

Commentator



TEMPLE BETH AM

Embracing Jewish Life

Sh'vat – Adar
February 2023



FAMILY SHABBAT

See page 7 for additional details



— CAMP COLEMAN STYLE —

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023
6:30 PM

MITZVAH DAY
Sunday, February 26



Mitzvah Day
Guide Inside
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2023

13 Shevat	
6:00 p.m.	Pre-Neg
6:30 p.m.	Shabbat Services

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2023

9:00 a.m.	Torah Study
10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Services

Parashat Beshalach
Exodus 13:17 – 17:16
Haftarah: Judges 4:4 – 5:31

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023

20 Shevat	
6:00 p.m.	Pre-Neg
6:30 p.m.	YERS Live Family Shabbat Under the Stars
7:45 p.m.	YERS Live Shabbat Dinner

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023

9:00 a.m.	Torah Study
10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Services
10:30 a.m.	Bat Mitzvah of Shaina Granja
10:30 a.m.	Conservative Minyan Service
5:30 p.m.	Bar Mitzvah of Jordan Diamond

Parashat Yitro
Exodus 18:1 – 20:23
Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1 – 7:6; 9:5–6
Haftarah: Judges 4:4 – 5:31

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2023

27 Shevat	
6:00 p.m.	Pre-Neg
6:30 p.m.	Shabbat Services

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2023

9:00 a.m.	Torah Study
10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Services
5:30 p.m.	Bat Mitzvah of Emma Harari – off campus

Parashat Mishpatim
Exodus 21:1 – 24:18
Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1 – 7:6; 9:5–6
Haftarah: II Kings 12:5 – 16 (historic: II Kings
12:1 – 17)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023

4 Adar	
6:00 p.m.	Pre-Neg
6:00 p.m.	Fam Jam with Cantor Coyot
6:30 p.m.	Tikkun Olam Shabbat Services

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023

9:00 a.m.	Torah Study
10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Services
10:30 a.m.	Bar Mitzvah of Jeremy Balson
5:30 p.m.	Bat Mitzvah of Ella Jackson

Parashat Terumah
Exodus 25:1 – 27:19
Haftarah: I Kings 5:26 – 6:13

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Temple Beth Am
& Rambam Day School



BEYOND THE CURVE

C A P I T A L C A M P A I G N

THIS IS OUR YEAR!

GRAND OPENING OF THE HUB

– Save-the Date –
SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023

This Spring 2023, we will welcome you to **The Hub**,
dedicated by Richard and Colleen Fain. **The Hub** will be our new
state-of-the-art cultural, athletic and activity center, featuring:

THE FRANKEL FAMILY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

THE POYASTRO FAMILY ATHLETIC CENTER

THE HAVENICK FAMILY OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURT

THE LAMPEN SACHAR OUTDOOR CULTURAL LIFE CENTER

OPEN TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY
Together, we built a better future!



FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Rabbi Jeremy Barras

jbarras@tbam.org

All Jews Share the Same Torah

The most recent elections in Israel have resulted in great tumult in the American Jewish Community. Never have we seen an Israeli government coalition so dependent on the ultra-orthodox and ultra-nationalist parties within its ranks. The threats emanating from some of those members are vitriolic and scary to the liberal Jewish world. Their propaganda and hatred of our brand of Judaism have made “reform” and “conservative” dirty words in many circles in Israel. Unfortunately, their unwillingness to get to know us and our mission has led them to believe that we are their enemies, and the enemies of Torah. Simply stated, they do not properly contextualize Diaspora Judaism, and because of it, have created a rift that divides the Jewish world.

I have been to many conferences and meetings over the years where orthodox, conservative and reform rabbis meet. We study together, get to know each other, and learn about each other’s communities. I have made many friends in all three movements. When we sit together, we often realize that we have more in common than separates us, and we usually enjoy these opportunities to be together. On more than one occasion, I have heard an Israeli in the group say that such a meeting in Israel could never happen. There is so much pressure on orthodox rabbis there to shun the liberal movements that it is almost impossible for real dialogue to take place. How sad that rabbis are prevented from sharing each other’s experiences, teachings, and world views.

Several years ago, I had a chance to meet with an Israeli Knesset Minister on one of her trips to Florida. I asked her if she thought that the Reform and Conservative movements had a bright future in the United States. Her response was problematic, but not unexpected. She felt that because of our lack of observance and high rate of intermarriage, we would eventually disappear.

Respectfully, I responded that just as there is much I do not know about Israel because I don’t live there full time, there is also much she is unaware about our community. It was clear to me that she had inculcated the propaganda the Israeli public is fed about our movement. They simply do not understand that in our congregations, we teach Torah. We teach Hebrew and Zionism, social action and social justice, and we facilitate the performance of mitzvot. Perhaps we do it a little differently than they do. And certainly, there is much we can do better. But fashioning a brand of Judaism that fits our needs and the milieu in which we live has been the hallmark of Diaspora communities for the last 2000 years. And to be fair, we have created a movement that has endured in this country for over 200 years. We aren’t going to disappear. We will strengthen. We aren’t fully assimilated. We are proud Jews. Someday I pray that Jews around the world will learn to appreciate there is more than one way to be Jewish, and that all of them are focused on the wisdom of the Torah.

Rabbi Jeremy Barras

Lunch 'n Learn with Rabbi Barras
Tuesday, February 7 at 12:00 PM in the Chapel

The Current State of the Reform Movement

RSVP to Janice Baisman at jbaisman@tbam.org to let us know if you are coming!
Light snacks will be provided, feel free to bring your own lunch!



CLERGY CORNER

Rabbi Rachel Greengrass

rgreengrass@tbam.org

As many of you know, I study a page of Talmud every day and blog about it. My article today is one of those blog posts, as it tells about a beautiful story from the Talmud that honors students and trees. This month we celebrate Tu B'Shvat, the birthday for the trees. May they inspire us to take care of our planet, and one another.

The Gemara relates:

When they were taking leave of one another, Rav Nahman said to Rabbi Yitzhak: Master, give me a blessing. Rabbi Yitzhak said to him: I will tell you a parable. To what is this matter comparable? It is comparable to one who was walking through a desert and who was hungry, tired, and thirsty. And he found a tree whose fruits were sweet and whose shade was pleasant, and a stream of water flowed beneath it. He ate from the fruits of the tree, drank from the water in the stream, and sat in the shade of the tree.

And when he wished to leave, he said: Tree, tree, with what shall I bless you? If I say to you that your fruits should be sweet, your fruits are already sweet; if I say that your shade should be pleasant, your shade is already pleasant; if I say that a stream of water should flow beneath you, a stream of water already flows beneath you. Rather, I will bless you as follows: May it be God's will that all saplings which they plant from you be like you.

So it is with you, said Rav Nahman to Rabbi Yitzhak. With what shall I bless you? If I bless you with Torah, you already have Torah; if I bless you with wealth, you already have wealth; if I bless you with children, you already have children. Rather, may it be God's will that your offspring shall be like you.

Simply gorgeous. It needs nothing further— but I can't help myself.

We should bless the trees by allowing their offspring to live and give shade. As a Floridian, we know how drastically cooler it is in the shade. Just go to a child's soccer, football, or baseball game and watch the parents desperately trying to squeeze under the shade of the lone tree on the edge of the field. Most of us know about the perils of the loss of rainforest, how they are the world's lungs, absorbing CO2 by day and giving us oxygen by night; that about 120 medications come from the rainforest; that it houses over 3,000 species of animals, and that a chunk of rainforest—6,000 acres—is cut down every hour.

But did you know that one of the ways trees can best save us from a heating planet is shade? That, if we want to cool the planet, one of the best things we can do (besides all the things we should stop doing) is to plant trees and create more tree canopy?

Just yesterday I was listening to a local news broadcast that was talking about the life saving effects of planting urban trees: <https://www.wlrn.org/news/2021-11-16/miami-dade-county-florida-extreme-heat-season-cop26-tree-canopy>.

Tree, tree, with what shall I bless you? If I say to you that your fruits should be sweet, your fruits are already sweet; if I say that your shade should be pleasant, your shade is already pleasant; if I say that a stream of water should flow beneath you, a stream of water already flows beneath you. Rather, I will bless you as follows: May it be God's will that all saplings which they plant from you be like you.

Let's get planting.

You can plant with Beth Am in our organic garden! See the Mitzvah Day guide starting on page 21 for more information.

Rabbi Rachel Greengrass





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

David Young
dyoung@tbam.org

I am so proud of the work being done by the DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Committee led by Vice President Roberta Mandel that I wanted her to share with all of us the work the committee has been doing.

—David Young



“When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not wrong him. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 19:33-34).

These words from the Torah remind us that we have all been “strangers” in one way or another and command that we draw on that experience to develop empathy for people who feel marginalized.

We strive to live out the Jewish value of b’tzelem Elohim, the belief that all people are created in the image of G-d and, therefore, deserve honor and respect. Our diversity, the qualities that make us different and unique, is a blessing. Consequently, we strive to celebrate, support, and honor all members and guests regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, age, ability/disability, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, education, marital status, etc.

We formed the DEI Committee to empower TBAM members, leadership, and staff to create an atmosphere that is welcoming and supportive to all people who seek a relationship with the TBAM community through education, advocacy, and action.

The mission statement of the committee is:

Empower Temple Beth Am congregants, board, leaders, clergy, staff, and our day and religious school teachers and families to pursue a more welcoming environment for those who experience being marginalized through inclusive education, programming, training, and action.

As April Baskin, a longtime advocate of Jewish diversity and inclusion, explains, “It takes humble commitment and discipline to override conscious and unconscious biases...This requires

consistent focus, innovative strategies, regular self-assessment, and doing the hard work of updating our institutions’ existing policies and programs to ensure inclusivity and equitability in today’s Jewish community.” This is the work that TBAM is committed to doing.

