

A Reform Congregation
Practicing
Progressive Judaism

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Judaism

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THE BULLETIN OF
TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL
LONGBOAT KEY, FLORIDA



www.tbi-lbk.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Transitions can be challenging. However, to the credit of our congregation, we are witnessing an enthusiastic welcome for Rabbi Jonathan Katz into our temple community. This is happening while, at the same time, we retain warm feelings and respect for Rabbi Michael Eisenstat for his outstanding service to our temple. This is a tribute to our optimism, faith and wonderfully healthy spirit. Rabbi Katz brings experience and innovation to Temple Beth Israel. As president, I very much look forward to our association. In this season of new beginnings, I am pleased to report a rejuvenation of some long-time committees, among them the Caring Committee and the Social Action Committee. They will respond to issues both within our temple family and events beyond our walls. A new Community Liaison Committee has been created to reach out to other organizations in the area in order to broaden our relationships. And there is more. Joining our dedicated volunteers are a growing number of congregants who are becoming active in committee work. They bring a fresh perspective and creative energy to the work they do. Yes, transitions can be challenging but they can also be exciting. We welcome the new year at Temple Beth Israel as we welcome our new Rabbi and our newly - involved congregants...with much joyful anticipation.

Elaine Weill

WHY ECCLESIASTES?

During Sukkot it is customary to read the book of Ecclesiastes. Although the tone of the book appears somewhat cynical, the author does wisely indicate that we should be content with our lot in life. Scholars have suggested that because wild bacchanalian celebrations occurred in the ancient pagan world in the fall season, the more sober view of life season expressed by Ecclesiastes served as a counteracting influence.



Here are some prominent passages from the book: ***"Vanity of vanities, all is vanity... To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven... It is better to go to a house of mourning than to a house of feasting because the former is the end of us and the living will take it to heart... The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. Just as a few dead flies cause the perfumer's ointment to give off a foul odor so does a little folly outweigh much wisdom and honor... Fear God and keep His commandments, for that is the whole duty of man."***

DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES AND PROMINENT FORT WAYNE, INDIANA MINISTER TO PARTICIPATE IN RABBI KATZ'S INSTALLATION

Dr. Gary Zola, Executive Director of The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives and a long time friend of Rabbi Katz and his family, will install our new rabbi at Shabbat services on October 24.

Dr. Zola, who previously visited Temple Beth Israel for a scholar in residence program, interviewed Rabbi Katz for admission to the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion when Dr. Zola served as the seminary's Director of Admissions. Ironically, at one time Rabbi Katz's father also held HUC-JIR's Director of Admissions post. Both he and Dr. Zola were colleagues together on HUC-JIR's faculty.

A native of Chicago, Dr. Zola served as the chair for of the national commission that commemorated the 350th anniversary of American Jewish history. He is the author and editor of numerous publications about noteworthy people, events and trends in American Judaism. A highly regarded interpreter of the American Jewish experience, Dr. Zola has appeared on national television and quoted extensively like the The New York Times and Chicago Sun-Times. Honored with many awards for his scholarship and contributions to the field of American Jewish history, Dr. Zola is a most engaging and inspiring speaker.

Also coming to Longboat Key to participate in the installation will be the Reverend John Gardner, Senior Pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Rabbi Katz and Reverend Gardner worked together on many community interfaith and social action projects during the rabbi's tenure as spiritual leader of Achduth Vesholom before coming to Temple Beth Israel. He and Reverend Gardner remain good friends.

Bernie Isaacs, Installation Committee Chair

WORSHIP SERVICES

FRIDAY EVENING 5:30:00 PM; SATURDAY MORNING 10:00 AM
5769 - 2008 High Holy Days Service Schedule

Yom Kippur - Kol Nidre	Wednesday, Oct. 8, 8:00 PM
Yom Kippur - Morning	Thursday, Oct. 9, 10:00 AM
Afternoon	Thursday, Oct. 9, 2:30 PM
(Followed by Yizkor)	
Neilah	Concludes By 6:15 PM
(Concluding Service)	
Sukkot	Tuesday, Oct. 14, 10:00 AM
Simchat Torah / Yizkor	Tuesday, Oct. 21, 10:00 AM

Rabbi Jonathan R. Katz will conduct all Services along with Music Director, Dr. Ann Stephenson Moe and our Magnificent Temple Choir



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY....

