

March / April 2026



Adar / Nisan / Iyyar 5786

<http://BethSholomFlorida.org>

315 North 13th Street

Leesburg, FL 34748

(352) 326-3692

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Celebrate Passover with Congregation Beth Sholom



Our 2nd night Passover Seder will be held on Thursday, April 2nd in the social hall at the First Baptist Church of Leesburg, two short blocks from our shul.

TooJay's is providing our Seder meal. This very special event always brings our congregation family together in song and celebration. Make your reservation now! (see p. 13)

Board of Directors:

President: Freeda Louthan 502-553-0241

Vice President: Melinda Hock 352-689-2253

Secretary: Helene Bachmann 310-490-3365

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 MEMBER

Sonia Sugarman

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH

- 3rd Board Meeting
- 8th Judaism Class 2-4PM
- 13th Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:00 PM
- 28th Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 AM

APRIL

- 2nd Seder at Church 5:15PM
- 7th Board Meeting
- 10th Kabbalat Shabbat Service (Yom HaShoah) 7:00 PM
- 19th Judaism Class 2-4PM
- 25th Shabbat Morning Zoom Service (HaZiKaron/HaAtzmaut) 10:00 AM

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

MARCH

APRIL

3/1	Arlene S. Gibbs	4/4	Freeda Louthan
3/4	Beverly Meyers	4/6	David Kaplan
3/8	Marsha Grabois	4/8	Dr. Michael Levine
3/16	Sonia Sugarman	4/8	Robyn Dowsey
3/27	Andrea Paprock	4/8	Larry Litowich
		4/10	Hank Hartstein
		4/24	Bette Croll
		4/26	Kathryn Quick
		4/27	Sonia Baerga Treibitz
		4/30	Fred Jacobs

ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH

3/5	Ceb and Gloria Blankenship
3/8	Al and Edie Simons
3/20	Hank and Judy Hartstein
3/21	Michael and Diane Levine
3/31	Jim and Glenda Chiarello

Letter to Congregants from Rabbi Silverman

Dear Friends,

As we enter the months of March and April, we can almost feel the shift in the air. The days stretch a bit longer, the light lingers a bit later, and our spirits—like the season—begin to lift. These past months have been filled with meaningful growth in our community. Our Wednesday evening “Torah with Rashi” learning has taken on a beautiful depth. The thoughtful insights shared with Rabbi Asher, Dr. Gene Karger, and so many of you have reminded me that Torah is not simply studied—it is lived, questioned, and lovingly wrestled with together. The conversations have been rich, respectful, and spiritually energizing.

Our monthly Sunday afternoon classes have likewise become something truly special. The room is never quiet for long—and that is a blessing! The lively discussion, the wisdom in the room, and even the gentle disagreements reflect a congregation that cares deeply and thinks deeply. Judaism has always thrived on holy conversation.

One of the most sacred developments in our community life has been the establishment of our Chevra Kadisha. This Burial Society—formed together with all of our Rabbis and now entering ongoing training thanks to the leadership of Lenny Steinberg and Rabbi Hecht—represents compassion at its highest level. In creating this sacred group, we are affirming that *chesed shel emet*, the truest kindness, remains at the heart of who we are.

Our Sponsored Kiddush Program continues to add warmth and joy to our Shabbatot. A heartfelt thank you to Francine Rizzotto, Barbara Burton and our Sponsors for helping make these gatherings so magnificent. There is something profoundly Jewish about lingering after services, sharing food, stories, and *simchas* together. Community is built not only in prayer—but also around the table.

Now we look ahead to the joy and creativity of our upcoming Purim Spiel—where laughter itself becomes a *mitzvah*—and to our Community Passover Seder on the Second Night, complete with all the fixings and, I hope, all the singing! These moments remind us that Jewish life moves in rhythm: from study to celebration, from solemnity to song.

Soon after, we will observe Holocaust Remembrance. As the world outside blossoms with spring, we will pause to remember, to honor, and to recommit ourselves to memory and to hope. The Jewish calendar holds both laughter and tears—teaching us that resilience is woven into our story.

