

# AZOY

*"Is that so?"*

5777  
NOVEMBER  
2016



**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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**SOUNDING THE  
SHOFAR FOR A  
HAPPY  
NEW YEAR!**



## *Honoring Nathan Miller*

On Shabbat, Friday, November 4, we will honor and thank Nathan Miller for his many gifts to Temple B'nai Israel. Over the years, Nathan, often with his wife, Anne, has shown his devotion to maintaining a Jewish home in Bay County in many ways.

He has donated needed items, decorative items, and more importantly, time and energy to the temple. When a visiting Rabbi needed housing, Nathan and Anne offered the use of their condo. When the temple's finances fell short, he was there to bring us back to balance. In so

many different ways, Nathan has supported the Temple and our congregation.

Ed Nagler has agreed to cook up his famous smoked brisket for our Shabbat dinner and along with all of your sides, salads and desserts, this Shabbat meal will be extra special. Then, Rabbi Wasserman will lead Shabbat service with some special guests in attendance.

So please join us at 6:00 pm as we take a Shabbat evening to say thanks to this mensch in our community.

## ❧ The President's Message ❧

A big shout out to everyone who helped make the High Holy Days and subsequent holidays meaningful and fun by: accepting Honors, bringing food, setting up, cleaning up, erecting and disassembling the Sukkah, decorating it, making shakes, dancing with Torahs and helping our kids learn about and celebrate our rich traditions. Special thanks to the Sisterhood for organizing Break-the-Fast and to those of you who really challenged yourselves by reading Torah and chanting Haftorah. Your participation is much appreciated! Thank you!

*L'shalom - Sarah*

## NOVEMBER CALENDAR

FRI	11/4	6:00 pm	SPECIAL Shabbat Dinner honoring Nathan Miller <i>featuring smoked brisket by Ed Nagler – please bring a side, salad or dessert</i>
		7:15 pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Wasserman – honoring Nathan Miller
SAT	11/5	9:30 am	Salaam Shalom Sisters Interfaith Breakfast at Fatty Patty's
		12:00 pm	Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Wasserman – Noah!
		5:15 pm	Havdalah at Oaks by the Bay Park
SUN	11/6	2:00 am	<i>Don't forget to Fall Back to Central Standard Time!</i>
		9:30 am	Religious School
		11:30 am	Lite Brunch – “Stump the Rabbi”
WED	11/9	6:30 pm	Monthly Temple Board of Directors Meeting
SUN	11/13	9:30 am	Religious School
WED	11/15	6:30 pm	Sisterhood Meeting
SUN	11/20		No Religious School
THUR	11/24		<i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i>
SUN	11/29		No Religious School



### Ronald Wolfe Feldstein

Long-time temple member Ron Feldstein passed away October 6<sup>th</sup> in Panama City. Born in Baltimore, MD on April 7, 1934, he and his beloved wife, Sarah (Shirley) moved to the Sunshine State to enjoy retirement. After settling in Panama City, Ron discovered a “landsman” at TBI. He and Sonny Glass attended the same school growing up giving rise to many shared memories of the old hometown (and similar senses of humor). His grown children recall an involved father who, among other things, imparted a love of movies as together they shared weekly movie nights.

In his later years, Ron battled chronic disease and essentially became home-bound. He and Sarah helped each other manage day to day activities. They both appreciated visits from Rabbi Wasserman and deliveries of Passover Seder and other celebratory meals to their home.

A graveside service was held on October 8<sup>th</sup> at Evergreen cemetery with Sonny Glass officiating. The funeral was attended by Sarah, his surviving children, grandchildren, family and friends from TBI.

### Notes from Rabbi Wasserman

*L'shanah tovah!* I hope everyone had a good and sweet New Year! I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make our High Holy Days a meaningful experience. After all, it takes a village.

First, I would like to thank our president, Sarah Farkas. One of her many tasks as president is to give members honors in the service. I use the word “honors,” instead of “parts,” because it is an honor to do them. Thank you Sarah, for taking care of this awesome responsibility.

It is important for us to give out honors to members of the congregation because this is not just my service. It is our High Holy Day observance. In taking an honor, you are taking ownership of the service, and making it a communal experience. To all of you who were given an honor, thank you. In particular, I would like to thank Daniel Sternlicht for being our cantorial soloist and lending his beautiful voice to our service, Sonny Glass for being our Gabbai, Barbara Shykoff for chanting Torah on Rosh Hashanah morning, Mary Starkman for chanting Haftarah on Rosh Hashanah morning, and Nathan Miller for chanting Haftarah on Yom Kippur morning. These honors require an immense amount of study and preparation.

