# Commentator

THE

IS



Adar II – Nissan 5782 April 2022

It's time to celebrate!



# SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022

PRESENTED BY



#### **BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA**

## **TBAM.ORG/ANNUALAUCTION**



#### **APRIL 2022**

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## SHABBAT SERVICES

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2022

san	Shabbat HaChodesh/Rosh Chodesh
p.m.	Pre-Neg
p.m.	Shabbat Services with 1st graders

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2022

Torah Study Morning Minyan Bat Mitzvah of Annie Simon Bar Mitzvah of Brady Gelber

Leviticus 12:1 - 13:59 Haftarah Ezekiel 45:16 - 25

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2022

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Nissan	Shabbat Hagadol
00 p.m.	Pre-Neg
30 p.m.	Teacher Appreciation Shabbat Services
	with 5th graders

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022

Torah Study
Morning Minyan
Bat Mitzvah of Izabella Schwartz
Bar Mitzvah of Joseph Fefferman

Parashat Metzora Leviticus 14:1 - 15:33 Haftarah Malachi 3:4 - 24

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2022

Passover First Seder

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022 - First Day of Passover Torah Study Morning Minyan Passover First Day service Clean and Sober Seder

Exodus 12:37 - 42, 13:3 - 10 Haftarah Isaiah 43:1 - 15; Song of Songs is read

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#### FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022

22 Nissan	
10:30 a.m.	Passover Yizkor Service
6:00 p.m.	Pre-Neg
6:00 p.m.	How 'bout Shabbat
6:30 p.m.	Shabbat Services with
	Charlie Kramer with 2nd graders

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2022

9:00 a.m.	Torah Study
9:00 a.m.	Sensory-Friendly Service
	- Social Hall
10:30 a.m.	Morning Minyan
	with Charlie Kramer
10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Services
10:30 a.m.	Bar Mitzvah of Max Phillips
5:30 p.m.	Bat Mitzvah of Mia Hall
7:30 p.m.	Singing in the Dark with Charlie
	Kramer – Artist in Residence
	Havdalah Concert
	Rambam Day School Building
	-

Parashat Acharei Mot I Leviticus 16:1 - 17:16 Haftarah Ezekiel 22:1 - 14

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2022

29 Nissan	
6:00 p.m.	Pre-Neg
6:30 p.m.	Shabbat Services
7:30 p.m.	Dessert Reception for
	Neil Kurlander on the Terrace

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022

9:00 a.m.	Torah Study
10:30 a.m.	Morning Minyan
10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Services
7:00 p.m.	50th Anniversary Gala
	and Annual Auction

Parashat Acharei Mot II Leviticus 18:1 - 30 Haftarah Ezekiel 22:6 - 19

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# 2nd Night Passover Community Service

# SECOND NIGHT PASSOVER COMMUNITY SEDER

– Back Together Again! –

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022 5:45 PM, SHARP - Social Hall -

After two long years of seders from afar, we can't wait to celebrate Passover TOGETHER with our Temple Beth Am family!

Join us for a festive meal, seder activities for the whole family, and a chance to reconnect with our Jewish community.

ALL are welcome! Adults \$54 | Children (ages 7-18) \$18 | Children 6 and under FREE RSVP at www.tbam.org/secondnightseder

OR... Join us for a very special program from our

Recovery Through A Jewish Lens Initiative

See page 24 for more info!

#### CELEBRATE RECOVERY: A PASSOVER SEDER

Honoring Our Journey to Freedom from Addiction

SATURDAY, APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:00 PM Terrace

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#### FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Rabbi Jeremy Barras

jbarras@tbam.org

This month we celebrate once again the festival of Pesach and the liberation of our ancestors from mental and physical enslavement. After two years of Zoom Seders and separation from our families and friends at our Seder tables, we are hopeful that this year we will be reunited for our Passover traditions. When we begin to turn the pages of the Haggadah and retell once again the story of the Exodus, we will see the evolution of the Jewish people from an enslaved people to a nascent nation learning how to express its own ambitions. At first, we see the Jewish people moaning and grumbling under the whips of their overseers, and later we see them singing out in joy. But it takes a while before we see them begin to speak. Like an infant that innately cries to express displeasure, the Jews first learned how to grumble. Only gradually did they learn how to express their emotions verbally. This manifested not infrequently in complaint and lack of patience. At other times it was seen through prayer and appreciation.

I remember distinctly so many moments form my March of the Living trip a few years ago. The deep pain and anguish our group felt as we traveled from one ghetto and concentration camp to another will stay with me probably forever. After a couple of days, I think my mind became numb to the experience and subconsciously I was trying to will my way through the rest of the trip. The final stop was Majdanek, and by the time our group arrived there, our minds had been transformed. We no longer had the words to express the deep pain we felt. Despite the lessons we learned about the Holocaust since childhood, walking through the killing fields of Poland was so vividly painful and cruel. I saw some members of our group lose their ability to formulate words to express their experience. I saw others reduced to grumbling. Still others were formulating complaints that had no bearing in reason or logic. All these reactions were coping mechanisms we were using to survive what we were witnessing.

Since that trip I read Exodus a bit differently. I try to imagine how the words of the Israelites were influenced by what they were experiencing. Their complaints now seem insignificant, but under the crack of the Egyptian whip or in the desolate wilderness with no water, perhaps the words they uttered were coping mechanisms to deal with their situation. I oftentimes hear complaints. I am a rabbi-that's part of the job. But sometimes the words do not match the desire; they match the situation. When I hear a complaint, I try not to overreact to the dissatisfaction expressed verbally. I endeavor to understand the milieu from which the complaint arose. Sometimes people say hurtful things to us that they really don't mean. And we are offended. But before we give up on or cancel the speaker, we might consider where they are coming from and what is really bothering them. The Israelites complained a lot in the wilderness, but that's because the experience was new and scary. By the time they realized where they were going and why, they had invented a whole new language of blessing and gratitude.

L'Shalom,

#### Rabbi Jeremy Barras

Lunch 'n Learn with Rabbi Barras Tuesday, April 5 12:00 p.m. - Chapel

#### Ukraine, Israel and the Jews

For information and to RSVP: www.tbam.org/lunchandlearn



#### CLERGY CORNER Rabbi Rachel Greengrass rgreengrass@tbam.org

It is Monday, March 7, and I cried three times before 9:00 a.m.

As the sanctuary began to fill up at our first all-elementary school havdallah gathering in two years, with our kindergarteners able to sit for the first time with their 5th grade buddies; with our parents able to come and sing and pray with their children; with the pure joy felt by the teachers and staff; Ella P., a second grade student, came up to give me a baggie with homemade cookies that she had made and sold at Joanna's Marketplace on Sunday to raise money to help the children in Ukraine. She told me proudly that she raised over \$800. Ella is eight years old and already looks at the world, sees its brokenness and asks: What can I do? And, already at eight, she knows that she can do something-that she is powerful.

Then, two of our 5th grade students stood up to teach the Rambam elementary school about the Torah portion. They spoke beautifully and taught beautiful lessons. And then one of the students, Ashley F., spoke about how her friends are her sacred community, and that the girl standing next to her, Isabelle Sachar, has been her friend since early childhood and has always been there for her. The scholarship was outstanding, but even more so was the love and kindness modeled by these two amazing 5th graders.

Then, Jack F., five years old, told me that he made bracelets and lemonade and sold them to help the children at Tikvah Children's Home in Odessa find safety. He raised \$700, and his parents had

promised to match what he raised dollar for dollar.

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of being with our religious school 2nd grade families as their children began to learn their Hebrew letters by making name plaques for their bedroom doors. My heart swelled as I got to hear the parents share why they came to Beth Am, why they joined the religious school-and that each shared about their deep love of Judaism, and their deep sense of having a second home here at Beth Am.

While my heart is broken when I read and listen to news from Ukraine, my heart is full when I look at our congregation.

This is Beth Am. A place to learn. A place that grows menschen. A place that will hold you when you're sad. A place that will dance with you as you celebrate. A place to pour out your heart in prayer. A place to find and build community. A place that will embrace you as you are and push you to grow. A place to celebrate gifts. A place to use those gifts to make the world a better place.

And yes, a place to cry-out of sadness as well as pride and joy.



## **TEMPLE BETH AM'S HOW 'BOUT SHABBAT**

Friday, May 6 at 5:45 p.m. A special musical Shabbat service led by Rabbi Rachel Greengrass and **Cantorial Soloist Jackie Berney.** 

Enjoy a wonderful interactive Shabbat service, a deliciously catered Shabbat dinner and listen to the story of Catboy, Owlette, Gekko, Luna Girl

Creative arts and crafts tables! Wine bar for parents and grandparents Questions? Call Rita Diaz at 305.323.9322

Adults: \$25 Children 2+ years old \$15



#### M E S S A G E FROM THE P R E S I D E N T

David Young dyoung@tbam.org

I learned recently that my father's family came from Odessa, in Ukraine. Who knew? My ancestors lived like Tevya from *Fiddler on the Roof*! That way of life is long gone. But life today for many Jews in Ukraine is still being threatened, even though Ukraine is one of the only countries outside of Israel with a Jewish head-of-state.

