

A Message From Our Rabbi



Priorities. According to Merriam-Webster, this word is defined as something that is more important than other things and that needs to be done or dealt with first: the things that someone cares about and thinks are important. We all have priorities in life and often times build our weekly schedules based on those priorities. Sitting down at the dinner table at a specific time, never missing a favorite television show, walking the dog, setting an alarm clock for a predetermined time in order to be at the place of employment at a specific time. Most of us have a defined schedule made up of what we have determined to be our priorities in order to lead a successful life.

When looking at the weekly schedule at Temple Beth El, I am amazed at what I see. This congregation, although relatively small in number, has an impressive percentage of participation. The combined total of attendees on any given Friday night and Shabbat morning service usually ranges between 60 to 70 people. That's approximately 40-50% of the total membership! Of course, there's so much more than weekly services happening on a regular basis. My adult education classes average twenty-five folks for any given class. Mitzvah drives and Farmer's Market participation is steady, there are various sisterhood and brotherhood events, and we even have a new chavurah group filled with exciting activities! And lastly, we have good turnout at a multitude of special events and holiday services.

So, what does this say about Temple Beth El? I believe it says that although many larger congregations sometimes struggle for a minyan, many of our members have made the TBE Shabbat service a priority in their weekly schedule. Many have decided that gaining a deeper understanding of our ancient, holy teachings should be an integral part of their lives. And finally, I believe TBE folks have made it a priority to stay connected with Jewish life, culture, history, and community.

As rabbi, however, I must never be complacent. Yes, our numbers are good...no, actually they're very good! But could they be better? Yes!!! I know that I should be happy that such a large percentage of our membership comes to weekly Shabbat services but I suppose deep down, it would be wonderful to see more of you. Why not 60% or 70% attendance? It's Shabbat...the greatest gift given to mankind and it's for anyone and everyone who wants it. So, if Shabbat observance is currently not a priority in your weekly schedule, I urge you to reconsider. Come and join us for a service and allow yourself to truly enter in to the Shabbat experience. Our Torah is a "tree of life for those who take hold of it"...a promise given by our ancestors and a worthy priority to add to your schedule.

L'Shalom, Reb Tuviah

A Message From Our Temple President



Dear Members and Friends,

2023 is in the history books, and January has proven less tropical than one would hope. To that end, I have one question: where is the sun? Of course, with most of the country as white as snow, I guess I should not complain. TBE's January calendar was packed despite the chill in the air. We celebrated anniversaries and birthdays, and many of us enjoyed the Sisterhood and Brotherhood-sponsored evening of dueling

pianos. As we always do, members and friends came together to celebrate the lives of Dr. Stephen Feldman and Cantor Emeritus, Alan Cohn. Their passing has left many families and friends with broken hearts, but their celebrations of life also reminded us of the joys of life they experienced. They will be missed.

If you have not attended one of Reb Tuviah's "Ten Paths of God" classes, you might want to consider an evening of enlightenment and fellowship. Each class is an independent topic, and you can join at any time by registering online on the temple website in order to get the Zoom link. As always, there was lots of fun to be had at our regularly scheduled Chavurah and Mah Jongg groups; it's tons of fun; get involved. Ladies, put our Rosh Chodesh Circle on your calendar; you will thoroughly enjoy the evening, and its presenter, our wonderful Rebbetzin Nancy Beltran-Schreiber, is riveting and engaging.

