

July / August 2026



Tammuz / Av / Elul 5786

<http://BethSholomFlorida.org>

315 North 13th Street

Leesburg, FL 34748

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Rabbi Ronald N. Reuven Silverman
386-747-0644

**July and August are Spiritual Months
Days of Reflection in Preparation for The High Holidays**



Fast of Tammuz on July 2 commemorates the breaching of the Temple by the Romans

Three Weeks leads up to the Jewish Day of National Mourning known as Tisha B'av on July 22-23. Commemorates the destruction of both the First and Second Temples.

Selichot services are communal prayers for Divine forgiveness, said during the High Holiday season and on Jewish fast days



Selichot

Board of Directors:

President: Freeda Louthan 502-553-0241

Vice President: Melinda Hock 352-689-2253

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Treasurer: David Englander 352-504-4402

Director: Barry Wright 305-298-5131

Director: Sandra Byrne 352-586-0119

Director: Fred Jacobs 917-647-0057

Director: Gloria Blankenship 352-750-0721

Director: Francine Rizzotto 352-324-6348

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Phillip & Anita Caminez

IMPORTANT DATES

JULY

7th Board Meeting 4PM

10th Kabbalat Shabbat 7PM (Independence Day)

AUGUST

1st Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 AM

11th Board Meeting 4PM

14th Kabbalat Shabbat and Selichot Service 7:00 PM

29th Shabbat Morning Pre-Rosh Hashanah Service 10:00 AM

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

JULY

AUGUST

7/2	Barbara Liberman	8/2	Diane Erick
7/3	Glenda Chiarello	8/2	Judith Schulman
7/8	Marlene Steinberg	8/3	Andrea Kraft
7/8	Randy Kresley	8/3	Sharon Glass
7/12	Helene Steinberg	8/9	Leonard Steinberg
7/14	Bianka Karger	8/10	David Englander
7/15	Edith Freiwirth	8/19	Joy Salberg
7/19	Edward Quick	8/22	Marty Meyers
7/24	Marnell LaRoe Hayes	8/27	Michael Fruchter
7/27	Linda Kost	8/29	Allen Klein
7/27	Sally Rosenberg		
7/28	Roz Wenrich		

ANNIVERSARIES

JULY

AUGUST

7/5	Michael and Angeline Fruchter	8/4	Dan and Eileen Hirschfeld
7/30	Fred and Helen Jacobs	8/17	Neil and Judith Schulman
		8/20	Anita and Phillip Caminez
		8/23	Allen and Janice Klein
		8/26	Barry and Diane Erlick

Letter to Congregants from Rabbi Silverman

From Summer's Shadows to the Light of Renewal as we enter the months of July and August, the Jewish calendar leads us on a remarkable spiritual journey—a journey that begins with reflection and mourning and ends with hope, renewal, and preparation for the High Holy Days.

On the 17th of Tammuz, observed this year on July 2, we begin a period known as the "Three Weeks." The fast commemorates the breaching of Jerusalem's walls by the Romans before the destruction of the Second Temple. It is a day that reminds us that great tragedies often begin with small cracks—moments when vigilance, unity, or faith weaken.

The lesson is not merely historical. Each of us can ask: What walls of kindness, patience, understanding, or Jewish commitment need strengthening in our own lives?

The Three Weeks culminate with Tisha B'Av on July 22-23, our tradition's day of deepest mourning. We remember the destruction of both Temples in Jerusalem and many other tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people throughout history.

Yet Judaism never leaves us in despair. The prophets taught that mourning should lead to renewal. By remembering what was lost, we recommit ourselves to building communities of compassion, learning, prayer, and love. Every act of kindness and every mitzvah become a small step toward rebuilding.

Just weeks after Tisha B'Av, we welcome Rosh Chodesh Elul on August 13–14. The mood begins to change. The shofar will soon be heard. Elul invites us to look inward and prepare our hearts for the Days of Awe. Our sages taught that the name "Elul" can be understood through the verse, "Ani l'dodi v'dodi li"—"I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine." Elul is a time to renew our relationships: with God, with family and friends, and with our own better selves.

The journey that began with the Fast of Tammuz now reaches its destination. We move from remembering brokenness to seeking wholeness. We move from loss to possibility. We move from mourning what has been to imagining what can yet be.

As Rosh Hashanah approaches, we ask ourselves: What kind of year do we wish to create? What blessings do we hope to bring into the lives of others? How can we become the people we are meant to be? The High Holy Days remind us that every year, every month, and indeed every day offers the possibility of renewal.

