

Temple Beth El

Bradenton • Lakewood Ranch

Your Reform Jewish Temple in Manatee County

Discover Your Jewish Path

March 2024 - Adar I / Adar II 5784



5150 Peridia Blvd. E. • Bradenton, FL 34203 941-755-4900 • www.bethel-fl.org

A Message From Our Rabbi



The holiday of Purim is fast approaching and I can't help but feel incredibly joyous as I am reminded of this "gift" of Judaism we all have been given. A few weeks ago, during Parsha T'rumah, I brought forth a message based on the following verses: The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "Tell the Israelite people to bring me gifts (t'rumah). From every person whose heart is inspired, you shall take My contribution" (Exodus: 25:1-2). When the first

Tabernacle was being built, G-d had some very specific requests. G-d made a list for the Israelites to use certain materials, to make it a certain

size and to employ certain colors. But all of it was to be created by gifts from the people, and gifts that came from the heart. The commentators asked, "Why does G-d say, accept MY contribution?" Shouldn't it be THEIR contribution? It begs an important question: What is really ours?

In the Garden of Eden, everything was provided for us. When Adam and Eve left the Garden, we began the process of having to work for everything: "By the sweat of your brow shall you have bread to eat" (Genesis 3:19). Many commentators encourage us to remember that ALL our blessings, even the ones produced by our labors, are only on loan from our Creator, as the Torah states, "The LORD, G-d placed the man in the Garden to till it and tend it. (Genesis 2:15). How can we give a gift of any kind to G-d, if everything is just on loan for us to care for in G-d's name? One way is to utilize our blessings to create the kind of sacred space that encourages our connection to G-d. Thus, in this very same parsha we read, "And let them make for Me a sanctuary that I may dwell within." (Exodus 25:8)

The TBE community has been blessed with a very sweet sanctuary. Those who founded Temple Beth El fifty years ago had a vision for the future. Much of that vision continues to become a reality. Our membership is increasing at an astonishing rate as more and more "seekers" are finding TBE to be their place for prayer, Torah learning, and Jewish community. Our monthly temple calendar is full of activities each and every month that appeals to our wonderfully diverse community. And last, but certainly not least, volunteers are jumping in to take on various tasks as they ask the simple question, "How can I help, what gift can I bring?"

We all play a part in creating and living a Jewish life right here in Bradenton. So I ask, what is the "gift" (inspired from your heart) that you will contribute to your temple? Some will make sizable contribution; others will make a more modest donation...but whether they're donations in the form of financial, time, volunteering or participation, everyone can bring something. Think of TBE as your home...because it most certainly is. Whether you are here every week or once in a while, this is a place to connect with G-d and community. If our whole community participates, then everyone will feel ownership and we will continue to have a spiritual home that would make any Jew proud!

L'Shalom, Reb Tuviah



A Message From Our Temple President

Dear Members and Friends,

As a temple, we often celebrate many events, such as birthdays, anniversaries, accomplishments, and lifecycles, and most recently, we celebrated our 50th anniversary gala. On February 10, many of our members and friends came together at the beautiful Tara Golf and Country Club and had a wonderful

