

THE SHOFAR

Temple Beth Shalom Florida, New York March 2025 Adar / Nisan 5785

From the Desk of Rabbi Rebecca P. Shinder

Our tradition provides us with endless examples of opposites: light contrasting with darkness in the creation story, the separation of holy versus profane time, and the distinction between kosher versus traif food and ritual objects are but a few. Although this year of 5785 presents symmetry between the first day of March with the first day of the Hebrew month of Adar, we discover yet one more stark contrast between the frivolity and fun of Purim with the recent unspeakable sorrow shared concerning the fate of the Bibas family. In anticipation



of Purim, the Talmud asserts that "joy increases with the arrival of Adar," yet after 16 months of still awaiting the return of all the remaining hostages in Gaza, this instruction may feel too difficult to manage.

Yet, a deeper dive into that Talmudic text (Ta'anit 29A) may provide a model, for it too contains a contrast, one between lamentation and celebration. The first refers to the Hebrew month of Av, the time during which tradition asserts both the First and Second Temples were destroyed (in 586 BCE and 70 CE repectively). According to Rav Yehuda, "Just as when Av begins one decreases rejoicing, so too when the month of Adar begins, one increases rejoicing." In other words in spite of the theological and national trauma experienced as a result of those tremendous losses, the rabbinic tradition modeled a path forward. "Decreasing joy" may seem to be an inadequate response to this latest tragedy, or maybe it is an invitation to continue in spite of it.

Although the story of Purim includes tragic edicts, gruesome violence, and a most likely X-rated beauty contest, this holiday has taken on lighthearted fun, especially our children. With great ceremony we read Megillat Esther, where despite evil counselors and foolish kings, all turns out well, and we are commanded to shout and sing and drink and eat in celebration. But what if we don't feel like celebrating? What if, especially now, we're not feeling the joy? Perhaps the answer comes from the megillah itself, the Book of Esther states "That month" – this very month of Adar we are about to enter – "was reversed for them from grief to joy" (Esther 9:22). In other words, the month of Adar was declared a month of happiness, not because the people were already joyful but because they experienced grief. The month of Adar asks us to reach down into ourselves, despite the pain that might surround us, and to find joy within ourselves, and to reverse our grief, even if only for a short time.

Back to that opening contrast from the Creation story, despite the evidence that we now face darkness, we must also remember our sources of light. Whereas we must never forget how the Bibas brothers' black shrouded coffins were paraded ruthlessly by Hamas, we must also never forget how those beautiful red headed boys smiled in countless image after image with their beloved family and friends. Most of all as we await Purim, I ask that you remember their matching Batman costumes and remember that, now more than ever, we should create a space to celebrate Purim. Many have gathered in these weeks under Orange illuminated landmarks and/or with orange balloons in memory of Ariel and Kfir's brightly illuminated hair. Others have taken to social media to post messages with orange backgrounds to their non-Jewish friends to speak of the pain, fear, and isolation this time has brought. Others still speak of the importance of performing mitzvot in honor of the entire Bibas family. Perhaps not so coincidentally, there happens to be 4 mitzvot associated with Purim.

Rabbi Shinder, continued

Not only do I encourage you to seek out the various services and programs offered by Temple Beth Shalom, but I also encourage you to encourage your kids at college, your adult children, your Jewish neighbors, your Jewish friends on Facebook, to do the same. If getting to a specific place or creating something on your own is challenging then head to the web for finding something appropriate. The four mitzvot are as follows:

- 1. Hearing the Megillah
- 2. Mishloach Manot Giving gifts to friends
- 3. Matanot LaEvyonim Giving gifts to the poor
- 4. Purim Seudah A special Purim feast

We will have two opportunities to hear highlights from the Scroll of Esther.

