

The Kibbitzer

Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon
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Oil Painting Bar Yochai Bonfire In Lag Baomer
Handmade By Haim Borosh

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From the Rabbi's desk...



There were long periods in which the people of Israel enjoyed peaceful relations with their neighbors. The sons of Elimelech and Naomi married Moabite women who had converted without ostensible conflict. Mahlon married Ruth and Chilion married Orpah. They were able to create a pattern of religious co-existence as well. It was only after her husband, Elimelech, died that Ruth chose to become part of her husband's people and to worship his God.

The second, the concept of "Stranger in our midst" takes on a new meaning. Ruth is not only "a stranger in our midst," she is a good wife, devoted daughter-in-law, and a sweet and gentle woman, but an individual who attains the status of a biblical matriarch.

Third, the extended family was an active and honored institution. Elimelech's family lived together as a unit. The daughters-in-law remained with Naomi after the men died. The citizens of Bethlehem held Ruth in high esteem for her devotion.

Boaz showed affection and respect for Ruth and for her behavior. Finally, Naomi, Boaz, and Ruth happily acknowledged the bonds of kinship and embraced their responsibilities.

Fourth, responsibility for the poor was not an occasional spurt of compassionate generosity. It was incorporated into the culture and lifestyle of the community, expressed by the custom of gleaning.

B'ahava,

Rabbi Lefkowitz



The President's Corner



Steve Billor

Shalom Everybody,

Last year at this time, Congregation Beth Shalom was not doing well financially, so I'd like to tell you the accomplishments we have made since then. Membership has been steadily increasing and Rabbi Lefkowitz is now tutoring several children as they embark on their Jewish education.

We were awarded our Security Grant to improve some essential security-related issues at Beth Shalom. We are committed to the safety of our members and with this new Security Grant, we can now move forward on making much-needed security enhancements.

With our new members, the generosity of longstanding members, and some fundraising, we have been meeting our financial obligations without going into the red. However, there is still a need to continue being frugal. As an example, we do not have a trash collection service and bring the daily trash to our houses to dispose of. We also raise the temperature of the air conditioning when we don't use the facility. We are getting bids together to replace one of our main air conditioning units, which in turn, should lower our electric bill.

We recently had a wonderful Purim service and celebration with an amazing spread of food to enjoy after our service and Purim Play. (I love making noise whenever someone says Haman!)

We also had a very nice "Dinner with the Tribe" at the Columbia Restaurant. The wonderful company of those who attended was complimented by the wonderful food.

Next on the calendar is Passover. I am hoping everyone will have had a fulfilling Passover either with your family or at our Passover Seder at Beth Shalom.

Shortly after Passover, our next big event is the Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Markhoff on May 4th and soon after that, our annual Beth Shalom meeting on May 19th at 1:00 pm. I am hoping to see many of our members at both events.

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



Building and Grounds



Gabe Lifschitz

Taking care of CBS is a mitzvah and every little bit you can do is greatly appreciated. We need help with handy skills like interior electrical work, patchwork for drywall, and plumbing. If you know someone who does work for you regularly, please send the name and contact information to: cbs-building@outlook.com

Some of the items we need to get fixed include:

Fix or replace the exhaust fans in the bathrooms.

Sheet metal work to repair the south gutter.

Repair drywall to cover a hole in a bathroom.

On Monday, May 27, 2024, Memorial Day at 10:00 AM we welcome you for Spring spruce up of the grounds around the temple. Work will include the items below.

Trimming bushes around the building.

Removing and bundling twigs.

Planting on the north side of the temple.

Removing trash from the green dumpster with proper disposal.

Thank you,

Gabe Lifschitz



Candle Lighting Times

Shabbat

DATE	TIME	PARSHA
Friday, May 3	7:36 PM	Acharei
Friday, May 10	7:40 PM	Kedoshim
Friday, May 17	7:43 PM	Emor
Friday, May 24	7:47 PM	Behar
Friday, May 31	7:50 PM	Bechukotai



Oneg Schedule

May Sponsors

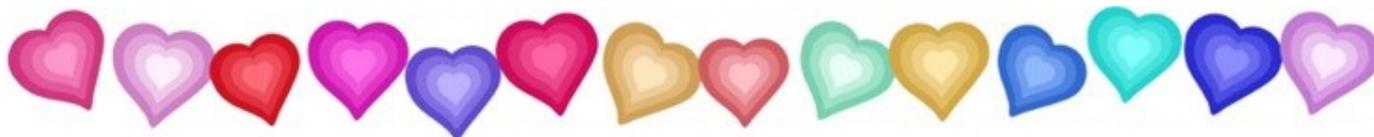
There can be no joy without food and drink.

