



January / February 2023

Tevet / Shevat / Adar 5783

<http://BethSholomFlorida.org>
(352) 326-3692

Rabbi Karen Allen
386-254-2773


HAPPY
NEWYEAR

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22nd, at 11 am. The link to the Zoom meeting will be sent to our members in good standing (people who have made a dues payment for 5783) a few days before the meeting takes place. The updated membership list will be sent with the invite.

The meeting is important because it keeps you informed of the accomplishments and future of Congregation Beth Sholom.

It's as easy as can be this year, you don't have to leave your home! Just sit in front of your computer, smart phone, or tablet and participate as we review our accomplishments of 2022 and plan for 2023.

This is **your** synagogue - know what is happening – attend the Annual Meeting!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT:	Andrea Kraft 352-513-3517	VICE PRESIDENT:	Linda Kost 352-315-0309		
SECRETARY:	Fred Jacobs 352-633-0500	TREASURER:	Dave Englander 352-504-4402		
DIRECTORS:	Barry Wright 352-324-1139	Diane Weinbaum 352-636-4911	Ben Solotoroff 352-775-8740	Sandra Byrne 352-586-0119	Gloria Blankenship 352-750-0721

OUR FOUNDERS

Joseph & Jennie Ehrlich	Ted Ehrlich	Max & Frieda Idolson
Max & Blanche Kessler	Walter & Lillie Kessler	William Lipsitz
George & Sybil Satin	Berte Rita Bloch	Jack & Lillian Satin
* LED SERVICES:	*Getzel & Betty Mularsky	*William & Dorothy Lieberman

January 2023 Tevet / Shevat 5783

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Board Meeting 4 pm	4	5	6  5:27	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 New Member Service 7 pm  5:32	14
15	16	17	18	19 Rabbi's Roundtable 1 pm Page 3	20  5:38	21
22 Annual Meeting 11 am page 7	23	24	25	26	27  5:44	28 Board Recognition Service 10 am
29	30	31				

If you are a member in good standing (you have made a dues payment this fiscal year) and would like to participate in the board meetings, contact President Andrea Kraft or Vice President Linda Kost and they will send you the Zoom invite.

New Member Service

Friday evening, January 13 at 7:00 pm

During this special service we will honor those members who have joined or returned to our congregation since our last in person new member celebration:

New members: Judy Hague, Suzanne Vilardi, Susan Goodman, Cheryl Greenwald
 Returning Members: Debra Kaplan, Sally Rosenberg

If you joined us or returned to us during the past year and are not on the list, or would like to join and be included in this celebration,
 please notify Marsha Stemerman at
 marshasz2002-at-yahoo.com_ (replace -at- with @) or call her at 352-630-9259.

February 2023 Shevat / Adar 5783

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3  5:50	4
5	6	7 Board Meeting 4 pm	8	9	10 Tu B'Shevat Shabbat Service 7 pm  5:55	11
12	13	14	15	16 Rabbi's Roundtable 1 pm See below	17  6:00	18
19	20	21	22	23	24  6:05	25 Shabbat Service 10 am
26	27	28				



Celebrate Shabbat and Tu B'Shevat

on Friday February 10th

Tu B'Shevat is the New Year of the Trees.

Rabbi Allen will include readings

and commentary about the holiday at our Shabbat service.

Rabbi's Roundtable

Thursdays January 19 and February 16 at 1pm

The main focus of the roundtable is to provide a unique opportunity to talk with Rabbi Allen as she leads an informal and interactive discussion focusing on various subjects throughout the session.

In addition to topics brought forward by the attendees, Rabbi Allen may explore the current arc of Torah portions along with Jewish spiritual traditions and how they affect our personal experiences and aspirations.

Rabbi's Message

The Iranian people have been fighting for their lives on a daily basis. . . . but still the Jewish community has remained largely silent. –Rabbi Tarlan Rabizadeh in the *Jewish Journal*, December 8, 2022

How – and what – do we communicate? As I read the article quoted above, it struck me hard, in the gut and in the heart. I, too, have found myself powerless to hold at once in the forefront of my mind every hardship in our world, or even every tragedy. I am unable to mention every disaster, not even those affecting us directly, during our healing prayer together. Even when I have been speaking intensely with, and keeping in my personal prayers daily, people I know well, I may miss an opportunity to let you know, in a way most meaningful to you, how much you mean to me and how deeply I care.

