



January / February 2024

Tevet / Shevat / Adar 5784

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

Rabbi Karen Allen
386-254-2773



Our Annual Meeting will be held IN PERSON and on zoom on Sunday, January 21st, at 11 am.

The Board of Directors has decided to hold the meeting in person to provide an opportunity for us to socialize. A delicious light lunch will be served. Don't miss this opportunity to spend time with your fellow congregants.

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 (in person or on Zoom) and participate in the election of officers.

Vice President Linda Kost, Treasurer David Englander, and Director Barry Wright are running for re-election. Francine Rizzotto was appointed to Director in October and is running for election for her two year term.

Please be sure to make a dues payment prior to January 7, 2024. 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 at the meeting and via email after the meeting.

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:	Helene Bachmann 310-490-3365	TREASURER:	Dave Englander 352-504-4402		
DIRECTORS:	Barry Wright 352-324-1139	Sandra Byrne 352-586-0119	Fred Jacobs 352-633-0500	Gloria Blankenship 352-750-0721	Francine Rizzotto 352-324-6348

January 2024 Tevet / Shevat 5784

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5  5:24	6
7	8	9 Board Meeting 4 pm	10	11	12 New Member Service 7 pm  5:30	13
14	15	16	17	18 Rabbi's Roundtable 3 pm Page 5	19  5:35	20
21 Annual Meeting & Lunch 11 am	22	23	24	25	26  5:41	27 Tu B'Shevat Shabbat Service 10 am
28	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 12 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: Jack & Anna Marie Werksman, Richard Stone, Elise Lev,
Judith Mason, Freeda Louthan, Gary Plotkin, Patricia Stark
Returning Members: Michael Saks

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 2024 Shevat / Adar 5784

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2  5:47	3
4	5	6 Board Meeting 4 pm	7	8	9 Board Recognition Service 7 pm  5:53	10
11	12	13	14	15 Rabbi's Roundtable 3 pm Page 5	16  5:58	17
18	19	20	21	22	23  6:03	24 Rabbi's Anniversary Shabbat Service 10 am
25	26	27	28	29		



Celebrate Rabbi Allen's 15th Anniversary Saturday, February 24th Special Kiddush Lunch

Our morning will begin with our Saturday morning Shabbat service at 10 am.

The Board of Directors is sponsoring the Kiddush where we will Thank Rabbi Allen for her 15 (1/2) years of service to our congregation.

Rabbi's Message

“It Happens. . .” – Since When?

At the moment of this writing, a Community Advisory has just been issued by the Anti-Defamation League Center on Extremism, warning of over 200 reports of bomb threats sent to synagogues and Jewish institutions nationwide on the weekend of December 15-17, 2023 – thankfully, none known as credible.

I have been disturbed deeply by the global wildfire of antisemitism, and horrified by the universally repressed and ignored, but now recognized reluctantly as tragically widespread and integrally planned, prevalence of sexual violence, against women -- and also against men and children, even the very youngest.

These latest incipient threats to all of us are not disconnected from the atrocities in Israel. They are the re-emerging tip of the iceberg of hatred, increasingly expressed internationally, and inevitably, historically, coming to rest at the homes and lives of the Jewish people everywhere.

Please, do not turn away from these warnings. Be attentive to their sinister and very real message: we are in imminent danger, here and everywhere.

Our Lake County government, flying a flag of Israel proudly alongside its U.S. counterpart since October 7th, is a wonderful example of the blessing to us of the all-important friends of Israel and the Jews, an essential answer to the threats at our door.

We cannot control the hearts of others. But we can pay attention to what we see and hear, let others know what we have learned, and accept the help of our supporters in our community, regionally, nationally and world-wide, including importantly the law enforcement and governmental entities that can hold haters to account for their actions.

Until now, Holocaust scholars have not paid significant attention to the many testimonies of sexual violence against Jewish women during the Sho'ah – often inflicted, in a pattern imitated and followed horrifically by Chamas, in front of parents, children, and spouses. A terrifying number of mass Jewish graves in post-Holocaust Europe reveal large numbers of sexually mutilated women, showing markers of the same kind of evil practiced on Israeli Jewish women in the past two months.

