

# The Kibbitzer

1

## Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon

706 Bryan Road, Brandon, FL 33511

Phone (813) 681-6547

[www.BethShalom-Brandon.org](http://www.BethShalom-Brandon.org)

**January 2022**  
**Volume 32, Issue 7**

### Shabbat Service

Friday evenings 7:00 PM

Zoom available



### Special Onegs

January 14th - Tu B'Shvat

January 21 - Singles Shabbat

### Education

Classes with the Rabbi  
Hebrew and Torah Study  
Every Thursday at 6:30 PM



### Board Meetings

Tuesday, January 4th  
6:00 Executive Board



### Dinner with the Tribe

Bemini of Ybor  
Sat, January 22nd  
5:30 PM



### Food Bank

Sunday, January 19th  
1:00 PM  
To  
3:00 PM



## FROM THE PULPIT

### Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz



The Holiday of Tu B'Shevat arrives on January 17, 2022, marking the first day of Spring in the land of Israel. (Ha Aretz.) Jews call this Holiday, Rosh HaShanah La'llanot which means 'New Year of the Trees'. We observe this holiday by eating Fruits and Nuts and making choices to help the earth. This is in reference to planting trees in Israel and growing the land into a beautiful nation.

We are always trying to restore our homeland, by turning the desert into farmland, a living and growing land. Tu B'Shevat is considered as Jewish Arbor Day, celebrated by the planting of trees in Israel.

In the Jewish scheme of life, trees are regarded as a special gift from God, especially in an area that does not receive a lot of water. There are symbolic allusions to the trees in the bible, especially olive trees which send up new shoots to continue the life of the old tree that dies. Trees are represented as symbols of goodness and nobility. The upright person is compared to a tree planted near a stream, which bears fruit in season. (Psalm 1:3) The righteous will flourish like the Palm Tree; They will grow like a Cedar in Lebanon. (Psalm 92: 13-14).

It was customary to plant a tree in Israel *when a child was born: A Cedar for a boy and a Cypress for a girl, who cared for their own trees growing up. Branches* from their own trees would be used for poles of their Wedding Canopy or Chuppah.

The Forestation of Israel is an absolute necessity. Throughout the world, we raise funds for the planting of trees and rehabilitation of the Land of Israel. By generous response to the Jewish National Fund, forests are planted in various parts of the country. We can also help Israel by buying Israeli Products.

May we continue to do the right thing and sow the right seeds. All the best.

Rabbi Lefkowitz

**Rabbi**

Robert Lefkowitz

**Cantorial Soloist**

Sandy Santucci

**Executive Board:****President**

Steve Billor

**Past President**

Gerry Pliner

**First Vice President**

Gerry Pliner

**Second Vice President**

Toby Koch

**Third Vice President**

Sheryl Finke

**Secretary**

David Friedman

**Treasurer**

Sandy Schwartz

**Social Action**

Meral Ginsberg

**Members at Large:**

Anita Clifford

Lynn Kaler

Gabe Lifschitz

Allan Weber

***The Kibbitzer***

Volume 32, Issue 7

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

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**Office hours:**

By appointment.

Voicemails and emails will be monitored daily.

Office is closed on holidays

**Weekly Email Blast submissions****MEMBERSHIP**

*Becoming a partner in our congregation offers an opportunity for enduring friendships and a personal spiritual journey. A place in our Jewish community.*

*Members also have free access to many of our educational and entertainment events.*

# The President's Corner



**Steve Billor**

Shalom Everybody,

I want to focus my January article on "Fellowship".

To start, I would like to thank everybody involved in the Hanukkah Dinner. There are SO MANY people to thank for their involvement and support, but a **Special Thank You** to **Julie Shienbaum** for her unending efforts to make this event an overwhelming success. Her Brisket was the "Talk of the Temple"! That, was some amazing Beth Shalom Fellowship! We had a record number of people attending, and it was wonderful spending time with each other.

We are off to an amazing rebirth of our Temple/Synagogue and need to keep it going. There are many activities we can attend to enjoy each other's company. One example is the Men's and Women's club. They are incorporating their monthly dinner outings to increase attendance. This is what "Fellowship" is all about. I challenge each of you to try our various activities and see which one fits you. Each activity and event we have is a steppingstone to rebuild Beth Shalom to its peak in membership and splendor.

