

# AZOY

*"Is that so?"*

2017  
NOVEMBER  
5778



**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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## Religious School Update by Linette Sternlicht

Religious school is in full swing. We had planned to have a Sukkot celebration in our grand sukkah out in the back yard, but the weather was bad – courtesy of hurricane Nate – so we moved the festivities inside. The children built and decorated “edible sukkahs” out of graham crackers, Pocky sticks, and frosting, Mike Starkman led the children in shaking the lulav and etrog, and we all ate copious amounts of pizza. See page 7 for more photos.

This year of religious school promises to be an exciting one, with various TBI members volunteering to teach sessions on a wide range of topics, in addition to the regular Hebrew session with Mr. Dan. There are still two open slots (January 7 and April 30), so if you are interested in spending an hour talking to five delightful children about some aspect of Judaism, please contact Linette Sternlicht at 850-895-1547 or [linettesternlicht@yahoo.com](mailto:linettesternlicht@yahoo.com).



**Judaica Shop is Open!**  
**Get all your your  
Chanukah Gifts Here!**

*See page 5 for more photos!*

We have what you need and more importantly, what you want for Chanukah. Sure, you can shop in town, at the mall or Pier Park... but do they have any Jewish stuff? You can find Chanukah menorahs, candles, and dreidles at the Sisterhood's gift shop. And you can find the perfect gift for your friends and family,

from hand-made items in Israel like yarmulkes and key chains to hand carved mezuzahs. We have items from well known Israeli artists and craftspeople like Lily Art, Yair Emanuel and others. Check us out. New items are arriving weekly. We'll have a big Chanukah Sale in December before the holiday. Watch for it!

Shortly after coming home from my last trip to Panama City, I began preparing for my next visit. I checked my calendar to see what the Torah portion would be that weekend, and I found something interesting. It seems that on Saturday, November 18, which corresponds to the Hebrew date of the 29th of Cheshvan, there is a Jewish holiday of which I am unfamiliar. So, I looked it up.

Sigd is a holiday that is observed by the Ethiopian Jewish community. The word "Sigd" is Amharic, meaning "prostration" or "worship." Occurring exactly 50 days after Yom Kippur, Sigd celebrates the day that they believe God first revealed Himself to Moses. Ethiopian Jews spend this day fasting. In the morn-

ing, the community would walk together to the top of a mountain. The "Kessim," the spiritual leaders of the community, would carry and read parts of the "Orit" – the Ethiopian Torah, which is made up of the 5 Books of Moses, the Prophets, Song of Songs, the Psalms, as well as others. They would uphold their yearning to return to Jerusalem. Afterwards, they would descend the mountain, break the fast, dance, and celebrate with a seder-like meal.

There are Jewish communities all over the world, and even though we share the same religion, our customs are unique and special. I encourage all of you to learn more about Sigd, as well as any other Jewish holiday/custom. Learning about



these differences will only bring us closer together as a community.

*L'shalom, Rabbi Alana Wasserman*

### **Message from Temple President Mike Starkman: Help Wanted**

The congregation is in need of a new Treasurer. Lisa Rahn has requested to be replaced as the Treasurer. The Board and I thank Lisa Rahn for volunteering to take on this responsibility and we understand her need to resign at this time. In the interim, I will fill in as the Treasurer until a replacement can be found and instead of one person doing a monthly review of the bank reconciliation we will have two people doing this review.

I have yet to receive any comments on your desires for this Temple. What are we doing well and what can we do better? Please let us know.

Fund raising is still a major priority for us. Please support your Temple by joining the Fundraising Committee. Please contact Sarah Farkas at [farcott@gmail.com](mailto:farcott@gmail.com) to work with this committee.

*L'Shalom - Mike*

### **Sisterhood Update by Judith Scott, President**

Like all of us Sisterhood members enjoyed the celebration of the High Holy Days. I want to especially thank all who shared the gift of your time and wonderful dishes. You made it an exceptional Break-the-Fast. Sisterhood wishes to thank Peter Sosthiem for contributing the bagels for our feast. Each of the cooks who saw to it that we were well fed many thanks. My personal thanks to Lois Oswald for hand holding and encouragement.

Sisterhood celebrated Lisa Rahn's years of service to the organization on Friday, October 20, our first Rosh Chodesh evening out together. Lisa greatly appreciated the dinner, and especially everyone's flexibility in switching from Feruchi's to Fin's Japanese restaurant at the eleventh hour.

Rosh Chodesh dates for the remainder of this year and the first few months of 2018 are as follows: November 19, 2017 | December 17, 2017  
January 17, 2018 | February 15, 2018 | March 17, 2018

Tammy will be hosting the January event. Details to follow in a later issue of the Azoy.

Reports of our working meeting with the Islamic women were very positive. Every one seems ready and willing to get involved with social action projects. We will soon begin filling backpacks for children over the Holiday season. We also received an updated list of needs for our Family Service project.

