

# The Kibbitzer

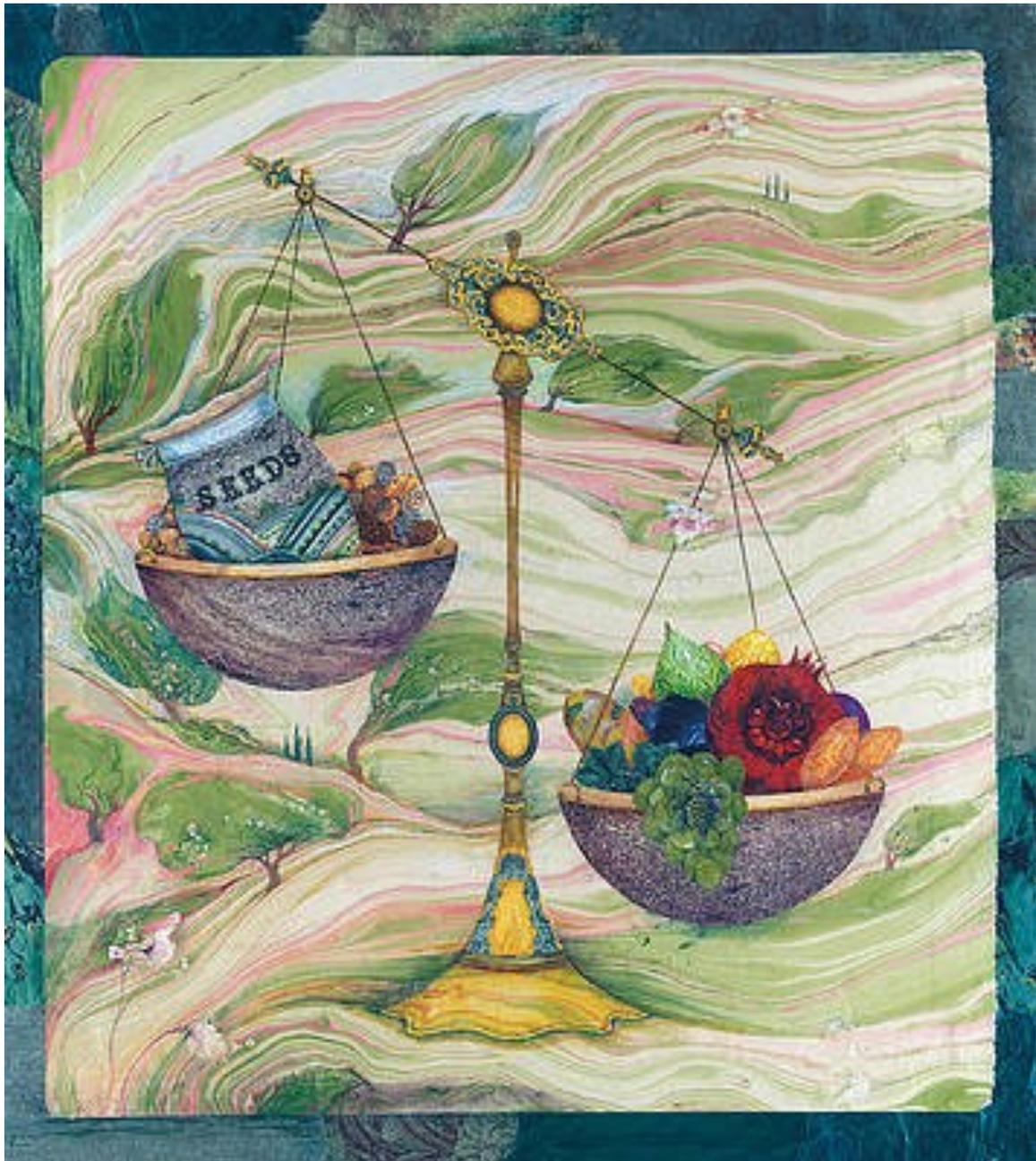
**Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon**

706 Bryan Road, Brandon, FL 33511

Phone (813) 681-6547

[www.BethShalomBrandon.org](http://www.BethShalomBrandon.org)

January 2024 Volume 34 Issue 9



Tu B'shvat by Michael Muchnik

# Table of Contents

Page 1	Cover Page
Page 2	Table of Contents
Page 3	From the Rabbi's Desk
Page 4	President's Page
Page 5	Candle Lighting Times/Onegs
Page 6	Shabbat Morning Service
Page 7	CBS Business
Page 8	CBS Organization
Page 9	Building and Grounds
Page 10	Dinner With the Tribe/Tot Shabbat
Page 11	Women of Distinction/Donations
Page 12	Our Congregation
Page 13	Dead Sea Scrolls
Page 14	Elisha Wiesel - Opinion - Page 1
Page 15	Elisha Wiesel - Opinion - Page 2
Page 16	Tu B'Shvat
Page 17	Tu B'Shvat Seder
Page 18	National Puzzle Dau
Page 19	International Holocaust Remembrance Day
Page 20	CBS Committees
Page 21	Advertising
Page 22	CBS Types of Donations
Page 23	Adopt a Cleaning Month
Page 24	Time for a Nosh - Turmeric-Ginger Soup
Page 25	December Calendar



## From the Rabbi's desk...



January 25, 2024, is the holiday of Tu'B'Shevat which is the celebration of the trees. Springtime is arriving in Israel and now is the time for planting because of the very moist and rich soil. We come to learn that the Bible mentions seven species which are wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and honey and we also come to learn in the Bible not to destroy trees even in battle.

