

# The Kibbitzer

Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon  
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[www.BethShalomBrandon.org](http://www.BethShalomBrandon.org)

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Colorful Abstract Hasidic Wedding with Klezmer  
and Dancing on the Hills of Galilee Jewish  
Painting, Hasidic Chuppah

# 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	Gabe Lifschitz
Page 6	Candle Lighting Times/Onegs
Page 7	Congregation Beth Shalom
Page 8	Bingo!
Page 9	Bingo! Food Pantry Needs
Page 10	DWTT/Tot Shabbat/Food Pantry
Page 11	Our Congregation
Page 12	Israel
Page 13	Israel pg 2
Page 14	The Best Books of 2023
Page 15	The Amen Effect - Rabbi Sharon Brous
Page 16	Page Turners
Page 17	Knit, Crochet, Pray
Page 18	Antisemitism Uncovered
Page 19	Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival
Page 20	Our Advertisers
Page 21	Donations/New Members
Page 22	Donation Opportunitites
Page 23	Adopt a Cleaning Month
Page 24	Superbowl Tailgating Party
Page 25	Time for a Nosh -
Page 26	2024 Jewish Holidays
Page 27	February Calendar



From the Rabbi's desk...



Why do we tend to focus on the things we are missing, rather than the many things that we have? A major part of this is entitlement. We feel that we are supposed to have everything. We should have parents who love us, house us, feed us and give us everything that we can imagine. We are supposed to have good health and we are supposed to get married at exactly the age we decided is right, if this is a person's attitude then as soon as something goes even slightly wrong, it becomes intolerable.

I was once talking to someone who had a series of things go wrong in their life and they kept saying "why me?" "Let me ask you something?" I responded. "For the first thirty-five years of your life, when all you received were blessings did you ever ask, why me?" "Why did you wake up now and start asking, "Why me?" The reason is that he felt that everything was coming to him. A person who thinks this way cannot be happy with anything they have because they feel it was owed to them. On the contrary, when they do not get something that is wanted, they feel that it is unfair.

The road to happiness, *simcha*, is paved with the recognition that we are not entitled to anything. G-d did not have to give us anything from the smallest to the biggest things we have. We are sitting on the value of billions of dollars.

How much is each of our senses worth? How much is each child worth? God owes us nothing. We did not make anything in our bodies ourselves.

It is all a gift and each organ, and limb is priceless. View everything through the lens of not being entitled to anything and you will be even happier with what you already have.

B'Shalom, (in peace)

Rabbi Lefkowitz

be grateful

# The President's Corner



Steve Billor

Shalom Everybody!

Since my last article was written, we had a wonderful turnout for our Chanukah candle lighting service and “Taste of Chanukah” Oneg following the Chanukah service. We also had our quarterly Saturday Morning Service with Neil Spindel doing a wonderful job reading Torah. We ended our Saturday Shabbat Service with a wonderful Kiddush with all of my favorite “Jewish Soul Food”. I am already looking forward to our next quarterly Saturday morning Shabbat service.

We continue to bring in new families one at a time. We voted in new members, Eric and Ianna Rosenthal, with their two children Jack and Abby. Their children are going to begin their religious school training with the Rabbi. Welcome and Congratulations to the Rosenthals!

Gabe Lifschitz continues to push forward with the endless paperwork necessary to spend the Federal Grant money we have been awarded. Thank you very much, Gabe!

Our congregation has lovely services on Friday night and our members continue to work on extra activities for us to enjoy each other socially. Anita Clifford continues to host “Dinner with the Tribe” monthly at various restaurants. Meral Ginsburg, along with Faith Family Church, is planning another CBS Bingo Fundraiser on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. The money donated goes to our Food Bank and a small part comes back to the Temple to help with our utility bills.

I would like to end on a serious note. I have missed our CBS Board Member and Friend, Stephen Feldman, since his passing. He played such an important role in our temple and was essential to me for guidance in acting as your president. I often bounced ideas and thoughts off of Steve to get his perspective and advice. He had a wealth of information and experience. So, I would suggest to you all, to become involved with your Jewish Family and Congregation. As I say all the time, Life is Fragile and Short, and we should all “be all that we can be” while we are still capable.

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

Steve Billor





**Gabe Lifschitz**

Although I missed the CBS Hanukkah celebration in December, the congregation and friends were on my mind while out of town. I celebrated Hanukkah in Puerto Rico with my family, lit the Hanukkiah every night, made latkes, and even roasted brisket.

While you may think that lighting candles for eight days and playing dreidel games makes for a long celebration, in Puerto Rico, the holiday celebrations go on for more than a month starting with Christmas, continuing with New Year's Eve, Three Kings Day on January 6 and ending with the "Octavitas". The holiday celebration ends around January 14 every year. The Octavitas is an eight-day celebration after Three Kings Day with gatherings and music at a family home.

Years ago, the holiday season included holding "Parrandas" which is caroling very late at night at someone's home who is not expecting a visit. Parrandas would go on all night into the very early morning. In Puerto Rico, most of the homes are made of concrete, and you could tell a parranda was going on because you could hear the trumpets, congas, and loud singing a block away, which seemed louder at 3:00 AM. A lot of that spirit of caroling and late-night visits waned due to Hurricane Maria in 2017 which made it difficult because of COVID. The last octavita I remember was in January of 2020 right before we were made aware of COVID. Since then, these celebrations seem to have lost momentum as people became conscious of the consequences of COVID and its impact on the island.