The first will be during our Informal Shabbat Purim Experience at 7pm on 3/14. Following a brief Shabbat service, there will be both adult and child centered tracts during the oneg. All are welcome to come in costume and Purim themed adult libations will be available. The second chance to hear Esther's story will take place Sunday, 3/16 at our temple for The Orange County Federation Purim Carnival. The doors will open at 9:30 for a light breakfast snack and socialization in our social hall. The mitzvah of hearing Megillah will be presented in our sanctuary by the K'lei Kodesh of various synagogues in the county. The carnival games led by our 6 & 7th graders will follow. The second mitzvah of the day of Matanot LaEvyonim – (Giving gifts to the poor) will be the participation fee per family of at least 5 non-perishable items or \$10 given to the Florida Food Pantry (cash, checks, or Venmo accepted). The mitzvah of the Purim Seudah – A special Purim feast will be the traditional hot dog lunch with chips, a drink, and hamantaschen for \$5 per person.

It's not too late to participate in The Mitzvah of Mishloach Manot – Giving gifts to friends. Through your donation, you may send a special holiday greeting to other families in the congregation. This year's program will benefit both TBS and The Hostage and Missing Families Forum.

Just as we light a third Shabbat candle in honor of those who remain in Gazan captivity, let us do at least one mitzvah of Purim in honor and memory of Ariel and K'fir. Do this for them, do this for you, and encourage anyone you can think of who, at a "time such as this" (Esther 4:14), instead of just saying "oy," could use some Jewish joy!

Purim Sameach! Rabbi Rebecca Shinder



CO~PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Shalom Chaverim,

As the snows thaw and we move into spring I wanted to give everyone a few updates:

First, an update on the status of our impending merger with the Monroe Temple of Liberal Judaism. When we voted as a congregation to approve a merge back in September (70 to 0!) we had expected Monroe would be sharing space with us by now. Obviously that has not happened yet. The sale of their building has been difficult, but Monroe is working with a new realtor and they are hopeful a sale can be completed in the summer. This will, of course, delay the process, but both the



TBS and Monroe boards remain committed to laying a solid foundation for what is to come. The executive boards of both congregations continue to meet regularly and discuss plans not only for what the new entity will look like, but how we can make the most of the transitionary period when we will be sharing space as two technically separate entities, but as one community in spirit.

Meanwhile, with each passing month we are making more concerted efforts to have joint activities. Whether that's shared services at TBS or Monroe, joint Men's Club or Sisterhood events or our already well-enmeshed Beit Seifer functions, there are many opportunities to get to know our Reform Jewish community at large. I continue to encourage everyone to find some time in your schedule for at least one of these events. The more we get to all know each other, the smoother the transition will be when it finally does happen. And rest assured, we are committed to making this happen!

Now in other exciting news that we can give you a more concrete timeline... The Pomerantz Memorial Garden is ploughing (and weeding and planting!) ahead, and we will be breaking ground and having a dedication ceremony on May 18th. Phase one of the project will include landscaping, a bubbling waterfall, benches, lighting, sound, and the dedication of the sculpture Rabbi Fred Pomerantz designed as a memorial for his son Jeremy many years ago. Phase two, date still TBD, will see the addition of pavers to complete the look and feel of this soon-to-be sacred and welcoming space.

But the garden is more than just a memorial. It is the future for bringing the community together; think of it as Orange County's Jewish cultural center. We'll be able to use this garden with the concepts of growth and variety for sharing our culture, our friendship and our openness, to unify the community in spirituality, learning, song, and prayer. We will be able to bring people together in a quiet and contemplative setting, but also in a joyous, festive event-filled environment where we can hold lectures, concerts, and more!

There will always be some darkness around us, difficulties in the world that feel at times oppressive. But we are a community that thrives on hope and optimism. So let us continue to hold these in abundance, as we move together toward an exciting future. *Jeff Hannes, Co-President, Temple Beth Shalom*

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 ~

We thank the following for their generous donations:

Bright Funds IHO Catherine Greenblatt Itzhack & Bonnie Epstein IMO Adina Epstein Bialas Randolph & Jill Cohen IMO Lena Cohen

We thank the following for their generous donations to Shabbat Shira:

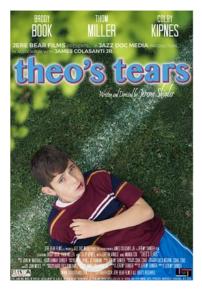
Sisterhood Larry & Wendy Wyler Marga Gordon

We thank the following for their generous donations to the Technology Fund:

Frandina-Wayman Family Kleinman Family Gail Hoffer Janne Sommer Mildred & David Glassman Andy & Flo Hannes

Once again we'd like to thank Lois Bateman for her generous donation of a new kitchen floor IMO her dear brother, Howard Cohen.





