



May / June 2020

Nisan / Iyar / Sivan 5780

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

Rabbi Karen Allen
386-254-2773

In light of the Coronavirus pandemic, we are exercising an abundance of caution, reluctantly suspending all activities of the Congregation, including services, classes, meetings (Sisterhood, Men's Club, Board), and the Rabbi's Roundtable.

We hope that all of our members, friends and loved ones will put health first and find strength, during this challenging time, in continuing communication by email, text, telephone, and other electronic, safe means available to us.

We will send an email to our entire distribution list when we are able to resume activities.

May everyone affected by this crisis receive a *r'fuah sh'leimah*, a speedy and complete healing. We look forward to a return to our customary rich schedule of events soon, and to seeing you then.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT:	Andrea Kraft 352-513-3517	VICE PRESIDENT:	Linda Kost 352-315-0309
SECRETARY:	Fred Jacobs 352-633-0500	TREASURER:	Dave Englander 352-504-4402
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Rabbi's Message

We took a drive Friday afternoon and happened to drive through Leesburg, so we drove past the synagogue. I knew it would be closed, but there was some comfort for my wife in just seeing where it was. – Note in a recent email from a couple newly living in Florida

I have been sharing in my notes to you some of the wonderful communications you have been sending me. The excerpt above comes from a beautiful letter from a couple who recently moved to Florida, describing how they have coped with being unable to share their first Passover here with grandchildren who live just a couple of hours away.

Although they have not yet met us in person, what they already knew about Congregation Beth Shalom drew them to our synagogue!

Reading their letter, with its description of baking their own matzah and observing Pesach in the face of shopping and physical distancing restrictions, intensified my longing to be back again in the sanctuary with all of you. If a couple who has not had the opportunity to get to know us had their spirits uplifted simply by being outside the shul, we who know what and whom we are missing certainly can feel each other's absence most powerfully.

Electronic connection is a wonderful innovation, but reading your letters is such a vivid and evocative way to get to know what you are experiencing during this time. Your communications make me ever more convinced that G-d has not made a mistake in putting us all in place right now, exactly where we need to be.

A far-Eastern meditation, “There is nothing else to do, nowhere else to be,” applies perfectly to this moment. It reminds us that all is in Divine order, that everything we need to accomplish now is available where we already are, with those with whom we are privileged to shelter in place.

For now, staying home is our mandate for *tikkun olam*, for healing (literally, correcting) the world. Shavuot, the conclusion of our counting the *Omer* since the second night of Pesach, begins on the evening of May 28th. It seems such a short time ago that a group of us celebrated that holiday together with outdoor services, sitting in a circle in a picturesque grove in Israel.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to re-create a bit of that gratifying connection with each other and the holiday this year, even if only in spirit! Wishing you, your family and loved ones the blessings of remaining contentedly at home: good health, safety, and the peace of a *Chag Shavuot Samei'ach* –

Rabbi Karen Allen – 386.254.2773.

Message from the President

At this unprecedeted time, as I sit down to write the President's Letter for this Shofar, I hope this finds you well. Like you, I have spent the past few weeks cancelling events that had been planned for months. Obviously, everyone's health and safety is our most important consideration.

We recently sent out our annual appeal and some of you have already donated. Thank you! For those of you who have not yet responded, please don't forget that we depend on your generosity to operate the synagogue. Appeals account for approximately 20% of our annual budget. Even though we had to close, there are expenses that continue.

Burt and I have been kept busy with cooking and cleaning rather than our usual recreational activities which normally include eating at restaurants with friends. Now we can order in to help support our local businesses. We hope that we will be able to resume life soon, albeit with new social distancing as the norm.

Every year at Passover we ask the question – Why is this night different from all others? Well this year was very different. We celebrated with our immediate family (the ones we were in quarantine with) and joined some friends or family digitally (thanks to Zoom which made this possible). In past years we were able to celebrate with our synagogue family and friends with a lovely service led by Rabbi Allen and delicious food catered by Deanna. Let's hope that next year we will be returning to that festive custom.

I would like to thank everyone who has sent me emails (both humorous and informational). The laughs were appreciated. Updates showing how Israel is handling the crisis and scientific progress regarding treatments and vaccines were inspirational. Hopefully they will develop a vaccine. That would be amazing.