Speaking of putting items on your calendar, get your cocktail attire out; it is gala time on February 10th at the beautiful Tara Golf and Country Club, where we will celebrate TBE's 50th anniversary. As we look towards the next 50 years, it is important to remember we are living in challenging times, and now more than ever, we need your help. Of course, I am talking about our members' and friends' security and safety. Please consider adding a few shekels to your dues to help us provide security at our services and events. There is also a button on the top of our website where you can make individual security donations. 100% of all funds collected go directly into a security account, not our general fund. TBE takes security very seriously; we must always be diligent. Let's also remember others who face struggles daily. Temple Beth El has always supported Meals-on-Wheels of Manatee County, and we will continue to do so. Our next event is Monday, February 5th, at 8:30 a.m. 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 January 2024, Sisterhood and Brotherhood members met at the Piano Bar in Bradenton for a delightful evening singing along with "dueling pianos" We had a good turnout of TBE folks (~38), the two piano players were entertaining, and everyone had a great time. 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 (<u>www.bethel-fl.org</u>) 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 <u>meg.weinberg@verizon.net</u> or by calling me at 401-707-2211. The next Sisterhood Board meeting will be Wednesday 14 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 TBE Gala in February and at the March Opera House tour. We stand with Israel.

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



The Brotherhood and Sisterhood have agreed to mutually advertise in the TBE 50th Anniversary Gala next month. Both organizations will take out separate advertisements to assist the Temple and get our organization names out there. The Brotherhood's next fun event will be AXE Throwing. This new quasi-sport has been growing exponentially over the past couple

years and it is a lot of fun, allowing organizations like the TBE Brotherhood to foster fun, friendship and healthy competition in a single event.

It's almost time to elect new officers for the Brotherhood. My has time flown by this past year. So much has happened - the majority positive and we're in the final few months of the FY 23/24 year for the Brotherhood. We have asked those interested in holding office (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) to kindly let the President (that would be Bob Johnson) 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. In the meantime, please support the 50th Anniversary of Temple Beth-El by attending the Feb 10th Gala at Tara Golf & Country Club. It's going to be fantastic and a great time for all.

Bob Johnson tbeflmensclub@gmail.com 202-368-3732

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 community. Our Shabbat services are open to everyone.

Let's all welcome our newest members:

Judy Wilkinsky Itay Seith



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 February 2024 Shevat / Adar I 5784

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 1:00pm Mah Jongg	2 7:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	3 9:30am Shabbat School 10:00am Shabbat Service
4 11:30am Chavurah Goes to the Polo Game!	5 8:30am Mitzvah Project at Meals on Wheels	6 7:00pm Adult Ed; Ten Paths to God (via Zoom)	7	8 1:00pm Mah Jongg 7:00pm Rosh Chodesh Circle	9 7:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	10 9:30am Shabbat School 10:00am Shabbat Service 6:00pm TBE's 50 th Anniversary Gala
11 10:00am TBE at the LWR Farmers Market	12	13 7:00pm Adult Ed; Ten Paths to God (via Zoom)	14	15 1:00pm Mah Jongg	16 7:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	17 9:30am Shabbat School 10:00am Shabbat Service
18	19	20 7:00pm Adult Ed; Ten Paths to God (via Zoom)	21 7:00pm TBE Board Meeting (via Zoom)	22 1:00pm Mah Jongg	23 7:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	24 9:30am Shabbat School 10:00am Shabbat Service
25	26	27 7:00pm Adult Ed; Ten Paths to God (via Zoom)	28	29 1:00pm Mah Jongg		

Remember to Mark Your Calendar!

February 2024

- Sun. Feb. 4 Chavurah goes to the Polo match! 11:30am
- Mon. Feb. 5 Mitzvah Day at Meals on Wheels 8:30am
- Tues. Feb. 6 Ten Path's to G-d Class on Zoom 7:00pm
- Thurs. Feb. 8 Rosh Chodesh Circle; Adar I 7:00pm (Adar I 2/8)
- Sat. Feb. 10 TBE 50th Anniversary Gala 6:00pm
- Sun. Feb. 11 TBE at the LWR Farmer's Market 10:00am-2:00pm
- Tues. Feb. 13 Ten Path's to G-d Class on Zoom 7:00pm
- Tues. Feb. 20 Ten Path's to G-d Class on Zoom 7:00pm
- Wed. Feb. 21 TBE Board meeting 7:00 pm
- Tues. Feb. 27 Ten Path's to G-d Class on Zoom 7:00pm

<u>Click Here</u> to see all of our calendar events



COME CELEBRATE SHABBAT!

