

Temple Beth Shalom Polk

Chai Lites

December 2023



Blue Square

FCAS is the [Foundation to Combat Antisemitism](#).

Their mission is to win the hearts and minds of non-Jews and Jews through powerful positive messaging and partnerships, motivating and equipping them to be defenders of and upstanders for the Jewish community.

Antisemitism is on the rise.

It is not just a threat to the Jewish community - accepted hate, in any form, is a vital threat to our society.

- URJ and ARZA are participating in the Israel campaign launched by the Jewish Federations of North America. One should go to its website: www.jewishfederations.org. Then scroll down to "We Stand with Israel" and hit the "Donate Now" link there.
- [Donate to the Jewish Federations of North America's \(JFNA\) Operation: Swords of Iron campaign](#). JFNA is working with the URJ and our partners to support victims of terror, rebuild damaged infrastructure, and address the unprecedented levels of trauma caused by these horrific attacks. You can give through your local federation or [directly to JFNA](#).
- Wear your blue ribbon. Share a photo of your tribute or the below graphic on social media with the hashtags **#ShineYourLight #BlueRibbonsforIsrael #BringThemHome**. Visit our partner, [Blue Ribbons for Israel](#), to download additional social media graphics and banners that feature the names and faces of the hostages, as well as printable postcards to distribute in your community or congregation.
- Take steps to ensure the safety of your community by following these [tips from Secure Community Network \(SCN\)](#), the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America, and the URJ.
- [The URJ has compiled resources to help parents talk with their children](#) about the current situation in Israel in an authentic, age-appropriate manner.
- Pray for the State of Israel, the Israel Defense Forces, the civilians held captive, and for peace.

In the United States, Jews account for: 2.4 % of the U.S. population

Yet are victims of: 8.7 % of all hate crimes in the U.S.

As well as 55 % of all religious hate crimes in the U.S.

Pick up your BLUE SQUARE the next time you visit Temple.



Dinner with the Rabbi

Enjoy a meal with Rabbi Herzfeld, take the opportunity to chat with the Hosts and the Rabbi. Contact Lorraine Mixer at: lorrainemixer@aol.com for your opportunity to host the Rabbi.

You do not have to be a member to join us for dinner. Take the time to meet the Rabbi and speak to members in a casual atmosphere.

Please contact Lorraine if you would like to host the Rabbi.



Chanukah Dinner preparations are in the works!

Want to help?

Contact Lorraine Mixer: 863-409-8509 or
lorrainemixer@aol.com

President's Musings

by Lorraine Mixer

Chai Lites focuses on the toll taken by so many in our Israeli homeland. The loss of life of both military and civilian is devastating.



For those of you who have made Aliya to Israel, the conflict must seem unreal. You certainly would never have expected a war to break during your visit to the holy land. Many Americans, Thai's, Irish, French and Canadians were/are trapped in Gaza. Many more hostages are trapped there as well. I've watched each group of hostages as they have been released. Thank Hashem for their return to their families.

Did you immediately go to the internet and look for ways you could help?

A 95-year-old Israeli reservist from Auburndale suited up to help in the war! That's devotion.

As we continue to send our prayers for peace in Israel, Jewish law instructs us to continue to gather, come together and find strength as a community during these unprecedented times. I hope you'll join us to celebrate Hanukkah, the victory of another conflict. We gather together on December 8th at 6pm.

Am Yisreal Chai.

Lorraine Mixer

TBS Board President

lorrynemixer@aol.com

863-409-8509





**B'NAI B'RITH
INTERNATIONAL**

Temple Beth Shalom thanks B'nai B'rith Lodge 1515 for serving the Polk Jewish Community for over 75 years.

It is with the greatest of sadness that we acknowledge that Lodge 1515 has been made inactive. It was once one of many B'nai B'rith Lodge's in Florida. B'nai B'rith continues to exist and still supports the Jewish community.

TBS thanks the past president, Dr. Robert (Bobby) Baum for the generous contribution he directed to be made to Temple Beth Shalom.

Israel's Dead:



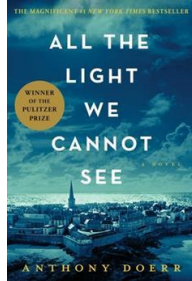
We are sorry to hear that one of our own Temple family members has suffered a tremendous loss in the fighting between Israel and Hamas.

Korina Masters' cousin **Inbar Shem Tov, 22**, shown here, was murdered at Tribe of Nova festival on October 7th. We mourn the loss of this beautiful young woman and all of those who perished that horrific day. May their memories be a blessing to us all.