What has not changed is that people in Puerto Rico spend much time shopping during the holidays, a decorated pine tree for Christmas at a home replaces a decorated palm tree, and exterior lights decorate homes, even those built on the side of a mountain. People make "pasteles", which is a dish made of mashed plantains with chopped meat, olives, capers, and red peppers, wrapped in plantain leaves and boiled before serving. Additionally, people drink "coquito", the Puerto Rican version of egg nog, but with rum. Trips to the beach are as common to locals as well as tourists.

While Puerto Rico has its issues like random loss of power, not having water for a day or more due to broken water mains, and road maintenance, the people have learned to work around these issues and have a good spirit. It is good to know that for this visit I found latkes mix, matzo ball soup mix, meat brisket, and celebrated Hanukkah.

Shalom

Gabe



We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate our Shabbat onegs. Requirements are a phone and calendar. You need to have good communication skills plus be friendly and organized. It is an easy assignment that does not take a lot of time. Send an email to [cbs-brandon@outlook.com](mailto:cbs-brandon@outlook.com) or contact Toby Koch if you are interested or have any questions.

# Candle Lighting Times

Friday, February 2	5:52 PM	Yitro
Friday, February 9	5:57 PM	Mishpatim
Friday, February 16	6:03 PM	Terumah
Friday, February 23	6:07 PM	Tetzaveh



# Oneg Schedule

## February Sponsors

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

Talmud, Mo'eJ Katan

<b>February 2</b>	CBS Congregation	Please bring a dish to share
<b>February 9</b>	CBS Congregation	Please bring a dish to share
<b>February 16</b>	CBS Congregation	Please bring a dish to share
<b>February 23</b>	CBS Congregation	Please bring a dish to share

Hosting an Oneg is a great way to honor a special someone or celebrate an occasion. After services we gather to schmooze and we all chip in afterwards to help clean up.

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

Toby Koch at (813)654-0877



# Congregation Beth Shalom

## Shabbat Services

Can't make it to services? Join us online with a live feed from Zoom or Facebook!

Zoom Link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89710744448?  
pwd=dkpTR2RFcGtNzdZVFc1Uk5wMFpiQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89710744448?pwd=dkpTR2RFcGtNzdZVFc1Uk5wMFpiQT09)

Meeting ID: 897 1074 4448

Passcode: 721348

Facebook Link:

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

Find the Mishkan Tefilla (Siddur):

[https://www.ccarnet.org/publications/mishkantfilahforshabbat/?  
fbclid=IwAR2sT9TxlbcvAT\\_VGvYArkHVRfMZTKvxVuSjKSXodlExMFCl7LWOACMzWA](https://www.ccarnet.org/publications/mishkantfilahforshabbat/?fbclid=IwAR2sT9TxlbcvAT_VGvYArkHVRfMZTKvxVuSjKSXodlExMFCl7LWOACMzWA)

### CBS Office Hours

The administrative office is currently open by appointment only. We can be reached by calling the office, (813)681-6547, email, [cbsbrandon@outlook.com](mailto:cbsbrandon@outlook.com) or you may contact Rabbi Lefkowitz on his phone or email. (407)222-6393 or [rlefkowi@bellsouth.net](mailto:rlefkowi@bellsouth.net).

Rabbi Lefkowitz will be available for in person meetings on Fridays. You may call him directly 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.

### 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
- ✧ Communitywide events
- ✧ Community Food Bank

*Advertise in the  
Kibbitzer!*

**Business Card \$20/month**

(813)681-6547 • [CBSbrandon@outlook.com](mailto:CBSbrandon@outlook.com)

*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.*

*Call Judith Pliner (856) 8162174*

JOIN US FOR THE



# BINGO

**Sunday, March 3**

**1:00 to 3:00 PM**

**FundRaiser for Food Pantry**

**CBS**

**706 Bryan Road  
Brandon, FL**

**Ten games for \$10**

Hot dogs, snacks, and drinks for sale

**Donate 10 items off the following list for a free  
Bingo card.**

<b>B</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>O</b>
<b>CBS Food Pantry</b>				
<b>DRIED PASTA</b>	<b>PASTA SAUCE</b>	<b>APPLESAUCE</b>	<b>CEREAL</b>	<b>CANNED TUNA</b>
<b>BAR SOAP</b>	<b>GRAPE &amp; STRAWBERRY JELLY</b>	<b>ITEMS NEEDED</b>	<b>PEANUT BUTTER CRACKERS</b>	<b>POPCORN</b>
<b>SHAMPOO &amp; CONDITIONER</b>	<b>CANNED BEANS</b>	<b>RICE</b>	<b>PROTEIN BARS</b>	<b>FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS</b>
<b>PEANUT BUTTER</b>	<b>SOUP</b>	<b>MACARONI &amp; CHEESE</b>	<b>FRUIT CUPS</b>	<b>CANNED FRUIT</b>

# Dinner With the Tribe

## Bernini of Ybor

**Bernini of Ybor**  
**1702 East 7th Avenue**  
**Tampa, FL**

**Sunday**  
**February 18, 2024**  
**6:00 PM**

In February we are returning to this favorite, **Bernini of Ybor**. What makes it my favorite? How about their \$3 martinis? How about their one-half priced entrees before 7:00 p.m.? The food is delicious Italian fare, and the menu has a nice variety of selections so everyone can get what they like. The food is very tasty and is exquisitely prepared. Portions are large and it is terrific value during their happy hour. We will be sitting in a separate section where it will be quieter so that we can chat amongst ourselves.

