# COMMENTATOR

**KISLEV - TEVET, 5784** 

DECEMBER 2023



NOW AND ALWAYS, WE STAND WITH THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL



### COMMENTATOR

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AFFILIATED WITH The Union for Reform Judaism

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Temple Beth Am embraces Jewish life through lifelong learning, spiritual growth and community engagement.



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# SHABBAT

DECEMBER 2023 SERVICES

#### 19 KISLEV FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

6:00 PM Pre-Neg

**6:30 PM**Shabbat Under The Stars

#### 19 KISLEV SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

**9:00 AM** Torah Study

**10:30 AM**Saturday Morning Minyan

**10:30 AM**Conservative Service

**10:30 AM**Bat Mitzvah of Vivian Kelly

Parashat Vayishlach Genesis 32:4 – 36:43 Haftarah: Hosea 11:7 – 12:12

#### 26 KISLEV FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

6:00 PM Pre-Neg

**6:30 PM**GLOW STICK SHABBAT
Friday Night Lights: The Eras Tour



#### 26 KISLEV SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

9:00 AM Torah Study

9:00 AM Sensory Friendly Shabbat



**10:30 AM**Saturday Morning Minyan

**10:30 AM**Bat Mitzvah of Alicia Garrett

Parashat Vayeishev Genesis 37:1 – 4023 Haftarah: Zechariah 4:1-7

#### 4 TEVET SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

9:00 AM Torah Study

9:00 AM Tot Shabbat



**10:30 AM**Saturday Morning Minyan

**10:30 AM**Bar Mitzvah of Landon Elfenbein

Parashat Mikeitz Genesis 41:1 – 44:17 Haftarah: I Kings 3:15 – 4:1

#### 11 TEVET SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

9:00 AM Torah Study

**10:30 AM**Saturday Morning Minyan

**10:30 AM**Bat Mitzvah of Violet Spann

Parashat Vayigash Genesis 44:18 – 47:27 Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15 - 28

#### 18 TEVET FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

6:00 PM Pre-Neg

**6:30 PM**Kabbalat Shabbat Worship: Farewell to 2023

#### 4 TEVET FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

6:00 PM Pre-Neg

**6:30 PM**Talmud Torah Award Shabbat



**7:30 PM**Talmud Torah Award Shabbat
Dinner

#### 11 TEVET FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

6:00 PM Pre-Neg

**6:30 PM**Kabbalat Shabbat Worship



#### 18 TEVET SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

9:00 AM Torah Study



**10:30 AM**Saturday Morning Minyan

Parashat Vayechi Genesis 47:28 – 50:26 Haftarah: I Kings 2:1 – 12 Commentator December 2023 • Page 4



JEREMY BARRAS SENIOR RABBI JBARRAS@TBAM.ORG

#### Our Brothers and Sisters in Odessa, Ukraine

Several years ago, our Rambam Day School adopted the Tivah Children's Home in Odessa, Ukraine, as its sister school. In the pre-covid days, Tikvah's challenges to house and educate Jewish orphans and disadvantaged youth from all over the former Soviet Union were immense. During covid, an entirely new set of challenges emerged. However, all of those difficulties paled in comparison to the devastation that ensued due to the Russian invasion.

What the Tikvah administrators, staff, and teachers have accomplished since the onset of the war has been nothing short of miraculous. At a moment's notice, they had to mobilize their community and relocate their entire population and school to neighboring Romania. The students and staff endured bus rides that lasted more than fifty hours, with no certainty that they would ever safely reach their destination. However, not only did they find a new home, but they have found ways to thrive under the direst conditions.

As of today, Tikvah has 1,066 refugees in their full-time care in Romania. Four hundred and eighty of them are children, and of those children, 227 are orphans. They serve 1,500 hot meals daily and educate 380 students in school. Back in Odessa, they are caring for the 1200 Jews who were left behind. When I asked why anyone would be left behind, I was told that men of certain ages are not allowed to lead the country. Furthermore, many of the elderly (most of whom are Holocaust survivors) were not well enough to make the long bus journeys to neighboring countries.

Every day, Tikvah learns new stories about their alumni serving in the Ukrainian army. Sadly, several former Tikvah students have lost their lives in the war with Russia. Many other alumni are still engaged in battle. However, because information from the front is scant, their families are unaware of their location or well-being. In the meantime, Tikvah is doing everything it can to support its community and ensure its safety. Their most pressing needs include funds to pay for food and shelter, medical and psychological care for orphans and war refugees, and assistance in providing daily necessities like water, clothing, and toiletries.

I am in constant contact with Tikvah officials in the US, and I hear each week about the tragedies and acts of heroism unfolding daily. In the world today, there is no Jewish community in greater need of support than our brothers and sisters in the Ukraine. I am so proud of everything Tikvah is doing to give a sliver of hope to the Jewish children of Odessa. In this new year, I hope you will consider helping our sister school deal with the unbearable burdens of supporting Jewish orphans and students threatened daily by the horrors of war. https://www.tikvaodessa.org/

L'shalom,

#### Rabbi Jeremy Barras





How to Confront Palestinian Propaganda

TUESDAY DECEMBER 12, 12:00 PM

Chapel, Lewis Family Religious Life Complex

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

#### WHAT WAS SO WRONG WITH BUILDING THE TOWER OF BABEL?

Rabbi Beno Jacob (1862-1045) said their goals were wrong. They had mastered the art of brick making, molding, and heating the clay. But instead of using their new technology to improve living conditions in their city and create housing for the poor, sick, and aging, they decided to use all their resources and efforts to build the highest tower in the world.

Their mistake, according to Rabbi Jacob, was allowing their pride and vanity to get in the way of improving the lives of individuals in their society.

And I think of the Palestinian people in Gaza. Israel pulled out in 2005. In all that time, their leadership did not build a water system. And we see the footage of Hamas terrorists running through a sophisticated series of underground tunnels. I say tunnels, but that makes you picture crawling. They are underground hallways. They used their technology to build hiding places for their fighters instead of laying pipes. Instead of building community bomb shelters, instead of building infrastructure, or uplifting the people. These cowards who hide behind civilians, who purposefully place their rocket launchers behind a hospital.

But back to the tower of Babel.

Pirkei D'Rabbi Eliezer 24: "The tower had seven levels on the eastern side and seven on the western side. The laborers who took up the bricks went up on the eastern ascent, and those who descended went down on the western descent. If a man fell and died, they paid no heed to him, but if a brick fell, they sat down and wept, and said: 'Woe is us! When will another one come in its stead?'"

Here, in Pirke D'Rabbi Eliezer, we see a dangerous reversal: instead of the state protecting its citizens, protecting their rights and placing them as individuals and living beings at the center, the state is the center and people are only a tool, an instrument in its construction.

The project was more important than the health and safety of those involved in it. Individual rights and liberties were taken away. The leadership justified brutality and the end of individual freedom.

And again, I think of Hamas, who told Gazans not to evacuate and who took keys away from those trying to flee. Who show no regard for life. Who say they win when a Jew dies because they have fulfilled their charter, and that they win when a Palestinian dies because they garner more support and compassion from the international community. I think of how they have taken rights away from their people. How they have subjugated women, brainwashed children, done nothing to uplift the people, and put their charter before the individual.

Literally making material things more important than lives.

But back to Babel.

Sforno says the problem was that their goal was one religion for everyone, one political point of view, and one accepted political way of doing things.

They believed differences of opinion, controversy, and diversity of belief were dangerous and unacceptable. They opposed freedom of thought and expression. Those who opposed their views were to be crushed. "These people had been of one mind in matters of religion, seeing that they had all agreed with the mistaken idolatrous philosophy shared by mankind at that time."

And again, I think of Hamas, who do not allow differences of opinion and believe in one true religion: theirs. Who beat women—even foreign reporters—who do not cover their heads. Whose charter says, "[Peace] initiatives and so-called peaceful solutions and international conferences are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement...Those conferences are no more than a means to appoint the infidels as arbitrators in the lands of Islam...There is no solution for the Palestinian problem except by Jihad. Initiatives, proposals, and international conferences are but a waste of time, an exercise in futility." (Article 13).

Hamas is the word used in the Torah to explain why God brought on the flood of Noah. In Hebrew, it means "violent, oppressor, unjust, false, and wrong." In Arabic, it means "zeal" and is an acronym for the Islamic resistance movement.

The story of the Tower of Babel is short, but we are seeing it relived right now.

When we look to the Torah, we are challenged to be distrustful of governments that put notoriety above life; we are challenged to never put the goals of man above the call for justice. When we look to the Torah, we are challenged to see the image of God in every person. Challenged to believe that we are all one family and that no one's blood is redder than his neighbors.

We are challenged to cry over every life lost. We are challenged to use our power to protect.

And we are faced with the fact that Hamas still means violence, still means oppressor, still means false, and we work to deconstruct every tower and build every haven to protect life.

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RICHARD SIEGEL
PRESIDENT
RSIEGELØTBAM.ORG

#### **OUR "NEW NORMAL"**

I hope this month's issue of the Commentator finds our our entire community safe, healthy and protected during these challenging times for our people and our homeland.

I have to admit that, despite all the tumult in our world, I have found myself in moments of deep introspection over the past month. Specifically, asking myself "how the heck did you get yourself into this position?" I remember going through a mental checklist in my head earlier this year. Capital campaign – done; amazing new campus expansion – completed; membership – larger and more vibrant than ever; clergy – strongest in my 20+ years at TBAM; schools – bursting at the seams with best-in-class educators and engaged families. In other words, the perfect time to be the President of Temple Beth Am. "What's the worst thing that could happen?" I thought to myself. All I could come up with was the roof in the sanctuary springing a leak. Oh, what I would give now to have a leaky roof be our gravest concern!

Turning my attention outward now, and while I'm sure I could write pages about what is going on in our Jewish world, you can (and do) get that everywhere nowadays and from people who are far more educated, insightful and eloquent than me. So, instead, I want to spend a moment addressing one thing that I hear regularly now but that I have not heard anyone think about in the way I do. Specifically, the overuse of the cliché the "new normal" to describe the current state of affairs in our world.

Actually, upon reflection, it's not that the phrase the "new normal" is being overused, it's that the phrase shouldn't be used at all to describe what's going on in Israel, what's going on at home, and what Jews are facing throughout the world. While there are a plethora of adjectives that can be used to describe our predicament, "new" and "normal" are not two of them. For us Jews, the threats and challenges we are confronting are not "new" and, even more so, they're not "normal."

The story of the Jewish people is a story of survival. Of facing apparently insurmountable odds and, time and time again, surviving and thriving, and stronger as a result. While Hamas' attacks on October 7 were deplorable, unjustified, inhumane (and lots of other things), they weren't new. They are just the latest installment in our people's struggles against those who seek to destroy us.

In addition to not being "new", this latest existential threat to the Jewish people is anything but "normal." How any country can endure the indescribable atrocities committed upon Israel by Hamas on October 7 only to be immediately followed by cries for a ceasefire from around the globe is irrational and reprehensible. The world's conflation of Hamas, a bloodthirsty terrorist group, with the citizenry of Palestine is similarly illogical. No country in the world would be expected to live next to a neighbor intent on its destruction without taking swift and immediate action to eradicate the cancer in its midst. No country, apparently, other than Israel.

Thank you indulging my diatribe.

Turning to our amazing TBAM community, during my remarks on Rosh Hashanah I referenced the increase in antisemitism and my belief that the best way to battle the forces that seek to destroy us is to continue coming together as a community, joined by our common values and beliefs, and demonstrate to the world the strength and resiliency of the Jewish people. When composing those words only a few short months ago, I could never have imagined how apropos they would be today. We should all be so thankful for our community and the abundance of opportunities we are afforded to come together and celebrate what we stand for. And, as we do, I can think of no greater privilege than serving as your President...

