

May / June 2026



Iyar / Sivan / Tammuz 5786

<http://BethSholomFlorida.org>

315 North 13th Street

Leesburg, FL 34748

(352) 326-3692

Like us on Facebook

Rabbi Ronald N. Reuven Silverman
386-747-0644

Special Service on Saturday, May 23, at 10 AM



Join us in person or on Zoom as Rabbi Silverman combines the observance of Shavuot with Memorial Day.

Shavuot is an important holiday that commemorates the giving of the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. Rabbi Silverman will be discussing the Ten Commandments and its impact on the World.

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.



Board of Directors:

President: Freeda Louthan 502-553-0241

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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 RETURNING MEMBER

Martin Sandler

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY

- 3rd Game Day 1-4PM
- 5th Board Meeting
- 8th Lag B'Omer Shabbat 7PM (Mothers Day)
- 17th Judaism Class 2-4PM
- 23rd Shavuot Service/Memorial Day 10AM

JUNE

- 2nd Board Meeting
- 7th Judaism Class 2-4PM followed by sale of original paintings by our member, Enid Schibuk, all proceeds to go to charities selected by the CBS board of directors
- 12th Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:00 PM
- 27th Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 AM

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

MAY

JUNE

5/5	Francine Rizzotto	6/2	Gary Plotkin
5/7	Kenneth Stark	6/4	Betty Chasin
5/8	Elise Lev	6/6	Stephen Berger
5/11	Enid Schibuk	6/9	Eileen Hirschfield
5/15	Sally Chletsos	6/24	Karen Ragne
5/30	Chip Rizzotto	6/28	Paul Lottman

ANNIVERSARIES

MAY

JUNE

5/9	Nettie and Ronny Goeler	6/3	Leonard and Barbara Steinberg
		6/6	Linda and John Kost
		6/13	Freeda ad Doug Louthan
		6/14	Barry and Cookie Wright
		6/18	David and Ellen Englander
		6/20	Chris and Andrea Paprock
		6/21	Robert Treibitz and Sonia Baerga

Letter to Congregants from Rabbi Silverman

Dear Members and Friends of Congregation Beth Sholom,

As we enter the beautiful months of May and June, we find ourselves standing in a season of spiritual transition and renewal. Having journeyed together through Passover, we now move through the sacred counting of the Omer toward the festival of Shavuot, when we celebrate the giving of the Torah at Sinai. This is a time that invites us to reflect not only on our history, but on our ongoing commitment to learning, growth, and community.

Here at Beth Sholom, that commitment is alive and thriving. And we are truly a sweet family.

Our Wednesday Night Torah Study continues to be a highlight of the week. It is truly inspiring to see so many of you gathering—engaged, thoughtful, and eager to explore our sacred texts together. The depth of conversation and the warmth of camaraderie remind us that Torah is not only something we study, but something we live. And for our Services we have a truly wonderfully well-attended house.

In addition, our special in-person classes on a variety of Jewish topics have been wonderfully received. Whether we are exploring theology, history, ethics, or tradition, these gatherings are strengthening both our knowledge and our bonds with one another.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize the incredible work and success of our Chevra Kadisha. This sacred group carries out one of the highest mitzvot—caring for our community members with dignity and compassion at life's most tender moments. Their dedication reflects the very heart of who we are as a congregation: a community that shows up for one another with kindness, respect, and holiness.

As we look ahead, we anticipate Shavuot, a time when we recommit ourselves to Torah and tradition. I encourage each of you to join us for our learning opportunities and services as we celebrate together.

May these months bring you and your families health, peace, and continued spiritual growth. And may our congregation continue to be a place where every soul feels welcomed, valued, and inspired.

With blessings,

Rabbi Reuven Silverman
Congregation Beth Sholom

Tribute to Rabbi Silverman's 1st Anniversary February 28, 2026



Purim Celebration February 28, 2026



Second Night Seder April 2, 2026



Rabbi Asher with his wife Robin and Haggadah readers Neil and Judy Schulman, Dr. Elise Lev, and Dr. Marjorie Heyman.