There's easy parking in the nearby public garage.

Come and join us on Sunday evening, February 18. Please email me, Anita Clifford, [niewdnarb@yahoo.com](mailto:niewdnarb@yahoo.com) to make sure that I save a place for you.



Friday, February 9th 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.

Our community food pantry is open for all in need. If you or someone you know needs help, please contact Meral at (813)690-5713 or [meralgins@gmail.com](mailto:meralgins@gmail.com).

We are currently seeking donations of the following for our pantry:



Peanut butter  
 Jelly  
 Bar soap  
 Body wash  
 Laundry detergent  
 Toilet Paper  
 Kid's cereal  
 Spaghetti sauce

If you would like to donate any of these items, please contact us. Thank you.

*The Social Action Committee*

**Be sure to join us for  
 BINGO!**

# Our Congregation

## Yahrzeits



2/5	Maurice	Goldman	Father	Of	Sharon	Aronson
2/9	Daniel	Workman	Nephew	Of	Anna	Feldman
2/13	Rose	Sandberg	Mother	Of	Sandy	Santucci
2/25	Terry	Magdovitz	Husband	Of	Caren	Magdovitz
2/25	Lena	Kaplan	Mother	Of	Janice	Perelman

## Birthdays

2/2	Larry	Kaler
2/23	Bruce	Sperry

## Condolences to:

Ilene Schwartz on the loss of her brother,  
**Mark Krone.**

Anna Feldman on the loss of her husband,  
**Stephen Feldman.**

Jeff Newman on the loss of his mother,  
**Phyllis Newman**

May their memory be a blessing.



## Israel Has Already Degraded Hamas's Ability to Manufacture Weapons

The Mosaic  
January 8, 2024

Yesterday, the IDF announced that it had discovered a facility underneath Gaza City that Hamas was using to engineer precision-guided missiles, with Iranian technical assistance. The terrorist group is also known to have extensive factories where it produces not only rockets, but drones, sniper rifles, ammunition, launchers, and grenades. **Matthew Levitt** analyzes Israel's success in destroying these capabilities: The Israeli military has slowly but methodically targeted the organized weapons-production line Hamas developed over the past fifteen years it enjoyed safe haven in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli officials remain committed to dismantling the Hamas governance project in Gaza, but even if the IDF falls short of that goal, whatever remnant of Hamas endures in Gaza at the end of this war will present a fraction of the threat it once did. Not only has Hamas lost a reported 8,000 fighters, but a significant portion of the weapons stockpile it spent years amassing has been used or destroyed, and its military-industrial complex is in tatters.

## The End of the Hamas Military-Industrial Complex

TheHill.com

BY MATTHEW LEVITT, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR - 01/02/24 3:00 PM ET

Hamas brought in the New Year this week by firing a barrage of about 30 rockets from Gaza into Israel. And while the terrorist group continues to publish propaganda videos boasting of its rocket arsenal, Hamas rocket fire has dropped from an average of 75 per day in early December to 14 per day by the end of the month.

The Israeli military has slowly but methodically targeted the organized weapons production line Hamas developed over the past 15 years it enjoyed safe haven in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas has experience smuggling weapons into the Gaza Strip, recycling unexploded ordinance and producing a wide array of weapons and other military material. As the Hamas military-industrial complex grew, it took pride in marking these weapons with its logos. The branding is just one sign of how institutionalized and well-developed Hamas's weapons production system became over the years.

But after storming across the Gaza border on Oct. 7, Hamas's weapons arsenal and weapons production capability, along with other critical military infrastructure, is being systematically dismantled. Much attention has been given to Israeli efforts to destroy Hamas's tunnel system, the "Gaza Metro" as Israelis call it. But the loss of its military-industrial complex is no less of a blow to the group, which has pledged to carry out additional Oct. 7-style attacks until Israel is destroyed.

In the years since it took over the Gaza Strip from Fatah in 2007, Hamas, using Gaza's civilians as human shields, built a formidable military-industrial complex both above and below ground. Hamas manufactured the "Ghoul" sniper rifle and ammunition locally in Gaza, printing "Qassam 12.7" on the bullet casings and "Qassami Ghoul Sniper Rifle" on the weapon, named for the late Hamas engineer Adnan al-Ghoul.



## The End of the Hamas Military-Industrial Complex pg 2

Over the past few weeks, Israeli forces have found Hamas facilities manufacturing drones and rockets. Most of the latter are short-range rockets of the Qassam variety with a tendency to misfire and land within Gaza. As early as 2014, Hamas released a video of its locally produced M-75 rocket, named for Hamas operative Ibrahim Maqadma, with a reported range of 75 km. Hamas has long repurposed water pipes imported for critical infrastructure like Gaza's desalinization plant to manufacture these rockets. Hamas also produced its own RPG-7VR and RPG 29 rockets, thermobaric warheads and grenades.

Hamas also smuggled weapons into Gaza over many years — including Iranian, Syrian, Chinese, North Korean and Russian models — nearly all provided by Iran. Many of the Kalashnikov rifles and RPGs used by Hamas attackers on October 7 were old and likely smuggled into Gaza over a long period of time. Several weapons-smuggling ships were intercepted over the years, like the Karine-A in 2002 and Klos-C in 2014, but others are assumed to have successfully transferred weapons to Hamas. And for years Hamas smuggled weapons into Gaza via tunnels from Egypt.