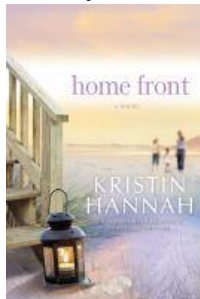


The Book Club will meet at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 19th.

The December choice is
All the light we cannot see by Anthony Doerr



The January choice is
Home Front by Kristin Hannah



A Huge Mazel Tov

Mazel tov to Elliott Bond, son of Margo Fleisher.
Elliott just graduated from Basic Combat Training and movement into
Advanced Individual Training.





Notes from the Past Pres.

by Joseph Rodriguez

December 2023 Chai Lites

“My mother had a horrific life. At fourteen, she was in the Nazi concentration camps.

Her sense about life now is, every day above ground is a good day.”

~ Chaim Witz of Haifa (a.k.a. Gene Simmons KISS)

Shalom Aleichem!

Gene Simmons was once entrusted with the education of elementary school children. Simmons taught kids in the sixth grade in Spanish Harlem in New York City. Imagine Simmons teaching your children.

Today, we prepare for the Festival of Lights, a time of remembrance and joy. Think of the Israelis who rejoice in the return of loved ones during this current war.

We look upon 2023 and we are happy it will soon be over. Some of our congregation members suffered mental stress and others had physical stress. A few had both. Hopefully, my physical therapy will help me to walk again.

When we learn about others and their problems, we realize that our life is not as bad as others. At age 74, the “*Demon*” makes his final tour with KISS. We should remember the joy KISS brought to us with their music.

Let us never forget.

May Peace Be with You!

Joseph Rodriguez, Past President

JrodTBS2021@gmail.com

See us on Facebook or our Website

BethShalomPolk.org





Get Ready To Light The Candles!

Hanukkah Celebration

Learn about Jewish resistance and survival.

Gather at the table with friends, songs and lots of food to eat.

Bring your menorah for the candle lighting. We will provide the candles.

Dinner is followed by a short service.

Friday evening, December 8th at 6:00 pm

Dinner will be catered by Publix

Chicken Tenders, Deli Trays, Salads, Potato Latkes and Dessert.

Gelt and dreidels will be provided!

Members \$18.00. Non-Members and Guests \$20.00.

No cost for children ten and under.

Please RSVP no later than December 6th.

Your check is your reservation. Send your check to Temple Beth Shalom

P.O. Box 313, Winter Haven, FL 33882

For more information: lorrynemixer@aol.com 863-409-8509





NEW MEMBERS!!!!

We love our new members and what they add
to our congregation.

Our New Member service will be held

February 16th at 7:30pm.

Did you know?

We have Hebrew Lessons! Learn the Aleph, Bet or dig deeper into sentence
structure or vocabulary...

Contact us at:

863-292-0722 or web@templebethshalompolk.org for future dates.

Volunteers Wanted

Linda Brown has graciously offered
plants to beautify our garden.

Volunteers are needed to do the planting.

Please contact: lorrainemixer@aol.com

to volunteer.

No 'green thumb' is required!

2024 Purse-a-Palooza Mad Hatter Tea Party

Your gently used purses are needed for our April 7th event.

We are also looking for tea cups and saucers.

Bring your purses and tea cups to the Temple library.

Have you ever experienced Afternoon Tea?

Come dressed in your favorite hat! Don't have a hat? Join us to decorate hats and fascinators (date to be announced).



Sit, sip and remember to keep those pinkies in the air while you bid on our purses.

Each purse comes with a mystery surprise inside!

Catering by: The Catering Co. of Central Florida





If you have questions regarding the presence of a service dog, please contact me:
lorrainemixer@aol.com or 863-409-8509.



Are you the Son or Daughter of a Holocaust Survivor?

We are an active group who share a common heritage and are partnered with the Florida Holocaust Museum. With our monthly (zoom) Book Club and Movie programs, we have all become enriched with the depth and breadth of our history. For those seeking to broaden their friendships, we also have monthly In-Person lunches and other social functions.

For more information, please contact Susan Nolan at 954.592.1992 or
srnolan318@gmail.com

Maj Jong Ladies



The Mah Jong ladies meet every Tuesday at noon.

We love our Maj Ladies. They are sharing the expense of using our building. Thank you, ladies, for your contributions of water, soda, paper towels, flatware, etc.!