Another way to increase fellowship, is to increase our membership. I suggest we have an informal membership drive. We all know people that are not active with Beth Shalom. Maybe you can convince them to join or re-join our Beth Shalom family.

I Pray that 2022 is a healthy and bountiful year for Beth Shalom of Brandon and everyone in our Congregational Family.

Thank you all for your time reading this.

Steve Billor

President

## January Oneg Schedule

*There can be no joy without food and drink.*

Talmud, Mo'ed Katan

### Oneg Sponsors

01/07 Anna Feldman (In honor of Stephen's birthday)  
 01/14 Tu B'Shvat  
 01/21 Single's Shabbat  
 01/28 Open





# Men's Club



**Myron Feldman**

**Wednesday, January 19th at 7:00 PM**

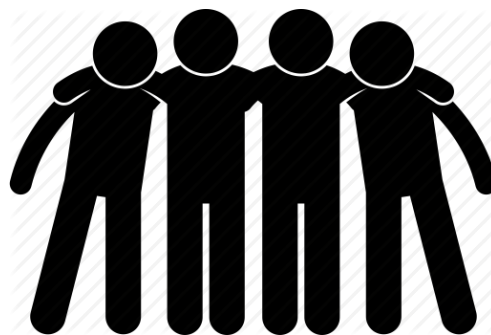


**Ace Golf Range  
12910 Boyette Road  
Riverview, FL 33569**

For January, our first event will include back shot, jumps, curves and traps which can be found at Ace Golf Range. No windmills but waterfalls, streams, ponds and beautiful Florida landscaping awaits your tropical - themed hole in one! Putt your way to some friendly competition of Miniature Golf on Wednesday January 19 at 7pm at Ace Golf Range found at 12910 Boyette Road, Riverview (813) 672 - 7750. Adults are \$7.99 and children (ages 4-10) are \$5.99. All welcome! Tee off is 7pm!



Salad, soup, seafood, steak and lots of small talk happened on Tuesday December 14th at Jesse's Steak and Seafood Restaurant. This was the final event of the year sponsored by the Men's / Brotherhood Club. Thanks to all who came out to enjoy this shindig.



# Dinner with the Tribe



**Bernini of Ybor**  
 1702 East 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
 Ybor City (Tampa) FL 33605  
 Phone: 813-242-9555



**Anita Clifford**

**Saturday, January 22nd at 5:30 PM**

Not an impersonal corporate chain, but rather an eclectic eatery where the cuisine compliments your surroundings without compromising your wallet. Why so early? So that we can partake of their 1/2 price pasta and entrees before 7:00. They have some really fine food which is even better when we can get it 1/2 off. We can also have their \$3.00 Stoli martinis. Woo hoo! I can't wait to have their crispy duck dinner for \$14! What will you try? Come and join us for the friendship as well as the food. Please be sure to be vaccinated for everyone's protection.

We must have an exact count for Bernini. Please send me an email to say that you will be there. Write to [niewdnarb@yahoo.com](mailto:niewdnarb@yahoo.com) thanks! Anita



**CBS members enjoy  
 dinner together at  
 Sushi Yama.**



# Love A Latke Dinner



**Julie Shienbaum**

Julie Shienbaum was in charge of our CBS Love A Latke Dinner. There was a wonderful turn-out and the food was delicious. From Julie's amazing brisket, the Men's Club delightful latkes and heavenly desserts again made by Julie, it was impossible not to walk away with a 'kishkefrieght' (Yiddish for belly happiness) stomach. Thank you to all of the volunteers, without you the dinner wouldn't have been a success. We're certainly looking forward to our next event! Below are some photographs of our CBS family enjoying the dinner.





## CBS Members Enjoying Love A Latke Dinner



# Donations

## In honor of Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz



Steve & Jennifer Billor  
 Stephen & Anna Feldman  
 Mary & Sheryl Finke  
 Dave & Carol Anne Friedman  
 Meral Ginsberg  
 Larry & Lynn Kaler  
 Caren Magdovitz  
 Ben & Debbie Miller  
 Janice Perelman  
 Gerry & Judith Pliner  
 Sandy Schwartz  
 Julie Shienbaum  
 Martino Stino



## General Fund

In honor of: The birthdays of Samantha Feldman and Robert Feur  
 Anna and Stephen Feldman

In honor of: Lynn and Larry Kaler's anniversary.  
 Anna and Stephen Feldman





## Shabbat Services

Our Shabbat services will take place Friday Nights at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary as well as online. Our livestream feed is available on Zoom and Facebook. For outdoor services, the Zoom link will not work, so please sign in to Facebook. Join us in the celebration of Shabbat and you are welcome to like, comment, and share.