Talmud, Mo'eJ Katan

May 3	CBS Congregation	Please bring a dish to share
May 10	CBS Congregation	Please bring a dish to share
May 17	CBS Congregation	Please bring a dish to share
May 24	CBS Congregation	Please bring a dish to share
May 31	CBS Congregation	Please bring a dish to share

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

Marilyn Sobel at (813)727-1189 or nurseknitter@aol.com



'I Asked Sinwar, Is It Worth 10,000 Innocent Gazans Dying?
He Said, Even 100,000 Is Worth It'

As head of the Intelligence Division of the Israel Prison Service, Yuval Bitton knew Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar – whose organization murdered Bitton's nephew on Oct. 7 – up close

By Ayelett Shani

Haaretz Apr 13, 2024

This article has been edited due to space constraints.

Please introduce yourself.

I'm the father of three and I give public lectures on [Hamas](#). Two years ago I retired from the Israel Prison Service, where I started out in 1996, as a dentist.

And you finished there as head of the service's Intelligence Division.

I attended a course for intelligence officers and served as such at Ketziot Prison [southwest of Be'er Sheva] and then moved up the ladder until I reached the top of the pyramid.

While preparing for this interview, I found an item from 2005 in which you explained the differences between the teeth of prisoners who are affiliated with Fatah and those who are members of Hamas.

The teeth of Fatah inmates are in poor condition, whereas Hamas prisoners maintain hygiene and purity. Theirs is a religious way of life. Ascetic. With rigid discipline. They pray five times a day, don't touch sweets, don't smoke. There's no such thing as smoking in Hamas. You see a 50-year-old prisoner who is entirely free of any signs of illness. No tooth decay. I'd say, "You're Hamas?" They would say, "Yes, how did you know?" "By the teeth," I replied. A very basic insight. Everything has meaning – it's the same with regard to their way of life, for example. At 9 P.M., there is a total lights-out in the prison's Hamas wings; in the Fatah wings they watch television all night.

I'd like for us to avoid the wisdom of hindsight, if possible. Do you stand behind what you are saying? That you, as a prison dentist, thought that Hamas was a danger to Israel's very existence as much as 30 years ago?

I stand behind that. So, yes, already back then. As a dentist. Fatah talked about the 1967 borders, about the occupation, about the Palestinian people. To me, the Hamas inmates would say, "There's neither 1967 nor 1948. There are no borders and there is nothing to talk about. You are on Waqf land, Muslim sacred ground, and you have no place here." When I became an intelligence officer, I made use of the insight about Hamas and Fatah being from two different worlds. That wasn't understood on the outside until 2007.

That rift continues to this day. We also saw it in Fatah's behavior in the West Bank. They understood that they would not [be able to] crush Hamas there, that the same things would recur. They understood that their great enemy was Hamas, not Israel. They changed course. I'm telling you that when I spoke with significant Fatah leaders at that time, in prison, they told me, "Hamas will do to you what they did to us. You're cultivating Hamas, injecting money into Gaza, humiliating Fatah, but in the end they will do to you what they did to us."

When Gilad Shalit was abducted, Israel entered the Gaza Strip, eliminated a few hundred terrorists and destroyed buildings; of course, another few thousand civilians paid the price.

I said to Sinwar, "Tell me, is it worth it for 10,000 innocent people to die, in order to free 100 prisoners?" The reply was, "Even 100,000 is worth it." Their notion of time is different, and the price in blood they are ready to pay in order to achieve their goal is different. Because each person who dies is a shahid [martyr]. It's warfare in the name of God.



A Conversation Yuval Bitton, page 2

Are they themselves willing to die?

Not all of them. For example, I had a conversation with Abbas al-Sayed. I asked, "Why didn't you go on a suicide mission yourself? Why do you send others?" He said, "Everyone has a role. I am in charge."

Do you think Sinwar is willing to die?