What gives me the greatest encouragement is not any single program, but the spirit behind them all. You show up. You engage. You care. You build. You remember. You celebrate. That is what makes a sacred community thrive. May these months of renewal bring strength to your bodies, calm to your hearts, and joy to your homes. And may we continue to grow together—in learning, in kindness, and in shared purpose. *Amin!*

Rabbi Ronald N. “Reuven” Silverman

New Member Recognition Shabbat Service January 9, 2026



Annual Meeting and “My Man” Movie Showing January 18, 2026



A 15-minute portion of a recent movie production starring our member, Lt. Col. Herb Siegel (Ret'd) was shown following the annual meeting. Member Sandra Byrne had a supporting role in the production.

Shabbat Kiddush January 24, 2026



The Shabbat Kiddush on Saturday, January 24 was sponsored by Marge Buxbaum in memory of her late husband Bennett Buxbaum. The feast was catered by TooJay's and enjoyed by everyone. Thank you, Marge!

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**.

DONATIONS

Sarah Liblich in honor of Barbara Jucha's 90th birthday.

Myra Efron in memory of Lenore Kingsberg.

Glenda & Jim Chiarello for sponsoring the Oneg on Friday, January 9 in honor of new members to our congregation.

Marge Buxbaum for sponsoring the Kiddush on Saturday, January 24 in memory of her late husband Bennett Buxbaum.

Neil & Judy Schulman for sponsoring the Oneg on Friday, February 13 in memory of Neil's brother Randy Schulman.

Helene Bachmann for sponsoring the Kiddush for Saturday, February 28 in memory of her parents Harry & Pauline Gripon.

General Donations: Elizabeth Morrison, Sheldon & Joan Treibitz, Robert & Sonia Baerga Treibitz,

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



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.

THANK YOU

Thanks from our grateful Congregation to the following:

Rabbi Silverman: for preparing and providing beautiful certificates of appreciation to board of directors members at the February 13 shabbat service which included board recognition; 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 thanks to Dr. Marnell LaRoe Hayes and Dr. Elise Lev, for their having served as gabbai and assistant gabbai, respectively.

Also, thank you to Rabbi Silverman, for his work in forming (in conjunction with area shuls) a new Chevra Kadisha group; and for Shabbat greetings to members, his monthly Judaism classes, weekly Torah study zoom classes, and his updates concerning Israel news and other matters.

Seder preparations have started – thanks to: Francine Rizzotto is working with TooJays to plan the menu and costs; Helene Bachmann, Dave Englander, Francine, and Sandy Byrne worked to create and send to members the seder reservation form for this year's April 2 second night seder; Andrea Kraft is taking the reservations form and creating the seating chart. Thanks to Jeff Bachmann for ordering wine for the seder.

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.

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 GoogleDrive system for storing our important documents, and for her, Dave Englander, and Melinda Hock for working to implement this.

January 9 new members recognition service: thanks to our new members who attended in person and on Zoom.

Barry Wright: for scheduling police for security for our services and other events, for arranging the guard to be posted at the entrance door during services, and for arranging an increase to 4 hours of security for Saturday services; and for other ongoing functions, including arranging repairs as needed, on our IT (webcam, microphones, etc.) equipment; and other matters to keep the synagogue in good function; and for donation of a 7-foot ladder, and multiple past items donated.

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

Robin Vizer, Andrea Kraft, Helene Bachmann, and Barbara Burton for providing sound advice and good ideas on menus.

January 18 Annual Meeting - thanks to those who attended; and for the luncheon prepared by Francine and others who helped; Fred Jacobs, for chairing the By-Laws amendments committee, and Dan Hirschfeld, Dr. Marnell LaRoe Hayes, and Dave Englander, for serving on the committee, leading to the success of their work in the adoption of the amended By-Laws by the members at the January 18 Special Meeting; and to Helene Bachmann, Robin Vizer, and Francine Rizzotto who oversaw the voting. Lt. Col (Ret'd) Herb Siegel and Sandy Byrne, and her husband, John Byrne, who made possible our viewing of a segment from the 'My Man' movie in which Herb starred!

Melinda Hock, for excellence, skill, and dedication in preparing the Shofar and in ongoing updating of our website.

