

The Kibbitzer

Congregation Beth Shalom

706 Bryan Road, Brandon, FL 33511

Phone (813) 681-6547

www.BethShalom-Brandon.org

**CBS Retreat
Info, Page 4!**

December 2019 Volume 30, Issue 7

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FROM THE RABBI - Rabbi Bryan Mann

Jews and Non-Jewish Holidays

At our most recent "Let's Chat," we talked about our relationship with non-Jewish holidays. How do we as Jews approach Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, secular New Year's, and other holidays? Many of us have strong relationships with non-Jews. Our partners, in-laws, children, grandchildren, close friends might want us to join them for Christmas dinner, send gifts, expect us to send them gifts, invite us to Christmas or Easter Mass, have a Christmas tree in the house, or any number of other possibilities. As with almost all things in Judaism there are a wide variety of perspectives and experiences when it comes to each of these invitations and/or expectations. Sending a gift might not feel like a big deal, but having a Christmas tree or attending Mass is a huge taboo.

We started our conversation by looking at what Dr. Ron Wolfson writes in his book, *Hanukkah: The Family Guide to Spiritual Celebration*, "The child who has experienced the building of a sukkah will not feel deprived of trimming a tree. The child who has participated in a meaningful Passover Seder will not feel deprived of Christmas dinner. The child who has paraded with the Torah on Simchat Torah, planted trees at Tu B'Shvat, brought first fruits at Shavuot, given mishloach manot [gifts to friends] on Purim and welcomed the Shabbat weekly with candles and wine and challah by the time [they] are 3 years old will understand that to be Jewish is to be enriched by a calendar brimming with joyous celebration."

We spoke at length about our own experiences and those of the children in our life, regardless of how much home ritual they had still asking for or about Christmas trees. While many of us disagreed with Wolfson's claim children will not feel deprived of a Christmas tree, we concluded they would feel enough joyousness in Judaism and Jewish holidays that we could easily explain, "That is not our holiday." The issue with that is, for some of us, this is our holiday. When we include our non-Jewish friends and family in our vision of "our" we change our approach to celebrating non-Jewish holidays. Many Jews still choose to keep non-Jewish holidays separate. In one corner of the house will be a Christmas tree and in the other corner they will light the hanukkah (menorah for Hanukkah), almost as if it is taboo for a hanukkah to be anywhere near a Christmas tree.

My friend Jon has a different approach. "This is the first Christmas where Josh and I have been a proper couple, so it's been interesting navigating the holiday. Essentially, he's atheist but likes Christmas, and he wants a tree. I don't know why, but I'm not keen on having a Christmas tree in the house. I guess I've rationalized it like loads of people are sentimental about Christmas. He's definitely only doing it as a cultural nod to the season. We actually found an online shop that sells baubles. We joked about finding the most Jewish ones: we got Amy Winehouse and a pickle."

My friend Joanna spoke about her own sentimental feelings about Christmas: "I'm the child of an interfaith family, and even my Jewish mother grew up with a Christmas tree (my grandfather escaped Nazi Germany in 1935 and really wanted his kids to feel American, so they had a Christmas tree), so we had a very typical American, non-religious Christmas celebration growing up: family - including Jewish grandparents - came to our house, we had a tree, presents, a big brunch Christmas Day - but no Christmas ham, even though nobody keeps kosher. I have very fond memories of Christmas as a kid and don't remember ever feeling so confused about it, because I knew my dad wasn't Jewish."

Unlike Joanna, my predominant experience of Christmas is retail Christmas. Prior to being a rabbi, I spent many years working retail. Seeing Christmas and only Christmas decorations in any store I worked at from November through January. Hearing every version of every Christmas song possible on our store music. It was not until last year when a friend invited me over for Christmas dinner, that I experienced what for me were more meaningful Christmas values of gathering with loved ones, generosity, and peace rather than the retail sales goals of Capitalism.

As with most things in life, there is no one approach for how we Jews interact with, experience, and relate to non-Jewish holidays. For some, there is and will always be a taboo on anything related to Halloween, Christmas, Easter. Others will go with non-Jewish spouses, children, grandchildren to Mass. Some will never have a Christmas Tree in their homes. Others will have a separate "Christmas corner" in the house where no Jewish symbols are found. Others still will find ways to incorporate Jewishness onto the Christmas tree itself.

As we approach Hanukkah, Christmas, and New Year's, I invite you to think deeply about your approach to non-Jewish holidays. How does your current approach include your loved ones? How does it leave them out? How does affect your Jewish identity? Happy holidays!



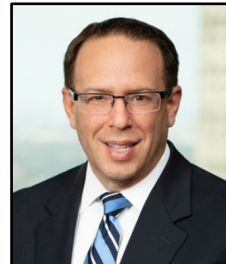
FROM THE PRESIDENT - Jon Ellis

President's Message

As some of you have already heard, Rabbi Mann has chosen not to renew his contract with Congregation Beth Shalom, which will expire on its own terms June 30, 2020. Rabbi Mann will remain our full time rabbi until that date and will be fulfilling all his obligations to CBS as a full time rabbi. And even though a bit premature to the extent that his contract has yet to expire, I want to personally thank Rabbi Mann for all he has done for CBS. CBS is a better place because of Rabbi Mann. Since becoming president, I have had the privilege of meeting with Rabbi Mann on an individual basis at least once a month and have gotten to know him. I truly enjoy his company, wisdom and insight. He has also personally helped me handle a few of our congregation's most difficult issues I have had to handle since becoming president.