Kabbalat Musical Shabbat Service Friday evenings at 7:00pm

Shabbat Morning Service Saturday mornings at 10:00am



Come Play

Every Thursday from 1-3 pm at TBE

Men and Women welcome No RSVP necessary Contact Robin Block with questions robinlblock@gmail.com

Snacks provided!

A 10 Week Curriculum Based on the Teachings of **Rabbi Jonathan Sacks**

BETH

TEMPLE

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

Tuesdays at 7:00pm via Zoom

Jan 2	Identity
Jan 9	Prayer
Jan 16	Study
Jan 23	Mitzvot
Jan 30	Tzedakah

Feb. 6 Chesed Feb. 13 Faith Feb. 20 Israel Feb. 27 Kiddush Hashem March 5 Responsibility

Suggested Donation: Members: \$40 • Non-Members: \$60 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!



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Sunday, Feb. 4 - 11:30am Pre-game Potluck and champagne, Polo Game, Doggie contest and so much more.

well-socialized, leashed dogs are welcome to attend (and invited to compete).

Contact Diana Tully at bienaventurada@ymail.com for tickets (\$15 each - deadline Jan. 15) and all the details.

* Chavurah is for TBE members only. Want to join TBE? Contact Helene Johnson at membership@bethel-fl.org

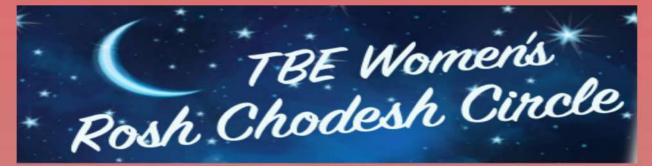


Produce Packing

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, February, 8 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 Temple Beth El Commemorates 50 years!

Anniversary

all

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 Dinner ~ Dancing LIVE Band
 Silent and Live Auction
 Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate
 Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024 • 6:00pm Tara Golf & Country Club

Cacktail Attire

\$65 TBE members 570 Guests Deadline, Jan. 29, 2024

Go to bethel-fl.org/gala or contact Sandy Clark sandra.clark79@yahoo.com for more info

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

Sunday, February 11th • 10am -2pm



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





Looking Ahead!



No RSVP Necessary IHOP - 6320 SR-64 E Bradenton



Contact Bob Johnson for info tbeflmensclub@gmail.com



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!

December was all about the Hammermans! 2 birthdays and an anniversary!









Brotherhood and Sisterhood goes to 88 Live Piano Bar!

















A new addition! Diana Tully on Percussion.

TBE Ladies go to the Mega Challah bake!









Tu B'Shevat Seder!











ZOA Guest Speaker





Chavurah Outing to Felts Audubon Preserve and Brunch













Join the TBE Chavarah Games * Social Outings * Dinners * * Parties * Events * and more!



* This is for members of TBE Contact Helene Johnson for more info about joining TBE membership@bethel-fl.org

Our February Simchas

February Birthdays

Karen Knoell	2/7	Jean Steiger	0 (1 0
Ishmael Baal-Shem	2/12	Jeffrey Schneiderman	2/18
Irving Zamikoff	2/13	Lois Gerber	2/20
David Morgen	2/14	Beth Cooper	2/21
Staci Rosenstein	2/14	Lewis Lefer	2/24
Beverly Safron	2/17	Amy Moriarty	2/24
Robert Johnson	2/17		2/25



February Anniversaries



Judith and Alan Loew 2/1 Maxxine and Wright Smith 2/2 Mitch Rubinstein and Marcia Blacksin 2/17 Robert and Sylvia Kupferman 2/28

If you are a member of TBE and don't see your birthday or anniversary listed, please email <u>the office</u> so that you can be listed here.

Yahrzeits

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 always be a blessing.