The DEI Committee welcomes new members interested in exploring and implementing ways to make TBAM a more welcoming environment through education, advocacy, and action. The committee’s work will not be finished in one year. It will be an ongoing process, as many communities fall under the DEI umbrella. The committee’s task is to identify and integrate the needs of TBAM with a focus on members from diverse ethnic backgrounds; interfaith families; the LGBTQ community; people of color; people with disabilities or other accommodation needs; people experiencing the effects of mental illness (including suicide); and people suffering from addictions. The DEI Committee is still in the process of recruiting and developing leaders and members of each community of focus so that each is a viable working group. We welcome people who have an interest in this endeavor.

We aim to create an action plan for each community and bring all programs and communities of focus together under one umbrella. We want to build a lens of inclusiveness into all TBAM programs. We are currently discussing ways to create an evaluation process as a whole and for each area of focus.

The DEI Committee recognizes that our collective understanding of how best to support the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion is constantly evolving. In response, the committee is committed to continually growing, learning, and improving our capacity to meet the needs of the TBAM community broadly. We invite feedback from members of TBAM.

Roberta Mandel, Esq.

Chairperson
DEI Committee



FAMILY SHABBAT



— **CAMP COLEMAN STYLE** —

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023

6:30 PM

Join us for dinner and a fun-filled camping experience for ALL ages!

Immediately following student-led YERS Shabbat Services

ADULTS – \$54 | YOUTH (6-18) – \$22 | KIDS (5 & UNDER) – \$10

FAMILY PACKAGE – \$120 (INCLUDES 2 ADULTS AND UP TO 3 CHILDREN)

**A Variety of Sponsorship Opportunities Available
(details online)**

RSVP at tbam.org/yerslive

TEMPLE Beth Am
YERS
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
RELEVANT SERVICES
A World of Opportunities





Rita Diaz
Membership Director
rdiaz@tbam.org

MEMBERSHIP

Alum or Affiliated with

Join Us

Wednesday, February 8
7:30 – 9:00 P.M.

Are you a Tulane alum? Have a son or daughter at Tulane?

Michelle and Steve Cohen will be hosting a wine and cheese evening at their home in Palmetto Bay for all Tulanians! Join us and meet other Beth Am folks who also love Tulane. Roll wave, Rita!

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



CHAVURAH

- CONNECTION -

Party with your Chavurah, see old friends...
and make some new ones! *If you are not in a
Chavurah, we will find one just for you.*

First drink on us!

Saturday evening,

February 11th

at 6:30 PM, Havdallah at 7:00 PM

- Bay 13 Brewery -
65 Alhambra Plaza, Coral Gables

Check out this fabulous outdoor venue, couches, tables, chair and music!

Let us know if you can join us

Please RSVP at www.tbam.org/bay13

Invite your friends. It's party time!

Information, call Rita at (786) 364 9434

**Tamara Donnenfeld**

Director of Lifelong Learning
tdonnenfeld@tbam.org

Confirmation Trip Reflection

This past December our Confirmation class traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in the *L'Taken* Social Justice Seminar. The weekend gathered over 300 teens from North America, and together, they learned about social justice issues like gun violence prevention, migration, antisemitism, reproductive rights, homelessness, and environmental justice, to name a few.

The program provided meaningful opportunities for hands-on learning, igniting curiosity, building life-long friendships, being part of something bigger, and discovering one's voice. It exposed our students to various public policy issues and explored the Jewish values that inform the Reform Movement's advocacy around these topics. Participants experienced the importance of having a say in the social justice issues impacting their culture and community and how government works. The seminar allowed them to address weighty issues with considered responses and grapple with the realities of making change in an imperfect world.

On Monday, after a weekend of learning and touring important Washington D.C. sites, all groups went to Capitol Hill to meet with their state senators and district's staff to discuss issues they have chosen to examine. They wrote personal essays, taking into consideration their perspective as Jews, teens, and Americans. Our 18 students wrote about gun violence prevention, reproductive rights, migration, and antisemitism. Representative Maria Salazar and Senator Rick Scott's office supported our teens' request to support Representative Josh Gottheimer's resolution condemning antisemitism by public figures and the Pray Safe Act. However, the other requests were contested by the senator's office and politely heard by Salazar's staff. While it was hard to be dismissed or opposed, our students learned a huge lesson just by having

their voices heard and speaking up and standing for what they considered just and right. By doing so, they performed their

civic duties and advocated for public policy that reflects Jewish values and commitment for social justice.



Advocating requires practice as well as having a lot of patience and perseverance. The weekend taught our teenagers that lobbying is an art, and some groups exert more influence than others by virtue of having more money and political connection. Yet, we all have a voice if we choose to use it; it is powerful, and it can lead us to change the world.

We are proud of our teens and their passion for creating a better, more just, and more humane world. Our Youth Engagement department realizes how important this type of experience is, how it affects our teens, and how it creates community and seals

friendships for life. *L'Taken*, as well as the pre-confirmation trip to Memphis, the SJTF trip to Guatemala, and the 8th grade trip to Israel, are an integral part of our programs, as they provide educational and experiential opportunities for our youth and enable them to choose and connect with their unique Jewish journey. We believe that Judaism is better LIVED than STUDIED.

On February 10, our Youth Engagement families will celebrate Shabbat together. Our children and teens will lead services followed by our only fundraising dinner, which aims to collect funds and increase our trip reserves so experiences like the *L'Taken*, Guatemala, Memphis, and Israel can be celebrated by all our teens, regardless of the family's ability to pay.

Please support YERS Live! RSVP at tbam.org/yerslive

Tamara Donnenfeld

Sumiko Zayon
Youth Engagement Director
szayon@tbam.org



TEMPLE BETH AM
YERS
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
A World of Opportunities

This year, *Tu BiSh'vat*, the Jewish “New Year of the Trees,” falls on February 6, marking the season in which the earliest-blooming trees in the land of Israel emerge from their winter sleep. Humans are connected to trees in so many ways. My two favorite similarities are that we both are completely unique and that, just like the flowers, we also bloom at different times. During this holiday, we invite our TBAM community to slow down and see the beauty of God’s creation. This is a holiday to rejoice in the harvest, to enjoy their colors, textures, and tastes, to give thanks to nature in actionable ways, and to appreciate nature intentionally.

I would like to share with you a *Tu BiSh'vat* ritual that I loved while reading an article by Julie Balter, the executive coordinator of At The Well, an organization dedicated to spreading the word about Jewish rituals to enhance connection with one another. Balter writes, “Take a full two minutes to privately whisper your dreams and intentions you wish to plant for Shevat. No wish is too big or too small. This is your private, sacred time to symbolically deposit into the earth whatever you wish to see grow.”

During this year, we have seen our YERS community grow...and when I say “grow,” I am not referring to numbers only. Our religious school is strong, and our youth groups are forming long-lasting friendships and increasing their commitment to Judaism. The teens of today are the seeds that were planted years ago. At YERS, we trust the process; we take care of our little seeds by offering educational programs, social opportunities, and professional support as needed, but the most important part of that process happens below the surface. We plant the seeds with love, to make sure that all the experiences lived with YERS stay in their hearts forever. May God let us plant more and more.

Come grow with us! I wish you a Tree-rific *Tu BiSh'vat*!

Sumiko Zayon

TU BISH'VAT

TU BISH'VAT 2022 WILL BEGIN IN THE EVENING OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

AND ENDS IN THE EVENING OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

"Tu Bish'vat or the "New Year of the Trees" is Jewish Arbor Day. The holiday is observed on the 15th (tu) of the Hebrew month of Shvat. Scholars believe that originally Tu Bish'vat was an agricultural festival, marking the emergence of spring. In the 17th century, Kabbalists created a ritual for Tu Bish'vat that is similar to a Passover seder. Today, many Jews hold a modern version of the Tu Bish'vat seder each year. The holiday also has become a tree-planting festival in Israel, in which Israelis and Jews around the world plant trees in honor or in memory of loved ones and friends."

HOW TO CELEBRATE?

You can host a Tu Bish'vat seder at your house or in the park surrounded by nature. Make sure you eat the seven significant species of the land of Israel. Use the graphic on this page provided by Torah Box as a guide for your seder. Don't forget to try a new fruit this year!

1. Pomegranate (Rimon)
Segula: To protect one's mouth from gossiping.

2. Wheat (Chametz) (as a cake)
Segula: Intelligence and material success.
Before eating we recite: Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu, meichil hametz, borei pri ha'adamah.

3. Barley (Sela) (as a cake)
Segula: Shalom Bayit.

4. Olive (Zayit)
Segula: Having righteous children.
Before eating recite: Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu, meichil ha'adamah, borei pri ha'adamah.

5. Date (Tamar)
Segula: Fertility.

6. Fig (Efi)
Segula: To acquire partners.

7. Grapes (Gefen)
Segula: Finding a soulmate.
Before drinking wine or grape juice we say: Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu, meichil ha'adamah, borei pri ha'adamah.

8. After eating these fruits, we eat other fruits in whichever order we want. Before eating a fruit from the ground, (banana, melon, ...) we say: Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu, meichil ha'adamah, borei pri ha'adamah.

"A New Fruit"
If we eat a new fruit from that year's harvest, we recite the blessing of Shehechiyenu.
Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu, meichil ha'adamah, borei pri ha'adamah, shehechiyenu, v'chayenu, l'asman, b'rach.

- COMMIT TO RECYCLING PAPER GOODS
- DO CRAFTS USING UPCYCLED MATERIALS
- PLANT TREES OR SEEDS
- START AN HERB GARDEN
- TAKE SOME TIME TO RESEARCH YOUR OWN ANCESTRY
- ASSEMBLE YOUR FAMILY TREE
- ORGANIZE A PARK OR BEACH CLEAN-UP TO COLLECT LITTER.



Andrea LeVine Kay
Program Director
akay@tbam.org

PROGRAMMING



PURIM

The Frequently Told Story of the Queen of Shushan

Monday, March 6th – 6:30 PM

Don't miss this year's Purim shpiel, featuring the Purim story set to the tunes of Broadway's *Wicked*.

Listen to the megillah reading and be sure to BOO at the sound of Haman's name! Enjoy l'chayim, lotsa hamantaschen, and get ready to sing along with our Purim Players!