L'Shalom, **Rich** 



#### **LETTERS FROM** ANNE AND **MARTIN**





LETTERS FROM ANNE & MARTIN





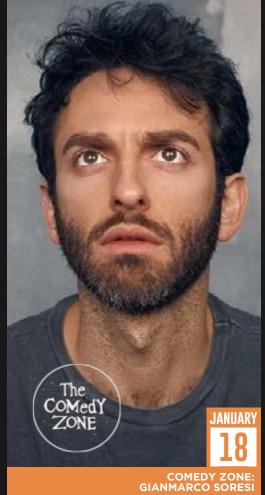
**SOCOL SPEAKER SERIES: FOUNDATION FOR DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACIES** 







MIAMI JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL: CELEBRATE THE UNEXPECTED





### unBIASed presents

# LETTERS FROM ANNE AND MARTIN





Monday **DECEMBER 4**7:00 PM

The Frankel Family Performing Arts Center

#### FREE OF CHARGE, RSVP AT TBAM.ORG/THEHUB

Developed from *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* and Dr. King's *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*, Letters from Anne and Martin brings cultural heroes Anne Frank and Martin Luther King, Jr, to life on stage sharing their hopes and plans for a peaceful and unified world. These icons, both born in 1929, have distinct and eloquent voices, expressing a deep belief in humanity despite their lived experiences facing hatred and oppression. The evening highlights the parallels in their outlooks and ideals, demonstrating the universality of the human experience.

The 40 minute play will be followed by a facilitated discussion and a dessert reception.

**PRESENTING SPONSORS** 

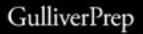












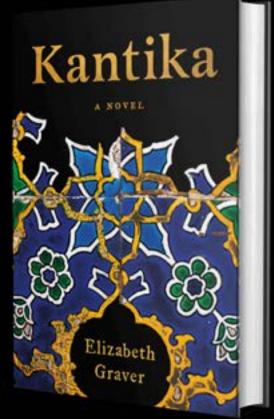




ALPER JCC MIAMI 43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL BERRIN FAMILY JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL presents:

# ELIZABETH GRAVER author of Kantika

Tuesday
DECEMBER 12
7:30 PM
The Frankel Family Performing Arts Center
TBAM.ORG/THEHUB





Temple Beth Am is honored to participate once again in the 43<sup>RD</sup> Annual Berrin Family Jewish Book Festival. This year, we welcome Elizabeth Graver as she speaks about her newest novel, *Kantika*.

Recently selected as a community read through Hadassah Magazine, *Kantika* was inspired by Graver's grandmother, who was born into a Sephardic Jewish family in Istanbul, and whose tumultuous and shape-shifting life journey took her to Spain, Cuba and New York. Exploring endurance and family as home, this kaleidoscopic portrait of one family's displacement across four countries follows the joys and losses of Rebecca Cohen, feisty daughter of Sephardic elite of early 20 Istanbul, as it explores identity, place, exile, and the tenacity of women.

\$10 per person. Café will be open for purchase of refreshments before the program. Dessert reception to follow.



#### **SOCOL SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS:**

# Understanding the Evolving Threats to the United States and Israel: A Conversation with FDD Experts

Thursday
DECEMBER 14
7:00 PM
The Frankel Family Performing Arts Center
TBAM.ORG/THEHUB



We invite you to a special evening to learn more about the important work of FDD, a nonpartisan, nonprofit research institute focusing on national security and foreign policy.

FDD conducts in-depth research, produces accurate and timely analyses, identifies illicit activities, and provides policy options – all with the aim of strengthening US national security and reducing or eliminating threats posed by adversaries and enemies of the United States and other free nations.

Founded shortly after the attacks of September 11, 2001, FDD conducts actionable research prepared by experts and scholars from a variety of backgrounds—including government, intelligence, military, private sector, academia, and journalism. It brings proficiency in foreign languages, law, finance, technology, and other skills to its work.

FDD regularly provides open-source research and analyses to policymakers and the media. Since its founding, FDD has shared its expertise with the Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden administrations and Congressional offices on a bipartisan basis.



Presented in partership with the Miami Jewish Film Festival

#### **GOLDA**

FILM SCREENING

### Tuesday **DECEMBER 19, 7:00 PM**

The Frankel Family Performing Arts Center **TBAM.ORG/THEHUB** 

A ticking-clock thriller set during the tense 19 days of the Yom Kippur War. Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir (Helen Mirren) must navigate overwhelming odds, a skeptical cabinet and a complex relationship with US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (Liev Schreiber) with millions of lives in the balance. Her tough leadership and compassion would ultimately decide the fate of her nation.





Presented in partership with GableStage OLD WICKED SONGS:

The Play I Had to Write

A conversation with playwright Jon Marans and artistic director Bari Newport

Monday

**JANÚARY 8, 7:30 PM** 

The Frankel Family Performing Arts Center **TBAM.ORG/THEHUB** 

Join GableStage producing artistic director Bari Newport in conversation with the playwright Jon Marans. As a college student studing in Vienna, Marans fell in love with the art and music of the city, but he became aware of Austria's insipid underlying antisemitism. His experience inspired *Old Wicked Songs*, his award-winning play set in 1986 right before Kurt Waldheim is elected president of Austria. The play focuses on a piano prodigy forced to learn Schumann's famous song cycle, Dichterliebe, with words by the brilliant Jewish poet Heinrich Heine. Marans and Newport will play recordings of Dichterliebe and discuss how this fascinating musical and lyrical blending is mirrored in Old Wicked Songs.



**COMEDY WITHOUT THE COMMUTE** 

### THE COMEDY ZONE AT TBAM

### GIANMARCO SORESI WITH LIAM NELSON

Thursday

JANUARY 18
8:00 PM

The Frankel Family Performing Arts Center

Tickets: \$18 & \$28
TBAM.ORG/THEHUB

Drinks and light nosh available for purchase in the lobby starting at 7:00 PM.

Free onsite parking. No drink minimum.



#### THE COMEDY ZONE BRINGS THE BEST EMERGING COMEDIANS TO PINECREST!

Gianmarco Soresi is an NYC-based standup comedian and actor. He's told jokes on Netflix's Bonding, PBS's Stories from the Stage, Amazon's Comics Watching Comics (Season 8 Winner), SeeSo's New York's Funniest, Real Housewives of New York (really), and his first comedy special "Shelf Life" is now available on Amazon Prime and was an NPR 2020 Comedy Special Recommendation. Performing at colleges, clubs, and sordid basements all across the country, he's headlined Comix Mohegan Sun, AC Comedy Club, Carolines, Stand Up NY, Yonkers, Hurron's, and The Comedy Craft Beer tour. As an actor, he's pretended opposite Jennifer Lopez in the movie Hustlers, Tracy Morgan in TBS's The Last OG, CBS's Blue Bloods, ABC's Deception, TruTV, Comedy Central and will be seen in the upcoming Billy Crystal/Tiffany Haddish movie Here Today. Gianmarco is a graduate of University of Miami!!

Opening for Gianmarco will be Liam Nelson. Liam Nelson is a 22-year-old standup comedian from Atlanta, Georgia who has recently started touring the country was the feature act for national headliners like Kate Willett (Netflix, Comedy Central), Joe Zimmerman (Comedy Central, Tonight Show) and Sam Morril (Comedy Central, Comedy Cellar).

### SAVE THE DATE!







### CANTOR AZI SCHWARTZ

Sponsored by Melvyn and Carolyn Miller

#### **SPRING 2024**

The Frankel Family Performing Arts Center

Tickets: \$36 - \$72

TBAM.ORG/THEHUB

World-renowned cantor and vocal performer Azi Schwartz is bringing uplifting, inspiring music to our community. Deeply rooted in the rich tradition of Jewish liturgical music, his program transcends genres and style to bring new life to both favorites and hidden gems.

Cantor Azi Schwartz is the Senior Cantor of Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City and a celebrated vocal performer and recording artist with an astonishing online following. His music reaches both Jewish and interfaith audiences. Born and raised in Israel, Cantor Schwartz is passionate about bringing Jewish liturgy to wider audiences.

He has performed at Carnegie Hall, the United Nations, Madison Square Garden, the US Capitol Rotunda, and at Pope Francis' visit to New York. Don't miss your chance to see him at The Hub!

### ON SALE NOW







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## SHABBAT Under the Stars

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

6:00 PM Pre-Neg 6:30 PM Service

#### **WE'RE TAKING SHABBAT SERVICES OUTSIDE AND UNDER THE STARS!**

Join us to experience the beauty of Shabbat under the open sky, the soft glow of candles, the joyous sound of shared laughter, and the heartfelt melodies of our communal prayers.

#### HANUKKAH ON RYE

Friday, December 1, 8:00 PM

Immediately following our special Shabbat Under the Stars service, join us in The Lampen Sachar Outdoor Cultural Life Center for our very first film on our brand-new, state-of-the-art outdoor screen!

A matchmaker connects Molly and Jacob, but their new romance is put to the test when they realize that they are competing deli owners. Will a Hanukkah miracle keep them together? Starring Yael Grobglas, Jeremy Jordan and Lisa Loeb.

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



# GLOWSTICK SHABBAT FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS: THE ERAS TOUR



#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

6:00 PM PRENEG 6:30 PM SERVICES LATKE VODKA ONEG TO FOLLOW

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT WE'RE FEELIN' CHANUKAH NIGHT TWO! Join your Temple Beth Am family as we GLOW UP our Sanctuary, and celebrate Shabbat with Chanukah songs set to the music of Taylor Swift!

Stick around after services for Chanukah treats, our iconic grilled cheese sandwiches, and cocktails and mocktails at our annual Latke Vodka Oneg! Commentator

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# Sensory Friendly SENSORY FRIENDLY TEMPLE BETH AM

SATURDAYS, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM WELCOME LOBBY, THE HUB

DECEMBER 9, 2023
JANUARY 27, 2024
FEBRUARY 24, 2024
APRIL 27, 2024
MAY 18, 2024

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 COMFORTABLE SEATING

**QUESTIONS?** 

Contact Michele Kaplan at michelemkaplan@yahoo.com

## Friends of the TEMPLE BETH AM GARDEN SANCTUARY

### CELEBRATE CHANUKAH IN THE TBAM GARDEN SANCTUARY

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10** 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Together, we will:

- Tend & harvest our TBAM Garden
- Enjoy latkes, donuts & more around 10:45 am
- Create Chanukah Memories with your TBAM Garden friends!

Please bring an unwrapped children's holiday gift for donation to Voices For Children. Holidays are best, when shared!
Bring your positive energy, closed toe shoes, sunblock and reusable water bottle for Garden work.

Questions, garden ideas and to kindly RSVP...Please contact us at Garden@TBAM.org







### SUNDAY DECEMBER 10 6:00 PM

Bring the whole family and enjoy a fun-filled Bar-B-Q dinner with the Brotherhood of Temple Beth Am. Of course, what would Chanukah be without potato latkes and sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts)!

#### Let's celebrate together this year!

This is a great opportunity for all members of Brotherhood to socialize with other members and their families as we get together for a good ole fashioned Bar-B-O.

\$18 per family for 2023–24 Brotherhood members and their families

\$25 per family for non-Brotherhood members

Details/RSVP at tbam.org/brotherhoodchanukah



Family Chanukah
BBBB

**GAMES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY** 





### BAFTY34



Inviting our 3rd and 4th-grade students to sign up for our popular program.

VERYTHING BUT THE SLEEP OVER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM Admissions: \$45



Be with your friends. Celebrate Shabbat under the stars roast marshmallows in the bonfire & more Be ready for a FUNtastic evening



AT TEMPLE BETH AM

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 16

9:30 AN

Early Childhood Courtyard, Rambam Day School Building

#### WITH CANTOR COYOT!

Share the joy of Shabbat with your little ones at our first Tot Shabbat of the year!

Join Cantor Coyot for Shabbat songs, crafts and fun, and connect with other families as we welcome Shabbat together.

This program is geared toward children ages 4 and under, but big brothers and sisters are welcome!

RSVP at tbam.org/totshabbat

SAVE THE DATE for our next Tot Shabbat! Saturday, April 6

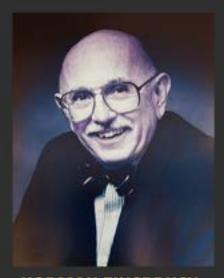
## THE DR. LENORE KIPPER

Temple Beth Am presents this honor to congregants who have contributed significantly to the temple by engaging thoughtfully in our Adult Education programs.