So why is Rabbi Mann leaving? He will be the best one to ask. However, according to my conversations with Rabbi Mann, CBS is his first job after becoming ordained and he wants to experience different roles as a rabbi. He is thinking of working as a Hillel rabbi on a college campus, working on social justice issues, something for which he has a passion, or even working as a Rabbi in a different area of

the country. I don't believe Rabbi Mann is leaving Congregation Beth Shalom because of us or anything we have done or who we are. Rather we are just the first step in Rabbi Mann's career, a career that will hopefully lead him to great places. Notwithstanding I and others at CBS will miss him.



As a result of Rabbi Mann's announcement, we will be reconstituting our Rabbi Search Committee. I have requested that Shelia Fishman and Julie Enszer chair the committee. If you would like to serve on the committee, please let me know. While I would like anyone who wants to serve on the committee, I will be working with both Shelia and Julie to streamline the process. We do not have the resources to do the same search we did last time, but nonetheless, we will work diligently to do what is in the congregation's best interest. If you have any thoughts or concerns regarding the new rabbi, please feel free to forward them to me. I am sure that the committee will be pleased to consider them.

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For more information, please contact Ben Salo at 813.301.6623 or bsalo@amaliearena.com

TampaBayLightning.com |  





Congregation Beth Shalom provides a meaningful spiritual home for people of all ages and levels of knowledge, a place to learn and to question, a place to worship and to celebrate, and a place to find a community that cares.

We offer:

- ☆ **Friday worship services at 7:30 p.m.**
- ☆ **Religious school pre-k through 10th grade**
- ☆ **Complete B'nai Mitzvah preparation**
- ☆ **Youth group programming**
- ☆ **Adult Education classes**
- ☆ **Community-wide events, including Mitzvah Day**

Upcoming Dates To Remember

- **Thursday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.:** JAEDA domestic abuse presentation. Congregation Schaarai Zedek, 3303 W. Swann Ave., Tampa. More information on page 8.
- **Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m.:** Congregation retreat. More details on page 4.
- **Saturday, Dec. 7,** as part of our congregational retreat, Taste of Tanakh will take "A Deep Dive Into The Shabbat Morning Service." More details on page 6.
- **Sunday, Dec. 8, 12:30 p.m.:** BeSTY meeting at Chili's. Please see page 7 for more information.
- **Tuesday, Dec. 10, 6:30 p.m.:** Ladies Night Out at Acropolis Greek Taverna. More details on page 9.
- **Saturday, Dec. 14, 6 p.m.:** Dinner With The Tribe at Jasmine Thai, 1947 West Lumsden Rd., Brandon. More information on page 8.
- **Sunday, Dec. 15, 9:30 a.m.:** Religious school Chanukah celebration.
- **Tuesday, Dec. 17:** Hadassah Chanukah luncheon.
- **Thursday, Dec. 19, 6:30p.m.:** Chanukah book reading at Barnes & Noble, 122 Brandon Town Center Drive, Brandon. More information on page 7.
- **Sunday, Dec. 22, at 2 p.m.:** Chanukah Celebration at Park Square in the FishHawk Community, 16132 Churchview Drive, Lithia.
- **Sunday, Dec. 29, at 3 p.m.,** Let's Chat will feature "Not Your Religious School's Hannukkah Story." More details on page 6.
- **Saturday, Jan. 4, at 10 a.m.,** Taste of Tanakh will explore (Parshat Vayigash): Serach Bat Asher. More information on page 6.
- **Sunday, Jan. 19, at 3 p.m.,** Let's Chat will discuss "Jews and Justice Movements in Honor of MLK Jr. Day Weekend." More details on page 6.
- **Monday, Jan. 20, 6 p.m.:** Page Turners. More information on page 8.
- **Saturday, Feb. 5:30 p.m.:** Roaring '20s Gala, Elks Lodge of Brandon, 800 Centennial Drive, Brandon. More information on page 10.

Religious Education Calendar, page 7;

December Oneg Schedule

There can be no joy without food and drink. — Talmud, Mo'ed Katan

THANK YOU! to the following people who will host an oneg Shabbat in December.

- **Dec. 6:** Potluck oneg.
- **Dec. 13:** The **parents of the religious school students** will host the oneg in honor of their children who will lead the Shabbat service.
- **Dec. 20:** Potluck oneg.
- **Dec. 27:** **Toby Koch and Alan Weiss** will host the oneg as a temple mitzvah.

Please see our notice on page 5 about potluck onegs.

On behalf of the Oneg Committee, I wish to thank our December oneg hosts for being so generous and taking the time to help us out.

If you have any questions or are interested in hosting an oneg, please contact us (Judith 856-816-2174, Anita 813-990-9498, and Anna 707-628-5399).

The Kibbitzer

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For current news and events
see the congregation's website:
<http://www.bethshalom-brandon.org>

Jenny Allen, Administrative Director
813-681-6547 • cbs-admin@hotmail.com

Office hours:

subject to change without notice, please refer to eBlast

Summer hours:

Tues.—Friday: 9:30 a.m.—1 p.m.