Jeremy Shinder is proud to announce that his film, "Theo's Tears," will be screened at the Garden State Film Festival on Saturday, March



29th at 3pm in Asbury Park, NJ.

If you are interested in attending, tickets can be purchased here: *tickets.gsff.org/ events/508*, click <u>BC24 | 3.29.25</u>

He's also sharing a sneak peek of the trailer here: *youtu.be/uTLrUM-_j0g* Jeremy thanks the many Temple Beth Shalom congregants for their support.

R MARCH YAHRTZEIT REMINDERS C3

3/7/25		3/21/25	
Jerome Norman	1 Mar	William Dimm	16 March
Judith Rosenfeld	2-Mar	Maurice Frischman	16-Mar
Shirley Neustadt	2-Mar	Irwin Mack	16 March
Sophie Saperstone	2-Mar	Jean Cohen	17-Mar
Irving Waldman	4-Mar	Howard Cohen	20-Mar
David Seiderman	7-Mar	Rose Werner	20-Mar
Mark Hirschberg	1 Adar	Ida Spindel	20-Mar
Dr. Lazar Schwartz	1 Adar	Sandra Rake	15 Adar
Dorothy Ball	3 Adar	Leah B. Greenwald	15 Adar
Florence Golomb	3 Adar	Frieda Savitt	16 Adar
Yetta Gelfer	6 Adar	Dorothy Werner	19 Adar
Jerome Willbach	7 Adar	Dora Turchin	19 Adar
Evelyn Levy	7 Adar	Dr. Philip Mann	21 Adar
Ruth Goldman	4 Adar II	Doris Blueglass	15 Adar II
Oskar Nick	4 Adar II	Regina E. Waxman	16 Adar II
3/14/25		Lou Berkman	21 Adar II
Ernest I. Spindel	10-Mar	3/28/25	
Irving Lulkin	12-Mar	Allen Kleinman	23-Mar
Carole Gottlieb	8 Adar	Yuriy Kazachkov	23-Mar
Evelyn Laskin	9 Adar	Reid Kleinman	25-Mar
Nellie Helper	12 Adar	Jerry Finn	27-Mar
Charles Markowitz	12 Adar	Deborah Werner	28-Mar
Herman Cohen	8 Adar II	Vivian Honey Hirsch	23 Adar
Frances Rudnick	8 Adar II	Emmanuel Eddie Nick	25 Adar
Bella Mann	9 Adar II	Steven Rosenbaum	27 Adar
Bernard Brown	9 Adar II	Roseland Gottlieb	28 Adar
Alvin Gottlieb	11 Adar II	Stewart Leibert	26 Adar II
		Barnet Weintraub	28 Adar II
		Jerome Sommer	28 Adar II

May the Source of peace send peace to all who mourn and comfort to all who are bereaved. Jerome Sommer 4/4/25 Sally Lerner Russo 31-Mar Herbert Kass 1-Apr Jerome Sommer 3-Apr Sabina Shapiro 3-Apr Raymond Cohan 4-Apr Gladys L. Dunn 30 Adar Harold Chiron 30 Adar Grace Finkelstein 1 Nisan Lillian Chiron 3 Nisan 5 Nisan Dr. Maurice Skyer

A candle may be lit at home the evening before the yahrtzheit date. 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 yahrtzheit list, or if you have not been getting yahrtzheit reminders from us, please email the office, tbs-ny@optimum.net.





EDUCATION



DATES/TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

March 2025- Florida, TBS- Sundays

- 2-Beit Sefer
- 9- Beit Sefer- Hamantaschen baking
- 16- Orange County Purim Carnival at TBS,
- 10am to noon
- 23- Beit Sefer
 - Friday the 28th, Friday night service and Oneg
- 30- Beit Sefer- Seder with parents

March Hebrew Classes, Tuesdays/Thursdays 4- in person; 6 on zoom 11- in person; 13 NO zoom 18- in person; 20 on zoom 25- in person; 27on zoom

Scholarships!