I look forward to seeing everyone soon, the actual date will depend on circumstances beyond our control.

Be safe and keep washing your hands!

Shalom, Andrea Kraft

Thank You

To Marsha Stemmerman – for Exploring Judaism classes. The rest will be held at a future date

To Dr. Marnell LaRoe Hayes – for Hebrew Classes

To Rabbi Karen Allen – for her inspirational messages that she has sent out during this crisis

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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.



Many of you have added loved ones and dear friends to our New Mi Shebeirach list. Unfortunately, we are unable to gather and pray for them together. Should you wish to recite the Mi Shebeirach for them at home, it is printed below.

Mi Shebeirach

written by Debbie Friedman

מֵי שָׁבֵךְ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ מִקּוֹר הַבָּרֶכֶת לְאָמוֹתֵינוּ.

Mi shebeirach avoteinu. M'kor habrachah l'imoteinu

May the Source of Strength

Who helped the ones before us

Help us find the courage

To make our lives a blessing

And let us say: Amen.

מֵי שָׁבֵךְ אָמוֹתֵינוּ מִקּוֹר הַבָּרֶכֶת לְאָבוֹתֵינוּ.

Mi shebeirach imoteinu. M'kor habrachah l'avoteinu

Bless those in need of healing

With *r'fu-a sh'lei-ma*

The renewal of body,

The renewal of spirit.

And let us say: Amen.

Mi Shebeirach

Many of you have already added relatives and dear friends to our new Mi Shebeirach list.

Our Secretary, Fred Jacobs, maintains the list and keeps it up to date for reading at services.

To add new names, please send them to Fred at
secretary.bethsholom-at-gmail.com. (replace –at– with @)

Please remember to let him know when our prayers are no longer needed.

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CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays

May

5/3	Ronny Goeler
5/5	Francine Rizzotto
5/7	Rosalie Scholl
5/7	Kenneth Stark
5/9	Susan Brogan
5/9	Miriam Henoch
5/11	Enid Schibuk
5/20	Clint Wallbank
5/27	Arlene Gross
5/27	Henrietta Lubin
5/30	Chip Rizzotto

June

6/2	Allen Trustman
6/4	Betty Chasin
6/6	Stephen Berger
6/9	Eileen Hirschfeld
6/12	Marlena Scholl
6/15	Ernie Muller
6/18	Risa Lax
6/22	Elizabeth King
6/23	Yvette Litwack

Anniversaries

May

5/9	Ronny and Nettie Goeler
5/13	Linda Friedman and Jill Bulmash

June

6/6	Linda and John Kost
6/7	Bill and Alice Schweitzer
6/11	Bob Roth and Maureen Barrett
6/14	Barry and Cookie Wright
6/18	David and Ellen Englander
6/21	Robert Treibitz and Sonia Baerga
6/30	Bob and Dee Marcus

Donations

General Donations: Robert L Milkman, Elizabeth Morrison, Marc & Nanci Schwartz.

The complete list of responses to the Annual Appeal will be published in the next edition.

SISTERHOOD AND MEN'S CLUB

During Passover we remembered the ten plagues that were brought upon the Egyptians. We see today a great plague that moves across the whole world. I have spoken to or left a message of good will to all the members of sisterhood. It is with great joy that I can report that every member that I have spoken to are well and safe. When will we be able to meet? When will it be safe to be together? These are questions that I have no answers for.

What can we do as sisterhood members while we wait? This is a question that I have an answer to. We can e-mail or mail our favorite recipes to Dorothy Strauss. We can think of what kind of programs you would be interested in having as one of our mini programs, and then send your idea to Henrietta Lubin. If anyone has a community service project that you would like to support please let me know. If you have been knitting or want information about the knitty gritty community service project get in touch with Beverly Meyers.

May G-d bless and keep all of us well and safe, and may it be his will to heal the world soon.

Stay well. Stay safe,
Dee Marcus, Sisterhood President

I hope everyone is doing fine, and look forward to resuming activities as soon as the crisis is over. Please stay well and safe,

Ben Solotoroff, Men's Club President

FOOD BANK UPDATE

The last few weeks at the food bank have been very challenging. The room Cookie works in is now closed. That room is where donations of furniture and clothing are stored and handed out. Due to the coronavirus access to the food bank has been limited. Now only one person at a time per family can come in and get their food. Food has not been as plentiful as it normally is. A lot of the meats and other miscellaneous items come from the food stores. Now almost nothing comes in from the food stores. At times based on the availability of food from SECOND HARVEST, meat and vegetables and paper products are purchased at a very reduced price.