Office is closed on holidays

Weekly Email Blast submissions

bethshalominfo@gmail.com

eBlast deadline is Wednesday at 4 p.m.

CONGREGATION RETREAT

Please join us Saturday, Dec 7, from 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., for our 5th congregational retreat.

The retreat is a way to deepen our knowledge of Judaism together and create community. This year's retreat will be held at Congregation Beth Shalom. This is a **free** event for everyone. (Donations of breakfast items and/or money to offset the cost of lunch are welcomed.)

Families with children ages 4-12 must register at least two weeks in advance so appropriate childcare can be provided. Young people ages 13 and older are encouraged to participate in the retreat.

You can find the registration form by clicking on this link: <https://bethshalom-brandon.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/173/2019/11/Retreat-Registration-Form.pdf>.

To help with breakfast, please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20fo84faba922a2fc1-retreat>.

Retreat schedule

- **9 – 9:30 a.m.:** Congregation breakfast
- **9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.:** We will learn about and create our own morning service then worship together
- **12:30 – 1:30 p.m.:** Congregation lunch will be offered at the synagogue.

All are welcome to join this retreat at any time throughout the day. If you have food allergies, please feel free to bring your lunch and eat with us as a community.

THE FUN STUFF



Attendees and participants killed it at our murder mystery night at Stowers Funeral Home in November. Make sure to join us on our next murder mystery adventure!

Committees/Chairpersons

Building/Capital Fund

Peter Jacobson

Caring

Christine Stockelman

Finance*

Allan Weber

Fundraising*

Mitch & Suzie Baylis

Life Long Learning*

Janice Perelman

Strategic Planning*

Open

Membership*

Gail Verlin, Judith Pliner

Oneg

Anna Feldman, Anita Hoffman, Judith Pliner,
and Sue Reckner

Publicity

Andrea Chassen

Ritual*

Steve Slavkin

Facility and Safety

Mitch & Suzie Baylis

Social Action*

open

Religious School*

Sheila Fishman

BESTY—Youth Group*

Advisor — Steven Birnholz

President — Kelsey Birnholz

** Ex-officio voting board member
(each committee only gets one vote)*

Other Programs

CBS Singles Over 50

Anita Clifford

Chavurah

Sheila Fishman

Dinner With the Tribe

Anita Clifford

Interfaith/Outreach

Jan Golden, Sheila Slavkin

Kibbitzer Editor

Lea Garbett

Kolot Shalom — Choir

open

Library

Sandy Saviet

David Richter

Men's Club

Seth Dugan

Page Turners

Sheila Fishman

Web Administrator

Jenny Allen

Join with CBS in offering congratulations and recognition to the following members on their accomplishments:

MAZELS

- Mazel tov to **Steve and Sheila Slavkin** on the arrival of their 9th grandchild, Mateo Fernando Corzo.
- Mazel tov to **Peter Jacobson** on his retirement.

KUDOS

- Kudos to **Joan Frankel** for her many years of service to CBS as choir director.
- Kudos to **Anna Feldman** on her hard work on the oneg committee and her dedication to making these community events a special time each Shabbat.
- Kudos to Suzie and Mitch Baylis for organizing, all who participated in and attended the murder mystery night.
- Kudos to **Gabe Lifschitz** for all his help with tree removal from CBS grounds.

*Do you know a CBS member who should be congratulated for a special accomplishment?
If so, email the name and accomplishment to cbs-admin@hotmail.com.*



Potluck Oneg Information

Starting this month, the Oneg Committee will initiate potluck onegs that will be periodically implemented when we are unable to identify a host for a particular Shabbat service. As it so happens, we do not have hosts for Dec. 6 and 20.

When the need arises for a potluck oneg, Jenny, our temple administrator, will notify our membership by e-blast so that those who plan to attend can assist. To help support the onegs, we are asking members who are attending that unassigned Shabbat service to bring some type of snack or finger food. Coordination of donated snacks is not logistically possible because our member's attendance is so variable. Therefore, please be prepared for surprises and duplications - which is certainly okay! It could prove to be a delicious surprise!

Since there will be no assigned host for an unfilled oneg date, we are asking everyone that attends to help with the setup and also the cleanup, making the oneg easier and equitable for all in attendance. Regarding the tablecloths for the two oneg tables, we would appreciate someone volunteering to take them home to wash so they are ready for use the following week. If this is not possible, please let Judith Pliner or Anna Feldman know. Their numbers are 856-816-2174 or 707-628-5399, respectively.

To ensure that we have sufficient wine, grape juice and challahs available for unfilled dates, we are requesting that our future oneg hosts provide two wines, two grape juices and two challahs.

MEMBERSHIP

Please help us welcome our newest members :
Maya, Jacob and Judah Wyatt.

Look for their cheerful faces at temple!

– Judith Pliner and Gail Verlin,
"The Membership Ladies"

Congregation Beth Shalom wishes
DR. PETER A. JACOBSON, M.D.
congratulations and best wishes as he
retires from his private practice.



LIFELONG LEARNING — Janice Perelman



It really was good! On Nov. 10, for the second time, speaker Howard Kerner was welcomed by CBS members and guests as he presented Part 2 of "Celebration of Goodness." His fascinating description of acts of altruism by Christians during WWII was well received, and

Howard has promised to return once more in the spring to share Part 3, acts of goodness made by members of the Muslim community.

