



May / June 2024

Nisan / Iyar / Sivan 5784

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

Rabbi Karen Allen
386-254-2773

Special Service on Saturday, May 25, at 10 AM



Join us in person or on Zoom as Rabbi Allen combines the observance of Memorial Day with our Shabbat morning service.

On Memorial Day we remember the members of the armed forces who died while serving our country. The service will include special readings provided by LTC Herbert Siegel (retired) in commemoration of Memorial Day.

Herb and his daughter, Sandra Byrne, are sponsoring the Kiddush in honor of America's military men and women who lost their lives in service to their country.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Andrea Kraft 352-513-3517			VICE PRESIDENT: Linda Kost 352-315-0309		
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May 2024 Nisan / Iyar 5784

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3  7:44	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Shabbat Yom HaShoah Service 7 pm  7:48	11
12	13	14 Board Meeting (Zoom) 4 pm	15	16	17  7:52	18
19 Game Day 1 pm Page 10	20	21	22	23	24  7:56	25 Memorial Day Shabbat Service 10 am
26	27	28	29	30	31  8:00	

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.

PARKING ALONGSIDE THE BUILDING IS NOW DESIGNATED FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ONLY



We are requesting that those who are able park in the parking lot across 13th Street, so that the parking on the side of our building can be available for those members and guests who have mobility issues.

June 2024 Iyar / Sivan 5784

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Board Meeting (Zoom) 4 pm	5	6	7  8:03	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Shabbat & Shavuot Service 7 pm  8:06	15
16	17	18	19	20	21  8:08	22
23	24	25	26	27	28  8:09	29 Shabbat Service 10 am
30						



Our service on Friday, June 14th will combine the observances of Shabbat and Shavuot.

Shavuot celebrates the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people. We will hear the reading of the Ten Commandments

The Oneg Shabbat is sponsored by Dave and Ellen Englander in celebration of their anniversary.

Rabbi's Message

"A Divine voice goes forth from Sinai every single day" – Rabbi Joshua ben Levi, Avot 6:1

Our recent beautifully planned, lively and extraordinarily "homey" seder – *yasher ko'ach* to everyone involved -- was our first Congregation Beth Sholom event held at a church, in the First Baptist social hall just around the corner from our beloved shul.

The church's clergy and members extended a warm embrace to us, in the greatest tradition of neighborly love, following the horrific October 7th terrorist attacks by Hamas and the shocking explosion of hatred for Jews and Israel that erupted immediately and has spread like a plague across the globe in the more than half a year since.

The welcoming atmosphere of First Baptist was the perfect venue for our discussion about the birth of the Jewish people from the refugee remnant of Hebrews – and Egyptians! – who left the land of our captivity together.

Unlike the first nine of the famous disasters wrought by G-d upon Egypt, from which the Israelites were exempt without any action on their part, G-d instructed Moses to offer to every inhabitant of the land, whether Hebrew, native Egyptian or resident foreigner, the opportunity to become a "founding member" of the Jewish family about to be given birth through its Exodus from the place which had been rendered a toxic empire by its leaders' resentment and hatred of its Israelite slaves.

Each person, of whatever origin, escaped the tragic 10th plague, death of the firstborn, only by a personal decision to sacrifice a lamb, an animal held sacred by the Egyptians, followed by placing some of the blood from the animal on the doorposts of their homes and consumption by each family of its own *Pesach*, the Passover lamb.

Creation of the Jewish people was a choice of conversion for Israelite and Egyptian alike. Like conversion to Judaism today, the process included wanting to be part of this family, along with immersion in the *mikveh* of the Red Sea. Though the Torah does not mention this part of the story, found in the *midrash*, the oral rabbinic tradition, their survival was ultimately made possible by the initiative of Nachshon son of Aminadav.

Nachshon displayed the heroic trust of plunging into the sea, importantly, *before* G-d instructed Moses to lift his hands, leading to parting of the waters into 12 channels (not the two depicted in the popular film!). Through each lane, one tribe and its new adherents passed. It is said that the walls of the water were transparent, bearing foods of all kinds for the taking, so that the newly constituted Jewish people was given both sustenance and the ability to see each other as they journeyed to freedom. Although no requirement of belief, even in the existence of G-d, exists in Jewish tradition, this midrash presents the possibility of a spiritual maturity which can include knowing G-d.

From this collective, voluntary formation of the Jews as a people, it is a seamless transition to our traveling together to Mt. Sinai to receive the Torah directly from G-d. Please join your Congregation Beth Sholom family as we celebrate this gathering of every soul who ever has been, or ever will be, part of the Jewish people, at our Shavuot service on Friday evening, June 14th. I look forward to greeting the entire *mishpachah* on that occasion and, G-d willing, many more, with love and the blessings of good health and peace to you and your loved ones – Rabbi Karen Allen – 386.254.2773.