Jews worldwide are taking action to help. Jewish agencies in America are coordinating with social service agencies in Moldovia, Poland, and Romania to help save Jews in Ukraine. *The Times of Israel* reports that crises management teams at Hillel Poland and the Warsaw Jewish Community Center are working day and night saving Jews.

Odessa, a city of over a million people, now has only 45,000 Jews. Contrast that with the year 1900, when more than a third of Odesa's population was Jewish. The Jewish community of Odessa was decimated in the Holocaust. Yet Russian propaganda now has the gall to claim their current invasion is a campaign to "de-Nazifiy" the territory. And white supremacists in the United Sates posted that Russia and Ukraine are caught in a "ZOG" war (code for Zionist Occupied Government) where "whites lose and Jews win." These insulting lies cannot disguise that, once again, Jews have been forced to flee.

Several years ago, Temple Beth Am "adopted" the Tikvah Children's Home in Odessa, whose mission is to provide aid and education to at-risk Jewish children and impoverished families. As Russian bombs were falling near the Tikvah Children's Home, Rabbi Baksht, who runs the operation, decided it was time to get out. So, at great expense, he transported nearly 300 children to Romania. Rabbi Baksht was quoted as saying "we had a great miracle that we got out of there on time."

All these children are safe, living in a camp facility. The plan is to move them all to Israel.

You should feel proud that Beth Am made a difference. When **Rabbi Barras** sent a letter asking for support, our congregation raised over \$200,000 to help defray the cost of this important, life-saving operation.

And the costs are continuing to mount. Buses typically rent there for \$800, but because of price gouging, it cost \$35,000 to undertake the transport. Through the funds we raised, these children are now being fed and clothed. They even just purchased 50 heaters to keep the children warm. But these children are still in need of medical care and mental health services. The psychological damage of being uprooted may take years to heal.

If you want to get involved with Tikvah Children's Home, the web site is: tikvaodessa.org.

In *Fiddler*, they sang about their little town, underfed and overworked, where Sabbath was nevertheless so sweet:

Soon I'll be a stranger in a strange new place,

#### Searching for an old familiar face

We are going to make sure the children of Tikvah Children's Home do not suffer as strangers. Our mission is to make them feel safe and secure.

And we should always make strangers feel welcome, regardless of where they are from, for we were once strangers. Beth Am made two refugee families from Afghanistan feel a sense of community right here in Miami. A team from Beth Am met them at the airport, provided housing and clothes, and got the children enrolled in school. I met one of the families at our Purim Carnival. A little boy (translating for his family) told me how happy he was living safely in Miami. I left by making a heart shape with my hands. They all did the same.

Thank you to **Margie** and **Mark Buchbinder** and the Social

Justice Committee for these acts of Tikkun Olam. For those two Afghani families, you made their world and ours a better place.

We will always be there to make the world a bit more kind. That is what we do as Jews.

I am proud of you, Beth Am. Way to go!

David

### MAZEL TOV TO...

**Tom Cromer** on the marriage of his son Casey to Erica Lewis **Jonathan** and **Melissa Greenstein** on the birth of daughter, Finley Eliza Greenstein

Jon and Tina Kislak on the birth of grandson Henry Jay Sands Drs. Diane Krieger and Bruce Kohrman on the birth of granddaughter, Aviva Margalit Marrama. Also, mazel tov to greatgrandmother Ruth Krieger

Aida and Neil Littauer on the birth of granddaughter, Miriam Littauer

**Genia Neuhaus** on being nominated to the Women of Reform Judaism's (WRJ) North American Board of Directors for the 2022-2025 term

**Jeff** and **Sue Reamer** on the birth of grandson, Ezra Grizzly Reamer **Josh** and **Elizabeth Rosen** on the birth of son Harry William Wolfsthal Rosen

**Cindy** and **Steven Rudin** on the birth of granddaughter, Riley Jay Harding





#### PLEASE JOIN US FOR A DESSERT RECEPTION IN THE SOCIAL HALL ON ONE OF THE TWO FOLLOWING EVENINGS, FROM 7:45-9:00 P.M.

Friday, April 1

Friday, April 29

RSVP at www.tbam.org/meetneil

We are delighted to welcome Neil Kurlander as our new Executive Director at Temple Beth Am. Join us in welcoming Neil to the TBAM family, as we look forward to a wonderful relationship together for years to come.

Neil comes to us from the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science and brings with him more than 30 years of administrative, operational and legal experience. At the museum, Neil was responsible for the overall leadership of museum administration, including its finance, marketing, membership, events/sales, strategic business planning/analysis, risk management, education, human resources, guest experience and legal departments. He also served as Corporate Secretary of the Museum's Board of Trustees.

Prior to joining Frost Science, Neil was the chief administrative officer and general counsel of Spafinder Wellness, Inc., the world's largest media, marketing and gifting company for the wellness industry. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Franklin & Marshall College, where he was elected to Pi Gamma Mu, the international honor society in social sciences, and earned his Juris Doctor from the Hofstra University School of Law, where he was a member of the Hofstra Law Review.

We are excited for Neil to get to know our community and bring his many decades of leadership to our congregation.



MEMBERSHIP

**Rita Diaz** Membership Director rdiaz@tbam.org



Tuesday, April 26 7:30 p.m.

at the home of Jackie and Darin Schatzman

A Gator Social Gathering...of folks who have a passion for all things Gators and make their spiritual home at Temple Beth Am.

Do you have a child at the University of Florida? Are you parents of graduates of University of Florida? Are YOU a Gator alum of UF?

Join members of your Clergy, professional staff, and lay leaders and schmooze with other Gators!

If you are interested in joining us for the evening, please call Rita Diaz, at 305.667.6667 ext. 107 or rdiaz@tbam.org





Committee of 100, President's Honor Circle, Rabbi's Honor Circle, Circle of Blessing and Circle of Life participants please join the clergy and professionals for a reception in your honor.

# Sunday, April 24, 2022 4:30–6:00 p.m.

at Temple Beth Am in the Outside Terrace Area

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres by Michael Meltzer of Michael's Catering.

Please RSVP to Rita Diaz 786.364.9434 or rdiaz@tbam.org

Tzedakah is one of our most important traditions – an obligation to give, each in our own way, to help others. It is what makes us a strong, a united and a just people. Thank you for supporting Temple Beth Am on the Committee of 100 levels and making membership affordable to all.





Tamara Donnenfeld Director of Lifelong Learning tdonnenfeld@tbam.org

# Proud of our Camp Jenny TBAM Counselors

This year Temple Beth Am will be sending eight dedicated and passionate BAFTYites to Camp Jenny. We would love to congratulate each teen on their acceptance to Camp Jenny after a rigorous and competitive application process. Mazel Tov to: Eli Bilchik, Sasha Crabill, Sophia Fidanque, Benjamin Gomez, Shayna Karmin, Daniel Lang, Jordan McKean, and Lindsay Roth.

#### What is Camp Jenny?

Camp Jenny is a teen-led camp experience for students from an under-resourced school in inner-city Atlanta, GA.

This year's Camp Jenny will be held in-person for the first time in two years! Camp Jenny will be held at URJ Camp Coleman for the first day and then at the Davis Academy in Atlanta for the second day. The Camp Jenny experience has been an integral partnership between NFTY and the students of F.L. Stanton Elementary. With education as the cornerstone of success, Camp Jenny has provided a critical incentive for increased student attendance, parent participation, and academic performance at school. This experience is completely programmed and led by teens from youth groups across the

# YERS Wants YOU!

- Do you feel strongly about the future of the Jewish people?
- Do you know people who want to make a difference in the lives of our youth and their families?
- Do you want to join a great group of caring Beth Am parents, grandparents, and professionals?
- Is this you or someone you know?

If so, please consider joining the YERS (Youth Engagement Religious School) Board. We are a dedicated and haimish group of volunteers who work closely with our Lifelong Learning Director to advocate for and enhance our youth programming.

If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact YERS Chair, Jeff Agron, jagron@tbam.org. Southeastern area of the United States. Teens create programs for campers throughout the weekend which center upon the values of setting goals, trying new things, and determination and persistence. Camp Jenny is an opportunity for our teens to gather with peers with one focus and goal in mind: providing campers with a reprieve from their daily life and instilling in them memories that will last forever.

Each year, it is up to the teens and youth groups to raise the funds necessary to send as many students to Camp Jenny as possible. Camp Jenny costs an average of \$75,000 each year, and it costs \$550 to send one camper for the weekend. The goal is to provide this experience to 150 campers each year. However, this would not be possible without the generous support of our congregants. Temple Beth Am is typically one of the top fundraisers for Camp Jenny, bringing in nearly \$10,000 each year. We would love your support to help our teens create the most impactful experience possible for these young campers.

To donate to Camp Jenny, please go to https://donate.reformjudaism.org/TempleBethAmMiami

#### JOIN US AT THE ART AUCTION

A few *Commentator* issues ago, I shared with you my excitement in collaborating and working along with the day school leadership. **Nora Anderson**, the Head of School for Rambam Day School, has welcomed my ideas, been an incredible partner in education, and given the religious school a stature not seen before. Nora and I believe that neither school is better than the other, just different; and when we put our heads and hearts together, we achieve better results for all.

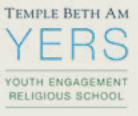
At the end of this month, the day school will be celebrating another milestone in the community with the long-awaited annual Art Auction. This is a wonderful social and charitable evening for our parents; a program that showcases students' art projects and brings parents, grandparents, and friends together to schmooze, shop, and have a memorable time.