The most impressive thing is the participation of the community in trying to help the food bank. Donations are coming in daily like it normally does around Thanksgiving and Christmas. One Thursday I was working we collected 600 pounds of canned food from various people and communities in the area. Very impressive. This has been a daily occurrence.

Hopefully things will get better sooner than later.

The food bank may be closed more often now because of the limited food. If you plan on donating food come to the north side of building. You can call if you want to check on the hours. In case you are interested I work at the food bank on Thursdays. Maybe I will see you there.

The number is 352-326-5463.

Everyone stay healthy!!!!

Barry Wright, Director Congregation Beth Sholom Board

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.

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


IN MEMORIAM: THE FOLLOWING YAHRZEITS ARE OBSERVED


When we resume services we will send out the list of yahrtzeits that will be read at each service. In the meantime, we are listing those loved ones whose yahrtzeits are during the months of May and June

Justin Simon	Father	of	Mark Simon			1-May
Steven Cohan	Son	of	Phyllis Stern			1-May
Mordecai Malc	Father	of	Helen Jacobs	7	Iyar	1-May
Abraham Weinbaum	Grandfather	of	Diane Weinbaum	12	Iyar	6-May
Eugene Weinbaum	Uncle	of	Diane Weinbaum	14	Iyar	8-May
Norma Parker	Mother	of	Ronnie-Jane Boekema	16	Iyar	10-May
Rita Barnard	Member	of	Congregation	19	Iyar	13-May
Rebecca Stemerman	Grandmother	of	Marsha Stemerman	21	Iyar	15-May
Louis A. Frank	Father	of	Judy Albin			16-May
Ann Dubinsky Michaels	Mother	of	Elly Rothbard	23	Iyar	17-May
Irma R. Katz	Aunt	of	Diane Weinbaum	24	Iyar	18-May
Rebecca Weiner	Great Grandmother	of	Keith Berger	26	Iyar	20-May
Barbara Parker	Sister	of	Ronnie-Jane Boekema	28	Iyar	22-May
Walter Schweitzer	Father	of	Bill Schweitzer	1	Sivan	24-May
Josephine Rossi	Mother	of	Joan Treibitz			25-May
Sara Weinbaum	Grandmother	of	Diane Weinbaum	3	Sivan	26-May
Ruth Hirschfeld	Mother	of	Dan Hirschfeld	4	Sivan	27-May
Rabbi Avram Hartstein	Father	of	Hank Hartstein	4	Sivan	27-May
Pauline Gripon	Mother	of	Helene Bachmann			28-May
Carol Rau	Mother	of	Robyn Dowsey			29-May
James King	Brother	of	Robert King			29-May
Solomon Cramer	Father	of	Pam Singer and Lowell Cramer	8	Sivan	31-May
Rebecca Siegel	Grandmother	of	Herb Siegel			6-Jun
Hilda Steinberg	Mother	of	Helene and Marlene Steinberg			6-Jun
Adolph Schwartz	Father	of	Selma Haimes			9-Jun
Charles Snader	Father	of	Marty Snader			14-Jun
Harry Milkman	Father	of	Robert Milkman	22	Sivan	14-Jun
Abraham Stemerman	Grandfather	of	Marsha Stemerman	27	Sivan	19-Jun
Saul Siegel	Father	of	Herb Siegel			20-Jun
Milton Parker	Father	of	Ronnie-Jane Boekema	1	Tammuz	23-Jun
Samuel Litwack	Father	of	David Litwack	1	Tammuz	23-Jun
Rhoda Rothbard Virich	Sister	of	Marty Rothbard	2	Tammuz	24-Jun
Miriam Berkowitz	Mother	of	Beverly Ann Meyers	2	Tammuz	24-Jun
Rose Litwack	Mother	of	David Litwack	5	Tammuz	27-Jun
Leon Stemerman	Father	of	Marsha Stemerman	7	Tammuz	29-Jun
Al Schenerman	Father	of	David Schenerman (on wall)	8	Tammuz	30-Jun
Samuel Litwack	Father	of	David Litwack	8	Tammuz	30-Jun

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.