dinner and a fabulous auction/fundraiser, and to the beat of a live band, we rocked the dance floor. The entire night was no less than spectacular, and of course, events like this don't happen on their own. This event was the combined effort of many notable people led by members Sandy Clark and Helene Johnson, along with the help of Robin Block, who orchestrated our auction, and of Marla Pearlstein, Robin Eiseman and Judie Littell. On behalf of the board of directors and myself, I'd like to thank all of you on this endeavor. With our first 50 years behind us, it's time to look to the future as an open book that we hope and pray will be full of Mazel, prosperity, good health, and peace. I am sure all of you know that maintaining a temple for 50 years took much dedication and support from many members. Our gala auction proved a financial success, but unfortunately, that alone is not enough to keep our temple financially strong and growing. I know that every one of us has felt the adverse effects of our economy, and so too has our temple. Unfortunately, the cost of keeping our temple running continues to rise. The good news is that we are growing, and within the past six months alone, we have welcomed the addition of eight new families. This is a marvelous achievement, especially in a time when organized religion is on the decline across all faiths. We still face the challenge of having to rent space and, one day, hope to be in our own home. With that in mind, TBE embarked on a journey to fund our own building eighteen months ago. Through the generous donations of many, we are very close to our first plateau of 100,000 dollars. We recognize that we will need at least two million dollars to break ground, but our dreams have started to take shape. Let's all put our heads together and figure out how to do this; maybe you know a person who would like to help initiate change or a friend of a friend or business acquaintance who wants to leave a legacy. History has proven that our heritage will always progress, no matter the challenge. Let's make "The New Home of Temple Beth El" the inside cover story of our next Anniversary Gala journal.

While speaking of the future, mark your calendar for two exciting events. The first is our Purim Palooza on Saturday, March 23, at 7:00 pm, and the second is on Monday, April 22, where you can participate in our meaningful and engaging journey through the Haggadah as we welcome the first night of Passover. Check the TBE website for complete details. While on the website, explore all our upcoming events. Our schedule includes events from Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Chavurah, Rabbi classes, Farmer's Market, and more. Please join us whenever possible.

Let's also remember those who face struggles daily. Temple Beth El continues to support Meals-on-Wheels of Manatee County and our next event is Monday, March 4, at 8:30 am. Please join us to help provide food for those less fortunate than us.

Warm Regards, Joel Auerbach

News from our Sisterhood & Brotherhood



Greetings from the TBE Sisterhood. In March, we are planning a tour of the historic Sarasota Opera House, and in May, we'll end our year with our annual Spring Fling luncheon. Check the TBE website (www.bethel-fl.org) or the Temple Beth El weekly wrap for more details on these upcoming events as they become available. We would love to hear your ideas and thoughts on fun events,

fund raising events, and Mitzvah projects. Please share by email to meg.weinberg@verizon.net or by calling me at 401-707-2211. The next Sisterhood Board meeting will be Wednesday 17 February 2024 at 4:00pm and is open to all Sisterhood members. If you are interested, please send me an email for the Zoom link. We would appreciate your help in future planning. On behalf of the Sisterhood Board, we look forward to seeing all you ladies at the March Opera House tour and at the Passover Seder in April.

Meg Weinberg meg.weinberg@verizon.net 410-707-2211



Date: Thursday, March 7, 2024 5pm
Join us for an evening of Axe Throwing (and dinner afterward) for fun, friendship and healthy competition
Location: Axe & Bull 4088 Bee Ridge Rd Sarasota
Cost: \$25.00/person for the Axe Throwing (we will have

up to 2 lanes to use for 1 hour of axe throwing)

Dinner immediately after Axe Throwing

Location: Basil's Flame Broiled Chicken & Ribs (average prices \$10-\$20) 4300 Bee Ridge Rd Sarasota Menu: Flame broiled chicken & BBQ ribs and plenty of various sides – very good comfort food

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Date: Sunday, March 10, 2024 9am-11am Next TBE Brotherhood Breakfast Mtg Location: IHOP SR 64 Bradenton

At the next meeting we'll be discussing the Lakewood Ranch Farmers Market support, the next Brotherhood events, and elections in May for Brotherhood Officers and the Logo.

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Time Sensitive: March 15, 2024 deadline

It's almost time to elect new officers for the Brotherhood. Those interested in holding office (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary), kindly let the President (that would be Bob Johnson) know prior to March 15, 2024 so we can get a ballot ready, distributed to the members and member votes counted before the May Breakfast meeting. The new leaders will be announced then and they will take their offices starting June 1st. We'll be publicizing the Brotherhood event schedule shortly.

Welcome New Members!