Because of the Nazi prohibition of contact with Jews, the perpetrators of this particularly brutal violence did not publicize their actions as a weapon of terrorism. Despite similar pointless hatred, the evil-doers of Chamas received “dispensation” from their religious leaders to send video records in real time and shortly following their despicable actions to the victims’ families and news outlets, for the purpose of cultivating fear in the Jewish community. We cannot permit these ill-intentioned people to succeed, but must hold them, as human beings every bit as precious as every one of us and our loved ones but tragically misguided, to the higher standard of creatures made in the image of a loving G-d.

With love and blessings for a happy, healthy and safe 2024 to each and every one of you, your families and loved ones – Rabbi Karen Allen – 386.254.2773

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 Sponsors:

January 12: Gloria Blankenship in memory of her father, Joseph Selsky

January 27: Helene Bachmann in memory of her father, Harry Gripon

February 9: Elise Lev

February 24: The Board of Directors in honor of Rabbi Allen

Available Dates:

March 8 March 23 April 12 April 27 May 10 May 25 June 14 June 29

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 refreshments.

Challah, 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.



Celebrate Shabbat and Tu B'Shevat
on Saturday January 27th at 10 am
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

Virtually via Zoom Thursdays January 18 and February 15 at 3 pm

The roundtable is a unique, informal discussion with Rabbi Allen and your fellow members and friends of Congregation Beth Sholom.

The topic of the month is included in the email announcement.

Rabbi Allen is inviting you to share topics you would like to discuss.

Email them to President-at-BethSholomFlorida.org (change-at-to @)

Come to the Roundtable and see where the discussion takes us!

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CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays			
	JANUARY		FEBRUARY
1/1	David Chasin	2/9	Barbara Rupert
1/10	Michael Saks	2/12	Dan Hirschfeld
1/10	Helen Jacobs	2/14	John Scholl
1/10	Matthew Cullen	2/25	Richard Stone
1/11	Joseph Dowsey		
1/11	Ariella Dowsey		
1/12	Hailey Dowsey		
1/12	Joni Treibitz		
1/23	Sandra Fox		
1/28	Gary Harris		
1/28	Nathan Mularsky		
1/30	Burt Kraft		

R'fuah Sh'leima (Get Well Wishes)

to those who have been ill or have had or will have surgery:
Fred Jacobs, Ben Solotoroff, Bill Hillman, Burt Kraft

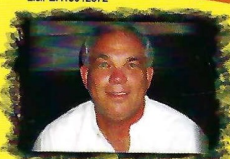
Mi Shebeirach

Director Gloria Blankenship maintains the list of our members and their close friends who are in need of healing. The list is presented 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 us know when prayers are no longer needed.

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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 10.

To Ellen and Dave Englander for the beautiful flower arrangement for the bima

To Dan Hirschfeld for our beautiful large electric Chanukiyah

To Ellen Englander for adding her Chanukah bears to our bima decorations

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 Melinda Hock for maintaining the website and for chairing Honey From the Heart

To Marsha Stemerman for the Kristallnacht program

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

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

To Gloria Blankenship for keeping track of our family and friends on the MiShebeirach list

To Our Food Bank Volunteers: Barry Wright and Francine Rizzotto

To our Oneg and Kiddush Sponsors:

Friday, Nov 10—Herb Siegel and Sandra Byrne in honor of Herb's 88th birthday

Saturday, Nov 25—Michael Saks

Friday, Dec 8—Francine and Chip Rizzotto

Donations

Sally Chletsos in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of her grandson, Tucker Maslowski

Dorothy Strauss get well wishes for Kathy Gipe

Karen Salvat on honor of the Yahrzeit for her father Harry Wagner

General Donations: Robert L Milkman, Elizabeth Morrison, Michael Fruchter, Billy Hartig, George & Arline Cooke

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 (replace -at- with @) or 352-315-0309



Exploring Judaism—Adult Education Class

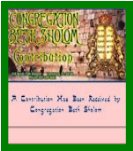
SAVE THE DATES! STAY TUNED FOR THE TOPIC!

Mondays in March with Marsha

Mon. March 4, 11, 18, and 25 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.



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 2024 Mah Jongg Cards

Part of the proceeds benefit the Leesburg Food Bank.