The President's Message

As I sit down to write this letter, I am happy to say that our Passover Seder (the first held at the beautiful First Baptist Church of Leesburg) was a successful event. One of the Pastors reached out to us after the horrific attack of October 7th in Israel and the rise of antisemitism in the US, to offer their support in any way needed. During our conversation, I asked if they have a social hall that we could possibly rent for our Seder. Fortunately, they were able to host us. I would like to thank the amazing Seder Team (Francine Rizzotto, Helene Bachmann and Marjorie Heyman) that organized and ran the event. After chairing the event for many years with my husband Burt, I was very thankful to hand over the reins to the very capable group of members. As always none of it would have been possible without our Treasurer Dave Englander.

On March 22nd we celebrated Purim with our Gabbai, Marsha Stemerman and our Associate Gabbai, Dr. Marnell LaRoe Hayes reading a Dr. Seuss version of the Megillah, which was enjoyed by all. Thank you to Helene Bachmann for ensuring that we had Hamantaschen to enjoy for our celebration. In addition, Michael Saks surprised us with his own assortment of homemade delights, and Francine Rizzotto brought homemade brownies and other delicious foods.

I would also like to thank everyone who ordered their Mah Jongg cards through the Synagogue. Unfortunately, some orders were delayed due to issues with the Post Office. Hopefully all orders will have been received by the time you read this!

In the past few months we have lost some members. As we refer to ourselves as “The Synagogue That Feels Like Family” it would be very meaningful for us to try to attend the funeral or memorial services (if possible). Aside from being a Mitzvah, I’m sure that the family would appreciate joining with the member’s spiritual family to remember their loved one. I know that I have gotten a greater appreciation for the story of that member’s life, which we don’t necessarily know when you meet someone in their later life. Shalom for now!

Andrea Kraft 352-513-3517

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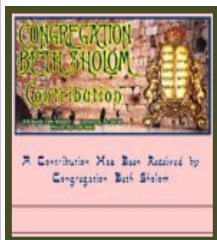


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Call Today!



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.

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Your cost is **\$14.00** per jar which includes shipping and handling as long as your order is placed before the cutoff date which is not yet announced.

We will send an email when you can enter your order early in June. To order honey, go to **www.honeyfromtheheart.org**/**LEE** and follow the step-by-step instructions.

Orders accepted until Rosh Hashanah.

For more information or help with ordering, please contact:

Melinda Hock
Melinda_hock-at-aol.com (replace -at- with @)
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Leesburg Food Bank

Please bring items for the Food Bank whenever you come to the shul. They accept clothing and household items in addition to food. Directors Barry Wright and Francine Rizzotto volunteer at the food bank. They bring anything dropped off at the synagogue to the food bank.

Everything is given to the needy at no cost.

Most needed food items are boxed pasta with sauce, canned fruit, canned pork and beans, and other canned food.

The food bank will pick up large items such as furniture and appliances. Their number is 352-326-5463.

If you prefer to donate financially, send us a check made out to the synagogue with a note that it is for the food bank and we will pass it on to them. Thank you for helping us to support this important organization.

Game Day Sunday May 19 1:00-4:00

At the Congregation Beth Sholom Social Hall

Please come and join us. Whether you like playing card games, board games or enjoy some trivia, it will be fun.

If you have a favorite game, please let us know its name and bring it along. If there is a game you might enjoy, but don't know how to play, no problem, someone will be glad to show you how.

Tentative list of games is: Dominoes – Mexican Train, Cards – Five Crowns, Phase 10 or any other card games and Trivia – various categories.

While it's a day to play games, it's really a time for us to get together for some fun, refreshments and conversation.

Please contact Helene Steinberg via email hsteinberg12-at-aol.com (replace –at– with @) or call 352-787-4339 by Friday, May 17th to let her know you will attend and what game you're interested in playing.

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 and Available Dates:

May 10 Robyn Dowsey

May 25 Sandy Byrne and Herb Siegel honoring America's military men and women who lost their lives in service to their country

June 14 Dave and Ellen Englander in celebration of their anniversary

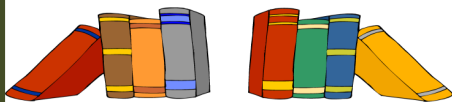
Available dates: June 29, July 12, July 27, Aug 9, Aug 24, Sept 13, Sept 28

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, 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.



LENDING LIBRARY ON OUR BOOK SHELF!

Did you know that the books on the book shelf next to the gift shop are there for you to borrow?

They are all connected to Judaism or Jewish themes in some way. Feel free to bring them home to read.

All we ask is that you return them when you are finished with them.



