The Kibbitzer

Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon 706 Bryan Road, Brandon, FL 33511 Phone (813) 681-6547 www.BethShalom-Brandon.org

November 2022 Volume 33 Issue 6



Eternal Letters By Lena Kotliarker

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Why strive for mediocrity?



That same yearning for greatness is why we have movies with heroes. We connect with all types of heroes. We especially relate to movies where the hero is an average person who triumphs over challenges thrown in their way. We are drawn to these stories because our hearts are engraved with the deep understanding that we are all created for greatness and that we have the ability to realize that potential. These stories inspire us with hopes, aspirations, and the desire to break out of our boxes so we can accomplish something much more than merely existing. Ultimately, this is one of the basic desires of every human being. Each one of us wants to know that we matter, that our life makes a difference. That is the secret of the magic behind the movies, Watching an ordinary person go out and save the world shows us who we

can become.

We all have a unique contribution to make to the world. If only we can connect to that part of the soul, life could be exhilarating. Everyone has the power to change the world. We have to remind ourselves every day that the world was created for us so we can achieve our unique purpose. Our lives are relevant and we can make a difference. There isn't any room for mediocrity, only greatness. We need to be concerned about the world outside of our own boundaries and we need to improve it to the best of our abilities.

Steve Jobs once said: "the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do it." Each one of us can change the world and can tap into our own uniqueness.

Blessings

As the end of the year is fast approaching, we pause and we reflect on the blessings that we have this year, and they are plenty. Be thankful for what you have and you will end up having more. This is a time for togetherness and gratitude and to have gratitude is the greatest of virtues.

If a person is not thankful for what they have, they will not likely be thankful for what they are going to get. Here are some of the ways to give thanks on Thanksgiving: Volunteer to make the holiday brighter for someone less fortunate or make an extra meal to share this Thanksgiving Season.

May all the good things of life be yours, not only at Thanksgiving but, throughout this coming year.

To you and your families, may you reflect on more blessings than you can count.

B'ahava Rabbi Lefkowitz



The President's Corner



Steve Billor

Shalom Everybody

I am hoping our Beth Shalom Family has had a fulfilling High Holiday Experience. We all made it through the hurricane with minimal damage compared to our southern neighbors around the Fort Meyers area. Some of us lost power for a few days, but considering things that could have been, we all were quite fortunate. I am very thankful we took pre-emptive steps to remove and trim up our large oak trees around the building. This certainly saved our synagogue from serious damage.

We also had a wonderful Sukkot celebration at the Temple on October 9th, Sunday night. I want to publicly thank my wife again, for her wonderful setup of cheeses, dips and drinks and others for bringing in wonderful desserts. We all had a fun time and will hopefully make it even bigger next year.

I would also like to thank the many members that have contributed to Beth Shalom by way of a High Holiday donation and/or a High Holiday Tree Trimming donation. These are so very important to the life and sustainability of our wonderful congregation. For those who haven't sent in a High Holiday donation, please help Beth Shalom out with this mitzvah as it will also do your spirit good. To be frank, we have spent over \$12,000 in tree work this past several months. Also, take advantage of our anonymous donor who is going to match our high holiday donations, so this is the best time to help/donate.

See you at services.....

As always, Todah Rabah (Thank you very much) for being a part of the Beth Shalom Family and your time in reading this article.

Steve Billor

<u>Your Humble President</u>

Membership

Please welcome our newest members:



Felicia & Marshall Melcer Thelma Silber Martino Stino



CBS Business

Shabbat Services

Meeting ID: 897 3400 8923 Password: 770549

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.

We established a new Zoom link. You will be able to login from our weekly eNews. The process has not changed, just the link. For your information here is the new link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89734008923?pwd=WEt GZXN1UVVNM0ICa3BoTzJyZUc0UT09

We are glad that you enjoy our shabbat services and hope to see you on the Zoom screen this Friday.

Facebook Information for Shabbat Service: https://www.facebook.com/BethShalomBrandon/



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

jzelatis@zomesa.com or call the

CBS office at 813-681-6547.