Joining our synagogue reminds us that we're part of a wider community and gives us a chance to reach out and unite with others. We are a warm and inviting

Let's all welcome our newest members:

Alida Gorin Helene and Joel Weiner



Join today and get your new member gifts and engraved name badge!











Temple Beth El Bradenton/Lakewood Ranch

Bradenton/Lakewood Ranch
Discover your Jewish Path

March 2024 Adar I / Adar II 5784

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9:30am Shabbat School 10:00am Shabbat Service
3 3:00pm New Member Tea	8:30am Mitzvah Project at Meals on Wheels	7:00pm Adult Ed; Ten Paths to God (via Zoom)	6	7 1:00pm Mah Jongg 7:00pm Rosh Chodesh Circle	7:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9:30am Shabbat School 10:00am Shabbat Service
10 9:00am Brotherhood Breakfast at IHOP	10:30am Sisterhood Goes to the Sarasota Opera	12	13	1:00pm Mah Jongg	7:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9:30am Shabbat School 10:00am Shabba Service
17	18	19	20	1:00pm Mah Jongg	7:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	10:00am Shabbat Service 7:00pm Purim Palooza!
24 10:00am TBE at the LWR Farmers Market	25	26	7:00pm TBE Board Meeting (via Zoom)	1:00pm Mah Jongg	7:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	10:00am Shabbat Service
31						

Remember to Mark Your Calendar!

MARCH 2024

Sun. Mar 3 New member Tea 3:00 pm

Mon. Mar. 4 Mitzvah Day at Meals on Wheels 8:30 am

Tues. Mar. 5 Ten Path's to G-d Class on Zoom 7:00 pm

Thurs. Mar. 7 Rosh Chodesh Circle; Adar II - 7:00 pm

Sun. Mar. 10 Men's Club Breakfast IHOP SR 64 Bradenton – 9 am

Mon. Mar. 11 Sisterhood -- Sarasota Opera House - 10:30 am

Sat. Mar. 23 Havdalah & Purim Celebration / Spiel - 7:00 pm

(bring a box of pasta, etc to use as shakers then donate to food drive)

Sun. Mar. 24 TBE at the LWR Farmer's Market 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Wed. Mar. 27 TBE Board meeting - G-d Class on Zoom - 7:00 pm

Click Here to see all of our calendar events



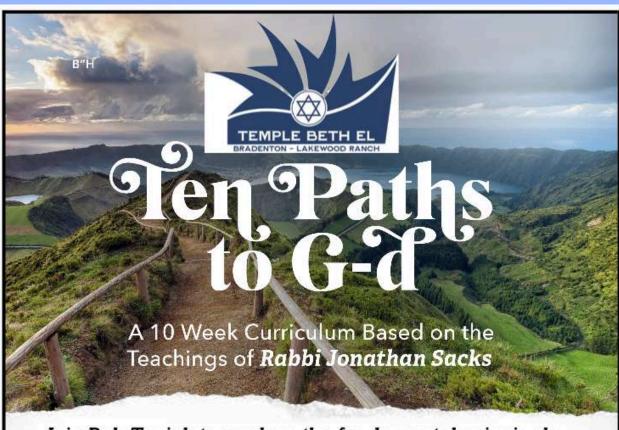
COME CELEBRATE SHABBAT!

Kabbalat Musical Shabbat Service Friday evenings at 7:00 pm

Shabbat Morning Service
Saturday mornings at 10:00 am







Join Reb Tuviah to explore the fundamental principals of Judaism and Jewish Identity

Tuesdays at 7:00pm via Zoom

Jan 2	Identity	<i>Fеб.</i> 6	Chesed
Jan 2 Jan 9	Prayer	<i>Feb.</i> 13	Faith
Jan 16	Study	Feb. 20	Israel
Jan 23	Mitzvot	<i>Feb.</i> 27	Kiddush Hashem
Jan 30	Tzedakah	March 5	Responsibility

To receive the Zoom link, you must register online at <u>bethel-fl.org</u> or call the temple office at 941-755-4900

Temple Beth El 5150 Peridia Blvd. East • Bradenton, FL 34203

Register Today!



