

AZOY

"Is that so?"

5776
OCTOBER
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>

Pizza *in the* Hut

Join us Friday, October 2, 2015 at 6:00 pm at Temple B'nai Israel to celebrate the Jewish Harvest Festival Sukkot - the Feast of Booths - and enjoy a meal inside our decorated sukkah. Please see page 3 for more information.

Second Annual Rummage Sale

Friday, Oct 16, 2015
8:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Temple B'nai Israel
Synagogue**



The TBI Sisterhood invites one and all to their Second Annual Rummage Sale! Last year's fundraiser was so successful, the Sisterhood is doing it again. In order to match that success (or maybe exceed it) we need your help. First, we need your stuff! Clean out your closets, garages, attics, basements, etc. Box it up and bring it to us at the Temple, 1910 Frankford Avenue, at the following times:

Sunday Oct 4: 11:30 am to 2:00 pm
Sunday Oct 11: 11:30 am to 2:00 pm

You can price your own items if you like, or we can sort and price them for you. We need clothes, kids' stuff, small appliances, furniture, electronics, tools, toys, games, fishing equipment – you name it – we need it. And let's face it, if you haven't worn it, used it or even looked at it since last year, you really don't need it. "One person's trash is another's treasure." Give other folks the opportunity to re-use your old stuff. It's a mitzvah! And it makes good sense!

We also need bags and sturdy boxes for the day of the sale. We especially need your help on the day of the sale. So please let Mary or Cynthia know if you can help. Remember, you'll be ridding yourself of clutter and helping a great cause at the same time!

Mary Starkman 610-324-0892

Cynthia Gingold 850-588-8734

❧ The President's Message ❧

I was heartened by seeing and greeting so many of you during the High Holidays. Our little shul really comes alive when so many voices can be heard chanting, singing and welcoming the new year together. The sounding of the shofar is a call to prayer and many of us heeded the call. Rabbi Alana Wasserman, along with Daniel Sternlicht as cantor for Rosh Hashanah, sang beautifully with clear strong voices. I hope you were as inspired as I was.

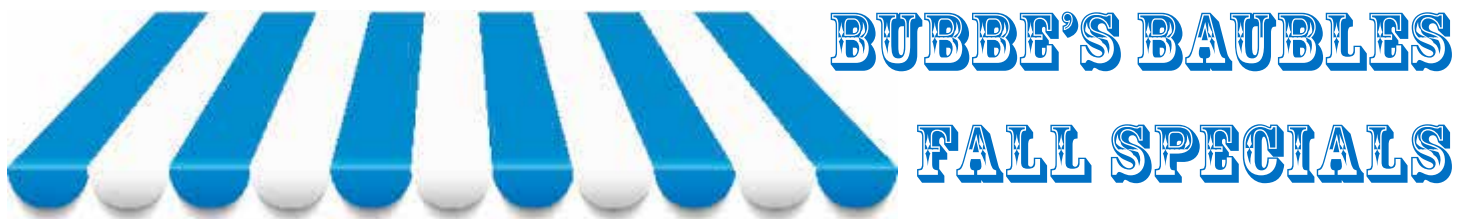
It is traditional at this time of year for the Temple president to make a new year's appeal; to ask the congregation to dig deep and make an extra tithing to the shul. I'm learning that relying only on membership dues does not cover the expenses of operating the shul, paying a rabbi, running an effective religious school, etc. We do have needs that exceed our membership income. The interior of the building needs to be painted, the exterior stucco needs to be fixed, the carpet needs a professional cleaning, etc, etc. These are important issues needing attention and, of course, they cost money.

But we just received a \$10,000 donation, you cry! Yes, we did. With input from congregants, members of the Board have prioritized a list of 10 items to be accomplished during the next 9 months. You can see that list in the minutes from our September meeting, elsewhere in The Azoy. Interestingly, the item that emerged at the top of the list is to sign and delineate the section of Greenwood Cemetery set aside for Jews. The next two items on the list are to 1) put a new sign outside near the street clearly identifying the temple (not replacing Lou Schatz's sign, but in addition to it) and 2) pledging money toward the acquisition of a new ark (a fundraising effort headed by Nathan Miller). You're going to hear a lot more about this campaign and about all 10 items to be accomplished within the next few months.