I am honored to have been a part of this community, and I look forward to seeing all of you the weekend of Nov. 4th!

*L'shalom,* **Rabbi Alana Wasserman**



### Sunday Shul Update by Georgie Hartzog

After learning about and celebrating Rosh Hashanah, our Shul students moved right into Yom Kippur. Jonah and the Whale, a traditional Yom Kippur story which emphasizes God's constant reminder for us to “follow directions” was the defining moment. A delightful book entitled *The Hardest Word*, which happens to be “sorry” ended the teaching. Students completed a fun activity requiring them to follow directions to complete a picture. The take home activity was an origami whale. Thanks go out to our friend Scott for assisting during that session.

Sukkot was next on our calendar. President Sarah's theme “Shakes in the Shack” was perfect for this year's event. Students and helpers worked hard on projects that were made from recycled materials. An added touch was a display of “seaside” or “Gulf side” white sand and various shells donated by members of Ms. Georgie's Water Aerobics Class at Gulf Coast

State College. These ladies also gathered duck feathers that were placed along the walls of the sukkah.

Special thanks to the “Mighty Sukkah Builders”, led by Nate Mewhinney.....you folks know who you are.... the ones who did all the sweating! Alvin Gingold did an excellent job instructing the Shul kids in “what is a sukkah” and the Sukkah Blessing.

“Shakes in the Shack” concluded with homemade milkshakes – made to custom orders! President Sarah led the kitchen crew and delighted everyone (except Ari, though he did get a redo and loved his second flavor) with cold delight!

Thanks to everyone that participated in the Sukkah festivities! It was a great success and will be hard to top next year (Ms. Georgie's husband is already worried about what she may start collecting.).

A very nice article about Temple B'nai Israel's High Holy Days activities appeared in the September 30<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Panama City News Herald*, thanks to the efforts of Robert Goetz, chair of the Website / Public Relations Committee. In addition to discussing Jewish New Year traditions, the article included a schedule of events and our web address. A copy of the article has been posted on the bulletin board near the shul's entryway. You can also view an online version at: <http://www.newsherald.com/news/20160930/lshannah-tovah>.



**Leah Wittenberg**  
ISJL Education Fellow



In honor of Jewish Book Month, I wanted to share some of my favorite Jewish books, and some recommendations from other Fellows, to inspire you this November!

**1. Rashi's Daughters, Book I: Joheved: A Novel of Love and the Talmud in Medieval France**  
by Maggie Anton

One of my favorite Spanish professors in college gave me this book as a gift because she knew how much I love Judaism and reading about this time period.

**2. The Red Tent**  
by Anita Diamant

In the summer of 2015, I interned for Mayyim Hayyim Community Mikveh and Education Center. The founder of this progressive mikveh in Boston is award-winning author Anita Diamant. I loved this book that reads like fiction but is about the story of our foremothers in the Torah.

**3. How's Your Faith? An Unlikely Spiritual Journey**  
by David Gregory

Last year, David Gregory visited Tufts to talk about his latest book. The book is more than a memoir of his life, he struggles with his Judaism and shows a very human side to his journalist television persona.

**4. Suddenly, a Knock on the Door**  
by Etgar Keret

I had the pleasure of interviewing the members of Tallahassee's Hebrew Book Club, which is a group that meets weekly to read books in Hebrew with the help of an Israeli guide. This collection of short stories (translated to English, of course) helps get us out of our usual realities.

**5. When Bad Things Happen to Good People**  
by Harold Kushner

I happened to go to college with Harold Kushner's grandson, so my freshman year, Rabbi Kushner came to speak. I read this book in preparation for that talk, and I read it every few years when I am struggling with Judaism or God.

**6. I Only Want to Get Married Once: The 10 Essential Questions for Getting It Right the First Time**  
by Chana Levitan

Once you look past the heteronormativity of the author's point of view (she is a very observant Orthodox Jew), this book has insightful questions and is interesting whether or not you have been married or are planning to get married at all.