The administrative office is currently open by appointment only. Someone can be reached at [cbsbrandon@outlook.com] and 813-681-6547 or you may contact Rabbi Lefkowitz directly at 407-222-6393 or <u>rlefkowi@bellsouth.net</u>. 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.



SHARE A MAZEL TOV!

Do you have a family member, friend, spouse or congregant you would like to wish Mazel Tov to in our Kibbitzer? You can send an email to *thekibbitzer@hotmail.com* with their name and accomplishment, engagement or birth. It's important during these times to see the good in



CBS Office Hours

The Kibbitzer

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Email and articles for publication: TheKibbitzer@hotmail.com For current news and events see the congregation's website: http://www.bethshalom-brandon.org

<u>Congregation Contacts</u> 813-681-6547 • CBS-brandon@outlook.com

Office hours:

By appointment. Voicemails and emails will be monitored daily. Office is closed on holidays

<u>Weekly Email Blast submissions</u>



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.

Senior Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz **Board of Directors Executive Committee:** President Steve Billor **Past President Gerry Pliner 1st Vice President Gerry Pliner 2nd Vice President** Toby Koch **3rd Vice President** Sheryl Finke Secretary David Friedman Treasurer Sandy Schwartz **Past President** Gerry Pliner

<u>Members at Large:</u>

Anita Clifford Lynn Kaler Gabe Lifschitz



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, November 4	6:25 PM
Friday, November 11	5:21 PM
Friday, November 18	5:18 PM
Friday, November 25	5:16 PM



Oneg Schedule

November Sponsors

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

November 4 November 11 November 18 November 25

Petie Maguire Veterans' Day Potluck Debbie & Ben Miller CBS Members In honor of her grandchildren, Isaiah and Vivienne Please bring a dish to share In honor of their 45th wedding anniversary Please bring a dish to share

If you'd like to sponsor an oneg, please call Judith Pliner at (856)816-2174

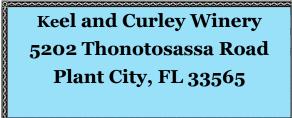
Dinner with the Tribe



Anita Clifford

Whoopie! In November, we're going to a nearby winery for our Dinner With the Tribe. The wines are well regarded and quite delicious! They've won awards and I've seen their wines at Publix. You will be able to enjoy their wines at a wine tasting where **you can sample 8 different wines**.





Saturday, November 19th 3:30 PM Wine Tasting 4:30 PM Dinner/Appetizer

Wine tasting:

Experience Keel and Curley Winery with an immersive wine tasting! You will taste and learn about eight of our signature farm fresh wines. This includes the blueberry wine as well as their award winning fruit fusion wines.

Dining Reservation:

We are still recovering from Hurricane Ian. We apologize for the use of temporary patio tents and limited outside seating. We encourage walk-in seating while we make necessary adjustments.

Book a dining reservation with us to enjoy our farm fresh menu and handcrafted wines, beers, and ciders.

Sign up for the wine tasting which costs \$15.00 + fees (approx. \$21person). You may use the following link. **Please let me know that you've signed up and paid for the wine tasting** <u>niewdnarb@yahoo.com</u>

<u>https://www.keelfarms.com/eat?</u> <u>gclid=CjwKCAjwkaSaBhA4EiwALBgQaAvVIzoZ81C6OUjuSoUkG6qAAeVv</u> <u>CfQoglnD3AGt_IZhP4Oqfrm9NhoCZeMQAvD_BwE</u>

Men's Club



Myron Feldman

Tuesday, November 15th 7:00 PM



Bring the family to The Talking Pint where we will eat, drink, and be merry and cheer on the Lightning.



The Talking Pint Bar & Bistro 13418 Boyette Road Riverview, FL 33569 813/315-9889





Thank you!!



From Maestro's desk ...

Thank you to Jackie and Myron Feldman for putting on a delightful program, Best Friends Day.

It was a wonderful afternoon and all the pets and their hoomans had a great time at a happy event.