• **Saturday, Dec. 7**, as part of our congregational retreat, Taste of Tanakh will take "A Deep Dive Into the Shabbat Morning Service." We will be deconstructing the Shabbat morning service. We will look at the overarching arc of the service. The different sections and overall themes of those sections. We will look at some of the key prayers of each section. We will then craft our own Shabbat morning service.

• **Sunday, Dec. 29, at 3 p.m.**, Let's Chat will feature "Not Your Religious School's Hannukkah Story." Many of us know the story of the miracle of the oil. Very rarely do we talk about the violent guerilla campaign led by the Maccabees and later violent zealotry recorded in the Book of Maccabees and by the historian Josephus. We will learn about this Hanukkah story and talk about how we feel about and respond to the more violent moments in Jewish history. Was this violence justified? How would we have responded/acted at the time? Should we celebrate violent acts?

Calling all adults who would like to learn Hebrew!

Michael Lubin has volunteered to teach an 8-week course on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. starting Jan. 22. The class can accommodate up to 15 adults with the goal of learning how to read Hebrew well enough to read from our prayer book. The course will be open to CBS members for a donation of \$18 and to the community at large for \$36 per person. Materials will be provided at no additional cost. This is a wonderful opportunity for adults to learn Hebrew on the same footing as others who are also new learners.

Coming soon to your synagogue! A comprehensive 5-part series entitled "**We're not getting any younger**" is scheduled to begin early in 2020. Addressing a wide range of issues revolving around aging from the perspectives of the older population, children of aging parents, and issues often put off for another day, topics will include pertinent and important topics such as balancing the needs of your parents with those of your children; creating an ethical will; understanding and implementing elder law issues; deciding what kind of living arrangements are best as time goes by; and end-of-life decisions.

Presenters will include Peter Lally, LCSW, of Tampa Jewish Family Services; Jack Rosenkranz, Esq., elder law attorney; Lauren Cury, Resource Center Director of the Hillsborough County Senior Connection Center; Charles

Segal, Director of Segal Funeral Home; and Janice Perelman, former DCF case manager supervisor.

Since everyone is not always available on a specific evening, the series will be held on a variety of days during a three-month period as follows:


- Thursday, January 23
- Sunday, February 2
- Tuesday, February 24
- Wednesday, March 4
- Sunday, March 22

Cost for the entire series is \$25 per person for members and \$35 for non-members. Watch for more detailed information in the near future.

Wait, wait! There's more! Feed your mind and feed your body. Also planned for the near future is "Just Cookin!" a cooking class where you can learn how to prepare Jewish foods from around the world. More on this later on.

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Stephen Zweibach, M.D.
Natasha Champion, M.D.
Mariel Rotundo-Patino, D.O.
Heidi DiSalvo, D.O.

2 Locations to Serve You
815 S. Parsons Avenue, Brandon
13148 Vail Ridge Drive, Riverview
813-571-2777 whnw.net

Se habla español



EDUCATION— Sheila Fishman

Religious school will be closed Sunday, Dec. 1. When we return Dec. 8, our students will be learning about Chanukah in the classrooms with their teachers.

Friday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m., our religious school students will lead our worship service with Sheila Fishman and Sandy Santucci. The parents of our religious school students will be sponsoring the oneg Shabbat. During the service, we will be celebrating Shabbat with a candle lighting, beautiful readings by our students, and special programming by our students. We encourage all congregants to attend so we may come together as a community to support our youngest members.

Sunday, Dec. 15, we will celebrate Chanukah with a special assembly and games and treats with Rabbi Bryan from 11 a.m. until noon. Our youngest children will once again be attending class this morning and participating in rabbi's programming.



Report cards will be issued at the close of class Dec. 15.

There are no classes Dec. 22 and Dec. 29. Children return to classes Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020.

Chanukah at Barnes & Noble

Rabbi Bryan Mann will be doing a book reading for Chanukah on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 6:30p.m., at Barnes & Noble, 122 Brandon Town Center Drive, Brandon.

Rabbi Bryan will be reading *Goodnight Bubbala* by Sheryl Haft. This festive parody reimagines a classic bedtime book as a lively Jewish family gathering complete with bubbies and zeydes, a dreidel, and a shmear on a bagel. It includes an exclusive latke recipe by Ina Garten of TV's Barefoot Contessa!

Please join us at Barnes & Noble for the reading, browse the store, and possibly make a purchase. A portion of any monies spent at Barnes & Noble that date will benefit the religious school of Congregation Beth Shalom.

Chanukah 2019 at FishHawk

Sunday, Dec. 22, at 2 p.m., Congregation Beth Shalom will be offering a Chanukah Celebration at Park Square in the FishHawk Community, 16132 Churchview Drive, Lithia.

There will be candle lighting of the CBS large chanukiah, story-telling by Rabbi Bryan Mann, games, and gifts for children. The event is free to all attendees but water, jelly filled donuts, and potato pancakes with applesauce at a nominal fee.

Attendees are encouraged to bring canned goods to donate to the Congregation Beth Shalom Food Bank.

We are also seeking congregants to prepare and donate potato pancakes. If you are able to assist with this event, please reach out to Sheila Fishman, gold17@verizon.net.