There is another name given for Tu'B'Shevat which is Rosh Hashanah LaIllanot which means The New Year of The Trees. We celebrate by eating almonds, raisins, figs, dates, and carobs. Israel also relies on its fruit trees so they can export its fruit to other countries and in return this will benefit the Israeli economy. We are so grateful for the trees for providing forests, lumber, and shade.

Let us continue to beautify this mitzvah and to do G-d's will because G-d is always watching our every action. He reads our innermost thoughts and sees our every move. May our Neshamas – (*Souls*) wake up and disconnect from G-d.



We are at a time of growing antisemitism and great struggle in the Middle East as well as here. How are we supposed to confront that level of prejudice and misunderstanding while also showing compassion?

This is a very scary time for the Jewish Community with the recent rise in antisemitism. The truth is the best way to combat this hatred is to speak out. However, it should be our Jewish Community and everyone else. When one group is persecuted, it is an assault on all of us as Americans.

When any group is attacked because of religion or race we as a Jewish Community need to speak out in support of them. When we all shout out against any sort of injustice then those who perpetrate this hatred will understand the outcry. They will understand that persecuting one group is equal to persecuting all of them. Life is so much less scary when we are facing it alongside others who will support us in all of our hurdles.

B'Shalom - In Peace

Rabbi Lefkowitz

# The President's Corner



**Steve Billor**

Shalom Everybody!

We have had a busy month in November and are moving into December. Our Board keeps moving forward with the tedious work involved in getting our Security Grant activated and getting some projects lined up. We all balanced out our time between our immediate families and our Congregational family during Thanksgiving. We had wonderful services throughout the month and continue to balance our lives, with what is happening in Israel.

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, several of us celebrated with our award recipient Carol Anne Friedman at Congregation Kol Ami. Carol Anne was awarded "Lady of Distinction" for all the hard work she has put in at CBS. It was a beautiful award ceremony and celebration, and I was so honored and happy to be there for and with Carol Anne and Dave Friedman.

Since this article is written in advance, I am hoping we have/had a nice turnout for our Chanukah candle lighting service and "Taste of Chanukah" Oneg following our Friday night service. I will provide an update in next month's article on how it turned out. We continue to attract new families to join CBS and have a new family expecting to start with us in December 2023. They have two (2) children that will be requiring a Bat Mitzvah. This is what we all have been hoping and praying for to help keep the legacy of CBS alive for future generations.

I would like to end another article with my previous challenge. I continue to challenge you to bring a new member, or previous member to Congregation Beth Shalom and let them experience or re-experience our CBS magic. We are increasing our membership and welcoming new families to our CBS family monthly.

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



**Friday, December 8th**  
**Chanukah Oneg**

# Candle Lighting Times

Friday, January 5	5:26 PM	Shemot
Friday, January 12	5:31 PM	Va'eira
Friday, January 19	5:36 PM	Bo
Friday, January 26	5:42 PM	Beshalach



# Oneg Schedule

## January Sponsors

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

Talmud, Mo'eJ Katan

<b>January 5</b>	CBS Congregation	Please bring a dish to share
<b>January 12</b>	CBS Congregation	Please bring a dish to share
<b>January 19</b>	CBS Congregation	Please bring a dish to share
<b>January 26</b>	CBS Congregation	Please bring a dish to share

**If you'd like to sponsor an oneg, please call**

**Anna Feldman at (707)628-5399**





# *Shabbat Morning Service*

*Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 10:00 AM*

*Morning Shabbat Services will be held quarterly. The morning service will be in lieu of the erev Shabbat services on Friday nights.*

# CBS Business

## 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.

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/89710744448?pwd=dkpTR2RFcGtNzdzVFc1Uk5wMFpiQT09>

Meeting ID: 897 1074 4448  
Passcode: 721348

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/>

The Mishkan Tefilla (Siddur) is available at: <https://www.ccarnet.org/publications/mishkantfilahforshabbat/>



## Advertise in

## The Kibbitzer

Business Card - \$20/month.

To reserve your place in the next issue,  
email John Zelatis at

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

CBS office at

813-681-6547.

## CBS Office Hours

The administrative office is currently open by appointment only. We can be reached at [cbsbrandon@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 4072226393 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](mailto:thekibbitzer@hotmail.com) with their name and accomplishment, engagement or birth. It's important during these times to see the good in our community.