Free of charge, but please RSVP so that we have enough hamantaschen for all.

www.tbam.org/purimshpiel

Join us in the Chapel before the show at 6:00 PM for a traditional megillah reading, mitzvah project, and performance from our Pop Up Choir!

UNDERSTANDING Gender Identity

with Tracey Labgold, Keshet
and Sage Cassell-Rosenberg, E.I. Games

Wednesday, March 15

7:00 PM

**Temple Beth Am
Social Hall**

Join us in partnership with
Keshet for an informative
LGBTQ+ Introductory
Session. Find out how
becoming a better ally is
aligned with Jewish values.
Noshes served. No cost -
RVSP requested.

Genderqueer?

Non-Binary?

Cisgender?

THEY/THEM for
an individual
person?



RSVP: tbam.org/gender

Presented by:

Keshet
קשת

tikkyn olam



TEMPLE BETH AM
Embracing Jewish Life

ZIONESS

UNABASHEDLY PROGRESSIVE,
UNAPOLOGETICALLY ZIONIST.



**Lunch 'n Learn with Rabbi Barras
presents Amanda Berman of Zioness**
Tuesday, March 14
12:00 PM, Chapel

Temple Beth Am is honored to welcome
Amanda Berman, Founder and Executive Director of Zioness,
to lead us in our March Lunch 'n Learn.

Zioness is a grassroots organization with more than 30 chapters
across the country, fighting for the advancement of social, racial,
economic, environmental justice and gender justice in America.
Zioness is also committed to fighting for Zionism and the inclusion of
Zionists in social justice spaces, because Zionism is itself a progressive
value: the movement for liberation and national self-determination of
the Jewish people in our indigenous homeland.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to learn about the important work
Zioness is doing to advocate for social justice for all people, to promote
understanding of Judaism and Zionism within progressive circles, and
to call out antisemitism wherever and whenever it appears.

Light snacks will be provided. Feel free to bring your own lunch!

RSVP at tbam.org/lunchandlearn

Purim CARNIVAL

**SUNDAY
MARCH 5TH**

**12 PM - 3 PM
ATHLETIC FIELD**



**BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY
AND CELEBRATE PURIM
AT TEMPLE BETH AM WITH
OUR ANNUAL CARNIVAL!**



Connect with old friends and meet new ones as we enjoy this festive holiday together.
Featuring games, attractions, face painting, food trucks and more!

Purchase a wristband and get full access to all attractions!
\$20 in advance for children ages 3-17 | \$30 at the door
Free for adults and children under 3



TBAM.ORG/PURIMCARNIVAL



TOT SHABBAT

WITH CANTOR COYOT!

Saturday, February 4 at 9:30 AM

Early Childhood Courtyard (Rambam Day School Building)

Share the joy of Shabbat with your little ones at our Tot Shabbat!
Join us for Shabbat songs, crafts and fun while connecting with other families
as we welcome Shabbat together. This month, we'll be celebrating Tu BiSh'vat! We will decorate
pots, plant seeds and learn all about the Jewish New Year for the Trees.
This program is geared toward children ages 4 and under, but big brothers and sisters are welcome!

RSVP: tbam.org/totshabbat



February FamJam Mitzvah Edition

**Friday, February 24
5:30 PM**

The Krys Family Atrium, Rambam Day School Building

We invite all elementary school students and their families to this special abbreviated Shabbat service with Cantor Coyot and her band, featuring a pop-up choir of talented Rambam Day School students. With Mitzvah Day right around the corner, we will have special kid-friendly mitzvah opportunities so that our little ones can use this Shabbat to give back and learn about the Jewish value of Tikkun Olam.

Stick around after services for food trucks, sports and family fun!
Admission includes full access to food trucks and prepared food, as well as activities geared toward children K-5...
but little sisters and brothers are welcome!

Adults \$25 / Children ages 5 and over \$15 / Family of 4 \$72
Children 4 and under are free, but please let us know how many will attend. No charge to attend the service only.

RSVP at tbam.org/famjamshabbat

MAZEL TOV B'NAI MITZVAH



Shaina Reese Granja

February 11, 2023

Shaina is a 7th grade Gifted honor roll student in the photography program at Southwood Middle School. She is a talented writer, enjoys playing tennis, is compassionate, witty, loves shopping with friends, and playing games with her sister. Shaina's favorite place is the beach, and she is always excited to see a new Marvel movie. Her parents **Fernando** and **Lori**, and younger sister **Lila**, are very proud of her accomplishments and are excited to celebrate her on her Bat Mitzvah.



Jordan Diamond

February 11, 2023

Jordan is a 7th grade student at Palmetto Middle School. He is a good student, caring friend, and great big brother. He loves basketball, football, baseball, tennis, and golf. Most of all, Jordan loves to spend his summers at Camp Cedar in Maine and is thrilled that many of his out of state camp friends are attending his Bar Mitzvah. For his Bar Mitzvah project, Jordan held a flag-football tournament to benefit Patches, a Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care (PPEC) center in Homestead, that attracted over 60 participants and raised money to help Patches' children. Jordan's parents, **Jill** and **Seth**, and brothers, **Lucas** and **Jake**, are so proud of him and can't wait to celebrate his special day.



Emma Harari

February 18, 2023

Emma is a 7th grade student at Gulliver Preparatory School. Funny, driven and creative, Emma loves to play volleyball at Miami Hype as well her school's team. When not playing volleyball, Emma is practicing her violin or learning and spending time with family and friends. Her parents **Philippe** and **Claudia**, and siblings, **Sophia** and **Gabriel**, are so proud of all of her hard work and are excited to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah in February.



Jeremy Balson

February 25, 2023

Jeremy is a 7th grade student at Ransom Everglades and a graduate of Temple Beth Am Day School. He is an excellent student, wonderful brother, son, and friend. Jeremy has a curious mind and a phenomenal sense of humor. He enjoys swimming, running and spending quality time with his friends and family. His parents **Sofi** and **Roney**, sister **Vanessa** and little sister **Mia** are very proud of him and very excited to be honoring him and celebrating his Bar Mitzvah in Jerusalem!



Ella Jackson

February 25, 2023

Ella is a graduate of Rambam Day School and is currently a 7th grade student at Palmetto Middle School. She is a dedicated dancer at Miami Dance Collective and also enjoys skiing on family vacations. She loves the beach, baking, and spending time with family and friends. Her parents, **Liz** and **Joe**, and younger sister, **Penelope**, are beyond proud of her always and look forward to celebrating this special occasion.



DO JUSTICE LOVE MERCY

In December, we were pleased to welcome Michele Eiger, the new RAC-FL state organizer, to Temple Beth Am. Michele spoke on a Shabbat morning to our minyan about the work of RAC-FL and how we as a community can get involved. She stressed how RAC and RAC-FL have been involved for years in making our state a more just and equitable place for all citizens. We had several members who were interested in getting involved and who had nice conversations with Michele. If you might be interested in working with RAC-FL as a member of the Temple Beth Am team, please let me know.



In late January, RAC-FL started to engage in a statewide listening project congregation-by-congregation to hear what concerns and issues are on the minds of our Florida congregants. Temple Beth Am will be having a listening session soon. Please look for more information online. These listening sessions will help determine the statewide work that RAC-FL and its constituent congregations will be engaged in for 2023. It is important that we hear from you!

All the best,

Jeff Agron,
RAC-FL

SAVE THE DATE

The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (the RAC) will be having its days of action in Washington, D.C. May 10-11. Join other Reform Jews from all over the country as we learn about various issues pending on Capitol Hill and then visit our Senators and Representatives to advocate for what is important to us as a Reform Movement. More information will be coming very soon.

NEW MEMBERS

Behzad & Suzanne Souferian and Jayden
Christopher Adamo & Randi Wolfson,
Booker and Rhyder

Sponsor a pre-neg
with us to honor someone who
is celebrating a birthday, an
anniversary...
or any special occasion.

For more
information call
Rita Diaz at 786.364.9434.



SUNDAY SALON

Join us at 10:30 AM for a bagel, a coffee and a schmooze
Chapel, The Lewis Family Religious Life Complex

FEBRUARY 5, 2023

Author S.W. Leicher presents *Acts of Atonement*

A timely novel about two women — one Latina, one Jewish — living against expectations



S.W. Leicher grew up in the Bronx in a bi-cultural (Latina and Jewish) home. Her most recent novel has been called “a much-needed, eye-opening, and affectionate introduction to three ‘outsider cultures’— Jewish, Latina, and gay—that are so often misjudged in this country.” Yet, given her deep ties to all three groups—and the alarming surge in bigotry and violence that those groups were experiencing as she wrote—her work could not help but be timely, while also offering an engaging and deeply affecting story of love, family, and faith.

LGBT+ History Month is a month-long annual celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual trans, and non-binary history, including the history of LGBT+ rights and related civil rights movements. It is celebrated in February each year to recognize the creativity, imagination and innovation of LGBTQ+ creators throughout history.



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

Adult Reading Room Library events are
 coordinated by Etta Gold MLS RJE,
 Congregational Librarian
 Contact Etta at egold@tbam.org

TU BISH'VAT SUNDAY SUNDAE SEDER IN THE GARDEN

Sunday, February 5 | 2:00 PM

Celebrate the Jewish New Year for the Trees
 in our TBAM Garden Sanctuary!

We're putting our own spin on the traditional Tu BiSh'vat seder with ice cream sundaes for all. Join us for this family-friendly holiday celebration as we explore how our Jewish tradition teaches us to advocate for the environment while connecting to nature in our own beautiful garden.

Free of charge, but please RSVP at
tbam.org/tubishvat





DAY SCHOOL

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

At the heart of Judaism is the notion of covenant—a relationship defined by reciprocal agreement. Most classrooms today no longer post class rules on their bulletin boards but rather enter into a social contract in order to set expectations, boundaries, and principles that govern the classroom community. Rambam Day School follows a *brit kavod*, or value-based behavior expectations. These are living and breathing values that become concrete parts of a student's learning experience. They take abstract concepts of what is and is not appropriate and translate them into actual ideas and behaviors. In this way, both teachers and students take ownership of this covenant from the get-go, leading to greater effectiveness and understanding.