May these summer months be a time of meaningful reflection, spiritual growth, and preparation. May we enter the New Year with grateful hearts, renewed purpose, and hope for ourselves, our congregation, the Jewish people, Israel, and the entire world.

Wishing all of Congregation Beth Sholom a meaningful summer and a sweet beginning to the New Year. Rabbi Reuven Silverman

Congregation Beth Sholom Volunteers in Action



Thank you to Neil & Judy Schulman and their friend John Picarelli for cleaning, painting and refreshing our outside front sign making it beautiful once again!! They also cleaned the shed and front door area. Judy also trimmed some of the bushes.

Oneg Sponsors



The Oneg on Friday evening, June 12 was sponsored by Freeda & Doug Louthan, Ellen & Dave Englander and Barry & Cookie Wright in celebration of their wedding anniversaries.

SPONSOR AN ONEG SHABBAT OR KIDDUSH



There are many wonderful reasons to become a sponsor—celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or special occasion; honoring the memory of a loved one; or simply enjoying Shabbat. Of course, no reason is required beyond the willingness to take a turn. Sponsorship doesn't have to be done alone—you can invite a friend or a group of friends to co-sponsor with you. Sponsors provide the refreshments, while the shul supplies the challah, wine, paper goods, and plasticware. To reserve your date, please

contact Barbara Burton at beburton43-at-yahoo.com (replace “-at-” with @) or **602-663-1688**.

ADD YOUR LOVED ONE TO THE MEMORIAL BOARD Honoring the memory of a loved one with a permanent plaque in the sanctuary is a lasting and meaningful tribute. The cost of a plaque is \$300, or \$275 each when purchasing two or more. For more information, please contact Dave Englander at dhenglander0618-at-gmail.com (replace “-at-” with @) or **352-504-4402**.



PARKING ALONGSIDE THE BUILDING IS NOW DESIGNATED FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ONLY We kindly ask that those who are able park in the lot across 13th Street, allowing the spaces beside our building to remain available for members and guests with mobility needs.

NAMETAGS ARE AVAILABLE



Let everyone know who you are with a personalized name tag! Tags are just \$15 each. Simply mail your check to the synagogue along with a note indicating the name you would like printed on your tag. For more information, contact Dave Englander at 352-504-4402.

DONATIONS

Dr Elise Lev for sponsoring the Oneg on Friday, May 8 in honor of her 86TH Birthday and her Bat Mitzvah

Arlene Gibbs for sponsoring the Kiddush on Saturday, May 23 in memory of her late husband Leslie (Gus) Gibbs.

Dave & Ellen Englander, Freeda & Doug Louthan and Barry & Cookie Wright for sponsoring the Oneg on Friday, June 12 in celebration of their Anniversaries.

Myra Efron for sponsoring the Kiddush on Saturday, June 27 in honor of her 2 grandchildren's Bar and Bat Mitzva's: Zachary Gilbert and Adele Efron.

Neil & Judy Schulman for cleaning, painting and refreshing our outside front sign making it beautiful once again! They also cleaned the shed and front door area and trimmed some of the bushes.

General Donations: Elizabeth Morrison, Robert & Sonia Baerga Treibitz, Neil Camhi, Robyn Dowsey

Food Bank Donations: Dr. Marnell La Roe Hayes,
Thank you to our CBS volunteers Barry Wright, Francine Rizzotto & Robin Vizer.

Charity Art Sale: Andrea Kraft, Bette Croll, Barbara Burton & Randy Kresley, Dave & Ellen Englander, Freeda Louthan, Sandra Byrne, Myra Efron

Annual Appeal: Marsha Stemerman, Dave & Ellen Englander, Linda Alster, Helene Bachmann, Marjorie Heyman, Kathryn & Edward Quick, Barbara Rupert, Gary Plotkin, Fred & Helen Jacobs, Chip & Francine Rizzotto, Dr. Marnell La Roe Hayes, Barry & Diane Erlick, Dr. Gene & Blanka Karger, Dr. Kenneth & Patricia Stark, Stephen Berger, Freeda Louthan, Linda Kost, Myra Efron, Mindi Valancy, Melinda Hock, Neil & Judy Schulman, Barbara Burton & Randy Kresley, Bette Croll, Gloria Blankenship, Sally Chletsos

THANK YOU

Thank you, from our grateful Congregation, to the following:

Rabbi Silverman: for his excellence and devotion in his organizing and leading services; thanks to Len Steinberg, our gabbai, for his assistance in the services and in their preparation; and thank you to Rabbi Silverman, Len Steinberg, and Elise Lev, our Ritual Committee members for their work, including preparation of the calendar for 2026-7 / 5786-7; including several revisions done by Rabbi Silverman. Also, thank you to Rabbi Silverman, for Shabbat greetings to members, monthly Judaism classes, weekly Torah / parsha study zoom classes, and updates concerning Israel news and other matters.