**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**

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**Secretary**

Neil Spindel

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Anita Clifford

Dave Friedman

Lynn Kaler

Gabe Lifschitz

***The Kibbitzer***

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 Congregation Beth Shalom  
 706 Bryan Road  
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 Email: CBSbrandon@outlook.com

Email and articles for publication:  
 TheKibbitzer@hotmail.com  
 For current news and events  
 see the congregation's website:  
<http://www.bethshalombrandon.org>  
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**Congregation Contacts**

(813)681-6547 • CBSbrandon@outlook.com

**Office hours:**

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

**Weekly Email Blast submissions**[bethshalominfo@gmail.com](mailto:bethshalominfo@gmail.com)**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.*

# Building and Grounds



Gabe Lifschitz

To those of you who help keep the temple maintained, clean, and tidy, a huge thank you, and keep up the very good work. Our temple may not be the biggest and it may not be the smallest (Congregation Beth Israel in Honesdale, Pennsylvania). Our temple is certainly there to offer the learning of Torah to anyone who wishes to go inside its walls, a feeling of warmth to share with fellow congregants and support to those in need.

I need your help to keep the temple in good repair to keep fulfilling our mission in the community. Here is the plan to get some things completed in the list reported every month.

Dates and Times:

Sunday, January 14, 2024, 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Monday, January 15, 2024, Martin Luther King Holiday, 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Location: Congregation Beth Shalom

List of items.

1. South gutter temporary repair. This project is to clear debris from the gutter, wash, and then reseal to confirm the gutter does not leak for a couple of years until we can gather donations for a long-term repair.
2. Fundraising to replace the failing compressor in the large rooftop unit. Since July of 2022, we have held off on replacing the compressor due to the high repair costs. If you know someone who can work with us to replace the compressor, please send me an email to: [cbs-building@outlook.com](mailto:cbs-building@outlook.com)
3. Other small jobs. No later than late January we need to replace failed exhaust fans in the restrooms .
4. Clearing around the temple grounds and general housekeeping. Even though there is a contract to do lawn care and weeding, there are areas outside the scope of work, and we could use some help. One of the classrooms needs housekeeping to organize chairs and relocate chairs to storage. If you know a teen who is not in the Boy Scouts and needs to do community hours, send me an email to: [cbs-building@outlook.com](mailto:cbs-building@outlook.com). Thank you!

Regards,

Gabe Lifschitz



# Dinner With the Tribe



Anita Clifford

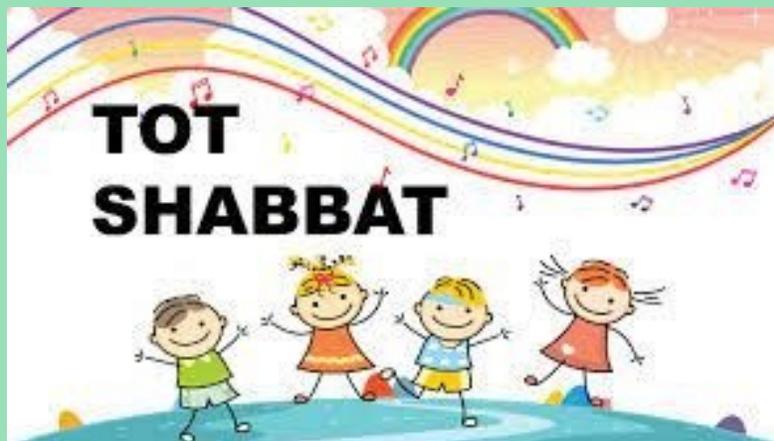
## Yummy House China Bistro



**Yummy House**  
**2620 E Hillsborough Ave**  
**Tampa, FL 33610**

**Saturday**  
**January 13, 2023**  
**7:00 PM**

We've all been here before, and there's a reason we go back. That reason is that Yummy House has the best Chinese food in the Tampa area. It's not New York, but it's great for this area. So, come and join us as we have our Chinese food fix. Please let Anita Clifford know at [niewdnarb@yahoo.com](mailto:niewdnarb@yahoo.com) that you'll be there so she can save a seat for you.



Friday, January 12th at 6:30 PM Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon will have a Tot Shabbat. Toddlers, preschoolers, and children in early grades of elementary school are all welcome. Rabbi Lefkowitz and Cantorial Soloist, Sandy Santucci will be running the program.

# Women of Distinction

## Carol Anne Friedman



“Since joining Congregation Beth Shalom in 2008, Carol Anne has been an active and dedicated member, contributing her time and talents in various capacities. She has been an asset to the community, serving on the Fundraising and Ritual committees, and assisting with Membership efforts. During Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Carol Anne warmly welcomed High Holy Day worshipers to Services, reflecting on her inviting and inclusive demeanor, which has greatly benefited the congregation.