VIRTUAL Exploring Judaism Adult Education Class Summary

I would like to thank all those who made the Exploring Judaism classes in March a success by their participation. Our attendance numbered 60 over the course of four weeks. It included several non-members, one of whom was from Georgia, and through their generosity our synagogue received monetary donations.

We studied everything from the Five Books of Moses to the Prophets, Psalms, and Proverbs and finished with the Talmud. I'm so grateful for all your support and appreciated all your insightful comments that added value to the class.

If you missed any classes you can still download the outlines and view the recordings. See the details below.

A big thank you goes to Linda Kost who helped proofread my outlines, made them available online to everyone and was the facilitator of the zoom link. There would not have been any classes if not for her dedication. I am grateful for her spending hours on the phone and through texts and e-mails with me to bring these classes to fruition.

It is heartwarming to know that Beth Sholom is a congregation that understands that life long learning enriches one's life.

Yasher Koach to all of you.
Marsha Stemerman Gabbai and Teacher

Recordings Now Available

You can watch all classes or individual ones
as each session is a stand alone class.

Download the outline first so you can follow along.

Class 1 - Torah:	Outline - CLICK HERE	Recording: RECORDING LINK
Class 2 - Prophets:	Outline - CLICK HERE	Recording: RECORDING LINK
Class 3 - Writings	Outline - CLICK HERE	Recording: RECORDING LINK
Class 4 - Oral Torah	Outline - CLICK HERE	Recording: RECORDING LINK



CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays				Anniversaries	
	May		June		May
5/5	Francine Rizzotto	6/6	Stephen Berger	5/13	Linda Friedman and Jill Bulmash
5/7	Rosalie Scholl	6/9	Eileen Hirschfeld		June
5/7	Kenneth Stark	6/10	George Cooke	6/6	Linda and John Kost
5/8	Elise Lev	6/12	Marlena Scholl	6/13	Freeda and Douglas Louthan
5/9	Susan Brogan	6/17	Debra Kaplan	6/14	Barry and Cookie Wright
5/9	Miriam Henoch	6/22	Betty King	6/18	David and Ellen Englander
5/11	Enid Schibuk	6/23	Yvette Litwack	6/21	Robert Treibitz and Sonia Baerga
5/15	Sally Chletsos				
5/30	Chip Rizzotto				

Welcome New Member

Michael Fruchter

R'fuah Sh'leima (Get Well Wishes)

To all of our members and their family or friends
who have been ill or have had or will have surgery.

Mi Shebeirach

Director Gloria Blankenship maintains a 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 @)

Please remember to let her know when our prayers are no longer needed. The list is getting long, and we hope that our prayers have been answered and some of the people on our list have recovered.

Thank You

To the Seder committee—Francine Rizzotto, Helene Bachmann, and Marjorie Heyman - for all of their work on the wonderful Passover Seder

Dave Englander, Barry Wright, Chip Rizzotto, and Amy Kentera for helping the Seder committee with the setup and cleanup at our Passover Seder

Marsha Stemerman for her Exploring Judaism Zoom classes on Mondays in March

Linda Kost for running the Zoom sessions for the Exploring Judaism class and our Shabbat services

Marsha Stemerman and Dr Marnell LaRoe Hayes for the reading of the Megillah during Purim services

Helene Bachmann and Francine Rizzotto for the food at our Purim Oneg

Michael Saks for the surprise of his delicious Hamantaschen for our Purim celebration

Marsha Stemerman for leading the service on April 12

Marge Buxbaum for sponsoring the Oneg on March 8 in honor of her anniversary

Donations

Gloria Blankenship in memory of her mother, Mildred Selsky

General Donations: Robert L Milkman, Elizabeth Morrison, Sheldon & Joan Treibitz, Robert & Sonia Baerga Treibitz, Anna Kay Wade

Food Bank Donations: Marsha Stemerman, Lt. Col. Herbert Siegel, Sandra Byrne, Myra Efron, Dr. Marnell La Roe Hayes

Thank you to our members, Food Bank volunteers Barry Wright and Francine Rizzotto.

Responses to our Annual Appeal:

Marsha Stemerman, Marge Buxbaum, Sandra Byrne, Lt. Col. Herbert Siegel, John & Roz Wenrich, Dave & Ellen Englander, Helene & Marlene Steinberg and Susan Goodman, Marjorie Heyman, Gary Plotkin, Helene Bachmann, Myra Efron, Stephen Berger, Michael Saks, Dr. Marnell LaRoe Hayes, Gloria Blankenship, Barbara Rupert, Burt & Andrea Kraft, Linda Kost, Enid Schibuk, Dorothy Strauss, Chip and Francine Rizzotto

NAMETAGS ARE AVAILABLE



Let everyone know who you are! Tags are just \$15 each. Mail your check to the synagogue, with a note indicating the name you want on your nametag.