Join us for Shabbat services on

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15 as we honor our 2023 recipients Norman Einspruch & Bobby Schatzman!

#### **MAZEL TOV TO OUR HONOREES**



**NORMAN EINSPRUCH** 



**BOBBY SCHATZMAN** 

After services, we will enjoy a festive dinner in the **Chapel, Lewis Family Religious Life Complex** \$36 for adults, \$20 for children under 13

► RSVP AT TBAM.ORG/TALMUDTORAH

Commentator

TEMPLE BETH AM'S

### PIONEE R shabbat

MEMBERS

Friday, January 19

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION AS WE HONOR PIONEER MEMBERS, 37-69 YEARS AND COUNTING!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome each of our Pioneer members and their families.

Celebrate together a special shabbat service where a blessing will be offered in their honor. Reconnect with old friends and take this opportunity to chat with your Clergy and Temple community.

6:00 PM

Pre-neg- Meet and greet

6:30 PM

**Shabbat Service** 

7:45 PM

Dessert Oneg

RSVP is a must! tbam.org/pioneers

SPECIAL ART EXHIBITION FEATURING OUR BROTHERHOOD
AND SISTERHOOD MEMBER ARTISTS

If you have any questions, please contact Rita Diaz at 786.364.9434 or rdiaz@tbam.org

\*PIONEERS, PLEASE CHECK IN BY 6:15 PM





TEMPLE BETH AM WELCOMES ALL OF YOUR PAW PATROL FRIENDS, SKYE, MARSHALL, CHASE, RUBBLE ROCKY AND ROBO DOG!

Enjoy a fun family Shabbat with Rabbi Rachel Greengrass and Cantor Tifani Coyot. This will be a special Paw Patrol evening. A delicious catered dinner by Michael Meltzer, a wine bar for parents and grandparents, a special arts and crafts project for our little ones and special photo props for you to always remember this Shabbat with your family.

For more information, call Rita Diaz at 786.364.9434

**Dinner \$26 Adults** 

Children \$15

**RSVP A MUST: TBAM.ORG/PAWPATROL** 

Commentator December 2023 • Page 24

#### DAY SCHOOL



NORA ANDERSON, M.S., M.Ed. HEAD OF SCHOOL NANDERSON@TBAM.ORG

#### RAMBAM DAY SCHOOL'S RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACKS IN ISRAEL

In times of crisis and adversity, communities often come together to show their solidarity and support for those affected. Rambam Day School has exemplified this spirit through its response to the recent terrorist attacks in Israel. With a heartwarming display of unity and generosity, our students, parents, and staff have rallied together to show their support, solidarity, and empathy for Israel. The response is deeply rooted in the Jewish value of tikkun olam, the principle of repairing the world. The connection Temple Beth Am and Rambam have with the State of Israel is not just historical or cultural, but a reflection of a shared commitment to these values, a sense of global responsibility, and a desire to contribute positively to the world, especially in challenging times.

In the days following the attacks, we celebrated Havdalah together and prayed for the State of Israel and IDF soldiers. We also held a town hall for our third through fifth-grade students, allowing them to ask questions about the war, the soldiers, and the Israeli families. I am so proud of the depth of care and thoughtfulness they demonstrated. Our students also created posters, which are displayed throughout the school, showing Rambam's support for Israel. They also wrote letters to soldiers and families who have lost loved ones and wrote to elected representatives, encouraging their continued support of Israel.

Rambam Day School also spearheaded several fundraisers. First, we held a "Wear White and Blue Day." This event saw our community proudly donning the colors of the Israeli flag to show their unwavering support. Students contributed \$1 each, while adults generously donated \$5 per person. This heartwarming display of unity generated \$3,000 to aid those affected by the attacks.

Kindergarten students at Rambam also made a significant contribution to the cause. They created and sold bracelets and keychains, raising thousands of dollars. These small, colorful bracelets serve as a symbol of hope and a tangible demonstration of the compassion and determination of Rambam's kindergarteners. We are so proud of them and grateful to our faculty for their guidance.

Blue J's After School also got in on the action. The Community Service Blue J's kids designed and sold Israel-themed keychains, which were printed by the 3D Printing Club. The spirit of giving extended even further, with two students taking it upon themselves to make bracelets at home, raising \$60. We were so moved by the empathy and proactive approach that these students displayed. And in a particularly creative effort, one student decorated and sold white t-shirts. This artistic endeavor resulted in an additional \$1,600 in funds, further demonstrating our community's commitment to the cause.

Beyond the monetary support, Rambam Day School has gone a step further in showing its solidarity with the victims of the terrorist attacks. The school has adopted Kibbutz Ein HaShlosha, a community located in Southern Israel. It is a community in dire need of help.

Kibbutz Ein HaShlosha, located just two miles from the Gaza Strip, is a community that has faced numerous challenges. Residents have frequently had to seek refuge from rocket attacks in shelters, and the recent terrorist attack added to their adversity. Dozens of armed individuals on motorcycles targeted the kibbutz, causing damage, setting houses on fire, and threatening the lives of innocent families. In the face of this brutal assault, 30 people, consisting of 16 Israeli residents and 14 Thai agricultural workers, displayed immense courage by hiding from the attackers for three days until they were safely rescued.

The aftermath of the attack has left the residents in a state of uncertainty. While some have temporarily relocated to a nearby military post for safety, the kibbutz's operations, including dairy and agriculture, face severe losses. This is where the support from Rambam Day School and its community becomes invaluable. The damage inflicted upon Kibbutz Ein HaShlosha, especially to the children and their infrastructure, is immeasurable. The generous donations and the ongoing commitment from Rambam Day School will contribute to their recovery and the reconstruction of what was destroyed.

In these challenging times, we aim to be a shining example of unity, compassion, and the strength of the human spirit. By coming together, our school community not only offers financial aid but a message of solidarity to those affected by these tragic events. It is a testament to our community's deeply held values, including the principle of tikkun olam. This commitment to healing our global community demonstrates our strength and power in times of need.



#### WE ARE THRILLED TO OFFER INFANT AND EARLY TODDLER CLASSES ON CAMPUS

Please check our website to see our current course offerings and to get registered.

#### TBAM.ORG/BABYBLUEJS



BLUE J'S AFTER SCHOOL is back with new classes and full-day mini-camps on professional development and conference days.

Open to Rambam Day School students and siblings, YERS students, and Temple Beth Ammembers.

#### - NEW CLASSES FOR SPRING -

Pickleball • Swimming • Little Scientists • Creation StationCoding & Engineering





#### MAZEL TOV B'NAI MITZVAH



Alicia Garrett December 9, 2023

**Alicia** is a seventh-grade student at Palmetto Middle School. Alicia is a hard-working, kind, and compassionate individual. She loves cooking, reading, and spending time with family and friends. Alicia recently found her passion competing in debate tournaments. For her mitzvah project, Alicia helped to promote literacy by collecting new and gently used books for programs such as Books4Free and The Children's Trust. Her mom, **Shari**, is extremely proud of her and cannot wait to celebrate this special milestone in Alicia's life.



Landon Elfenbein December 16, 2023

Marty, Danny, Jake and fam celebrate Landon's Mitzvah. Twelve years of childhood wonder turns into manhood - the struggle is real people. Fun finds responsibility, cuteness meets attitude - and the voice change? OMG! Can we get a sentence with more than three words!? Our 7th grade super athlete and student at Ransom Everglades brings so much good and kindness into the world and continues to make it a better place. With love, luck and patience - Mazel Tov son! Love you Shmoopy!



Violet Spann December 23, 2023

**Violet** is a 7th grade student at Palmetto Middle School. She is a kind, witty and caring daughter, sister and friend. Violet loves spending her time in the North Carolina mountains. For her mitzvah project, Violet is selling her Nona's famous homemade challahs and donating the proceeds to support individuals affected by trauma in Israel. Violet's parents, **Melissa** and **Steven** and her brother **Archer** look forward to celebrating this special day.



#### TBAM.ORG/ANNUALAUCTION



Book to the We are so thankful to have **Baptist Health - Miami Cancer Institute as our** "PRESENTING SPONSOR - ALL THAT AND A BAG OF CHIPS!"



#### **Baptist Health**

Miami Cancer Institute

"CARPOOL PLACARD SPONSOR - SHOW ME THE MONEY"







#### TAMARA DONNENFELD

DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING
TDONNENFELD@TBAM.ORG

#### RAISING FUNDS FOR ISRAEL

In the days immediately following the start of the war in Israel, the Jewish community responded wholeheartedly, creating many venues for our families to show solidarity and support to Israel. One of our teens, Sofia Cohn, current Madricha in the Religious School, BAFTYite, member of the Pre-Confirmation class and board member at the local chapter of BBYO, combined compassion and creativity to raise much-needed funds for the people of Israel, netting a total of \$3,000 for the Greater Miami Jewish Federation Israel Emergency Fund (IEF).

After learning about Hamas' brutal, unprovoked attacks on Israel that began on October 7, Sofia, 14, an active member of our youth program sprung into action and organized innovative fundraising activities.

Sofia, whose Bat Mitzvah project had been to bake and sell challahs to buy electric recliners for women with breast cancer, reestablished her challah project to benefit the people of Israel. She participated in the IsraelNow program in March of 2023, which is offered for 8th grade students in Monday Night CHAI. The program brought Israel close to her mind and her heart. "My trip to Israel was life-changing," said Sofia. "Hearing about the war was really hard for me. I wanted to help the people of Israel now so that other teens have the opportunity to one day travel there, too, and connect with Israel."

Sofia's dad, Andrew, works for a company that builds and manages real estate properties and was able to access a commercial kitchen in one of its communities. It was there that Sofia set up her challah-baking enterprise. With the help of family, friends and neighbors, Sofia baked, sold and distributed more than 60 challahs in one weekend. She raised over \$1,500 and Andrew's company matched the funds, creating a total donation of \$3,000 to the IEF.

Sofia will be participating in the Temple Beth Am Mitzvah Fair on December 17 at 10:30am. The Mitzvah Fair is open to the community, especially to pre-bnei mitzvah families to learn about mitzvah projects and opportunities to make a difference. Sofia will be selling her delicious challahs at her stand during the event. You can pre-order your challah by sending a Venmo to @MitzvahChair.

One hundred percent of all funds donated to the Israel Emergency Fund go directly to help the people of Israel with their short- and long-term needs.

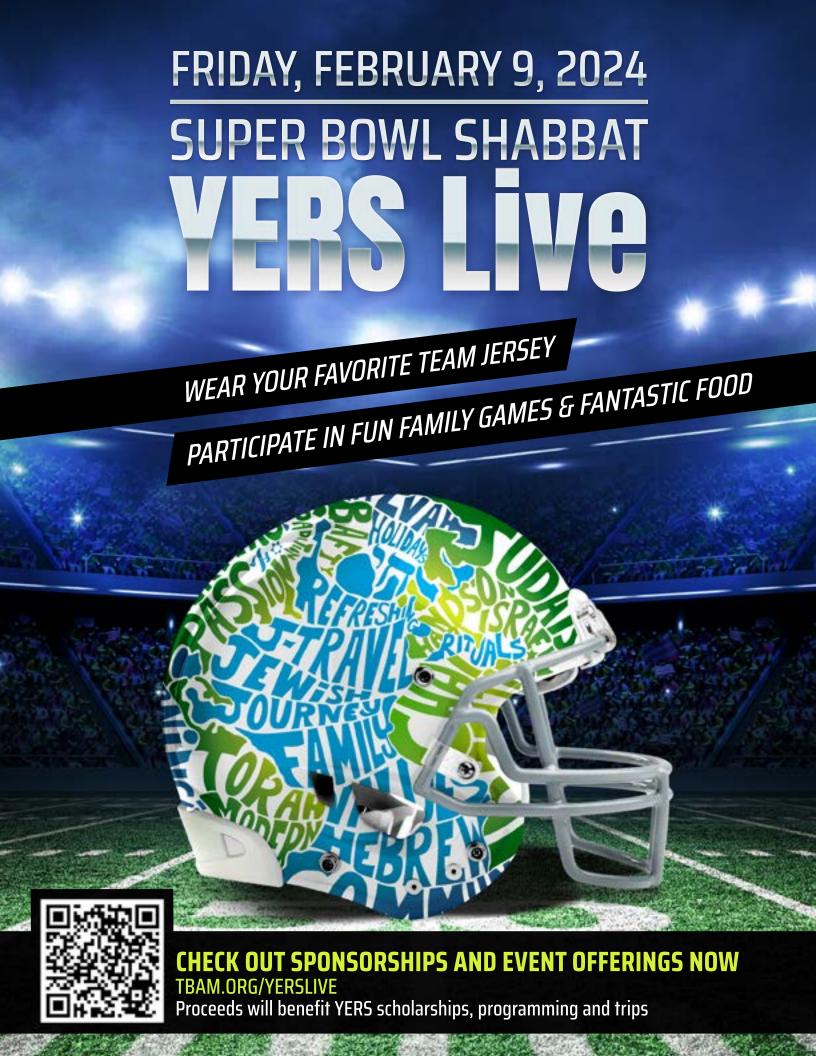
We are proud of Sofia. We are proud of our teens!