Len Steinberg, for recommending, and for attending meetings with, our newly retained accountant firm.

Al Simons, who is a candidate for the next presidency of C.B.S., for his attending board meetings, and attending meetings with, and helping by obtaining information in connection with, our newly retained accountant firm.

Dave Englander: our treasurer, for his work in determining an accountant firm for C.B.S. to retain, and for his attending meetings with the firm, along with Freeda, Len Steinberg, and Al Simons; and for many hours spent on ongoing tasks, both handling all financial matters, and attending to many maintenance issues at the shul.

Enid Schibuk, for donating her lovely original paintings to C.B.S, for which a charity drive, with refreshments provided by Enid and Freeda, was held on June 7 following Rabbi Silverman's Judaism class; resulting in charitable donations from members, the recipient of which donations the board of directors will decide.

Jake Silverman, Regional Security Advisor with Shalom Orlando, for his work in doing a threat assessment report for C.B.S., and his meetings with Freeda, Dave Englander, and Len Steinberg to plan security improvements for C.B.S.

Lt. Col Herb Siegel, Ret'd, for his presentation of patriotic readings, along with other members whom he recruited, at the Memorial Day service on June 27.

Dave Englander, Francine Rizzotto, and Helene Bachmann, for obtaining the next year's Jewish calendars from Page-Theus, with C.B.S. contact information included thereon.

Gloria Blankenship, chair of the welcome/membership committee, and committee members: Andrea Kraft, Sandy Byrne, and Robin Vizer, for their ongoing support of C.B.S. in these endeavors.

Helene Bachmann and Sandy Byrne, for working on an AI feature recently added to Zoom, to assist with preparing minutes of board meetings and other meetings.

Helene Bachmann, secretary, for her ongoing work in creating/distributing the minutes of board of directors and members meetings; and in maintaining lists for yahrzeits, birthdays, anniversaries, yizkors, and the Book of Remembrance; and monitoring emails sent to C.B.S.

Gloria Blankenship for her ongoing work maintaining the Mi Shebeirach list; and receiving phone calls for C.B.S.

Sandra Byrne, director, for her ongoing work preparing and distributing emails to members for myriad services and other events and matters; and for her progress in creating a Google Drive system for storing our important documents.

Barry Wright for scheduling police for security for our services and other events; and for other ongoing functions, including arranging repairs as needed, and on our IT (webcam, microphones, etc.) equipment; and other matters to keep the synagogue in good function.

Francine Rizzotto and Chip Rizzotto, for ongoing management of kitchen and food needs for our services and events; Helene Bachmann, Robin Vizer, Arlene Gibbs, Judy Schulman, and others who provide food assistance for our services.

Barbara Burton for her ongoing work in receiving / coordinating sponsors for onegs and kiddushes.

Susan Kaplan, for chairing our Grants Committee.

To the membership for providing food for many of our services and events.

Helene Steinberg, and her sisters, Marlene Steinberg, and Susan Goodman, for organizing the game days.

The Villages Daily Sun, The Leesburg Daily Commercial, and the Jewish Heritage newspapers for articles concerning our synagogue.



SEND A CARD AND SUPPORT THE SYNAGOGUE

There are many meaningful reasons to send a card—birthdays, anniversaries, get well wishes, condolences, or congratulations. Your donation not only supports the synagogue but also lets someone know you care. Simply 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 be

shared in the *Shofar*.

Mi Shebeirach

Director Gloria Blankenship maintains the list of the family and close friends of our members who are in need of healing. The list is presented at services. If you are a member and wish to add names of relatives or close friends who are in need of healing please email Gloria Blankenship EACH WEEK at glostar@embarqmail.com with their names **not later than the Thursday** prior to the service. NOTE - As we do not maintain an "ongoing" list; the names that are read aloud in services are only those that are received by Gloria following the previous service. A person who remains in need of healing can be re-added by notifying Gloria as stated above.