He is. Definitely. That's the difference between him and the Hamas leaders who were released in the Shalit deal and are living decadent lives in Turkey or Qatar. They forgot their people. Sinwar is not like that. He's an ascetic. And he really doesn't care if 200,000 people are killed and not a single house remains complete in Gaza. The main thing is the goal, the greater idea.

The events of October 7 also hit you personally. Your nephew Tamir Adar was abducted and then found to have been murdered by Hamas.

Tamir, my sister's son, who was 38, grew up and was educated on [Kibbutz] Nir Oz to love the country. In his heroism, Tamir went out to defend his family, his community and the country. He didn't hesitate. He, and his four comrades in the emergency defense squad, fought alone against hundreds of terrorists, and prevented a far larger disaster. [Tamir's grandmother, Yaffa Adar, was among the hostages released in November.] Whole families in Nir Oz were erased. Slaughtered. Burned. It was a holocaust. To tell you I was surprised by the atrocities? Regrettably, no. I know this enemy. Personally. Sinwar could not surprise me. My only surprise was that the IDF, the security forces and the government of Israel allowed this holocaust to take place on Israeli soil.

Sinwar couldn't surprise you?

I don't think so. I know how he thinks. Look, when the first [hostage release] deal was implemented, I was invited to sit in the TV studios and accompany the broadcast of the release [as a commentator]. I refused to do that, because I didn't want to say on air what I really thought. Sinwar went for the first deal, because he had an interest in it. He was apprehensive of the pressure Qatar was wielding on him, under U.S. pressure – an insane steamroller to get him to release the women and children. The moment that interest was gone, the deal was over.

My sister viewed that deal as a preface to future deals, she was euphoric, she thought it was only the beginning. That she would quickly get her son back. I was sure that it was the first and last deal, that her son would not return. But I couldn't say that. I couldn't look my sister in the eye.

During the period when Tamir was considered a hostage, until you learned that he had been murdered [in January], did you try to exploit your acquaintanceship with people in Hamas? To convey messages?

I didn't try. There's no point. It's impossible to speak to the heart of people like them. I'm certain that Sinwar knows that Tamir was my nephew. One hundred percent. Well, so what? I have no expectations of him. He owes me nothing. Those responsible for bringing back Tamir and the other hostages are the government of Israel and the person who heads it.



Yom HaShoah

Sunday, May 5th at Sundown

Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah in Hebrew) is a national day of commemoration in Israel, on which the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust are memorialized. It is a solemn day, beginning at sunset on the 27th of the month of Nisan and ending the following evening, according to the traditional Jewish custom of marking a day. Places of entertainment are closed and memorial ceremonies are held throughout the country. The central ceremonies, in the evening and the following morning, are held at Yad Vashem and are broadcast live. Marking the start of the day-in the presence of the President of the State of Israel and the Prime Minister, dignitaries, survivors, children of survivors and their families, gather together with the general public to take part in the memorial ceremony at Yad Vashem in which six torches, representing the six million murdered Jews, are lit. The following morning, the ceremony at Yad Vashem begins with the sounding of a siren for two minutes throughout the entire country. For the duration of the sounding, work is halted, people walking in the streets stop, cars pull off to the side of the road and everybody stands at silent attention in reverence to the victims of the Holocaust. Afterward, the focus of the ceremony at Yad Vashem is the laying of wreaths at the foot of the six torches, by dignitaries and the representatives of survivor groups and institutions. Other sites of remembrance in Israel, such as the Ghetto Fighters' Kibbutz and Kibbutz Yad Mordechai, also host memorial ceremonies, as do schools, military bases, municipalities and places of work. Throughout the day, both the television and radio broadcast programs about the Holocaust. In recent years, other countries and Jewish communities have adopted Yom HaShoah, the 27th of Nisan, to mark their own day of memorial for the victims of the Holocaust.

YadVShem.org

The Butterfly

The last, the very last,
So richly, brightly, dazzlingly yellow.
Perhaps if the sun's tears would sing
against a white stone...

Such, such a yellow
Is carried lightly 'way up high.
It went away I'm sure because it wished to
kiss the world goodbye.

For seven weeks I've lived in here,
Penned up inside this ghetto
But I have found my people here.
The dandelions call to me
And the white chestnut candles in the court.
Only I never saw another butterfly.

That butterfly was the last one.
Butterflies don't live in here,
In the ghetto.