In reading the article written by Rabbi Rabizadeh -- who came to the U.S. with his family shortly before the 1979 revolution and overthrow of the Shah in their native Iran – I learned that my own inability to “wrap my head around” all the difficulties, misfortunes and challenges facing my loved ones at any moment may be shared, on a global scale, by groups of people and even by nations.

How, then, can we hope to communicate effectively our love to each other? This question is at the center of Jewish law, the “Golden Rule” we have discussed together so often: to treat all of G-d’s Creation with the love and respect that we ourselves want and need, and that is G-d’s gift to each of us.

Collectively, we have spoken often of the suffering in Ukraine, and little of the horror in Iran. I know that some of you have been suffering, too, in relative silence or feeling unseen and unheard, in obscurity, while the challenges and losses facing others of us are more widely known, discussed and comforted.

I have written often, and include my telephone number in this space, to invite your calls and texts at any time. As I can receive a hundred and more emails in a day, I may easily miss an important message sent through the internet. If this should happen to an email you send me, please follow up with a text and, ideally, a phone call, as it is of utmost importance to me that your thoughts be received.

While we may not be able to achieve equity in the expression of our emotional responses, we can surely share with each other the love in our hearts, including both genuine compassion for the difficulties we cannot change, and overflowing gratitude for all the gifts that make it possible for us to offer help where we can. With love and blessings for a 2023 of good health and fulfillment for each one of you, and good communication among us all – Rabbi Karen Allen – 386.254.2773.

The President's Message

Like many of you, I'm thrilled to see the end of 2022! Unfortunately, many of us have had health challenges this past year. Hopefully we'll be able to start the new year in better health and able to resume the normal activities we enjoy.

As we continue hybrid services, we have resumed Onegs and Kiddushes for our members who are back in the shul, so that we can continue a very important part of attending services – being able to socialize with our Congregational family. Sponsoring an Oneg or Kiddush gives our members the opportunity to share a celebration (birthdays or anniversaries or no reason at all) or to honor the memory of a loved one who has passed. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact Roz Wenrich. (see page 7).

We will be recognizing our New Members at the January 13th Service and look forward to seeing everyone then. Our Annual Meeting will be held virtually on Sunday January 22nd for all members in good standing. At that time our new officers and directors will be introduced. Please make sure to join us to hear about the plans for 2023 and what we've accomplished in the past year.

On January 28th we will be recognizing our Board of Directors for all the work they do on behalf of the Congregation. I certainly hope that members will join us to show appreciation for their efforts.

We are pleased to announce that we will be having our traditional Passover Seder (Thursday April 6th). I'm looking forward to seeing members and guests join us to celebrate the holiday. Thank you to our Secretary Fred Jacobs for arranging our location, the Eisenhower Recreation Center in The Villages. We were fortunate to get a new caterer last year, thanks to our Treasurer Dave Englander. Everyone agreed that Laura's food was amazing. As soon as all the details are finalized, we will communicate that information to everyone. As always, guests are welcome!

We will continue to monitor COVID. Our priority is the health and safety of our members and guests.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy & Healthy New Year!

Shalom

Andrea Kraft

Andrea Kraft, President, 352-513-3517

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WE NEED YOU TO SPONSOR AN ONEG SHABBAT OR KIDDUSH

There are many reasons to be a sponsor:

birthdays, anniversaries, special occasions,
remembering a loved one, or just celebrating Shabbat.

Upcoming Dates:

Jan 13 Jan 28 Feb 10 Feb. 25 March 10 March 25 April 14 April 29 May 12 May 27

You don't need a reason—just a willingness to take a turn

You don't have to do it alone—ask a friend or group of friends to co-sponsor with you

Sponsors bring the challah and refreshments.

Wine and paper goods and plasticware are provided by the shul.

Contact Roz Wenrich at mishkaborzoi-at-me.com (replace –at– with @)
or 908-783-0563 to reserve your date.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS / DIRECTORS

As directed by the By-Laws, our **annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2023, at 11 AM**. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

Annual Meetings are important. The purpose is to keep you informed of the accomplishments and future of Congregation Beth Sholom. It is also when you elect officers and directors for their term of office.

All members who have made a payment towards their annual dues are encouraged to attend the meeting and participate in the election of officers.

At this year's meeting we will be electing the President, Secretary, and 3 directors.

President Andrea Kraft, and Director Sandra Byrne are running for re-election.

Helene Bachmann is running for election as Secretary.

Director Diane Weinbaum will be stepping down after 9 years on the board. We thank Diane for her service.

Fred Jacobs is resigning as Secretary and running for election to the director position vacated by Diane.

