

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

APRIL 2017



Chai Lites

Phone: 863-292-0722 • Website: <http://www.templebethshalompolk.org>

LAST CHANCE • APRIL 4TH DEADLINE



Tuesday April 11, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Too Jay's Catering

Cost \$35.00 Members • \$50.00 Non-Members

Children thirteen and under FREE

■ Your check and reservation must be in by April 4th

Mail your check to

Temple Beth Shalom P.O. Box 313 Winter Haven, FL 33882

Please specify on your check brisket or chicken

■ For more information call or email:

Arlene Greenberg arlenegreenberg@gmail.com 863-268-4382 or Sandi Grinker sandi@tampabay.rr.com 863-207-7440

Menu

Brisket or chicken, gefilte fish,
chopped liver, matzo ball soup,
potato kugel, matzo, wine
desserts



Sunday, April 23rd • 4:00 p.m.

The Tampa Rabbinical Association in observance of

Yom HaShoah v'HaGvura (Holocaust Remembrance Day)

is proud to welcome Betty Grebenschikoff as our special guest speaker Betty Grebenschikoff is the author of the memoir

"Once my Name Was Sara," a story of hope and survival.

The memoir details her family's flight from Nazi German just days before her father's anticipated arrest by the Gestapo, and her later life growing up in Shanghai, the city that became her home.

Please join us as Mrs. Grebenschikoff shares her story with our community. A short memorial service will begin our event.

Congregation Beth Am
2030 W. Fletcher Ave.
Tampa, FL 33612

Purim Fun





Calendar

April

April 1	6:00 p.m.	Beth Shalom Italian Dinner, Luigi's Restaurant
April 2	9:00 a.m.	TBS Executive Board Meeting
	10:00 a.m.	Religious School
April 4	12:00 p.m.	Mah Jongg
April 9	8:30 a.m.	TBS Board Meeting
	10:00 a.m.	Religious School
April 11	6:00 p.m.	TBS Community Seder
April 16	10:00 a.m.	Religious School
April 18	12:00 p.m.	Mah Jongg
April 21	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Services
April 22	9:30 a.m.	Torah Study
	11:00 a.m.	Women's Bat Mitzvah Study Group
April 23	9:30 a.m.	Brotherhood Breakfast
	10:00 a.m.	Religious School
April 25	10:30 a.m.	Needlework
	12:00 p.m.	Mah Jongg
April 30	10:00 a.m.	Religious School
	4:30 p.m.	TBS Annual Meeting

May

May 2	12:00 p.m.	Mah Jongg
May 5	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Services
May 6	9:30 a.m.	Torah Study
	11:00 a.m.	Women's Bat Mitzvah Study Group
May 7	9:00 a.m.	TBS Executive Board Meeting
	10:00 a.m.	Religious School
May 9	12:00 p.m.	Mah Jongg
May 14	8:30 a.m.	TBS Board Meeting
May 16	12:00 p.m.	Mah Jongg
May 19	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Services
May 20	9:30 a.m.	Torah Study
	11:00 a.m.	Women's Bat Mitzvah Study Group
May 21	10:00 a.m.	Religious School
May 23	12:00 p.m.	Mah Jongg
May 28	9:30 a.m.	Brotherhood Breakfast
May 30	10:30 a.m.	Needlework
	12:00 p.m.	Mah Jongg

For more details visit the calendar on the temple website: <http://www.templebethshalompolk.org>

Recently at a gathering, I heard a man proclaim “I know I believe in a higher power [God], but I need to learn that the higher power [God] believes in me.”

We have all experienced situations when our lives seem to spin out of control -times when our faith is tested. Sometimes we feel that solutions to problems are beyond our human capacity. There are moments when each of us must reach out in search of guidance and comfort from God, deity, a higher power... So the question, “Does God believe in me” is a valid consideration.

Christian thinking clearly states that God loves humankind. Robert Whalley, a retired Australian priest wrote: “...if God CAN believe in me, then that says something about how particularly and intimately the universe is ‘hitched up’ together.” He continues that the conception of a watchmaker out there winding it up (directing our lives) is quite different than viewing ourselves with the same sanctity and spirit as God - being cherished and of great value - the recipient of intimate love.

This Christian notion is derived from the Jewish idea of a personal God. That means that as humans, we have a relationship with God and vice versa. The Hebrew Bible contains numerous examples of encounters with a caring God who addresses humanity:

Deuteronomy 31:6 - “Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Eternal your God, it is that does go with thee; God will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” Isaiah 40:29-31 - “God gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the Eternal will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.” Isaiah 41:10 - “Fear not for I am with you;

be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Our prayers in the Siddur are replete with portrayals of God caring about humanity in much the same way we care about God. Moreover, Judaism views God as a living and loving parent. God is not distant, but is present and engaged with human beings. Selections include the “Ahavat Olam” prayer: “Unending is Your love for Your people the House of Israel.” The “Givurot” prayer proclaims: “Eternal is Your might, O God; all life is Your gift; great is Your power to save!” The “Modim Anachnu” prayer opens: “We gratefully acknowledge that You are our God and the God of our people, the God of all generations. You are the rock of our life, the Power the shields us in every age.” These are just a few examples.

