

UPCOMING DATES

Sunday,
Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31
10 a.m. to Noon
Religious School

Tuesday,
Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26
Noon: Mah Jongg

Friday, Jan. 8
8 p.m.
Shabbat Service

Saturday, Jan. 9
9:30 a.m.
Torah Study with
Rabbi Herzfeld

Tuesday, Jan. 12
7 p.m.
TBS Board Meeting

Friday, Jan. 22
6:30 p.m.
Tu B'Shevat Seder

Saturday, Jan. 23
9:30 a.m.
Torah Study with
Rabbi Herzfeld

Sunday, Jan. 24
9:30-11:30 a.m.
TBS Brotherhood
Breakfast at the
Hamptons

Tuesday, Jan. 26
10:30 a.m.
Needlework

HANUKKAH DINNER AND SERVICE WELL ATTENDED

Temple Beth Shalom's Hanukkah dinner was enjoyed by nearly 60 members and non-members. Many TBS members made the annual Hanukkah Celebration a success. They were: Meryl Chayt who coordinated the efforts. Meryl Crews who prepared the songbooks. Sandi Grinker and Meryl Chayt who set the tables. Janis Koike who prepared the green beans. Diana Kramer who prepared

the brisket. Diana Kramer and Varda Rotenberg who provided donuts and fruit. Pat Lerner who set up the social hall and preparing the salads. Judy Richter who worked with Too-Jays to cater the potato latkes. Diana Kramer who gathered the "recyclables" and disposed of them after the festivities.

Special thank you to Bobby Baum and Bert Devorsetz who sponsored the children's meals for Hanukkah and this month's Tu B'Shevat seder. EVERYONE who pitched in and helped clean up! EVERYONE who attended.



Don't miss the next TBS event! See Page 5 for details on the Tu B'Shevat Seder. RSVP by Jan. 15!

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 3

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

JANUARY

Jan. 3 – 9:00 am	Executive Meeting
Jan. 3	Religious School Holiday
Jan. 5 – 12:00 pm	Mah Jongg
Jan. 8 – 8:00 pm	Shabbat Service
Jan. 9 – 9:30 am	Torah Study
Jan. 10 – 10:00 am	Religious School
Jan. 12 – 12:00 pm	Mah Jongg
7:00 pm Temple	Board Meeting
Jan. 17 – 10:00 am	Religious School
Jan. 19 – 12:00 pm	Mah Jongg
Jan. 22 – 6:30 pm	Tu B'Shevat Seder
<i>See Page 5 for details</i>	
Jan. 23 – 9:30 am	Torah Study
Jan. 24 – 9:30 am	Brotherhood Breakfast
Jan. 26 – 10:30 a.m.....	Needlework
12:00 p.m.....	Mah Jongg
Jan. 31 – 10:00 am	Religious School

FEBRUARY

Feb. 2 – 12:00 p.m.....	Mah Jongg
Feb. 5 – 8:00 p.m.....	Shabbat Service
Feb. 6 – 9:30 a.m.....	Torah Study
Feb. 7 – 9:00 a.m.....	Executive Meeting
Feb. 7 – 10:00 a.m.....	Religious School
Feb. 9 – 12:00 p.m.....	Mah Jongg
Feb. 9 – 7:00 p.m.....	Temple Board Meeting
Feb. 14 – 10:00 a.m.....	Religious School
Feb. 16 – 12:00 p.m.....	Mah Jongg
Feb. 19 – 8:00 p.m.....	Shabbat Service
Feb. 20 – 9:30 a.m.....	Torah Study
Feb. 21 – 10:00 a.m.....	Religious School
Feb. 23 – 10:30 a.m.....	Needlework
Feb. 23 – 12:00 p.m.....	Mah Jongg
Feb. 28 – 9:30 a.m.....	Brotherhood Breakfast
Feb. 28 – 10:00 a.m.....	Religious School

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bylaws	Michelle Wilson
Budget and Finance	Meryl Chayt
Cemetery	Jeanne Heyman
Chai Lites	Pixie Rubin
Choir	Meryl Crews
Communications	Steve and Meryl Chayt
Education and Religious School	Meryl Crews
Executive	Richard Friedmann
House	Martin Halpert
Israel-Arza	Michelle Chain
Membership	Joyce Preston
Nominating	Richard Friedmann
Publicity	Phil Ginker
Pulpit	Rabbi Herzfeld
Ritual	Renee Cohen
Social	Arlene Greenberg Judy Richter
Social Action	Margo Fleisher
Temple Calendar	Janis Koike
Ways and Means	Herb LeShay (Brotherhood Chair)
Youth	Open

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM now has a Facebook page

https://www.facebook.com/bethshalompolk/photos_stream?ref=page_internal

BOARD TRUSTEES
AND OFFICERS
2015-2016

Margo Fleisher
President
Meryl Crews
Vice President
Meryl Chayt
Treasurer
Judy Richter
Recording
Secretary
Richard Friedmann
Past President

Joyce Preston
Sue Zwerling
Janis Koike
Herb LeShay
Diana Kramer
Bert Devorsetz

DONATE YOUR
UNWANTED
GLASSES

There will be a box
for unwanted
glasses that will be
given to charity.