Carol Anne has played a pivotal role in coordinating and assisting with Beth Shalom’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. She also took charge of orchestrating the Yom Kippur Break-Fast and continues to manage this responsibility with great dedication. Additionally, during Beth Shalom’s search for a new Rabbi, Carol Anne handled catering orders and provided crucial support for the setup and cleanup of events with visiting Rabbis.

More recently, Carol Ann stepped up to assist with updating and distributing the Temple’s weekly Newsletter, and she has taken on the important task of mailing out Yahrzeit notifications to the congregation, showcasing her

commitment to keeping the community informed and connected.

Beyond her involvement with the Synagogue, Carol Anne’s volunteer spirit extends to her community and family life. She served as the Secretary of her HOA Board, and during her daughter’s school years, she actively participated on the Orchestra Board and served as the PTA treasurer. Most notably, Carol Anne began contributing her time to make and deliver sandwiches to a local church, providing nourishment to those in need and embodying the spirit of giving.

Carol Anne and her husband, Dave, are proud parents to two daughters, Alex and Mallory, as well as a son-in-law, Rick.

# Donations

### In Loving Memory:

**Milton Richter**  
Neil Spindel

### Food Bank:

Arlene & Steven Grey



# Our Congregation

## Yahrzeits



1/4	Marilyn	Stockelman	Mother-in-Law	Of	Christine	Stockelman
1/4	Virginia	Finke	Mother	Of	Mark	Finke
1/6	Sally	Bloom	Mother	Of	Gail	Verlin
1/8	Louis	Verlin	Father-In-Law	Of	Gail	Verlin
1/9	Bob	Finkel	Cousin	Of	Steve	Feldman
1/12	Aline	Brandwein	Mother	Of	Anita	Clifford
1/15	Selma	Sperry	Mother	Of	Bruce	Sperry
1/16	Myna	Kalbas	Mother	Of	Bill	Kalbas
1/17	David	Brill	Grandfather	Of	Myron	Feldman
1/18	Lawrence	Gould	Brother	Of	Sandra	Saviet
1/19	Irving	Melcer	Father	Of	Marshall	Melcer
1/19	Meyer	Bloom	Father	Of	Gail	Verlin
1/21	Pearl	Brill	Grandmother	Of	Myron	Feldman
1/21	Sol	Zweibach	Father	Of	Stephen	Zweibach
1/27	Vivian	Kay	Grandmother	Of	Iylene	Miller
1/28	Florence	Workman	Mother	Of	Anna	Feldman
1/30	Eugene	Becker	Father	Of	Lynn	Kaler

## Birthdays

1/2	Jason	Howard
1/4	Sharon	Aronson
1/19	Danita	Freedman
1/20	Christina	Frye
1/24	Stephen	Yavelow



## Anniversaries

1/5 Sandy & Lee Schwartz



# Dead Sea Scrolls



Visitors examine a display of the Dead Sea Scrolls in the Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GALI TIBBON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

When the Dead Sea Scrolls were first discovered, access was limited to select biblical specialists. All that has changed, and today they are available to everyone with just a few clicks on computer or device. Here are two good resources.

Israel Museum and Google. In 2012, the Israel Museum in Jerusalem teamed up with Google to create high-resolution images of the Dead Sea Scrolls and make them available in the public domain. The scrolls currently posted on the Israel Museum’s website include the Great Isaiah Scroll, one of the original seven Dead Sea Scrolls found at Qumran in 1947, which is by far the largest and also best preserved of all scrolls. Another digitized text is the War Scroll, about a conflict between the “Sons of Light” and the “Sons of Darkness.” The other three scrolls on the site are the pesher (or commentary) on Habakkuk, the Temple Scroll, and the Community Rule Scroll, which are the most famous scrolls from the Qumran collection.

Leon Levy Dead Sea Scrolls website. This important online library, launched in 2021 by the Israel Antiquities Authority, makes thousands of scroll fragments available to everyone.

NationalGeographic.com

# Elisha Wiesel - Opinion

## My father, Elie Wiesel, survived Auschwitz. He'd ask these questions about Israel-Hamas war.

*The conflict between Israelis and Palestinians carries heavy pain on both sides, but the history of who offered and who rejected peace must be acknowledged if we are to move forward.*

Elisha Wiesel Opinion contributor to USA Today

In his autobiographical book, "Night," my father, Elie Wiesel, described the daily horror he and more than a million other Jews suffered in Auschwitz, the most infamous Nazi death camp. My father's testimony is especially relevant now in the aftermath of Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, the worst inflicted on Jewish people since the Holocaust.

I encourage teachers to assign "Night" and to invite their students to engage in hard conversations and ask impossible questions about evil and humanity. I invite adults to read the book and to ask hard questions of themselves and others as well.

If my father's story grips you, understand that the Holocaust did not happen in a vacuum. Learn and confront the tragic history of antisemitism and the blood libel, the centuries-old accusation that Jews murder the innocent. And learn who my father was.