Hamas took pride in its military capabilities and, like most national armies, branded nearly all its materials with the Hamas logo. I saw many examples of Hamas's military merch when I recently visited an Israeli military base featuring a display of Hamas weapons, vehicles and other gear. Most of the materiel belonged to the attackers who carried out the October 7 massacre, while some came from Hamas stockpiles uncovered in the Israeli military incursion into Gaza that followed. What I saw were Hamas rocket guidance systems, backpacks, medical kits and more. Even the digital memory boards for rocket launcher control unit kits bore the Hamas logo.

In the weeks since the October 7 massacre, the IDF has seized a significant amount of weapons and destroyed Hamas weapons factories and workshops in Gaza. While experts debate how effective the Israeli military campaign against Hamas in Gaza has been, and whether Israel can reach its sometimes ill-defined military goals there, one thing is clear: Israeli forces are methodically demolishing the Hamas military-industrial complex.

Israeli officials remain committed to dismantling the Hamas governance project in Gaza, but even if the IDF falls short of that goal, whatever remnant of Hamas endures in Gaza at the end of this war will present a fraction of the threat it once did. Not only has Hamas lost a reported 8,000 fighters, but a significant portion of the weapons stockpile it spent years amassing has been used or destroyed, and its military-industrial complex is in tatters.

Even Hamas's own propaganda points to the group's lackluster weapons production capabilities three months into the war. Last week, Hamas published a video of an Israeli Skylark 2 drone it claimed to capture in the northern Gaza Strip. Sitting on top of a Hamas flag, the drone is being reassembled as the videographer zooms in on Israeli military stickers identifying the Elbit drone as belonging to the 10th Central Wing of the IDF ground forces. Another sticker indicates the drone was deployed as part of the "Iron Swords 3.1" military campaign in Gaza. Next to these Hamas then added its own marker, a patch rebranding the drone as property of the military branch of Hamas.

Hamas used to produce its own drones. Today, the best Hamas can do is slap a Hamas patch on an Israeli drone that fell over the Gaza Strip.

*Dr. Matthew Levitt is the Fromer-Wexler senior fellow and director of the Reinhard Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. An adjunct professor at Georgetown University, he is the author of "Hamas: Politics, Charity and Terrorism in the Service of Jihad" (Yale, 2006).*

# The Best Books of 2023

Taken from Mosaic—Advancing Jewish Thought. This article has been edited for length.

To mark the close of 2023, we asked several of our writers to name the best books they've read this year, and briefly to explain their choices.

## Elliott Abrams

[\*Bibi: My Story\*](#) (Simon & Schuster, 2022, 736pp., \$35) is Benjamin Netanyahu's autobiography. Love him or hate him, he is a great historical figure in Israel's past and present. The portrayal of the most recent years is inevitably too political, but the accounts of his childhood and earlier years in government are excellent.

The best book I've seen about the war in Iraq is Melvyn P. Leffler's [\*Confronting Saddam Hussein: George W. Bush and the Invasion of Iraq\*](#) (Oxford, 368pp., \$27.95). Scrupulously fair, comprehensive, and with a wonderful grasp of both the history and of how government actually works, it is essential for anyone who wishes to understand America's war.

[\*Israel's Moment: International Support for and Opposition to Establishing the Jewish State, 1945–1949\*](#) (Cambridge, 2022, 450 pp., \$32.99) by Jeffrey Herf tells the story of Israel's establishment. Covering 1945–1949 in detail, Herf's book explores how Zionists, anti-Zionists, Communist regimes, the leaders of the Yishuv, and European governments, combined with the internal battles in the United States government, made Israel's birth an almost miraculous outcome on May 14, 1948.

## Cynthia Ozick

[\*The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara\*](#), by David Kertzer (Knopf, 1997, 368pp., \$17.72)

[\*The Popes Against the Jews: The Vatican's Role in the Rise of Modern Anti-Semitism\*](#), by David Kertzer (Knopf, 2001, 355 pp., \$17.95),

[\*The Pope at War: The Secret History of Pius XII, Mussolini, and Hitler\*](#), by David Kertzer (Random House, 2022, 672pp., \$24.99)

[\*Bruno Schulz: An Artist, a Murder, and the Hijacking of History\*](#), by Benjamin Balint (W.W. Norton, 320pp., \$30)

[\*Elie Wiesel: Confronting the Silence\*](#), by Joseph Berger (Yale, 360pp., \$26.00)

[\*Exiled Shadow: A Novel in Collage\*](#), by Norman Manea (Yale, 376pp., \$30)

Mosaic asks for a modest list of three books read in 2023, and here are (seemingly) an overly bold six. But of the six, three are so strongly allied that they may be regarded, in intent and execution, as one. Or, in fact, all six, however disparate in tone and temperament, have so much in common that all can be said to be possessed by an identical dybbuk: its name is Europe.

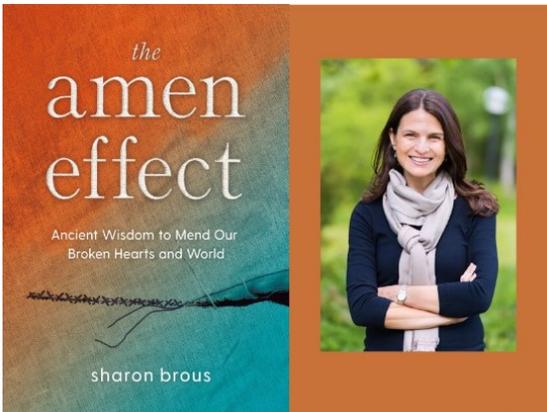
## About the authors

Elliott Abrams is a senior fellow for Middle Eastern studies at the Council on Foreign Relations and is the chairman of the Tikvah Fund.