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The Poyastro Family Athletic Center indoor basketball court is the home of the Beth Am Basketball League, the largest temple-based basketball league in the country. This beautiful brand-new climate-controlled court, opened in April, 2023, is available to rent for limited timeslots each week.

Rental price includes gate security and free parking for as many as 20 cars. Discounted rates are available for Temple Beth Am Members and for not-for-profit groups.

An adjacent outdoor basketball court is also available to rent.

FREE SECURE PARKING NEW INDOOR COURT



### basketball rental

RESERVE THE COURT AT THEHUBMIAMI.ORG/COURTS

6 TIMESLOTS AVAILABLE EACH WEEK Sunday: 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM

Sunday: 8:30 AM - 10 AM

Monday - Thursday: 8:40 PM - 9:40 PM



#### SPRING SESSION Registration opens Monday, December 4

Continuing the yearlong celebration of our 50th Anniversary, the Beth Am Basketball Spring League runs from January to May, and is open to the entire community. The league emphasizes teamwork and sportsmanship, with fundamentals and skill development a focus for all of our players, regardless of experience or ability.

#### **DON'T DELAY!**

Register at tbam.org/basketball



The Spring League includes various divisions for boys from 3rd-10th grades and girls from 3rd-6th grades. Also this Spring, we are introducing a High School Boys division on Sunday mornings. Across all of our divisions, we are grateful for the more than 100 volunteer head coaches and assistant coaches that lead and instruct our players, while ensuring our players learn, practice and have fun through the game of basketball.

In addition, we are continuing our coed Peewee clinics for 1st and 2nd graders on Wednesday afternoons. Featuring skill-development instruction and training, these clinics include scrimmages at the end of every session, as we introduce the Beth Am Basketball way to our youngest participants. It's a great opportunity for children to develop their fundamentals, build confidence and have a blast with their peers.



#### IT IS NOT TOO LATE... SPONSORSHIPS STILL AVAILABLE.

### PLEASE SUPPORT THE LEAGUE WITH A CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

We offer various options at all different levels including gym/court banners, website, social media presence, and more!

Don't miss this amazing opportunity to promote your business to hundreds of Beth Am families and community members during this historic season.



HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS?

Contact
Nancy Levy,
Associate Development Director
nlevy@tbam.org
or visit tbam.org/basketball

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PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS
IN FRONT OF HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE
EACH WEEK





**AQUATIC PROGRAM** 

Join us as we embark on a new chapter in swim education. Together, we'll make a splash and create unforgettable memories. Enroll today and let the adventure begin!

#### TBAM.ORG/SWIM

#### **CLASSES FOR**

- Children
   Baby Blue Jays
- Children with Autism & Learning Disabilities
- AdultsSeniors



Our certified instructors lead each session, offering guidance and support throughout the program.

# Winter Break Camp

AT TEMPLE BETH AM

Winter Break Camp is designed for children with ASD, ADHD, ADD and Learning Exceptionalities. Join our 2 Coaches and Volunteers for fun activities including: Swimming, Sports, Arts & Crafts, Recreation Time.

Week 1: December 26-27-28-29, 2023 (Tuesday - Friday)
Week 2: January 2-3-4-5, 2024 (Tuesday - Friday)
Camp Time: 9 AM to 3 PM

**CAMP FEES** 

Full Day 9 AM - 3 PM - \$325

Half Day 9 AM - 12 PM - \$250

Campers must bring swimming attire, change of clothes, flip flops & shoes, towel, snacks, lunch and water bottle.

TO REGISTER PLEASE VISIT: TBAM.ORG/SWIM





# THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS, GOLFERS, AND COMMITTEE WE HAD AN AMAZING TOURNAMENT! PLEASE JOIN US AGAIN NEXT YEAR!

PRESENTED BY
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#### **2023 GOLF TOURNAMENT CO-CHAIRS**

Ken Dubow, Greg Haller, Rachel Rothrock, Ed Schmidt, Scott Squires

#### **VP EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENT**

**Judy Cowan** 

#### **2023 HOST COMMITTEE**

Oded Cedar, Stephen Cohen, Adrian Dubow, Stephen Lipof, Adrienne Messing, Kevin Packman, Ron Rosen, David Softness, Joey Sultan, Josh Young



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**TOTAL WINE & MORE** 

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\* Super Sponsor Sponsor As of November 13, 2023

#### **Dear Sisters** & Friends



Dear Sisterhood Members and Friends,

We really appreciate our TBAM community during these challenging times and it is heartfelt to share that collectively we have made a difference for each other and all those affected by the events in Israel these past months.

Sisterhood has stood strong, and our programs are continuing as scheduled with particular sensitivity to our educational and spiritual needs. Thank you to all who plan and participate in these meaningful experiences.

May the month of December provide light and continued hope for strength and peace as we celebrate Chanukah and the secular New Year with family, friends, and TBAM members.

Warmly,

Sisterhood President

Lusan Jampen

**JOIN US AT** tbam.org/sisterhood



#### YIVO STUDY TOUR TO LITHUANIA AND POLAND: **JUNE 19 - JULY 3, 2023**

by Genia Neuhaus

I wasn't looking to undertake this journey. But when YIVO sent an email announcing this trip, it read as if they had planned it just for me! My mother was from Lithuania and my father from Poland, both Holocaust survivors; this trip would visit all the places from my ancestry.

Sam Kassow, renowned professor and scholar of Ashkenazi Jewish history, traveled with us every step of the way and gifted us with his extensive erudition. Irene Pletka, YIVO's Vice Chair, afforded us unique access to journalists, writers, and activists working towards increased awareness of their countries' past participation in the Holocaust, and advocating for educational programs about Jewish culture. This included talks with the Lithuania Minister of Foreign Affairs, an invitation for dinner and cocktails at the US ambassador residence in Vilnius, and VIP tickets to the Jewish Culture Festival in Krakow, the biggest in Europe.

Unforgettable highlights of the trip are too many to detail here. At Treblinka and Auschwitz-Birkenau, and the killing fields in Ponar, Tykocin, and the 9th Fort in Kaunas, I prayed, shed a tear for all the lost souls, and joined in singing the Partisan song in Yiddish with my now friends in the group. It was surreal and incongruous that the beautiful towns and cities were once part of the horrors of the War.

Personally, I made discoveries that impacted me greatly. I found my maternal grandmother's grave (for whom I'm named) and said kaddish for her. I visited my mother's birthplace and stood at all the places of her stories. I saw the actual address where my father and his family lived before the War and found my paternal grandmother's name in the huge Book of Names in Auschwitz. The most unexpected experience was learning that our Lithuanian guide's grandmother and parents sheltered my cousins in Kaunas when they escaped the ghetto. They are recognized as Righteous Among Nations and their and my cousin's photos are displayed in the 9th Fort museum.

This was a very well organized, extensive, and unforgettable trip. I highly recommend it to anyone considering a deep exploration of these countries' Jewish history.

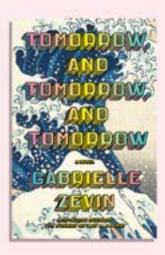
# Sisterhood Events

### **BOARD MEETING**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10 7:00 PM

Multi-Purpose Room, The Hub All Sisterhood members welcome

### **BOOK CLUB**



THURSDAY, JANUARY 11 7:00 PM TOMORROW, TOMORROW AND TOMORROW by Gabrielle Zevin

In this exhilarating novel, two friends--often in love, but never lovers--come together as creative partners in the world of video game design, where success brings them fame, joy, tragedy, duplicity, and, ultimately, a kind of immortality.

Discussion to be facilitated by Ivy Ames. **RSVP** to Lori Fabry **Ipfabry@gmail.com** or Angela Durand **gingerdurand@yahoo.com** 

### **MITZVAH MAKERS**

1<sup>ST</sup> and 3<sup>RD</sup> Tuesday of every month 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Meeting Room 3

We also welcome anyone who wants to be in community with others while working on your own personal projects. This group makes handmade items for the Rabbis to give out during a home or hospital visit to an ill member of our congregation or a newborn baby.

For more information and to join the email list contact: Anne Becker at ajbwalks@aol.com

# MITZVAH MAKERS is looking for members:

- KNITTERS
- SEWERS
- CRAFTERS



# WOMEN'S TORAH STUDY WITH CANTOR TIFANI COYOT

### WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13

AT CORAL GABLES HOME OF JILL BERMAN 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Join Sisterhood and Cantor Tifani Coyot for a conversation about food, shame, and how spirituality can lead to recovery.

No charge, but please RSVP to tbam.org/womenstorahstudy For this intimate conversation, the event will be limited to 25 participants.

# JOIN US FOR THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF PROGRAMS ENTITLED

# APPROACHING DEATH WITH DIGNITY AND COMPASSION



LAST FLIGHT HOME JANUARY 17 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM The Hub

Temple Beth Am will screen the award-winning documentary, Last Flight Home, followed by a facilitated discussion. Last Flight

Home, directed by Ondi Timoner, explores her father's decisions at the end of life and showcases the final weeks of this family's emotional and moving journey. This beautifully raw and riveting film gives the viewer an intimate lens through which to experience their patriarch's desire to end his life. The film offers a tender and honest perspective into a family rallying around their beloved patriarch while dealing with issues of love and loss. Eli was granted the right to die; the film includes sensitive images.

RSVP tbam.org/lastflighthome

# TRY YOUR HAND AT YOUR FAVORITE GAME, SHOP FOR A TREASURE AT THE BAZAAR

Have a drink and enjoy dinner catered by Michael Meltzer

# WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 7

5:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Social Hall, Lewis Family Religious Life Complex

### **COME TO MINGLE, COME TO PLAY**

Play Mah Jongg, Canasta, Rummikub and a host of board games.







# **BROTHERHOOD**

To all the Snowbirds that missed our hurricane season and delightful summer humidity, welcome back to Miami! Enjoy our sunny clear skies and no freezing temperatures! The Brotherhood of Temple Beth Am has been busy and invites you to attend our upcoming events.

While our Snowbird friends were away, we reinstituted Monday Morning Minyan in the TBAM Chapel at 8:00 AM. We suggest arriving 20 to 30 minutes earlier to avoid traffic on Kendall Drive. We encourage you to join us every Monday morning for these services led by lay leaders in our community. For those who have lost a loved one and need to say Kaddish, we are here for you.

We look forward to celebrating Chanukah together on Sunday, December 10 at our annual Brotherhood Family Chanukah Bar-B-Q. This is a great opportunity for all members of Brotherhood to socialize with other members and their families as we get together for a good ole fashioned Bar-B-Q.

Beginning in January we will again start collecting books for the Everglades Men's Correctional Facility. Feel free to drop off gently used books at the Temple Beth Am offices. Our first visit to the Men's Correctional Facility will be Monday, February 12, 2024 from 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM through Exchange for Change. Those who have visited in the past have felt it to be a powerful and most worthwhile experience. To participate, please contact me at jeffreyarosenberg@gmail.com.