For the first time, YERS will have its own corner, featuring religious school and BAFTY group projects with Jewish content. We are thrilled to be part of this event.

So, whether you are a day school family, a YERS family, a member of the synagogue, or an art lover, we would love to see you at the Art Auction. Together, we are ONE!



Sumiko Zayon Youth Engagement Director szayon@tbam.org



A World of Opportunities

#### **Teens Engagement**

Every year, BAFTY, our 9th-12th grade youth group, elects their BAFTY Board members through democratic elections. BAFTY (Beth Am Federation of Temple Youth), is open to all high school students who are interested in connecting to their Judaism. BAFTY is run by amazing teen leaders who plan and program activities for their youth group.

The BAFTY board is encouraged to create programs in which our teens build friendships, experience Jewish identities through educational programming, community-building, social justice, Israel, and our local community.

The BAFTY board for the Jewish year 5783 was elected and will be ready to assume their roles starting the 2022-2023 school year. We will enhance their success with multi-level mentoring and always support them. Cultivating teen leadership is one of BAFTY's priorities. Several board members were motivated by the leadership skills they have learned in the *Madrichim* program, and that fills my heart with joy. Following you will find an excerpt of one of the speeches. - **Sumiko** 

**Corey Eisenson** (BAFTY Board Member at Large for 9th grade for 2022-2023/5783) said "I am young but decided that I wanted to become a leader when I started the *Madrichim* program, which opened many new opportunities and learning experiences for me. I learned that I could lead groups, lead programs, and most of all, I have learned to believe in myself and have the courage to be able to help everyone to the best of my ability."

Temple Beth Am is lucky enough to have 13 engaged teens who are investing their valuable time in their community. We are so proud of all of you, and we are looking forward to an amazing year of fun and learning opportunities. If you are not part of BAFTY yet, join us today @ www.tbam.org/BAFTY

Below is our next BAFTY President's Election speech.

**Morgan Parodi:** BAFTY President-elect for 2022-2023/5783

Hi guys! I'm Morgan, your current Religious and Cultural Vice President. I'm running to be next year's President. I've been in BAFTY for the past two years and had such a good experience.

There is such a fantastic combination of meeting new people, hanging out with old friends, and learning about Judaism in BAFTY—and somehow, it's all really fun! When you think about it, that's pretty cool. This group is something I'm really committed to, and I want to play a bigger role in it—that is, after all, the reason I'm running for president.

As president, there are a bunch of things I'd like to bring to BAFTY. One of these is volunteering opportunities. Tikkun Olam giving back to the world—is a major part of Judaism. Community service is so much more important than something required to graduate; it makes a genuine impact on the world around us and I'd love to bring that to BAFTY.

I'm so thankful for the skills that I've

gotten from being this year's RCVP and I think that they play a major role as my qualification for president. Being President is a huge commitment, but, as someone who has been in all sorts of honor societies, clubs, and sports while being in BAFTY, I've learned to manage my time really well. I wouldn't be running for this position if I wasn't dedicated and confident that I could handle the role. I've stayed in touch with the regional RCVP leader throughout the year, constantly asking for advice and exciting opportunities.

That brings me to my next goal: regional opportunities. BAFTY is part of a larger organization called NFTY (the North American Federation for Temple Youth). Other temples have their own chapters of NFTY and I'd love to do events with them like fundraising and other community projects. There are also all sorts of regional NFTY events that I'd keep you all updated on so that you can get more active in the organization (especially if you're a board member).

I'm super excited for this opportunity!



Meet the 2022-2023/5783 BAFTY Board

President: Morgan Parodi Programing VP: Ben Gomez & Eli Bilchik Social Action VP: Danny Lang Religious & Cultural VP: Luiz **Gandelman** (missing from photo) Communication VP: Avery Simon Membership VP: Sophia Fidanque Member at Large 9th grade: Ellie **Rosenwald & Corey Eisenson** Member at Large 10th grade: Sasha **Crabill & Alexis Cohen** Member at Large 11th grade: Shayna Karmin Member at Large 12th grade: Ryan Barna



# PROGRAMMING

Andrea LeVine Kay Program Director akay@tbam.org

# RESCHEDULED Charles Kramesidence Charles Kramef

## LOSING SIGHT, GAINING VISION

Temple Beth Am is honored and excited to invite Charlie Kramer to join us all weekend to uplift and educate us through song and worship.

Legally blind from Retinitis Pigmentosa, Charlie unites, magnetizes and elevates those around him. A touring blind speaker and musical artist, Charlie has traveled the world sharing his talent and message, utilizing his blindness as a tool to educate people on the importance of inclusion, equality, and radical self-acceptance.

As part of our commitment to DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion), we invite you to join us throughout Shabbat to learn more about Charlie's story through his beautiful music!

## SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

6:00 PM PRENEG 6:30 PM SERVICE

Charlie joins Cantor Tifani Coyot and our clergy team on our bimah to welcome Shabbat together!

#### SENSORY-FRIENDLY SHABBAT

## Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>

#### 9:00 AM, SOCIAL HALL

Geared toward children with sensory processing disorders, but open to all! We invite you to join us on Shabbat morning for an abbreviated service with Charlie featuring soft music, dim lighting and comfortable seating. SHABBAT MORNING MINYAN

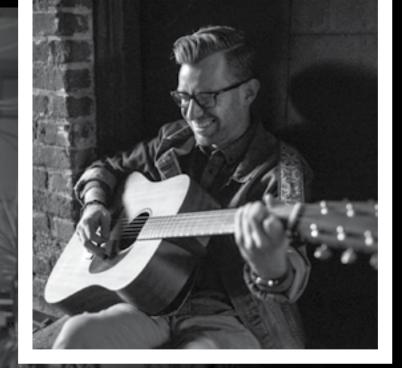
Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>

10:30 AM, CHAPEL

We invite Charlie to our Chapel alongside Rabbi Jaime Aklepi and Cantorial Soloist Jessica Bass for an uplifting Shabbat morning service!

Charlie will also be leading music and learning for our Day School on Friday and Religious School on Sunday. We are thrilled to spread his message of empowerment and inclusion across Temple Beth Am and Rambam Day School!

## www.tbam.org/charliekramer



# SINGING IN THE DARK Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>

#### 7:30PM RAMBAM DAY SCHOOL BUILDING

Charlie invites you to Sing in the Dark with him for a special Havdalah concert in our beautiful new school building!

Leave the sighted world and immerse yourself in an experience free of distractions as we slowly retreat inward to feel, heal, and restart. Through this signature program, Charlie is committed to helping others to face their challenges and uncover the many blessings within their lives through music and meditation.

We hope you'll join us for this intimate evening of connection, introspection, and joy!

\$36 per person includes concert and dessert reception to follow.

RSVP at www.tbam.org/charliekramer

#### COMMENTATOR

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#### In Anticipation of Yom HaShoah, April 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup>, 10:30 A.M. IN PERSON





In partnership with the Brotherhood of Temple Beth Am, we welcome Rabbi Jack Romberg, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Israel in Tallahassee, who will present his book A Doorway to Heroism: A Decorated German-Jewish Solider Who Became An American Hero. This is the true story of Rabbi Romberg's great uncle Richard Stern, who went from German solider to open protestor and resister to the Nazi regime in the 30s, and

later fought with the US Army against Nazi Germany. Rabbi Romberg will discuss his great uncle's amazing story and how he came to learn about this man and write his story.

A DEGRWAY ID HERDISM

BROTHERHOOD

RSVP online for all events at www.tbam.org/calendar

Adult Reading Room Library events are coordinated by Etta Gold MLS RJE, Congregational Librarian.

# TEMPLE BETH AM GARDEN SANCTUARY

# CELEBRATE EARTH DAY WITH US

#### Sunday, April 24, 2022 9:00-11:00 AM

Dedicate our Peace Poles with a member of our clergy and celebrate Mother Earth with song, harvesting and gardening.

Plus, create special seed wishes to take back to your home gardens!

We hope to welcome you there! Please RSVP to garden@tbam.org. Follow us on Facebook @TheFriendsoftheTBAMGardenSanctuary! A special thank you to our Mitzvah Day garden volunteers!





# DAY SCHOOL

Nora Anderson, M.S., M.Ed. Head of School nanderson@tbam.org

This month, our community will celebrate Pesach. At Rambam Day School, our *middah* of the month is aptly "Seder." The Hebrew word "Seder" literally means "order." The Passover Seder is a highly structured meal full of many rituals. Not surprisingly, therefore, structure is a key part of this *middah*.

We lead busy lives. As we begin to emerge from the pandemic, we find ourselves back to long days of shuffling through carpool, work, sports, and chores. Our children allocate their time among activities, homework, and playdates. How much time should we budget for each task? How do we choose one undertaking over another?

How can we use this *middah* to help us in our everyday lives?

As Jews, we interact with the physical world with intention. The *middah* of order helps us to set priorities so that we can accomplish the goals that are most important. Without order, we are pulled in many directions, and we diminish our ability to focus on our highest priorities. Rabbi Simcha Zissel Ziv of Kelm famously compared order to a clasp of a pearl necklace. He said that "If there is no clasp, all the pearls will be lost, and similarly, if a person lacks 'Seder,' many of the qualities that they have nurtured can be lost."