**Zoom** info for Shabbat Service:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82310839346?pwd=ZlR2bkVBTUxIRDcvRWdRZocZSmVMQTog>  
Meeting ID: 823 1083 9346  
Password: 259255

**Facebook** Information for Shabbat Service:

<https://www.facebook.com/BethShalomBrandon/>

**The Mishkan Tefilah (Siddur) is available**

at: [https://www.ccarnet.org/publications/mishkan-tfilah-for-shabbat/?fbclid=IwAR2sT9TxlbC-vAT\\_VGvYArkHVRfMZTkvxVuSjKSXodlExMFCl7LWOACMzwa](https://www.ccarnet.org/publications/mishkan-tfilah-for-shabbat/?fbclid=IwAR2sT9TxlbC-vAT_VGvYArkHVRfMZTkvxVuSjKSXodlExMFCl7LWOACMzwa)

## CBS Office Hours

The administrative office is currently open by appointment only. Someone can be reached at [cbs-brandon@outlook.com] and 813-681-6547 or you may contact Rabbi Lefkowitz directly at 407-222-6393 or [rlefkowi@bellsouth.net](mailto:rlefkowi@bellsouth.net). Rabbi Lefkowitz will be available for in person meetings on Fridays. Call him at 407-222-6393 to schedule an appointment.



**Although our hours are limited, we are always here for you. Do not hesitate to reach out with any needs, concerns or questions.**

### Advertise in The Kibbitzer

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To reserve your place in the next issue, e-mail John Zelatis at

[jjzelatis@zomesa.com](mailto:jjzelatis@zomesa.com) or call the

CBS office at  
813-681-6547.



**Toby Koch**

Alas, there were no correct answers as to the identity of this cutie pie.

This is Toby Koch.

# Building and Grounds



Gabe Lifschitz



## Key Highlights

I've drafted an agreement with Boy Scout Troop 110 to provide for camping at CBS and scout education.

Spectrum Communications installed their communications line for new service to CBS. Anticipate that the new service will begin the second week of December.

When available, volunteers are cleaning the building and removing trash, as well as removing debris from the driveway and parking. November through April, the lawn service will come once a month.



**Free fire wood available next to the woodshed. Just pick your log and bring an axe.**

## Interior wish list:

- Large print copies of Mishkan HaNefesh
- Two 4-foot tall bookcases for classrooms
- 60 wine glasses and water glasses (plain not decorative)
- 8 white large round table cloths
- 3 large round tables (to replace the broken ones)
- 10 deadbolt door locks
- School supplies and crafts

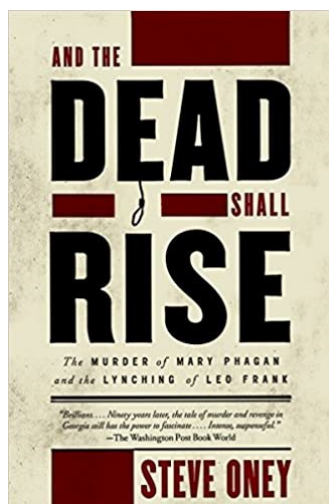
## Exterior wish list:

- Exterior wall paint for the temple
- Pressure treated privacy fence sections 6 X 8 (non-overlapping slats) and 4X4 by 8 feet long Fence posts. Available at Home Depot or Lowes

The temple has a Mitzvah list for items of work. When you visit the temple, the mitzvah board is in the hallway. You can select an item from the list by adding your name and contact information.

If you can help with our wish or mitzvah list, please contact: Gabe Lifschitz at (571) 277-1416

# Page Turners



Our first choice for the new year will be, “And the Dead Shall Rise”. We will meet for discussion on Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM.

Mary Phagan, a 13 year old factory worker in Atlanta, Georgia, was raped and murdered in 1913. Leo Frank, the factory superintendent where Mary worked, was arrested, tried, and convicted of her murder. His death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. The case gained national attention and while many thought he was wrongly convicted; he was kidnapped from prison and lynched. His story became the focus of social, regional, political and racial concerns, and in particular, antisemitism. This book is the full account of the event, including the identities of the people who conducted and covered up the crime. The aftermath of the lynching saw the revival of the Ku Klux Klan and the evolution of the Anti-Defamation League.