Rambam's value-based behavior expectations can be seen in the form of our "Middah of the Month." Each *Rosh Chodesh* introduces a different *middah* and concept such that values are seen as verbs rather than nouns. The *middot* map provides teachers and students with a list of Jewish values to focus on. We impart values such as choice, problem-solving, respect, gratitude, patience, kindness, the power of words, courage, compassion, responsibility, and reflection. Throughout the month, students engage with that particular value. For example, they may be able to think of someone they know who demonstrates that value. They may develop an action plan as to how they themselves could demonstrate that value. Perhaps the values can be seen within their parents and families. Focusing on these *middot* in a developmentally appropriate way ensures that as they grow up, the students will gain an increased understanding of the importance of others and their own actions and place in this world.

Rules are meant to serve our needs and are changed when they do not. Values are meant to rule us, even when no one is

watching. They should remain at the heart of what we do and say. Understanding values and integrating them into the lives of our students helps the students evolve and incorporate a lifelong foundation of service to others. Through Rambam's

value-based behavioral system, we are able to provide effective feedback, goal setting, and reflection upon our actions. This helps develop reasonable expectations even in our youngest learners. Our *Middot*-based behavioral system structure focuses on communication and collaboration with parents, as primary educators, to develop a consistent message for their child.

At Rambam, children know that they are loved, valued, and responsible for their own actions. We are committed to

developing the Rambam way in each of our learners and do all we can to ensure that they understand the importance of values, as well as rules, to their lives as they grow through middle and high school, college, and life.

Nora Anderson



TBAM Tours

Join Rabbi Aklepi and your friends for a Jewish tour of a lifetime.

Temple Beth Am's
Jewish Heritage River Cruise
Dürnstein, Austria

7-night river cruise aboard AmaLea
Melodies of the Danube | October 20-29, 2023

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

Private Jewish heritage experiences for our group:

BUDAPEST

Visit the spectacular Dohány Street Synagogue, Hungarian Jewish Museum and Tree of Life Holocaust Memorial when you venture to Budapest's sprawling Jewish Quarter. This area boasts a variety of Jewish Hungarian restaurants, bakeries and shops. Alongside the river, you can also visit the deeply moving Shoes on the Danube memorial.

BRATISLAVA

Learn about the history of the poignant Holocaust Memorial that stands in the center of Old Town, marking the site of the former Neolog Synagogue. You may also pay your respects at the Rabbi Chatam Sofer Memorial – exclusively available to custom groups.

VIENNA

Visit Vienna's historic Jewish Quarter. Marvel at the contemporary Memorial Against War and Fascism designed by Austrian sculptor Alfred Hrdlicka and journey through time at the Jewish Museum in Palais Eskeles, where you will see the foundations of the medieval synagogue.

LINZ/SALZBURG

10 hr excursion from the ship in Linz to Salzburg and back. Your excursion begins with a tour of Linz and its Jewish heritage with a visit inside the local synagogue. Then depart for Salzburg, where you will walk along traces of Jewish history and life. Fabulous accommodations and dining.

Don't miss out on this rare opportunity to enjoy some of the world's most beautiful cities with your Temple Beth Am community!

For more details, including pricing and registration information, visit
tbam.org/tbamtours

Space is limited, so register today!



MITZVAH DAY 2023

FEBRUARY 26, 2023



Mitzvah Day 2023 is Sunday, February 26. Our annual flagship day of mitzvot is an opportunity to make the world a better place through tikkun olam and one that we hope inspires all to continue such acts of service year-round. Recommit to volunteering, learn of new ways to make a difference, meet and reconnect with fellow congregants and have fun too—there's a place and program for YOU at Mitzvah Day!

Mitzvah Day begins with a bagel breakfast and check-in and registration from 8 AM to 9 AM in the TBAM Kislak Family Social Hall accompanied by welcome remarks and blessings from your TBAM clergy at 8:30 AM. On-campus activities and drive-thru donations will end by 3 PM. Off-campus programming ending times are program specific.

There are on-campus and off-campus opportunities for all ages: in-person volunteering, drive-thru donations, outdoor and socially distanced programming, and engagement with Temple and community members and local and national organizations.

Mitzvah Day is sponsored by TBAM's Tikkun Olam Committee. To participate, register and find specific information about each program and available volunteer opportunities, please go to tbam.org/mitzvahday.



For up-to-date information and online sign-up, visit our website
tbam.org/mitzvahday

tikkun olam

Casa Valentina

CAPTAIN: Carole Flicker (caroleflicker@gmail.com)

LOCATION: 3153 Mundy St.

Ages 12+

Spread positivity and beauty at Casa Valentina by making mosaic and positive-messaging garden stones. Casa Valentina provides at-risk and former foster-care youth with safe, affordable housing, life skills, and continued support to maintain self-sufficiency.

Chapman Partnership

CAPTAINS: Lisa Heller Green (lhglaw3@bellsouth.net)

+ Monica Warman (monwarman@gmail.com)

LOCATION: At TBAM (drive-thru)

All ages

Help create “move-out kits” for residents leaving the CP facility by donating various home and kitchen items, toiletries, board games, new undergarments, books and school supplies. Chapman Partnership provides programming to empower its residents to overcome homelessness and maintain long-term self sufficiency.

Deering Estate Coastal Mangrove Clean-up

CAPTAINS: Danny Elfenbein (elfencane@gmail.com)

+ Marty Elfenbein (marty.elfenbein@gmail.com)

LOCATION: 16701 SW 72 Ave.

Ages: 6+

A location that is close to home and dear to our hearts, help by collecting washed-up marine debris in the mangroves and at the shore of Deering. Participants receive an educational and positive environmental experience and can help as citizen scientists by cataloging and reporting the collected debris.

Food Rescue for Black History Month

CAPTAIN: Shelley Jacoby (shelley@allinonedirectrms.com)

LOCATION: Pick up and drop off food from donation points and bring and/or set up for food distribution at Gibson Park (350 NW 13th St.)

All ages

Pick up food from donors (e.g., Trader Joes) and transport them to Gibson Park for donation, to stock the pantry at Greenhaven in Overtown, and distribute to attendees (and perhaps even participate in a cooking lesson!). Pickups start at 10 AM, followed by setup at 10:45, and distribution at noon. Entertainment provided by Food Rescue to celebrate Black History Month.

Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF)

CAPTAINS: Hagit Fefferman (hagit1@aol.com)

+ Miriam Zadok (miriamzadok@gmail.com)

LOCATION: At TBAM (Kislak Family Social Hall)

Ages: 8+

Support Israel Defense Forces (IDF) via the Friends of the IDF (FIDF) by writing cards, decorating pillowcases, and recording supportive video messages to send to the soldiers. The FIDF is a non-political, non-military organization that provides for the wellbeing of the IDF, veterans, and family members.

PATCHES

CAPTAINS: Jennifer Resnick (jensresnick@gmail.com)

+ Susan Malca (suzbow33@gmail.com)

LOCATION: At TBAM (Kislak Family Social Hall)

Ages: Adults

Help freshen up the sensory room for seriously challenged children with a new coat of paint at PATCHES. PATCHES serves disadvantaged children with serious illness without easy access to medical centers. PATCHES becomes a home away from home - a place of love, stability and socialization- where all healthcare needs are provided daily by a professional nursing staff and therapist.

Jewish Adoptive Foster Care Options (JAFCO)

CAPTAINS: Jennifer Diemar (jenniferdiemar@aol.com)

+ Melissa Ginsburg (melissaginsburg@yahoo.com)

+ Stephie Goldman (stephiegoldman@gmail.com)

LOCATION: At TBAM (Kislak Family Social Hall)

All ages

Join us in assembling necessities for JAFCO children headed to summer camp. Donations requested: Beach and pool toys and supplies (sunscreen, towels, etc.) and plastic-travel toiletry items. JAFCO gives every child a place to belong by providing care and support to children and their families impacted by abuse, neglect, trauma, or disabilities.

Jewish Community Services (JCS) Kosher Food Bank

CAPTAINS: Rooney Brodie (rooney.brodie@gmail.com)

+ Laura Greer Haim (laurahaim1@gmail.com)

LOCATION: Milam's Markets, Pinecrest Plaza

All ages

Enjoy a family friendly morning to support JCS and the Kosher Food Bank with this two-part activity perfect for families with young children. First, grab your Milam's grocery cart and go on a scavenger hunt to stock-up on essential groceries to replenish the Kosher Food Bank. Once you find everything and pay

Casa Valentina

CAPTAIN: Carole Flicker (caroleflicker@gmail.com)

LOCATION: 3153 Mundy St.

Ages 12+

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CAPTAINS: Jennifer Resnick (jensresnick@gmail.com)

+ Susan Malca (suzbow33@gmail.com)

LOCATION: At TBAM (Kislak Family Social Hall)

Ages: Adults

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LOCATION: At TBAM (Kislak Family Social Hall)

All ages

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LOCATION: Milam's Markets, Pinecrest Plaza

All ages

Enjoy a family friendly morning to support JCS and the Kosher Food Bank with this two-part activity perfect for families with young children. First, grab your Milam's grocery cart and go on a scavenger hunt to stock-up on essential groceries to replenish the Kosher Food Bank. Once you find everything and pay

for the groceries, then package the items at Milam's in a beautiful basket to distribute to local families in need.

LEAP

CAPTAINS: Jaime Scheiner (jaimie@jaimienicole.com)
+ Jillian Shepard (jillian.shepard83@gmail.com)

LOCATION: Milam's Markets, Pinecrest Plaza
All ages

Donate items—women's clothing, hats, scarves, sunglasses, jewelry and small home decor—to be sold in LEAP's Dragonfly Thrift Boutique and then assemble toiletry baskets for the women of LEAP. LEAP is dedicated to helping formerly incarcerated women move forward by providing housing and employment. On Mitzvah Day, a group of 10 LEAP graduates will also receive business instruction from accomplished local entrepreneurs.