Cynthia Ozick is an American writer whose essays, short stories, and novels have won countless awards. Her latest novel, *Antiquities*, was published in 2021.

# Sermons and ‘Something Powerful’: A Conversation with Sharon Brous

By Isadora Kianovsky January 8, 2024



Isadora Kianovsky speaks with Rabbi Sharon Brous about her new book [The Amen Effect](#). They delve into the process of compiling and creating this powerful book, and its important resonances for our contemporary Jewish world.

**Isadora Kianovsky:** What inspired you to translate your sermons into a book for the wider public? Could you talk about your process of doing so, and if/how the form and approach of the book might differ from that of the sermons?

**Sharon Brous:** The sermon is a deeply emotional and powerful tool for connecting the teacher/preacher and community, for inviting people to access ideas simultaneously through the head

and also the heart. A good sermon makes us cry and sometimes laugh, teaches us something we didn't know before, helps us see something we *did* know before in a new way, activates, engages, sometimes enrages, always inspires. It enters us into dialogue with generations of people who came before us and struggled with these same texts and ideas but through different lenses. It marries new, different, or unexpected reads of traditional texts with stories that open the heart and make us want to live differently.

When I gave a sermon called “The Amen Effect” at [IKAR](#) years ago, something powerful, wonderful, and mysterious happened. It changed us, as a community. I could feel it. Since then, whenever I've shared the idea in talks in other communities, I can feel its resonance. People often gasp or tear up when I even just share the main idea, drawn directly from a (fairly obscure) Mishnah. It helps them feel seen. Less lonely. Less helpless. More hopeful.

Even still, the sermon is a limited format for engagement. The rabbi/pastor has maybe twelve minutes, maybe thirty — not more — to inspire. For years I wondered what a deep dive would look like into this core idea. What might I learn, and be able to share, if I let this sermon breathe, if I gave it 50,000 words, rather than 5,000?

In the end, the book reads like a series of sermons, with stories, texts, and studies. But these are all woven together into one super-sermon, a book that can be read over time, or even in one sitting.

**IK:** How do you think your book fits into the current moment, both Jewishly and on a universal scale?

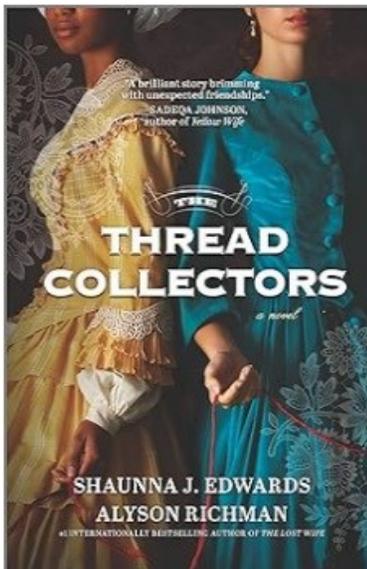
**SB:** I wrote this book for another world. I spent two decades wrestling with the question of how we heal, individually and collectively, in a time of loneliness, social alienation, and so much division. I wanted to share some of what I have learned building and pastoring to IKAR, some of the powerful lessons about love and loss, community and connection.

But when I closed the manuscript a year ago, I really could not have imagined the reality we find ourselves in, as the book launches in a post-October 7 world. In November, I stepped into the sound booth to record the book with great trepidation. To my great relief, I found that the message not only holds up, but actually feels more relevant now than at the time when I wrote it. After all, the power of rooting oneself in ancient wisdom is that it really does stand the test of time.

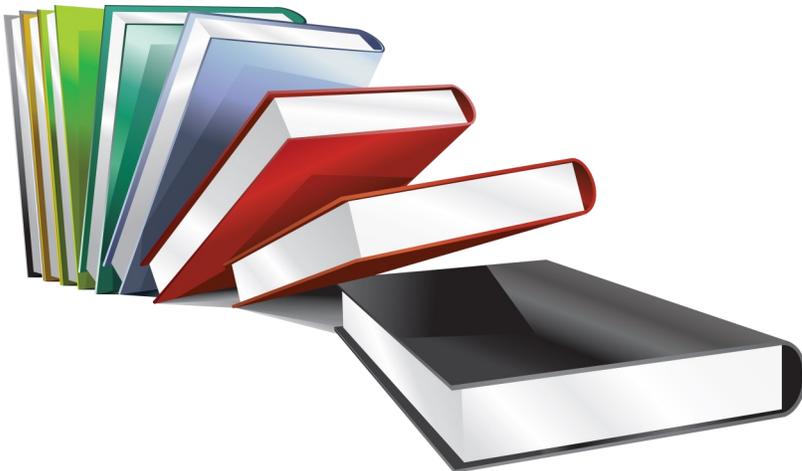
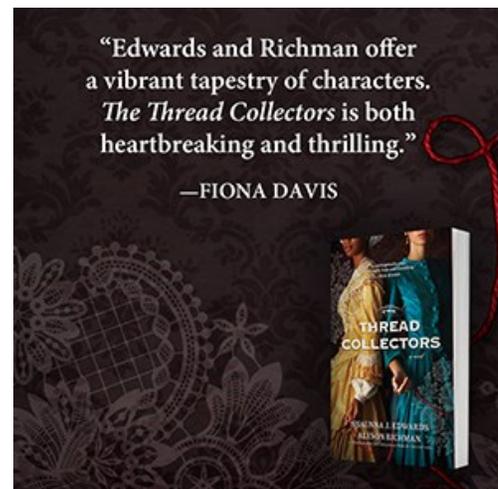
*This article was edited for space. For the article in its entirety, you can find it at <https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/pb-daily/sermons-and-something-powerful-a-conversation-with-sharon-brous>*

