

# The Kibbitzer

**Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon**

706 Bryan Road, Brandon, FL 33511

Phone (813) 681-6547

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

July 2025 Volume 36 Issue 2



# Congregation Beth Shalom

## Shabbat Services

**Can't make it to services?**

**Join us online with a live feed from Zoom!**

**Zoom Link:**

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83776565288?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83776565288?pwd=V3RIZzRXWkdaTjhsejBpNWJFTjJlBUT09)  
[pwd=V3RIZzRXWkdaTjhsejBpNWJFTjJlBUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83776565288?pwd=V3RIZzRXWkdaTjhsejBpNWJFTjJlBUT09)**

**Meeting ID: 837 7656 5288**

**Passcode: 101324**

### **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).

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**

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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.*



# July Yahrzeits

Beth	Clare	2008-07-03	Sivan 30	Friend	of	Gail	Verlin
Mimi	Evans	2011-07-17	Tamuz 15	Aunt	of	Alan	Weiss
Edward	Fink	1978-07-04	Sivan 29	Father	of	Felicia	Melcer
Lilyan	Gould	1996-07-28	Av 12	Mother	of	Sandra	Saviet
Lia	Lifschitz	2012-07-22	Av 3	Mother	of	Gabriel	Lifschitz
Esther	Lubonne	1973-07-16	Tamuz 16	Mother	of	Carole	Plesur
Chaya	Pliner	1970-07-02	Sivan 28	Grandmother	of	Gerald	Pliner
Marjorie	Spindel	2022-07-16	Tamuz 17	Mother	of	Neil	Spindel

## Donations

Neil Spindel - Three new Ecobee 3 thermastats that he is installing himself, in memory of his mother, Marjorie Spindel.

Neil Spindel—General Fund

Carol Anne & Dave Friedman—In memory of Dave's father, Bernie Friedman

Gail Verline—In memory of Katherine Verline



After a ballistic missile from Iran obliterated her apartment and recording studio, Israel Daily News host shares her raw, harrowing story of survival

## A War Zone at Home: How I Survived an Iranian Missile Strike on My Apartment

In the early hours of Monday morning, a ballistic missile fired from Iran exploded at my apartment building in Tel Aviv. The blast destroyed my home, decimated the Israel Daily News recording studio, and forever changed the trajectory of my life. By some miracle (called the mamad / safe room)... I survived. I no longer have a home, and most of my belongings are damaged or gone (simply vaporized!)



### ***This is my story:***

After a long night of reporting on the intensifying war, I had just published the podcast at 3:50 a.m. and began changing into pajamas when the Home Front Command siren went off. I rushed upstairs to my neighbor Marisa's safe room—one of the reinforced "mamad" rooms designed to withstand rocket attacks. We huddled there with others. I rolled audio, sensing something was coming. Moments later, a missile whizzed past the building and exploded. The force was unlike anything I'd ever felt. The knob on the safe room window flew across the room. The building swayed. I knew we had taken a direct hit.

When we got the all-clear, I opened the door to chaos—sheetrock on the ground, smoke and dust in the air, and our front door bent inward, trapping us inside. My partner Rafael, who had raced over on a scooter after getting the all-clear, notified rescue teams. Soldiers eventually broke the door down and helped us out. Glass was everywhere. Every window in the building had shattered. I wore borrowed slippers to protect my feet.

The blast had ruptured pipes, flooding the hallways. I passed my destroyed apartment, peeking in to see utter wreckage. I saw Rafael and my friend Zina waiting beyond the police line. Rafael hugged me tightly. He'd feared the worst after seeing injured people on the ground.

CNN was there. Though I felt unpresentable—even with makeup still on from the previous day—I let them interview me. I understand the job. Afterward, I made my way through Tel Aviv with the help of kind friends: Rafael's buddy who lives a block away offered water and his puppy for comfort, and my dear friend Nicole gave me a place to rest, shower, and fall asleep. Her baby walked to me for the first time that morning—and somehow, I found joy clapping for her, even in the middle of my personal disaster. It brought tears to my eyes.

Returning to the apartment just hours later confirmed the worst. My ceiling had collapsed. My bedroom looked like it had been bombed—because it had. My prayer card blew across the room into the spot on the window where I usually pray with it... My laptop survived, cushioned inside a wet computer bag that I have been strategically placing behind the couch because I have had visions of my window being blown in since October 7th. My jewelry box had been looted. Heirlooms from deceased loved ones were gone. The empty box awaited me at the front door. My studio—hand-built with love over years—was in pieces. Equipment toppled. Broadcast clothes soaked and ruined.



Thanks to a network of friends and my EMT cousin, we gathered what we could and moved my things to an apartment graciously offered by someone stuck overseas. That night, at 11 pm, Tel Aviv's municipality offered me a room in a hotel for displaced residents. I accepted the offer over the phone and went there. I checked in at 1 am.

Living in the hotel has helped. Meals are provided. City workers assist and are available daily. I spend my time filing insurance claims, recovering what I can, clearing rubble and debris with teenaged volunteers and trying to move forward. During the first week, Iran continued launching missiles at Israel. We rushed to bomb shelters several times a day and throughout the night. I hadn't had a full night's sleep in more than a week.