Lotus House

CAPTAIN: Caroline Miller (c.lampen.miller@gmail.com)
LOCATION: Miami Children's Museum
(980 MacArthur Causeway, Miami, FL 33132)
3-5 PM

Ages: Families with children 3-12 years old will have the most fun! Lotus House attendees will primarily be 4-10 years old.

Come be a kid again alongside Lotus House residents to explore and enjoy the magic of the Miami Children's Museum through a craft activity, playtime in the museum exhibits, and pizza. Lotus House improves the lives of women, youth and children experiencing homelessness by providing sanctuary, support, education, tools and resources.

Costs to organize this Mitzvah Day project exceed the participation fee—donations appreciated!

Make a Mitzvah... Knit & Crochet!

CAPTAINS: Anne Becker (ajbwalks@aol.com)
+ Susan Fusfield (bryanandjenna@aol.com)
LOCATION: At TBAM (Kislak Family Social Hall)
All ages

We're launching TBAM's mitzvah-crafting club at Mitzvah Day! Bring your knitting needles, yarn, or whatever crafting project you're working on to provide to our Clergy who will give your works of art, love and comfort to congregants and local organizations and let them know that TBAM cares.

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind

CAPTAINS: Tina Forster (tinaLForster@gmail.com)
+ Rachel Turetsky (racheltrobbins@gmail.com)
LOCATION: At TBAM (drive-thru donations)
and an Art Walk in March
All ages

Through education, training, research and vision enhancement, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired provides confidence and independence to people of all ages. Donations requested: Talking BP machines/scales/watches, canes, currency reader, magnifiers, UNO Braille and art supplies (canvas, paint, yarn, flower vases, beads, etc.).

Miami Rescue Mission

CAPTAINS: Rachel DeLevie-Orey (Rdelevieorey@gmail.com)
+ Brooke Laskin (bjlaskin@gmail.com)
LOCATION: 2020 NW 1st Ave. and at TBAM (drive-thru)
10 AM to 12:30 PM; 2:30 to 5:30 PM
Ages: 12+

Serve meals to the unhoused in Wynwood at Miami Rescue Mission. We'll serve lunch 10 AM to 12:30 PM; dinner 2:30 to 5:30 PM. Donations requested: personal hygiene products (shampoo, soap, women's sanitary products), clothes, and pantry food items.

Miami Waterkeeper

CAPTAINS: Lindsey Friedman (lazopoulosfriedman@gmail.com)
+ Todd Friedman (toddfriedman3@gmail.com)
LOCATION: Virginia Key (subject to change)
9:30 AM-12 PM
All ages

Volunteers will learn about the negative impacts of marine debris and microplastics before embarking on a citizen science marine debris clean-up on the beach. Miami Waterkeeper will provide all materials but bringing your own gloves is appreciated.

OneBlood

CAPTAINS: Susan Rosenthal (educatorsusan@aol.com)
+ Pam Misrahi (pmisrahi@me.com)
LOCATION: At TBAM (Big Red Bus)
Ages 16+

Donate blood to enhance the health and well-being of others through OneBlood's work with blood and stem cell products and by facilitating scientific research.



Redland Dog Sanctuary

CAPTAIN: Henry Greengrass

(28hgreengrass@ransomeverglades.org)

LOCATION: At TBAM (with dogs for adoption!)

All ages

RDS works diligently to rescue dogs who have been dumped or abandoned in the Redlands and rehabilitate them so they may be adopted into forever homes. Please donate cleaning supplies, towels, blankets, beds, dry/wet dog and cat food, cat litter, wee pads, and meet pups at TBAM available for adoption!

Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Florida - Adopt a Meal

CAPTAIN: Judi Gampel *(gampel@aol.com)*

LOCATION: 1145 NW 14 Terr.

5-7 PM

Children in attendance must be accompanied by their parents.

Prepare a home-cooked dinner and participate in a craft project for out-of-town families with children receiving treatment at Jackson Memorial Hospital. RMHC supports the well-being of children by providing lodging, meals, activities, and a community of care to critically ill children and their families.

The Garden at TBAM

CAPTAINS: Gregory Frankel *(gfrankel@thefrankelfirm.com)*

+ Susan Fusfield *(susanfusfield@gmail.com)*

LOCATION: Adjacent to the TBAM soccer field

All ages

Interested in learning about South Florida vegetable gardening, native plants, butterflies and composting? Join TBAM's resident gardeners and Fairchild Garden's Connect-to-Protect Network for a morning of education, garden maintenance and children's crafts.

TiKVA House

CAPTAIN: Jennifer Warren Medwin

(Jen@seekingempowerment.com)

LOCATION: At TBAM (Kislak Family Social Hall)

All ages

Create and send handwritten letters or cards of love and hope to the children from TiKVA Children's Home who have been displaced from their home by the war in Ukraine and now live in Romania. This program includes a discussion of the current situation and video documenting this organization's humanitarian work, evacuations and efforts in Romania and caring for the remaining 500 in Ukraine.

Voices For Children

CAPTAIN: Kadie Black *(kblack@beavoice.org)*

LOCATION: Topgolf, 11850 NW 22nd St, Doral

12-2 PM

Approx. 14-17 years (with parent/guardian)

Voices For Children is sponsoring 15 TBAM youth to participate in an afternoon of fun at Topgolf with 15 youth currently living in foster care. Socialize with the youth from Voices For Children and help them learn how to properly swing.

Whispering Manes Therapeutic Riding Center

CAPTAIN: Tori Andre + Stacy Andre *(stacyandre@gmail.com)*

LOCATION: 6105 SW 125th Ave, Miami, FL 33183

Help paint and spruce up the facilities at Whispering Manes. This organization serves children and adults with special needs and disabilities by offering an opportunity to develop a therapeutic relationship with horses to improve self-esteem and general healing.

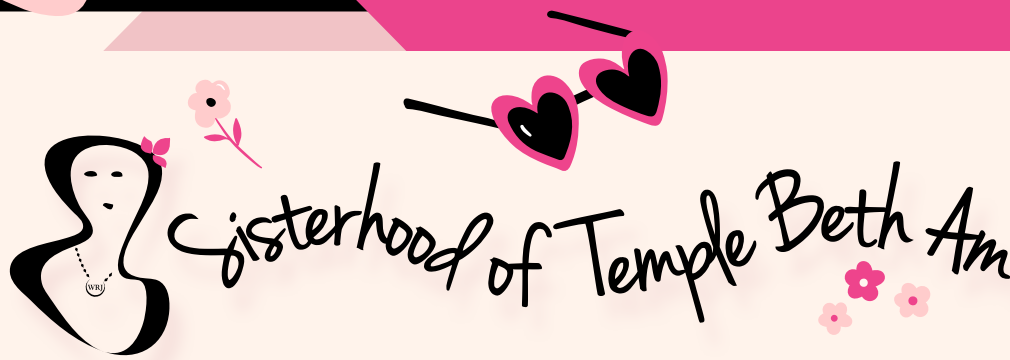
MITZVAH DAY LEADERSHIP

Rabbi Rachel Greengrass,
RABBINIC ADVISOR

*Rebecca Holljes, Judy Cowan, Shelley Jacoby,
Tina Forster, Janice Baisman*
MITZVAH DAY CO-CHAIRS

Find current info and program specifics at
TBAM.ORG/MITZVAHDAY





Dear Sisterhood Members and Friends,

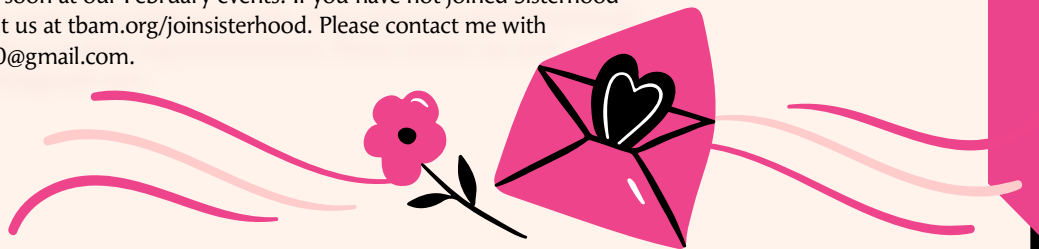
I have some exciting news to share! Our Sisterhood is the recipient of a WRJ Gold Or Ami *Light of our People* Award for the Multigenerational Pre-Seder Program from April 2022. This prestigious honor acknowledges our exceptional efforts. The Sisterhood women and TBAM clergy were all involved in planning details, writing the 90-page Haggadah, creating a unique array of music, bringing in over 170 girls and women, cooking, and decorating. Entitled *Voices of Freedom*, all the participants reveled in the joy of gathering, dancing and learning together. Yasher Koach to all!

We are truly grateful to each of you who continue to create, lead, and participate in our many programs. We have some wonderful experiences coming your way this month so please read our pages carefully and RSVP on time.

Please join in the fun and support our Rambam Day School Auction as we *Weave Our Lives* together by creating an evening of socializing, snacking and hands-on weaving of meaningful textiles (an easy lift) that will result in a gorgeous work of art which Sisterhood will donate to the Annual Auction. We want our women of TBAM represented!!!

I look forward to seeing you soon at our February events. If you have not joined Sisterhood and would like to, kindly visit us at tbam.org/joinsisterhood. Please contact me with any questions at slampen350@gmail.com.

Warmly,
Susan Lampen
Sisterhood President



SISTERHOOD CREATIVITY WITH COMMUNITY

WRITING WORKSHOPS Winter 2023

Smile at the Many Faces of Words

Whether you wish to write a memoir, poetry, reflections on life, thoughts about Judaism, or anything else - **this writing group is for you.**

Classes in-person on Wednesdays, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Meeting Rm. 3

February 1, 15, 22

\$10/each session

No expertise required, just the desire to put words on paper.

Casual, friendly, all women welcome!!!

Workshops will be led by **Ricki Dorn** -published poet, editor, recently retired MDC and FIU writing professor, and immediate past president of South Florida Writers Association.