Where in 2 months can you build relationships that last a lifetime?



SUMMER CAMP!

We want your child to be one happy camper this summer!

Finances shouldn't keep your child from spending a summer at a Jewish camp - laughing, splashing, and being a part of a young thriving Jewish community of their contemporaries.

Applications for 2025 summer programs due by 3/31



For Jewish children residing in Orange County, NY

> A trip your child will remember forever.



ISRAEL

...where they'll reinforce their Jewish identity, appreciate their homeland and its culture, and strengthen a connection with Israel that will last a lifetime.

Use QR code or find the application at: JewishOrangeNY.org/scholarships

The Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County and Partner Organizations Welcome You To A

THE GREATEST SHOW IN ORANGE COUNT

SUNDAY, MARCH 16TH 2025 DOORS OPEN 9:30 FOR B'FAST NOSH PROGRAM BEGINS 10:00

YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE LUNCH FOR \$5

"MAKE SOME NOISE" AS WE TELL ESTHER'S STORY WITH SONG & SILLINESS! COME IN COSTUME! PLAY GAMES & WIN PRIZES! GRAB SOME LUNCH! NOSH ON HAMANTASCHEN!

PARTICIPATION FEE - THE PURIM MITZVAH OF PROVIDING FOR OTHERS IN NEED; BRING 5 NON PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS OR \$10 DONATION TO THE FLORIDA FOOD PANTRY PER FAMILY.

The Jewish Federation

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM 13 ROOSEVELT AVENUE FLORIDA, NY 10921

FUNDED BY

SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's time for Purim!!! Time to celebrate! Come to the Carnival on 3/16 at 10AM.

Ladies Night Out

Join the ladies of TBS for an evening out Wednesday, March 19, at Barrel 28 in Florida. Enjoy a delicious meal and laughter with friends. Please RSVP so we can make a reservation, to Robin Bordman at 845-699-6460 or Wendy Wayman at 845-781 0629

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. We hope to move towards weekly games. Please let me know if you have any interest in playing or teaching either game.

We would love to hear any ideas of events you would like us to go to or hold. We want to hear your ideas.

Please share them with Wendy Wayman, wwayman5285@gmail.com or Robin Bordman, thebordmans@aol.com

> The Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood Executive Board: Robin Bordman, Wendy Wayman Trustees: Ileene Cahn, Mindy Hazzard, Judy Potter, Holli Teshome

This prayer will be included on the card sent to our familes. A Prayer for the Families of the Hostages in Gaza By Rabbi Paul Kipnes

As 3 Israeli families celebrate the return of 3 women from the tunnels of Gaza, we hold in our hearts the families of the remaining 94 hostages. To the families of the 94, we say: The entire Jewish world - Kol Am Yisrael - is holding you close Every single day.

Your children are our children Your parents, our parents, Your siblings are our siblings, Your grandparents are our saba and savtas. Our hearts hope with yours.

In the name of God, Rachmana - the Compassionate One, We pray: May you feel our overflowing love, Washing over you, Surrounding you, A soft sukkat shalom, a shelter of peace, In the storm of anxiety, anguish, and hope.

In the name of Shomer Yisrael - Guardian of Israel, We pray:

May the day come soon When your tears of sorrow turn to tears of joy, When, through the safe return of your loved ones, Their voices will once again fill your homes With laughter and love. Until that day, We stand with you as Am Echad - one family, Bound together In hope, love, and with unwavering prayers.

Adonai oz l'amo yitein, Adonai y'vareich et amo v'shalom - May God grant strength to our people; May God bless us with peace. Amen.



Celebrate Purim 5785 It's a Mitzvah!

There's more to Purim than groggers and hamantaschen. This year, we are *reforming* our celebration!

These are the ways to celebrate Purim this year:

- Have a joyous celebration by attending a county-wide carnival on Sunday, March 16th
 10AM at Temple Beth Shalom, Florida
- We will not be preparing bags of Purim items this year. Instead, we will be helping the lives devastated by the October 7th war in Israel.
- We will donate to this organization that supports families of the remaining hostages.