However, I wish to express that in my humble opinion, there needed to be more birds in attendance. Birds make excellent best friends as they

tend to be one of the smartest animals in the animal kingdom. It is true we are not furry, but feathers are beautiful, too.

So, thank you again, Jackie and Myron!

B'Ahava,

Maestro



Our Congregation

Yahrzeits



11/1	Robert H.	Gordon	Father	Of	Jane	Hertzberg
11/5	Irene	Freedman	Aunt	Of	Randy	Freedman
11/10	Florence	Finkel	Aunt	Of	Steve	Feldman
11/12	Elisabeth	Ballou	Mother	Of	Christine	Stockelman
11/13	George	Santucci	Husband	Of	Sandy	Santucci
11/14	Rose	Bond	Grandmother	Of	Joanne	Ronay
11/16	Peter	Ronay	Brother	Of	Gary	Ronay
11/16	Stanley	Weiss	Father	Of	Alan	Weiss
11/28	Marshall	Silber	Brother	Of	Joanne	Ronay

Birthdays

Anniversaries

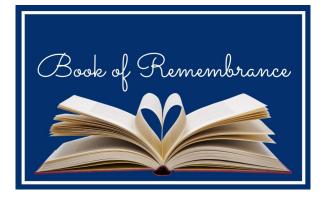
Stephen	Feldman
Howard	Saviet
Ira	Ratner
Julie	Shienbaum
William	Kalbas
Carol Anne	Friedman
	Howard Ira Julie William





Iylene and Jeffrey Miller

Book of Remembrance



Jennifer & Steve Billor Anita Clifford Anna & Stephen Feldman Stephanie Ferry Sheryl & Mark Finke Sheila & Errol Fishman Carol Anne & Dave Friedman Betsy Glickman Arlene & Steven Grey Carol & Steve Hindin Jackie & Bill Kalbas Lynn & Larry Kaler Toby Koch and Alan Weiss Gabe Lifschitz Iylene and Jeff Miller Carole Plesur Judith & Gerry Pliner Carol Roberts Helene Rosenbaum Sandy & Howard Saviet Lee & Sandy Schwartz Ilene Schwartz Seema & Neal Sernovitz Arlena & Bryan Slater Neil Spindo Martino Stino Gail Verlin Alan Webber



High Holiday Donations



Joanna Barbolla Jennifer & Steve Billor **Ruth Bresnick** Franklin J. Clark Anita Clifford Anna & Stephen Feldman Sheryl & Mark Finke Jack Franklin Carol Anne & Dave Friedman Shelda & Bob Higgenbothem Lynn and Larry Kaler **Petie Maguire** Janice Perelman Judith & Gerry Pliner **Carol Roberts** Arleen and Irving Sanders Sandy Santucci Sandy & Howard Saviet Lee & Sandy Schwartz **Michael Spaier** Jan & Bruce Sperry Martino Stino Cheryl & Kevin Walkover Rani Wright



thank yo













Vatican Archives Opened; Letters From Jews Revealed

By Sarah Sachs Moment Magazine

On April 24, 1940, <u>Arthur Pick</u> typed out a letter in crisp black ink and sent it to the Vatican. In the letter, which can now be read on the Vatican library website, he requested help from the pope in securing permission for both him and his wife, Pauline, to flee Italy and enter Brazil. While they were both of the Catholic faith, both had Jewish fathers and were classified as mixed race under Italian law. In his letter (translated from Italian), he writes, "Thanks to the goodness of Reverend Monsignor [Maino], I have been given the attached recommendation to which I permit myself to join my deep and devoted prayer in order that Your Excellency may benevolently care to extend to me and my wife His help to make it possible for us to immigrate to Brazil."

After no response, Pick typed out another letter, in blue ink, referring to his prior correspondence. Again, he emphasized his need for visas, explaining that while he and his wife are both devout Catholics, their half-Jewish status puts them in danger. He mentioned his skills, explaining that he was a gardener and tractor driver and had additional experience in electrical work. In subsequent correspondence, Pick included an additional recommendation letter from Reverend Monsignor Maino.