LTC Herb Siegel (ret), Sandra Byrne, and Francine Rizzotto enjoy the Seder dinner.

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

Marnell for the wonderful hamantaschen that she brought to the Purim celebration.

Marge Buxbaum in memory of her brother Bill Seebeek and in memory of her son Joseph Rocco Guinta.

Sarah Liblich in celebration of Purim.

Thank you for the donation received from the last Taharah.

David Kaplan for sponsoring the Oneg on Friday, March 13 in memory of his son, Jonathan Kaplan.

Edie & Al Simon for sponsoring the Kiddush on Saturday, March 28 in honor of Al's Bar Mitzvah 53 years ago and in honor of their 39th wedding anniversary.

Linda Alster for sponsoring the Oneg on Friday, April 10 in appreciation of her good health.

Neil & Judy Schulman for their donation of a lapel microphone for the Rabbi.

Neil & Judy Schulman for volunteering to clean, paint and refresh our outside front sign.

General Donations: Elizabeth Morrison, Michael Fruchter, George Cooke, Sheldon & Joan Treibitz, Robert & Sonia Baerga Treibitz, Sarah Liblich

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

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 & Bianka Karger, Dr. Kenneth & Patricia Stark, Stephen Berger, Freeda Louthan, Linda Kost, Myra Efron, Mindi Valancy, Melinda Hock, Neil & Judy Schulman, Enid Schibuk.

CBS donated \$2,550 to Beth Israel Congregation in Jackson, Mississippi after their synagogue suffered an anti-semitic arson attack. Their letter of appreciation follows on page 8:



4/7/2026

Dear David,

On behalf of Beth Israel Congregation, thank you for your generous gift of \$2,550.00 from your congregation and members received in the aftermath of the fire at our synagogue. Your support has been a profound source of comfort and strength.

As assessments continue, we are learning that the damage to our building is more extensive than initially understood. The fire, smoke, and water impact reached far beyond the library itself, affecting spaces central to our prayer and learning, even affecting the structural integrity of the building itself. The road to recovery and rebuilding will be longer and more complex than we first hoped.

Your gift is a powerful expression of solidarity and hope, reminding us that we are not alone and that we will move forward together.

Your contribution will directly support our recovery and rebuilding efforts and help sustain our sacred work. We are deeply grateful that you choose to stand with us by bringing light in a moment of darkness and helping ensure our community remains strong, vibrant, and alive.

With heartfelt thanks and blessings for peace and wholeness,

Zach Shemper
President
Congregation Beth Israel

Benjamin Russell
Student Rabbi
Congregation Beth Israel

Sheila Hailey
Executive Director
Congregation Beth Israel

Note: You may use this letter as a receipt for income tax reporting purposes. Beth Israel Congregation's Tax ID is 64-6013141, and our address is 5315 Old Canton Rd. Jackson, MS 39211. All contributions to Beth Israel Congregation are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. No goods or services were received in consideration of this gift.

(601) 956-6215

5315 Old Canton Rd Jackson, MS 39211

bethisraelms.org

THANK YOU

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

Francine Rizzotto, Helene Bachmann, Elise Lev, Marjorie Heyman, Sabrina Mizrahi, Andrea Kraft, Al Simons, Freeda Louthan, Robin Vizer, and Dave Englander for organizing, shopping, setting up and cleaning up for our annual seder:

Rabbi Asher for leading our seder along with his wife Robin in attendance.

Rabbi Silverman for his preparation of the Haggadah, and for selecting the team of readers for our seder, who we also thank: Neil and Judy Schulman, Elise Lev, and Marjorie Heyman.

Rabbi Silverman for his excellence and devotion in organizing and leading services and for Shabbat greetings to members, his monthly Judaism classes, weekly Torah / parsha study zoom classes, and his updates concerning Israel news and other matters.