For many of us, a major obstacle in achieving seder is that we are too overloaded with our "to-do" lists. Part of observing this *middah* is to balance our activities while holding onto commitments and priorities that are dear to us.

At Rambam, we teach our students the value of setting goals and making priorities. For example, a child may want to spend more time playing a video game because he or she finds it the most rewarding. But if they delay their homework—a less rewarding responsibility—they will have to face the consequences of an unfinished assignment. On the other hand, say a child is having a meaningful conversation with a grandparent. If the child cuts off the conversation at a critical moment because time is up, they may be missing out on an opportunity that cannot be replicated. Seder requires us to balance. Teaching our children to balance—to determine what is truly vital and what is optional—and modeling that behavior ourselves, can help children develop executive functioning skills, achieve long-term goals, and make their lives easier as they enter into adulthood.

So as we enter this Passover season, let us try and think about making the most of our time using the value of order.

Nora



# MAZEL TOV B'NAI MITZVAH



#### Annie Simon

#### April 2, 2022

**Annie** is a graduate of Temple Beth Am Day School and is currently a 7th grade honor roll student at Riviera Prep. She is a thoughtful and caring daughter, sister, and friend. Annie enjoys making and selling jewelry, dancing, and spending time with her family and friends. Her parents, **Rosie** and **Ben**, and her brother **Sam**, are proud of all she has accomplished and excited to celebrate Annie becoming a Bat Mitzvah.



#### Brady Gelber April 2, 2022

**Brady** is a 7th grader in the MYP/IB program at Gulliver Prep and a Beta Club member. He is on his school's middle school swim team and helped lead his team to a third-place overall finish at the SFMC Championship this year. Brady loves science, history, watching Seinfeld reruns, playing Minecraft, and anything that has to do with swimming. He is an excellent student athlete, a compassionate friend, and a great big brother. His parents, **Carolina** and **Gregg**, and his younger brother, **Luke**, are extremely proud of him and cannot wait to celebrate this special milestone.



#### Izabella Schwartz April 9, 2022

**Izabella** is a 7th grader at Palmetto Middle School, where she currently serves as Student Representative on the PTSA Board. Bella is a gentle, thoughtful, and compassionate individual. She is passionate about social justice and environmental issues and looks forward to making her own contributions to making the world a better place. She loves spending time with her family, friends, and her dog Salty. Her parents, **Tyler** and **Norma**, and brother, **Maximiliano**, are proud and excited to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah.



#### Joey Fefferman April 9, 2022

**Joey** is a 7th grade honor student at Riviera. He is a hard-working student, a caring friend, and a devoted brother to his two older sisters, **Chloe** and **Bailey**. He is compassionate, mature, and has a wonderful sense of humor. He loves spending time with his friends, helping his father cook, going to dance class with his mom, concocting business ideas to make extra money, and spending time with his family. His parents, **Greg** and **Hagit Fefferman** are incredibly blessed to have such a wonderful son and are excited to watch him become a Bar Mitzvah.



#### Max Phillips April 23, 2022

**Max** is a 7th grader at The Cushman School and a member of both the National Junior Honor Society and Student Government. He's a die-hard Beatles fan and enjoys spending his summer at Camp Lindenmere. Max has a deep connection with his horse, Honey, and is collecting both funds and supplies for Whispering Manes Therapeutic Riding Center as his mitzvah project. Max is excited to celebrate his special day with his parents, **Audrey** and **Mitchell**, and brothers, **Jacob** and **Aaron**.

# MAZEL TOV B'NAI MITZVAH



#### Mia Hall

#### April 23, 2022

**Mia** graduated from Temple Beth Am Day School in 2020, beginning her TBAM journey nine years earlier in the Early Childhood program. Mia is now in seventh grade at Gulliver Preparatory School. Mia loves skiing, boating, and engaging with friends. For her bat mitzvah project and having come from a family who survived the Holocaust, Mia joined the Young Lions program at the Miami Beach Holocaust Memorial. Mia wanted to be able to tell other survivor stories in addition to her family's history. Mia's parents, **Adam** and **Abigail**, and sister **Emma**, congratulate Mia on becoming a Bat Mitzvah!

# Brotherhood of Temple Beth Am presents... How Is Your Mental Health?

Signs to watch out for and where to find available resources

#### Wednesday evening, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

At Temple Beth Am in the Chapel, Lewis Family Religious Life Complex

Introductory Remarks Jeremy Barras Senior Rabbi, Temple Beth Am

Moderator Miriam Singer President, JCS

nioi Rubbi, Temple Beuri Ani

Our Distinguished Panel

**Christina Lalama** *Clinical Supervisor, PACTT Initiative of JCS* 

Susan Racher President, Board of Directors, NAMI/Miami-Dade **Demian Laudisio** JCS Mental Health First Aid Educator

**Richard Shutes** Director, 211 Miami (a program of JCS)

There is no charge for this event, but registration is requested at tbam.org/mentalhealth





#### A Program for Rambam and Temple Beth Am Parents

Cantor Coyot welcomes the parents of our community to join in this initiative, which seeks to create intimate, supportive groups (or cohorts) that support and learn together on the sacred journey of parenthood. We will use Jewish wisdom and ritual to bring meaning into our lives and the lives of our families.

What does it mean to parent Jewishly? What values can we start discussing with our children, and how? Who are we beyond being parents?

We'll explore these and other topics as we create this sacred space together.

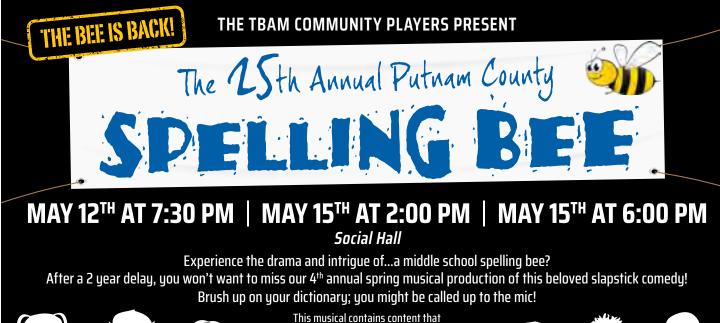
Groups will be led by Cantor Tifani Coyot, Rabbi Greengrass, Mo Fisch and other leaders in our community depending on demand and will meet at least once a month. Groups will not exceed more than 25 people each.

Are you interested in joining a group? Get more info at **www.tbam.org/journeygroups** 

#### COMMENTATOR

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might not be suitable for young children.

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY FOR JUST \$20 EACH AT WWW.TBAM.ORG/SPELLINGBEE

's time to celebrate!

THE

# IS BREED

# SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022

SOCIAL HALL, LEWIS FAMILY RELIGIOUS LIFE COMPLEX

PRESENTED BY



BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA

#### COCKTAIL PARTY 🐎 FOOD 🔅 LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS 🔅 AFTER PARTY

ADVANCED ADMISSION: \$95 per person | DOOR ADMISSION: \$125 per person

ALL SPONSORSHIPS INCLUDE COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

Adult Only Event

**COCKTAIL CHIC ATTIRE** 

ANNUAL AUCTION CO-CHAIRS Melissa Kalman & Nicole Kaplan

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# Miami Cancer Institute

#### **BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA**

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The Clergy of **Temple Beth Am** 









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All sponsorships as of March, 15 2022 | \* School or Temple Board Member



# the Men's seder

# d brotherhood seder for the guys! SUNDAY, April 10th, 12:00 NOON

... featuring the wit and wisdom of Rabbi Jeremy Barras

#### Among the Four Questions...

*Why is it that no matter how old I get, I still don't understand women?* 

Why is the world now reliving the brutality of World War II in Ukraine, and how can we help?

#### We'll explore the Ten Plagues...

✓ COVID-19✓ Thanksgiving

with relatives with opposing beliefs

✓ No Internet connection

✓ Honey-do lists

✓ Hair loss

✓ Choosing the wrong gift for your wedding anniversary!

✓ Golf Frustrations (*putter doesn't work*)
✓ Being a fan of

Miami's sports teams

✓ Using an old iPhone when everyone else has an iPhone 13 Pro

 Backing up a hard drive and not using a surge protector during a hurricane

Cost: \$36.00 per person Complete Seder Meal from Catering by Les Featuring a special Haggadah reviewing contemporary men's issues



Information & Online Registration TBAM.ORG/MENSSEDER

# Celebrate Recovery: A Passover Seder

HONORING OUR JOURNEY TO FREEDOM FROM ADDICTION

# Second Night of Passover **SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022** 6:00 pm

The Passover Seder celebrates the Jewish People's foundational story of freedom.

Our spiritual, musical and meaningful Seder will weave together the ancient story of redemption from slavery and current themes of recovery and hope.

This Seder will especially resonate with those in recovery and their family and friends. Children are welcome and we will have fun activities at the Seder to engage their curiosity.

A delicious, sumptuous, and alcohol-free Passover Seder meal will be served.

\$18 for Adults. Free for children under 18.