On August 31, 1940, Pick sent yet another letter, this time in scribbled handwriting. It opened (translated from Italian), "I beg you to take into consideration my letter from today and I permit myself to mention that I have already sent you up until now two letters of recommendation from Monsignor Maino and I am still waiting for a kind and favorable response."

These letters are a few of the thousands recently disentombed from Vatican archives and shared with the general public. In 2020, this collection was made available to scholars, but only in June did the Vatican add a new series, entitled <u>"*Ebrei*</u>," or "Jews," to their publicly accessible online database.

Anyone with a computer can now access the 170 files and nearly 40,000 volumes containing letters that Jews wrote to Pope Pius XII (the correspondence dates from 1939 to 1948) during World War II asking for help. Letters consisting of requests for visas and asylum, information about deported family members and release from detention centers can all be found in the database. In an article published to *Vatican News*, the Secretary for Relations with States and International Organizations, Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher writes, "Making the digitized version of the entire 'Ebrei' series available on the internet will allow the descendants of those who asked for help to find traces of their loved ones from any part of the world. At the same time, it will allow scholars and anyone interested to freely examine this special archival heritage from a distance."

The conversation surrounding the Vatican's exact role during the Holocaust has a long and volatile history. Pulitzer-Prize-winning author and historian <u>David Kertzer</u>, who has spent a large part of the last 25 years writing books on the history of the Vatican related to World War II based on archival material, says this is not the first time the Vatican has released previously undisclosed documents. Starting in 1963, the Vatican began releasing an <u>11-volume collection</u> of the pontiff's wartime documents after a German play titled *The Deputy*, about the Vatican's silence during the Holocaust, led to intense criticism from the general public. When it comes to deciding to release documents, the Vatican operates differently than other archival systems.

"Generally state archives and other kinds of archives have a rule that a certain number of years have to pass before they'll open the material," says Kertzer. "But the Vatican doesn't work that way." Previously unopened archives are divided by papacy and when they are released, everything in the papacy is released at once. The current pope decides when to open these documents.

Vatican Archives Opened; Letters From Jews Revealed

When the Vatican does decide to release archival documents, it is usually reserved solely for historians and scholars who need to to apply for access. Kertzer noted that the Vatican is most likely releasing it to the general public to take control of the narrative surrounding Pius XII. In June of this year, Kertzer released his new book titled, <u>*The Pope At War*</u>, about Pope Pius XII and his actions during World War II. This book takes a critical look at the actions the pope did and didn't take during the war.

"The new book came out in Italy at the end of May a couple of weeks before it came out in the United States. It immediately provoked a strong attack from the Vatican." The Vatican hopes that these archives from World War II will put Pius XII in a more positive light and show that he did all he could to save Jews.

The Vatican's heroic narrative has been the main cause for criticism over the years. Its official line and that of many conservatives within the church is that the pope's silence during the Holocaust actually helped save many lives, says Kertzer. If Pius XII had spoken out, it would have resulted in more Jewish deaths; by staying silent, he was able to work behind the scenes to save them.

"What's known and can't be denied is that the pope never denounced the Nazis," Kertzer contends. "In trying to justify the racial laws in Italy, the fascist regime made heavy use of the church." Prior to the facist takeover, Italy did not have many antisemitic laws or measures. The facist regime justified these new racial laws by comparing it to the time when the pope had rule over the papal states and Jews were barred from certain professions and social circles.

Still, there is much to garner from the thousands of pages of newly released evidence. A noteworthy discovery is that a majority of the pleas are in fact from Catholics, not Jews. They are baptized Jews or descendents of Jews who ultimately identify as Catholic. Even so, they are being affected by the country's racial laws and potential deportation and extermination due to their Jewish status.

"What I see in these [archives] is the Vatican can be involved in the selection of who should live and who should die. Who should be persecuted, who shouldn't?" says Kertzer, noting that the archives include hundreds and hundreds of copies of baptismal certificates . "That's the most common document you'll find, as people are trying to escape persecution by showing they're not really Jewish, they're Catholic."