# Page Turners

Monday, February 19th  
7:00 PM via Zoom



*"The Thread Collectors* by Shaunna J. Edwards and Alyson Richman is the original story of a Black woman in New Orleans and a Jewish woman in New York, both of whom are fighting for the cause of freedom and Union victory through their needlework during the Civil War. Their lives converge in unexpected ways in an unforgettable story of female strength, hope, and friendship. This collaborative work is magnificent – a true revelation!"  
-Pam Jenoff, New York times bestselling author of *The Woman with the Blue Star*



# Help Support the Israeli Troops



We are collecting dark green yarn for a project being coordinated by Congregation Kol Ami. Members of Kol Ami are knitting hats for the Israeli soldiers. We will help supply the yarn. It gets cold in the desert at night and warm hats will be welcome. The yarn must be DARK GREEN. A collection receptacle is available in our lobby. If you have any question, contact Meral Ginsberg: 813/690-5713.



## Antisemitism Uncovered: A Guide to Old Myths in a New Era

**Antisemitism Uncovered: A Guide to Old Myths in a New Era** is a comprehensive resource with historical context, fact-based descriptions of prevalent antisemitic myths, contemporary examples, and calls-to-action for addressing this hate.

On July 10, 1933, nearly a decade before the Holocaust, Dr. Paul Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi Minister of Propaganda, was on the front cover of TIME Magazine, stating “THE JEWS ARE TO BLAME!” \*



Nazi Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels featured on the cover of Time, July 1933.



In the years that followed, millions of Jews across Europe were terrorized, hunted and murdered by Nazis, their collaborators and those coerced by them. While the Holocaust was unique in the systematic, industrial means it employed to annihilate the Jewish people, large scale persecutions and killings of Jews did not start with the Nazis. They have happened during other times and in other regions. Indeed, hatred of Jews existed for millennia before the Holocaust and did not end with the murder of the six million. We must remember that the warning signs leading up to even the most lethal of social epidemics are

typically far from immediate or obvious. And so today, it is our collective responsibility to recognize the patterns of hate-based prejudice, how this mindset takes root and even more so how it operates.

While antisemitism has sometimes escalated to violent or genocidal levels, it more often appears in subtler ways, such as insensitive remarks that are brushed off, or negative stereotypes that go unchallenged. We must never normalize even seemingly harmless forms of hate-based prejudice; this is what strengthens dangerous social attitudes, which can erode the values of even the most just society. Silence and complacency in the face of biased remarks or actions permit others to internalize harmful messages, making such messages commonplace. Antisemitism is unique in many ways, but, like other forms of hate, it grows in silence and blossoms in acquiescence.

And yet it is not always easy to recognize and combat antisemitism. For example, while knowledge of the Holocaust helped banish overt antisemitism in many contexts in the postwar decades, surprising numbers of young people today are unaware of the most basic facts about what happened to Europe’s Jews during World War II.

\* Lilly Rothman, “It’s Not That the Story Was Buried.’ What Americans in the 1930s Really Knew About What Was Happening in Germany,” *Time Magazine*, updated July 10, 2018, <https://time.com/5327279/ushmm-americans-and-the-holocaust/>.

<https://antisemitism.adl.org/>

### JOIN THE FIGHT

Antisemitism Uncovered is a guide to help you understand more about the history and current manifestations of antisemitism. What’s the next step? Join the fight against it! We’ve gathered all our more practical resources – the tools and strategies you need to engage in that fight – in one place: right here in Antisemitism Uncovered Toolkit: Resources to Speak Up, Share Facts and Show Strength Against Hate.

*This toolkit is available to download at the end of the guide.*

# KOACH - כֹּחַ

(IN HEBREW, KOACH MEANS STRENGTH, POWER, MIGHT)



## February 22 - 25th

For more information, go to <https://www.tbjff.org/>




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# Donations

## In Loving Memory

**Doreen Becker**  
*Mother of Lynn Kaler*  
 Lynn & Larry Kaler

**Eugene B. Becker**  
*Father of Lynn Kaler*  
 Lynn & Larry Kaler

**Anita Kaler**  
*Mother of Larry Kaler*  
 Lynn & Larry Kaler

**Allan Krone**  
*Brother of Ilene Schwartz*  
 Anna Feldman  
 Lynn & Larry Kaler

**Stephen Feldman**  
*Husband of Anna Feldman*  
 Lynn & Larry Kaler  
 Judith & Gerry Pliner  
 Sandy Schwartz  
 Diana & Gerald Gutenstein



## Food Bank

Gilly and Jack Frost  
 Judith & Gerry Pliner  
 Diana & Gerald Gutenstein

## Kitchen Faucet

Anna & Stephen Feldman

## General Fund

Neil Spindel

## Misheberach List

**Sheila Fishman**  
 Sheila and Errol Fishman



## Welcome New Members!

*“Let the good in me connect with the good in others,  
 until the world is transformed through the  
 compelling power of love.”*