Please contact Rabbi Aklepi with any questions at jaklepi@tbam.org

*This program has been generously subsidized by an anonymous donor in support of our recovery initiatives at Temple Beth Am.* 

# Family Havdalah Under the Stars CAMP COLEMAN STYLE MEW DATE \* Saturday, May 14, 2022

YERS Havdalah Family Services 6:30pm Immediately Followed by Bonfire & Activities

Come join us in a fun-filled camping experience for **ALL ages**! Enjoy campfire songs, camp style games, activities, dinner and drinks.

In support of the **YERS** mission and programming, don't forget to purchase **RAFFLE** tickets for terrific prizes!

A Variety of Sponsorship Opportunities Available (details online)



 RSVP at www.tbam.org/gersshabbat

 Adults (19 & up) – \$36 | Youths (18 & under) – \$18 | Kids (5 & under) – \$5

Costerhood of Temple Beth Am

#### Dear Sisters,

It is with much excitement that I am able to announce the slate of officers and board members for the 2022-2023 Sisterhood board. I am especially thrilled that Susan Lampen will take over the reins as President. Susan's experience and creativity will bring dynamic programming and new energy to the new year.

President
Executive Vice President
Treasurer
Vice President of Membership
Vice President of Tikkun Olam
Vice President of Leadership
Vice President of Education
Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary
Historian
Immediate Past President

Susan Lampen Sheri Lieberman Betty McClaskey Rabbi Judy Kempler Joyce Spar Genia Neuhaus Dilia Grossman Claudia Van Essen Ronnit Branciforte Deanna Whitman Dilia Grossman

# Sisterhood End of Year Event THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022

#### MEMBERS AT LARGE

Joanne Bauling-Ciminero Daniella Zanzuri Beiner Sara Berkowitz Rosy Bild Debbie Brodie-Weiss

Fredi Cogan Judy Cowan Ilene Efthimiou Natalie Firestone Carol Flicker Karen Frost Susan Golinsky Janet Kelfer Brenda Kilmer Faye Koniver Pamela Lear Edith Osman Susan Rosenthal Bobbye Shearer Rita Swichkow Cheryl Wolf

Hopefully, the coming year will be much more "normal" than the last two challenging years of endless Zoom meetings. Participating in events in person in our temple home will bring a renewed sense of community. There are many opportunities to get involved. The VP's will be forming their committees and would love to have you join them. Please reach out to Susan Lampen at slampen350@gmail.com with your contact information and the committee you are interested in. Warmly,

DILIA GROSSMAN, Sisterhood President

#### Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>

#### MOVIE CLUB: Call Me By Your Name 7:00 PM | Social Hall

It's the summer of 1983, and precocious 17 year old Elio Perlman, played by Timothée Chalamet, is spending the days with his family at their 17<sup>th</sup> century villa in Lombardy, Italy. He soon meets Oliver, a handsome 24 year-old doctoral student played by Armie Hammer, who is working as an intern for Elio's father, a professor. Amid the sun drenched splendor of their surroundings, Elio and Oliver discover the heady beauty of awakening desire over the course of a summer that will alter their lives forever. Susan Lampen and Debbie Frank will facilitate our conversation.

#### RSVP to tbam.org/movieclub

#### Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> SISTERHOOD BOOK CLUB: *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro 7:00 PM | Zoom

From her place in the store, Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her, but when the possibility emerges that her circumstances may change forever, Klara is warned not to invest too much in the promises of humans.

In *Klara and the Sun*, Kazuo Ishiguro looks at our rapidly changing modern world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator to explore a fundamental question: what does it mean to love? RSVP at **tbam.org/bookclub** 



#### www.tbam.org/sisterhood

For more information on all programs, please e-mail us at sisterhood@tbam.org. Please include your phone number so we can call you back.

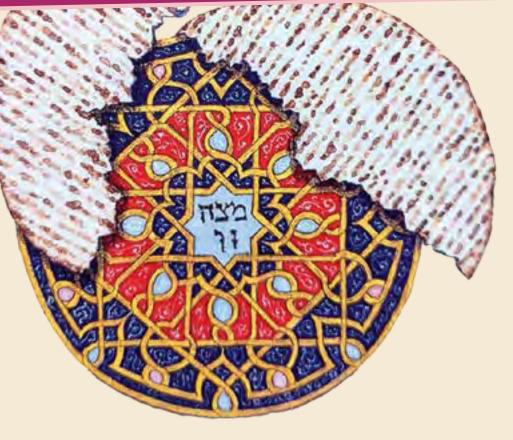
# **Voices of Freedom**

**MULTIGENERATIONAL PRE-SEDER PROGRAM** 

# SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2022 2:00-4:30 PM

#### AT TEMPLE BETH AM

Note: Program will be postponed if we are not able to meet in person.



#### BRING YOUR DAUGHTERS

(age 8+), your mother, your grandmothers, your sister, your aunt, etc.! Appropriate for all the women in your family.

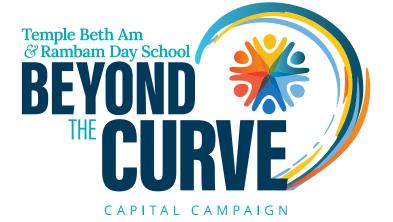
\$36 per adult\$26 for attendees under age 21

Everyone will receive a new Sisterhood Haggadah with ideas, information, reflections, and artwork.

We have a multitude of freedoms in our lives. How do our freedoms allow us to help others? Join us in celebrating how we can be present for others and make a difference in our community and our world.

SINGING • DANCING • MUSIC • CONVERSATION • NOSHING

# www.tbam.org/sisterhoodseder



# Building our Future One Brick at a Time

Join our BTC Brick Campaign on our new campus.

## 1 Brick for \$360 4 Bricks for \$1,200

Your personalized brick will grace our campus for generations to come.

#### COMMEMORATE A LIFECYCLE EVENT:



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In Memory of a Loved One



#### VISIT WWW.TBAM.ORG/BRICKS TO BUY AND PERSONALIZE YOUR BRICK TODAY!

All bricks are  $4'' \times 8''$  and can include up to 3 lines with 20 characters per line (includes spacing and punctuation).

- ONLINE PURCHASE ONLY -

Questions? Contact Ilana Gilat at igilat@tbam.org or 786.364.9429

# Reading with the Rabbi

The Telling: How Judaism's Essential Book Reveals the Meaning of Life

by Mark Gerson Tuesdays at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom

Have you ever wondered that there might be something more to Passover, the Seder and in the Haggadah something that just might hold the secrets to living the life of joy and meaning that you were intended to?

*The Telling* will enable you to see what the Haggadah really is: The Greatest Hits of Jewish Thought. This understanding will enable you to provide your guests with the most interesting, insightful and practically helpful night of the year—with teachings and lessons that will continue to brighten in the year to come.

RSVP: www.tbam.org/readingrabbi for Zoom login info

Sacred Jewish Conversations: How To Talk About End-Of-Life A Program created by Mishkan Miami, Greater Miami Jewish Federation

Wednesdays at 12:00 noon via Zoom with Rabbi Aklepi April 6, 13 and 20

No single conversation can cover all the decisions that you and your family may face in the near or distant future. Some discussions focus on pragmatic issues while others focus on spiritual and religious expectations. Conversations about the end-of -life can provide a shared understanding of what matters most to you and your loved ones, making it easier to make decisions when the time comes.

Join Rabbi Jaime Aklepi in this three-session series and learn to navigate the conversations that will bring you closer to the ones you love by sharing your desires and hearing their wishes about end-of-life.

RSVP at www.tbam.org/sacredconversations

# **NEW MEMBERS**

Rey and Monica Pidre, Nicolas and Emilia Paris and Joshua Carroll, Berkeley, Parker and Dakota Maurice L. and Ava Habif and Conrad Matthew and Jenevieve Treiser, Olivia and Gabriel Daniel and Pamela Simon and Hayden Nelson and Francy Benchimol, Alan, Neal and Abigail Adam and Paige Siper, Wesley and Pierce Jason and Ali Jacobson, Zoey and Max Benjamin and Rachel Gober, Ezra and Andi Steven and Tali Salm, Asher and Julian Seth Shuldiner and Emily Wald, Blake and Anna David and Jorden Sakolsky and Allie Benjamin and Brooke Gettler, Reed, Sloane and Trip Alexander Haber and Diane Horn Haber and Lily Justin and Nicole Landau and Lucas Jedd Wider and Danielle Strauss, Cal and Sydney Marcio Tabatchnik, David, Max, Annick and Benjamin Jeff and Mary Dorfman Kaitlyn Dorfman Robert Guinn and Paige Saperstein and Oliver



TELLING

SENTIAL

EVEALS

GERION



#### MITZVAH DAY WAS A HUGE SUCCESS THANKS TO ALL OF YOUR PARTICIPATION AND DONATIONS ON THAT DAY. A special thank you to our captains!

Check out our highlight video at www.tbam.org/mitzvahday.





For more than six decades, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (the RAC) has worked to educate, inspire, and mobilize the Reform Jewish Movement to advocate for social justice. We have helped activate the Jewish community in the key debates and mobilizations of each generation since our founding, from the civil rights movement to immigration reform.



