



THE SHOFAR

Temple Beth Shalom Florida, New York
December 2024 Cheshvan / Kislev 5785

From the Desk of Rabbi Rebecca P. Shinder

After a heartbreaking year of much that has made us say “oy,” it’s time to share a little Jewish Joy. I am thinking in particular about our younger adult congregants, many of whom were exposed to new world views and even some challenges on college campuses throughout our country in the past year or so. Please “come home for the holiday” and prepare for the Festival of Lights with your family of families on Friday, 12/20 at 7PM. Yes, our celebration will be more of a preparation as this year, the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev begins on the evening of the 25th day of December. Yes, Christmas-Kah is a calendrical reality for 5785 & 2024!

Three Questions you may ask regarding this Homecoming/Hameshe Hanukkah Event:

1. Why on this erev-Shabbat night be the night to break out the decorations, learn about some of the more PG-13 aspects of the story.
2. Is it “kosher” for this erev-Shabbat night on Friday 12/20 to be our TBS time to celebrate when it’s five nights in advance of the first candle?
3. What if it’s been years since our family has been to a TBS event?

Because on this night:

1. We will learn about some of the Greek-influenced customs that assimilated Israelites chose to do and the Maccabees rejected (spoiler alert - I did not teach some of the more salacious ones in Religious School!).
2. Kosher, is about informed choice in the Reform movement. Thus, I am informing you that it is not yet Hanukkah and we choose to schmooze and anticipate the holiday on that night anyway! Plus, we acknowledge that time is just a construct and an early celebration is much more important than no celebration at all!
3. We are a welcoming community to Jews by birth, Jews by choice, Jews by association, and those who are curious about what Jews choose to do! AND we want to ensure that this year especially, we provide a safe and joyous space for Jews of all ages to experience some good old-fashioned Jewish Joy!

We will have a very brief Shabbat service followed by singing & sipping, noshing & naches and maybe even some gambling with dreidels & other games of chance. Latkes, laughs, and sweet treats will be served during an elevated oneg. Please spread the word among former classmates, Sisterhood & Men’s Club members, and mitzvah moms of yesteryear to join us. Our Mitzvah Project for our holiday will be a collection to share our warmth with others. Please bring a new or gently used winter item of outerwear such as hats, mittens, or scarves to share some warmth with our neighbors.

All ages & all stages of the Jewish journey are encouraged to: Come Home for our TBS Hanukkah Preparation Celebration, Friday, December 20th, 7PM

December Schedule:

12/7 - 9:30AM Beit Sefer @ The Florida Food Pantry

12/7 - 11:30AM B’nei Mitzvah Family Meeting @ TBS

12/13 - 7PM Erev Shabbat Experience of Conversation & Meditation w/David Wilde

12/20 - 7PM Erev Shabbat Hanukkah Preparation Celebration

12/27 - 6PM Hanukkah @ the Monroe Temple

**We will be virtual for all erev Shabbat services until March 1st. bit.ly/tbsservices
Save the date for Shabbat Shira, in-person at TBS Saturday, 2/8/25, 10AM.**

HANUKKAH PREP

JOIN US FOR AN INFORMAL
LEARNING SERVICE,
PRE-HANUKKAH PREPARATION
AND CELEBRATION
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH 7PM



All are welcome! Bring your Hanukkah for brief seminar-style learning in the Social Hall followed by Candle Lighting, in the spirit of a model seder. Hanukkah-themed items including candles, and wrapping paper will be sold to benefit TBS. A limited amount of blue & white cookies will be sold as a fundraiser for worthy causes in Israel. Please learn more cookies4israel.com
We will pre-order boxes so that you will have them in time for gifts and/or parties. If you know now you would like a box or two, email the temple so we order enough. 100% of these sales will go to Israel. Am Yisrael Chai!
Extended Oneg with music, trivia, tapas & latkes!

ALL TOGETHER, LET'S CELEBRATE...

Hanukkah!!



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27
MONROE TEMPLE WELCOME TO ALL
IN OUR COMMUNITY

6 PM SERVICE WITH LOTS OF SINGING, and THE
LIGHTING OF ALL OF OUR HANUKKIOT (PLEASE BRING YOURS,
WITH CANDLES!)

7 PM ONEG WITH LATKES AND SUFGANIYOT (JELLY
DONUTS)

Blind, Hanukkah Gift exchange:

Please bring a \$10 or under, fun gift to put
into our Hanukkah gift pot! We'll open at the Oneg!