CHAI LITES
DEADLINE

Please submit news items
by the 20th of each month
to
web@bethshalompolk.org
for publication
in Chai Lites.

MORE HANUKKAH FESTIVITY PHOTOS!



Whose hot tub served as a mikvah for several years? Find the answer in this issue of Chai Lites.

NEW YAHRZEIT BOARD

TBS is very fortunate to have talented and generous members. A new expanded Yahrzeit Board is being constructed for Temple Beth Shalom. Our current 50 plaque board, designed and built by Steven Chayt, will be replaced by a new board that he is building, that will hold 150 names. The current plaques will be transferred to the new board. For those who have been waiting to purchase plaques for your loved ones, the new board should be completed by the first of the year. Please watch for additional details.



DOING THE RIGHT THING (BECAUSE IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO)

For the past few years, several trends have begun to affect our financial position.

Some of our long time members have changed their financial commitment from "family membership" to "single." Others are no longer able to fulfill the standard contribution. And still others in our community participate as members, with full privileges, without paying any membership

at all.

The result is that our ledger is in the red and we no longer have sufficient funds to meet our annual obligations without dipping into our "rainy day" fund. If this situation continues, the results are obvious.

In the end, we are all responsible. The success of our synagogue, a symbol of the Jewish presence in Central Florida is in the hands of all of us. Please do the right thing.



Tu B'Shevat Seder

6:30 P.M.

JANUARY 22, 2016

Deli Dinner catered by



Cost \$12.00 for Adults

No charge for children under 13

Please R.S.V.P by January 15

with your check to P.O. Box 313 Winter Haven, FL 33882

For more information

contact Sandi Grinker sandi @tampabay.rr.com or 863-207-7440

THE MEANING OF TU B'SHEVAT

Tu B'Shevat, sometimes called the Jewish Arbor Day, is celebrated on the fifteenth day of Sh'vat to commemorate our relationship to trees, and by extension to the earth and the land of Israel. After the destruction of the temple and the diaspora that followed, Jews felt a special need to maintain a



relationship with Israel by eating fruits and nuts that are native to our homeland.

In Israel, Tu B'Shevat is a national tree planting holiday.

You might think that a Tu B'Shevat "Seder" is a modern invention, but in fact, the idea of the seder originated with Jewish mystics of the eighteenth century. They published a

"hagaddah" called Pri Etz Hadar. (The Fruit of the Goodly Tree). The ritual divides the ceremony into four distinct sections that symbolize the four seasons. Various fruits and nuts are eaten, as well as four glasses of wine from white to red, all of which symbolize the fruit of the earth.

Information for this article was taken from various essays published by reformjudaism.org

TBS ANNUAL BROTHERHOOD AUCTION TO FEATURE LARGER VENUE, CREDIT/DEBIT PAYMENT

As we approach the new year of 2016, I want to share a very exciting piece of news with the entire congregation.

Please mark your calendars for 2016 as the Temple Brotherhood will be having the annual Dinner/Auction, April 2. This is a very important event for all of us as we raise significant funds for continued prosperity of the Temple. This coming year will mark some important and exciting changes to the event.

First, we have secured a larger venue that will provide more comfort and convenience for all to attend. The event will be held at The Hamptons Community Clubhouse located off Route 92 in Auburndale.

It is a beautiful ballroom that can accommodate more than 200 people comfortably. Adequate parking facilities are also available.

A cocktail hour will highlight the opening festivities again as well as several different types of auctions in addition to a surprise live auction with more details to follow.

Finally, and most significantly, we are putting the final touches on a new system of participants paying for auctions won by installing a credit/debit card transaction process in addition to the traditional cash/check program. We believe this will entice more participation.

All this will take a huge effort from the brotherhood to make this a great, fun evening for all.

So I encourage all who have thought about participating in the brotherhood but have been on the sidelines until now to step forward and join us as we are also planning more dinners, activities, and fun times for the entire Temple community.

If anyone has ideas or wants to donate to the Auction, please see a brotherhood member or contact me either by email/text/phone. Thank you and have a Happy New Year!

Howard Korn, Brotherhood President
740-706-1557 • howard.korn@sbcglobal.net



Oct. 11: Jerry Heyman
Jan. 3: Raye Korn
Jan. 5: Jeanne Heyman
Jan. 7: Irwin Korn
Jan. 31: Steven Chayt

WE GIVE THANKS ...

Polly and Jan Weinmann for hosting Rabbi Herzfeld for dinner, Oct. 30.