Director Gloria Blankenship was appointed to the board in October. She is running for election.

Please be sure to make a dues payment prior to December 31, 2022. This will keep you as a member in good standing and you will be included in the membership directory. A new updated membership directory will be distributed via email after the annual meeting.

This is **your** synagogue -know what is happening – attend the Annual Meeting!

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Leesburg Food Bank

Written by Director Barry Wright

Donations over the last two and a half years were phenomenal during the pandemic. The community really came out to help. Francine Rizzotto, Gloria Blankenship, and myself from Beth Sholom are some of the volunteers at the Food Bank. Everyone at the food bank is a volunteer. NO ONE IS PAID.

Everything that is picked up from the Food Bank is FREE.

Since the synagogue is now open for services twice a month please remember to bring your donations every time you come. They will be taken to the Food Bank that is 2 blocks away. This summer the donations slowed down but nothing like what we had in years past. The snowbirds are back and the flow of donations has picked up again dramatically. Very impressive.

Based on the difference in donations over the last almost 3 years and the pandemic we have had to reorganize the food bank. We still do not let in the clients to the food bank for obvious safety issues for the volunteers at the food bank. Because of the changes we still do not have a clothing room. Hopefully one day that will happen. At this point, we are taking all donations including food. If you have any large items to donate please call 352-326-5463. Someone with a truck will pick it up. If you have clothes or smaller items to donate please bring them to the north side of the building. They will be gone through and if found ok will be placed in the huge storage container outside the building.

Please remember that the food bank is only open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 am to 12 for donations.

Current needs:

Food: pork and beans, canned fruit, jelly, side dishes, dry pasta, ketchup, mustard, boost, ensure, dog and cat food.

Personal items: Bar soap, tooth paste, tooth brush, deodorant, shampoo, baby diapers, sanitary napkins for young ladies.

New and slightly used clothing, new socks, shoes, boots and sneakers for kids.

Money or gift cards to local grocery stores are also welcome.

There is a special program at the Food Bank for the public school kids in Leesburg. The Food Bank actually packs and delivers food to the schools on Wednesdays for 334 children from the 7 Leesburg public schools. The school repacks the items and distributes them to the students on Friday for Saturday and Sunday. If you wish to donate to this program make your check payable to Leesburg Food Bank and write on the check something like "schools" or "backpack program" on the memo line.

Alternatively, you can write a check to Congregation Beth Sholom and put 'Food Bank' on the memo.

The Food Bank is at 503 N. 13th St, Leesburg, FL. 34748.

Thank you for your support.



CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays

January

1/1	David Chasin
1/1	Marcia Cohen-Robins
1/7	Judy Marshall
1/9	Maureen Barrett
1/10	Helen Jacobs
1/10	Matthew Cullen
1/11	Joseph Dowsey
1/11	Ariella Dowsey
1/12	Hailey Dowsey
1/12	Joni Treibitz
1/17	Michael Drexler
1/23	Sandra Fox
1/24	Susan Glaser
1/28	Gary Harris
1/28	Nathan Mularsky
1/30	Burt Kraft

February

2/3	Ronald Robins
2/9	Barbara Rupert
2/12	Dan Hirschfeld
2/14	John Scholl
2/27	Marion Beckman

R'fuah Sh'veima (Get Well Wishes)

to those who have been ill or have had or will have surgery:
 Fred Jacobs, Ben Solotoroff, Judy Hague, Frank Chletsos

Mi Shebeirach

Gloria Blankenship is assuming the responsibility for maintaining the list of our members and their close friends who are in need of healing. Rabbi Allen reads the list at services. To add new names, please send them to Gloria at glostar-at-embarqmail.com (replace –at– with @) or call her at 352-750-0721. Please remember to let her know when prayers are no longer needed.

A special thank you to Fred Jacobs for maintaining the list for several years.



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THANK YOU

To all our members who ordered Mah Jongg cards for themselves and their friends. There is still time to order for your group—deadline is January 25. See page 12.