Feel free to bring your lunch and eat with them before they play. If you would like learn how to play Mah Jong, they will teach you.

For more information sandigrinker@gmail.com 863-207-7440.

Good Cheer Committee

Our resident artist, Polly Weinmann is our new Chairperson of the “Good Cheer Committee”.

Please share your name and date if you wish to receive greetings on your birthday, anniversary or at times when you just need an uplifting note.

Email: mom2furkids1@gmail.com

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	BIRTHDATE (NO YEAR)	ANNIVERSARY
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December Calendar

Dec 3	9:30 a.m.	Brotherhood/Sisterhood at Angie’s Restaurant in the Hamptons Clubhouse
Dec 5	10:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Dec 8	6:00 p.m.	Chanukah Dinner and Service
Dec 9	9:30 a.m.	Torah Study via Zoom
Dec 10	9:30 a.m.	TBS Board Meeting
Dec 12	10:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Dec 12	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Dec 19	10:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Dec 19	11:00 a.m.	Book Club
Dec 19	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Dec 22	7:30 p.m.	Religious Services with Rabbi Herzfeld via Zoom
Dec 23	9:30 a.m.	Torah Study via Zoom
Dec 26	10:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Dec 26	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong

For more information, please email: web@templebethshalompolk.org

or call: 863-292-0722



The Brotherhood/Sisterhood membership is open to all TBS members and their spouses.

Membership dues are \$25 per person annually.

Checks should be sent to: Joseph Rodriguez, 3210 Great Heron Loop
Polk City, Florida, 33868

Brotherhood/Sisterhood will meet:

Sunday, December 3rd at 9:00am for breakfast and our meeting begins at 9:30 a.m.
at Angie's Restaurant in The Hamptons Clubhouse.

Come early to enjoy breakfast and conversation with other caring people.

SAMUEL BAK



PAINTER OF QUESTIONS

Join us on December 10th, 2023, 3 p.m.

Temple Beth Shalom Brotherhood/Sisterhood

“Remembering Vilna: The Holocaust and the Art of Samuel Bak”

Polk Museum of Art at Florida Southern College

800 East Palmetto Street

Lakeland, Florida 33801-5529

The Museum is located in Downtown Lakeland just two blocks north of the Florida Southern College campus across from the Lakeland Public Library on Lake Morton.

Limited spots are available for this session.

Please RSVP to: Beverly Lerner at: bevlerner@aol.com

Parking is FREE!

No payment is necessary, but donations are accepted by the museum.



Onegs (also known as Kiddush)

The mitzvah of sponsoring an Oneg is a great way to celebrate any milestone from a birth, birthday, bar/bat mitzvah, anniversary, graduation, or a loved one’s yahrzeit.

A Congregational Oneg not only provides a meaningful tribute to a loved one with an acknowledgement in Chai Lites and a charitable donation receipt, it more importantly provides blessings to the family with the words spoken by friends, members, and attendees to the sponsoring family. Kiddush/Oneg sponsorship helps strengthen your connection to the community while enhancing our community’s Shabbat experience.

To celebrate your milestone with an Oneg, please contact Arlene Greenberg.

Arlene Greenberg, our Oneg Coordinator is retiring. She is looking for a person to take over coordinating sign ups as host or hostess for Onegs.

Please contact Arlene to reserve your Oneg spot or to volunteer to take over this responsibility at: arlenegreenberg@gmail.com

December 8	Chanukah Dinner
January 19	Meryl Crews
February 16	Sandi & Phil Grinker



Thank You's: there is always something to be thankful for!



- Thank you to Bobby Baum for baking challah for our Onegs.
- Thank you to Arlene Greenberg for organizing our Onegs.
- Thank you to our Soloist Meryl Crews for her musical performance during our services.
- Thank you to Margo Fleisher for her photography and directing skills during our Zoom Services and our Board meetings as well as her secretarial skills.
- A huge Thank you to Meryl Crews for helping with picking up the mail and banking responsibilities while our Treasurer was out of the country.
- Thank you to Sandy Grinker for taking on the responsibility of coordinating dinners and the Break the Fast while our President was out of the country.
- Thank you to Meryl Crews for donating to our New Member gift bags and for setting up a new internet extender.