CHANGED PERSPECTIVE

Growing up, I considered the custom of waving and shaking the four species (lulav, etrog, myrtle and willow) during Sukkot services a little weird. It seemed like an arcane practice held over from a long time ago. This impression remained strong in my mind because I never received an explanation in religious school of why it was done.

One year, I recall beholding a hay wagon with a sukkah erected on it being driven around town. At various locations, a rabbi would wave the four species and offering the appropriate prayers. Though a novel way to inform others about the Sukkot holiday, this public demonstration of Judaism nevertheless engendered mixed feelings.

On the one hand, I was proud to see that Cincinnati Jews weren't squeamish about sharing a religious tradition with the greater community. On the other, while it made for a nice local news story, I wondered whether gentiles would find this ancient harvest festival custom rather antiquated if not odd.



Additionally, since my Reform congregation was found in a section of Cincinnati that was a local focus of the civil rights movement during the 1960's, I felt a disconnection between the emphasis given in temple to an obscure rite

when pressing social justice concerns needed to be addressed just beyond its walls.

However, many years later, I view the four species in a much different light. I've learned that the waving and shaking of the four species likely originated as part of a pagan agricultural fertility ritual. Knowing the custom's context freed me to cherish its significance, history and pageantry. In other words, perhaps counterintuitively, the observance's demystification enabled me to more fully honor and celebrate it.

I also grew enamored of the etrog. Though as a child I didn't have much contact with this Sukkot staple, as a rabbi I often utilized it in teaching and in the sukkah. Inhaling the etrog's strong lemony bouquet was a refreshing balm. So too, the citron's bright color and unusual shape conveyed sensual beauty. Indeed, in Jewish tradition the etrog, suggesting the shape of a woman's breast, is a symbol of femininity.

Characteristic of the Jewish penchant for finding new wine in old vessels, our sages resourcefully discerned insight from the four species beyond the Torah commandment to merely rejoice in them. For example, they taught that in possessing both taste

and fragrance, the etrog can be compared to the individual who is knowledgeable in Torah and also performs mitzvot. Because the fruit of the lulav (palm branch) has taste but no smell, it is likened to the Jew who studies but is less accomplished in mitzvot. With smell but no taste, the myrtle is identified with the individual who engages in mitzvot but lacks in Torah study. Absent taste and fragrance, the willow represents the person who exhibits neither the trait of study nor mitzvot.



Since holding the four species together embodies the spectrum of the Jewish people the rabbis interpreted the custom as a reminder of our unity as a people even amid our diversity. Additionally, kabalistic commentators regard the four species as reflections of intellectual, spiritual, personal and social attributes that every person integrates.

Today, I look forward to waving and shaking the four species and smelling the etrog. It no longer seems irrelevant, irrational or bizarre. While the rite itself hasn't changed, my perception of it has; this has made all the difference in my enjoyment of the observance.

I'm thankful that the ambivalent, faultfinding lens through which I tended to view Judaism as a young person has given way to a more informed appreciation of its intrinsic virtue and possibility for meaning.

Rabbi Jonathan Katz

HIGH HOLY DAY FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- *The beginning of atonement is the sense of its necessity.* Lord Byron
- *Men tell us in these days that sin is what you think it is. Well, it is not. Sin is what God thinks it is. You may think according to your own conscience. God thinks according to His.* John G. Lake
- *We have a strange illusion that mere time cancels sin. But mere time does no thing either to the fact or to the guilt of a sin.* CS Lewis
- Rabbi Eliezer said: *"Repent one day before your death."* His disciples asked: *"Does anyone know on what day he will die?"* *"All the more reason,"* answered Rabbi Eliezer, *"to make sure to repent today."*
- *The temptation of the age is to look good without being good.* Brennan Manning
- *Men do not differ much about what things they call evils; they differ enormously about what evils they will call excusable.* G. K. Chesterton



WOMEN ON OUR OWN

A busy social schedule awaits the WOOO membership and the returning snowbirds beginning with the Paid-up Membership luncheon at the *Bijou Cafe*, 1287 1st Street, Sarasota, on Tuesday, October 21 at 12:30 PM. Valet parking is available.