We are hoping to tackle even more issues next year. I want to emphasize here that it is not only money that will make things happen, get stuff accomplished and allow us to check items off the list—it's people—people to help get these things done. It's you and me. Please consider what you can do to help us make progress, help us grow and help us improve.

Thank you and I wish you a very healthy, happy and sweet year.

L'shalom - Sarah



Have you checked out our little Judaica Shop lately?

We've got some hot deals for the coming cooler temperatures. During the month of October, all jewelry is 10% off – that's both men's and women's jewelry!

From a silver Star of David pendant to a Kabala red bracelet.

In addition, when you buy one jewelry item at 10% off, you'll get a 20% discount on any other item in the case. You can't beat that!

Ask any Sisterhood member for help with your purchase or call Sarah at 507-990-6724 to make an appointment.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

FRI	10/02	6:00 pm	Sukkot in the Sukkah with <i>etrog</i> , <i>lulav</i> and treats (Pizza in the Hut)
SUN	10/04	9:30 am 11:30 am	Religious School Drop off stuff for Sisterhood Rummage Sale through 2:00 pm
TUES	10/06	6:00 pm	Simchat Torah Service
FRI	10/09	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Shabbat Dinner - entrée by the Starkman's Shabbat Service with Rabbi Baroff
SAT	10/10	12:00 pm 6:00 pm	Yiddish Class with Rabbi Baroff Havdalah on the Beach with Rabbi Baroff
SUN	10/11	9:30 am 11:30 am 12:00 pm	Religious School Drop off stuff for Sisterhood Rummage Sale through 2:00 pm Stump the Rabbi over Lunch
WED	10/14	6:00 pm	Monthly Temple Board of Directors Meeting
FRI	10/16	8:00 am	Rummage Sale Fundraiser by Sisterhood
SUN	10/18	9:30 am	No Religious School this week
WED	10/21	6:00 pm	Sisterhood Meeting with Special Presentation by Michelle Kraut
FRI	10/23	7:00 pm	Shabbat Service with Joan and Harold Prows - <i>oneg</i> to follow
SUN	10/25	9:30 am 10:00 am	No Religious School this week Board of Directors URJ-led Workshop

Celebrate Sukkot with "Pizza in the Hut"

TBI will celebrate the Jewish Harvest Festival – *Sukkot* – at 6:00 pm, Friday, October 2nd. We will gather in the "hut," or *Sukkah*, niftily built by Nate Mewhinney and his able crew and craftily adorned by the TBI Religious School children. Kids and parents can come at 5:30 pm to help decorate the *sukkah*.



Sukkot (the plural of *Sukkah*) means "huts" and symbolizes the temporary shelters that the Israelites used while wandering in the desert for 40 years after Moses received the Ten Commandments from G-d. It is customary for Jews to build a *Sukkah*, decorate it and use it for dining, entertaining and even sleeping during the festival of *Sukkot*. The harvest celebration is symbolized by the *lulav* and *etrog*. The *lulav* is made from palm, willow and myrtle branches surrounded by woven palm fronds. The *etrog* is a giant lemon-like fruit called a citron in English (grown in Israel and southern Italy). During the brief Sukkoth service, the *lulav* and *etrog* are held together and shaken in all directions – north, south, east, west, up and down – to symbolize that G-d is everywhere.

So come join us to celebrate! We will have pizza from family-owned Pana Roma Restaurant, topped with the best of this year's harvest, accompanied by an assortment of beverages and home-made desserts.

Shabbat Candle-Lighting Times

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

10/02 | 6:10 pm
10/09 | 6:02 pm

10/16 | 5:54 pm
10/23 | 5:47 pm

10/30 | 5:40 pm

AND WE'D LIKE TO THANK . . .

