Times to light for November are (remember to change your clocks to end Daylight Savings Time):*

11/06 | 4:34 pm 11/13 | 4:29 pm 11/20 | 4:26 pm 11/27 | 4:24 pm



During the first month of the Jewish calendar, Tishrei, we celebrate *four* holidays: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah. It is a frenzied time for the Jewish community as families and congregations come together to celebrate the New Year, atone for our sins, commemorate the temporary booths that our ancestors dwelled in, and begin reading the Torah anew. By the end of the month we are exhausted and maybe even a bit “*shul-ed out.*” As the daughter of two rabbis, I know this feeling all

too well. As much as I loved the excitement of Tishrei, Cheshvan (the second month of the Jewish calendar) was always a welcome relief as there are no Jewish holidays during this month. My family could finally begin to establish our routine for the New Year. However, as the fall days grew shorter and colder, I began to miss the excitement of the holiday season. Thanksgiving always arrived at the perfect time to bring me out of my holiday-less slump.

While Thanksgiving is not a Jewish holiday, the message of this holiday resonates closely with Jewish tradition as many of our prayers include words of thanks to God. Thanksgiving is an opportunity for each of us to pause our busy schedules and take stock of the things we are thankful for in our lives. It is a chance to bring family and friends together to appreciate one another’s company, eat delicious food, and watch good football.

Seven years ago, my family celebrated my younger brother’s Bar Mitzvah on Thanksgiving weekend. Our family and friends came in from all over the United States

and we even had guests from South Africa who were excited to see a “real American Thanksgiving.” Although everyone was crazed with Bar Mitzvah preparations and traditional Thanksgiving festivities, my mom asked everyone to go around the table and say one thing for which we were thankful. Thus a new family tradition was born. This tradition is a simple, yet important one. Sometimes, the meaning of Thanksgiving gets lost in the mix of Black Friday shopping sales and vacation days. This tradition has helped me to remember and recognize the people, experiences, and things that help make my life meaningful.

Throughout the next month and during this Thanksgiving season, I hope that you will recognize the blessings in your life and say thank you for them. Feel free to bring my family tradition to your Thanksgiving table and make sure to root for the University of Michigan in our annual Thanksgiving weekend against our rival Ohio State!

I look forward to meeting you during my next weekend visit, December 4th-6th 2015.

News from Religious School by Cynthia Gingold

The children are preparing to do a Saturday morning “Charlie Brown” service. We don’t know when they will be ready. The service will encompass prayers, song, and text. Under our maestro’s - Daniel Sternicht - direction, the children are learning songs with which they will lead the congregation. The children are

learning standard bruchot, that they should learn regardless of the service. The service will also include the children taking parts of characters from Charlie Brown. Thanks to Columbus, GA and ISJL for sharing this service with us!

Page 4: TBI Religious School students celebrate Sukkot on October 2 | photos by Cynthia Gingold

Page 5: Simchat Torah was celebrated October 6 | photo by Sarah Farkas

Michelle Kraut, guest speaker at the October Sisterhood meeting | photo by Heather Mewhinney

Page 6: Sisterhood Rummage Sale on October 16 | photos by Sarah Farkas

Page 7: Havdalah at sunset at Pamama City Beach with Rabbi Baroff on October 10 | Photo by Sarah Farkas





TBI Committees – News and Updates *by Sarah Farkas*

The following people and their respective committee choices are listed below. Please pick a date, time and place to meet between now and the end of the calendar year, select a chair, determine some achievable goals and communicate your progress with the Board. You can then decide if you need to meet once a month, every other month, once a quarter, etc. Your efforts on these committees are what will help our shul and community improve and be our welcoming, exciting, active and thriving spiritual Jewish home in Panama City.

Budget/Financial Review: Mike Starkman and 3 TBD

Building/Maintenance/Beautification: Nate Mewhinney, Dimitriy Trunin

Chevra Kadisha/Caring: Heather Mewhinney, Mary Starkman, Joan Prows, Judith Scott, Steve Theberge

Choir: Daniel Sternlicht (Sharon Yordon)

Fundraising: Kay Stripling, Steve Theberge, Sarah Farkas

New Ark: Nathan Miller, Ed Nagler, Lori Zipes, Mike Starkman (Pavel Amromin)

Newsletter: Stephen Sickerman, Sarah Farkas

Outreach: Cynthia Gingold, Steve Theberge, Lisa Rahn

Programming/Entertainment: Marsha Kraselsky, Sarah Farkas

Religious School: Alvin Gingold, Cynthia Gingold, (Daniel Sternlicht, Sarah Farkas)

Ritual: Alvin Gingold, Ed Nagler, Mary Starkman, Sarah Farkas

Website/PR: Bob Goetz, Stephen Sickerman, Amanda Phornsuda

The Rules/Policies and Youth Committees failed to get any sign-ups so we will find a way to address them in other ways.

It is never too late to join a committee. Just call or e-mail one of the folks who are signed up and find out when and where they are meeting. Everyone has skills, energy and ideas to offer....share them. If you need phone numbers or e-mail addresses for any of your committee members please contact Sarah Farkas at 507-990-6724 or farcott@gmail.com.