For more information and to register, contact

Pamela Lear at lear4752@yahoo.com or **858.775.0409**



Sisterhood Members Mingle: LET'S WEAVE OUR LIVES TOGETHER

Drinks and Hors d'Oeuvres



**Wednesday, February 15
The Kislak Family Social Hall
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

All women of TBAM invited!

Enjoy an evening of socializing with PATIO, YERS, and all Sisterhood members as we create a piece of art utilizing a loom and beautiful textiles that will culminate as a wall hanging and be our contribution to the Rambam Day School Auction.

Nancy Billings and Marlene Kohn, renowned artists, and other Sisterhood artists will help us create this piece.

Chaired by Rosy Bild, Faye Koniver and Judy Kempler, VP of Membership

\$20 per person, **RSVP at: tbam.org/mingle**



Sisterhood Board Meetings

**Thursday, February 9
Chapel, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

**Thursday, March 16
Chapel, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

All members welcome.

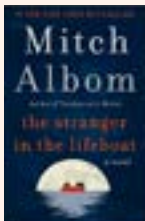
RSVP at: sgl901@bellsouth.net

The Garden Continues... Sisterhood Project at Casa Valentina for Mitzvah Day

Sunday, February 26

Spread positivity and beauty at Casa Valentina by making mosaic- and positive-messaging garden stones.

RSVP at: tbam.org/mitzvahday



Sisterhood Book Club

**Thursday, March 2,
Chapel, 7:00 PM**

"The Stranger in the Lifeboat"
by Mitch Albom
(Ivy Ames will lead the discussion)

**Thursday, May 11,
Chapel, 7:00 PM**

"Lessons" by Ian McEwan
(Ricki Dorn will lead the discussion)

**RSVP at: lpfabry@gmail.com or
gingerdurand@yahoo.com**



Sisterhood Art Visit and Lunch



**Thursday, February 23
10:30 AM**

Tour Terje Lundaas' Studio followed by lunch at Tropical Chinese. Location information will be sent upon registration.

\$36 per person. Space is limited to 20 participants.

No reservations will be accepted after Friday, February 20th.

For details and to RSVP visit: tbam.org/artandlunch



Social Justice Speaker Series presented by:

**Sisterhood of Temple Beth Am, Tikkun Olam
Committee and Temple Beth Am**

**Wednesday, March 15
7:00 PM, The Kislak Family Social Hall**

Understanding Gender Identity led by:
Tracey Labgold, Keshet and
Sage Cassell-Rosenberg, E.I. Games

Noshes served.

RSVP requested: tbam.org/gender





TEMPLE BETH AM

Embracing Jewish Life

TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

*We feel so fortunate that you have chosen
Temple Beth Am as your spiritual home.*

*It is with pleasure that we invite all new
members families that have joined our
community this year to a dessert reception on*

**WEDNESDAY
MARCH 1, 2023
7:30 TO 9:00 PM**

At the home of
**TEMPLE BETH AM'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
NEIL KURLANDER AND HIS WIFE LANI**

Please RSVP
www.tbam.org/newmember

or by email at
rdiaz@tbam.org



Sensory-Friendly Family Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 4, 2023

9:00 -10:00 AM

Library in the Rambam Day School Building

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

Questions? Contact Michele Kaplan
at michelemkaplan@yahoo.com

YERS Live! RAFFLE PRIZES

1 1 week of Weekend PE Summer Camp at Palmetto Bay Park

2 2-hour Studio D and Co. Interior Design consultation

3 Miami Heat tickets

4 Tiffany & Co. Necklace

5 iSwim Swimming lessons, 5 day private

6 iSwim Swimming lessons, 2 group lesson (3 or older)

7 1-yr Family Membership at the Frost Science Museum

8 Custom framed painting by Will Klemm

9 7 Day NCL cruise, 2 people

10 7 Day Royal Caribbean Cruise, 2 people

11 Key West House

The Religious School Board and YERS Live! committee invite you to support the Youth Engagement and Religious School by purchasing YERS Live! raffle tickets.

1 Raffle Ticket
3 Raffle Tickets
1 Travel Raffle Ticket

\$10
\$25
\$36

 tbam.org/yerslive 



the heat is on LET'S PARTY!

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023
7:00 pm

SOCIAL HALL, LEWIS FAMILY RELIGIOUS LIFE COMPLEX
PRESENTED BY



Miami Cancer Institute

BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA

COCKTAIL PARTY  **FOOD**  **LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS**  **DANCING**  **AFTER PARTY**

ADVANCED ADMISSION: \$118 per person | DOOR ADMISSION: \$154 per person

ALL SPONSORSHIPS INCLUDE COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS
Adult Only Event

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Melissa Kalman & Nicole Kaplan

[TBAM.ORG/ANNUALAUCTION](https://tbam.org/annualauction)

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BROTHERHOOD OF TEMPLE BETH AM
PRESENTS ITS...

ANNUAL MEN'S SEDER

SUNDAY, MARCH 26TH AT 5:00 PM

INCLUDES COMPLETE PASSOVER SEDER MEAL FROM CATERING BY LES

The Four Questions...

- ✓ Does the Miami Dolphins making the playoffs this year count as a miracle?
- ✓ If I have an argument with my wife/significant other and I'm right, am I still wrong?
 - ✓ Does beer count as a healthy carb?
- ✓ Does the Israeli baseball team have a chance vs. the Dominican Republic's team in the World Baseball Classic?

Some things you might not know about Passover...

- ✓ Families of Moroccan and Algerian descent rejoice at the end of Passover with a *Mimouna*, a celebration that includes a feast of lavish sweets and pastries. And the table is heaped with items symbolizing luck or fertility.
- ✓ Jews have lived in Afghanistan since at least the Babylonian conquest more than 2,500 years ago, but, very sadly, almost none remain today. Today, the largest collection of Afghan Jews in the world is 200 families living in Queens, New York.

Join us at the Men's Seder on Sunday, March 26th to learn more



*...featuring the incomparable
wit and wisdom of
Senior Rabbi Jeremy Barras*

Cost for The Men's Seder
is only \$36.00 per person

REGISTER TODAY!

Information and Online Registration at
TBAM.ORG/MENSSEDER



ARE YOU A PELOTON OWNER OR USER OF THE PELOTON APP?

Join our
#TBAMPeloFam!

Follow us on Facebook where we will share milestones, recommend rides or classes that we love, ask questions, post funny memes, and support one another on our fitness journeys.

Be sure to add our hashtag on your Peloton profile so that we can ride live together!

TOGETHER WE GO FAR



PB&J PLANT BASED AND JEWISH **GETTING HEALTHY TOGETHER**

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!



OUR JEWISH HERITAGE

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



Journey to Israel 75: Pioneers, Leaders, Builders

There have been many Zionist leaders, before and after Israel became a nation state. The important role of influencing the Jewish Communities as well as the nations of the world required the diplomatic skills to make the case for Israel. This month I want to present the significant story of Israel's most brilliant orator and statesman. He was responsible for communicating the legal and historical case for the creation of Israel. He was the defender of Israel and the Jewish People his entire life.

Abba Eban, 1915-2002

Born Aubrey Solomon Eban in Cape Town, South Africa, his family moved to London, England, where he received a classical education. He was greatly influenced by his grandfather who taught him Bible, Talmud and modern Hebrew. He studied at Cambridge University from 1938 to 1940. He already established a reputation for his mastery of eloquence, persuasive public speaking and fluency in many languages, including Arabic.

Eban enlisted in the British Army in 1940. He was trained in intelligence and became a major, serving in Cairo in 1941. He served as liaison between British special operations and the Jewish resistance fighters in Jerusalem. When the war ended, Eban returned to Jerusalem. This was the beginning of his dedication and devotion to the establishment of a Jewish nation. He was appointed to the Jewish Agency (led by Ben Gurion) to represent the Jewish People at the United Nations. His powerful speeches at the UN, and his relationships with American Jews and President Truman, contributed to the vote to establish the nation of Israel. At age 34, in 1949, he was appointed Israel's ambassador to the UN for ten years, and at the same time, ambassador to the United States.

Abba Eban served in many roles under several prime ministers. He served in the K'nesset until 1988. After he left politics he wrote many outstanding books on Jewish history, on Israel and his own autobiography. His famous work, "Heritage, Civilization and the Jews" was also produced as a TV series and is still available today.

David "Mickey" Marcus, 1902-1948

David Marcus was from an immigrant family in New York's Lower East Side. He grew up in Brooklyn where he experienced antisemitism. He went to West Point Military Academy and graduated in 1924. When World War II began he was given a position as a judge advocate and later as a division commander. In 1944, Marcus became more engaged with his Jewish identity when he was given the responsibility of taking care of the millions of survivors in Europe. His assignment involved clearing out the Nazi death camps. After the war, he was named chief of the War Crimes Division. As he planned for the Nuremberg trials, he learned how deeply antisemitism was imbedded in Europe.

In 1948, Prime Minister David Ben Gurion asked Marcus to find an American officer to serve as a military advisor to Israel. Marcus decided he wanted this position. He was brought to Israel under the name of Michael Stone so the British would not know he was a former U.S. officer. He then was called Mickey. He planned and organized with the Haganah, training soldiers, writing manuals, and developing strategies. David Ben Gurion and Marcus felt it was urgent to build a secret road to get to Jerusalem so that the Jews living there would not be cut off

from the territory designated for the state of Israel. The project was completed before the cease fire Armistice in 1949.

An unfortunate accident occurred when Marcus was walking in an army camp at night. The guard on duty called out in Hebrew, but he did not understand the Hebrew and the guard shot him. This story was written in the book *Cast a Giant Shadow*. It was also made into a movie with Kirk Douglas.

L'Shalom,

Lenore Kipper



When did Fair Share Membership begin?