Contact Dave Englander at 352-504-4402 for more information.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of three of our congregation members, and a family member of a congregation member.

Arline Cooke, wife of George Cooke, passed away on March 9.

Marty Rothbard, long time member, passed away on March 12.

Ben Solotoroff, husband of Marion Solotoroff, passed away on April 5.

Ellen Epstein, cousin of Michael Saks, passed away on April 16.

Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

May their memories endure as a blessing.

ADD YOUR LOVED ONE TO THE MEMORIAL BOARD

Memorializing a loved one with a permanent plaque in the sanctuary is a wonderful opportunity to honor their memory.

The cost of a plaque is \$300, 2 or more are \$275 each

Contact Fred Jacobs for more information.

FredJacobs40-at-gmail.com (replace –at– with @) or 352-633-0500.

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


IN MEMORIAM: THE FOLLOWING YAHRZEITS ARE OBSERVED

The following names will be read on May 10

Michele Hartstein	Brother	of	Hank Hartstein	2	Iyar	10-May
Herman Warshaw	Step Father	of	Marsha Stemerman	5	Iyar	13-May
Mordecai Malc	Father	of	Helen Jacobs	7	Iyar	15-May
Max Selsky	Grandfather	of	Gloria Blankenship	9	Iyar	17-May
Sylvan Philip Herbst	Father	of	William Hillman	11	Iyar	19-May
Marshall Grabois	Husband	of	Marsha Grabois			21-May
Marjorie LaRoe	Sister	of	Dr. Marnell LaRoe Hayes			21-May
and	Cousin	of	Sally Rosenberg			
Norma Parker	Mother	of	Ronnie-Jane Boekema	16	Iyar	24-May

The following names will be read on May 25

Josephine Rossi	Mother	of	Joan Treibitz			25-May
Rita Barnard	Member	of	Congregation	19	Iyar	27-May
Pauline Gripon	Mother	of	Helene Bachmann			28-May
Ernie Muller	Beloved Partner	of	Marsha Stemerman			29-May
Carol Rau	Mother	of	Robyn Dowsey			29-May
James King	Brother	of	Robert King			29-May
Rebecca Stemerman	Grandmother	of	Marsha Stemerman	21	Iyar	29-May
Eva Kaplan	Grandmother	of	Debra Kaplan			30-May
Betty LaRoe	Sister	of	Sally Rosenberg			4-Jun
and	Cousin	of	Dr. Marnell LaRoe Hayes			
Barbara Parker	Sister	of	Ronnie-Jane Boekema	28	Iyar	5-Jun
Rebecca Siegel	Grandmother	of	Herb Siegel			6-Jun
Hilda Steinberg	Mother	of	Helene and Marlene Steinberg and Susan Goodman			6-Jun
Adolph Schwartz	Father	of	Selma Haimes			9-Jun
Ruth Hirschfeld	Mother	of	Dan Hirschfeld	4	Sivan	10-Jun
Rabbi Avram Hartstein	Father	of	Hank Hartstein	4	Sivan	10-Jun
Charles Snader	Father	of	Marty Snader			14-Jun
Judy Marshall	Member	of	the Congregation			14-Jun
Solomon Cramer	Father	of	Pam Singer and Lowell Cramer	8	Sivan	14-Jun

The following names will be read on June 14

Saul Siegel	Father	of	Herb Siegel			20-Jun
Myron Slater	Cousin	of	Judy Hague	21	Sivan	27-Jun
Frieda Kaplan	Mother	of	Debra Kaplan			28-Jun
Robert F. Hock	Father	of	Melinda Hock			28-Jun
Harry Milkman	Father	of	Robert Milkman	22	Sivan	28-Jun

The following names will be read on June 29

Abraham Stemerman	Grandfather	of	Marsha Stemerman	27	Sivan	3-Jul
George Brogan	Husband	of	Susan Brogan			3-Jul
Susan Picciotto	Sister	of	John Scholl			6-Jul
Hermia Isaacs	Mother	of	Judy Snader			7-Jul
Milton Parker	Father	of	Ronnie-Jane Boekema	1	Tammuz	7-Jul
Miriam Berkowitz	Mother	of	Beverly Ann Meyers	2	Tammuz	8-Jul
Rose Litwack	Mother	of	David Litwack	5	Tammuz	11-Jul
Nancy Reingold	Dear Friend	of	Marsha Stemerman	5	Tammuz	11-Jul
Dorothy Berger Stern	Mother	of	Stephen Berger			12-Jul
Larry Brook	Cousin	of	Judy Hague	6	Tammuz	12-Jul

Congregation Beth Sholom

315 North 13th Street
Leesburg, FL 34748

Phone: 352-326-3692