Plans also call for a Sunday matinee in November (date and time to be announced) at the *Golden Apple Dinner Theatre* for a performance of the comedy, "La Cage Aux Folles."

Each month from November 2008 to April 2009, WOOO will offer an exciting array of events and activities, to be highlighted in The Bulletin. For information about joining WOOO and about the planned activities, contact Maye Lavinson 383-6786.

THE BOOKS AND BROWN BAG BUNCH

The five books to be reviewed for the 2008-2009 season by the Books and Brown Bag Bunch include the following:

- PEOPLE OF THE BOOK by Geraldine Brooks
November 10, Facilitator Doris Libman
- THE WORLD TO COME by Dara Horn
December 8, Facilitator Lenore Benderly
- THE PIGEON AND THE BOY by Meir Shalev
January 12, Facilitator Esther Kettler
- THOSE WHO SAVE US by Jenna Blum
February 9, Facilitator Judy Feldman
- THE MAN IN THE WHITE SHARKSKIN SUIT
by Lucette Lagnado, Facilitator Carole Klionsky
Gloria Sabin, Coordinator
Books & Brown Bag Bunch



CHANUKAH HAPPENINGS

Our Chanukah Happenings event this year will be December 14, 2008. Once again we will be having our "Pink Elephant" sale. Please bring any new or slightly used gift items, small appliances, toys, jewelry, knick-knacks, household items and overall resalable goods to the Temple Judaica Shop. We will provide you with a letter for your tax deductible donations. (You make the list of your donated items.)
Donations are now being accepted.
Elise Galinsky and Alice Taich



BETH ISRAEL WOMEN



Our calendar year for BIW is quickly filling up with great programs and events. Our first meeting is



November 17th. It will be a luncheon and our guest speaker will be our Rabbi's wife, Marty Katz. So come out and meet Marty, so we can welcome her in BIW style.

December 15th will be our paid up membership luncheon and meeting, with Rabbi Katz as our guest speaker. January 26th will be our Fashion Show and it will be in lieu of our meeting. It will be at the Longboat Key Club with a luncheon and lots of surprises. Our fashions will come from Wearable Art on Main St in Sarasota.

February 16th will be a speaker from the Adult Ed Center on Longboat Key, lunch will be served. March 16th, our last meeting of the year will be a luncheon with entertainment.

I cannot stress enough about making reservations for our luncheons. We have to have a count of the number of people who are to attend, especially since the cost of the food has gone up. So please remember to fill out the coupons for the various functions.

Our events of the year are:

- December 14th....Hanukah Happenings
- December 22nd...Hanukah Dinner at the Temple
- February 13th....Card and Dessert Party
- February 27th....Sisterhood Sabbath
- March 21st.....A Night at the Ballet /w/a lite supper

The success of these events depend on you, our membership with the payment of your dues and volunteering some of your time to help with programs ,events , or both.

BE A PART, NOT APART

SHALOM, ARLENE H. KRUM, PRESIDENT

GALA

We hope everyone has received the news that our glorious Gala will take place on **January 11, 2009**. This year we will celebrate our 30th Anniversary. The Gala is the Temple's major fund raising event of the year and we need as much support as you can provide, as a volunteer, a donor or a gatherer of worthwhile items to be auctioned.

Planning is underway, and there is much to be done. We need as many volunteers as possible to help make this event a huge success. Contact Judy Goldstein, Gala Committee Chair
jgandrg@yahoo.com



Men's Club

Get ready for a BUSY and fascinating year:

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 6-9 p.m.

a full scale BOSTON MARKET sit-down dinner hosted and served buffet style by our own members (wearing red aprons) to welcome our new Rabbi Katz and returning members. All the fixins for \$20/person. Reservations a must. Fill and return the coupon in this Bulletin with your payment. Temple members AND GUESTS are welcome.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2 p.m. DOUGLAS BLOOMFIELD, recognized commentator on Jewish affairs will discuss myths and facts on the Jewish lobby.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 9:30 a.m. the Men's Club will serve BREAKFAST honoring the Scholar in Residence. \$10.00 per person. You must reserve. We need a head count.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 7:30 p.m. OPERA NIGHT. Always a sell out. \$25.00 per person, \$50.00 for the sponser seats. Don't miss out. Mark your calendar now.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2 P.M. THOMAS HECHT, Middle East expert, will speak.