Sue Zwerling, Pixie Rubin, and Floyd Stern for hosting an Oneg Shabbat, Dec. 18.

TBS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER SCHEDULED FOR MARCH

Start saving your items now for our annual Temple Yard Sale. Sunday, March 6. We will be able to store boxed items in our shed, or Richard Friedmann, our yard sale maven, will be available to pick up items before 11:30 am. This is one of our primary fundraisers, so please consider donating any of your unused, out-grown items. Additional details will be available in the February Chai Lites.

B'NAI B'RITH SPEAKER DISCUSSES GROWING UP JEWISH IN POLK COUNTY

The guest speaker for the December 20, 2015 B'nai B'rith Brunch was Dr. Cat Eskin. Cat is an Associate Professor at Florida Southern College and a member of Temple Emanuel.

Her topic was "Growing Up Jewish in Polk County or How I Spent My Sabbatical." Dr. Eskin's presentation projected pictures of some of the earliest Jews to live in Polk County and their family members. Her research included interviews with members of Temple Emanuel.



Some of the audience members were interviewed by Dr. Eskin and featured in her discussion.

Temple Beth Shalom and unaffiliated Jews. She began speaking about Jews arriving in Lakeland in 2009. She applied for and received a grant by the Florida Humanities Council.

Dr. Eskin spent time during her sabbatical conducting interviews within Florida, and also traveled to Atlanta Georgia, Washington D.C., and New York City for other interviews.

- By Phil Grinker, president, B'nai B'rith Lodge 1515



Dr. Cat Eskin and her daughter Tilly Barickman who assisted her mother with the slide presentation.

10 A.M., JAN. 17

Dr. Jonathan Matusitz, professor of Communications, will be the guest speaker. His topic will be Communication and Terrorism. Bagels and Lox with all the trimmings, price \$15*

2900 Buckingham Ave., Lakeland 33803

Buckingham crosses Edgewood Drive one block east of Cleveland Heights Blvd. The south parking lot has an easy ramp and there is

usually plenty of handicap parking Email Bobby Baum, if you need more information (rbaum@gte.net)

*Price is whether one eats or not as we are charged for the number of people who attend.

BNAI
RITH
RUNCH

DINNER WITH THE RABBI

Dinner with Rabbi Herzfeld Jan. 8 will be hosted by Judy and Michael Richter. 5:30 p.m., at Tanners Restaurant, 1006 S. Lake Howard Drive, Winter Haven. Please RSVP by Jan. 6 to sandi@tampabay.rr.com. or 863-207-7440.

EREV SHABBAT SERVICES

8 p.m. with Rabbi Herzfeld. We are collecting canned goods or non-perishable food for the food pantry.

Yahrzeits

Charles Cooper
Rose Kosten
Anna Starlight
Charles Starlight
Robert Stiles
Herman Zwerling
Joseph Greenberg

Isadore Shuller
Jeanne Sundheim Siegel
Sadie Heyman Bergman
Harry Hershman
Morris Kohen
Leo Kleinman
Stanley Sundheim
Martha Shuller
Stanley Friedman
Norman Greenberg
Charlotte Browde
Pola Bromberg
Stephen Zwerling
Bella Polley
Sylvia Bendersky
Harry L. Podoll
Debra Segal

Perpetual Yahrzeit
grandmother of Jerry Kosten
grandmother of Steve Zwerling
grandfather of Steve Zwerling
Perpetual Yahrzeit
father-in-law of Susan Zwerling
father-in-law of Arlene Greenberg
and grandfather of Steven Greenberg
father of Sharon Shuller
sister-in-law of Adrienne Sundheim
mother of Jerry Heyman
father of Marilyn Fisher
grandfather of Margo Fleisher
father of Irwin Kleinman
father of Rabbi Frank Sundheim
grandmother of Sharon Shuller
father of Scott Friedman
husband of Arlene Greenberg and father of Steven Greenberg
sister of Arlene Greenberg
mother of Varda Rotenberg
husband of Susan Zwerling
mother of Polly Weinmann
late wife of Charles Bendersky
grandfather of Janis Koike
mother of Jett Segal

Kaddish will not be recited at the Friday evening TuB'Shevat Seder.

The December Yahrzeit list incorrectly identified the grandson of Jay Browde. Mr. Browde's grandson is Steven Greenberg.

DONATIONS TO TBS

Yahrzeit Donation
In memory
of Frances Cornell and
Sarah LeShay
Herb and
Diane LeShay

THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

Be master of your petty annoyances and conserve your energies for the big, worthwhile things. It isn't the mountain ahead that wears you out - it's the grain of sand in your shoe.

*Robert Service,
Canadian poet
(1874 - 1958)*

The world isn't interested in the storms you encountered, but whether or not you brought in the ship.

*Raul Armesto
Author information
not available*

It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts.

*Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
(1859 - 1930)
British mystery author
& physician*

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web@bethshalompolk.org