Those of you who have guitars that sit collecting dust and you have always wanted to take guitar lessons, now is your chance! Starting in January you will have the opportunity to learn from our own amazingly talented Billy Whitman. Space will be limited, so be sure to register soon.

Yours in Brotherhood, **Jeff Rosenberg, President**Brotherhood of Temple Beth Am





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### A TEMPLE BETH AM ANTISEMITISM INITIATIVE

### **NEVER AGAIN**

How the world has changed in the month since I wrote my last column!

As the daughter of Holocaust survivors, I am horrified to see that the conflict between Israel and Hamas has unleashed antisemitism globally, the likes of which we never imagined possible in our lifetimes! My father regularly warned me that antisemitism would never go away, and we could see yet another terrible situation. But I was too naïve to believe him. I wanted to say, "You are wrong; the Holocaust could not repeat itself, especially in America!"

But HE wasn't wrong—I was! In the days since October 7, anti-Semitic graffiti, vandalism, threats, and incidents have spiked in our communities. The ADL has cited a nearly 400 percent increase in anti-semitic incidents across the United States. During a recent Senate hearing, FBI Director Christopher Wray warned members of Congress that antisemitism has reached historic levels.

An attorney in the Illinois state government told a Jewish colleague, "Hitler should have eradicated all of you." Jewish homes in Paris have been marked with the Star of David, and incidents of antisemitism in France have doubled as compared to the same period in 2022. A bookstore in Turkey posted a sign: "Jews Not Allowed," and a man in Los Angeles tried to break into a Jewish home screaming, "Free Palestine" and "Kill Jews."

College campuses have become places where Jewish students have been targeted, threatened, and even assaulted. Jewish students were trapped in the school library as an anti-Israel mob waited outside at Cooper Union College in New York City; violent threats to shoot,

stab, and rape Jewish students and bomb the school's Jewish center were sent to the Hillel at Cornell University; a pro-Israel student was physically attacked by anti-Israel protesters for trying to prevent the burning of an Israeli flag at Tulane University; swastikas and Nazi slogans were graffitied on Jewish students dorm rooms at American University; and messages glorifying Hamas and calling for the destruction of Israel were projected on the side of a university building at George Washington University. It has never been more urgent that university administrators take action to assure the safety of Jewish students and make clear that there is no place for antisemitism on their campuses.

Who knows what else will have occurred by the time you read this column?

We began our unBIASed antisemitism initiative at Temple Beth Am just over a year ago in the face of rising antisemitic rhetoric and acts, as well as increasing discrimination, harassment, and hateful acts against all minorities. But nothing could have prepared us for October 7, and the door it has opened to a level of Jew hate that has not been seen since the Holocaust!!! The saying "Never Again" rings hollow, as Never Again is Now. Our world is upended!! Our hearts break for our Israeli brethren. We stand in solidarity with their pain, resilience, and bravery. With a heavy heart, but not a broken spirit, we will continue and amplify our unBIASed initiative.

Am Israel Chai

Edith Osman Chair, Antisemitism Initiative, aka unBIASed









### **BREAKING BREAD RECAP**

The launch of our first unBIASed program of the year was a huge success. Members of our Temple Beth Am congregation joined with more than 100 community neighbors at our interfaith potluck, Breaking Bread Breaking Bias, on October 22, in partnership with Mosaic Miami, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Miami, and the office of Mayor Daniella Levine Cava.

Following the horrific massacre in Israel on October 7, we were unsure whether to go forward with a potluck dinner at this time of great sadness, tragedy, and heartbreak. After many conversations, we decided that we needed this gathering and the support of the community now more than ever.

Attendees gathered at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Miami and enjoyed delicious food and an evening of heartfelt unity and diversity. To start the evening, Rabbi Barras, Reverend Tom Capo of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, and Reverend Walter Richardson of Sweet Homes Missionary Baptist Church shared insight and led us in prayer. Cantor Rachelle Nelson helped wrap up the evening by leading the group arm-in-arm in the song "One Day." It was a moving ending to a meaningful gathering.

Through this type of gathering, the unBIASed initiative hopes to foster greater understanding among different people and create allies in our fight against antisemitism and all forms of hate. We know the importance of being allies for others, as we seek to have allies stand with us.

We look forward to continuing to work with our Beth Am community as we plan events, smaller gatherings, and conversations and move forward with this important and very timely initiative.

Please let us know if you have ideas for future programming or would like to be part of this committee.

Shalom,

Joanne Harvest Koren







### **CHAIR'S NOTE:**

Congratulations to our superb, hardworking community outreach chairs, JoAnn Harvest Koren and Joe Jacoby, on an outstanding event. Thank you also to our TBAM team: Susan Lampen, Judy Cowan, Larry Kerr, Arthur Miller, and our clergy, Rabbis Jaimie Aklepi, Jeremy Barras and Rachel Greengrass. This event was covered by Channel 10, Channel 4, the Miami Herald, the Biscayne Times, and the New Times, and the Herald's story was picked up nationally!



# SOCIAL JUSTICE AND VOLUNTEERING WITH TBAM

GET INVOLVED AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!

Commentator

To find out how you can get involved and about upcoming opportunities, check us out:









A brief note on behalf of Tikkun Olam:

This month's Commentator comes to you two months after Hamas terrorists attacked and murdered the people of Israel. As of writing this, which is less than two weeks after the attacks, the pain, anger, fear and overwhelming sadness are still so raw and, we expect, these feelings may remain unchanged when you read this. Hopefully, however, by December, our spirits are buoyed by a showing of the resolve and strength of our people and partners in united support of Israel.

As the social justice and volunteering arm of TBAM, Tikkun Olam encourages you to remember that we can still do good, we can still make a difference, and this remains especially important when the world otherwise feels broken and we feel powerless. We encourage you to continue to support Israel and its people by donating to those organizations (GMJF, AMFDA, FIDF, JNF) supported by our clergy and volunteering in grassroots opportunities as they arise by contacting our TO-Support Israel coordinators, Susan Malca (suzbow33@gmail.com) and Debbie Lusky (debbielusky@gmail.com).

Am Yisrael Chai, **REBECCA HOLLJES** Chair of Tikkun Olam

### **COMING UP**

# MITZVAH MAKERS TBAM'S KNITTERS, SEWERS AND CRAFTER COMMUNITY DECEMBER 4 & 19 10:00 AM - 12:00 AM

Make handmade items for the Rabbis to give congregants. MM meets every first and third Tuesday of the month in Meeting Room 3 (2nd floor). For info, contact **Anne Becker (ajbwalks@aol.com)** 

For info, contact Anne Becker (ajbwaiks@aoi.com

### MONTHLY TIKKUN OLAM ZOOM DECEMBER 12

9:30 AM -10:30 AM

All are welcome! Every second Tuesday of the month on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 849 3055 2084; Passcode: 063149

# DONATE & DELIVER A HOME-COOKED MEAL TO CASA VALENTINA DECEMBER 19

Please help us deliver a meal (home-cooked or bought!) for 15 at-risk and former-foster care youth at Casa Valentina. For more info and to get on the calendar, contact **Susan Malca** (suzbow33@gmail.com)

### MITZVAH DAY 2024 SAVE THE DATE! FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Mitzvah Day is a huge effort that has ripple effects throughout the year. To be a part of this foundational, annual event, contact Tikkun Olam.



On Oct. 24, TBAMers visited the Jafco Village in Sunrise to learn how to help the organization continue to provide care, safety, and support for families impacted by abuse, trauma, or disabilities.



On Nov. 5, Judi Gampel led fellow TBAMers to prepare a home-cooked, Thanksgiving-inspired meal for 55 residents at the Ronald McDonald House. You can participate next time at Mitzvah Day!



Congregants continue to collect petitions around our community to make abortion access a votable issue on the November 2024 ballot. You have until the end of the year to get your petition in!

# RAC-FL UPDATE RELIGIOUS ACTION CENTER

We are only one month away from closing out our petition campaign to put reproductive rights on the ballot in 2024. This will give the people of Florida the ability to vote on what they want the abortion law to be for all Floridians. Temple Beth Am has been responsible for collecting well over 1,600 petition signatures. Overall, the statewide coalition has collected more than 700,000 petitions out of a necessary 1 million. We are confident that we will meet our goal, but we can't let up now! If it has not already happened by the time you read this, we expect the Florida Supreme Court to uphold the 2022 15-week abortion ban, meaning that the 2023 6-week abortion ban will then become the law of the land in Florida. We must not allow this to stand.

Many of our congregants have already signed the petition, as we have been collecting petitions at services and Hub events on campus. We are now going out into the local community to obtain petition signatures. Even if you have signed, we still need your help to collect petitions.

There is still time to submit a petition. You can scan the QR code below, print out the petition, fill in all the information carefully and legibly, sign, and return it to the Temple Beth Am office before the end of December.

If you would like to get involved, please reach out to **Judy Ratzan** at **rjratz@aol.com** 

During 2024, we will be working hard to turn out the vote for election that year and educate people on the issues.

All the best, **Jeff Agron**, RAC-FL



Yonah Janowitz, Alia Wolfson, Kelly Feintech, and Ashley Tinstman, assembled essentials for shipment to Israel at Skylake Synagogue.





Please contact Congregational Librarian

Etta Gold

egold@tbam.org

if you have any questions or concerns - and please

come by soon to check us out.





### SLICE OF JEWISH LIFE: LEGACY STORIES ABOUT HANUKKAH

DECEMBER 10, 10:30AM CHAPEL, LEWIS FAMILY RELIGIOUS LIFE COMPLEX



Temple Beth Am's legacy story project is a collaborative effort with the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Miami and ANU — The Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv. This is a joint effort to share and preserve videotaped stories of our Jewish life experiences. We are seeking participants to record meaningful tales, yarns, vignettes, anecdotes and "slices of Jewish life" that connect us always from generation to generation with worldwide access for all to see, as part of our shared heritage. Our stories are our legacy, and you are part of the story. Today we look forward to hearing about your memories of celebrating Hanukkah over the years, so set up your complimentary video recording session when you can. Contact Etta Gold at egold@tbam.org.



### NPR'S HANUKKAH LIGHTS: DECEMBER 19, 1:00 PM

ADULT READING ROOM, THE HUB

An NPR holiday tradition for over 30 years, Hanukkah Lights presents brand new stories to celebrate and illuminate the season — moving tales of discovery and reconciliation, the persistence of hope and the promise of undimmed light — read by Susan Stamberg and Murray Horwitz. Come listen with us.

### **TEMPLE BETH AM'S**

### **RECOVERY THROUGH A JEWISH LENS**

If you are in recovery, a loved one of someone in recovery, or interested in getting help for your addiction, join us at our monthly support group. Each month we explore topics to strengthen our recovery with insights and spiritual guidance from our Jewish heritage.

Open to the community, confidentiality is observed. For more information or if you would like to participate via Zoom contact Rabbi Jaime Aklepi at jaklepi@tbam.org.

### OUR SUPPORT GROUP MEETS ON

- Tuesday, December 19, 7:00 PM

Meeting Room 3 at Temple Beth Am



# **OUR JEWISH HERITAGE**



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

### Journey to Israel 75: Understand the Past, Look to the Future

This has been a year of many celebrations and trips to Israel to remember and recognize the achievements of the 75 years of the Jewish nation reborn. There have been many difficulties to overcome, yet Israel has endured in the past, and I believe the differences and conflicts of the present will be resolved.

### After the Yom Kippur War of 1973

After the war the United States convinced Israel to begin negotiations with Egypt. Henry Kissinger engaged in "shuttle diplomacy" going back and forth between Egypt and Israel. He achieved some success, but when the Likud Party, under the leadership of Menachem Begin, won the election in 1977, the U.S. feared negotiations would stop. But in September 1977 Anwar Sadat, President of Egypt, announced he was ready to visit Israel. This was the first time an Arab leader was ready to acknowledge the existence of Israel and recognize it as an independent nation. On November 19 Sadat spoke to the Israeli K'nesset. There is the famous video of Sadat, Begin, Golda Meir sitting together and speaking with each other, person to person. This was the beginning of direct negotiations. With the support of President Carter, Sadat and Begin signed the Camp David Accord in Sept. 1978. They both received the Nobel Peace award in 1979.