Pavel Friedmann 4.6.1942



Pavel Friedmann was a Jewish Czechoslovak poet during World War II. He wrote "The Butterfly" shortly after he was deported to the Terezin Ghetto in 1942. He was 21 years old. Eighteen months later, Pavel was sent to Auschwitz and executed.

In 1996, Holocaust Museum Houston (HHM) launched the Butterfly Project. The project was centered around Friedmann's poem and asked children to submit handmade butterflies. Each butterfly represents a child that had died during the Holocaust. But children weren't the only ones to participate. The project struck a chord in people around the world and butterflies began to flow in. The Butterfly Project lasted for 20 years and received 1.5 million butterflies.

Yom HaZikaron

Sunday, May 12th at Sundown

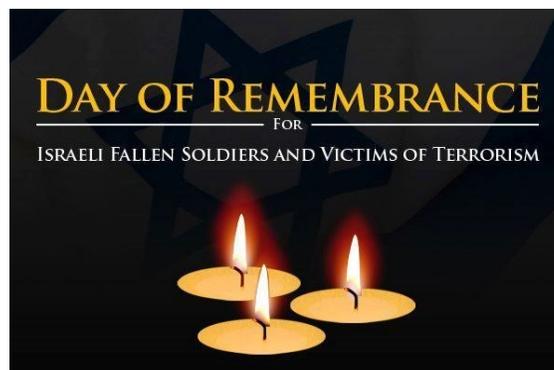
The fourth of Iyar, the day preceding Israel's Independence Day, was declared by the Israeli Knesset (parliament) to be a Memorial Day for those who lost their lives in the struggle that led to the establishment of the State of Israel and for all military personnel who were killed while in active duty in Israel's armed forces. Joining these two days together conveys a simple message: Israelis owe the independence and the very existence of the Jewish state to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for it.

Yom HaZikaron, the Israeli Memorial Day, is different in its character and mood from the American Memorial Day. For 24 hours (from sunset to sunset) all places of public entertainment (theaters, cinemas, nightclubs, pubs, etc.) are closed. The most noticeable feature of the day is the sound of a siren that is heard throughout the country twice, during which the entire nation observes a two-minute "standstill" of all traffic and daily activities. The first siren marks the beginning of Memorial Day at 8 p.m., and the second is at 11 a.m., before the public recitation of prayers in the military cemeteries. All radio and television stations broadcast programs portraying the lives and heroic deeds of fallen soldiers. Most of the broadcasting time is devoted to Israeli songs that convey the mood of the day.

"*Magash Hakesef*" (The Silver Platter), a poem written by Nathan Alterman during the 1948 War of Independence, was during the 1950s and '60s the most common reading for Yom HaZikaron ceremonies. The poem attained a status almost similar to Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in U.S. culture. During the '70s, especially following the Six-Day War (June 1967) and the Yom Kippur War (October 1973), numerous new poems and songs commemorating fallen soldiers became popular and often replaced "The Silver Platter" in public ceremonies. "Hare'ut" ("Friendship"), a song composed a year after the 1948 war, had an impressive comeback in the 1980s and '90s. The late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin considered this poem/song to be his favorite.

Almost every high school in Israel has a "memorial corner" with the photos of the school graduates who fell in battle or while on military duty. Some high schools organize their own Yom Hazikaron ceremonies and invite the families of the fallen graduates to participate. The unique atmosphere of the day is enhanced by the sight of teenagers and children, all dressed in white shirts and blue pants or skirts, on their way to school, and thousands of soldiers in uniform on their way to the military cemeteries.

The list of fallen soldiers becomes longer every year. The inevitable tendency of radio and television programs is to focus on individual stories of soldiers who lost their lives in recent decades, rather than on those who fought in the pre-state undergrounds and 1948 war, who have fewer surviving immediate family relatives today.



Yom HaAtzmaut

Monday, May 13th at Sundown

Yom HaAtzmaut is Israeli Independence Day, a day of great celebration held every year in late April or early May – on the day (in the Hebrew calendar) which, in 1948, Israel declared its independence. Across Israel, events and celebrations take place to mark Independence – both on a national scale and on a more local scale, with almost every city, town, and village, having some sort of celebration. In 2024, Yom HaAtzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) falls from sundown on May 13 to sundown on May 14.