Speakers for March and April will be announced. These events are always open to Temple members and guests. The charge for speaker programs is \$10.00 per person.

Thursday Night Movies begins January 8 at 7 p.m., always the first Thursday of each month. Admission is FREE TO all congregants and guests. The movie selected will be announced in the previous month's Bulletin.

LUNCH WITH THE RABBI, traditionally the 2nd Monday of each month at 12:30, starts DECEMBER 8. Rabbi Katz has agreed to take this on even with debatable or controversial Jewish or Israel related topics we may suggest. This is for paid up Men's Club members only. Please fill out PARTICULARLY THIS coupon. \$40 for all brunches. We need to know how many to order of the always tasty corn beef and tuna sandwiches (AND potato salad, cole slaw and soft drinks).

Did you know that Men's Club members do MEALS ON WHEELS? Donald Kayton, President

MINIVERSITY IS RENAMED

The Miniversity of Judaism has been renamed "*The Rabbi Michael B. Eisenstat Miniversity of Judaism*" in honor of Rabbi Emeritus Michael B. Eisenstat, founder of the program. Details on the courses are available on our website www.tbilbk.org, at the bottom of the HomePage under "Continuing Education."

The courses will include sessions dealing with Judaic history, philosophy or ethics by Rabbis Jonathan Katz, Peter Kasdan and Michael Eisenstat. Maestro Lief Bjaland, conductor of the Florida

West Coast Symphony, will give a presentation on Leonard Bernstein and his music. Kevin Costello will return to discuss both Jewish and non-Jewish artists who painted Jewish themes. We will have a program from three Holocaust survivors who will share their experiences. Dr. Thomas Hecht will speak on two different topics; one dealing with readings from his biography, "Czech Mate: A Life in Progress", and the other, the politics of the Middle East.

We are also planning a program on "finding your Jewish roots" by a experienced genealogist. Of course, we will have the monthly Bible Study class conducted by a different rabbi each month for five months. This years theme is "Perkei Avot, The Sayings of the Fathers." Our program will conclude with Rabbi Katz and a Roman Catholic Priest conducting a six session video-based interfaith education and dialogue developed for the Center for Christian Jewish Learning in partnership with the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Council of Synagogues called "Walking God's Paths". This program will have attendees from both faiths. **See page 7 for course schedule.**

THE LATEST ON OUR SIMULCASTS FROM 92ND St. Y

October brings us two simulcasts from the 92nd St. Y, underwritten by the Saperstein Fund, which memorializes the late Rabbi Sanford



Saperstein.

The first simulcast from New York will be a celebration of Elie Weisel's 80th birthday at **8:00 PM on October 2.**

In an age of conflict and oppression, the Nobel Peace Prize winner's message of peace and inherent worth and dignity of all humans grows more relevant. The simulcast will feature readings, personal reflections and musical performances to celebrate the milestone of a man whose life experiences have led to a life of extraordinary contributions to justice and peace.

The second simulcast on **October 30 at 8:15 PM.** will take on political tones when it will feature former New York Mayor and best-selling author Ed Koch; William Kristol founder and editor of *The Weekly Standard*, panelist on *Fox News Sunday*, a *New York Times* columnist and also a best selling author; and Rabbi Michael Lerner, the rabbi of San Francisco's Beyt Tikkun synagogue and author and editor of *Tikkun* magazine, a bimonthly Jewish critique of politics, culture and society.

Hear some of the most provocative, popular and contentious pundits and politicians as they express their unbridled opinions on the issues ranging from Tibet to Darfur and Israel to Iran.

Call the Temple office at 383-3428 for reservations.

Simulcasts will be shown in the Temple's social hall and Refreshments will be served.

LIBRARY



We have a bargain for you!!!! It's waiting in the library.....
A bargain is a "good buy"...an advantageous purchase!
Is there anyone who does not like a bargain???? We have yet to meet that person...

What better place to find a bargain than our Temple Library. We have what you are looking for, and the price is right. FREE!! How about a book....not a permanent gift but a loan of one of our great "reads"...You can keep it for a week, maybe two...and then return it and we will loan you another...Come in and browse and see if you can find something that will pique your interest. Maybe one of the following will give you just what you will find interesting and informative.