Moreover, while God can be experienced, Judaism acknowledges that God cannot be fully understood because God is unlike human kind. We are limited to speak of God with adjectives or metaphorically. We anthropomorphize God. Yet, as human beings we are in relationship with God - a relationship that is both give and take.

Abraham Joshua Heschel proposed that God actually is “in search of man.” God, deity, higher power - whatever term you use - is accessible. God is present, involved, intimate and concerned about human kind and what happens in the world. When everything around us seems bleak and our outlook on life dark and depressing, this notion can provide immense comfort and optimism.

So Jewish thought teaches that God does indeed believe in us and learning to accept this idea is certainly a worthwhile goal.

Rabbi Garson Herzfeld

A Message From Our President

Comedian John Mulaney tells us it is so much easier NOT TO DO THINGS than it is to DO THINGS. In fact, “percentage wise, it is 100% easier not to do things than to do them, and so much fun not to do them – especially when you were supposed to do them. In terms of instant relief, cancelling plans is like heroin.”

Temple Beth Shalom knows how much energy it takes to do stuff, so thank you!

Do you know what your Temple leadership does behind the scenes? Consider this short list:

- Check and respond to the voice mails
- Check and respond to the emails
- Coordinate the Oneg hosts
- Coordinate dinners with Rabbi
- Coordinate honors for services and festivals

This “coordinating” function is a doozy by the way. As a former Program Coordinator, my Director indicated that a Coordinator is a person whose responsibility is to get people to do things they don’t want to do, with no authority whatsoever to compel them to do those things! Now, that is a challenge!

Take a look at these tasks.

- Plan, shop for, set up, and take down social events
- Plan and implement fund raising activities
- Collect items, organize, lay out, and distribute the “Chai Lites” and “Chai Notes”
- Administer the website and Facebook page
- Clean and maintain the building
- Monitor and perform building maintenance
- Keep and monitor financial records
- Pay the temple’s bills
- Open the building for routine services and repairs
- Send out thank you notes
- Send out yahrtzeit reminders

- Email important news items to the membership and guests
- Teach children and adults in the Religious School
- Prepare music and programming for services and festivals
- Monitor and maintain various supplies
- Communicate with media
- Maintain cemetery information and records, and do sales procedures
- Review and update bylaws
- Arrange various items and services for High Holidays (flowers, security, collect donations)
- Plan and lead lay services

Most of these tasks are performed regularly by a small group of people. True, this list is really short when we consider that the Torah gives us 613 mitzvot. Fortunately, perhaps, there are actually more negative mitzvot (365 things NOT to do) than there are positive mitzvot (248 things to do). It is clear to me that our God knows our nature and loves us. The Torah gives us an easy head start on fulfilling the mitzvot.

Did you know that the word mitzvah actually means “commandment” and not “good deed,” as so many of us assume. It’s more of an “I expect this of you” than an “it would be nice if.” How many teachers out there believe their students will complete assignments that are optional, with benefits that they may not see until years later, if at all?

Commandments, to me, are a sign that God loves us. God deems us capable, worthy, and good. The commandments help us actualize our potential.

Margo Fleisher

April Yartzeits

<i>William Cohen (Velvel)</i>	<i>father of Allen Cohen</i>
<i>Ruth Cooper</i>	<i>perpetual yartzeit</i>
<i>Henrietta Eisenberg</i>	<i>grandmother of Sue Zwerling</i>
<i>Sarah Goffman</i>	<i>grandmother of Sharon Shuller</i>
<i>Henry B. Grinker</i>	<i>father of Phil Grinker and Diana Glockner</i>
<i>Sophie Guttenberg</i>	<i>mother of Sandy Gasson</i>
<i>Anne Kastner</i>	<i>aunt of Meryl Crews</i>
<i>Rebecca Kogan</i>	<i>mother of Brenda Poller</i>
<i>Nate LeShay</i>	<i>uncle of Herb LeShay</i>
<i>Dorothy Ort</i>	<i>mother of Michael Ort</i>
<i>Ethel Pincus</i>	<i>mother of Bernie Pincus</i>
<i>Bertha Poller</i>	<i>mother of Robert Poller</i>
<i>Antinogenes (AJ) Rodriguez</i>	<i>father of Joseph Rodriguez</i>
<i>Marguerite Rosenberg-Bowen</i>	<i>second mother of Robert Poller</i>
<i>Steven Schlosberg</i>	<i>father of Rory Schlosberg</i>
<i>Esther (Tillie) Schwartz</i>	<i>mother of Jay Schwartz</i>
<i>Barry Schwartz</i>	<i>brother of Jay Schwartz</i>
<i>Emanuel Schwartz</i>	<i>father of Jay Schwartz</i>
<i>Betty Silverman</i>	<i>mother of Myrna Soberman</i>
<i>Rose Cohen Small</i>	<i>mother of Norman Small</i>
<i>Marilou Schwachter Sniderman</i>	<i>mother of Barbara Brooks</i>
<i>Bessie Steckel</i>	<i>grandmother of Robert Poller</i>
<i>Mattie Wolf</i>	<i>perpetual yartzeit</i>

Condolences to Sandy Gasson on the recent passing of her husband, Hank Blank.