Len Steinberg, our gabbai, for his assistance in the services and in their preparation.

Rabbi Silverman, Len Steinberg, and Elise Lev, our Ritual Committee members, for their work, including preparation of the calendar for 2026-7 / 5786-7.

Rabbi Silverman, for his work in forming (in conjunction with area shuls) a new Chevra Kadisha group.

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, director, 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.

Barry Wright, director, for scheduling police for security for our services and other events, and for arranging repairs as needed 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.

Dave Englander, our treasurer, for handling all financial matters, and attending to many maintenance issues at the shul.

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

Susan Kaplan, for chairing our new Grants Committee.

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

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

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.



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 May 8						
Rebecca Stemerman	Grandmother	of	Marsha Stemerman	21	Iyar	8-May
Leila Frankford	Mother	of	Robin Vizer			15-May
Barbara Parker	Sister	of	Ronnie-Jane Boekema	28	Iyar	15-May
Ruth Hirschfeld	Mother	of	Dan Hirschfeld	4	Sivan	20-May
Rabbi Avram Hartstein	Father	of	Hank Hartstein	4	Sivan	20-May
Marshall Grabois	Husband	of	Marsha Grabois			21-May
Marjorie LaRoe	Sister	of	Dr. Marnell LaRoe Hayes			21-May
and	Cousin	of	Sally Rosenberg			
Leonard Schulman	Uncle	of	Neil Schulman			21-May
The following names will be read on May 23						
Miki Schorr	Sister-in-law	of	Elise Lev			23-May
Chuck Trovato	Husband	of	Joy Salberg			23-May
Deborah Karger	Mother	of	Gene Karger			25-May
Josephine Rossi	Mother	of	Joan Treibitz			25-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
Zelda Kaplan	Mother	of	David Kaplan			3-Jun
Gail Berne	Aunt	of	Neil Schulman			3-Jun
Betty LaRoe	Sister	of	Sally Rosenberg			4-Jun
and	Cousin	of	Dr. Marnell LaRoe Hayes			
Myron Slater	Cousin	of	Judy Hague	21	Sivan	6-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
The following names will be read on June 12						
Abraham Stemerman	Grandfather	of	Marsha Stemerman	27	Sivan	12-Jun
Samuel Kaplan	Father	of	David Kaplan			13-Jun
Judy Marshall	Member	of	the Congregation			14-Jun
Milton Parker	Father	of	Ronnie-Jane Boekema	1	Tammuz	16-Jun
Miriam Berkowitz	Mother	of	Beverly Ann Meyers	2	Tammuz	17-Jun
Nancy Reingold	Dear Friend	of	Marsha Stemerman	5	Tammuz	20-Jun
Saul Siegel	Father	of	Herb Siegel			20-Jun
Larry Brook	Cousin	of	Judy Hague	6	Tammuz	21-Jun
Leon Stemerman	Father	of	Marsha Stemerman	7	Tammuz	22-Jun
Al Schenerman	Father	of	David Schenerman (on wall)	8	Tammuz	23-Jun
Charles Plotkin	Father	of	Gary Plotkin	10	Tammuz	25-Jun
Henry Englander	Father	of	David Englander	11	Tammuz	26-Jun
The following names will be read on June 27						
Robert F. Hock	Father	of	Melinda Hock			28-Jun
Irving Lowengrub	Father	of	Elise Lev			29-Jun
Anita Sherman	Member	of	The Congregation	16	Tammuz	1-Jul
George Brogan	Husband	of	Susan Brogan			3-Jul
Jack Schulman	Father	of	Neil Schulman			3-Jul
Rose Gordon	Mother	of	Barbara Steinberg	20	Tammuz	5-Jul
Winnie Goldberg	Mother	of	Ira Goldberg	24	Tammuz	9-Jul
Harry Barnard	Member	of	Congregation	24	Tammuz	9-Jul

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