One of these stories comes from <u>Hareld Maresch</u> in a letter written on January 9, 1940. He was an Austrian actor, writer and director who at the time was residing in Marseille, France. His professional history included radio broadcasting in Vienna, propaganda broadcasting in Paris and theater in Prague. In these documents, Maresch requested help in obtaining a Brazilian immigration visa and travel documents to facilitate his transit through Portugal and Spain. He also requested an exit visa from France.

Another document comes from <u>Clara Heger</u> in a letter dated December 12,1940. Heger and her 19-year-old daughter resided in Milan, Italy, and her husband was in a concentration camp. In this letter, she requests assistance in releasing her husband and getting visas for her family to join her sister in Brazil. Her sister's husband is Aryan and her sister has been baptized in the Cathlolic faith for 26 years. She pleads for help from the Vatican as her Jewish status prohibits her from getting the visas. In the letter (translated from German), she states, "Now it is my only and greatest wish to get my family to Brazil and to get my husband out of the concentration camp and I ask you sincerely to help me achieve this." She includes her sister's contact information to strengthen her case.

In terms of what history is still hidden, there is no definite way of knowing. Kertzer notes that when he met with the head of the main archives of the Vatican a number of years ago, the man explained that they don't make sensitive personnel files available to researchers. Additionally, Kertzter adds that Pope Pius XII was a very cautious man, careful of what got put down in writing. If he thought it was compromising, it would not be recorded.

"It's not a question of whether sensitive documents have been put in some secret place that we don't get to see them. Some things just probably were never written down."



Our Evev Shabbat service will begin at 6:00 PM on Veteran's Day, November 11. Immediately after the service we will be having dairy pot luck dinner. Let us know what you plan to bring by contacting Julie Shienbaum at 813/215-3381 or email cbs-brandon@outlook.com



Holocaust Museum

We are going to St Petersburg on Sunday, November 27, 2022. We will be touring the Holocaust Museum with a docent dedicated to us. The theme of the tour is: The Jewish pain experience of late 1930's and early 1940's in Europe. The tour will start at 11:00am. It will last about 2 hours. Following the tour, we will eat lunch and wonder around the Downtown area. Admission to the museum is \$9.00.(pay at the door). Carpooling will be arranged. We will leave Brandon/Hillsborough County at 9:30am. Please register with 813-215-3381 Julie Shienbaum at email or **U**S at cbs-brandon@outlook.com. You do not have to be a member of CBS to join us. However, the docent has requested that the group be no larger than 20 women. So, be sure to sign up early.



Jewish Heritage Night



Jewish Heritage Night

December 15 | 7:00 PM



CKET

EER

18

TICKETS ONLY \$38!

Your ticket includes a custom Lightning pin and a kosher meal on the Budweiser Biergarten available until the start of the 2nd period. There will be a symbolic menorah Lighting on the plaza at approximately 6:15pm



CUSTOM LIGHTNING PIN INCLUDED!

To purchase tickets contact Ben Salo at 813-301-6623 or email bsalo@viniksportsgroup.com



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Jewish Life Festival

Please join Suncoast Hillels for our first-ever Jewish Life Festival event - to benefit USF Hillel, on **Sunday afternoon**, **November 13**, **2022**, **from 1-3pm**, **at the Hillel Jewish Student Center** (located at 13101 USF Sycamore Drive on the USF Tampa campus). The Jewish Life Festival is an in-person, family-oriented afternoon of fun and festivities for our entire community. Cost to attend is \$18 per person or \$72 per family (max 5 people). Visit <u>www.suncoasthillels.org/jewish-life-festival</u> to purchase tickets, sign up for a corporate/individual sponsorship, or make a donation for our incredible chance drawing package. For more information, contact Suncoast Hillels at (813) 899-2788 or <u>shalom@suncoasthillels.org</u>.