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BESTY BEAT



Sunday, Dec. 8, from 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m., BeSTY will meet at Chili's, 3422 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Valrico, for lunch and planning. Families of BeSTY members are also welcome to attend, but please R.S.V.P. to BestyBoard@gmail.com for everyone who will be coming so we know how many seats we're going to

need. The youth group will be picking up all costs.

Sunday, Dec. 22, from 2 p.m.-5 p.m., we will meet in FishHawk Park Square, 16132 Churchside Drive, Lithia, to help with the CBS Chanukah celebration. There will be a menorah lighting, children's games, food, etc. Please also bring canned foods with you for donation to the the Congregation Beth Shalom food bank.



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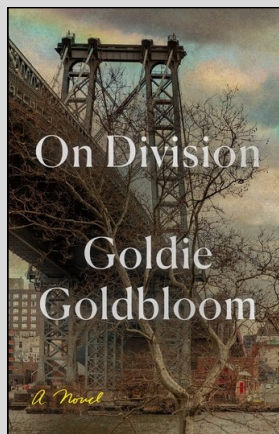
PAGE TURNERS

Monday, Jan. 20, at 6 p.m., Page Turners will meet to discuss Goldie Goldbloom's fascinating novel, *On Division*. Join us for a lively discussion of the book (described below by the publisher) and a light dinner. A few copies of the book remain for free donated for Page Turners; email Julie Enszer at JulieREnszer@gmail.com to secure a copy.

On Division

In Williamsburg, Brooklyn, just a block or two up from the East River on Division Avenue, Surie Eckstein is soon to be a great-grandmother. Her ten children range in age from 13 to 39. Her in-laws, postwar immigrants from Romania, live on the first floor of their house. Her daughter Tzila Ruchel lives on the second. She and Yidel, a scribe in such demand that he makes only a few Torah scrolls a year, live on the third. Wed when Surie was sixteen, they have a happy marriage and a full life, and, at the ages 57 and 62, they are looking forward to some quiet time together.

Into this life of counted blessings comes a surprise. Surie is pregnant. Pregnant at 57. It is a shock. And at her age, at this stage, it is an aberration, a shift in the proper order of things, and a public display of private life. She feels exposed, ashamed. She is unable to share the news, even with her husband. And so, for the first time in her life, she has a secret—a secret that slowly separates her from the community.



Goldie Goldbloom's *On Division* is an excavation of one woman's life, a story of awakening at middle age, and a thoughtful examination of the dynamics of self and collective identity. It is a steady-eyed look inside insular communities that also celebrates their comforts. It is a rare portrait of a long, happy marriage. And it is an unforgettable new novel from a writer whose imagination is matched only by the depth of her humanity.

About Goldie Goldbloom

Goldie Goldbloom's first novel, *The Paperbark Shoe*, won the AWP Prize, was named the Literary Novel of the Year by Foreward Magazine and is an NEA Big Reads selection. She was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and has been the recipient of multiple grants and awards, including fellowships from Warren Wilson, Northwestern University, the Brown Foundation, the City of Chicago and the Elizabeth George Foundation. She is chassidic and the mother of eight children.

DINNER WITH THE TRIBE — Anita Clifford

CBS had a wonderful evening of Chinese food and friendship at our dinner at Yummy House. Eighteen people joined us and we fully occupied two round tables. A lazy susan helped us share our goodies.



Jasmine Thai has remodeled and will be back in their regular location. Join us for a Dutch Treat Dinner With the Tribe to savor their usual goodies in a wonderful fresh and new Oriental atmosphere.

Saturday, Dec. 14, 6 p.m.
Jasmine Thai Brandon, 1947 West Lumsden Road, Brandon

R.S.V.P. required to save a seat. Contact Anita Clifford at niewdnarb@yahoo.com.



Join us to learn how leaders of the Jewish community can help create an atmosphere of Shalom Bayit for agencies, congregants, and their families.

DOMESTIC ABUSE: IT HAPPENS HERE



**THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 5, 2019
7 P.M.**

Light refreshments will be served.

**CONGREGATION
SCHAARAI ZEDEK**
3303 W. Swann Ave. Tampa 33609

Domestic abuse has no boundaries. It affects all types of relationships, all socio-economic classes, all ages and all spectrums of religion and cultural life. Help make your community one of safety and refuge by listening to presentations and asking questions of our expert panel.

R.S.V.P. BY DECEMBER 2

to jaeda1492@brighthouse.com so we may plan for light refreshments.

Presented by

JAEDA

Jewish Alliance to End Domestic Abuse of Tampa Bay

Our Mission:

JAEDA of Tampa Bay seeks to prevent domestic violence in our community and to strengthen Shalom Bayit (peace in the home) through education and advocacy programs.

Rosh Hodesh, offered by Andrea B. Chassen

Months begin and end. In our calendar each month begins as the moon fades into blackness and begins to reemerge with a sliver of light. Rosh Hodesh, the new month, is a symbol of renewal. Thus, we can also use this time to look at ourselves, embrace a new view and start anew. Have been interested in joining a group of like-minded women who want to further their understanding of Jewish traditions and practice while continuing to grow and evolve?

So, when one cannot join a group, why not start one? That brings me to 2019. I am planning a monthly program that will be based this year on *Moonbeams: A Hadassah Rosh Hodesh Guide*. Each session will center on a topic and explore it more deeply. Rosh Hodesh is open to all women in our community and in your lives who have an interest in learning more. We will convene after the new year. Hope to see all there.