The next Sisterhood meeting will be held November 15th at 6:30 pm at TBI.





## Is Thanksgiving a Jewish Holiday? by Sarah Farkas

Sometimes Jews wonder if it's OK for us to celebrate Thanksgiving. Isn't it a Christian holiday? Is it a secular holiday? For sure it's an American holiday! And we are Americans! Thanksgiving is sort of like a secular American Sukkoth. It takes place during a time of harvest, when many fruits, grains and other foods are ready for harvest. It's a celebration of all things good, hearty and sustainable in this beautiful land we call home.



Turkey and all the fixins' can be kosher – except for buttered rolls and oyster stuffing. And we give thanks for this bounty and the good for-

tune that is ours in this land of plenty. Enjoy the day of thanks by giving thanks to those who deserve it – family members, friends, teachers Rabbis – anyone who has touched you in a positive way.

After the Days of Awe, Thanksgiving is a great way to enter a new Jewish year with confidence and optimism. Give thanks for your good health, good fortune, good friends and bright future. Share the joy and the *naches!*

As Jews we know very well how to cook our way and eat our way to celebration! And we are good at it.

So the question needs to be: Why isn't Thanksgiving a Jewish holiday?

## Membership Has its Benefits by Robert Goetz, Board Member, Membership Chair & Webmaster

First, allow me to address the non-members out there. What are you waiting for? We need you. We need your input, creative energy, ideas, financial support, and anything else you would like to share. Don't get me wrong! We certainly enjoy seeing you during the High Holy Days, occasional Shabbats, and Lunch & Learns. But it's just not the same.

So what's holding you back from membership at TBI?

Too busy to complete the application? — *We'll happily take it over the phone.*

Too many bills to pay right now? — *We'll arrange a payment schedule that works for you.*

Unsure if TBI is right for you? — *Call or email me at [TBIpcWebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:TBIpcWebmaster@gmail.com) and let's chat.*

Membership clearly has its benefits. You'll have full member privileges for all synagogue events and access

to the Rabbi whenever the need arises. Additionally, you'll have a clear mind knowing that you are doing your part to ensure Judaism remains viable across the Florida Panhandle. And we'll even apply dollars from your High Holy Day donations toward an individual or family annual membership. What are you waiting for?

Secondly, allow me to address TBI members. Thank you for your membership support. However, many Jewish households across the Florida Panhandle remain unaware that there is a Reform synagogue in Panama City. You can help us remedy that. Do you have neighbors, coworkers, friends, or acquaintances that are Jewish? Please share with them TBI's website and Facebook page. Invite them to a service or event. Or send me their name with email and/or phone number and I will reach out to them.

See you in Shul!

## CONTACT US

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# 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
11/23	ROSE BELLA MILLER - MOTHER OF NATHAN MILLER
11/25	LOUIS SCHATZ - BELOVED OF MIRIAM GILBERG & FORMER BOARD MEMBER
11/27	SHERWOOD BERMAN - HUSBAND OF LIZ BERMAN



## BIRTHDAYS

11/15	NORM GULKIS
11/18	LIZ BERMAN
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)

## NOVEMBER CALENDAR

SUN	11/05	2:00 am 9:30 am	<i>Daylight Savings Ends: Don't forget to Fall Back 1 Hour</i> Sunday Shul
WED	11/08	6:30 pm	Monthly Temple Board of Directors Meeting
FRI	11/10	7:00 pm	"Rooted in Peace" movie program at Unity Spiritual Center of Panama City See page 10 for more information
SAT	11/11	12:00 pm	Lunch & Learn: Discussion of Jewish ramifications of "Rooted in Peace"
SUN	11/12		no Sunday Shul – Veterans Day
WED	11/15	6:30 pm	Sisterhood Meeting
FRI	11/17	7:00 pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Wasserman
SAT	11/18	12:00 pm 4:45 pm	Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Wasserman Havdalah at Oaks by the Bay Park, Panama City
SUN	11/19	9:30 am	Sunday Shul
THUR	11/23		<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>
SUN	11/26		no Sunday Shul – Thanksgiving

## November Shabbat Candle-Lighting Times

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

11/03 | 5:35 pm      11/10 | 4:31 pm      11/17 | 4:27 pm      11/24 | 4:25 pm





















Havdalah on beautiful Panama City Beach | October 14, 2017





**DEEPAK CHOPRA**

**DONOVAN**

**MIKE LOVE**

**DAVID LYNCH**

**NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE**

**MAIREAD MAGUIRE**

**PETE SEEGER**

**TED TURNER**

**ARCHBISHOP**

**DESMOND TUTU**



# **ROOTED IN PEACE**

**A GREG REITMAN FILM**



**Friday, November 10 at 7 pm**

**Admission \$10.00**

**Unity Spiritual Center of Panama City**

**1764 Lisenby Ave. (850) 769-7481**

**[www.unityofpanamacity.org](http://www.unityofpanamacity.org)**