The *Commentators* in the year 1977 inform us about new changes: The idea of "Fair Share" membership. It was adopted several years before, but there were going to be changes. The Fair Share dues was developed by the UAHC (now URJ) as a way for synagogues to balance budgets and make membership available to many diverse groups. The philosophy is a self-evaluating system in which each family pays dues according to their financial ability. It has proven to be an equitable way of paying and supporting the programs and services that the Temple provides. "The success of Fair Share depends on your attitude and integrity. We have many members who cannot afford even the basic dues. It is only through the generosity of those who truly believe in Fair Share that we can preserve Beth Am as we know it." (*Commentator* June 3, 1977)

Why Was Guardians of the Learning Center Established?

That same year, 1977, the Temple answered the need for another educational building to be built to accommodate the increasing enrollment in the schools, preschool, day school, and religious school. In June 1977, there were 80 students in the confirmation class. In the September 30, 1977 *Commentator*, ten families answered the call that Rabbi Baumgard and President Sam Steen made at Rosh HaShanah service. This was the beginning of the campaign. Each week for two years, additional families made a commitment of \$10,000. The Learning Center Building was completed and dedicated in February 1980.

WE GIVE THANKS

RABBI AKLEPI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Jeffrey Agron with appreciation for the funeral and
Shiva service for Judy Agron
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 Amy and Rickey Mittelberg in memory of Judy Agron
 Susan and Bob Price in loving memory of Claire and
 Benjamin Blazer

Frances Salbarrey

Joan Schaeffer in memory of Judy Agron

Shari Whitcomb in honor of the birth of
 Ava Renee Weinberg

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
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Adrian and Ken Dubow in loving memory of
 Judy Agron

Adrian and Ken Dubow in loving memory of
 Jayusia Bernstein

Adrian and Ken Dubow in loving memory of
 Charlotte Brodie, mother of Debbie Brodie-Weiss

Adrian and Ken Dubow in memory of Andrew Gross
 Paul and Lois Joy Lester in loving memory of
 Louis Gross

Aida and Neil Littauer in loving memory of
 Jayusia Bernstein

Susan and Ray Malca in loving memory of
 Charlotte Glovsky Brodie, mother of
 Debbie Brodie-Weiss

Sherry Solowey in loving memory of Jayusia Bernstein

RABBI BARRAS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

Jonathan and Wendy Baumgard in memory of
 Dr. Henry Glick

Alan Bernstein in memory of Jayusia Bernstein
 Paul and Jolie Cummings in loving memory of
 Jayusia Bernstein

Jane and Amir Gold in honor of Caleb's Bar Mitzvah
 Sandy Halpern in memory of Charlotte Brodie

Barbara Havenick in memory of Jayusia Bernstein
 Joanne and Jay Koren in memory of Charlotte Brodie
 Rochelle and Steven Lanster with gratitude for your
 kindness, understanding and humor during such a
 difficult time

Betty McClaskey in appreciation to Rabbi Barras for
 officiating at the beautiful and spiritual wedding of
 Lisa McClaskey and David Kane

Arthur Miller in loving memory of beloved wife,
 Ava Rey

Tom and Robin Ringel in loving memory of

Edward Ringel

Tom and Robin Ringel in loving memory of Jack Seitlin

Stephen Rutchik with gratitude for your time
 and graciousness

Frances Salbarrey

Howard and Andrea Schwartz in memory of
 Dr. Henry Glick

Lindsay Spalding-Steven in memory of George
 Goldberg and David Jagolinzer

Pam and Howard Wolofsky with appreciation for
 your participating at the *Brit* of our grandson, Dean

CARING COMMUNITY FUND

Anne Becker in memory of Judy Agron

CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY FUND

Edith and Norman Einspruch in loving memory
 of Lillian and Frank Melnick

Etta and Don Gold in memory of Judy Agron, mother
 of Jeffrey Agron

Etta and Don Gold in memory of Charlotte Brodie,
 beloved mother of Debbie Brodie-Weiss

Ken and Judy Rosenthal with thanks to the Talmud
 Torah Award Committee and in appreciation for
 the lovely celebration

**CORNERS OF OUR FIELDS
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Adele Hertz in memory of Dr. Henry Glick

Jessica Rumsey in honor of Ray Rodriguez

CANTOR COYOT'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Jeff and Lily Agron in honor of Cantor Coyot

Janice Baisman in honor of Cantor Coyot

Brenda Bengis in loving memory of my father
 Nathan Slutsky

Josh and Meredith Clarin in honor of Cantor Coyot's
 Installation

Judy and Daniel Cowan in honor of Cantor Coyot.
 Mazel Tov on your installation as Senior Cantor of
 Temple Beth Am

Etta and Don Gold in honor of Cantor Coyot
 Marilyn and Harvey Goldstein in honor of Senior
 Cantor Tifani Coyot's Installation and meaningful
 High Holy Day services

Harvey and Carolina Gurland in honor of Cantor
 Coyot. Congratulations on the long-awaited
 installation.

Jenny and Brett Kandell in honor of Cantor Coyot
 Paul and Roberta Kressel in honor of Cantor Coyot.
 Congratulations!

Sharon and Howard Socol in honor of Cantor Tifani
 Coyot and her beautiful voice

KEREN YALDI CHILDREN'S FUND

Dianne and Ed Schmidt and Family in loving memory
 of Lewis F. Cohen

THE JOAN KRAMER GALLANT AND MARTIN GALLANT CHILDREN'S FUND

In memory of our papa, Martin Gallant with love from
Jane, Mack and Sunny
Brian Gallant in loving memory of his parents
Tracy Gallant Brody in loving memory of her parents

GENERAL FUND

David and Karen Baron in loving memory of Colin Baron
and Harvey Friedman
Abe and Helene Benyunes in memory of Charlotte Brodie
with heartfelt condolences and fondest remembrances
Arnold and Donna Blaustein in honor of Hal and Linda
Gassenheimer's 60th anniversary
Bill and Dilia Grossman in memory of Judy Agron
Bill and Dilia Grossman in memory of Jayusia Perelman
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Richard and Ilisa Hoffman in memory of Jayusia Bernstein
Elaine and Danny Katz in memory of Charlotte Brodie
Linda (Keyes) and David Levens in memory of Dr. Henry Glick
Charyl and Bruce Rubin in memory of Dr. Henry Glick
Linda Sands in memory of Ralph Cades
Hope Schneiderman in memory of Eugene Schneiderman
Shirley Schultz in loving memory of Mildred Murray
Dr. Alan and Karen Serure in memory of Judy Agron
Dr. Alan and Karen Serure in memory of Dr. Henry Glick
Bill Silver in memory of Edward I. Silver
Elizabeth Suchman in loving memory of Edith Edles Suchman,
Philip Coe and Martin Shane
Judith R. Teplitz in memory of Dr. Henry Glick, a
magnanimous doctor and person who will be greatly missed

RABBI GREENGRASS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

Alan Bernstein in appreciation of Rabbi Greengrass officiating
Jayusia Bernstein's funeral
Diane Greenfield and Children in loving memory of
Samuel Seitlin, father and grandfather
Stacey and Robert Kaufman and Miles Lawrence in memory
of Diane L. Lawrence
Lindsey and Ryan Lamchick in appreciation of Rabbi
Greengrass. Thank you so much for the most beautiful service.
Anabela Moskovitz in memory of Rywka Rosencwajg Szaniecka
Cindy and Steven Rudin in honor of Rabbi Greengrass, with
sincere appreciation for the warm and beautiful baby naming
for our granddaughter, Riley Jay Harding.
Frances Salbarrey
Michelle and Scott Sarason in honor of Rabbi Greengrass. Thank
you for the most beautiful and heartwarming wedding
ceremony for Samantha and Brett. It was perfect!
Elion and Rebecca Vinocur in honor of Ryan's Bat Mitzvah
Craig and Donna Zimmatt in loving memory of
Barbara Zimmatt
Craig and Donna Zimmatt in loving memory of Blair Zimmatt

MATTHEW KASS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Debra Shottenstein to remember Matthew Kass

THE SHEPARD KING SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Bernita King, Russell King and Tamara King Stark in memory
of our beloved Shep, who continues to inspire us in
everything we do
Marlene and Richard Kohn in memory of Muriel Marcus
Breitkopf, sister of Bernita King

CANTOR NELSON'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Linda Cahan and Family in loving memory of Dr. Henry Glick
The Schumacher Family in honor of Cantor Nelson for helping
to prepare and participating in Addison's Bat Mitzvah service
Elizabeth Suchman in loving memory of Edith Edles Suchman,
Philip Coe and Martin Shane

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of Jeff Agron
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Lisa Heller Green in memory of Jayusia Bernstein
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Brodie
Meryl and Brian Spector in memory of Charlotte Glovsky
Brodie. May her memory be for a blessing.
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 Steven Herman
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 Marlene and Joel Kaplan in loving memory of my father,
 Joseph Gorodetzer. You are missed every day.
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 Judith and Paul Korchin in memory of Arthur W. Goldstein
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 Ester Neuhaus
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 Shari Whitcomb in memory of Renee Steinberg
 Judy Wolfsohn in loving memory of Lillian Brodatz
 Debby Zabłudowski in loving memory of our beautiful
 daughter, Jamie. Forever in our hearts and our memories...
 Dan, Debby, Melanie Jason and Logan Zabłudowski

THE CURRENT OF LIFE

We mourn the passing of

Judy Agron, mother of **Jeffrey (Lili) Agron** and Robin (Michael) Woldorf, grandmother of Melinda (Tom) Gugel, Samantha and Alana Agron and Hannah and Jonah Breen; great grandmother of Maya Gugel; sister of Norman (Karen) Leopold and Lynne Turry.

Shirley Berger, mother of **Gerald (Rhoda) Berger**; grandmother of **Erika Berger (Mitchell Vento)** and great grandmother of **Rylie, Emma and Addison Vento**.

Jayusia Perelman Bernstein, wife of **Alan Bernstein** and mother of Leo (Michelle Doty) and **Marc (Michelle) Bernstein**, grandmother of four grandchildren and sister of Tania Mainster.