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2ND & 3RD

Josh Leuchter remembers Joel Leuchter Ruth Weiss remembers Ruth I Smith

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 9TH & 10TH

Judy Wilkinsky remembers Rose Sherow Marvin Waldman remembers Esther Ruth Waldman Marvin Waldman remembers Benjamin Waldman Linda & Craig Hoffman remembers Gilbert Okun Howard Hammerman remembers David Hammerman

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 16TH &17TH

David Klain remembers Benjamin Klain ChrisAnn Allen remembers Lauren Silver Mandel Marla Perlstein remembers Matthew

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 23RD & 24TH

Marlena Johnsky remembers Marcella Johnsky Ishmael Baal-Shem remembers Howard

MARCH FOR MARCH 1ST & 2ND

Ron Eiseman remembers Charlie Eiseman Pearl Friedman remembers Richard Scharfman

To commemorate your beloved, it is also customary to memorialize the departed by making a donation to the synagogue. You can donate here or mail your check to the Temple at 5150 Peridia Blvd East, Bradenton 34203.



Donations Thank you for your donation!

General Donations Bob & Charlene Eredics Rise Bausch Howard & Helen Hammerman Kenneth Silver

Yahrzeit/In Memory Of Diane hart IMO George Roth Marlena Johnsky IMO Henry Klein Beverly Safron IMO Nancy Buchalter Susie Konicov IMO Werner Weinberg Jeffrey Schneiderman IMO George Schneiderman Karen Knoell IMO Kaitlin & Lily Lifschultz Ruth Goldberg IMO Stephen Feldman Johanna Willner IMO Arthur Lee Willner Sandy and Neil Clark IMO Paul Clark Murray Dimant IMO Schura Dimant





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

Future Expansion Fund Bob and Charlene Eredics Anonymous donors

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 Sisterhood for their generous donation 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

Check Out our Wonderful Advertisers!





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Tel. 631.478.2070 roberta@computersolutionsfl.com

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Learn More

Learn More

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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 your 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

Sponsor an Oneg or Kiddush!



* Commenorate your special day
* Honor or remember someone
* Celebrate a special occasion
* Recognize someone's hard work or "Just because"

Friday Night Oneg \$50 Saturday Kiddish \$50 Both days \$100

(To celebrate, consider bringing a small bakery cake!)

*please note- there may be more than one announcement at any given Oneg

January Oneg Sponsors

Howard Hammerman "Happy Birthday to Helen Hammerman"

Gary and Meg Weinberg IMO of Meg's father, Richard P. Ballard

Alison Green In memory of my mother, Miriam Green

Helen Hammerman - "Happy Birthday to Howard Hammerman"

Temple Beth El -Goodbye Kai, much success on your new adventure.

Click Here to Sponsor!

Our Mitzvah Projects

Temple Beth El has been working with "Our Daily Bread" in Bradenton. They are a communitydriven 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).



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

Next Date is Monday, February 5, at 8:30 am

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





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 <u>treasurer@bethel-fl.org</u> or 908-723-4078

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







Tax Planning and Gift Giving

If you have appreciated stock in any publicly traded company, you can donate the stock to Temple Beth El. You may be able to deduct the current market value from your 2021 taxable income as a Schedule A deduction without paying capital gains tax. The Temple can then sell the stock and use the funds to continue our good work.

Tax year 2021 appears to be the last year that most taxpayers can take up to a charitable cash contribution to a non-profit organization (such as Temple Beth El) directly from adjusted gross income. This "above the line" deduction is limited to \$300 for taxpayers filing as single, head of household, qualified widow(er)s, and married filing separately. Taxpayers filing joint returns are limited to \$600.

As in all things tax-related, there are exceptions and additional rules. Each person's situation is unique. Please check with your tax preparer to be sure. These are general suggestions only based on publicly available information.

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 there.

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



Please remember to add your temple family to your will. There is no greater gift than leaving a lasting memory.

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



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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 941-962-0884 or <u>publicity@bethel-fl.org</u>



And follow us on Instagram: @**tbemanatee**

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



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