Produce Packing

Come join us, and together we can change someone's life

Meals-on-Wheels

812 23rd Ave E, Bradenton

For future dates or more information, contact ChrisAnn Allen, Mitzvah Chair at ChrisAnnTBE@gmail.com



Thursday, March 7 7:00 pm at Temple Beth El

Inviting all women to celebrate the new moon, make new friends & new spiritual connections...



...anyone who blesses the new month in its proper time, it is as if she greets the Face of the Divine Presence.

~Sanhedrin 42a

Contact the temple office for more information info@bethel-fl.org 941-755-4900

Brotherhood Breakfast

SUNDAY, Mar. 10, 9:00-10:30am

No RSVP Necessary

IHOP - 6320 SR-64 E Bradenton



Contact Bob Johnson for info tbeflmensclub@gmail.com

SISTERHOOD OUTING!

TO THE

Sarașota Opera House!

THE HISTORIC 1926 OPERA HOUSE IS A TREASURE TROVE OF INTERESTING FACTS AND BACKSTAGE INFORMATION. TOUR THE THEATER WITH THEIR KNOWLEDGEABLE STAFF WHO WILL SHARE THE THEATER'S FASCINATING PAST AND INSIDE INFORMATION ON SARASOTA OPERA'S WORLD-CLASS PRODUCTIONS.

Monday, March 11 10:30 am

TOUR LAST AN HOUR AND A HALF - \$12 PER PERSON LUNCH AFTERWARDS FOR THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED

Buy tickets at www.sarasotaopera.org or calling the Box Office at (941) 328-1300

* E-MAIL SISIERHOOD PRESIDENT, MEG WEINBERG TO LET HER KNOW YOU ARE JOINING US! MEG.WEINBERG@VERIZON.NET



Come see your temple friends at the LWR Farmer's Market at "Waterside"

Sunday, March 24th • 10am -2pm



Over 100 vendors! Grab a knish or a bagel, shop, eat, visit.
Bring the dog! Stop by the TBE table!









To date we have raised over \$4500 for Israel. Thank you to all who donated.

Let's keep the donations coming! Help us in supporting Israel

DONATE TO ISRAEL HERE

Please help support our efforts to provide Israel with funds for much-needed medical supplies and services. Our homeland is under attack, and we must be as helpful as possible. Select the "DONATIONS FOR ISRAEL" button

Birthdays, Anniversaries and Simchas at the temple!



TBE recognizes all of our wonderful volunteers



Maxx and Wright celebrate 32 years!



What an exciting night at the Gala that we celebrated on February 10, 2024!











More Gala Photos













A new addition! Diana Tully on Percussion.





Some of our long-standing members get recognized



Aiden practices for his Bar Mitzvah!



Chavurah Outing to the Polo Grounds!











Our March Simchas

March Birthdays

Ken	Handelman	3/2	Harvey	Schonwald	3/16
Jerilyn	Dimant	3/3	Judith	Loew	3/18
Lesley	Sacher	3/4	Marci.	Blacksin	3/19
Anna	Feldman	3/9	Robin	Block	3/20
Louise	Klain	3/14	Michele	Eiger	3/20
Ken	Kaplan	3/15	Joseph	Tully	3/30
Johanna	a Willner	3/15	Itay	Seith	3/31



March Anniversaries



Roger Danziger and Debbie Yaskin 3/05
Michael Loewy and Susan Kurtin 3/15
Regina Fluellen-Reitwiesner and Robert Reitwiesner 3/23
Craig and Carol Harris 3/30