Please RSVP to office@monroetemple.org

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi TBS!

Like the New York Jets we are on a roll! Um, scratch that... like the Pittsburgh Steelers (8-3) we are on a roll! We are coming off a string of well-attended, successful services and events. Rosh Hashanah 2 at the former Kutz Camp, Sukkah build, Sukkot Under The Stars, Daffodil Project and Sukkah takedown, and most recently the Beit Sefer Shul-In with 28 kids!! Awesome!

Let's keep our foot on the gas! And/or electric pedal?! It is indeed our Community that makes Temple Beth Shalom come to life. Please join us for one (or all) of what we have on our upcoming schedule to offer to our Membership, Beit Sefer participants, and newcomers to TBS. Don't be shy, just say Hi! It is also incumbent upon current TBS members to reach out, shake a hand, start a welcoming discussion with someone new, or perhaps you don't even know... as they become part of the TBS Family of Families.

Jump in, and enjoy some of these wonderful services and events offered:

- Friday, Dec 13, 7pm – a special Informal Shabbat Experience with David Wilde with meditation. I think we all need a bit of what David will be offering!
- Friday, Dec 20, 7pm – a very special Hanukkah Themed Shabbat Experience is in development for this night! Holiday prep and latkes!
- Friday, Dec 27, 6pm Hanukkah Shabbat at Monroe Temple

As always, additional details and the latest information will be available in the monthly Shofar – and in our weekly e-mail blasts. Let us know if you are not receiving them and we will get you added to our mailing and e-mailing lists! See you at Shul

L'Chayim!

Eric Goodman, Co-President

845-699-5705 Eric2112goodman@gmail.com



GOOD NEIGHBOR PARKING GUIDELINES

Please keep our neighbors in mind by following these guidelines:

- ◆ Don't block a neighbor's driveway
- ◆ Make sure tires not on a lawn
- ◆ If parked directly across from a driveway, ensure there is enough clearance for the car in that driveway to back out
- ◆ If a neighbor complains to you, do not engage, instead find a board member who will attempt to smooth any ruffled feathers.



Let's ensure parking does not become a stressful situation!

~ CARING COMMUNITY ~

Our sincerest condolences to Kelly Blaikner Gilliard and her family on the loss of their beloved Thomas Gilliard.

~ May Tom's memory be for a blessing ~

We thank the following for their kind and generous High Holiday Donations:

Virginia Levenback	Bebra Levy Mckenney	Daryl Goldberg
Lewis Gross	Gail & Michael Miller	David & Mildred Glassman
Jennifer Bridges	Gregory & Jamie Frazier	Jill & Randolph Cohen
Fred & Linda Moshman	Burt Gitlin Schneerberg	Karyn & Jonathan Winaker
Carol Reinlib	Naomi Sagiv	Catherine Greenblatt
William & Barbara Horn	Gail Green & Tony	Randi & Robert Barlow
David Wilde	Mazzella	

We thank the following for their generous donations IMO Irene Schacher:

Lauren Byers, The Cahn Family

We thank the following for their generous donations IMO Eugene Kalet:

The Cahn Family, Catherine Greenblatt

We thank The Cahn Family for their generous donation IMO Donald Rosenfeld

We thank the following for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund: Andrew Schacher, Anonymous

We thank the following for their generous donations to the Pomerantz Garden:

Michael & Caryl Melasky, Seth Kreimer

We thank the following for their generous donations to the Pomerantz Garden IHO Sharon & Rich Ball's 50th Anniversary:

Gail & Danny Conklin	Wendy Wayman	Jack & Laura Nizewitz
Scott Dunn	Catherine Greenblatt	Marga Gordon
Fred Malkin	Debra Katz Weber	Gail Green & Tony Mazzella



The Gilliard and Blaikner families would like to thank Rabbi Rebecca Shinder, Michael Melasky and our TBS community for opening your home to us. You embraced our families and we were touched by your kindness and generosity during this very difficult time.