## The Library Corner

L'Shana Tova from the Library Committee. We are still organizing the library from when we were closed for Covid. The Food Bank donations have been cleared out, but there is still much to get done. We're making progress and hopefully the library will be open soon for your viewing pleasure.



## Books to Give...And Read



Coming to Terms With America: Essays on Jewish History, Religion and Culture

by Jonathan D. Sarna

Come and Hear: What I Saw In My Seven-and-a-Half-Year Journey Through the Talmud

by Adam Kirsch

The Golem And the Jinni, The Hidden Palace

by Helene Wecker

The Ottomans: Khans, Caesars and Caliphs

by Marc David Baer

Moshkeleh the Thief: A Rediscovered Novel

by Sholom Aleichem



# Social Action



Meral Ginsberg



## **CBS's First Food Bank = SUCCESS!**

On Sunday, December 19, nine members and community volunteers including middle and high-school helpers joined forces to distribute food and other items to members of the community. Twenty-five bags were distributed. Many thanks to our volunteers: Linda Guincho, Steve and Anna Feldman, Julie Shienbaum, Jewel Alfaya, Mark Fink, Lauren Kuyendal, Adam Blanchard, Erin Blanchard and Meral Ginsberg.

Our food bank is a partnership with Jewish Family Services, which provides us with some items to distribute, but most of what we provide must be supplied ourselves, with donations of items or funds from our generous friends and members. The food bank will be held on the third Sunday of each month except April, when it will be on the second Sunday, due to Easter.

Our pantry is now depleted, so please help us continue this mitzvah by bringing non-perishable boxed, canned or bottled food to the Temple household, including personal items and feminine hygiene products. We also will accept gift certificates. Someone on the committee will be happy to pick-up any contribution – call Meral Ginsberg at 813-690-5713.

Our food bank is a tangible example of how CBS is committed to supporting our community, an important element in obtaining and keeping neighborhood partnerships. More importantly, it is a MITZVAH. PLEASE HELP.

Our CBS volunteers and students prepare bags of food to distribute to the community.



**We Do Things Better  
When We Do Them Together.**

# Our Congregation

## Yahrzeits

1/1	Aaron	Ferman	Grandfather	Of Joel	Edelson
1/1	Bob	Finkel	Cousin	Of Steve	Feldman
1/1	Fred	Sklar	Cousin	Of Carol	Wagner
1/2	Elayne	Raiskin	Mother	Of David	Raiskin
1/4	Amada	Ferman	Grandmother	Of Joel	Edelson
1/4	Marilyn	Seidman	Mother	Of Sue	Reckner
1/6	Sidney	Seidman	Father	Of Sue	Reckner
1/7	Selma	Sperry	Mother	Of Bruce	Sperry
1/8	Marilyn	Gordon	Mother	Of Jane	Hertzberg
1/9	David	Brill	Grandfather	Of Myron	Feldman
1/10	Lawrence	Gould	Brother	Of Sandy	Saviet
1/10	David	Roberts	Father	Of Carol	Roberts
1/11	Samuel	Raiskin	Father	Of David	Raiskin
1/11	Meyer	Bloom	Father	Of Gail	Verlin
1/12	Aline	Brandwein	Mother	Of Anita	Clifford
1/13	Jack	Vandeventer	Stepfather	Of Christina	Frye
1/13	Pearl	Brill	Grandmother	Of Myron	Feldman
1/13	Sol	Zweibach	Father	Of Stephen	Zweibach
1/13	Marshall	Goldberg	Son	Of Ruth	Goldberg
1/14	Thomas	Schwab	Uncle	Of Carol	Hindin
1/15	Solomon	Gudz	Grandfather	Of Lana	Goldfarb
1/16	Myna	Kalbas	Mother	Of Bill	Kalbas
1/16	Irving	Dinnerman	Father	Of Tammie	Hebert
1/18	Sarah	Cohen	Grandmother	Of Sandra	Roberts
1/19	Vivian	Kay	Grandmother	Of Iylene	Miller
1/20	Vincent	Garafola	Father	Of Christina	Frye
1/20	Florence	Workman	Mother	Of Anna	Feldman
1/20	Ann	Rogovin	Mother	Of Richard	Rogovin
1/22	Betty	Schwab	Mother	Of Carol	Hindin
1/22	Phillip	Friedman	Grandfather	Of Dave	Friedman
1/26	Doreen	Becker	Mother	Of Lynn	Kaler
1/28	Maurice	Goldman	Father	Of Sharon	Aronson
1/29	Leon	Pliner	Father	Of Gerald	Pliner