The major State Ceremony for Yom HaAtzmaut takes place on the eve of Yom HaAtzmaut at Mount Herzl, Israel's National Ceremony in Jerusalem. This event marks the end of Yom HaZikaron (Israel's memorial day, which falls immediately before), and the beginning of the celebration for Yom HaAtzmaut. The ceremony involves performances, speeches, and a ceremonial lighting of twelve torches which symbolizes the Twelve Tribes of Israel by twelve citizens who have made a great impact on the country. At the same time, towns and cities across the country have parties and firework displays.

The following day, parades and events take place across Israel including a spectacular military plane fly-by, parades, a famous International Bible Competition, and the ceremony for the Israel Prize which is Israel's highest award and honor. The Israel Prize is given each year to about 10-15 people in the presence of the presence of the President, Prime Minister, the Knesset chairperson, and the Supreme Court president.

Yom HaAtzmaut is a real family day, and Israelis flock to Israel's National Parks, hiking trails, and beauty spots, for barbecues and picnics.



Lag B'Omer

The Jewish religious festival Lag B'Omer, also known as Lag BaOmer, is celebrated on the 33rd day of the Omer count and is considered a minor holiday. It marks the 33rd day out of the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot. Significantly, it is the only day during the Omer when Jewish weddings are allowed. There are various unique ways to celebrate and mark the occasion, so we shall take a closer look at this special day and what it involves for those who observe it.

Why Celebrate Lag B'Omer?

This day is different, so the celebrations are also unique. The Omer is a time for mourning, so celebrations such as weddings are typically not permitted. An observant Jew will not cut their hair during this time. There are different traditional reasons for this recognition, with the most prominent relating to the Talmud, where a plague killed many of Rabbi Akiva's students because they did not treat one another with respect.

It is said that the plague ended on the 33rd day of the Omer, hence the celebratory recognition of the day. This was around the time of 50 – 135 CE, and one of the students who survived was Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, a notable Jewish scholar at that time who later died on the 33rd day of the Omer some years later.

Rabbi Akiva was spared from the plague and later died on the 33rd day of the Omer, giving the day more significance. Thus, the sadness of the Omer is paused for a day, and there are celebrations instead. It is this day when celebrations are allowed, giving this day in the Omer significance.

Is Lag B'Omer A Public Holiday?

In the Western world, it is not, but this does not change the fact that it is an important day for the Jewish community. Celebrations are still held within Jewish communities around the world, and some organizations are allowed to close to fully celebrate. In Israel, it is not considered a public holiday, although schools do close for the day.

How To Celebrate Lag B'Omer?

Since it is a day of celebration, weddings, dancing, and haircuts are all permitted. It is actually a time when many 3-year-old boys get their first haircut. Families host other families, people get together to share picnics, and barbecues, where they sing and dance traditionally. In the days leading up to Lag B'Omer, fires are prepared.

This makes it easier to light the bonfire in the evening, which is important since it is traditionally the children who light it. In schools, children may gather wood in the lead-up to the day for this very purpose. The bonfires are stacked high to make them as big as reasonably possible. It is easy to see why some call it the Jewish holiday of bonfires.



Book of Ruth

D'VAR TORAH BY: RABBI RIFAT SONSINO, PH.D.

The Book of Ruth, which appears in the third section of the Hebrew Bible, *K'tuvim*, Writings, is a beautiful folktale written in four short chapters. It celebrates the loyalty and reward of a young Moabite widow (Ruth) who chooses to follow her Israelite mother-in-law (Naomi) back to Bethlehem after Naomi was bereaved of her own husband and two sons. Ruth's sister-in-law, Orpah, who was married to one of the two deceased brothers, returns to her community, but Ruth decides to "cleave" to Naomi and share her fate in Judah. Ruth's social status rises rather quickly: Starting as a *nochriyah*, foreigner (Ruth 2:10), she next describes herself as a *shif'chah*, maidservant (Ruth 2:13), and then as an *amah*, handmaid (Ruth 3:9). By the end of the story, Boaz, her future husband, refers to her as an *ishah*, wife (Ruth 4:10), and the text hails her as an ancestress of King David (Ruth 4:17).

Jewish law assigns this book to the festival of Shavuot for various reasons: The events take place during the summer harvest when "Weeks" is celebrated; Ruth was the ancestress of David who, according to tradition, died on Shavuot; Ruth's acceptance of Judaism corresponds nicely with the Giving of the Torah in the desert to all of humanity; and Ruth's loyalty symbolizes the fidelity to the Torah that is expected of all Jews.