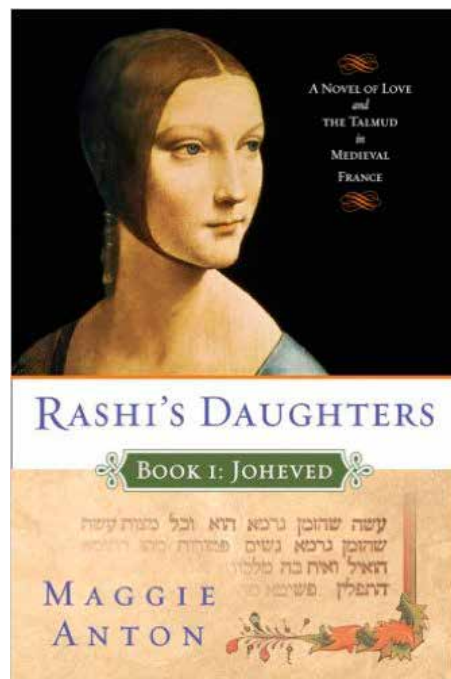
**7. Understanding the Sick and the Healthy: A View of World, Man, and God**  
by Franz Rosenzweig

This is Education Fellow Gabi Cohn's favorite book. She discovered it when she read it for a class at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS). It talks about the essence of things and the difference between the names we give objects and what they actually represent.

**8. Casting Lots: Creating a Family in a Beautiful, Broken World**  
by Susan Silverman

Education Fellow, Shira Muroff, loved this rabbi's memoir. Susan, well known for her work with Women of the Wall, is a great storyteller and activist.

To learn more about Jewish Book Month and some of the books I've listed, you can go to [www.jewishbookcouncil.org](http://www.jewishbookcouncil.org).



**November Shabbat Candle-Lighting Times**

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

11/04 | 5:35 pm

11/11 | 4:30 pm

11/18 | 4:27 pm

11/25 | 4:25 pm

# NOVEMBER JOYS & REMEMBRANCES

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



11/01	<b>ANNIE PELL</b> - GRANDMOTHER OF BOB PELL
11/05	<b>HERMAN MILLER</b> - FATHER OF NATHAN MILLER
11/07	<b>ROBERT KENNETH BRUCE</b> - FATHER OF CAROLYNN SICKERMAN
11/14	<b>JOSEPH RAHN</b> - FATHER OF LISA RAHN
11/22	<b>HELEN PEIROS SICKERMAN</b> - MOTHER OF STEPHEN SICKERMAN
11/23	<b>ROSE BELLA MILLER</b> - MOTHER OF NATHAN MILLER
11/25	<b>LOUIS SCHATZ</b> - BELOVED OF MIRIAM GILBERG & FORMER BOARD MEMBER
11/27	<b>SHERWOOD BERMAN</b> - HUSBAND OF LIZ BERMAN

## BIRTHDAYS

11/15	NORM GULKIS
11/18	LIZ BERMAN
11/18	HEATHER MEWHINNEY
11/21	JACOB HAIMAN
11/24	ANNA ZIPES
11/28	LORI ZIPES

## ANNIVERSARIES

11/14	SONNY & ALMA GLASS
11/15	RICK & SANDY STRYNAR
11/21	NATHAN & ANNE MILLER

*If your Joy or Remembrance is missing or incorrect  
please e-mail The AZOY Editors at [theazoy@gmail.com](mailto:theazoy@gmail.com)*



## Sisterhood Snippets by Lisa Rahn, President

The Sisterhood would like to thank everyone for your enthusiastic participation and delicious contributions to our High Holiday and Sukkot festivities! Wasn't it great to see new faces, as well as some we haven't seen for a while, at services and Break the Fast? It is a pleasure to coordinate events when everyone pitches in. If you have any suggestions about how we can improve next year, the gift of your feedback would be most welcome.

The Sisterhood is committed to making Temple B'nai Israel a warm and welcoming Jewish home for all in our

community. We are also passionate about increasing intercultural understanding. To that end, we look forward to our second Interfaith Jewish-Muslim Women's Breakfast on Saturday, November 5th. You do not have to be a Sisterhood member to participate (though we'd certainly like it if you were). Our first gathering in May was a wonderful experience for all involved.

Please contact me for more information or to provide suggestions. Call me at (503) 338-0449 or email me at [larahn@gmail.com](mailto:larahn@gmail.com).





















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