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 Helene Bachmann 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 Helene at [helenebachmann – at– \[hotmail.com\]\(mailto:helenebachmann-at-hotmail.com\)](mailto:helenebachmann-at-hotmail.com) (replace –at– with @) or 310-490-3365

IN MEMORIAM: THE FOLLOWING YAHRZEITS ARE OBSERVED

The following names will be read on July 10						
Mitchell Lutsky	Brother	of	Linda Kost	26	Tammuz	11-Jul
Dorothy Berger Stern	Mother	of	Stephen Berger			12-Jul
Rose Schulman	Grandmother	of	Neil Schulman			13-Jul
Michael Davidoff	Beloved Partner	of	Bette Croll			14-Jul
Alfred Janosi	Father	of	Cookie Wright	29	Tammuz	14-Jul
Monte Strauss	Brother	of	Sally Chletsos	1	Av	15-Jul
Lionel Kraft	Father-in-Law	of	Andrea Kraft			15-Jul
Diane Feinstein LaRoe	Mother	of	Sally Rosenberg			15-Jul
and	Aunt	of	Dr. Marnell LaRoe Hayes			
Helen Rowe	Mother	of	Marjorie R. Heyman	3	Av	17-Jul
Jochvet Sidorski	Mother	of	Helen Jacobs	5	Av	19-Jul
Beryle Buchman	Aunt	of	Judy Hague	8	Av	22-Jul
Henry Hirschfeld	Father	of	Dan Hirschfeld	8	Av	22-Jul
Debbie Hirschfeld	Daughter	of	Dan and Eileen Hirschfeld	14	Av	28-Jul
The following names will be read on August 1						
Mark Parker	Brother	of	Ronnie-Jane Boekema	18	Av	1-Aug
Raynata Steinberg	Mother	of	Leonard Steinberg	18	Av	1-Aug
Rochelle Goldberg	Wife	of	Ira Goldberg	19	Av	2-Aug
Julie Nemer	Friend	of	Dr. Marnell L. Hayes	19	Av	2-Aug
Peter Rosenberg	Husband	of	Sally Rosenberg			2-Aug
Gunter Marx	Father	of	Ellen Englander	20	Av	3-Aug
Nettie Warshaw	Grandmother	of	Nettie Goeler	20	Av	3-Aug
Grace Daniels	Member	of	The Congregation	22	Av	5-Aug
Harry Schloss	Father	of	Andrea Kraft			5-Aug
Lillian Schwartz	Mother	of	Selma Haimes			7-Aug
Nathan Chasin	Father	of	David Chasin			7-Aug
Isadore Epstein	Grandfather	of	Judy Schulman			12-Aug
The following names will be read on August 14						
Samuel Berkowitz	Father	of	Beverly Ann Meyers	1	Elul	14-Aug
Alvin Meyers	Brother	of	Martin Meyers	2	Elul	15-Aug
Irving Steinberg	Father	of	Helene and Marlene Steinberg and Susan Goodman			18-Aug
Lonnie Kramer	Brother	of	Marsha Grabois			20-Aug
Merle Kramer	Member	of	The Congregation	8	Elul	21-Aug
Abraham Kaplan	Father	of	Susan Kaplan			25-Aug
Dennis Platt	Dear Friend	of	Bette Croll			26-Aug
Sam Rosenfeld	Brother	of	Joe Rosenfeld			26-Aug
Laura Goeler	Mother-in-Law	of	Nettie Goeler			28-Aug
The following names will be read on August 29						
Sarah Block	Grandmother	of	Marsha Stemerman	19	Elul	1-Sep
Cindy Spiro	Cousin	of	Linda Kost	19	Elul	1-Sep
Chaim Mordachi Fruchter	Father	of	Michael Fruchter			1-Sep
Yetta Schlesinger	Aunt	of	Anita Caminez			3-Sep
Eve Smick Kaplan	Mother	of	Susan Kaplan			5-Sep
James V. Chiarello	Father	of	Jim Chiarello			7-Sep
Stanley Levin	Member	of	The Congregation	25	Elul	7-Sep
Selma Tall	Aunt	of	Herb Siegel			8-Sep
Earle Yaile Gross	Father	of	Glenda Chiarello			9-Sep
Marilyn Azriel	Cousin	of	Judy Hague	27	Elul	9-Sep
Myron Warshaw	Uncle	of	Nettie Goeler			10-Sep

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