# Our Congregation

## Birthdays

1/1 Sophia Savitt  
 1/2 Shirley Ratner  
 1/3 Ben Miller  
 1/4 Sharon Aronson  
 1/12 Carol Wagner  
 1/13 Sue Reckner  
 1/19 Danita Freedman  
 1/20 Christina Frye  
 1/24 Stephen Yavelow

## Anniversaries

1/5 Sandy and Lee Schwartz



# Jewish Holidays 2022

Tu B'shevat	Monday, January 17th
Purim	Wednesday, March 16th
Passover	Friday, April 15th to 23rd
Lag B'Omer	April 16th to June 4th
Shavuot	Saturday, June 4th
Rosh Hashanah	Sunday, September 25th
Yom Kippur	Tuesday, October 4th
Sukkot	Sunday, October 9th
Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah	Sunday, October 16th
Chanukah	Sunday, December 18th - 26th



**Committees/Chairpersons****Building/Capital Fund**

Gerry Pliner

**Finance**

Gerald Pliner

**Fundraising**

Open

**Life Long Learning**

Open

**Strategic Planning**

Steve Feldman

**Membership**

Judith Pliner

**Caring Committee**

Judith Pliner

**Oneg**

Open

**Publicity**

Toby Koch

**Ritual**

Open

**Facility and Safety**

Gabe Lifschitz

**Social Action**

Meral Ginsberg

**Religious School**

Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz

**Eblast:**Toby Koch and Carol Anne  
Friedman**Other Programs****CBS Singles Over 50**

Anita Clifford

**Chavurah**

Open

**Dinner With the Tribe**

Anita Clifford

**Kibbitzer Editor**

Lynn Kaler

**Library**

Sandy Saviet

**Men's Club**

Myron Feldman

**Page Turners**

Anita Clifford

**Web Administrator**

Toby Koch

# Kibbitzer Kudos

Julie Shienbaum - Chair of the Love A Latke Dinner (Best brisket ever! )

Anna Feldman - Thanks for keeping our kitchen clean and shiny!

Meral Ginsberg - Thank you for working so hard on the Food Bank!

Kudos to following people who helped with Love A Latke Dinner:

Anne Feldman

Myron Feldman

Stephen Feldman

Stephanie Ferry

Mark Finke

Sheryl Finke

Carol Anne Friedman

Dave Friedman

Meral Ginsberg

Linda Guincho

Lynn Kaler

Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz

Gabe Lifschitz

Caren Magdovitz

Ben Miller

Debbie Miller

Janice Perelman

Helene Rosenbaum

Sandy Santucci

Martino Stino

Christine Stockelman

Alan Weiss



# Time for a Nosh



## Charcuterie Board for Tu'BShevat

While charcuterie boards are typically a selection of meats, you can add anything you like. Charcuterie boards usually have cold cooked meats, cheese, spreads, crackers, nuts and produce. The great thing is you can be flexible about what you add to your board. Scale the portions according to how many people you want to feed. This month, I'm going to offer up some ideas for a Tu B'Shevat Charcuterie board.

First, choose a board, tray, or platter to be your foundations.

Next, select some small bowls or cups. These will be your structure and are for the loose items, like dips, nuts, and olives.

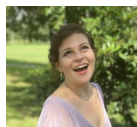
Select your starch. Crackers, breadsticks, small bread slices will work well.

For the cheese, include three to five cheeses in these basic categories: a hard cheese, soft cheese and a blue cheese. Contrasting flavors and textures diversify the board and give guests a broader range of options to sample.

Add your produce. Select a variety of fruits and sliced vegetables. Don't forget the dips, spreads or hummas. You can even add some nuts and seeds.

These are the typical foods we eat on Tu B'Shevat. Fruits with a hard pit such as apricots or cherries. Fruits we eat whole (with their seeds) such as blueberries. Fruits with peels, such as oranges.

Be sure to consider other foods, such as olives, dates, grapes, figs, pomegranates, and seeds, such as pumpkin seeds.