Nathan and Anne Miller for the addition of “Woman of Valor” print by Shalom of Safed to our TBI collection
The Mewhinney Family – Nate, Heather, Jason & Amanda for hauling soil, planting flowers, changing lights, fixing the tall shop display case, affixing street numbers to the outside post and power washing the front of the shul
Phornsuda (Amanda) Nantvikam for helping to weed and plant flowers
Daniel Sternlicht for lending his beautiful voice to High Holiday Services
Rabbi Alana Wasserman for her confident leadership and welcoming style during the High Holidays
Nate Mewhinney for supervising the construction of our Sukkah
Mike Starkman, Pavel Amromin, Jason Mewhinney and Alvin Gingold for helping construct our Sukkah
All the kids in Religious School, their parents and teachers for decorating the Sukkah
Heather Mewhinney, Judith Scott and Lois Oswald for cleaning the shul
The Sisterhood for organizing and setting the Break-the-Fast
All the TBI members and friends who made dishes and brought food – the critics all agree: it was delicious
All who accepted HHD honors, especially Mary Starkman and Alvin Gingold for chanting the Haftarah
The TBI Sisterhood for the beautiful flower arrangements adorning the bimah during Rosh Hashana
Marsha Kraselsky and Judith Scott for the beautiful flowers adorning the bimah during Yom Kippur
Max Nagler for assisting the Rabbi with the Children's Service.

... IT DOES TAKE A VILLAGE!



Chai Card Honors & Remembrances

Some folks call them *Chai* cards, some folks call them *Mitzvah* cards, and some folks call them Honor cards. Whatever you call them, they 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 our Jewish congregation and temple in Panama City.

All you have to do is email 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 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 is suggested.

Recently sent cards honor the following:

Get well wishes to a family member from:
Mike and Mary Starkman

Mazel Tov on Moving to a new home to Alvin and Cynthia Gingold from: The Sisterhood

Mazel Tov on Moving to a new home to Lisa Rahn and Steve Theberge from: The Sisterhood



This past summer I had the opportunity to travel to Rwanda through the University of Michigan business school. While the purpose of my trip was to experience developing economies, the most valuable lesson I learned was that of forgiveness.

During my time in Rwanda, I visited a reconciliation village, where genocide perpetrators and survivors live side-by-side. I sat there dumbfounded as I listened to one of the survivors describe how she had forgiven the man who murdered her husband, the man who was currently sitting right next to her.

Rwanda as a country, and the individual people I met, have reached a level of forgiveness that transcends human nature. How? This was the question that lingered in my mind throughout my trip. On a more personal scale, I wondered how I could gain this capacity for forgiveness.

We hear the word “forgiveness” thrown around a lot, especially during the 10 days between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. It is during this time that we are encouraged to seek out those we have wronged and ask for forgiveness. We are also taught to open our hearts and forgive those who have wronged us. Our tradition goes so far as to say “This person who did not forgive is now the sinner.” This is the aspect of Judaism’s take on forgiveness that frustrates me most. We are taught to forgive, but not how to forgive.

I also struggle to understand how to balance this lesson of letting go and moving forward with one of the major tenets of Judaism, yizkor, remembrance. We are commanded to remember. To remember our Exodus from Egypt. To remember the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. To remember Shabbat.

It is in the words of a Rwandan

survivor that I find the answers to my questions: “It took time, but in the end we realized that we are all Rwandans. The genocide was due to bad governance that set neighbors, brothers and sisters against one another. Now you accept and you forgive. The person you have forgiven becomes a good neighbor. One feels peaceful and thinks well of the future.”¹

The key to forgiveness is not forgetting. Instead, it is realizing that we are all just people. To forgive, we must separate the wrong-doer from the wrong-deed. All of the apologies in the world cannot retract the pain or suffering we once felt because of someone else’s actions, but if we can forgive the person and see in them the humanity we see in ourselves, then perhaps we can begin to move forward and free ourselves from the shackles of anger and revenge.

We are quick to judge ourselves by our intentions, and others by their behavior. This year, let us instead, try to understand the complexity within each and every one of us.

¹ <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/04/06/magazine/06-pieter-hugo-rwanda-portraits.html>

DR MICHELLE KRAUT TO DISCUSS BREAST CANCER AT OCTOBER SISTERHOOD MEETING

The TBI Sisterhood is proud to present a presentation and discussion on the very pertinent topic of breast cancer including the latest medical advances, screening and early warning signs.