My father was a writer who became an activist and a Nobel Peace Prize winner. He was a proud Jew who felt compelled to fight suffering everywhere. He spoke up for the victims of genocide in Sudan and Rwanda and challenged President Bill Clinton to address the suffering of Bosnian Muslims.

My father was a passionate Zionist who believed Israel was the only guarantee our people had against a second Holocaust. He not only acknowledged Palestinian suffering in his Nobel Prize acceptance speech, but he also dreamed of peace openly, hosting dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian leaders to accelerate its arrival.

My father testified to the world that Holocaust deniers should be known as enemies of truth and decency. And now I ask you to bear witness.

Last month, the world got a preview of the massacres Hamas is capable of. Infants were killed and their bodies desecrated; women were raped and broken. Terrorists once again tried to kill the dream of peace many Israelis and Palestinians share.

Please learn about the victims of Hamas terror, many of whom were dancing for peace. Watch the videos showing young Gazan children being taught to worship terror. Listen to the words of Hamas leaders declaring that Gazans seek martyrdom, while Israel issues warnings to avoid civilian casualties.

Witness the moral courage of President Joe Biden as he rejects a modern blood libel, where Israel stands accused of having bombed a hospital.

# Elisha Wiesel - Opinion page 2

**False accusation:** Media helped spread blood libel against Israel, Jews in Gaza hospital news coverage

## Hamas and Israel are not morally equivalent

Remember all this for when someone tries to convince you that there is moral equivalence between Hamas and Israel.

For those on America's college campuses, you may encounter professors such as the ones at Columbia, Cornell and Yale who recently described the appalling attacks by Hamas as “awesome,” “exhilarating” and “an extraordinary day.”

You also may encounter students such as the ones at University of Pennsylvania and Harvard who claim Hamas' murderous assault was justified. And you may even be subjected to threats of antisemitic violence as happened at Cornell University this past weekend.

## Ask questions of those who justify violence by Hamas

Here are some questions to ask those who try to justify Hamas' violence:

When you chant that Palestine should be free "from the river to the sea," what does that mean?  
What happened after Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza in 2005?

What is the stated goal of Hamas?

How should Israel defend its population when Hamas hides behind civilians?

What would happen to Israel if it pulled completely out of the West Bank tomorrow, as it did with Gaza?

Ask these hard questions and others. And be smart enough to know when someone is telling a half-truth. Do your research.

## Wake up, America. How Hamas trumped Netanyahu holds lesson for divided United States

The conflict between Israelis and Palestinians carries heavy pain on both sides. But the history of who offered and who rejected peace must be acknowledged if we are to move forward.

And the clarity of seeing who each of us is in the United States in this moment has never been more vital if America is to move forward. Who are the antisemites engaged in modern blood libel by falsely accusing Israel of genocide? Who stands up to oppose them? And who stands by silently, as so many did in the Holocaust?

I often hear from people: “If only your father were still here!”

My father loved questions more than answers. He is no longer here to ask them.

But you are.

# Tu B'Shvat

In 2024, Tu B'Shvat begins at sundown on Wednesday, Jan. 24 and ends at sundown on Thursday, Jan. 25.

Tu B'Shvat or the “birthday” of all fruit trees, is a minor festival. The name is Hebrew for the 15th of the Hebrew month of Shevat.

In ancient times, Tu B'Shvat was merely a date on the calendar that helped Jewish farmers establish exactly when they should bring their fourth-year produce of fruit from recently planted trees to the Temple as first-fruit offerings