The last week of February I had the opportunity to travel to Tallahassee during the 2022 Florida legislative session for a day of action in support of women's reproductive rights. I joined a coalition of partners from across the state, both Jewish and of other faiths, along with secular organizations. We had several Beth Am members in attendance. We rallied in front of the Capitol building, held a press conference with gubernatorial

candidates, elected officials and faith leaders, and met with state lawmakers. If you have never done advocacy work on an issue of importance to you, I urge you to get involved at the federal, state or local level. We will be working with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (the "RAC") to train interested Beth Am members to be advocates. It is a great privilege as a member of a vibrant democracy to take action, no matter your political persuasion. *- Jeff Agron* 

#### **GET INVOLVED WITH TIKKUN OLAM THROUGHOUT APRIL!**

#### **MIAMI BEACH GAY PRIDE**

Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> 9:45am meetup 12pm parade

Temple Beth Am, Temple Israel, and other local synagogues are joining together to express our pride! Join us for a brunch and tour of the Miami Jewish Museum from 9:45am-11:15am. We will then walk together to the parade at noon, just two blocks from the museum. Enjoy songs, study, and community!

Please RSVP to Rabbi Greengrass at rgreengrass@tbam.org.



#### JCS MITZVAH MATZAH AND MORE

Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> Temple Judea

Join with other community members to deliver food and personal hygiene baskets to seniors and Holocaust survivors.

For more information, go to jcsfl.org.



#### SENSORY FRIENDLY SHABBAT WITH CHARLIE KRAMER

Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> 9am, Social Hall



We welcome families and children of all abilities to join us with our amazing Artist in Residence, Charlie Kramer. Charlie is a phenomenal Jewish musician who became legally blind as a young person. He now spends his time creating and touring his incredible music, and running training for congregations and schools on inclusion, equality, and radical self-acceptance. Please join us as we enjoy Shabbat morning prayers, songs, movement, challah, juice, and being together! This abbreviated service is geared toward children with sensory processing disorders, but is open to all!

**EARTH DAY** Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 9-11am



Celebrate Earth Day with The Friends of the TBAM Garden Sanctuary! All levels of volunteers are welcome and encouraged to come and see the bounty of our Community Garden.

Interested in getting more involved with Tikkun Olam at Temple Beth Am? Contact Shelley Jacoby at <u>shelley@allinonemailshop.com</u>.

# **RITUAL REMINDERS**

Here is YOUR monthly opportunity to perform the mitzvah of Jewish ritual!

# PASSOVER

Passover, or *Pesach* in Hebrew, is a major Jewish holiday that celebrates the exodus of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. The holiday begins each year on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the Hebrew month of *Nisan* and is celebrated for eight days (seven in Israel). This year, the Hebrew date corresponds with our calendar date of Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> (Tax Day!) and ends the evening of Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We celebrate Passover each year as a remembrance of when G-d delivered the Jews from the Egyptian pharaohs, and to remind us of the presence of G-d. Exodus 12:14-15 states: "This day shall become a remembrance for you and you shall celebrate it as a festival for G-d; for your generations, as and eternal decree shall you celebrate it. For a seven-day period shall you eat matzos, but on the previous day you shall nullify the leaven from your home."

Every year, Jews around the world conduct a *seder* (meaning "order") on the first evening of the holiday, as we remember and tell our children and grandchildren of the exodus out of Egypt. Future generations of the Jewish people must always be aware of how God freed the slaves who became the ancestors of the Jewish people today.

The *seder* is a blending of religious rituals, food, song, and the telling of the Passover story, and it is all done in a particular order. That order is set forth in the *Haggadah*. In addition to the order of the *seder*, the *Haggadah* contains prayers, songs, explanations of the various Passover symbols, and, most importantly, the telling of the Passover story of how G-d freed the Jews from Egyptian slavery. The Hebrew word *Haggadah* actually means "telling." A great deal of the text is quite ancient, the earliest of which precedes the Middle Ages (which began around 476 CE) by several centuries.

A brief summary of the *seder*. Everyone is seated around a dinner table where a leader will conduct the seder. A number of items with symbolic importance will have already been placed on the table. One item always placed on the table is the seder plate, a version of which many of our children made in Sunday School when learning about the holiday. The plate has a collection of items symbolic of the Passover story, among which include the following: a roasted lamb shank bone, which represents the Pascal lamb from which the Jews obtained the blood they smeared over their doors so that the Angel of Death would "pass over" their houses; bitter herbs, such as horseradish, which represent the bitterness of slavery; charoset, a mixture of apples, walnuts, and wine, which represents the mortar used by the slaves to make bricks to build palaces and temples for the Egyptians; parsley, which symbolizes spring (the season for Passover), new beginnings, and the circle of life; and a roasted egg, which represents new life and rebirth.

Also placed on the table is a plate with 3 pieces of *matzah* (unleavened bread). *Matzah* represents the bread that the Jews took with them when they fled Egypt with Moses, as they had no time to bake the bread and let it rise. Salt water is placed on the table in which to dip the parsley before everyone eats a small piece as a reminder of the tears shed by the slaves in captivity. The *seder* calls for each person to drink four cups of wine. Younger children will be served grape juice, but children old enough may be permitted four small cups to their great delight. There is one cup of wine placed on the table that is reserved for the prophet Elijah, whose spirit is said to visit every *seder*. Part of the service involves everyone standing while someone, usually a young child, briefly opens the front door to invite Elijah's spirit into the house.

One of the most endearing rituals of the *seder* is the asking of the "Four Questions" in Hebrew, generally done by the youngest person who is capable of doing so. The questions are prescribed and ask why the rituals of the *seder*, which command behavior so different from other nights, are observed. Why is this night different from all other nights? Why do we dip parsley in salt water? Why can we only eat *matzah* and no other leavened breads or crackers? Why do we eat bitter herbs? Why do we all eat in a reclining position? The answer to the last one is that during the days of slavery, only the wealthy Egyptians could relax and dine in a leisurely manner, while the slaves had to eat their meager meals quickly. The answers to the other questions have been discussed above.

Finally, the *seder* is split roughly into two services with a Thanksgiving-style meal sandwiched in between. Sometime during the meal, the leader of the service will surreptitiously hide half of a piece of *matzah*, called the *Afikomen*. This was ceremoniously broken off of the middle piece of the three pieces of *matzah* placed on the table. Following the meal, and prior to resuming the *seder* service, the children search for the hidden *Afikomen*, and the finder gets to sell it back by "negotiating" with the leader (usually some sort of prize in exchange for the *Afikomen*). Once the leader "purchases" back the *Afikomen*, it is broken into small pieces. Everyone receives a piece to enjoy as the symbolic dessert to the wonderful meal that has been enjoyed by all.

Once the post-meal service is concluded, everyone "looks forward" to seven more days of *matzah* serving as the only "bread" that can be eaten. And, although recognizing that there are still places in this world where the freedom of Jews is threatened, everyone feels inspired by the Passover story and hopeful that one day Jews everywhere will live in freedom.



# OUR JEWISH HERITAG

By Dr. Lenore C. Kipper, RJE, Judaic Studies Director, Emerita

#### Time for Tanach, After the Torah

#### The Book of Isaiah

The book of Isaiah contains sixty-six chapters. According to tradition Isaiah wrote all of these chapters, the last twenty-six of which forecast events that would occur in the future. Many scholars, however, believe that the latter part of the book, chapters 40-66 was written later by another prophet who probably lived in Babylonia around the time that country was conquered by Cyrus of Persia, about 545 B.C.E.

#### About Isaiah

Isaiah is identified as the son of Amoz, and he lived and prophesied in Judah, the southern kingdom. He was born in Jerusalem to a royal family. He was influential with the rulers and political leaders of the country. Even the kings, Ahaz and Hezekiah, turned to him for advice. He was active for about forty years, 740 B.C.E to 700 B.C.E. Isaiah lived during a time of great national crises. Assyria dominated the eastern part of the area, and he had witnessed the fall of the northern Kingdom of Israel. Judah was caught between Assyria and Egypt. He warned the king to keep free of all entangling alliances with foreign powers. He stood for complete neutrality. He believed that if Judah's national life was pure and righteous, it could keep out of the wars of that age. He was convinced that too much foreign influence would bring foreign religions and worship to Jerusalem.

#### Names of his sons

Isaiah was married and had two sons. He gave them unusual names that were symbolic of the ideas he believed in. One son he called *Maher-shalal-hash-baz*, speed-booty-hasten-prey. It was a name that warned that Assyria, a cruel and powerful foe, was planning to loot Judah and attack like a lion on its prey. The other son he called *Shear-Yashub*, a remnant will return. This was symbolic of his belief that no matter what disasters might overtake Judah, a saving remnant would survive.

#### Message of Holiness

Isaiah wrote about the holiness of God. God's holiness was to be found wherever the people practiced mercy, righteousness and justice. God was not to be worshipped only by sacrifices. God sought goodness and right conduct. In the midst of a greedy and corrupt generation and a cruel warlike world, he dreamed of a Golden Age in the days to come.

"And it shall come to pass in the end of days,

That the mountain of the Lord's house shall be Established as the highest mountain, And shall be exalted above the hills. All the nations shall flow to it,

And many peoples shall go and say:

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

To the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us His ways, And we will walk in his paths.

For out of Zion shall go forth the Law,

And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

His vision of universal peace is described in this famous quote:

"And they shall beat their swords into plow shares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Isaiah believed that there would always be a saving remnant of the Jewish People who would return to Jerusalem and to the way of holiness. God would assemble the dispersed of Israel from the four corners of the earth, and they would rebuild Jerusalem.