Our very own Dr Michelle Kraut will share her knowledge on Wednesday, October 21 at 6:00 pm at the Temple.

Everyone is invited to attend to benefit from this timely and important information.



SEPTEMBER JOYS & REMEMBRANCES

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

10/05	HERMAN MILLER - FATHER OF NATHAN MILLER
10/07	NICOLE STEWART - DAUGHTER OF NATHAN AND ANNE MILLER
10/16	THOMAS GELMON - FATHER OF JOSEPH GELMON
10/18	HARVEY JAY GLASS - SON OF SONNY & ALMA GLASS
10/29	RONALD GORDON - HUSBAND OF YVONNE GORDON



BIRTHDAYS

10/07	COREY JOSEPH
10/11	BRIAN JOSEPH
10/13	HELAINE NORMAN
10/16	SARAH FELDSTEIN
10/23	MARGARET EUZENT

ANNIVERSARIES

10/21	PETER & PAMELA SOSTHEIM
10/25	LOIS & JOHN OSWALD







Recap of *September 2015* TBI Board Meeting

Treasurer's Report: Mike reported that the bank was no longer withholding funds for taxes and expressed his concerns that we have been spending more than we have budgeted in several categories.

Building Maintenance Report: An audit by A Superior Air Conditioning, funded by Marsha Kraselsky, gave a good rating of our building's a/c units, with only minor maintenance required.

New Ark Committee Report: Ed Nagler reported that they looked into 4 different vendors for construction of a new ark: two located in Israel, one in Brooklyn, and one local manufacturer that withdrew from consideration. The Board was shown different woods and veneers used in several different designs and sizes. Costs for a new ark approached \$11,000, shipping additional, and most of the companies required 50% down upon placing an order. The Board approved to financially support a new ark, but no decision was made as to amount or design.

Ritual Committee Report: All the HHD honors have been sent out and accepted. Rabbi Wasserman suggested holding a Congregational luncheon (at Pana Roma Pizza & Pasta) after services on Rosh Hashanah. Our Sukkah will be built on Sunday, September 27, under Nate Mewhinney's supervision. Sukkot will be celebrated Friday evening, October 2. There will be a Simchat Torah service on Tuesday, October 6.

Sisterhood Report: The Rummage sale will be held Friday, October 16, starting at 8:00 am. Dr Michelle Kraut will be a guest speaker at the October Sisterhood meeting to discuss mammograms and breast cancer.

Website Report: Bob Goetz reported the Temple's domain name, www.bnaiisraelpc.org, has been renewed for another year. Our revised website should be completed by the end of the month.

Wish List for Chai Minded Donation: Sarah Farkas polled the Board to rank each of the 19 items previously suggested by congregants and Board members. The top priority was the cemetery fence and signage for the Jewish section at Evergreen Memorial Gardens. It was mentioned that Ed Nagler offered to organize a work crew and Lori Zipes agreed to find out about cemetery's signage requirements. The next 3 top items were to pledge money to the New Ark Fund, new outside signage and two additional months of Rabbinic presence. Sarah reported that Nate Mewhinney offered to build a wooden sign for the Temple, but it will not be ready until later in the year. She suggested that we determine the costs of signage, cemetery fence, and rabbinic services before committing to a specific monetary amount for a new ark. The Board agreed to place four 4th ranked items in next year's budget: landscaping plantings, scholarships to students for Jewish learning, scholarships to send kids to Jewish camp and funding to send teachers to the ISJL summer conference.

Sarah reminded the Board that the URJ-facilitated Board workshop will be held on Sunday, October 25.

Sarah reported that our current door decal, with incorrect Temple contact information, needs to be replaced, at a cost of \$140. A motion to approve the purchase was unanimous.



For more information about the URJ Biennial Meeting in Orlando, visit www.urj.org



On September 2, 2015, Israel Post issued 3 **Festivals 2015 Childhood Memories** stamps, designed by Rinat Gilboa, each depicting childhood memories of the annual festivals of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot. For more information, visit <http://www.israelpost.co.il/postshirut.nsf/pages/PhilatelicServiceEN?OpenDocument&L=EN>



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