DECEMBER YAHRTZEIT REMINDERS



December 6, 2024

Joseph Smolinsky	1-Dec
Lillian Knoepfler	4-Dec
Alvin Strauss	5-Dec
Milton Blueglass	2 Kislev
David Katz	5 Kislev

December 13, 2024

Sylvia Baumel	7-Dec
Zelig L. Lang	10-Dec
The Goldstein Family	6-Dec
Suzanne Winderman	13-Dec
Shirley Gordon	13-Dec
Leonard A. Pallor	13-Dec
Irving Schwimmer	6 Kislev
Allan Heffler	7 Kislev
Abraham Horowitz	7 Kislev
Fay Sommer	7 Kislev
Florence Hecht	8 Kislev
Marcia G. Chibnik	10 Kislev
Ethel Weinberger Fabel	10 Kislev
Fred Cahn	11 Kislev
Paul Moskowitz	12 Kislev

December 20, 2024

Henry Rothstein	15-Dec
David Saltz	19-Dec
Samuel Dimm	19-Dec
Thelma (Toby) Holsborg	13 Kislev
Benjamin Masour	5 Kislev
Ida Polin	16 Kislev
Ella R. Chiron	16 Kislev
Benjamin Cuttler	18 Kislev
Isaac Forman	19 Kislev
Judith Cohen	19 Kislev
Marsha Waldman	19 Kislev

December 27, 2024

Lawrence Fox	Dec. 21
Fannie Schragger	Dec. 22
Joseph Duda	Dec.23
Justin Linwood Dunn	Dec. 23
Philip Siegel	Dec. 25
Sara Muhlrad	Dec. 25
Ernest Knoepfler	Dec. 26
Vladi Olga Nick	26-Dec
Nathan Weinstock	22 Kislev
Steven Louis Denenberg	24 Kislev
Jerald Hunn	25 Kislev
Benjamin Chiron	25 Kislev
Dorothy Melnick	26 Kislev

January 3, 2025

Roberta Resnick	Dec. 28
Shendel German	29-Dec
Jim Rogers	29-Dec
Sally Fischman	Dec. 29
Joseph Sherer	Dec-10
Essie Rubinstein	1-Jan
Abraham Toltziz	2-Jan
Theodore Mayer	3-Jan
Samuel Heller	26 Kislev
Evelyn Gerin	27 Kislev
Etta Bendick	28 Kislev
Mimi Ocko	28 Kislev
Sonia Mack	30 Kislev
Leonard Pallor	30 Kislev
Arthur G. Heller	30 Kislev
Norman Shinder	1 Tevet
Steven Steiner	2 Tevet

*May the Source of peace send peace to
all who mourn and comfort to all who are bereaved.*

A candle may be lit at home the evening before the yahrtzeit date. From September through June these names will be read during the erev Shabbat service before kaddish is recited. If you have a loved one you wish to add to our yahrtzeit list, or if you have not been getting yahrtzeit reminders from us, please email the office, tbs-ny@optimum.net.





BEIT SEFER * בית ספר

Beit Sefer of Orange County • A new twist on Jewish education!

DECEMBER 2024 - Monroe

Tue 10	IP Hebrew School
Thu 12	Z Hebrew School
Sun 15	Beit Sefer – Hanukkah Program
Tue 17	IP Hebrew School
Thu 19	Z Hebrew School
Sun 22-31	NO SCHOOL



Cards made by our Beit Sefer kids to send to American soldiers on active duty.



November 10th 2024 Veterans' Day Presentation featuring Jerry Schacher, Jonathan Winaker and Andy Hannes. Jonathan is holding a picture of his younger self in uniform. Thank you all for your service.



Pictures taken by Gail Conklin



SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Wishing everyone (a little early) a very festive Hanukkah. Let the lights of the menorah shine brightly this year. A huge thank you goes out to Wendy Wayman for organizing our fundraiser Psychic Medium Lisa Morrison last month. This was a huge fundraising success for sisterhood.



January 26, 2025 - Scrabble Sunday, A fun afternoon at Temple. Schmooze, Snacks and Scrabble. Look for more information on the weekly blast

Sisterhood is looking for Mah Jongg and Canasta players. We are reaching out to anyone interested in teaching beginners how to play Canasta as well as Mah Jongg. Please let me know if you have any interest in playing or teaching either game.

Please join sisterhood and renew your Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood membership today. Make a difference in your temple community, have fun, and develop life-long friendships through sisterhood. We welcome any ideas you have. Please remember that we are a group of women who care and support each other, our temple and community.

The Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood Executive Board

Robin: thebordmans@aol.com or text 845-699-6460

Wendy: thewaymans@optonline.net

Trustees Ilene Cahn, Mindy Hazzard, Judy Potter, Holli Teshome

On 11/8/24, Andy Hannes chanted his favorite Torah portion, *Lech Lecha*, surrounded by his family. Then his daughter Amy sang *L'chi Lach* accompanied by her brother, Jeff.