Despite it all, I'm grateful to be alive. The support from my community of Olim Hadashim (internationals) Israel Daily News listeners, and strangers has lifted me. Our Instagram page has grown to 38,000 followers, and I intend to rebuild the Israel Daily News studio stronger than before. I refuse to go back to New York, despite some family and friends implore me to. This is my home. The Jewish people waited 2,000 years to return—and I'm not leaving.

We are still reporting, albeit with broken or old systems. The show might not look or sound the same and it may come out on a different schedule than fans are used to. We are still here. And with your help, we will keep telling the stories that matter—from the frontlines, from the shelters, from the heart of Israel.



Shanna Fuld photographed by CNN after the Iranian Missile



# Tikkun Amid the Rubble: A Call to Heal and Help

By Laura Kaler, 17 June 2025



Laura Kaler

Shanna Fuld is a Broadcast/ print journalist and community organizer. She was born in Queens, New York, attended SUNY Oswego and worked at NY1 News in Manhattan until she moved to Israel in September of 2018. Today Shanna runs a boutique outlet called the Israel Daily News and makes appearances as an Israel expert for American news programs. She recently released a 4-part series for Showtime called 'Ghosts of Beirut,' where she worked as a researcher for hit show 'Fauda' writers Avi Issacharoff and Lior Raz. During that experience she became an expert on the rise of Hezbollah and the joint CIA/Mossad operation which removed Imad Mughniyeh. On nights and weekends, Shanna runs a community called Tribe Tel Aviv where she helps newcomers get acclimated in Israel through high-profile networking and social events.

Shanna and Laura (Lynn and Larry's amazing daughter currently living in Tel Aviv) have been close, long-term Tel Aviv friends.

A personalized message from Laura:

Shanna is a powerhouse—one of the most honest, generous, and hilarious people I know. Since making Aliyah on her own seven years ago, she's been a light in the lives of so many, including mine. Her professional life outside of being one of my closest friends never ceases to amaze me, she's extraordinarily articulate and has immense hope for this great Country. Personally, she's made Israel feel even more homey, and I'm endlessly in awe of her presence.

Tragically, Shanna lost her apartment in one of the recent Iranian missile terror attacks; with a direct hit next to her apartment.

We're all still in shock and just grateful she's alive. Shanna was able to make it to the neighborhood shelter in time, before the missile struck, where she had to be rescued by Israeli forces.

All her belongings, including expensive recording equipment for her job, are severely damaged or destroyed. We're raising money to help replace some of her belongings, find a new home, and start to rebuild.

Rebuilding after such trauma is not going to be easy, especially without immediate family nearby. As anyone living far from home knows, we rely deeply on our chosen family—and Shanna is my chosen family.

If you're able, any support, no matter how small, will make a real difference in helping her get back on her feet.

How can you contribute:

Venmo: @Rob-Wind  
Last digits 7461

(This is a trusted friend of Shanna's circle helping with donations) Venmo account for those wanting to verify since we're unable to access this app from Israel.

Zelle: [shannafuld@gmail.com](mailto:shannafuld@gmail.com)

If you want to follow Shanna's incredible work and reporting, you can follow her website for all social media and podcast links:  
<https://www.shannafuld.com>

Thank you so much,



Shanna Fuld

Laura Kaler

# Candle Lighting Times

Date	Time	Parsha
July 4	7:59 PM	Chukat
July 11	7:58 PM	Balak
July 18	7:56 PM	Pinchas
July 25	7:53 PM	Matot-Massei



## Join Us for Shabbat!

Every Friday night at 7:00 PM, our congregation comes together to welcome Shabbat with beautiful tunes and inspiring prayers. After the service, we continue the celebration with an oneg.

Would you like to sponsor an oneg to celebrate a mitzvah?  
Please reach out to Toby Koch at (813) 654-0877.



## Board of Directors

### Executive Committee:

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#### 1st Vice President

Gerry Pliner

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Toby Koch

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Dave Friedman

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Neil Spindel

#### Treasurer

Sandy Schwartz

#### Members at Large:

Anita Clifford

Myron Feldman

Carole Ann Friedman

Lynn Kaler

Gabe Lifschitz

## The Kibbitzer

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Friday of the month



## MEMBERSHIP

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



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**Congregation Beth Shalom**  
of Brandon

# July 2025

## July Rabbis

July 4      Rabbi Katz  
 July 11     Myron Feldman  
 July 18     Steve Billor  
 July 25     Neil Spindel



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Ex Com Mtg 6:30 PM Board Mtg 7:00 PM	2 Hebrew Lessons 6:00 PM	3	4 Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 	5
6	7	8 Hebrew Lessons 6:00 PM	9	10	11 Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 	12
13	14	15	16 Hebrew Lessons 6:00 PM	17	18 Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 	19
20 National Ice Cream Day 	21	22	23 Hebrew Lessons 6:00 PM	24	25 Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 	26
27	28	29	30 Hebrew Lessons 6:00 PM	31	1 No Shabbat Service	2 Saturday Morning Service 10:00