#### Second Isaiah, Isaiah of the Exile

Isaiah of the Exile wrote about the vision of the return of the people to Jerusalem with inspiring words. They brought comfort and encouragement to the people of Babylonia, especially those who were returning when King Cyrus of Persia gave them permission to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem.

"They shall build houses, and inhabit them; And they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit. They shall not plant, and another eat; For as the days of a tree shall be the days of My people, And My chosen one shall long enjoy the work of their hands. And all your children shall be taught of the Lord, And great shall be the peace of your children."

#### God of the World

Isaiah of the Exile taught that God is the Creator and Guide of the whole world and of all nations and peoples. God is also found in the heart and spirit of each human being. He believed that all humanity is really one universal family. These ideas have influenced and shaped the minds and thoughts of people about God and humankind throughout the ages. Almost all religious writers and philosophers have expanded on the words of Isaiah.

How relevant are the words and visions of Isaiah for our time! They remind us of our responsibility to strive to bring about justice, truth and peaceful discussions to ensure that all nations and peoples will care for the poor, the oppressed and learn to accept the diversity of opinions with an attitude of civility. As we prepare to celebrate Passover this month, we remember the messages of the Haggadah, from darkness to light, from sorrow to joy, from oppression to freedom.

Chag Pesach Sameach,

Lenore



Temple Beth Am AND Rambam Day School

# We want to RECONNECT with YOU!

Temple Beth Am, Rambam Day School at TBAM, and our congregants are looking to connect with all Alumni.

This outreach includes Alumni of the Day School, Religious School, Youth Choirs/ Singing Groups, as well as Teachers, Administrators, and Staff.

Please add your name and contact information to our growing list of alums at www.tbam.org/alumnilist

Forward this website to your contacts who are Alumni no matter how near or far. You are a big part of our successful story and history.

The Alumni weekend initially scheduled for April 2022 will be postponed due to extenuating Covid concerns. There will be events planned in the future where everyone can gather and RECONNECT with friends and colleagues.

Please join us in celebrating 50+ years of Temple Beth Am Day School, renamed the Rambam Day School, at the Annual Auction on April 30, 2022. Visit **tbam.org/annualauction** to learn more.

We look forward to seeing all of you soon.

#### Week Ending April 8, 2022

John Albert Abraham Anapol\* Ruth Ballabon Rabbi Herbert M. Baumgard\* Pauline Berk\* Perry Bittel\* Sylvia (Sis) Blumenthal\* Harry Braverman\* Audrey Brownstein Susan Cahan Ferguson Jacob Dines Bernard Dubow Sidney Efronson\* Dr. Maynard Fields Zelda Franco\* Joan Goldenstein Anne Goldstein\* Ethel Greenwald Alfred Grossman\* Gertrude Harold\* Milton Herscher Florence Hyman\* Frances Jacowitz\* Herbert Johnston\* Jacob Katz\* Elaine Labbie Dr. Philip Lapidus\* Muriel Leitman\* Lewis Morton Levin\* Anna Malin\* Paul Marcus Jordan Mermell Mac Mermell Murray Miller\*

#### Week Ending April 15, 2022

Morris Adler Helaine Bartolome Rose Beck Dr. Dwight Bernstein Bernard Bogage\* Lillian Bookman\* Freda Brenner\* Alvin Budner Debra Cutler Cohen Harry Dickson\* Al Edelman\* Jack Feldman\* Ida Feldman\* Ethel Harris Fenstersheib\* Tillie Ann Fink\* Cheryl Fink Carroll Henry Finkelstein\* Linda Fischer\* Mary Foldes Beatrice Glasser\* Abraham C. Goldberg\* David Goldberg\* Leon Golinsky\* Frances Greer Lawrence Grusky Bernice Haller Marillyn Hyman\*

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#### Week Ending April 22, 2022

Alice Agid\* Paul Atterman Samuel Bahm A. Samuel Bender\* Mildred Berk\* Arthur Bernstein Stella Blumenthal\* Freda Butler\* Julia Cardero A. Budd Cutler\* Leon R. Darlow\* Florence Davidoff Ruth Davidson\* Sonia P. Davis\* Leon Diamond\* Marjorie Eisenberg Leah Eisenman Conn\* Joel Marc Feirstein\* David Henry Fishman\* Julius Foldes Daniel Franco Perry Friedman Thelma "Mickey" Friedman\* Dr. William Geller\* Eric Gelman\* Ida Gottlieb Stella Grad\* Leo Grufferman\*

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#### Week Ending April 29, 2022

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Denotes individuals with a plaque in our sanctuary.

# We're going to Israel!

# TEMPLE BETH AM FAMILY TRIP TO ISRAEL

# – June 12-23, 2022 –

Join Rabbi Barras as he leads our exclusive TBAM Israel experience!

Experience the beauty, the history, and the spirituality of The Holy Land with members of the Temple Beth Am community.

> Includes tour of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, The Negev, The Jordan Valley, and more!

For more information, including a full trip itinerary and pricing, visit **www.tbam.org/israel2022**.



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<b>ENGLISH</b> <b>SPECIALIST: EDITING, POETRY, RESUMÉS</b> <b>Rita Fidler Dorn (Ricki)</b> BS, MA. <b>rickidornpoetry.com</b> Writing workshops on grief, creativity, and poetry construction. Published book author, including <i>The Joy of Jewish Holidays in</i> <i>Rhyme.</i> Expert manuscript editing. <b>abbasone@att.net</b>	MOHEL - ABRAHAM BENYUNES, M.D., FAAP Abraham J. Benyunes is a Mohel certified by the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Rabbinical Assembly of America. Tel.: 305.271.4711 Email: abrahamMD@bellsouth.net www.moheldoctor.com
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305.670.0010   www.miamiwomencare.com	RDIAZ@TBAM.ORG



### **PROFESSIONAL CONNECTIONS NETWORKING GROUP**

## MONDAY, APRIL 25

#### 6:30 PM - ZOOM Professional Connections is a networking group

open to members of Temple Beth Am, as well as the community at large.

Professional Connections Goals

\* To connect congregants and community members for networking, business growth and development. \* To share best practices and success stories amongst our participants.

RSVP is a must! Please register with Rita Diaz for the Zoom link. Questions? Call Rita Diaz at 786.364.9434 or email her at rdiaz@tbam.org

#### www.tbam.org/professionalconnections





Interested in learning more about clean eating, but not sure where to start?

Temple Beth Am invites you to check out our newest initiative, which seeks to provide resources and support for making better choices to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Join your fellow congregants as we embark on this health journey together!

Follow us on FaceBook at **@TBAMPB&J** for updates, and to learn how to get involved!

# <section-header><complex-block><complex-block>

Congregants love to patronize the businesses of other congregants, and what better way to advertise than in the *Commentator*? Featuring all of Temple Beth Am's upcoming events, The Commentator is sent to over 1,600 member households every month, and reaches thousands more digitally.

If you are interested in becoming a *Commentator* advertiser, please email Rita Diaz at rdiaz@tbam.org or call her 786.364.9434.



THANKS

#### AFGHAN RELIEF

Jill Berman Mitch and Barbara Lipcon

#### RABBI AKLEPI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Donna and David Buchwald in loving memory of Belle Ross

- Elisabeth Frank in memory of Elizabeth June Williams, beloved mother of Karen Kammer
- Dilia and Bill Grossman in memory of Lewis Levick brother/uncle's memory. May his memory always be a blessing.

Nancy B, Kraemer in loving memory of Arthur Hirschthal

- Amy and Rickey Mittelberg in loving memory of Leon Kroungold and Rose Mittelberg
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- Frances Salbarrey

Phyllis and Richard Sandrow in loving memory of Dr. Alfred Dinert

Flippy and Harold Tanenbaum in appreciation of Rabbi Aklepi

Ellen Weiss Family in honor of Rabbi Aklepi's lifetime of love and compassion and in memory of Richard Baker, Myrna Klein and Samuel Klein.

#### ARNELLE SOLOMON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Rabbi Joui Hessel in memory of Barry Debowsky Dr. Aliza R. Lipson in memory of Barry Debowsky Ms. Dara F. Webman in memory of Barry Debowsky

#### THE STEPHEN ARKY FAMILY CARING FUND

Marlin, Lisa and Todd, in loving memory of Steve Arky who is, and always will be, deeply in our hearts, with love and respect

#### LESLEE ARONOVITZ YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Fran Berrin and family in honor of Dylan Biondo's Bar Mitzvah Barry Bush in loving memory of Minnie Kaplan

Barry Bush in loving memory of Minnie Kaplan Bobbee and Dennis Longo in loving memory of Toby Adler Grossman

#### RABBI BARRAS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

- Jeff Agron in honor of Ruby Brooks' Bat Mitzvah Barbara Berman and Family in loving memory of Harold Berman
- Robert Bernstein in loving memory of Richard Bernstein

Elizabeth Biondo in honor of Dylan Biondo's Bar Mitzvah. Thank you for being a part of this special occasion!

- Elaine and Alan Brown in honor of Sydney's Bat Mitzvah
- Virginia Corin and Family in loving memory of Dr. Morton Corin
- Esther and Glen Goldberg in loving memory of Michael Cassorla

Dilia and William Grossman in memory of Harriette Fine. We are so sorry for your loss. May her memory always be a blessing to you and the family.