### Results of the Peace Treaty for Egypt and Israel

The Treaty had positive and negative results for both countries. Although Egypt gained back control of the Sinai Peninsula and its oil fields, she was ostracized for a decade by other Arab nations, and was considered a traitor to the long stating Arab position of no recognition, no negotiations and no peace with Israel. Sadat was assassinated on Oct. 6, 1981 by Muslim fundamentalists. His successor, Mubarak, agreed to keep the peace treaty (funded by U.S.). It was not a very complete relationship. It was a cool peace, a "no more war" agreement. Israel always said, land for peace. It gave up security territory for peace. It is interesting to note that Egypt did not want the return of Gaza because they would then have to take care of the Palestinians that lived there. Israel 's policy of land for peace continued. The settlement of Yamit, along the coast was demolished. The settlers were displaced and had to be relocated within Israel territory. Israel never made a claim for Gaza.

There was a new call for settlements in the territory called Judea and Samaria, historically part of Ancient Israel, but in modern

political terms called the West Bank of the Jordan River. It is important to remember that this area was held by Jordan after 1948. After 1967 Jordan no longer made any claim to this area. They did not want the responsibility of taking care of the Palestinians still living there. The Peace Treaty with Egypt resulted with co-existence and It still exists today. In fact, Egypt and Israel cooperate on security issues in the Sinai, especially with Iran trying to send weapons and fighters to Hamas.

### Operation for Peace for the Galil

The northern section of Israel is called Galil, Galilee. The northern border with Lebanon continued to be a source of terrorist attacks on the northern communities. The PLO had established a strong base in southern Lebanon since 1970 when they were expelled from Jordan. By 1975 conflict between Christians and the PLO. Still the attacks on the border communities continued. Ariel Sharon was Defense Minister under the Begin government, and he wanted to clear a 25 mile area in Southern Lebanon of the PLO. With the help of the Christians, he entered the area and achieved his goal. However, things got complicated and the IDF got involved in the battles between the Christians and Arabs in the refugee camps. Sharon made some bad decisions. He allowed the Christian Lebanese militia to enter the camps of Sabra and Shatilia. They killed the unarmed refugees. There was a large protest in Tel Aviv, calling for the resignation of Sharon and Begin. In 1983 the IDF troops were recalled (The full details of this situation can be read in other sources, like Myths and Facts)

Since that time Hizballah, an Iranian backed Muslim group, controls much of Lebanon. It has launched rockets into Israel as far south as Tel Aviv, and is sending their people and weapons into the Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank. The conflicts continue.

L'shalom,

### Lenore Kipper

### From the TBAM Archives: Highlights from the 1987 Commentators

"Roots of Antisemitism" class was taught by Helen Fagin , a member and professor from U of M. (we continue to talk about this today!)

The Israeli Consul speaker Ambassador Timor. Discussed growing tensions with the PLO in Gaza, West Bank and Lebanon. (We continue to talk about this today!) An Afternoon of Music series for Children was established by Doreen Marx.

Marvin Hamlish, an outstanding musician, made a surprise visit to the students of the Day School. This was arranged by Greg Frankel and his family.

A Reform Day School Leadership meeting was held at HUC-JIR, Los Angeles. Ceil Coonin, Lenore Kipper and Marlene Price represented Beth Am Day School. Selma Baumgard was honored for for her many years of leadership of the Adult Choir, from 1957 to 1987. David Stuart retired in June of 1987 and Joe Boston became Executive Director in July.

1987 was a year of transition. There were many tributes for Rabbi Baumgard who retired in June 1987 after 30 years of leadership. He was the founding Rabbi and during his time he and the boards introduced many innovative programs. The Temple grew in numbers and spirit. It truly became a Home for the People, Beit Am. In July, Rabbi Leonard Schoolman was appointed Senior Rabbi. Rabbi Mark Kram was Associate Rabbi and Rabbi Lynn Goldstein was hired as an assistant Rabbi.

# GIFT of MEMBERSHIP

Dear Temple Beth Am members,

A couple of months ago, Jews around Miami gathered to celebrate the New Year. This season of renewal reminds us, now and always, about our profound connection with the past and about our hopes for the future. I am writing today to thank you for your support this past year.

Increasing our membership will help increase our revenue, so I am asking you to please reach out to your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors to tell them about us. There are so many wonderful happenings here at Temple Beth Am. If nothing else, this holiday season reminds us of those who need to be invited to be a part of our community.

We would like you all to find an unaffiliated family who would appreciate being a part of our Temple Beth Am memberhood. The Chanukah season is approaching and what better gift to give, than a full membership to Temple Beth Am-valid now through June 2024. The cost of this "Gift of Membership" is \$118, all inclusive. Please order your personalized gift certificates with the recipient's name written in calligraphy. The certificate will have your name at the bottom, and will be signed by Rabbi Barras. We will place it in a gift box wrapped in beautiful holiday ribbon and a special gift card from you.

If you know of a family or families who would like to be part of Temple Beth Am, please reach out to them...or better yet, I could call them! Please take a moment to look to those in your life who could find a place at Temple Beth Am. And, as always, know that your temple wishes you the best, surrounded by those you love!

With love,



# \*COMMITTEE OF 100 \*

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.

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Eduardo & Martine Stern Rudy Stem Jochus & Kerri Lynn Stone Richard & Pamela Strassberg Louise Stubins Daniel & April Stuzin \*Joseph & Nataly Sultan John & Joanne Sumberg Samartha & Geoffrey Swerdlin Flippy & Harold Tanenbaum Myron & Monica Tanenbaum \*Marc Tendler Henry & Marcia Trattler Matthew & Jenevieve Treiper Gary & Mariana Trief Harley & Sherry Tropin Tomer & Johanna Tzur Danny & Elize van der Reis Jacobo Wainer & Berta Pita Howard & Suzanne Wallach Bonnie Webman Soctt & Melissa Weingarden Michael & Julie Weiser Sarah Wertheimer & Pedro Romero \*Jedd Wider & Danielle Strauss Elliot & Julia Wittlin Carlos & Meredith Wolf Louis Wolfson III & Ellen Wolfson Howard & Pamela Wolofsky David Young & Scott Bernstein Ana Zadott & Jeffrey Cosiol Adam & Suzanne Zimbler Robert & Karen Zinn Warren & Nicole Zinn Michael J. Zinner "Arie Zoldan & Lian Florsheim



# THANKS

### RABBI AKLEPI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ray Applebaum with gratitude for Rabbi Aklepi's wonderful job in leading our Conservative services

Jeffrey Benjamin in memory of Julian Benjamin Donna and David Buchwald in loving memory of Joseph Buchwald

Dan and Judy Cowan in appreciation of your leadership on the Jewish River Cruise

Sandra and Herb Koross in loving memory of Rose Koross

Karen and Zvi Krugliak

Linda Kleinberg Landy and family with tremendous gratitude for the beautiful service in honor of my father

Barbara and Monte Lichtiger

Rick Mittelberg in memory of Ellie LeVine, mother of Andrea Kay

Rick Mittelberg in memory of Larry Forman Rick Mittelberg in memory of Howard Kleinberg Frances Salbarrey

Phyllis and Richard Sandroiw in loving memory of Gisela Dinert

Charles Sizer with gratitude for your guidance and compassion these coming months, and for your kindness in uniting us.

Robert Stone in appreciation of Samson Stone's Shabbat service

Jack Wolfsdorf in memory of Dr. Warren Janowitz

### 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

Steve and Shelly Brodie in loving memory of Bernard Eckstein

Kenneth and Adrian Dubow in memory of Lawrence Forman

Kenneth and Adrian Dubow in memory of Bernard Eckstein

Ray and Susan Malca in loving memory of Warren Janowitz

Sherry Solowey in loving memory of Shirlee Kaplan Sherry Solowey in loving memory of Warren Janowitz

Bonnie Webman in loving memory of my beloved mother, Barbara Kalish

### DR. MORTON M. AXLER SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE FUND

Norman Axler, as Trustee of the Evelyn K. Axler Trust, in loving memory of Evelyn Axler Bernice Snow in loving memory of Selig Snow

### **RABBI BARRAS' DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Ray and Fredrica Applebaum in honor of Rabbi Barras

Wendy and Jonathan Baumgard in memory of Bernard Eckstein

Jeffrey Benjamin

Barry Brand in loving memory of Sarah Engelman Alan Brown in loving memory of Svetlana Stolyar and Ilya Stolyar

Liliane Eckstein in appreciation of the funeral services for Bernard Eckstein

Dan and Julianne Farkas in loving memory of Arthur Farkas

Joe and Rose Falowitz in memory of Bernard Eckstein

Morris Futernick

Sharon and Kenny Glick in memory of Bernard Eckstein

Roberta Gold in appreciation of help with family matters

Esther Goldberg

Barry Gould in memory of Bernard Eckstein Harold Jacobsohn in memory of Bernard Eckstein Harvey Judkowitz

Jonathan Kislak

Helene Lanster in loving memory of Sarah Ressler and Gertrude Lerner

Johnny and Karen Nichols in loving memory of Michelle Sherry

Neal and Vicki Roth in appreciation of the Conservative services

Frances Salbarrey

Dr. Sam and Sharon Schwartz in memory of Dr. Warren Janowitz

Maxine Weinstein in loving memory of Alvin Weinstein

### **BROTHERHOOD OF TEMPLE BETH AM**

Karen and Irv Frost in loving memory of Leon Frost

### **CARING COMMUNITY FUND**

Jill Berman in memory of Larry Forman, husband of Sheila and devoted TBAM leader Bonnie Webman in memory of Larry Forman Linda Leeds

CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY FUND

Bobbie and Bill Cohen in loving memory of Ethel Cohen

Bobbie and Bill Cohen in loving memory of Harold Cohen

Edith and Norman Einspruch in loving memory of Mala and Adolph Einspruch

Lisa, Michael, Jessica, AJ, Taylor, Staci, Maia, and Dylan Green in loving memory of Diane Star Heller Commentator December 2023 • Page 50

### **CONSERVATIVE / TRADITIONAL SERVICES FUND**

Ray Applebaum in honor of Abe Benyunes Ray Applebaum in honor of Betty Horwitz Ray Applebaum in memory of Bernard Eckstein Abe Benyunes in memory of Bernard Eckstein Paul Berkowitz

Michael Finkle in memory of Bernard Eckstein The Horwitz Family in appreciation of the Conservative services

Bob and Linda Spiegelman in memory of Bernard Eckstein. May Bernie's memory be for a blessing. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. We are lucky to have known him.

Michele and Robert Stone in memory of Bernard Eckstein

### **CORNERS OF OUR FIELDS SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Toni Haber in loving memory of Bernard Eckstein

### 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**

Eleanor Aibel in loving memory of Harold Aibel Michael and Cari Altman in memory of Bernard Eckstein Ed Beiner in memory of Ellie LeVine Alan S. Bernstein in loving memory of

Edith Lewis Bernstein

Bonnie Dawson

Leran Fishman

Judy Spiro King in loving memory of Joseph King Margie Kopiec

Barbara C. Levin

Stephen Mathison in memory of Bernard Eckstein Craig and Deirdre Nash in memory of Dr. Warren Janowitz Richard and Jan Pollack in memory of Paul and Belle Bell Vicki and Neal Roth in loving memory of Bernie Eckstein Vicki and Neal Roth in loving memory of Howard Kleinberg James Stuzin

### RABBI GREENGRASS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

Alex Binstock

Adam Carlin

John and Natalie Breslin in memory of Bernard Eckstein Jennifer Handler with gratitude and love. Thank you, Rabbi Greengrass for being so kind, and welcoming to Alexis into the Temple Beth Am Family! It is so reassuring to see her feel so happy and comfortable there and connected spiritually and religiously. We had a wonderful time being in the Sukkah and meeting all of you and it was so special to receive a new member blessing on Alexis' 24th birthday, 9/29. Looking forward to seeing you and worshiping together on a future trip to Florida! Ilien Hechtman with gratitude for the beautiful service for Mitchell Muller

Ed Henkin in memory of Larry Forman

Lani Kaskel in loving memory of Herbert Wallens Brenda Kilmer in loving memory of Audrey Lissak Cookie Lamet with thanks for your help at the life cycle event.