Donations

- The Maj Jong Ladies have made donations to help cover the increase in air conditioning cost and supplies.
- Baron Krisher has made a donation in support of the Jewish Nation.
- Sybil Weiss has made a donation in memory of Selma Feldman.
- Sandy Gasson has made a donation in memory of Norma Mortge.
- Bob & Lois Weinstein have made a donation in memory of Jacob Martinez.
- Robert & Laurel Chaleff have made a donation in honor of Renee & Allen Cohen.
- Renee & Allen Cohen have made a donation in honor of their loved ones: Gladys Cohen, William Cohen, Irwin Cohen, Gertrude Peckman, Laurence Peckman, Leslie Peckman, Ian Peckman and Ida Eisenberg.
- Daniel & Nancy Ann Rosen have made a High Holiday donation.
- Jordan & Rhoda Cokee have made a High Holiday donation.
- Beverly Lerner has made a yahrzeit donation for Linda Cohen.

Mishaberach List

For those of you who do not plan to worship in person, you may add names to the Mishaberach list that is read at each service.

Please send names to: lorrainemixer@aol.com



Temple Beth Shalom Committees

Do you want to be an integral part of our temple community?

Join one of the volunteer committees below.

Contact Beverly Lerner for more information on how to become a member at: bevlerner@aol.com

Executive Committee

Pulpit

Publicity

Directory, Chai Lites

Book Club – **New members are welcome**

House – **Volunteer needed**

Membership

Onegs – **Volunteer needed**

Social Action – Contact Brotherhood/Sisterhood

Dinner with the Rabbi – **Volunteer needed**

Special Projects



A great action photo of the Tuesday morning Yoga practice.

From Left to Right: Joyce Preston (yogi), Sybil Weiss, Arlene Greenberg, Beverly Lerner, Judy Richter and Sandi Grinker.

Chair Yoga at the Temple

See the December calendar for dates and times.

Join us for chair yoga at the Temple. Temple member and certified yoga instructor Joyce Preston guides us through this gentle, beneficial activity using simple props, music and clear directions. Joyce makes it fun and easy while still challenging for even our more advanced participants.

Come join us. \$5 per session.

Contact Beverly Lerner for more information. 863-294-6042 (home)

[**Bevlerner@aol.com**](mailto:Bevlerner@aol.com)

Temple Beth Shalom introduces:
Chai Lites Boosters, a Wish List for much needed upgrades for our building.

By donating Chai, \$18 your name will be published as a "Chai Lites Booster" in our monthly newsletter for a period of one year.

Yes, I want to be a Chai Lites "Booster"
Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____
for _____ years.

Please show my name as: _____

Please indicate Chai Lites Booster on your check.

Please mail your check to: Temple Beth Shalom

Attn: Boosters

P.O. Box 313, Winter Haven, Fl 33882

Chai Lites Boosters

Donor Name	Month	Expiration	Donor Name	Month	Expiration
Korina Masters	June 7	2024	Joseph Rodriguez	August 13	2026
Herb LeShay	May 16	2024	Beverly Lerner	June 9	2028
Brotherhood/Sisterhood	May 4	2031	Jeffrey Goldblatt	June 13	2026
Ken Triester	Aug 4	2024	Bobby Baum	May 16	2024
Jerry Kosten	July 19	2026	Jerry Heyman	June 16	2026
Clint & Barbara Brooks	Aug 28	2024	Korina Masters	Aug 18	2025
Arlene Greenberg	June 13	2025	Your name here		
Janis Koike	Jan 26	2027	Your name here		

December Yahrzeits

Yahrzeit Date	Deceased	Relationship
Dec	Max Silverman	father of Myrna Soberman
Dec	Muriel Viner	aunt of Jett Segal
Dec	Anna Schultz	grandmother of Lloyd Chain
Dec	Morris Schultz	grandfather of Lloyd Chain
Dec	Joseph Moss	father of Judy Richter
1-Dec	Herman Poller	father-in-law of Brenda Poller
1-Dec	Ruth Spiwak	grandmother of Randy Spiwak
3-Dec	Adele Sandler Chayt	mother of Steven Chayt
3-Dec	Rosa Rotenberg	mother-in-law of Varda Rotenberg
3-Dec	Art Feder	husband of Aase Feder
5-Dec	Robert Korn	father of Irwin Korn
6-Dec	Frances Cornell	mother of Diane LeShay
6-Dec	Sarah LeShay	mother of Herbert LeShay
6-Dec	Max Soberman	father-in-law of Myrna Soberman
7-Dec	Edwin S. Chayt	father of Steven Chayt
7-Dec	Fannie Kornswait Sniderman	grandmother of Barbara Brooks
7-Dec	Gerald Kramer	husband of Diana Kramer
8-Dec	Leonard Chase	perpetual yahrtzeit
8-Dec	Suzann Bendersky	perpetual yahrtzeit
10-Dec	Jerry Kaplan	brother-in-law of Sandi Grinker
11-Dec	Julia Galan	mother of Jacob Martinez
15-Dec	Bobbie Ravdin	mother of Brenda Kleinman
20-Dec	Dorothy Salm	mother of Marc Salm
20-Dec	Shirley Buch	mother of Linda Smith
20-Dec	Rose Brown Schwachter	grandmother of Barbara Brooks
21-Dec	Billee Erde	perpetual yahrtzeit
21-Dec	Harry Feder	father of Art Feder
22-Dec	Lena Siegel	mother of Saul Siegel
28-Dec	Jan Grayson	perpetual yahrtzeit
29-Dec	Dan Weitzenkorn	Son of Ruth & Paul Weitzenkorn
30-Dec	Lillian Jacobson Siegel	grandmother of Meryl Chayt and mother of Beatrice Briklod
30-Dec	Jay Browde	father of Arlene Greenberg and grandfather of Steven Greenberg
30-Dec	Laura Halpert	mother of Martin Halpert