A Note About Pastoral Care

Rabbi Bryan wants to know when congregants are in need of pastoral care. This includes but is not limited to: when our congregants or their family members are in the hospital, recently lost a loved one, or otherwise may need his support.



If you hear about a congregant in need, please contact Rabbi Bryan directly at rabbibryanmann@gmail.com and/or 857 728 4792. Do not assume just because you told another congregant, a board member, or even Jenny that Rabbi Bryan knows who is in need of pastoral care.

Ladies' Night Out

6:30 p.m., 2nd Tuesday of every month

Enjoy a night out with the ladies of CBS.

We will dine at local restaurants, attend cooking demos, get creative with art/craft classes, play bunco, enjoy pot luck dinners, and more!

Dec. 10

SAVE THE DATES



**Jan. 14
Feb. 11
March 10**

Acropolis Greek Taverna
6108 Winthrop Town Center

R.S.V.P. by the Sunday prior <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094ba5a62aa64-ladies>

Contact Sandee Pelk at sandeepelk@verizon.net or 813-390-5056 for more information.

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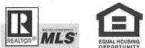
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Roaring '20s Charity Gala

Saturday, Feb. 22, at 5:30 p.m., Congregation Beth Shalom will partner with Special Operations Warrior Foundation (SOWF) for our annual fundraiser.

The proceeds of the evening will be shared with SOWF to ensure full college funding to every surviving child of a special operator who loses their life in the line of duty. SOWF also provides immediate financial assistance to hospitalized wounded, ill, and injured service members so their families can be at their bedside.

This year's event, a Roaring '20s Gala, will feature door prizes, free Gatsby-inspired photos, dancing, a delicious buffet dinner, and both live and silent auctions. Highlighting our speakeasy show will be R&B star David Morris, who will perform songs from 1920s to today, including songs from his newly-released album. There will also be speakeasy dancers to teach the Charleston, so wear your best flapper outfit and party like it's 1929.

Elks Lodge of Brandon is located at 800 Centennial Lodge Drive, Brandon. Tickets are \$40 for adults (active military and veterans get 20% off), and \$15 for children aged 5 -12, and free for children under 5. Tickets may be purchased by phone (813) 681-6547, or online <http://www.bethshalom-brandon.org>.

David Morris Biography

Born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., David began harnessing his vocal style, piano playing and songwriting at a very early age. By the time he was 13, the self-taught musician was already proficient in piano and would mimic the soulful sounds of Motown that was played throughout his home. David is at his creative best when he's at the piano or writing a hit song. His vocal influences are resplendent of the sounds of Marvin Gaye, Donny Hathaway and Stevie Wonder to name a few. Currently David is working on becoming the hottest independent artist to hit the music scene.

His current EP "Welcome to My World" is set for release this summer and already contains the hit single of the same name, which is currently available on iTunes, Amazon and for purchase at his live shows.



ROARING TWENTIES
Charity Gala
1920/2020



Feb 22, 2020
Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon
Annual Fundraiser
Partner Charity Special Operations Warrior Foundation.
Helping the families of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice



DVID MORRIS
Welcome To My World

Speakeasy Show
Dancing & Performance
Starring
David Morris
Will perform songs from 1920 to 2020, including his latest Hit single "Welcome to My World"

Full Gatsby Buffet Dinner
5:30PM – 10PM
silent and live auction

Tickets only \$45 per person; Children under 13 - \$10
20% off active military or veterans
Purchase tickets online www.bethshalom-brandon.org

Elks Lodge of Brandon
800 Centennial Dr. Brandon, FL



BEN FERNANDES & KEITH BALOT
OWNERS

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fax: 813.413.2045
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THANK YOU TO OUR HIGH HOLY DAYS BRIDGE BUILDERS 5780

BONIM BRIDGE ☆ \$3,600—\$7,500

Isabel & Jonathan Ellis	Judith & Gerald Pliner
Diane & Peter Jacobson	Julie & Marvin Shienbaum

SHOMRIM BRIDGE ☆ \$1,800 - \$3,599

Stephen & Anna Feldman	Errol & Sheila Fishman
Steve & Sheila Slavkin	Anonymous (2)

MITZVAH BRIDGE ☆ \$360 - \$1,799

Suzie & Mitchell Baylis	Randy & Danita Freedman
Janice & Bruce Sperry	Joan & Aaron Koplin
Steven Billor	Robert Miller
Anita Clifford	Rudina & David Richter
Carol Anne & David Friedman	Carol Roberts
Sheryl & Mark Finke	Denise & Allan Weber
	Stephen Zweibach

CHAI BRIDGE ☆ \$180 - 359

Andrea Chassen	Sara & Jeff Goodman
Joan Frankel	Deborah & Mark Grenberg
Monica & Drew Frost	Lisa & James Smith
Irving (Gerry) Lawrence	Fruma & Nathan Tanzer
Lea & Michael Garbett	Gail & Michael Verlin

CHAVERIM BRIDGE ☆ \$36 - 179

Lois Erenberg	Phyllis & Milton Newman
Betsy Glickman	Carole & Joseph Plesur
Ruth Goldberg	Susan Reckner
Renate Greenfield	Arleen & Irving Sanders
Barbara Hart	Ruth & Jordan Spiegel
Irving Kadet	Sharon & Mervin Taub
Dale & Margaret Khan	Cheryl & Kevin Walkover
Toby Koch & Alan Weiss	

DONOR ☆ \$18 - \$35

Howard & Sandy Saviet
Kristan & Steven Birnholz
Kelsey Birnholz

The High Holy Day Appeal for 5780 is open through the end of January 2020. To make a contribution, please contact the office. This does not include donations made through the Book of Remembrance or Adopt-a-Book Campaigns, nor does it include non-members. If there are any errors or omissions to this listing, please notify the office as well.