NOVEMBER JOYS & REMEMBRANCES

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



11/01	ANNIE PELL - GRANDMOTHER OF BOB PELL
11/05	HERMAN MILLER - FATHER OF NATHAN MILLER
11/07	ROBERT KENNETH BRUCE - FATHER OF CAROLYNN SICKERMAN
11/14	JOSEPH RAHN - FATHER OF LISA RAHN
11/22	HELEN PEIROS SICKERMAN - MOTHER OF STEPHEN SICKERMAN
11/25	LOUIS SCHATZ - BELOVED OF MIRIAM GILBERG & FORMER BOARD MEMBER
11/27	SHERWOOD BERMAN - HUSBAND OF LIZ BERMAN

BIRTHDAYS

11/05	ADAM GINIGER
11/15	NORM GULKIS
11/18	LIZ BERMAN
11/21	JACOB HAIMAN
11/24	JENNIFER JOSEPH
11/24	ANNA ZIPES
11/28	LORI ZIPES

ANNIVERSARIES

11/15	RICK & SANDY STRYNAR
11/21	NATHAN & ANNE MILLER
11/26	DR ROBERT & LINDA JOSEPH



Chai (or *Mitzvah*) cards are a perfect way to send greetings, condolences, get well wishes, mazel tov, birthday wishes and just a simple “hello” to friends and relatives, while at the same time helping to support TBI. All you have to do is e-mail Sarah at farcott@gmail.com or call/text 507-990-6724 with your request, name and address of recipient, and send a check to: Temple B'nai Israel, PO Box 16556, Panama City, FL 32406. Any amount is appreciated, but “*Chai*” (“life”) represents “18” so an \$18 donation is suggested.

BUBBE'S BAUBLES: CHANUKAH SALE!

We're celebrating Chanukah with a GIGANTIC SALE! Everything related to Chanukah is marked down – as much as 50%! And anything that can be construed as a Chanukah Gift is also marked down. You won't find better deals anywhere! Chanukah comes early

this year. It starts on December 6th, so don't get caught empty-handed. Visit our little shop inside the shul any Sunday after Religious School until Noon. Any Sisterhood member can help you. If you'd like a special showing, just call Sarah at 507-990-6724.

We're also featuring new items this month – Armenian pottery made in Israel. Very decorative plates, mugs and tiles are available at unbeatable prices! Surprise that special someone in your life with a Jewish-y gift!



Recap of *October 2015* TBI Board Meeting

Treasurer's Report: Mike Starkman reported that the bank rolled over our \$37,000 Certificate of Deposit for another year. We have a new member application from David Koenig, which was approved unanimously. Mike reported receiving funds for HHD honors, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur tickets, and the Yizkor Book.

HHD Rabbi Evaluation: Sarah Farkas asked the Board for feedback regarding the High Holidays, including Rabbi Wasserman's visit. The Board would like her to come back for HHD services next year.

Scholar in Residence: Mike proposed a Scholar in Residence program to achieve a greater rabbinic presence at TBI, one of top wish list items for the Chai Minded Donation. He suggested holding a themed, fund-raising weekend to pay the stipend for the guest rabbi's visit.

Building Maintenance Report: Nate Mewhinney reported several items needing maintenance, including the shed, outside window seals and outside lights. The Board approved the necessary supplies for repairs in an amount not to exceed \$100. Nate discussed building a new sign by the roadway, another top wish list item for the Chai Minded Donation. The sign size and placement would be determined by City code requirements. The Board also offered to loan our old, portable ark, currently in storage, to Nate and Harold Prows for use at the Calhoun Correctional Institution, where they conduct Shabbat services for Jewish prisoners.

Caring Committee: Steve Theberge volunteered to replace Marsha Kraselsky as Board liaison to the Chevra Kadesha Committee.

Cemetery Report: Judith Scott presented Lori Zipe's report on Evergreen Memorial Gardens, where 150 plots are available. She said the land was consecrated by the Dothan rabbi in 1983. She said the plots are owned by the cemetery and are \$2,200 each, and that non-Jewish spouses can be interred next to their Jewish spouse. Ed Nagler had previously volunteered to help organize a crew to construct a cemetery gate, fence and/or signage.

New Ark Committee Report: Sarah said that we could have the wooden frame of a new ark built locally with solid maple for \$3000. She said she asked Pavel Amromin to submit a design for tile work and will give him 30 days to provide it to the Board for review. She said she would like to have 3 designs from which to choose a final ark design. Sarah said that someone had offered to make a substantial donation towards a new ark. Nathan suggested holding a Texas Hold 'em poker fundraiser to raise money for the new ark and asked the Board to provide \$5000. After some discussion, Mike moved to commit to \$3000 of our *Chai Minded Donation* money at this time, which Bob seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Additional funding will be discussed at a later time.

Board Workshop: The URJ-led Board Workshop was originally scheduled for Sunday, but due to several absences, it has been rescheduled for the last weekend in January 2016. Alan Sheinberg from URJ will facilitate.

Old Business: Sarah said a new decal for the front door window had been made by CF Sign & Stamp Co to replace the old decal.

CONTACT US

Richard Baroff	<i>Rabbi</i>	richardbaroff@yahoo.com
Sarah Farkas	<i>President & Azoy co-Editor</i>	farcott@gmail.com
Stephen Theberge	<i>Vice-President</i>	fishhead51@gmail.com
Michael Starkman	<i>Treasurer</i>	mstarkman@comcast.net
Stephen Sickerman	<i>Secretary & Azoy co-Editor</i>	sickerman@comcast.net
Robert Goetz	<i>Trustee</i>	RobertJayGoetz@gmail.com
Marsha Kraselsky	<i>Trustee</i>	marsha.kraselsky@yahoo.com
Lori Zipes	<i>Trustee</i>	lorizipes@gmail.com
Mary Starkman	<i>Sisterhood co-President</i>	mary_starkman@comcast.net
Cynthia Gingold	<i>Sisterhood co-President</i>	cynthia_gingold@yahoo.com
Shira Moskowitz	<i>ISJL Fellow</i>	smoskowitz@isjl.org