## The Tu B'Shvat Seder

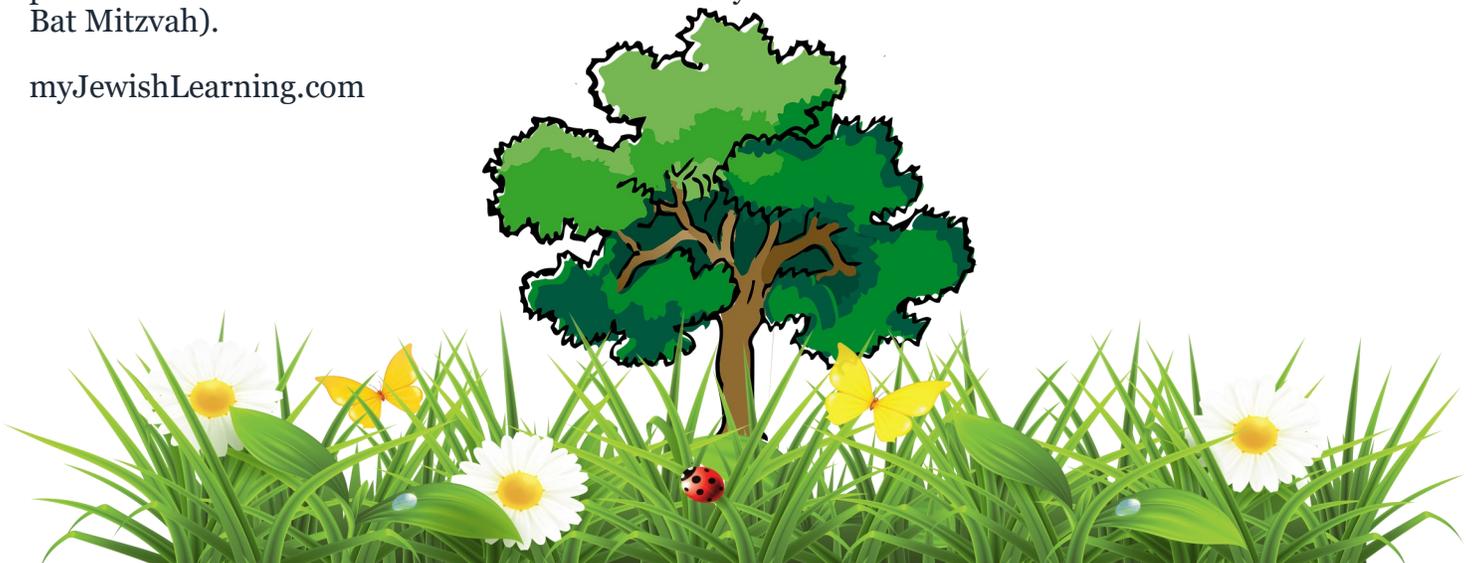
In the 16th century, the Kabbalists (mystics) of Tzfat (the city of Safed) in the Land of Israel created a new ritual to celebrate Tu B'Shvat called the Feast of Fruits. Modeled on the Passover seder, participants would read selections from the Hebrew Bible and Rabbinic literature, and would eat fruits and nuts traditionally associated with the land of Israel. The Kabbalists also gave a prominent place to almonds in the Tu B'Shvat seder, since the almond trees were believed to be the first of all trees in Israel to blossom. Carob, also known as bokser or St. John's bread, became another popular fruit to eat on Tu B'Shvat, since it could survive the long trip from Israel to Jewish communities in Europe. Participants in the kabbalistic seder would also drink four cups of wine: white wine (to symbolize winter), white with some red (a harbinger of the coming of spring); red with some white (early spring) and finally all red (spring and summer).

Complete with biblical and rabbinic readings, these kabbalists produced a Tu B'Shvat Haggadah in 1753 called “Pri Etz Hadar” or “Fruit of the Goodly Tree.”

The early Zionists seized upon Tu B'Shvat as an opportunity to celebrate their tree-planting efforts to restore the ecology of ancient Israel and as a symbol of renewed growth and flowering of the Jewish people returning to their ancestral homeland.

In modern times, Tu B'Shvat continues to be an opportunity for planting trees — in Israel and elsewhere, wherever Jews live. Many American and European Jews observe Tu B'Shvat by contributing money to the Jewish National Fund, an organization devoted to reforesting Israel (the purchase of trees in JNF forests is also customary to commemorate a celebration such as a Bar or Bat Mitzvah).

myJewishLearning.com



# Have a Tu B'Shvat Seder!

## Celebrate Tu BiSh'vat with a Seder!



**ReformJudaism.org**  
Jewish Life in Your Life



### WHITE AND RED GRAPE JUICE OR WINE (ENOUGH FOR FOUR SMALL GLASSES PER PERSON)

A Tu B'Shvat seder, full of imagery and symbolism, is often divided into four sections that represent the four seasons. As with the Passover seder, the Tu B'Shvat seder evolved to include four cups of wine or grape juice, but in varying shades of red, which represent the seasons: white for the bleak time of winter, white with a bit of red to represent the earth's awakening in early spring, red with a bit of white representing the blossoming of late spring, and dark red to represent the fullness of all the growing plants and vegetation along with the heat of summer.

For adult or older teen participants, the seder are sometimes also divided into four mystical "spheres," each of which represents a different relationship between humans and the earth:

*Assiya* (Actualization)  
*Yetzira* (Formation)  
*Beriah* (Creation)  
*Atzilut* (Nobility)

### TASTINGS OF THREE CATEGORIES OF FRUITS OR NUTS

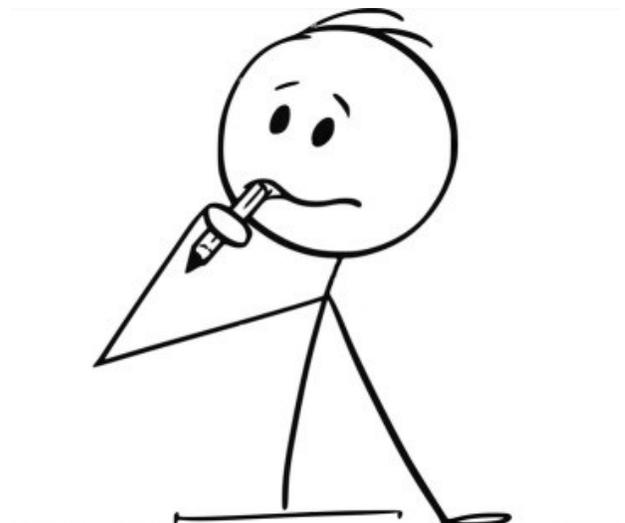
1. Those with an inedible outer covering and edible inside: melons, nuts, pomegranates, coconuts, citrus, bananas, etc.
2. Those with an edible outside but inedible pit inside: dates, olives, plums, peaches, apples, avocados, nectarines, pears, etc.
3. Those that are entirely edible: berries, figs, grapes, etc. These categories are said to represent different seasons and/or ways of being in the world, often following kabbalistic categories.