A blessing was bestowed upon Karyn and Jonathan Winaker on

the occasion of their 2nd wedding anniversary.



TBS MEN'S CLUB

The Sukkah goes up, the Sukkah goes down. Thanks to this crew who came out on 11/10 to help out. Way to go, Rabbi!



**Pictures taken by
Gail Conklin**



**Prepping for Shabbat,
Rabbi Shinder was assisted
in rolling the Torah.**



Rabbi Shinder's words from the Interfaith Service on 11/26/24

The Psalmist proclaimed: Blessed be you who come here in the name of God. We offer profound blessings of thanksgiving in that, after a hiatus caused by an unimaginable public safety crisis, once again we as an Interfaith group of friends and neighbors gather together to ask the Lord's blessing, and to celebrate that we live in a nation that values and proclaims religious liberty and freedom for all of her inhabitants. Some gathered in this sacred space are descendants of pilgrims - men and women who settled this land in search of religious freedom; ancestors of others came over the centuries escaping tyranny and persecution; others came searching for economic security fleeing famine and plague and poverty; and there are some who came to these shores in recent years joining themselves and their families to this American dream. In the early pursuit of that dream, we failed our fellow human beings who were indigenous to this land. We took much, and today we are only beginning to acknowledge that theft of land and culture and the inability to see that we all are created in the image of God.

Tonight, we gather to offer praise and thanks to that divine Creator approximately 400 hundred years after the first feast celebrating the harvest in Plymouth. Earlier in our service, Sharon Ball read the passage from Deuteronomy that no doubt the Pilgrims knew - that at times of harvest and plenty they should offer thanks to God. We who gather in worship tonight seemed to have gotten that memo. So did President Lincoln when he proclaimed in 1863 that this should be a national holiday on the final Thursday in November.

As with much in our American experiment, not all states agreed on the proclamation, and not all Americans agreed with the need to move this national holiday up to the 3rd Thursday in November in attempt to spur retail sales during the Great Depression. Could there possibly be a secondary or meta-meaning of this Festival of Thanks praising God for our Plenty? Could this biblically based holiday ever morph into commercialism? Why yes, yes it could.

Folks, you are the first to hear that...I am a rabbi and I love Christmas commercials! Now some may hear a bit of me channeling Oprah-energy as she proclaimed – “I love bread” (if so, you are correct.) Others may hear this very public & confusing statement as an inappropriate sharing of an existential crisis of faith (if so, you are not correct.) Others still may wonder “why on this evening of communal thanksgiving would a rabbi mention another holiday, one that is not in concert with her theological, familial, & rabbinical tradition?

Because of this night I am thankful that we can gather in worship, in music, in safety, and in community. I am thankful that those Christmas commercials portray an American landscape that is light and bright. They create a version of American celebration worthy of Norman Rockwell's brush and touch on times well shared. Cookies are made (sometimes by fathers) without a stray eggshell, a burnt pan, or any cleanup required at all. The biggest conflict I have seen in these scenes is one between a mother-in-law and her son's sweetheart each dares to prepare holiday feasts & treats DIFFERENTLY, the mother serves turkey, the young woman serves ham one roasts vegetables while the other dares to boil them, the elder makes pies while the younger bakes cakes. Tensions mount worthy of high noon drama, but all is well when each simultaneously pulls out the same brand of dinner roll!!

Light and bright is so very important after we lived through a seemingly endless election cycle with dark and ominous commercials presented by both campaigns. When Abraham Lincoln told our nation that a house divided cannot stand, he borrowed wisdom from the New Testament. In this house of the Jewish faith, I say that no truer words could be said of our time, as well. As we looked to our shared holiday of thanks and faith and family and American tradition I ask that we all take pause to recognize that:

continued on next page

No matter our differences, in this house there is room.
For empathy and compassion, in this house there is room.
For kindness and generosity, in this house there is room.

And so to circle back to those flashy commercials, I would like to conclude with the acknowledgment that we must make room for our fellow Americans who are not represented on our screens. In those scenes, all families have access to limitless gifts and food. Moreover, no one is alone or forgotten. These are aspirational images of holidays beginning with Thanksgiving sadly do not speak of a guaranteed experience shared by all of our neighbors. Friends, this is why we on this night support the holy work done by The Florida Food Pantry. We thank Beth and the countless volunteers in our community who work year-round to support our food-insecure neighbors, and who organize a loving and generous holiday gift fair for the clients of the pantry. I am grateful that the children of our school can help in a small way to organize those gifts for what I am proud to call now our third annual sacred trip to the First Presbyterian church of Florida - a trip that includes a lesson on the work of the pantry and time to review Hanukkah music in the church's sanctuary!