Special thanks to Linda Kost for providing continuing guidance on the website and stepping in to help in emergency situations.

Dave Englander: our treasurer, for obtaining cost savings for us in negotiating a 50% reduction in Quickbooks renewal, saving us over \$400, and in getting our Comcast bill increase removed, saving us \$50 per month; facilitating and participating in a door lock repair; and many ongoing tasks.

Susan Kaplan, for chairing our new Grants Committee, and four others who have agreed to serve on the committee.

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

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 Steinberg, and her sisters, Marlene Steinberg, and Susan Goodman, for organizing the Feb.15 game day.

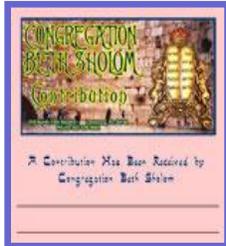
The Villages Daily Sun, The Leesburg Daily Commercial, and the Jewish Heritage newspapers for articles concerning our synagogue.

Andrea Kraft for receiving orders for the 2026 (ended Jan 25, 2026) Mah Jongg cards; for which we receive funds that we use for charitable purposes.

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

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. 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.



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*.

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) (replace –at– with @) or 310-490-3365

IN MEMORIAM: THE FOLLOWING YAHRZEITS ARE OBSERVED

The following names will be read on March 13						
Nanette Greenberg	Loved One	of	Elise Lev			14-Mar
Anna Sugarman	Mother-in-Law	of	Sonia Sugarman			15-Mar
Roslyn Burton	Mother	of	Barbara Burton	27	Adar 2	16-Mar
Melvin Mularsky and	Uncle son	of	Nathan Mularsky founding rabbi of the congregation			17-Mar
Gary Englander	Son	of	David and Ellen Englander	1	Nisan	19-Mar
Morris Treibitz	Father	of	Sheldon & Robert Treibitz			21-Mar
Judith Moskowitz	Cousin	of	Dan Hirschfeld	4	Nisan	22-Mar
David Stone	Son	of	Richard Stone			22-Mar
Betty Mularsky	Wife	of	founding rabbi of the congregation			24-Mar
Maurice M. Berger M.D.	Husband	of	Phylis Berger (on wall)	9	Nisan	27-Mar
Evelyn Danzig	Mother-in-law	of	Marge Buxbaum	9	Nisan	27-Mar
The following names will be read on March 28						
Rhoda Treibitz	Sister	of	Sheldon & Robert Treibitz			28-Mar
April Jacobs	Daughter	of	Fred and Helen Jacobs	13	Nisan	31-Mar
Sylvia Bokow	Friend	of	Gloria Blankenship	14	Nisan	1-Apr
Solomon Siegel	Grandfather	of	Herb Siegel			1-Apr
Ari Zalman Fruchter	Son	of	Michael Fruchter			1-Apr
Michael Steinberg	Brother	of	Leonard Steinberg	15	Nisan	2-Apr
Pauline Fox	Mother	of	Gerri Seward			5-Apr
Nathan Subit	Father	of	Bette Croll	19	Nisan	6-Apr
Coleman Treibitz	Brother	of	Sheldon & Robert Treibitz			7-Apr
The following names will be read on April 10						
Celia Pierce	Grandmother	of	Barbara Burton	23	Nisan	10-Apr
Nettie Altshul	Mother-in-law	of	Stephen Berger			11-Apr
Forest LaRoe and	Father Uncle	of	Sally Rosenberg Dr. Marnell LaRoe Hayes			13-Apr
Ruth Marx	Mother	of	Ellen Englander	26	Nisan	13-Apr
Marion Kaplan	Aunt	of	Marsha Stemerman	27	Nisan	14-Apr
Rebecca Thornhill	Daughter	of	Sharon Glass			15-Apr
Shirley Simons	Mother	of	Al Simons	28	Nisan	15-Apr
Eleanor Sternberg	Mother	of	Nan Rosenthal	29	Nisan	16-Apr
Adam Goldstein	Grandson	of	Hedy Greenfield			17-Apr
Harry Jacobs	Father	of	Fred Jacobs	30	Nisan	17-Apr
Michele Hartstein	Brother	of	Hank Hartstein	2	Iyar	19-Apr
Burt Kraft	Member	of	the Congregation			19-Apr
Herman Warshaw	Step Father	of	Marsha Stemerman	5	Iyar	22-Apr
Elly Rothbard	Member	of	the Congregation			23-Apr
Mordecai Malc	Father	of	Helen Jacobs	7	Iyar	24-Apr
The following names will be read on April 25						
Ike Leon Glickson	Grandfather	of	David Chasin			26-Apr
Max Selsky	Grandfather	of	Gloria Blankenship	9	Iyar	26-Apr
Josephine Hock	Mother	of	Melinda Hock			1-May
Mildred Rosenfeld	Mother	of	Joe Rosenfeld			3-May
Jerome Atkin	Brother	of	Sonia Sugarman			3-May
Norma Parker	Mother	of	Ronnie-Jane Boekema	16	Iyar	3-May
Rita Barnard	Member	of	Congregation	19	Iyar	6-May