Organization Tabling, Israel Education, Ice Cream Challenge, Photo Booth, Dunk Tank, Competitive Contests & Games, Disney & Marvel Characters for Kids, Big Screen TV for Sunday Football Fanatics, Chance Drawing, Bounce House, Face Painting, Caricature Artist, Airbrush T-Shirt Artist and More!

An in person event open to the community.



Morris & Bertha Escoll Center for Jewish Campus Life For more information visit Suncoasthillels.org

Jewish Life

Festival

Silent Auction

opens October 17th closes November 13th

Virtual Jewish Caregive Support Group

First Thursday of the Month 10:00–11:30 am

This virtual support group provides a county-wide opportunity for caregivers to share their experience and receive inspiration, guidance and support through a Jewish lens.

Facilitators: Kelly Siegel and Sandi Sunter

To register for a Zoom link or for more information contact Kelly Siegel at (727) 735-8743 or email KellySiegel@EmpathHealth.org.

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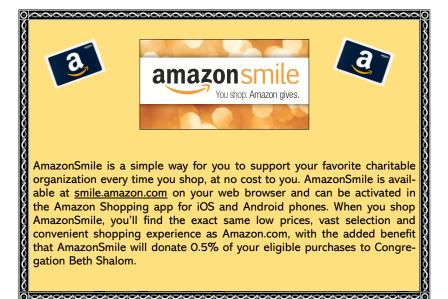
Your ad for selling household items benefits CBS

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 7:00 PM
- ☆ Complete B'nai Mitzvah preparation
- ✤ Adult Education classes
- ☆ Community-wide events
- ✿ Community Food Bank



Time for a Nosh

An Even Greater Caesar Salad

Bon Appetit 2004



I've been making this recipe for my family for years. Of course, I've come to adapt it a little bit to our preferences. When Laura was home, I'd add in extra garlic. Now that she is living in New York, I've cut the garlic down in half! I've also made the croutons like the recipe directs only once, having preferred them baked plainly or store bought. The extra grease was unnecessary and so was washing an extra pan. I hope you like this recipe!

INGREDIENTS:

7 garlic cloves - Divided

3/4 cup mayonnaise

4 canned anchovy fillets

2 tablespoons plus 1/3 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese - Divided

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

1/4 cup olive oil

4 cups 3/4-inch bread cubes (made from day-old bread, crusts trimmed)

1 large head romaine lettuce, cut into bite-size pieces

Step 1

Mince 3 garlic cloves in processor. Add mayonnaise, anchovies with capers, 2 tablespoons Parmesan cheese, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce and mustard and process to blend. Transfer to medium bowl. Season with salt and pepper.

Step 2

Heat oil in a heavy large skillet over low heat. Cut the remaining 4 garlic cloves in half. Add to skillet and cook until garlic is golden brown, stirring frequently, about 8 minutes. Using slotted spoon, remove garlic from skillet and discard. Add bread cubes to skillet and cook over low heat until golden brown, stirring frequently, about 15 minutes. Remove from heat. Season with salt and pepper. Cool to room temperature.

Step 3

Place lettuce in large bowl. Toss with enough dressing to coat. Add the remaining 1/3 cup parmesan cheese and croutons and toss gently to blend. Divide salad among 4 plates and serve.





November

		1 6:30 Executive Board Mtg 7:00 Board Mtg	2	3 9-10:30 AM Jewish Caregiver Support Group	4 7:00 PM Shabbat Service	5 Movie Night
				7:00 PM Adult Education		Parashat Lech- Lecha
6 10:00 Religious School	7	8	9	10	11 7:00 PM Shabbat Service Honoring Our Veterans	12
				7:00 PM Adult Education		Parashat Vayera
13 10:00 Religious School 1—3 PM Suncoast Hillel	14	15	16	17	18 7:00 PM Shabbat Service	19
Jewish Life Festival				7:00 PM Adult Education		Parashat Chayei Sara
20 10:00 Religious School	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25 7:00 PM Shabbat Service	26
Food Bank 1-3						Parashat Toldot
27 10:00 Religious School	28	29	30			