*-Rabbi Nachman of Breslov*

**We are pleased to welcome new members:**

**Eric and Ianna Rosenthal**

**Jack and Abby**

# Donation Opportunities

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 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:**

- **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:**

- |                                         |                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund   | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Group Fund                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Endowment Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary Fund        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious School Scholarship Fund |

<input type="checkbox"/> My check is enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> Please bill me
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

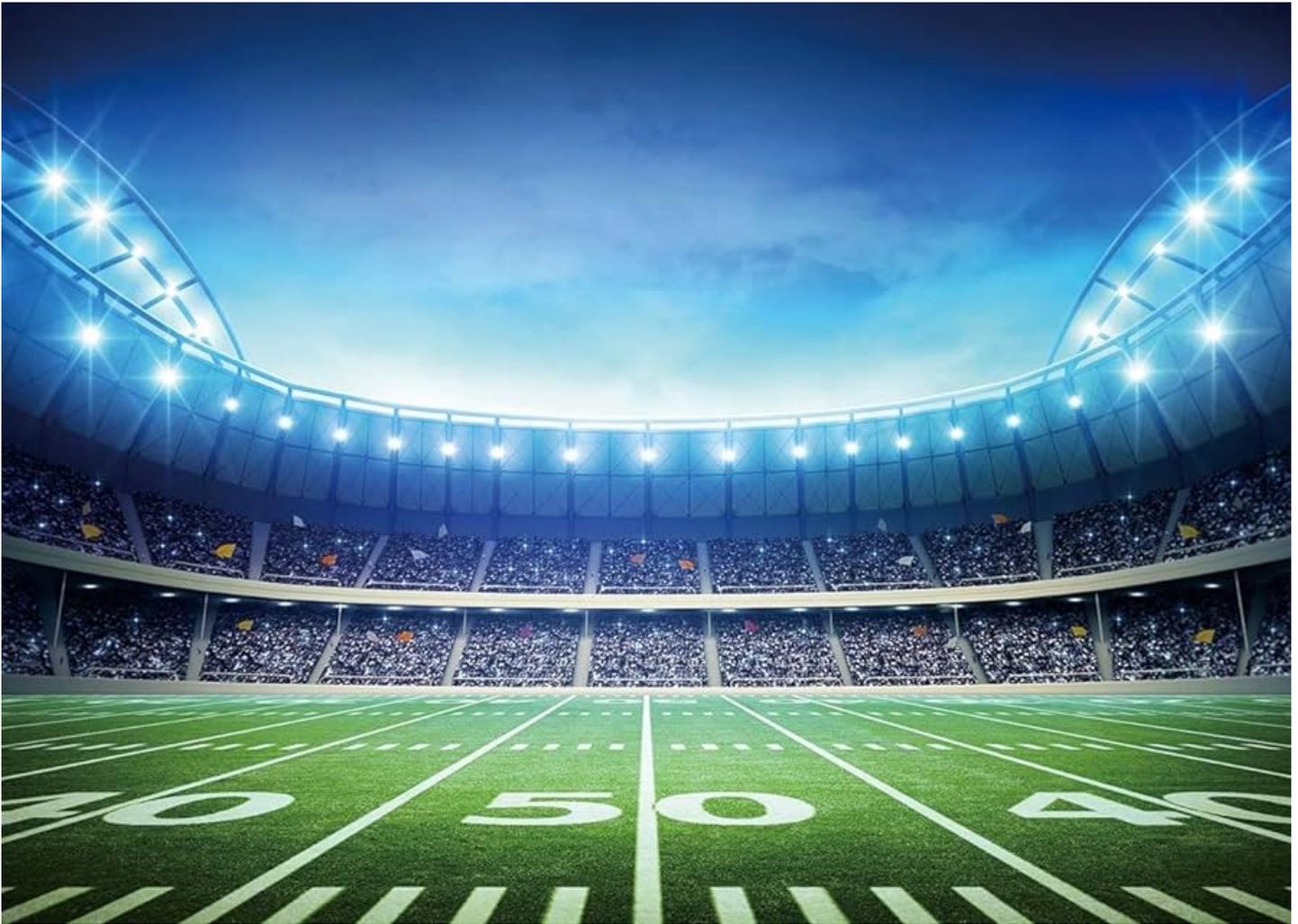
***"Tzedakah weighs as much as all the other commandments combined" - Talmud***  
Congregation Beth Shalom 706 Bryan Rd. Brandon, FL 33511 813-681-6547

# 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).





**Calling all special teams for a huddle  
Sunday, February 11**

**1:00 PM to 4:00 PM**

**Dress in your favorite team colors and plan to bring a covered dish (more to come on this!) and come tailgate with the tribe.**

**Any questions, please reach out to Myron Feldman (813)361-9590 or Jackie Feldman (813)361-9337.**

# Time for a Nosh

## Poppy Seed Cake with Blueberries and Labneh

Recipe by Michael Solomonov



The earthy fruitiness of poppy seeds makes them shine in recipes both sweet and savory; they're equally at home on top of a buttered bagel as in a sweet filling for [hamentaschen](#), the stuffed, three-cornered [Purim](#) cookie. This poppy seed cake is basically a madeleine batter - almond flour, egg whites, and butter. The butter is browned first to give it a bit more complexity and a nuttiness that complements the poppy seeds. The egg whites keep the cake nice and tender and lend a bit of crispness to the crust.