The following are gifts from our publishers:

CHOSEN. Ginger Garrett. The lost diaries of Queen Esther 480-465 BC

THE DREAM. Harry Bernstein. A memoir of the author's hardscrabble youth but full of humor, dreams and romance. It will enchant as well as entertain you.

SWEET LAND OF LIBERTY. Thomas J. Sugrue. The forgotten struggle for Civil Rights in the North.

Beverly Peterman shared the following from her library:

AWAKE IN THE DARK. Shira Nayman. Brilliant and mystical stories about the devastating heritage that separates but also links descendants of Holocaust victims and perpetrators.

FIRST 57 YEARS. Irwin T. Holtzman, library comp. A checklist in English of the achievement of Israeli Literature 1948-2005.

A PALESTINE AFFAIR. Jonathan Wilson. A lesser known aspect of the history of the Middle East set in 1924 in British Palestine. This novel forces the characters to confront their principles and their hearts in the midst of an emerging nation.

THE OUTSIDE WORLD. Tova Mirvis. A brilliant evocation of Orthodox life...beneath the women's wigs and men's black fedoras, the author finds reservoirs of belief, doubt, ambition, folly, lust and the rest of the human equation.

THE SUN AT MIDDAY. Gina Alhadeff. A memoir of the author's life in Egypt, Italy and Japan. She traces her Catholic upbringing, her Sephardic Jewish roots and her paternal grandfather's life as a merchant banker on the island of Rhodes.

Gifts from Marge Sandy..

MOTHER AND ME. Julian Padowicz. A really vivid and gripping story of how a mother and child escaped from Warsaw, Poland 1939.

MY FATHER IS A BOOK. Janna Malamud Smith. A memoir of Bernard Malamud.

THE BRONFMANS. Nicholas Faith. The rise and fall of the house of Seagram

THE FRANK FAMILY THAT SURVIVED. Gordon F. Sander. An extraordinary tale of survival—part family memoir and part history..a gripping tribute to the Frank's horrible ordeal

THE SPIRITS BEHIND THE LAW. Jonathan Duker. The Talmudic Scholars—history in the Aggadic narratives with glossary of Hebrew Terms.

Gift of Jerome Rosenthal in honor of Bernard Isaac's birthday:

THE STORY OF YIDDISH. Neal Karlen. How a mish-mosh of languages saved the Jews.

Gift of Dorothy Jacobson. THE GOLD TRAIN. Ronald W. Zweig. A story of the destruction of the Jews in Hungary and the witnessing of the expropriations of their family treasures.

Gift of Phyllis and Al Lemack: EINSTEIN. Walter Isaacson. The first full biography of Albert Einstein since all of his papers have become available ..a fascinating story—a testament to the connection between creativity and freedom.

Gift of family of Sanford Saperstein: WORDS TO LIVE BY. Sidney Greenberg. Essays

and prayers speaking to our minds and hearts that probe the many facets of modern life.

Books bought with generous donations of our members and friends:

CITY BOY. Herman Wouk. The adventures of Herbie Bookbinder; a hilarious and touching tale of an urban kid's adventures and misadventures on the street, in school, in the countryside, in pursuit of a heartless redhead personifying all girls who torment and fascinate pubescent lads of eleven.

GENTLEMEN OF THE ROAD. Michael Chabon. A novel of action, humor, cliffhanging suspense and a cast of colorful characters. THE DISCONTINUITY OF SMALL THINGS. Kevin Haworth. The life altering impact of military occupation in Copenhagen, Denmark during World War II—the story of fate, of interruptions and of simple everyday hardships.

JAZZ AGE JEWS. Michael Alexander. Stories of Al Jolson, Felix Frankfurter and Arnold Rothstein are told to explore a paradox in the psychology of American Jewry..their deliberate identification in the 1920s with social groups that remained excluded.

RESPONSIBLE MEN. Edward Schwarzsch. A novel voted best book of the year by San Francisco Chronicle about Max Wolinsky from a family of mostly upstanding salesmen (reminiscent of Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*).

SARAH'S KEY. Tatiana de Rosnay. A brilliantly, subtle, compelling portrait of France under occupation and reveals the taboos and denial surrounding this painful episode in French histories.