Gail LeBoss in loving memory of Gary LeBoss Isaac Pesin

Terry and Marcia Reisman in loving memory of Elaine Furman

Terry and Marcia Reisman in loving memory of Gilbert Mallinger

Rosemarie Roth and Family in loving memory of Alex A. Straus

Frances Salbarrey

Judy Wolfsohn in loving memory of Phil Brodatz James Zach in memory of Bernard Eckstein

### **MATTHEW KASS SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Anonymous to remember Matt Kass Mr. and Mrs. Peter Gross in loving memory of Ilien Hechtman's brother Mitchell

### **KEREN YALDI CHILDREN'S FUND**

Dianne and Ed Schmidt and Family in loving memory of Sandi Kramer

Dianne and Ed Schmidt and Family in loving memory of Janice Levi

Dianne and Ed Schmidt and Family in loving memory of Haim Aklepi

Dianne and Ed Schmidt and Family in loving memory of Marcia Weinstein

Dianne and Ed Schmidt and Family in loving memory of Daniel Zalcberg

Dianne and Ed Schmidt and Family in loving memory of Elaine Friesner

Paul Distenfeld and Anabela Moskovitz in loving memory of Esther Malka Distenfeld

### 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

Rita Diaz in memory of Bernard Eckstein, father of Susy Novak

Bernita King in loving memory of her wonderful sister Muriel Breitkopf

### LENORE KIPPER ENDOWMENT FUND

Vannessa Alonso in memory of Bernard Eckstein, beloved father of Susy Novak

Maya and Gerald Greenberg in memory of Bernard Eckstein

Karilyn Leon in memory of Bernard Eckstein, beloved father of Susy Novak

Bonnie Webman in loving memory of our beloved grandpa, Mark Webman. Andi, Jonah and Bex

### THE WENDY LESTER FUND FOR BREAST CANCER EDUCATION

Kenneth Tuma in loving memory of Bernard Eckstein

### **CANTOR NELSON'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Robert and Lynn Bernstein in loving memory of Miriam Bernstein

Susan, Michael and David Linder in loving memory of Harry A. Shane

Susan, Michael and David Linder in loving memory of Martin H. Shane

### PRAYER BOOK FUND

Michael S. and Janet K. Brown in loving memory of Marian Brown

Susan and Lenard Gorman in loving memory of Dorothy Gorman

### **RAMBAM DAY SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND**

Barbara Fishman in memory of Bernard Eckstein, beloved father of Susy Novak

Elyse Molk in memory of Bernard Eckstein, beloved father of Susy Novak

Lori and Joseph Smith in loving memory of Bernard Eckstein

### SISTERHOOD OF TEMPLE BETH AM

Cindy Baum in support of Sisterhood

Jill Berman in loving memory of Ellie LeVine, mother of Andrea LeVine Kay

Gayle and Eric Jacobs

Susan and Dick Lampen in memory of Hugh Green Susan and Dick Lampen in loving memory of Ellie LeVine, mother of Andrea LeVine Kay

Susan and Dick Lampen in memory of Mitchell Muller Susan and Dick Lampen in memory of Elisa Poyastro Susan and Dick Lampen in memory of Paul Rusconi, father of Ellen Rusconi

Sheri and Steven Lieberman in honor of B'not Mitzvah of Isabelle and Sophia Sachar

Sheri and Steven Lieberman in memory of Ellie LeVine Sheri and Steven Lieberman in memory of Joan Wolf

### **TIKKUN OLAM FUND**

Dick Golden

Dr. Carlos and Meredith Wolf in memory of Larry Forman

### **TIKKUN OLAM GARDEN FUND**

Anne Becker in memory of my mother in law Pauline Breslof

Karen and Irwin Frost in loving memory of Michele Eisenberg

### **UNBIASED FUND**

Jay and Joanne Koren and family in loving memory of Dr. Warren Janowitz with our love and heartfelt condolences to his family

Jay and Joanne Koren and family in memory of Ellie LeVine Eric and Jayne Littman

### YAHRZEIT FUND

Michael Block Denny Cohen Judith Cohen in memory of Kermit Artzt Lorna Davis

Ronald Feldheim in memory of Peter Feldheim Renee Gross in memory of Ruby Josephson Ilien Hechtman in memory of Larry Forman Lisa, Michael, Jessica, AJ, Taylor, Staci, Maia and Dylan Green in loving memory of Diane Star Heller Judith Jacobs in loving memory of Elaine Levine Sherman Richard Jacobs

Joel and Marlene Kaplan in loving memory our mother, Shirlee Kaplan. She was loved and will be missed greatly. Sara Kapustin in loving memory of Rafael Kapustin and Bertha Rabinovich

Richard Kohn

Elaine and Danny Katz in loving memory of Erwin Katz Elaine and Danny Katz in loving memory of Sam Levin Elaine and Danny Katz in loving memory of Zena Levin Elaine and Danny Katz in loving memory of Fannie Levitt Elaine and Danny Katz in memory of Bernard Eckstein Elaine and Danny Katz in memory of Shirlee Kaplan Paul and Roberta Kressel in loving memory of Roben Kressel

Susan and Richard Lampen in loving memory of Florence Matson

Daniel Lampert in loving memory of Dr. Jules Roistacher Rochelle Lanster in loving memory of Andrew Gross Dr. Steven Lanster in loving memory of Gertrude Lerner Phyllis Lapidus in loving memory of my grandfather Robert Berger who is, and always will be, deeply in our hearts. With love and respect, Phyllis Lapidus. Ed Nankin

Steven Olszewski in loving memory of Howard Gross Maggie and Guillermo Retchkiman in loving memory of Agnes Stern, Abraham Retchkiman,

Eva Retchkiman, Elizabeth Bazbaz, Bernard Eckstein, Rebeka Retchkiman, Aliza Lifshitz Kravetz, Miguel Mandoki, Dr. Víctor Letayf and Guillermo Retchkiman Corona

Zelda Schwebel in memory of Bernie Eckstein Zelda Schwebel in memory of Linda Spiegelman's cousin Eric Seiden in memory of Isabel Colle Eric Seiden in memory of Jack Lobel Barbara Sirkin in loving memory of Anne Frost Barbara Sirkin in loving memory of Belle Frost Bert Traeger in loving memory of Joe Traeger Glenn Widom in loving memory of Jeffrey Rubin

# Week Ending

December 8, 2023 David Gelb Agid\* Bessie Rader Applebaum Ida Arnkoff Roberta Arost\* Rose Baskin Yudie (Eleanor) Becker\* Sadie Bennett\* Kay Berman Ruth Berman\* Robert Bernstein\* Isadore Bilchik\* Alice Blaustein\* Steven Blaustein Victor Bluestein\* Jacqueline "Jackie" Ruth Blumenthal Sarah Sylvia Carlin Burton Calia Auslander Byer Mever Cohen Lewis F. Cohen\* Nathan Cook\* John Crabill Samuel Cutler\* Daniel Davidson\* Herbert Davis\* Isak De Eskinazis Bertha Dernis Alice Einhorn\* Elaine Eisenson Dorothy Marion Fehder Murray Feinberg Richard Fishman Isadore Flam Sandra Balaban Frank Nina Franklin Morris Freedman Myra Freedman Richard Friedman Jaime Gabay Max Garston\* Harriet Gold Doris Goldman\* Banjamin Goldstein Dr. Pearl Gollin Nat Golzbein Dr. James J. Goodman Dr. Joseph Gorodetzer Louis Gross\* John Frederick Hanan Ruth Hirschfield Faye Hirsch Irving Hochman\* Benjamin Jacobstein Milton Judkowitz Eleanore B. Kandel\* Charles Kaplan Greta Carmen Kaplan\* Irving "Izzy" Kaplan\*

Mollie Katz\*

Janet Katz\* Shirley Klein Robert Koeppel Seymour Krieger Paul H. Krulewitch\* Janet Kufeld Elka Kurnik Gladys Levin Bene Levine\* Howard Levine Edward Isaac Levv Edith Liberman Max Luber Roberta Lurie Linda Rae Mallinger Julia Mandel Natalie Margolis Ida Marlin Donald Maslov Lillian Melnick Jeanette Miranda\* Stanley C. Myers\* Yetta G. Myers Sam Novick Abraham Pett\* Selma Rapp Rebeka Retchkiman Dr. Alfred A. Richman\* Elaine E. Roberts Allen Roscoe Aaron Rosenthal\* Irving Ross\* Isadore B. Sacks\* David Schindler Eudene Schneiderman Morton Schomer Marilyn Schwadron Ruth Schwartz Norma Silver Leonard Silverman Abraham Skoler\* Morris Skor\* Elizabeth Smith\* Max Solomon\* Robert Spiegelman Philip Steen\* Joseph Steinberg Milton Stern Morris Stockes\* Lillian Suskin\* Edith Swichkow\* Melvin Trager\* Eli Trainor\* Naomi Webman\* Betty Wine

Week Ending December 15, 2023 Morton Adler\* Esther Altman

Sydney Wolfgang

Marvin Barsky\* Isidore Beame\* Saul Beckerman\* Adele Belaief Richter\* Samuel Berger Miriam Berger Herman Berkley Brian Bernstein Sara Bilchick Rosalie Z. "Lee" Binder Everett Blasberg Fredel Bleecker\* Burt R. Bloom Rose Bluming\* Mildred Brams Charlotte Brodie Jacob Abraham Butler\* Allan Chaykin\* Seymour Barry Cohen\* David Cohen James Cohen\* Marilyn Cromer **Edward Davis** Shirley Debowsky Dr. George Einhorn Mary Ellen Epstein Joseph Ferkin\* Jack Fineberg Paula Anne Fishman\* Mitchel Fruitstone Rose Genet Sarah Gerson Charles Goldberg Lois Carol Goldberg Ronnie Goldberger Hyman Gorsetman Elsie Haltzman Malvin Weiss Harris\* Norman Hartstone Phillip Hollander Israel Israel Aaron Israel Paulyne F. Kantor\* Dorothy Karp\* Dr. Keith B. Kashuk\* Evelyn G. Katz Goldie Katz Vivienne Katz\* Rose Katzen Aster Katherine Kaufman David Kessler Mae Koniver Jacob Koren Irwin I. Kotcher\* Lew Kurzweil **Ethel Levitt** Solomon Levy

Banjamin Liberman

Fannie Lieberman

Harry Mantell\*

Francis Marcus

Isadore Marks\* Stuart Allen Markus Frank Melnick Ava R. Miller Zachary Moore Leonard "Len" Arnold Morrison Sidney Moulton\* Steven Nadel Albert Perez Dora Press\* Dora Puchkoff\* Bertha Ratner\* Dr. Charles Benjamin Ripstein Jack Rosen\* Rywka (Irene) Rosencwają Szaniecka Al Rosenthal Ferdinand H. Rosenthal\* Gilbert Roston\* Isaac Safra Morris Safra Shirley Sapurstein Mercy Suarez Schimmel Frances Schur\* Dr. Melvin Schwartz\* Kessel Schwartz Jack Seitlin Barbara Shapiro Myrna Shapiro Ruth Sher\* Adeline Rosenthal Sherman\* Edward I. Silver Arthur Silverberg Henry Simon Miriam Sirkin\* Robert Sklar\* Nathan Slutsky\* Rose Sokolove Pauline Spector Leah C. Spiegel\* Florence Spiro Reuben Stein Fred Stone\* Ethel Sudakow\* Anne Frank Teitch\* Marion Paula Touby Vera L. Waldman\* Samuel Wasserman\* Bernard K. Weiner Frieda Weinstein\* Harris Weinstock\* Rose Wiener\* Martha Winocur Sheila Wohl Thelma Wolfson Frances Jo Wolfson