SALUTE TO HEROES GALA SPONSORS

When it's time to pick a vendor or hire a professional for services, keep in mind these generous businesses that support CBS. Thank you to the following businesses and friends for their participation in our Salute To Heroes Gala.

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Pathways Counseling Center –
Dr. David & Rudina Richter
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Dr. Stephen Zweibach

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DONATIONS

Congregation Beth Shalom accepts donations for many purposes, with a variety of opportunities for donors to support the good works of the Temple. You may contact the office either by phone or email to make a contribution, or head to our website to make a secure online payment through a PayPal account or by using a credit card.

Funds:

- **General Fund** (unrestricted): An unrestricted gift to the General Fund allows the temple to use those funds wherever they may be needed most. This fund incorporates contributions received from our High Holy Day Appeal, Yahrzeit donations, Bricklets, Adopt-A-Book, Tree of Life (unless otherwise indicated) and other non-restricted gifts.
- **Building Fund:** A fund to ensure the continuing physical growth of our spiritual home. Intended for capital improvements and major building repairs.
- **Endowment Fund:** Gifts to this fund are placed in an investment account and temporarily restricted or can be defined/restricted by the donor. This fund ensures the future of our temple.
- **Religious School Scholarship Fund:** These funds will be made available to Religious School students who are in need of tuition assistance, as determined confidentially by the Treasurer.
- **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:** a fund for assistance to families in need, scholarship assistance, interfaith council, Holocaust museum and other endeavors at the Rabbi's discretion.
- **Youth Group Fund:** a fund that supports the ongoing engagement of post b'nai mitzvah youth, providing meaningful and fun experiences for our teens, and keeping them connected to their Jewish community.

If you wish to designate a gift to a particular purpose, for example, Food Bank, Choir, Oneg, Social Action, etc., you may do so by noting as such on your payment method or with an accompanying note; otherwise, your gift will be used where it is needed most.

Opportunities:

- **Adopt-A-Book:** A dedication label will be placed in one of our prayer books, to commemorate a simcha or in honor or memory of a loved one for just \$54.
- **Bricklets:** For as little as \$9 you can send a Bricklet Card instead of buying a card for birthdays, condolences, etc. A Bricklet Card in your name will be sent to the person you wish stating that a donation has been made in his or her name to Beth Shalom to honor the occasion.
- **Tree of Life:** The Tree of Life is on the back wall of our Sanctuary. An engraved leaf or stone can commemorate many simchas, b'nai mitzvah, wedding, birth, graduations, etc. Leaves are \$180, and stones are \$1800.
- **Yahrzeit Plaque:** To honor the death of a loved one, you may purchase a plaque that will be cared for in perpetuity for \$350. The name of the deceased along with their date of death is included on the plaque.

*Unless otherwise noted by you, your gift will be acknowledged in The Kibbitzer the month following its receipt.
If your donation is incorrectly listed or omitted, please notify the temple office immediately.*

Donations listed below were received between October 16 and November 15.

GENERAL FUND

In Loving Memory of Frieda Moravnick
Eunice Rifkin

To Suzie Baylis in honor of her becoming Women of Distinction for CBS for 2019
Stephen & Anna Feldman

To Janice Perelman in honor of receiving the Stephen Weinberg 8 Over 80 award
Stephen & Anna Feldman

**In Loving Memory of Lawrence Bernstein,
Father of Sheila Slavkin**
Sheila & Steve Slavkin

In Loving Memory of Doris Arman
Polly & Ira Arman

In Loving Memory of Marshall and Herb Goldberg
Ruth Goldberg

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND
In Loving Memory of Florence Finkel
Anna & Stephen Feldman

DONATION
Ruth Goldberg





Birthdays

12/3	Ben Santucci
12/5	Joshua Freedman
12/11	Judith Pliner
12/14	Bonne Jacob
12/15	Stephen Zweibach
12/18	Mordecai Elazer
12/21	Matt Hebert
12/26	Denise Weber
12/29	Mark Finke
12/30	Kristan Birnholz
12/30	Peter Jacobson



Anniversaries

12/21	Lynn & Larry Kaler
12/27	Gail & Michael Verlin
12/31	Danita & Randy Freedman