STRAIGHT INTO DARKNESS. Faye Kellerman. A serial killer in Munich between the Wars presents a German Jewish policeman hunted down as an unspeakably evil murderer before unseen enemies plunge his country into despair and depravity.

TALES OF A THEATRICAL GURU. Danny Newman. The recounting of the careers of thirty-three prominent people known, many whom were connected with lyric opera of Chicago.

THE FINAL SOLUTION. Michael Chabon. A National Jewish Book Award for the story of a nine year old mute who escaped from Nazi Germany with his sole companion, an African gray parrot and wanders into the life of an 89 year old man, rumored to be a once famous detective. What is the meaning of the mysterious string of German numbers the bird spews out? Read the book as the author reveals the solution to the story.

THE FIRST AND FINAL NIGHTMARE OF SONIA REICH. Howard Reich. A memoir of the author's mother, as she succumbs to PTSD after a life of healing her past as a Holocaust survivor.

THE GARDEN OF RUTH. Eva Etzioni-Halevy. A riveting story behind the Book of Ruth.

THE WITCH OF COLOGNE. Tobasha Learner. A juicy historical novel with very well done Jewish characters living interesting lives in the 17th century—a time of persecution and inquisition.

Miriam Miller, Librarian

CEMETERY SERVICE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

It is customary for Jews to visit the graves of loved ones especially during the period between Rosh HaShannah and Yom Kippur. Rabbi Katz will conduct a brief memorial service on Sunday morning October 5 at 10:00 a.m. in the Beth Israel section of the Palms-Robarts Memorial Park located at Honore and Fruitville roads. Following the service Rabbi Katz will be available to accompany to Temple members to individual graves to offer personal prayers of memory and respect for beloved ones who have gone to eternity.



STILL TIME FOR MELTON

Since the Melton Mini-School does not resume at the Temple until Tuesday afternoon November 4, those interested in participating in the program can still sign up. Rabbi Katz and Rabbi Aaron Koplin will serve as instructors for both first and second year students.

The two classes for first year students are Purposes of Jewish Living, essential Jewish theological concepts articulated in the Bible, Talmud and beyond and Rhythms of Jewish Life, central beliefs and values that inform Jewish practice and life cycle events. Second year students take Dramas of Jewish Living Throughout the Ages which focuses of pivotal historical events and Ethics of Jewish Living that examines issues related to social justice, sexuality, life and death, etc. utilizing case studies from Talmudic as well as contemporary sources.

Melton learning has proven especially stimulating because the curriculum is specifically designed to meet the needs of adults. Active participation is encouraged through discussion and interactive study of Jewish texts.

The classes will meet between 4:00-6:00 p.m. For more information please contact Rosa Mandelblum at the Sarasota Manatee Jewish Federation, 371-4546.



MINIVERSITY OF JUDAISM



Schedule for *The Rabbi Michael B. Eisenstat Miniversity of Judaism* program for the 2008-2009 year. All sessions are from 2:00 - 3:30pm, except as noted.

- Bible Study - Monday, 11/17, 12/15, 1/19, 2/16, 3/23. Theme: "Perkei Avot - Sayings of Our Fathers". A different rabbi will present a chapter each month.
- "Temple Beyond Time" Thursday, 1/8, 1/15, 1/22. Rabbi Jonathan Katz
- "Walking God's Paths: Christian and Jew in Candid Conversation" Monday, 1/12, 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16. Rabbi Jonathan Katz and Deacon Pat Macaulay. Program 10am - noon will be presented alternately at Temple Beth Israel and St. Martha's Catholic Church, Sarasota. Attendance will be limited and a small fee will be charged.
- "Judaism's Social Justice Agenda for the 21st Century: What Politicians Promise Us vs What God Demands of Us". Wednesday, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28. Rabbi Peter Kasdan.
- "Finding Your Jewish Roots" Thursday, 1/29, 2/12. Alex Friedlander.
- "Czech-Mate: A Life in Progress" Tuesday, 2/3. Dr. Thomas Hecht.
- "Three Intersections Where Judaism and Christianity Meet and Diverge" Wednesday, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18. Rabbi Michael Eisenstat.
- "We Were There" Thursday, 2/5. Adam Broner, Helga Harris, Eva Slane and Carole Keinberg, Moderator.
- "Leonard Bernstein and His Music". Tuesday, 2/17. Maestro Leif Bjaland.
- "Eloquent Silences: The Jewish Experience in American Painting and Sculpture" Wednesday, 2/25, 3/4, 3/11. Kevin Costello.
- "The Future of the Middle East". Tuesday 3/3/ 3/17. Dr. Thomas Hecht.
- "Capturing the Modern World: Jewish Photographers". Thursday, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26. Baila Miller.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