Orders should be received by January 25, 2024

Have you ordered from Congregation Beth Sholom before: YES NO

If no, have you received cards by mail from the Mah Jongg League in the past: YES NO

Name: _____

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
1298 N. Hunt Club Drive
Hernando, FL 34442


IN MEMORIAM: THE FOLLOWING YAHRZEITS ARE OBSERVED


The congregation expresses condolences to Gloria Blankenship on the passing of Bunny Sheppard Higginbotham, mother of her son-in-law on October 23, and to David Englander on the passing of his cousin, Marty Klein on November 13. May their memory endure as a blessing.

The following names will be read on January 12

Florence Subit	Mother	of	Bette Croll	3	Shevat	13-Jan
Herbert Weinstein	Father	of	Yvette Litwack	5	Shevat	15-Jan
Adell Selsky	Grandmother	of	Gloria Blankenship	6	Shevat	16-Jan
Lenore Kingsberg	Mother	of	Myra Efron			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	Father	of	Nathan Mularsky			19-Jan
and	son	of	founding rabbi of the congregation			
Myrna Dunayer	Cousin	of	Fred Jacobs	10	Shevat	20-Jan
Eve Graham	Mother	of	Eileen Hirschfeld	11	Shevat	21-Jan
Jeremy Abram Haimes	Son	of	Marshall Haimes			22-Jan
Sarah Meghan Steinberg	Daughter	of	Freeda Louthan			23-Jan
Gussie Rothbard	Mother	of	Marty Rothbard	13	Shevat	23-Jan
Kristen Simon	Daughter-in-law	of	Phyllis and Mark Simon			24-Jan
Evelyn Zalmanovich	Member	of	The Congregation	15	Shevat	25-Jan

The following names will be read on January 27

Julian Tordjmann	Brother-in-law	of	Helen Jacobs	17	Shevat	27-Jan
Morris Zalmanovich	Member	of	The Congregation	17	Shevat	27-Jan
Sheila Saks	Wife	of	Michael Saks	17	Shevat	27-Jan
Harry Gripon	Father	of	Helene Bachmann			27-Jan
Michael Altstein	Cousin	of	Helene Bachmann			27-Jan
Jake Jurisz	Member	of	The Congregation	22	Shevat	1-Feb
Rose Plotkin	Mother	of	Gary Plotkin	23	Shevat	2-Feb
Herbert Carl King	Father	of	Robert King			4-Feb
Doris Edell	Mother	of	Susan Brogan			5-Feb
Max Block	Grandfather	of	Marsha Stemerman	26	Shevat	5-Feb
Claire Mohel	Mother	of	Barry Wright	28	Shevat	7-Feb

The following names will be read on February 9

Betty Siegel	Wife	of	Herb Siegel and			8-Feb
	Mother	of	Sandra Byrne			
Harry Bokow	Friend	of	Gloria Blankenship	30	Shevat	9-Feb
Rose Marcus Milkman	Mother	of	Robert Milkman	1	Adar 1	10-Feb
Morton Hillman	Step Father	of	William Hillman	3	Adar 1	12-Feb
Irving Rothbard	Father	of	Marty Rothbard	4	Adar 1	13-Feb
Dr. Saul Muffs	Father	of	Judy Hartstein	7	Adar 1	16-Feb
Max Kessler	Founder	of	The Congregation	9	Adar 1	18-Feb
Nathan Goldberg	Father	of	Ira Goldberg	10	Adar 1	19-Feb
Simon Cohen	Grandfather	of	Ronnie-Jane Boekema	11	Adar 1	20-Feb
Sarah Meyers	Mother	of	Martin Meyers	11	Adar 1	20-Feb
Howard Katz	Nephew	of	Ben Solotoroff	13	Adar 1	22-Feb
Janet Altstein	Cousin	of	Helene Bachmann			22-Feb

The following names will be read on February 24

Fanny Levine	Aunt	of	Helen Jacobs	17	Adar 1	26-Feb
Reva Chasin	Mother	of	David Chasin			26-Feb
Serita Resnik	Sister	of	Hank Hartstein	18	Adar 1	27-Feb
Al Shanky	Past Pres	of	The Congregation	19	Adar 1	28-Feb
Peni Berger	Wife	of	Stephen Berger			1-Mar
Howard Wiener	Member	of	The Congregation	24	Adar 1	4-Mar
Cherry Parker	Sister	of	Dan Hirschfeld	25	Adar 1	5-Mar

Congregation Beth Sholom

315 North 13th Street
Leesburg, FL 34748

Phone: 352-326-3692

OUR FOUNDERS

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