Although the story is set in the period of the Judges (1200-1000 B.C.E.), it is unlikely that it was written at that time. According to the Talmud, "Samuel the prophet wrote his own books, Judges and Ruth." (*Baba Batra* 14b) Most biblical scholars, however, argue for a postexilic date (i.e., after 70 C.E.). Furthermore, as Rowley noted long ago: "The simple story of the Book of Ruth abounds in problems for which no final solution can ever be found, since the materials for their solution are denied us."

Why was this book written? The purpose is not apparent. Some say that it is simply "an interesting tale of long ago" (Pfeiffer). Others suggest that the author's goal was to promote the inclusion of outsiders, such as Ruth, in the Assembly of Israel (Smith), especially during the days of Ezra and Nehemiah, who pursued an antiforeigner policy. Driver claims that the goal was to establish David's genealogy. For Vellas, family unity is at the center of the story. Recently, Adele Berlin maintained that the book is about "exile and return, land and people." I agree with J. Sasson that the most reasonable rationale is this: The author wished to stress that common people can do the right thing when they act unselfishly toward one another, as witnessed by the main characters in the book. This echoes the ancient rabbis who said that the Book of Ruth was written to teach us a lesson in *gemilut chasadim*, acts of loving-kindness. (see *Ruth Rabbah* 2:15) It is this universal message that makes the idyllic Book of Ruth extremely appealing to everyone.



JCC Programming



Yom HaShoah Commemorative and Shine A Light on Antisemitism Youth Art Contest Awards Event Monday, May 6 | 6:30 PM Shanna & Bryan Glazer JCC Cost: Free

Join the Tampa JCCs & Federation, the Tampa Rabbinical Association and the Tampa Synagogue/Federation Partnership Committee for a very special program in remembrance of the six million people who perished during the Holocaust. Join us in honoring John and Toni Rinde, two Holocaust survivors who advocate that the world “Never Forget.” We will also reveal the winners of the Shine A Light on Antisemitism Youth Art Contest. **Reservations are required. Please visit JewishTampa.com/ShineALight to register.**

Yom HaZikaron – Israel’s Memorial Day Sunday, May 12 | 7:00 PM Shanna & Bryan Glazer JCC Cost: Free

In partnership with the Israeli-American Council, the Tampa JCCs & Federation is hosting a ceremony to remember fallen Israel Defense Forces soldiers and victims of terror. Please email ilotringer@israeliamerican.org to include the name of a loved one to be displayed at the event. To RSVP for the event or for more information visit JewishTampa.com/Yamim.

Yom HaAtzmaut – Israel Independence Day Sunday, May 19 | 4:00-7:00 PM Shanna & Bryan Glazer JCC Cost: Ticket for 18+: \$10 | Youth (under 18) Free | Youth Zone Wristband: \$5

Celebrate Israel’s 76th Independence Day! This community wide music concert will feature an afternoon of music with the New York City based band The Shuk that delivers an unforgettable blend of the finest Israeli and Jewish music. Along with Israeli food vendors, youth fun-zone and dancing into the night. **Visit JewishTampa.com/IID to purchase tickets.**

Hakarat Hatov – Recognizing the Good Tuesday, June 18 | 5:30 PM Dinner for Major Donors & Leadership Council | 7:30 PM – Community Program and Dessert Reception Shanna & Bryan Glazer JCC Cost: Free

Joni the Tampa JCCs & Federation for a complimentary event to celebrate donors, volunteers, staff and key supporters. Gail and Paul Whiting will be honored with the Maureen & Doug Cohn Builders Award in recognition of their extraordinary leadership, vision and commitment to strengthening the Tampa Bay community. Guest speaker will be Steve Katz of Blood, Sweat and Tear, who will perform and speak about his memoir. **Reservations are required. Visit JewishTampa.com/HakaratHatov to register.**

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 or you may contact Rabbi Lefkowitz on his phone or email. (407)222-6393 or 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!**

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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

DWTT: Dinner and a Show!