# National Puzzle Day

B	P	R	N	A	U	T	N	O	T	R	O	D	E
N	U	A	E	R	T	U	O	M	O	O	P	A	M
E	H	B	R	O	A	A	A	N	H	O	A	O	I
X	I	B	T	N	B	B	R	I	R	R	M	O	E
E	N	I	A	H	B	I	I	P	E	T	E	G	H
U	O	K	M	A	A	T	O	O	F	H	H	I	S
G	O	A	I	K	H	R	R	T	O	O	S	N	R
O	O	S	D	O	S	H	E	E	R	D	N	I	O
G	K	H	B	D	T	D	E	N	M	O	S	I	H
A	I	R	H	E	R	X	T	C	N	X	I	N	R
N	P	U	B	S	A	E	N	E	A	E	K	B	I
Y	P	T	R	H	O	N	A	H	T	R	H	H	I
S	A	H	T	R	O	T	M	H	B	S	I	G	S
P	H	E	P	U	M	O	B	R	O	P	B	H	H

OMNIPOTENCE  
 ARON HAKODESH  
 SYNAGOGUE  
 KASHRUT  
 KIPPAH  
 SHEMA  
 RABBI  
 REFORM  
 ORTHODOX  
 SHABBAT  
 NER TAMID



# International Holocaust Remembrance Day

January 27 is designated by the United Nations General Assembly as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Since 2005, the UN and its member states have held commemoration ceremonies to mark the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and to honor the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism. The same resolution supports the development of educational programs to remember the Holocaust and to prevent further genocide.

“And at some point in the distance we noticed the silhouettes of white-clad men who were walking towards the camp. We were not sure who these men were, and we even feared that it might be the Germans who wanted to eliminate us. (...) Immediately there were shouts of «zdravstvuyte tovarishchi» [hello comrades]. The Soviet soldiers told us not to be afraid, because «germantsov net» [Germans are gone]”, recalled a former Polish prisoner, Wanda Dрамиńska.

On January 27, 1945, the Auschwitz camp was liberated by the soldiers of the 100th and 322nd Rifle Divisions of the Soviet 60th Army. Horse scouts were the first to reach the German concentration and extermination camp. After short fights with the retreating German troops in the town of Oświęcim, during which 299 Soviet soldiers were killed, both camps – [Auschwitz](#) and Birkenau – were liberated around 3 PM.

At that time, there were approximately 7,000 prisoners in the liberated Auschwitz, Birkenau and Monowitz camps. They were mostly Jews, besides Poles, Belarusians and Russians – those who were unable to go west in the SS death marches. Poles who originated from nearby towns and had the strength to walk returned to their homes. Some fled because they were afraid of the return of the Germans. Inhabitants of Oświęcim and its vicinity crossed the barriers of the camp to see its interior with their own eyes and to help the prisoners. They took particular care of Jewish, Polish and Belarusian children, of whom there were over 500 in Auschwitz, including about 60 born in the camp. Some of the children were adopted by them, some found their original families.

Two Soviet field hospitals came to Auschwitz, and with the help of the Polish Red Cross, they took care of approx. 4,500 sick former prisoners, citizens of over 20 countries. These people suffered from tuberculosis, hunger diarrhea and other diseases, and were extremely starved. "The adults weighed an average of 30-35 kg," writes Andrzej Strzelecki. – "As late as May 1945, one female former prisoner, born in 1914, who was 160 cm tall, weighed 25 kg, and another who was 155 cm tall weighed 23 kg." From January 28, Soviet and Polish filmmakers shot a movie documenting German crimes in the liberated camp.

"It is impossible to describe in human words the meeting of the imprisoned, saved from certain death, with their liberators," recalled Regina Grimberg, a French Jew who belonged to the resistance movement in occupied France. – "Soviet officers and soldiers in rags, exhausted, freezing cold, but victorious, cried like little children at the sight of piles of corpses in front of barracks and people in agony, resembling skeletons, stacked on bunks. The female prisoners screamed, sobbed, and lovingly touched the clothes of their liberators to find out that these people were real, and kissed their hands."