Sandy Gasson

7634 Majestic Palm Drive #201

Boynton Beach, FL 33437

Yartzeit Plaques are available to remember your loved ones. Complete and send the attached order form and a check for \$150.00 to

*Temple Beth Shalom
P.O. Box 313
Winter Haven, FL 33882*

✓ **Mark your calendar for our Annual Meeting scheduled for April 30th @ 4:30PM. We will be serving pizza, salad, drinks and dessert. Your attendance is important!**

Chai Lites Correction

We apologize to Joseph Rodriguez for getting his name wrong in the March Chai Lites. Thank you for providing the wine for the Tu B'Shevat Seder. We are so sorry, Joseph!

Mazel Tov

- To Meryl and Jimmy Crews, on the birth of their granddaughter Jules Sage Cliett, daughter of Emily Rochelle Crews and Stephen Nicholas Cliett. She was born on Sunday, March 26th at 03:05 am. and was 20 inches long.
- To Pat Lerner, Pistol Shooter bronze medalist in the 60's age group of this year's Senior Games. Pat's weapon is a Glock 23.
- To Steven Chayt who received the Juror's Choice Award at the Winter Haven Central Park Art Festival.

Thank You's

- To Margo Fleisher, Louis Jones, Janis Koike, Meryl and Jimmy Crews, Lloyd Chain, Randy Spiwak, Rachel Spiwak, Diana Kramer, Elaine Pincus, Marty and Marcia Halpert and 2 non-members, the Crews' neighbor JoAnn and Janis' friend Sheila, for volunteering to work the Yard Sale. Thanks to everyone who donated items.
- To Sandi Grinker, Margo Fleisher, Elliot & Joey Bond, Diana Kramer, Joseph Rodriguez, Judy and Michael Richter, and Janis Koike for moving tables and chairs in preparation on the Passover Community Seder.
- To Meryl Crews and Pat Lerner for planning our Italian Night at Luigi's.
- To Sandi Grinker and Arlene Greenberg for taking Passover Seder reservations.
- To Renee and Allen Cohen and Art and Aase Feder for hosting the rabbi for dinner.
- To Arlene Greenberg, Irwin and Brenda Kleinmann and Aase and Art Feder for providing our Onegs during March.
- To Anne Botz for a yartzeit donation in memory of Tad Michael Stoler.

Dinner With The Rabbi

The next Dinner with Rabbi Herzfeld will be hosted by Sue Zwerling at Outback Steakhouse on April 21st at 5:30 pm

Please R.S.V.P. by Wednesday April 19th. Sandi@tampabay.rr.com or call 863-207-7440

Agape Food Bank

Did you know? In Polk County, over 137,000 individuals live in poverty. Nearly 48,000 of those individuals are children. The latest food hardship report from FRAC (Food Research and Action Center), shows Polk County is 2nd nationally in food insecurity. In Lakeland/Polk County, the estimate is that 23.2% of the population isn't always sure where the next meal is coming from. Here at Agape Food Bank we supplied 9 million pounds of food in the past year, providing 7.5 million meals to our neighbors in need but we need your help! Volunteers are needed to help sort food dry food items, produce and can food items as well as pack SmilePak food items for 23 Polk County Public Schools throughout the district. Whatever time you have to help us serve our hungry neighbors we would love to have you join us in the fight to end hunger in our community! For more information, Please contact Donya Frazier at 863-665-7074 ext. 7074.

Meals on Wheels

★ WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS ★



FEEDING THE HOMEBOUND MAKES YOU A MEALS ON WHEELS STAR!

VOLUNTEER MONTH APRIL 2017

Start thinking of a friend that you can invite to ride along with you on your meal delivery route, work in the kitchen with you or work in the Meals on Wheels Thrift Store with you. For every guest volunteer that you bring during the month of April you will receive a raffle ticket and your guest will receive a raffle ticket as well. We have 5 prizes that will be given away at the end of April (Volunteer totes, shirts, tumblers and Gift Cards). Tell your friends, "Join us for fun and Feeding the Homebound". VOLUNTEER - "MAKE YOUR HEART SOAR!"



Temple Beth Shalom

Yahrtzeit Plaque Order Form

\$150.00 contribution.

Arrangement for payment to be made with the Temple Treasurer, Meryl Chayt, 294-6976

Requested by _____

Telephone Number _____ E-mail _____



Actual size sample shown.

Line One English date of death _____

Line Two Memorial Name in English _____

Line Three *optional, please check.*

_____ Memorial Name in Hebrew.

_____ or Memorial Name in Hebrew transliteration.

_____ son / daughter of _____ and _____
Hebrew name Father's Hebrew name Mother's Hebrew name

(If you do not know the Hebrew names we will gladly look them up)

Line Four *optional, please check.*

_____ Date of death in Hebrew.

_____ Date of death in Hebrew transliteration.

Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

(If you do not know the Hebrew date we will gladly look it up)