Thank you to my daughter, Laura, who not only gave me the idea for this month, but shared pictures of her charcuterie boards for an early Tu B'Shevat party.

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# In the News

## Three Ways to Treat COVID Exhaustion

Six months ago, it was the Delta variant. Now it's Omicron.  
When will this pandemic nightmare be over?

By David Suissa  
Jewish Journal, December 8th, 2021

Many of us are approaching the COVID exhaustion phase. We're numb. Every time we start to see daylight, we get slapped by reality. Six months ago, it was the Delta variant. Now it's Omicron. When will this pandemic nightmare be over?

It's humbling. We're supposed to be the most advanced species on the planet, and here are these trillions of minuscule viruses telling us, "Hey, this is our planet, too. This is what we do—we invade your bodies and go after your lungs. That is our mission."

So far, humanity has put up a pretty good fight. The virus has killed more than five million people, but despite all the false starts, mistakes and controversies, life is still chugging along as every nation fights the battle. If we licked polio and other pandemics, eventually we'll lick this one.

But until then, we need help.

Humans do have one big advantage over other species—we can think. Human thought is so powerful it can influence how we experience reality. On that note, I heard a thoughtful idea the other day that may ameliorate how we experience the pandemic.

Imagine three buckets. In the first one, put the things you lost because of COVID that you don't want to get back. In the second, put the things you gained that you want to keep. And in the third, put the things you lost that you want to get back.

What's in your first bucket? What did you lose that you're happy to lose? Schlepping in traffic? Attending events you didn't want to attend or seeing people you didn't want to see? A job you hated? Too many flights?

The second bucket is my favorite—what did I gain that I want to keep? Because of COVID, I've developed weekly rituals with close friends and family that I definitely want to keep. I've also had a lot more time to think and spent more time at the ocean. What's on your list of things to keep? New healthy habits? New attitude of gratitude? Casual clothing?

The third bucket is the most painful one—what did we lose that we want to get back? Obviously, I'm not including the tragedy of lost lives, which is horrible enough. This bucket is for things we miss that we hope to get back. Lively Shabbat dinners? Praying without masks? Traveling overseas without PCR tests? Entering venues without proof of vaccine?

Because the pandemic has been so disruptive to our lives, the third bucket is probably the heaviest. But beyond what we actually include in these buckets, what is most important is their very existence. Every time I bring it up with friends, I get the same reaction, "That's a really good way of looking at it."

That is the power we have as human beings—by changing how we see things, by framing them differently, we can influence how we experience the things themselves.

When I'm exhausted by the relentlessness of the pandemic, I go to the second bucket and remind myself that because of COVID, I now talk to my mother six days a week, which has brought a lot of joy to both of us.

It's natural that much of our anxiety leads us to the third bucket. If your restaurant or synagogue or museum is half empty because of COVID, you're certainly eager to get the good old days back. The problem is that we can't really know what these "good old days" might look like or when they may return, if ever. Things are too uncertain.

At this point, all we know is that we can find immediate nourishment in the first and second buckets, because they include things we can control. The third bucket is more of a "hope and dream" one. We hope to get back the things we miss, even as our patience is wearing thin.

Perhaps we could use a fourth bucket, to include a list of ideas to adapt to whatever the future throws at us. That requires not just a change of attitude but also hard work and innovation.

In the meantime, when we need a morale boost, we can take out the first two buckets and be grateful that they even exist.






**Congregation Beth Shalom**  
of Brandon



# January 2022

**Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat**

							1 New Year's Day
2 10:00 am Religious School	3 <a href="#">Rosh Chodesh Shvat</a>	4 6:00pm Executive Committee meeting 7:00pm Board meeting	5	6 7:00 PM Adult Education	7 7:00 PM Erev Shabbat Service	8	
9 10:00 am Religious School	10	11	12	13 7:00 PM Adult Education	14 7:00 PM Erev Shabbat Service 8:00 PM Tu B'Shvat Oneg	15	
16 10:00 am Religious School Food Bank	17 <a href="#">Tu BiShvat</a> 	18	19	20 7:00 PM Adult Education	21 7:00 PM Erev Shabbat Service 8:00 Singles Shabbat Oneg	22 5:30 PM Dinner with the Tribe	
23 10:00 am Religious School	24	25	26	27 7:00 PM Adult Education	28 7:00 PM Erev Shabbat Service	29	
30 10:00 am Religious School	31						