The Shrimp Boat

1020 Bloomingdale Avenue

Valrico, FL 33596

Saturday

May 25th, 2024

5:00 PM

In May, we are going to dinner first, then to a show at the Valrico Players Theater. It will be a fabulous day with our friends! You can sign up for just dinner, just the show, or both, but space is limited so **you must let me know what you want to do so that I can reserve your space.** First come, first served!

Anita - niewdnarb@yahoo.com

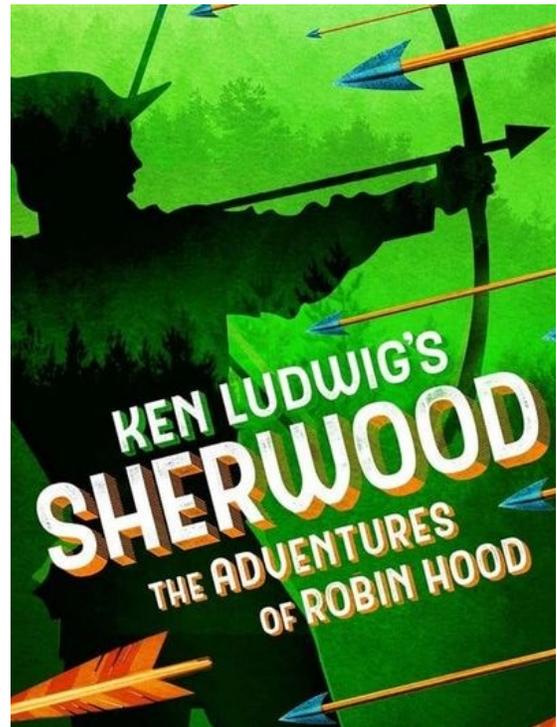
Ken Ludwig's Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood

8:00 PM

Doors open at 7:30 PM

Packed with thrills, romance, laughter, and immortal characters like Little John, Friar Tuck, and Maid Marian, Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood tells the enduring story of a hero of the people who takes on the ruthless powers that be. So, get ready to duck a quarterstaff or two – you won't want to miss a moment of the swashbuckling fun!

This classic story of courage is based on the English ballads of the 14th and 15th centuries and is filled, like its hero, with thrills, romance and a deep belief in social justice.



The Village Players

James McCabe Theater

506 North 5th Street

Valrico, FL 33594

The Group rate is \$20, no additional fee. You must send me the check by May 13 for the Group rate. Make the check out to Anita Clifford and send it to me at 6018 Audubon Manor Blvd., Lithia, FL 33547. Your check reserves your seat.

DWTT: At the Columbia



GOOD FOOD
is
BETTER
WHEN SHARED
— with —
GREAT FRIENDS



Passover Photos



Our Congregation

Yahrzeits



5/3	Rosa	Besterman	Grandmother	Of Leslie	Boyar
5/4	Elmer	Kalbas	Father	Of Bill	Kalbas
5/10	Barbara	Berkley Shapiro	Mother	Of Jan	Sperry
5/11	Sable M.	Zazulia	Mother	Of Iylene	Miller
5/15	Shirley	Cohen	Grandmother	Of Sheryl	Finke
5/16	Alice	Koch	Mother	Of Toby	Koch
5/20	Marilyn G.	Rowen	Sister	Of Judith	Pliner
5/21	Katherine	Verlin	Mother-in-Law	Of Gail	Verlin
5/27	Paul D.	Goldstein	Father	Of Judith	Pliner

Birthdays

5/9	Jackie	Feldman
5/13	Mary Ann	Yavelow

Jewish Daily
www.jewishdaily.com

"To be a Jew is to be part of the most remarkable story ever lived, by any people, covering more countries, more adverse circumstances, more triumphs and tragedies than any other story. Every one of us has a chapter to write in that story and hand the book on. That is what it is to be a Jew."

RABBI LORD JONATHAN SACKS



It is with profound sadness that we share the news of the passing of Marianne Finke, mother of Mark, Vicki and Nanci, on Thursday, April 11, 2024. Marianne was known as Oma to seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Messages of condolence can be sent to Mark and Sheryl, 141 Barrington Dr. Brandon, FL 33511.

Donations in Marianne's honor can be sent to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, ushmm.org, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW Washington DC 20024-2126.

We offer our deepest sympathies to Mark and Sheryl, Vicki, Nanci and Marianne's grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Zichrono Livracha - may Marianne's memory be for a blessing.



Friday, May 10th 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.