To Marnell LaRoe Hayes and Dan & Eileen Hirschfeld for lighting our Friday Shabbat Candles

To Dan & Eileen Hirschfeld for the yummy chocolate dreidels at our 12/9 Friday service

To Dr. Marnell LaRoe Hayes for bringing, setting up, and “lighting” her beautiful fabric Chanukiyah

To Dan Hirschfeld for our beautiful large electric Chanukiyah

To Judy Hague and Judy Lankes for adding their wonderful violin music to our Chanukah songs

To Sandra Byrne for sending out all the emails to the Congregation

To Linda Kost for hosting the Zoom portion of our hybrid services

To Marsha Stemerman for her uplifting presentations

To LTC Herb Siegel for creating the inspirational Veterans Day program. To LTC David Litwack, Marsha Stemerman, and Dr. Marnell LaRoe Hayes for reading the Veterans Day program

To David and Yvette Litwack for sponsoring the Kiddush on Saturday, Dec 24th and to Herb Siegel & Sandra Byrne for the addition of the wonderful Latkes

To Francine Rizzotto for helping set up the Oneg & Kiddushes at all services

To Diane Weinbaum for her 9 years of service on the Board of Directors, and to Helene Bachmann & Gloria Blankenship for volunteering to join the Board of Directors

To: Fred Jacobs for maintaining the Misheberach list in addition to all the responsibilities of the Secretary

To: Dave Englander for stepping up to do Announcements, etc. at services that President Andrea Kraft was unable to attend

To: Roz Wenrich for volunteering to coordinate the calendar for Onegs & Kiddushes

DONATIONS

Dorothy Strauss in memory of Gloria Blankenship's Mother Mildred Selsky

Dan & Eileen Hirschfeld toward the Yahrzeit plaque for Priscilla Reisinger

General Donations: Robert L Milkman, Elizabeth Morrison, Larry & Clementina Litowich

Food Bank Donations: Marsha Stemerman, Dr. Marnell La Roe Hayes

Thank you to our CBS volunteers Barry Wright, Francine Rizzotto & Gloria Blankenship.

EXPLANATION OF DATES ON YAHRZEIT LIST

We give our members the option to observe yahrzeit on the secular date (the actual date of passing) or the Hebrew date. If there is no Hebrew date next to a name, it is because their family prefers to observe yahrzeit on the secular calendar date.

To add a loved one to the yahrzeit list, contact Linda Kost and provide the names and relationship of the congregant and relative, and the actual date of passing including the year. Please indicate whether you wish to observe yahrzeit on the secular or Jewish date.

Contact Linda at [intofrogs -at- gmail.com](mailto:intofrogs-at-gmail.com) (replace -at- with @) or 352-315-0309



Exploring Judaism—Adult Education Class

SAVE THE DATES! STAY TUNED FOR THE TOPIC!

Mon. March 6, 13, 20, and 27 4:00-5:00 pm on Zoom

You can attend all classes or individual ones. Each session is a stand alone class.

This is a virtual class held on Zoom.

Watch your email for more information and sign up instructions.



SEND A CARD AND SUPPORT THE SYNAGOGUE

There are lots of reasons to send cards:

birthdays, anniversaries, get well, condolences, congratulations.

Your donations can benefit the synagogue and let someone know you care!

Mail your donation to the synagogue, along with your message.

For more information contact Dave Englander at 352-504-4402.

He will send the card on your behalf, and your good wishes will appear in the Shofar.

Do you play Mah Jongg?



Please ask your friends to order their cards through us.

The Synagogue receives a donation based on the number of cards we order.

Every card makes a difference! DEADLINE IS JANUARY 25

Order your 2023 Mah Jongg Cards

Part of the proceeds benefit the Leesburg Food Bank.

Orders should be received by January 25, 2023

Have you ordered from Congregation Beth Sholom before: YES NO

If no, have you ordered from another collector in the past: YES NO

Name: _____ received cards thru the mail in the past: YES NO

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code_____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Number of Standard (small) Cards @\$14 _____ Number of Large Print Cards @\$15 _____

Make checks payable to: **Congregation Beth Sholom**

Mail to: Andrea Kraft

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Hernando, FL 34442

**IN MEMORIAM: THE FOLLOWING YAHRZEITS ARE OBSERVED**

The congregation expresses condolences to Enid Schibuk on the passing of her mother-in-law, Zula Schibuk, on 10/19, and her brother, Donald Blattner, on 10/26, and to Gloria Blankenship on the passing of her mother, Mildred Selsky, on 11/11. May their memories endure for a blessing.