10 tablespoons unsalted butter  
 1/2 cup almond flour  
 1/3 cup plus 1 tablespoon AP Flour\*  
 1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
 5 large egg whites  
 1 cup confectioners' sugar  
 3 tablespoons honey  
 1/4 cup poppy seeds  
 1 tablespoon finely grated lemon zest  
 1 1/2 cups blueberries, for serving  
 1 cup labneh\*\* for serving

\*AP Flour is All-Purpose Flour

Melt the butter in a small saucepan over medium heat. Cook, swirling frequently, until the foaming stops and the butter turns a rich brown color and smells nutty, about 5 minutes. Set aside to cool.

Whisk the almond flour, all-purpose flour, and baking powder in a bowl.

Combine the egg whites, confectioners' sugar, and honey in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment (or use a hand mixer and a big bowl). Beat on medium speed until the mixture is smooth and thick, about 3 minutes. Add the flour mixture to the egg mixture and fold in gently with a spatula until just combined. Whisk about 1/4 cup of the batter into the brown butter until well combined, and then fold the brown butter mixture into the batter. Add the poppy seeds and lemon zest and fold in gently until just combined. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour or up to overnight.

Preheat the oven to 350°F, with a rack in the middle. Line a 9-by-13 inch baking dish with oiled parchment.

Pour the batter into the prepared dish and bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, about 30 minutes. Let cool in the pan. You can turn it out of the pan before slicing and serving, topped with blueberries and labneh, or serve straight from the pan.

\*\*Prepared labneh is available in Middle Eastern markets. Making it is simple: Add salt to taste to plain (not nonfat) yogurt, scoop it into a cheesecloth-lined colander, and set that over a bowl. Place the whole contraption in your refrigerator to drain overnight, and you'll have labneh for breakfast.

# 2024 Jewish Holidays

Holiday Name	Eve of Holiday	End of Holiday
Tu B'Shvat	Thursday, January 25, 2024 Tu B'Shvat, Year 5784	
Shushan Purim	Monday, March 25, 2024 Tu B'Adar, Year 5784	
Passover	Monday, April 22, 2024 Yud-Daled B'Nissan, Year 5784	Monday, April 29, 2024 Kaf-Alef B'Nissan, Year 5784
Holocaust Remembrance Day	Monday, May 6, 2024 Kaf-Chet B'Nissan, Year 5784	
Remembrance Day	Tuesday, May 14, 2024 Hey B'Ayar, Year 5784	
Independence Day	Tuesday, May 14, 2024 Vav B'Ayar, Year 5784	
Lag Baomer	Sunday, May 26, 2024 Yud-Het B'Ayar, Year 5784	
Jerusalem Day	Wednesday, June 5, 2024 Kaf-Het B'Ayar, Year 5784	
Shavuot	Tuesday, June 11, 2024 Hey B'Sivan, Year 5784	Wednesday, June 12, 2024 Vav B'Sivan, Year 5784
Tamuz Fast	Tuesday, July 23, 2024 Yud-Zayin B'Tamuz, Year 5784	
Tisha Be'av	Tuesday, August 13, 2024 Tet B'Av, Year 5784	
Tu Be'av	Monday, August 19, 2024 Tu Be'av, Year 5784	
Rosh Hashanah	Wednesday, October 2, 2024 Kaf-Tet B'Elul, Year 5784	Friday, October 4, 2024 Bet B'Tishrei, Year 5785
Gedaliah Fast	Sunday, October 6, 2024 Daled B'Tishrei, Year 5785	
Yom Kippur	Friday, October 11, 2024 Tet B'Tishrei, Year 5785	Saturday, October 12, 2024 Yud B'Tishrei, Year 5785
Sukkot	Wednesday, October 16, 2024 Yud-Daled B'Tishrei, Year 5785	Wednesday, October 23, 2024 Kaf-Alef B'Tishrei, Year 5785
Shemini Atzeret	Thursday, October 24, 2024 Kaf-Bet B'Tishrei, Year 5785	
Sigd	Saturday, November 30, 2024 Kaf-Tet B'Heshvan, Year 5785	
Hanukkah	Wednesday, December 25, 2024 Kaf-Daled B'Kislev, Year 5785	Tuesday, December 31, 2024 Lamed B'Kislev, Year 5785
Purim	Saturday, March 23, 2024 Yud-Gimel B'Adar, Year 5784	





# February 2024

				1 <b>Adult Ed</b> 7:00 PM	2 <b>Erev Shabbat Service</b> 7:00 PM	3
4	5	6 <b>6:30 Ex Bd Mtg</b> 7:00 Board Mtg	7	8 <b>Adult Ed</b> 7:00 PM	9 6:30 PM Tot Shabbat  <b>Erev Shabbat Service</b> 7:00 PM	10
11 Super Bowl Party!  1:00 PM—4:00 PM	12	13	14	15 <b>Adult Ed</b> 7:00 PM	16 <b>Erev Shabbat Service</b> 7:00 PM	17
18 <b>Food Bank</b> 1:00 PM  <b>Bernini's DWTT</b> 6:00	19	20	21 <b>28th Annual Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival</b> 	22 <b>Adult Ed</b> 7:00 PM 	23 <b>Erev Shabbat Service</b> 7:00 PM 	24 
25 	26	27	28	29 <b>Adult Ed</b> 7:00 PM		