Yahrzeits

12/1	Gloria	Goldberg	Mother	of	Brenda	Gold
12/2	Marshall	Silber	Brother	of	Joanne	Ronay
12/5	Joel	Zazulia	Brother	of	Iylene	Miller
12/9	David	Gould	Father	of	Sandra	Saviet
12/9	Lara	Enszer	Sister	of	Julie	Enszer
12/10	Frank	Kurtz	Father	of	Pam	Provenzano
12/10	Annette	Feldman	Mother	of	Stephen	Feldman
12/11	Jim	Stillman	Father	of	Amy	Weinstein
12/12	Harry	May	Uncle	of	David	Richter
12/12	Lisa	Alpert	Cousin	of	Carol	Wagner
12/13	Douglas	Miller	Brother	of	Eric	Miller
12/13	Estella "Sandy"	Kurtz	Mother	of	Pam	Provenzano
12/13	Geoffrey	Miller	Brother	of	Eric	Miller
12/15	Al	Smith	Father	of	Karen	Magdovitz
12/16	Irving	Balot	Father	of	Keith	Balot
12/17	Joan	Sherer	Mother	of	Carol	Roberts
12/17	Leonard	Edelson	Father	of	Joel	Edelson
12/18	Diane E.	Slavkin	Mother	of	Steve	Slavkin
12/18	Sophia	Brenner	Wife	of	Phil	Brenner
12/19	Miriam	Vogel	Grandmother	of	Bonnie	Jacob
12/20	Harold	Landfish	Father	of	Nancy	Landfish
12/21	Berne	Lubonne	Father	of	Carole	Plesur
12/21	Francis	Honaker	Aunt	of	Stephen	Feldman
12/22	Lena Ruth	Richter	Mother	of	David	Richter
12/22	Elaine	Freedman	Mother	of	Randy	Freedman
12/23	Jenny	Siegel	Grandmother	of	Eric	Miller
12/24	Kevin	Frye	Husband	of	Christina	Frye
12/25	Seymour	Ponemon	Father	of	Arthur	Ponemon
12/25	Ron	Miller	Uncle	of	Russell	Berman
12/27	Abraham	Kaplan	Father	of	Elisa	Criden
12/29	Rita	Weiss	Mother	of	Alan	Weiss
12/29	Robert Stanley	Greenfield	Father	of	Andrew	Greenfield
12/29	Robert Stanley	Lange	Father	of	Sandee	Pelk
12/31	Charles Arnold	Hoffman	Husband	of	Anita	Hoffman

Simchat Shabbat!

Come celebrate your birthday or anniversary with us! A special Shabbat service is held every month to honor all our joys for that month. For this month it will be:

December 20

The dates listed for the Yahrzeits are adjusted yearly according to the Jewish Calendar and may not necessarily coincide with the common date of death. Names are read for Kaddish at the Shabbat before the actual date. If you would like to have the common date listed, please contact the temple office.

Want to advertise in *The Kibbitzer*?

Ad Size	Monthly Rate	10% Discounted (Annual only)
Bus. Card	\$20	\$216
1/4 page	\$40	\$432
1/2 page	\$50	\$540
Full page	\$75	\$810

Special rate for CBS Members — 10% off MONTHLY rate with 6-month commitment.

To reserve your place in the next issue, e-mail the temple office at cbs-admin@hotmail.com or call 813-681-6547.

Babysitters

Contact the temple office for a list of available babysitters. Contact information, qualifications and transportation details are available for each sitter. We will not publish information about our younger members online due to privacy concerns.



ATTENTION! We send *The Kibbitzer* out online. This change has been made to help decrease one of our expenses at Beth Shalom.

However, if you prefer receiving your *Kibbitzer* via the US Mail, please call the Temple at (813) 681-6547 or e-mail the Temple (cbs-admin@hotmail.com) to tell us you **do not** want to get your *Kibbitzer* online. Please help Beth Shalom cut its expenses and receive your *Kibbitzer* sooner.



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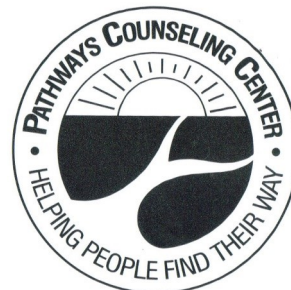
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Congregation Beth Shalom is now participating in Amazon Smile — it's an easy way for CBS members, family and friends to support the temple. Simply use the following link:

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Congregation Beth Shalom
of Brandon

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 7 PM Board Mtg	4	5	6 Erev Shabbat Service 7:30 PM	7 9 AM Annual Retreat At CBS
8 9:30 AM Religious School	9	10	11	12 URJ Convention in Chicago (Rabbi Out) (12/12 - 12/15)	13 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service Kibbitzer Deadline	14
15 Religious School—Hanukkah Prog & report Cards	16	17 Hadassah Chanukah Luncheon	18	19 6:30 PM Barnes & Noble Chanukah book reading	20 7:30 PM Simcha Shabbat Service	21
22 EREV HANUKKAH 2 PM Hanukkah Event— Fishhawk	23 HANUKKAH JCC—Giving Tues. HCPS Winter Break	24 HANUKKAH JCC - Vodka Latke HCPS Winter Break	25 HANUKKAH HCPS Winter Break	26 HANUKKAH HCPS Winter Break	27 HANUKKAH 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service HCPS Winter Break	28 HANUKKAH Let's Chat 3 PM
29 HANUKKAH	30 HANUKKAH HCPS Winter Break	31 New Years Eve HCPS Winter Break				

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Inside Scoop

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**Welcome the Stranger...
Stranger No More.**



Please help CBS congratulate Peter Jacobson on his upcoming retirement in December 2019.

After years of dedicated service, Peter decided it is time to close this chapter and enjoy retirement with his beautiful family, as you know, there is no better investment than yourself!

Thank you Peter for all your years of dedicated service to the greater Brandon area.