The Hostage and Missing Families Forum Less was formed than 24 hours after the horrific attack by Hamas on Israel on October 7th, in which thousands of innocent civilians were murdered and taken hostage by Hamas. The Forum is volunteer-based and laser-focused on bringing the hostages back home to their families, to us. The forum offers families holistic support and professional assistance and advances the ongoing efforts through all channels, locally, regionally and globally, to bring the hostages and the missing back home to their loved ones. This mitzvah includes education that many still need.

Learn more here: bringthemhomenow.net

You will be receiving a list of our temple members. Every family that you choose will receive a lovely Purim card with a list inside of the names of those donating in their honor. These are the levels of donations: 1 family = \$3 10 families = \$20 20 families = \$40 30 families = \$60 40 families = \$80 60 families = \$100 All families (The Whole Megillah!) = \$154 Please send your member choices and check, made payable to TBS to the office, 13 Roosevelt Ave., Florida, NY 10921 by Friday, February 28th. You may also email the names to Kelly, tbs-ny@optimum.net, and pay online, tbsny.org/donate and indicate Purim Donation.

On February 8th we were treated to a Shabbat Service in Song. Many thanks to the combined choir and musicians, Rabbi Shinder, Rabbi Lerner and the Beit Sefer kids for an enjoyable morning. Thanks to our Luncheon Committee for a delicious meal and decorations New Orleans style. Pictures by Eric Goodman and Gail Conklin.







































TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

NEW Tree of Life Leaf / Memorial Plaque Acknowledge an occasion such as a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, *Birth*, *Birthday*, *Adoption*, *Confirmation*, *Memorial*, *Anniversary* by adding a leaf to the Tree of Life. The cost for a leaf is \$72 up to 9 words, \$5 for each additional word, includes engraving. To order a **leaf for the Tree of Life**, email tbs-ny@optimum.net with words for engraving.

IN THE SANCTUARY Memorial Plaques \$180

To order, email tbs-ny@optimum.net with your name and email, your address, the name on the plaque and the date of death either English or Hebrew date. If you do not know the Hebrew date, we can look it up but we need the time of death on the English date.



Piano Lessons and Flute Lessons With 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
Phone 845-651-7817
tbs-ny@optimum.net www.tbsny.org
Rabbi Rebecca P. Shinder
OFFICERS
CO-PRESIDENT Eric Goodman
CO-PRESIDENT Jeff Hannes
1st VICE PRESIDENT Jonathan Winaker
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 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	APRIL 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 30					1 adar Terumah SHABBAT SHEKALIM ROSH CHODESH
2 adar	З ^{З adar}	4 adar 4:30PM In-Person Hebrew School at Monroe Temple	5 adar	6 adar 4:30PM Zoom Hebrew School	7 adar M 7PM Shabbat Service in-person	8 adar
9 adar 9:30AM Beit Sefer At TBS	10 adar	11 adar 4:30PM In-Person Hebrew School at Monroe	12 adar	13 adar 4:30PM Zoom Hebrew School	14 adar 7PM Shabbat Service in-person Oneg: Catherine Greenblatt	SHABBAT ZACHOR 15 adar 5-7PM Beit Sefer Carnival set up Havdalah & Pizza Ki Tisa
16 adar 9:30AM BREAKFAST 10AM COUNTY-WIDE PURIM CARNIVAL AT TBS	17 adar	18 adar 4:30PM In-Person Hebrew School at Monroe	19 adar 5:30PM SISTERHOOD LADIES NIGHT OUT Barrel 28 - Florida	20 adar 20 adar	PURIM 21 adar 7PM Shabbat Service in-person Oneg:Marcia Mattheus IMO her dad, Lew Berkman	SHUSHAN PURIM 22 adar 22 adar 5PM MEN'S CLUB BBQ AT TBS Vayakhel SHABBAT PARAH
23 adar 9:30AM BEIT SEFER - TBS 30 9:30AM ¹ nisan BEIT SEFER - TBS	24 adar 31 ^{2 nisan}	25 adar 4:30PM In-Person Hebrew School at Monroe	26 adar	27 adar 4:30PM Zoom Hebrew School	28 adar 7PM Beit Sefer Shabbat Service in-person Oneg: Beit Sefer families	29 adar
ROSH CHODESH			l		l	Pekude