Charlotte Glovsky Brodie, mother of **Steven (Shelly) Brodie** and **Debbie Brodie-Weiss (Ed Weiss)**; grandmother of **Bradley (Alexis), Michael (Rooney), Alyssa, Garret, Kelsey** (fiancé Griffin), **Darin**, Neil (Alanna) and Dana (Julian); great grandmother of **Jackson, Hanna, Adam, Ian Margot**, Delilah, Sophia and David.

Iris Cutler, mother of Betsy (Carl) Schreiber, mother-in-law of Kathy Cutler; grandmother of Philip (Jamie),

Samuel (Shera), David (Meghan) and Daniel (Dora) Schreiber and Katelyn Cutler and Kenneth Cutler; great grandmother of Danielle, Eric Schreiber, Joseph, Lena and Stephanie Schreiber

IN LOVING MEMORY

Week Ending February 3, 2023

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Irving Arnold
Jeremy Barna
Selma Baumgard*
Joseph Benyunes
Anita Biederman
Anne Blackstein*
Michael Cassorla
Scott R. Clein*
Moe Cohen*
Sylvia Cohen
Charles Cook
Maurice Cooper
Bertha Cravitt*
Louis Feller*
Harriette Fine
Judge Irving H. Fisher*
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Anita Gnaizda*
Nettie R. Goldberg*
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Sadie K. Klau
Max Kleiman
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Nancy Lash Harman
Morris Lefkowitz
Shirley Lodmer*
Hannah Levine Malin*
Julius Marcus
Carmen Medina-Garcia
Rhoda Miles
Miriam Osman
Larry Pine
Evelyn Rauchman*
Charlotte Reisman
Serkin Aidman*
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Morris H. Ressler*
Faye Rittberg
Harry Rosen
Beverly Robinson Rosen*
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Nathan Rothberg
Murray Rozynes
Max Rubenstein
Arnold Schatzman
Judith Schimmel
Paul Schoenberger

Carol Schomer
Alvin Schragis
A. Jay Schwartz
Joshua Joseph Oscar Segal*
Bernardo Serviansky*
Bernard Shapiro
Ed Siden
Bradley W. Strauss*
Herb Martin Suskin*
Harry Tanenbaum
Murray T. Uffer*
Hans Van Essen
Teresa Wald*
Dan Weissman
Melody Wepburn-Solomon
Samuel Francis Wexler*
Judy Yngber
Rose Zimmerman*

Week Ending February 10, 2023

Samuel D. Ades*
Erwin Adler
Melvin Berg
Harold Berman
Robert Berman*
Warren Ilan Bilchik*
Donald Bleeker
Helen Bloom*
Dorothy Bloom
Abraham Brechner
Juliet Hartman Burk*
Martha Cohen
Mortimer Cohen*
Dr. Morton Corin*
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Meyer "Mike" Deutschman*
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Joseph Webman
Ruth Osdin Wilner
Annita Yurgel*

Jenny Zanzuri*

Week Ending February 17, 2023

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Sam Adler*
Anna Beame*
Harry M. Becker*
Harold Berkow
Bernice "Bunny" Berman*
Stanley J. Bodner
Harold Brochin*
Dorothy Chauncey*
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Dr. Robert Edward Hirschfield*
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Dr. Macey H. Kayes*
Dr. William Harry Koblenz*
Rose Krasnor
Fulton Krupsaw
Ham Kurtz*
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Sylvia Lane
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Edith Weisman
Israel Aaron Wiener*
Doreen Wiesel
Elizabeth Williams
Henry B. Wilner*

**Week Ending
February 24, 2023**

Laura Adler
Isadore Berman*
Gladys Bernat
Sarah Bohm
Jack Brenner
Marjean McLaughlin
Buckner
Marilyn Budner
Harold A. Busch*
Dr. Herbert Cahan
Ruby Cantor*
Charlotte Chester*
Danny David Cohen*
Harold Cromer*
Nathalie Egert*

David Fidler
Elaine Fiedel*
Lorraine Fishman*
Peter Foldes
Harry Genet
Esther Glickin
Louis D. Goldberg*
Albert Goodman
Robert Harper
Herman S. Hayet*
George Hirsch
Lawrence Hyman*
Shirley Jacobson*
Ida Jeruss*
Shoshana Katz
Faye Kline*
Leon Kroungold*
Miriam Lampen
Jack Lebowitz
Morris Leiderman*
Lee Leshaw*
Larry Levi
Dr. Jacob E. Levin*
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Ann F. Light*
Nathan Lubie
Mae Mandel
Bella Mann
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Arthur Meier
Rose Mittelberg*
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Samuel Reps*
Hector Retchkiman
Bernard Rosenblum
Pearl Roth
Harry Salem*
Edna Schoenberg
Simon Shoham
Samuel Shonbrun*
Freda Spatz
Ruth Stamler*
Nathan Stern
Rose Levine Tiplitz*
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MESSAGE FROM *Our Sister Congregation*

As I write these words on December 27, 2022, the day after Chanukah, I wanted to share with you a special event held on Chanukah, which included Rabbi Jeremy Barras.

Every evening during Chanukah, at the Orthodox section of the Kotel (the Western Wall), a festive candle lighting is held, with the participation of dignitaries, politicians, and rabbis—all of them, of course, men. In response, beginning last year, the Israeli Reform movement organized its own candle lighting ceremony at the egalitarian section of the Kotel, so that for at least one evening, women could recite the blessings out loud at the footsteps of the very place where the Chanukah miracle happened. This year included the participation of the newly

reelected member of Knesset, Rabbi Gilad Kariv (past director of the Israeli Reform movement). However, the big surprise was that of the American Ambassador to Israel, Tom Nides. He was invited to a number of events throughout the holiday in his capacity as an ambassador, yet it was personally important to him, as a Reform Jew, to be present for the Reform Movement's candle lighting. We were moved by both his presence and his words of support for our movement's struggle that evening, and we appreciated the extra security detail, which helped keep Ultra-Orthodox protesters (who were quite vocal) at a distance.

However, no less important was this year's decision to include our overseas partners in the ceremony, which was also live streamed worldwide. It was the third evening of Chanukah, so three of the Jerusalem congregational rabbis were invited to light a candle, among them Rabbi Ada Zavidov, Har-El's rabbi, whose words I will share below. Following each Jerusalem rabbi, a recorded message was then shared by the rabbis of their sister/partner congregations in the United States. Thus, following Rabbi Ada's words in Hebrew (the translation was available via the Zoom link), Rabbi Barras shared his Chanukah greetings with everyone present, both in person and online. As part of his words, Rabbi Barras briefly taught about the difference between regular windows in a home and that of the Beit Mikdash, the ancient Holy Temple. In a traditional building, windows are designed to let light in. However, in the Beit Mikdash, the windows were constructed differently so that the light of the Temple's menorah would go out, sharing the light of Torah wisdom with the world. He then expressed his thanks for all the light that our movement in Israel shares with Diaspora Jewry. Thank you, Rabbi Barras, for this beautiful teaching, for participating in this special event, and for your and Temple Beth Am's continued partnership and support! To hear Rabbi Barras's words, please use the QR code below with the Beth Am logo. Since at the time of the event, the new government had yet to be

formed and was still in the process of internal negotiations, we all knew what the "bottom line" would be, and so Rabbi Ada shared the following words (the translation is mine):

"I light this candle in honor of and for the sake of the *kesher v'gesher*—the connection and the bridge between us, Reform Jews in the State of Israel, and our Reform siblings in the Diaspora. This connection was always crucial, and today, more than ever. Like the candles of Chanukah that light the darkness, the Reform congregations of Jerusalem and throughout Israel spread the light of liberal, egalitarian, and compassionate Judaism, and their light will continue to shine, due greatly to this *kesher v'gesher*, this connection and bridge with worldwide Reform Jewry. Each and every one of us is an individual and

special candle, and together we will cause a huge light to shine, and together, overcome this challenging time. Happy Chanukah to everyone!"

To view the original clip in Hebrew, please use the QR code with the Har-El logo below.

May 2023 indeed be a year where the light of our shared values and partnership shines forth!



Screenshot from the Israeli Reform Movement candle lighting at the Egalitarian Kotel.

Looking forward to welcoming you to your sister congregation here in Jerusalem on your next trip to Israel,

Cantor Evan Cohen



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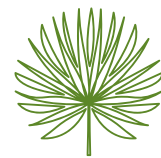
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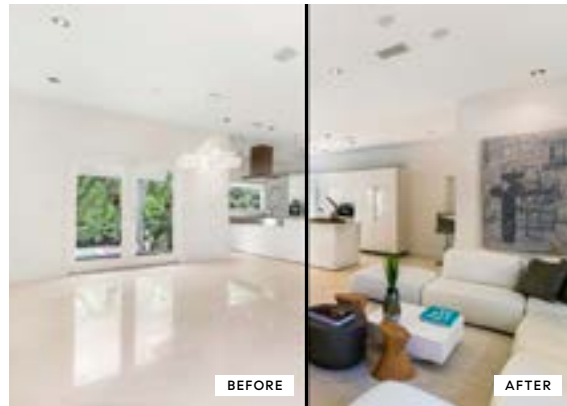
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With a 1:1 ratio, the Friendship Circle empowers teens to increase the quality of life for themselves and individuals with special needs through friendship and acceptance. Enrich your life and earn community service hours at the same time!



For more information or to apply to be a volunteer, visit our website @ www.friendshipcirclemiami.org/volunteer



Friendship Circle

Special Needs program



Friendship Circle promotes friendship, inclusion and acceptance to children, teens and adults with special needs through social and recreational activities.

Our unique formula pairs teenagers, volunteers with children, enriching the lives of both.

OUR PROGRAM

- Kulanu Circle, Hebrew School for children with special needs
- Friends at Home
- Children's Circle
- Tween Scene & Teen Scene
- Movement Mondays-Zumba
- Swimming Circle
- Art Circle
- FC Band
- Drama Circle
- Equestrian Circle
- Life Skills Around Town
- Social Circle
- Young Adult Program
- Winter Camp, Summer Camp
- No School Fun Days
- Family Fun Days
- Parent Lectures & Support Groups

For more information, please call:
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