Thank You

תודה רבה

Anna Feldman - In memory of Stephen Feldman

Judith and Gerry Pliner - For your generous donation to CBS

Jack Frost - For sponsoring the April onegs

Faith Family United Church of Christ - Bingo Food Bank Contribution

New Members

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:

Elyse and Jacob Becker

Quinn

Heather and Craig Metzger

Welcome Back!

Shirley Ratner



Adopt a Month

February January March May
 October June november
 April/June december August
 September July



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.



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 19th at 1:00 PM

It's time for our annual congregational meeting! All members of CBS are invited and encouraged to attend. This year, our meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 19th at 1:00 PM. At the meeting, the Board reports on the financial condition of our synagogue, provides a review of the year just ending, plans about the upcoming year, and other relevant information. Also, the nominees for the Board for the upcoming fiscal year are presented to the membership for a vote of approval.

This meeting will last about one hour.

Our social time following the meeting will be to honor our newest members. Refreshments will be served.



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Time for a Nosh

“I Could Nosh” by Jake Cohen



Nanny’s Apple Cake

“After fleeing Europe during the Holocaust, part of my family landed in Cuba, rebuilding their lives before having to leave it all again before the revolution. As my aunt Susi tells it, her mother (my great-grandmother, known in our family as Nanny) got this recipe from one of her friends in the vibrant Jewish community that popped up in Havana after the war. It’s made of a cookie-like dough used as both a press-in crust and pinched crumble topping that sandwiches a heap of spiced apples. And for all the Jewish mothers obsessed with freezing everything, my mother loves to individually wrap leftover slices and keep them in the freezer to pull out whenever a craving hits!”

For the Dough

2 cups (270g) all-purpose flour
1 cup (200g) granulated sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
8 oz (2 sticks) unsalted butter
1 large egg, lightly beaten

For the Filling

2# Honeycrisp apples, peeled,
cored and cut into 1" cubes
1/4 cup chopped walnuts
1/4 cup raisins
1/4 cup (53g) light brown
sugar
2 tablespoons freshly squeezed
lemon juice
2 teaspoons finely grated fresh
ginger (optional)
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Set an oven rack in the center of the oven.

Make the dough: In a food processor, add the flour, granulated sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, and the salt and pulse to combine. Add the butter and pulse until it forms pea-sized crumbles. Add the egg and pulse until the dough just comes together.

Press two-thirds of the dough into a 9-inch pie dish across the bottom and up the sides.

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Set an oven rack in the center of the oven.

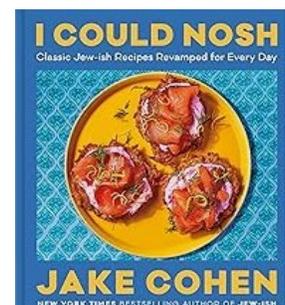
Make the dough: In a food processor, add the flour, granulated sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, and the salt and pulse to combine. Add the butter and pulse until it forms pea-sized crumbles. Add the egg and pulse until the dough just comes together.

Press two-thirds of the dough into a 9-inch pie dish across the bottom and up the sides.

Make the filling: In a medium bowl, toss together the apples, walnuts, raisins, flour, brown sugar, lemon juice, ginger, if using, and salt to combine.

Pour the filling over the pressed dough, then pinch off small pieces of the remaining one-third dough and scatter them over the top of the filling.

Place the pie dish on a sheet pan and bake on the center rack for 45 minutes, under golden brown and bubbling. Let cool completely before slicing and serving.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Passover	29 Passover	30 Passover	1	2 Adult Ed 7:00 PM	3 No Erev Shabbat Service	4 10 AM Joshua Mrakoff Bar Mitzvah
						
5	6 Yom HaShoah	7 6:30 Ex Bd Mtg 7:00 Board Mtg	8	9 Adult Ed 7:00 PM	10 Tot Shabbat 6:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 PM	11
						
12	13 Yom HaZikaron	14 Yom HaAtzmaut	15	16 Adult Ed 7:00 PM	17 Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 PM	18
						
19 Annual Mtg 1:00 PM	20	21	22	23 Adult Ed 7:00 PM	24 Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 PM	25
Food Bank 1:00 to 3:00						
26 Lag BaOmer	27	28	29	30 Adult Ed 7:00 PM	31 Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 PM	
						