The following names will be read on January 13

Sarah D. Cramer	Mother	of	Pam Singer & Lowell Cramer	22	Tevet	15-Jan
Elaine Friedman	Mother	of	Linda Friedman	22	Tevet	15-Jan
Selma Strauss	Mother	of	Sally Chletsos	24	Tevet	17-Jan
Lenore Kingsberg	Mother	of	Myra Efron			17-Jan
Paula Debra Weinbaum	Sister	of	Diane Weinbaum			17-Jan
Ruth Kraft	Mother	of	Burt Kraft			18-Jan
Joseph Selsky	Father	of	Gloria Blankenship			19-Jan
Max Tall	Uncle	of	Herb Siegel			19-Jan
Annette Glickson	Grandmother	of	David Chasin			19-Jan
Freddie Mularsky and	Father son	of	Nathan Mularsky founding rabbi of the congregation			19-Jan
Natalie Lutsky	Mother	of	Linda Kost	27	Tevet	20-Jan
Jeremy Abram Haimes	Son	of	Marshall Haimes			22-Jan
Theresa Rothbard	Aunt	of	Marty Rothbard	29	Tevet	22-Jan
Florence Subit	Mother	of	Bette Croll	3	Shevat	25-Jan
Philip Gelles	Grandfather	of	Diane Weinbaum			26-Jan
Harry Grilon	Father	of	Helene Bachmann			27-Jan
Michael Altstein	Cousin	of	Helene Bachmann			27-Jan
Herbert Weinstein	Father	of	Yvette Litwack	5	Shevat	27-Jan

The following names will be read on January 28

Adell Selsky	Grandmother	of	Gloria Blankenship	6	Shevat	28-Jan
Myrna Dunayer	Cousin	of	Fred Jacobs	10	Shevat	1-Feb
Eve Graham	Mother	of	Eileen Hirschfeld	11	Shevat	2-Feb
Gussie Rothbard	Mother	of	Marty Rothbard	13	Shevat	4-Feb
Herbert Carl King	Father	of	Robert King			4-Feb
Doris Edell	Mother	of	Susan Brogan			5-Feb
Evelyn Zalmanovich	Member	of	The Congregation	15	Shevat	6-Feb
Sidney Koren	Father	of	Michael Koren			7-Feb
Betty Siegel	Wife	of	Herb Siegel and			8-Feb
	Mother	of	Sandra Byrne			
Julian Tordjmann	Brother-in-law	of	Helen Jacobs	17	Shevat	8-Feb
Morris Zalmanovich	Member	of	The Congregation	17	Shevat	8-Feb

The following names will be read on February 10

Stanley Gelles	Uncle	of	Diane Weinbaum			11-Feb
Marilyn Gelles	Aunt	of	Diane Weinbaum			11-Feb
Jake Jurisz	Member	of	The Congregation	22	Shevat	13-Feb
Max Block	Grandfather	of	Marsha Stemerman	26	Shevat	17-Feb
Claire Mohel	Mother	of	Barry Wright	28	Shevat	19-Feb
Harry Bokow	Friend	of	Gloria Blankenship	30	Shevat	21-Feb
Janet Altstein	Cousin	of	Helene Bachmann			22-Feb
Rose Marcus Milkman	Mother	of	Robert Milkman	1	Adar 1	22-Feb
Percy Fellner	Father	of	Phylis Berger (on wall)	1	Adar 2	22-Feb
Paula Finkelstein	Aunt	of	Ellen Englander	1	Adar 2	22-Feb
Morton Hillman	Step Father	of	William Hillman	3	Adar 1	24-Feb

The following names will be read on February 25

Irving Rothbard	Father	of	Marty Rothbard	4	Adar 1	25-Feb
Reva Chasin	Mother	of	David Chasin			26-Feb
Dr. Saul Muffs	Father	of	Judy Hartstein	7	Adar 1	28-Feb
Syd Slater	Sister	of	Bette Croll	7	Adar 2	28-Feb
Peni Berger	Wife	of	Stephen Berger			1-Mar
Max Kessler	Founder	of	The Congregation	9	Adar 1	2-Mar
Nathan Goldberg	Father	of	Ira Goldberg	10	Adar 1	3-Mar
Simon Cohen	Grandfather	of	Ronnie-Jane Boekema	11	Adar 1	4-Mar
Sarah Meyers	Mother	of	Martin Meyers	11	Adar 1	4-Mar
Howard Katz	Nephew	of	Ben Solotoroff	13	Adar 1	6-Mar
Benjamin Sloves	Father	of	Phyllis Lax	16	Adar 1	9-Mar
Ludwig Strauss	Father	of	Sally Chletsos	16	Adar 2	9-Mar
Sophie Siegel	Mother	of	Herb Siegel			9-Mar
Jack Finkelstein	Father	of	Phyllis Simon			9-Mar
Fanny Levine	Aunt	of	Helen Jacobs	17	Adar 1	10-Mar

Congregation Beth Sholom

315 North 13th Street
Leesburg, FL 34748

Phone: 352-326-3692