Dolly Harris in honor of Ethan Barras' Bar Mitzvah

- Ricky, Amy, Ellie and Spencer Jaffee in memory of Elaine Stokes. With heartfelt sympathy, you are in our thoughts. May your mom's/grandma's memory be a blessing.
- David and Emily Loewy in honor of Nora's baby naming
- Karen and Ron Kammer with gratitude for the Shiva Minyan for Elizabeth June Williams
- Brian and Meryl Spector in memory of Elizabeth June Williams, mother of Karen Kammer
- Susan Price in memory of Steve Trauman, brother of Bobbie Cohen
- Howard and Jill Schwartz in honor of our grandson's Bris
- Dr. and Mrs. Howard Wallach in memory of Harold Kaplan and loving memory of Gerald Wallach

Robert and Karen Zinn in loving memory of Dr. Solomon Lanster

#### CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY FUND

Bill and Bobbie Cohen in loving memory of Harold Cohen

- Edith and Norman Einspruch in loving memory of Adolph and Mala Einspruch
- Lenard and Susan Gorman in loving memory of Steven M. Gorman

#### CORNERS OF OUR FIELDS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Jackie Berney, Lisa Berney and Josh Knobel, Rachel and Erik Kohlbrenner in loving memory of Dr. William Koblenz

#### CANTOR COYOT'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Iliana and Ed Blumberg in appreciation of your kindness during our difficult time with the passing of my mother

- Jenn and Adam Clarin in honor of Seth and Haiden's B'nai Mitzvah
- Meredith and Josh Clarin in honor of Haiden and Seth's B'nai Mitzvah
- Jill and Howard Schwartz in loving memory of Esther and Morris Passon, Elaine Schwartz and David Joffe

#### GENERAL FUND

Rhoda Baloff in loving memory of Samuel Kreindler Joe and Rose Falowitz in loving memory of Anna Faiwlowicz

- Joe and Rose Falowitz in loving memory of Max Faiwlowicz
- Marvin Ross Friedman in loving memory of Sheila Natasha Simrod Friedman

Logan Haine-Roberts in memory of Elizabeth June Williams

- Richard Siegel in memory of Elaine Stokes
- Bill Silver in memory of Gilbert Snyder
- Marcia Silver in memory of Jack Lebowitz

Melissa Softness and David Luck in honor of Jack Levi Luck's Bris

Rita Swichkow in loving memory of my brother, Donald Bleeker

Ellen and Louis Wolfson III in memory of Felicia Deutch

#### RABBI GREENGRASS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Cummings Family in loving memory of Barbara Kalser. Our deepest condolences, sympathy and love.

Alan Fine and family with gratitude for the funeral of Harriette Fine

The Hernandez and Gould families in memory of Elizabeth June Williams

Ilene and Milton Hirsch in loving memory of Sidney Schreer Dr. and Mrs. Howard Wallach in memory of Harold Kaplan and loving memory of Gerald Wallach

Sandy and Sharon Israel in memory of Dr. Howard Israel

#### KEREN YALDI CHILDREN'S FUND

Jeff and Lili Agron in memory of Stanislaw Szaniecki brother of Anabela Moskovitz.

Jodi Orshan in memory of Estelle Bernstein.

#### MARILYN HERSKOWITZ EDUCATION FUND

Deborah Finkle in honor of Greg, Happy Birthday The Friedlands in honor of Greg Herskowitz 50th Birthday Lisa & Lee Goldstein in honor of Greg Herskowitz' birthday The HSLAW paralegals in honor of Greg's Birthday Robb Litvak in honor of Chuells

Niki & Jeff Marcus, in honor of Greg Herskowitz's Birthday Mitch Morgan in honor of Greg' 50th

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#### RAMBAM DAY SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND

Barbara Fishman in memory of Susanna Schneiderman, mother of Wendy Perlman and Hope Schneiderman and Grandma of Natalia Garcia

Howard and Lynn Zusman in loving memory of Charlotte Zusman

#### SISTERHOOD FUND

Betty McClaskey in loving memory of Steve Trauman, brother of Bobbie Cohen

#### TIKKUN OLAM FUND

Jeff Agron in memory of Elizabeth June Williams, mother of Karen Kammer

Kim Congdon in memory of Elizabeth June Williams

The Fusfield Family in memory of Harry Morton Becker, our beloved, smiling father

Lisa Heller Green in memory of Elizabeth June Williams, mother of Karen (Ron) Kammer and grandmother of Josh Kammer

Brenda Kilmer in memory of Arthur Teitelbaum

Sam and Ellen Steiner in memory of Dr. Steven Herman

Sam and Ellen Steiner in memory of Elizabeth June Williams, mother of Karen Kammer

Bonnie Webman in memory of Elizabeth June Williams, mother of Karen Kammer

Bruce and Mindy Wilner in loving memory of Henry Wilner Bruce and Mindy Wilner in loving memory of Ruth Wilner

#### TIKKUN OLAM GARDEN FUND

Jeffrey Agron in memory of Elizabeth June Williams, mother of Karen Kammer Bonnie Webman in memory of Elizabeth June Williams, mother of Karen Kammer

#### YAHRZEIT FUND

Susan Arkin in memory of Steven Herman Sandra and Sheldon Cohen in memory of our parents' Yahrzeit Dolly Harris in memory of William Palastrant Judith E. Jacobs in loving memory of my mother, Rose Levine Tiplitz Brenda Kilmer in memory of Richard Kilmer Paul, Judith, Brian, Elizabeth, Micah and Asher Korchin in loving memory of Dr. Leo Korchin Rena Kublin in loving memory of Princess and Mr. Louis Kublin Mrs. Helene Lanster in loving memory of Dr. Solomon Lanster Helene Lanster in loving memory of Morris Ressler Steven Lanster in loving memory of Dr. Solomon Lanster Carola Mattei in memory of Isaac Furmanski Michelle and Scott Sarason in memory of Ernest Levi Terri Warhaft Simon in loving memory of Rose Warhaft Sherbal Ellen and Glenn Widom in memory of Harriette Fine



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Please be in touch with Mindy Robbin, mrobbin@tbam.org or call 786.364.9446 for details.



## THE CURRENT OF LIFE

#### We mourn the passing of

Harriette Fine, mother of Alan (Victoria) Fine, David Fine, Stel Fine and Joyce Fine; grandmother of Christopher Fine, Daniel Fine, Kimberly Fine, Cassius Corrigan, Madeline Fine, Shira Fox and Gavi Fox Eileen Higgins, mother of Dr. Eileen (Dr. Victor) Faradji, grandmother of Eileen, Shannon, Joseph and Ethan Faradji

Barbara Kalser mother of Laurel Kalser, Gary (Cindy) Kalser and Kathy (Cory) Rinker; grandmother of Sophie Kalser and Casey Rinker

Lewis Levick, brother of **Dolly Harris**, uncle of **Mindy** (Bruce) Wilner, Andrea (Danny) Shosfy and Dr. Stuart Harris

Susanna Schneiderman, mother of Hope (Ricardo Garcia) Schneiderman and Wendy (Howard) Perlman; grandmother of Natalia Garcia, David (Lia) Perlman and Stephanie Perlman (Nik Deshpande)

**Elaine Stokes,** wife of **Dr. Norman Stokes** and mother of Tracey Stokes (Ari Silverstein) and Ricky (Amy) Stokes; grandmother of Sydney and Sloane Silverstein and Ellie and Spencer Stokes

Stanislaw Szaniecki, brother of **Anabela Moskovitz** (Paul Distenfeld)

Elizabeth June Williams, mother of **Karen (Ron) Kammer** and Craig Williams; grandmother of **Josh Kammer**, Jessica Williams, Meghan Williams and Lorin Ballog

## Jewish Values on Separation of Church and State and the Rising Threat of Far-Right Nationalism Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm

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#### **Rabbi Merrill Shapiro**

Past President, Americans United for Separation of Church and State

#### **Reverend Jim Coffin** Executive Director, Interfaith Council of Central Florida

**Rick Gold** Organizer, Gainesville Humanistic Judaism Community

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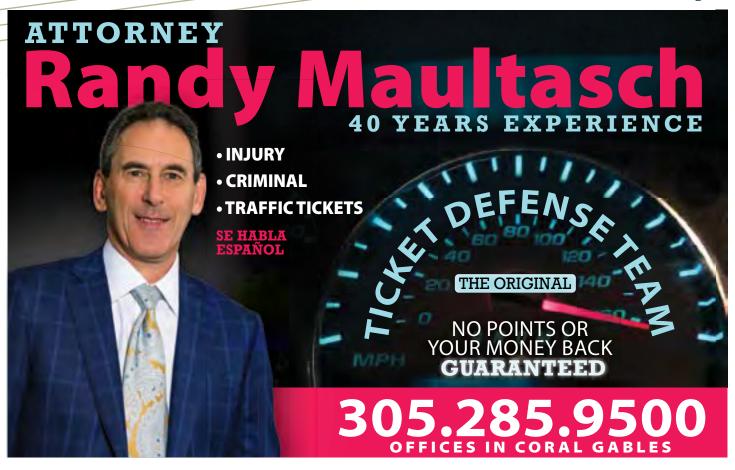
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