Yahrzeits for March ADAR & ADAR II

It is traditional to light a Yahrzeit candle on the evening of observance. In addition, we urge you to attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of your beloved and to recite Mourner's Kaddish on the Yahrzeit. May your memories of the departed



TBE MEMBER	REMEMBERS	Friday / Saturday
Pearl Friedman Beth Cooper Ron Eiseman Freda Feibel Itay Seith Jill Salazar	Richard Scharfman Bertram Cooper Charlie Eiseman Sheldon J. Feibel Dr. Carnot Earl John W, Brannis, Jr.	March 01/March 02
Phyllis Hemler Judie Littell Howard Hammerman Dan Breitberg	Fannie Kreutzer Arthur Littell Gertrude Hammerman Shirley Breitberg	March 08/March 09
Robyn Spirtas David Klain ChrisAnn Allen	George Elkin Benjamin Klain Dr. Marvin Silver	March 15/March 16
Diana Tully Josh Leuchter Helene Johnson	Edward Flanders Ruth Leuchter Rubin Sztajer	March 22/March 23
Murray Dimant	Akiva Dimant	March 29/March 30

Donations Thank you for your donation!

General Donations

Bob & Charlene Eredics
Howard & Helen Hammerman

Yahrzeit/In Memory Of

Marlene Johnsky IMO Alan Cohn Judy Wilkinsky IMO Rose Sherver Jill Salazar IMO John (Jack) Brannis, Jr. Ron and Robin Eiseman IMO Charlie Eiseman Cohn Family IMO Alan Cohn

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Jill Salazar

Future Expansion Fund

Bob and Charlene Eredics Ron and Robin Eiseman Franklin Samson





And to all who donated to the United
Hatzalah Israeli EMS service...
Israel thanks you!
Am Yisrael Chai

Security Fund

A very big thank you to the many people who donated to the security fund, your donations are always appreciated!

A Special 'Thank You' to the TBE Brotherhood and Sisterhood for their generous donations to the security fund!

DONATE

Thank you to all of our generous donors. Your gift helps keep Reform Judaism alive in Manatee County. There are many, ways and reasons to make a donation to TBE

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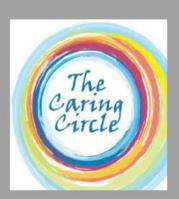
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www.mybradentondermatology.com

Learn More

Are you in need? Do you know someone in need?



The mission of TBE's Caring Circle is to support any member who may be in need. If you or someone you know is struggling, reach out to us! As a family at Temple Beth El, we care about you and vour loved ones!

Please notify the temple office, or Phyllis Hemler, the coordinator, with your name or the name and contact information of any TBE member in need. With your consent, we will also include you/them in our MiSheberach Prayers each week.

TBE Caring Circle Phyllis Hemler: 609-203-0110 phyllishemler@gmail.com

Click here to reach Phyllis



February Oneg Sponsors

Maxx Smith - Happy 32nd Anniversary Maxx and Wright

TBE- In honor of our 50th Anniversary!

Marla Perlstein- In memory of her husband, Matthew Noah Perlstein

TBE- In honor of all the dedicated volunteers

Click Here to Sponsor!

Ask the Rabbi ...

Question: During the holiday of Purim, I often hear of a term called mishloach manot? What exactly is that?

Answer: Mishloach manot are gifts of food that friends (and prospective new friends!) exchange on Purim. We are instructed in the scroll of Esther (9:19) to send gifts to one another.

Often presented in baskets, mishloach manot include at least two different types of food, including hamantaschen, the traditional three-sided pastry eaten on Purim. Many families purchase or bake hamantaschen to include in these baskets and to enjoy at home. Mishloach manot may also include a wide variety of foods and treats. These gifts are frequently referred to by their Yiddish name, shalachmanos.

Matanot la-evyonim, a second Purim tradition, are gifts given at this season to those in need so that they, too, can celebrate Purim with a special meal (Esther 9:22). Many families have committed to participating in this important social justice aspect of the holiday.