Yahrzeit Reminders - May their memories be a Blessing

A candle should be lit the night before at sundown.

You may say Kaddish with the Temple Beth Shalom community during Friday services.

It is customary at this time to give tzedakah in memory of your loved one.

To make a donation to any Temple Beth Shalom fund or to purchase a yahrzeit plaque, please contact us at:
863-292-0722.



What you can do to support Israel



We mourn the loss of innocent people murdered by Hamas terrorists. And, we pray for the safety of those who have been injured and the safe return of those who have been kidnapped.

Jewish Federations across North America stand in solidarity with Israel.

Jewish Federations are responding, working with our core partners to support victims of terror, help rebuild damaged infrastructure, and address the unprecedented levels of trauma caused by this horrific attack.

Now, more than ever, they need your support. Israel will prevail and the Jewish people will stand together as we always do. Am Yisrael Chai.

What you can do to support Israel

- Donate
- Wear your #Blue Ribbon for Israel.
- Advocate. Urge Elected Leaders to stand for Israel.
- Share your voice.

Where the Money Goes

Basic Needs

Food and financial assistance for impacted families, the elderly, and the homebound.

Evacuation, Housing, Respite, and Support for Frontline Communities

Including support for communities under fire and for new olim living in absorption centers through evacuations, temporary housing, respite trips, children's activities, and increased security.

Funds for Victims of Terror

The Jewish Agency for Israel's Funds for Victims of Terror is a key part of our standing emergency response capacity that provides immediate cash grants to families and individuals who have been impacted by acts of terror and violence, for post-trauma care, etc.

Trauma Relief and Psychosocial Care

To support widescale trauma relief and psychosocial support with expanded capabilities through telephone hotlines; providing direct care to first responders, Lone Soldiers, the injured, and families whose relatives were murdered, injured, or abducted; training and support for caregivers and responders including hospital emergency teams and municipal teams.

Emergency Medical Services and Healthcare

Medical supplies and equipment for first responders and hospitals in close proximity to the front line.

Special Populations

Targeted assistance to vulnerable populations and their caregivers, including the elderly, young children, people living with disabilities, Russian-speaking Israelis, Ethiopian Israelis, Holocaust survivors, and marginalized populations, such as Bedouin communities.

Local Efforts and Volunteers

Israel's home front has mobilized and funding is needed to enhance capacity and provide operational support to evacuees, special populations, frontline communities, and those responding to the crisis.

**Do you have a question and don't know who to ask, contact our
Board members.....**

Our 2023 – 2024 Temple Board of Directors

President: Lorraine Mixer (lorrainemixer@aol.com)

Vice President: Bert Devorsetz (bertdevorsetz@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Michael Craig (michaelcraig179@gmail.com)

Secretary: Margo Fleisher (margosfb@hotmail.com)

Past President: Joseph Rodriguez (jrodtbs2021@gmail.com)

Trustees

Meryl Crews

Lee Ann Martinez

Arlene Greenberg

Sandi Grinker

Judy Richter

Beverly Lerner

**Thank you to all the members and families who donated and
thank you to our 2023 Advertisers:**

Angie's Grill

Full Cover Insurance Solutions

Mayer Jewelers

Publix

Steven Greenberg Insurance

B'nai Brith Lodge

Temple Beth Shalom Brotherhood/Sisterhood

Joyce Preston

Crews Transportation