March / April 2026

CBS Donation to Temple Beth Israel in Jackson, MS

TBI experienced fire damage as a result of an antisemitic arsonist attack on January 10, 2026.



February 5, 2026

Temple Beth Israel
5315 Old Canton Road
Jackson, MS 39211-4625

Dear Temple Beth Israel:

We were deeply saddened to learn of the recent act of arson and destruction that struck your synagogue. Please accept this donation of \$2,550 as a gesture of solidarity and support as your congregation begins the difficult process of rebuilding not only your physical space but also your sense of peace and community. Our donation is comprised of funds from our individual members and from Congregation Beth Sholom.

No act of hate can extinguish the light of faith, unity, or shared purpose that defines your congregation. May this contribution serve in some small way to help restore what was lost and to reaffirm that the broader community stands with you during this time.

We hold you all in our thoughts and prayers and trust that, with strength, resilience, and the support of many, your synagogue will rise again as a beacon of hope and renewal. With heartfelt sympathy and support,

Congregation Beth Sholom



315 North 13th Street
Leesburg, FL 34748

Catered by:



Second Night Passover Seder
Thursday, April 2, 2026
Seder begins at 5:15 pm
At First Baptist Church of Leesburg
Social Hall
220 North 13th Street, Leesburg



Kosher Style Seder Dinner

Entrees:	Oven Roasted Beef Brisket Herb Roasted Chicken Baked Salmon with Hollandaise on the side	Sides:	Matzoh Ball Soup, Chopped Liver Carrot Tzimmes, Roasted Red Potatoes
		Beverages:	Coffee, Iced Tea and Water
Vegetarian 1:	Roasted Portobello Mushroom Steak Topped with roasted red peppers Marinara Sauce, Provolone Cheese	Sides:	House Salad Steamed Broccoli Rice Pilaf or Roasted Potatoes (circle one) Cheese can be left off if requested
Vegetarian 2:	Seasonal Roasted Vegetables	Sides:	House Salad Rice Pilaf or Roasted Potatoes (circle one)
On the Table	Gefilte Fish, Matzo, Wine, Grape Juice And Seder Plate	Dessert:	Passover Macaroons Sugar free Dessert

Cost: Members \$50 Guests \$55

Enter your reservation info here:	Entrée Choice – circle one	Amount Due
Name:	Brisket Chicken Salmon Veg 1 Veg 2	
Name:	Brisket Chicken Salmon Veg1 Veg 2	
Name:	Brisket Chicken Salmon Veg 1 Veg 2	
Name:	Brisket Chicken Salmon Veg 1 Veg 2	
Name:	Brisket Chicken Salmon Veg 1 Veg 2	
Name:	Brisket Chicken Salmon Veg 1 Veg 2	
Name:	Brisket Chicken Salmon Veg1 Veg 2	
Name:	Brisket Chicken Salmon Veg 1 Veg 2	
	Grand Total Amount Due:	

USE BACK TO LIST ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Please seat these attendees together. 6 people per table.

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Make check payable to Congregation Beth Sholom

Mail form and check to **Andrea Kraft, 1298 N Hunt Club Drive, Hernando, FL 34442**

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