Our Mitzvah Projects

Temple Beth El has been working with "Our Daily Bread" in Bradenton. They are a community-driven organization supported by churches, foundations, and numerous other community-oriented organizations. In addition to feeding the hungry, they collect health and beauty aids, everything from soap and shampoo to lotion and sunblock, to give to those in need. Please consider donating to this worthwhile project.

TBE will once again have the opportunity to participate in "produce packing" at Meals on Wheels at 811 23rd Avenue East. The Food Bank purchases fresh produce for their meal delivery clients. The project involves sorting and bagging the produce. No lifting required. If you choose to sit, you can sit. For a lot of people, this is the only fresh food in their diet. They very much look forward to receiving it. The more people we have the faster it goes. Arrive 8:30 am. (Typically just 2 hours or less of your time).



WE HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER PARTICIPATING IN THIS WORTHWHILE MITZVAH PROJECT.

Next Date is Monday, March 4th at 8:30 am

Contact ChrisAnn Allen for more info- chrisanntbe@gmail.com

Religious School - A New Way, An Exciting Way!





No longer on Sunday, now "Hebrew School" happens every Saturday starting at 9:30 am and is "Shabbat School!" It is a delight for all. Children are included in the true celebration of Judaism. They become a part of their religion in a meaningful, practicing way, participating alongside their parents or grandparents and the rest of the congregants. This is the way learning was meant to be.



If you know of anyone interested in "Shabbat School" for their children, please have them contact Rabbi Tuviah.

If you would like more information, including Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparations and how to enroll, contact,

Rabbi Tuviah – rebtuviah@gmail.com

Learn More







An Easy Way to Donate to TBE

Most of use have a dish where we collect coins that fell into our pockets or purses. Please consider donating them to the Temple's "Pushki Fund." One hundred percent of the coins donated will go to the Temple's general fund and help us fund on-going operations. We will acknowledge your donation by letter and, if you itemize deductions, you can use the amount to lower your tax bill. Just put the coins into a sturdy plastic bag along with a note with your name and address. Leave the bag on the Temple's desk in the office the next time you come to services. We'll take it from

Ira Kramer, Treasurer 908-723-4078 treasurer@bethel-fl.org

there.



Legacy Gift Giving

Please consider Temple Beth El in your Trust or Will stating a gift is to be made upon your passing. Your legacy gift will help ensure that Temple Beth El's 50-year history will serve the community for generations to come.

Aside from the tax incentives, there is no greater gift than leaving a lasting memory. Your gift can be a monetary gift, a piece of property, or a valuable or collectible item that might be relevant to your faith in G-d. And just as importantly, your gift might inspire others to give back as well.

The synagogue can purchase burial plots in the "Gardens of Abraham" section of the Skyway cemetery and pass the savings on to our members.

Our Treasurer, Ira Kramer is taking names of those who might be interested.

Contact him for more information treasurer@bethel-fl.org or 908-723-4078



Respecting Holiness in Our Gathering Place

The TBE Sanctuary is a special place where we go for spiritual connection, reflection, and prayer. We ask that during services, congregants refrain from wearing tank tops, spaghetti straps, mini-skirts, shorts, or t-shirts. Please turn your cell phone off or place it on vibrate and refrain from social conversations once the service has begun.

TREE OF LIFE!

Leaves are available on the Tree of Life in the temple lobby. Have your leaf custom engraved to honor a loved one for \$100. Call the temple office for details. 941-755-4900





Do you have a facebook page? Have you "liked" TBE's page? Go to our <u>FaceBook page</u> and hit "like". Keep up with everything going on at the Shul. Also, consider joining the "Jewish Community of Manatee" on facebook too. We can comment and support each other there.

For questions about using Facebook, contact Robyn Spirtas



And follow us on Instagram: @tbemanatee

Watch live services or see a past service.... Go to www.facebook.com/tbebradenton