Frieda K. Zahn

Harry Zide\*

### Week Ending December 22, 2023

Freda Abrams James H. Antkies Irving Apfelbaum Luisa Avila Bernice Balaban Isabel Barton

Dr. Sidney Simge Befeler Shirley Berger

Lenore Berkow
Edythe Berman\*
Larry Birger\*
Bernard Braverman
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Sarah Hochman\*
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Norman D. Jacobs\*
Peter Jacobs
Belle Jacoby
Joel H. Jankowitz\*

Joel H. Jankowitz\* Elizabeth O. Judelson\*

Emil Katz Florence Katzman Nathan Katzman Joseph Keane Sarah Klar\* Ollie Kodner\*

Dora Koren George Kramer Louis Kublin

Princess Kublin Helen Lehr Littauer Milton (Zeke) Lenga

Miriam Levinson Kwatcher

Walter Lieberman Mark A. Light\* Ruth Lorber\* Lester Margolis Howard Margoluis Jerry Moss Birdin Olinick\* Edward Ringel Harry Rogel\* Edward Rubin\* Aaron Salem Isadore Salzberg Daniel G. Satin\* Charles Scheiner William Scherer Joseph Schmier\* Harold Schoffel Ida Selditch\*

Ida Selditch\*
Joseph Shulman\*
Solomon Siegel
Louis Sneider\*
Robert Sobie
Gary Brian Solomon

Samuel Steen Morton D. Stubins\* David Stuzin\*

David Stuzin\*
Lillian Suskin\*
Sidney Suss\*
Eshter Swartz
Bertram J. Thorpe\*
Leonard Tropin

Oscar Ungar Jack B. Weintraub Michael Weiss Catherine Werner\*

Moses Wichner Phyllis Spiegle Wolf Jamie Alyssa Zabludowski

Charles Zagorski Lilly Jacob Zelmanovicc\*

### Week Ending December 29, 2023

Louis Adler\* Elise Akouka William Altshuler Howard Apfelbaum Mae Appel\* Albert Bentolila Allen Bernkrant Arlyne Birger Fay Brilliant Braverman\* Harold Brown Joseph P. Cicero\* Harriet Citron Ralph Citron Joseph Cohen Sonia Cohen\* Phyllis Cohen Barney Copeland

Mark Sandor Darlow\*

Adrienne Atkins Darlow\* Jerry Davis\* Joel Lonnie Eisenson Leo Elinsky\*

Murray Epstein\*
Erno F. Fabry\*
Florence Feld
Max Feld
Belle Fink\*

Sara Flam\* Tekla Foster Ruth Fruitstone\*

Samuel Abram Futerfas\* Solomon Garazi Larry Glbert\*

Dr. Luis Glaser Samuel Goldfarb Elise A. Goldner

Myriam Gonzalez Richard Goodman Jack Gottlieb\* Herman Gross

Lester Grossman Rose Gurman Pete Hackett

Murray Hale\* Joseph Harvest Victoria Hasson

Leon Hersh Rebecca Herzog Finel\*

Tillie J. Horovitz\*
Robert S. Hurwitz\*
Geraldine Kalin\*
Janet Kaplan
Renee Kaplan\*
Anita Rene Karl\*

Harry Katz Mildred K. Klein\* Harry Koenigsberg

David Jerome Kraslow Anna Leshaw\* Ronald Levy

Harry Lewis\* Beatrice R. Lowenthal\*

Rose Luber Miriam Maken\* Milton Mannheimer\*

Libby Margol\* Marvin Marx\*

Dr. Allan K. Michaelson\* Harry Mittelberg\* Alfred Mones

Sheila Moses Fay Muskin Samuel Myers\* Albert Nash\*

Ester Nauhaus\*
David N. Oppenheim

Ellen Osman Lena Pawliger\* Rose Raskin Beatrice Reitman Naomi Rice Kenneth Robinson Hyman Rosen Bernice Rosenberg\*

Bernice Rosenberg Merritt Rosenthal Jack Rubin\*

Selma Karnitsky Rudinsky Benjamin Salkoff\*

Dr. Robert T. Salzman\*

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Sol Schimmel

Irving C. Irving Schuman\*

William Segal
Pearl Seifer
Helen Shapiro\*
Selma Shoer
Nathan Sinreich\*
Milton Snyder\*
Sadie Snyder

Alexander "Zander" Eli

Standiford Max Stein

Bernard Stein M.D.
Renee Steinberg
Sam Suchman\*
Janice Sussman
Sadie Underberg\*
Florence Wasserman
Wendy Weinshall
Sarah Weinstein\*
Ellis Weinstein
Harry Wine
Ida Garazi Winter
Dr. Morris Witus\*
Sadie Yellin\*
Murray Yellin\*
Meyer Zientz

\* Denotes individuals with a plaque in our sanctuary.

Blair Zimmett

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## THE CURRENT OF LIFE

### We mourn the passing of

Madeline Barkin, wife of the late Stephen Barkin, mother of Dr. Elizabeth (Nathan) Leight and Jeffery (Joan) Barkin; grandchildren Rachel and Jesse (Hazel) Barkin; Lillianne (Michael) Montague, Jennifer, Bruce, and Keith Leight.

Bernard Eckstein, husband of Liliane Eckstein; father of Betty (Roberto) Horwitz, Susana E. (Michael) Novak, and Rosa Eckstein (Beno) Schechter; grandfather of Maurice (Alicia) Horwitz, Jacqueline (Rolando) Sanz, Jason Novak and Amy Novak, Ariela Schechter and Samuel Schechter; great grandfather of Julian and Annabelle Horwitz and Luisa and Gabriel Sanz.

**Lawrence "Larry" Stuart Forman,** husband of Sheila Forman; father of Rachael Forman, David (Rachel) Forman, and Joshua Forman; grandfather of Cessie Haber and Charly and Levi Forman.

**Dr. Warren Janowitz,** husband of Elizabeth; father of Michelle (Charles), Scott (Yonah), and Allison (Joseph); grandfather of Madelyn Blevins, Shelby, Nathan, and Marcus Janowitz, and Shane and Noah Saka; brother of Steve; and many cousins and loved ones.

Shirlee Kaplan, mother of Joel (Marlene) Kaplan and Beverly Kraut; grandmother of Matthew, Bradley, and Casey Kaplan and Josh and Benjamin Kraut; and great-grandmother of Ryder, Ashton, Jaden, and Misha Kaplan; as well as many nieces and nephews and loved ones.

Ellen "Ellie" LeVine, wife of the late Mitchell LeVine; mother of Stacy LeVine, Robyn (Eric) Kane, Scott (Rebecca) LeVine, Andrea (Eric) Kay, Matthew LeVine (Andrea), and Leslie (Sam) Weingarten; grandmother of Madison Kane, Alexa Kane, Briana Kane, Miles LeVine, Luka Knezevic-LeVine, Mila Knezevic-LeVine, and Harper Weingarten; sister of Brian (Irene) Albert; sister-in-law to Steven (Susan) LeVine, Sharon (Dave) Rosenthal, and David (Janice) LeVine; as well as many nieces, nephews, and loved ones.

**Mitchell Alan Muller,** brother of Ilien (Keith) Hechtman.



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### **MAZEL TOV TO**

Bruce Kohrman and Diane Krieger on the birth of a granddaughter, Sofia Kohrman. Mazel Tov to great grandmother Ruth Krieger, as well.



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Virág Gulyás Advocate for Jewish Civil Rights



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### **Community Building**

Jewish National Fund-USA enhances quality of life in Israel by building new communities and bolstering existing ones, especially in the north and south.

Go North, Blueprint Negev, Galilee Culinary Institute Be'er Sheva River Park, Nefesh B'Nefesh, Sderot Indoor Recreation Center, Project Baseball, Project Wadi Attir



### **Forestry & Green Innovations**

As an innovator in ecological development and a pioneer in forest creation, JNF-USA has planted more than 260 million trees in Israel, providing luscious belts of green covering more than 250,000 acres.

### PROJECTS INCLUDE

Fire & Rescue Services Combating Desertification. Harvey Hertz-JNF Ceremonial Tree Planting Center



### **Water Solutions**

JNF-USA has been at the forefront of water management and conservation in Israel for two decades, increasing the water supply by 15% and helping Israel become a world leader in water recycling.

### PROJECTS INCLUDE

Recycled Water Reservoirs, River Rehabilitation, Rainwater Harvesting Program, Constructed Wetlands



### **Research & Development**

For over 100 years, INF-USA has sponsored research initiatives in Israel as part of its efforts to cultivate the land. JNF is a world leader in both technological and environmental innovation.

### PROJECTS INCLUDE

Agricultural R&D Stations AICAT, Joint Institute, Water Research & Technologies



### Zionist Education & Advocacy

JNF-USA is the single largest provider of Zionist engagement programs in the U.S. and offers myriad ways to connect young American Jews to Israel.

### PROJECTS INCLUDE

Alexander Muss High School in Israel (AMHSI-INF), Alternative Break (AB), Green Horizons, Caravan for Democracy, Blue Box Bob, World Zionist Village



### **Heritage Sites**

JNF-USA is committed to the preservation of historical sites associated with Israel's rebirth and to ensuring that the stories behind them are properly documented and retold for generations to come.

Atlit Detention Camp, 9/11 Living Memorial, Ammunition Hill, Gush Etzion Visitor Center, Ayalon



### Disabilities & Special Needs

JNF-USA is dedicated to ensuring that no member of Israeli society is left behind by providing cutting-edge rehabilitative services, special education, and medical care for people with special needs.

### PROJECTS INCLUDE

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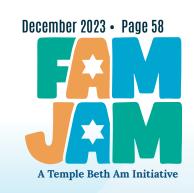
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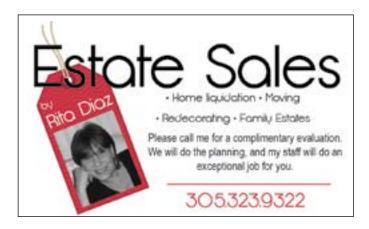
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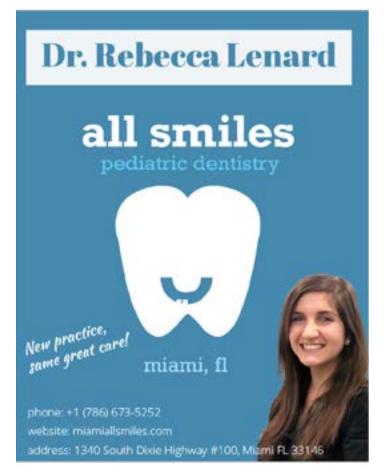
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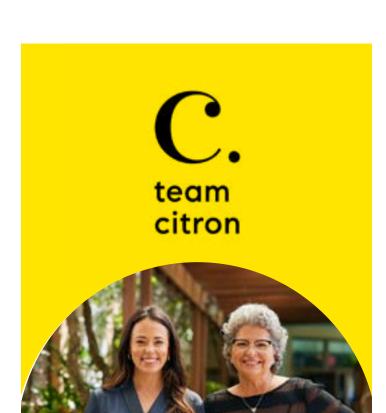
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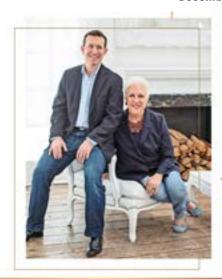
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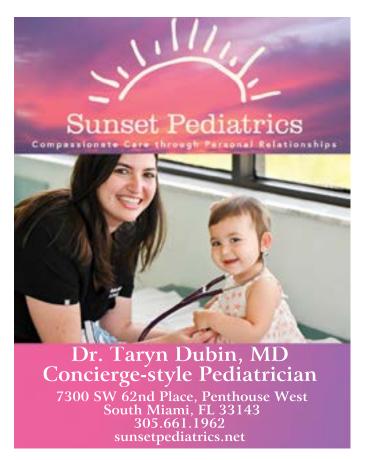
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