If you were not able to join us in our VERY full sanctuary and would like to support the pantry, you can bring nonperishable food items to the temple, drop them to the Pantry on the morning of 12/7 when Beit Sefer volunteers there, or Venmo @floridacommunityfoodpantry

Thank you to all of the many musicians and volunteers who made this evening possible!



**PLEASE
NOTE:**

**We will be virtual
for erev Shabbat
in January
and February
bit.ly/tbsservices**

**Save the date for
Shabbat Shira,
in-person at TBS
Saturday, 2/8/25 10am**



Beit Sefer planted daffodils for the 3rd year in a row under the supervision of super-gardener Shari Rake.



Pictures taken by Gail Conklin

Over two dozen Beir Sefer kids and their friends showed up for our County-wide Shul-In, funded by the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County. Not everyone slept over but they all had a great time. Many thanks to Rabbi Shinder, Rabbi Lerner, Scott Dunn, Jeff Hannes and all the parents who spent time with the kids that evening. Pictures taken by Gail Conklin.











Piano Lessons and Flute Lessons



Given by Kenneth Korn,
TBS member and music teacher
with over 35 years experience.

First lesson FREE to TBS members.

Kkorn1957@gmail.com

845-866-9139

Lessons available via Zoom

The Shofar

Published Monthly
Temple Beth Shalom
13 Roosevelt Avenue Florida, New York 10921
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Rabbi Rebecca P. Shinder

OFFICERS

CO-PRESIDENT Eric Goodman
CO-PRESIDENT Jeff Hannes
1st VICE PRESIDENT Jonathan Winaker
2nd VICE PRESIDENT Felicia Gell
TREASURER Catherine Greenblatt
RECORDING SECRETARY Beth Kalet
CORRESPONDING SECR. Gail Conklin
SISTERHOOD CO-PRES. Robin Bordman & Wendy Wayman

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Gail Green David Halper Andy Hannes
Melissa Kleinman Rita Laskin Rob Levin
Shannon Pollock Shari Rake Janne Sommer



5785
2024

December

cheshvan
kislev

Temple Beth Shalom
13 Roosevelt Ave.
Florida, NY 10921

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 30 cheshvan	2 1 kislev	3 2 kislev	4 3 kislev	5 4 kislev	6 5 kislev 	7 6 kislev 
ROSH CHODESH	ROSH CHODESH				7PM Shabbat Service Oneg: Sumner- Mayer and Gilliard Families	5PM Co-Ed Men's Club Event at Aspire Brewery <i>Vayetzei</i>
8 7 kislev NO Beit Sefer 5PM Sisterhood Holiday Dinner at Copper Bottom	9 8 kislev	10 9 kislev 4:30PM In-Person Hebrew School at Monroe Temple	11 10 kislev	12 11 kislev 4:30PM Zoom Hebrew School 7PM Board via Zoom	13 12 kislev 	14 13 kislev 
					7PM Shabbat Experience with David Wilde Oneg: Wayman Family	<i>Vayishlach</i>
15 14 kislev 9:30AM Hanukkah Beit Sefer at Monroe Temple	16 15 kislev	17 16 kislev 4:30PM In-Person Hebrew School at Monroe	18 17 kislev	19 18 kislev 4:30PM Zoom Hebrew School	20 19 kislev 	21 20 kislev 
					7PM Hanukkah Themed Shabbat Experience with latkes and tapas	<i>Vayeshev</i>
22 21 kislev NO Beit Sefer	23 22 kislev	24 23 kislev NO In-Person Hebrew School	25 24 kislev  CHRISTMAS DAY EREV HANUKKAH	26 25 kislev NO Zoom Hebrew School  HANUKKAH	27 26 kislev 	28 27 kislev 
					6PM Hanukkah Shabbat at Monroe Temple  HANUKKAH	<i>Miketz</i> HANUKKAH
29 28 kislev NO Beit Sefer  HANUKKAH	30 29 kislev  HANUKKAH	31 30 kislev NO In-Person Hebrew School  ROSH CHODESH HANUKKAH	NOVEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		JANUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	
						HAPPY 2025! We will be virtual for erev Shabbat services until March 1st. <i>bit.ly/tbsservices</i> Save the date for Shabbat Shira, in-person at TBS Saturday, 2/8/25, 10AM.