Ruth Lerner reports that the Jewish National Fund has expanded its services. They have built a multi-million dollar facility in the Negev to house brain-damaged children. The building is one of the most up-to-date of its kind. A large percentage of those housed children were injured or severely affected by bombings or terrorist attacks and some have very limited ability to function. Please join the blue box ranks and take a blue box to be filled with your donations. The blue boxes are available in the Temple lobby and filled boxes are to be returned to the office.



Tidbits

Did you notice the new and colorful Welcome to Temple Beth Israel brochure? And the insert reminding members of the High Holidays, the Miniversity and the TV Satellite Simulcasts on tap for the season? Responsible for putting these informative pages together for our members and potential members are Richard Olin and Bernie White. A special kudo goes to Jeanette Morris and Mary Moccia, our valued office staff members for putting it all together.

The first TV Satellite broadcast from the 92nd St. Y in New York To Temple Beth Israel on September 14 brought out nearly 200 people who came to hear New York Times foreign affairs columnist and best selling author Thomas Friedman. His said that America has lost its "groove." His emphasis was on how to get it back by assuming leadership in advances in environmental technology that will create jobs and reduce America's reliance on foreign oil. A thank you to David Aura for setting up chairs and putting out a delicious array of cookies.

A special thanks to the Men's Club and Jake Pollack, in particular, who arranged the purchase of the new audio-visual equipment that made it possible to receive simulcasts from the 92nd St. Y.

Our librarian, Miriam Miller, has arranged for Jennifer Anne Moses, the author of *Bagels and Grits: A Jew on the Bayou*, to appear at Temple Beth Israel to discuss her book and other topics on December 7 at 2 PM. More details to come in the November Bulletin, but do keep that date open.

SHALOM TV



One of the better kept regional secrets is that there is a Jewish television program available to Comcast, Bright House and Verizon FiOs customers, if they have a programmable box for their TV. Access is different for each of the three systems:

COMCAST

Go to Channel 1 (On Demand):

Go to TV Entertainment

Scroll all the way down to the end

You should have Shalom TV

BRIGHT HOUSE

Go to Channel 360 Entertainment on Demand

(Takes almost a minute)

For ALL titles to show, scroll to the right for Shalom TV

VERIZON FiOs

Dial 900 on your Remote

Or Press the On Demand Button

Press Browse

Scroll down to "People in Culture"

Scroll to Shalom TV - Hit O.K.

There is a choice of about 50 programs in four categories as follows:

- ◆ Judaism and Culture;
- ◆ Movies;
- ◆ News and Israel;
- ◆ Shalom Center

CHAVURAH

Chavurah comes from the Hebrew word Chaver, meaning friend. Temple Beth Israel has three Chavurot groups who come together to socialize, learn, celebrate, watch movies, go out to eat participate together in temple life and more. Possibilities are endless.

Each Chavurah meets regularly around the group's schedule, maybe once a month or every other month. This consistency of gathering together creates within the group a greater sense of community within our congregation. By creating and encouraging even more Chavurot, we believe that we will create an even stronger congregation through the expanded networks of friendships and personal connections that we are developing with each other.

We will help connect you with other members of similar interests. Then Chavurah members plan their own activities according to these interests.

Please take the first step by completing the form below and returning it to Temple Beth Israel so we can begin the exciting processing of creating new and vibrant Chavurot.