"It may be sorry to say, but it is no big deal for a soldier during an offensive to see bodies of the dead, he had seen enough of them after all. But it was different here. These people did not die in the fight – it showed. A pile of emaciated bodies against the wall of the barracks. Snow has already covered them. And then a group of those who were shot. Men, women" – recalled the Soviet lieutenant Yuri Ilinsky. – "Children... children behind the wires. It left the strongest impression on me, on my soldiers. A whole crowd of children. From tiny two or three-year-olds to teenagers. Skinny, ragged, sick, hungry. We gave them everything that was in our backpacks."

"The children make a terrifying sight. Prematurely devastated organisms, aged, with sunken eyes. And yet these children screamed and played" – recalled Polish doctor Tadeusz Chowaniec.

<https://www.jhi.pl/en/articles/impossible-to-describe-liberation-auschwitz-january-27-1945,4900>

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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 contribute, 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, AdoptABook, Tree of Life (unless otherwise indicated) and other nonrestricted 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 Rab-

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:

- **AdoptABook:** 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.

## Congregation Beth Shalom - Donation Form

At times of sorrow & memory, as well as at times of joy, tradition teaches us that we honor others by giving of tzedakah. Please return your completed donation form to the temple office.

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\$18 \_\_\_\_\_ \$36 \_\_\_\_\_ \$54 \_\_\_\_\_ \$180 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Designated Fund:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund   | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Group Fund                  |
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- |  |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> My check is enclosed<br><input type="checkbox"/> Please bill me |
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**"Tzedakah weighs as much as all the other commandments combined" - Talmud**

Congregation Beth Shalom 706 Bryan Rd. Brandon, FL 33511 813-681-6547

# Adopt a Month



It is nice to come home to a clean house. CBS is our home. The cleaning crew does an excellent job. They need to be paid monthly: \$400. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year we are looking for people who want to adopt a month of cleaning or even a partial donation is welcome. Several families have adopted months, but more are needed. Please pick a month and send the check marked "cleaning" or we can incorporate your donation into your due's commitment. Contact our treasurer, Sandy Schwartz; [drsandy18@gmail.com](mailto:drsandy18@gmail.com).



# Time for a Nosh

## Turmeric-Ginger Chicken Soup

By Clair Saffitz



*Chicken noodle soup never gets old. If you don't have udon for this recipe, use rice noodles or regular old spaghetti. A small knob of fresh turmeric can replace the dried type.*

- 1 (3 1/2–4-pound) chicken
- 2 medium onions, unpeeled, quartered
- 2 heads of garlic, halved crosswise
- 1 (4-inch) piece ginger, unpeeled, thinly sliced
- 3 dried bay leaves
- 1 tablespoon ground turmeric
- 2 teaspoons black peppercorns
- 2 teaspoons coriander seeds
- Kosher salt
- 4 medium carrots, cut into 1/2-inch pieces on a diagonal
- 8 ounces dried udon noodles
- Scallions, very thinly sliced
- Chili oil (for serving)



### Step 1

Place chicken, onions, garlic, ginger, bay leaves, turmeric, peppercorns, coriander seeds, and several pinches of salt in a large pot. Pour in cold water to cover and bring to a boil over medium heat. Reduce heat and gently simmer until an instant-read thermometer inserted into the thickest part of breast registers 155°F, 30–35 minutes. Transfer chicken to a plate and let cool slightly; keep stock simmering. Remove skin from chicken; discard. Pull meat from bones and shred into bite-size pieces; set aside. Return bones and carcass to stock. Increase heat and bring stock to a boil; cook until reduced by about one-third, 15–20 minutes. Season with more salt if needed.

### Step 2

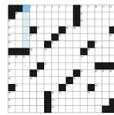
Strain stock into a large saucepan; discard solids. Add carrots, bring to a simmer, and cook until carrots are tender, about 5 minutes.

### Step 3

Meanwhile, cook noodles in a large pot of boiling salted water, stirring occasionally, until al dente; drain and rinse under cold water to stop cooking.

### Step 4

Divide noodles among bowls. Add shredded chicken meat to stock and cook just until heated through; season stock with more salt if needed. Ladle over noodles. Top soup with scallions and drizzle with chili oil.

<p>31 New Year's Eve</p> 	<p>1</p>	<p>2 6:30 Ex Bd Mtg 7:00 Board Mtg</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Adult Ed 7:00 P</p>	<p>5 No Evening Service</p> 	<p>6 Shabbat Service 10:00 AM</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Adult Ed 7:00 PM</p>	<p>12 Tot Shabbat 6 PM Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 PM</p> 	<p>13 DWTT Yummy House</p>
<p>14 Operation CBS Clean Sweep 1:00—3:00</p> 	<p>15 MLK Day Operation CBS Clean Sweep 10:00—1:00</p> 	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Adult Ed 7:00 PM</p>	<p>19 Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 PM</p> 	<p>20 Trivia Night 7 PM</p>
<p>21 Food Bank 1:00 PM</p> 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Tu B'Shvat</p> 	<p>25 Adult Ed 7:00 PM</p>	<p>26 Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 PM</p> 	<p>27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day</p> 
<p>28</p>	<p>29 National Puzzle Day</p> 	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>			