Chavurah Form

Name: _____

Kind of Chavurot you would be interested in:

Study emphasis:____ Social emphasis:____

Holiday Celebrations:____

Remarks: _____

October Yahrzeits

Yahrzeit names are in order of the date of death.
To be read on each of the following Fridays:

October 3, 2008
Mary Chetlain
Benjamin Walter
Helen Thall
Louis Miller
David Colburn
Fanny Gottfried
Robert F. Green
Elaine Sidney
Freda Jacobson
Goldie Sroge
Esther Mandel
Maurice Mandel
David Peterman
Syd Peterman
Myron J. Salle
Harry Scheiner
Joseph Refkin
Florence Shapiro
Irving Shaw
David Cooper
Harry Lenow
Beatrice Sweibach
Isador Cohen
Benjamin Oppenheim

October 17, 2008
Susan Carol Benenson
Milton Jacob
Ben Zion Winer
Herbert Edelstein
Sarah Klein
Abraham Horwitz
Louis Jacobson
Sylvia Milter
Albert Reiter
Anna Rosenthal
Esther Salle
Rosalie Sapp
Samuel Seigel
Samuel Seigel
Eric Shoengood
Lillian Kushner
Lina Wolf
Alfred Tick

October 24, 2008
Esther Benderly
Isaac Benderson
Mildred Edelman
Leonard Dietch
Samuel Lipschultz
Minnie Epstein
Blanch Kohn
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October 31, 2008
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WHAT IS YAHRZEIT?



Though many are under the impression that *yahrzeit* means memory, this Yiddish word actually means “year-time.” On the anniversary of the passing of a loved one, we bear witness to their undying spirit by kindling a special 24-hour candle of remembrance and giving tzedakah. Honoring our departed in this way is one of Judaism’s most poignant observances. Traditionally, the candle’s flame is compared to the human soul. In the Book of Proverbs (Chapter 20, Verse 7) we read: “The soul of man is the lamp of God.” The flickering flame prompts reflection about those who came before us and on whose shoulders we now stand.

Since time immemorial, Jews have given tzedakah especially on *yahrzeit* because it suggests the righteousness a loved one exemplified. It is customary to give tzedakah in multiples of 18 as this is the numerical value of the Hebrew word for life, *Chai*.

Regrettably, the time-honored practice of the *yahrzeit* candle, giving tzedakah, and hearing the name of a loved one offered at services has waned in recent years. As another New Year approaches, it is important to rededicate ourselves to these ways of consecrating the memory of those who will be forever close to us.

WE ARE GRATEFUL

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Thurs, October 30, 8:00 PM

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FOR ITEMS AND EVENTS APPEARING IN THIS MONTH'S BULLETIN

LUNCH WITH
THE RABBI



MONDAY, DECEMBER 8
12:30 P.M.

To: Temple Beth Israel Men's Club, 567 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, FL 34228
Yes, Please save me a seat at Lunch with the Rabbi (reservations are required).

- Sign me up for Men's Club Membership for \$40.00.
 Sign me up for Lunch with the Rabbi (5 sessions) for \$40.00.

Name _____ Tel # _____

SHALOM AGAIN
DINNER



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9
6:00 P.M.

Temple Beth Israel Men's Club, 567 Bay Isles Rd., Longboat Key, FL 34228

Yes, please reserve _____ seats at \$20 per person for the Men's Club buffet dinner on Sunday, November 9, 6-9 PM to welcome our new Rabbi Katz and returning members.

Name(s) _____ Tel # _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

TAKE PART IN A
SHABBAT SERVICE



ACCEPT AN HONOR

Temple Beth Israel, 567 Bay Isles Rd., Longboat Key, FL 34228

I would like to participate in Shabbat Services by accepting an honor(s) as checked below:

- Gelilah (dress the Torah) Hagbahah (raise the Torah)
 Ark Opener/Closer Gabbai (assist Rabbi at Torah service)
 Aliyah (recite Torah Blessings)* Haftorah (read Haftorah portion)

I/we would like to have the honor on ** Saturday (month and date) _____

I am willing to accept an honor. Please call me for a time.

Name(s) _____ Tel. # _____

* We will need your and both parents' Hebrew names. ** Please allow at least two weeks notice.

BIW LUNCHEON



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17
12:00 P.M.

Beth Israel Women, 567 Bay Isles Rd., Longboat Key, FL 34228

Yes, please reserve _____ seats for the BIW luncheon on on Monday, November 17 at Noon

Cost: Members \$10 per person

Guests \$12 per person

Name(s) _____ Tel _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____