

Temple Beth Shalom Polk

Chai Lites

January 2024



The Jewish New Year ... For Trees!

Tu B'Shevat, the 15th day of the Jewish month of [Shevat](#), is a holiday also known as the New Year for Trees.

Tu B'Shevat is the new year for the purpose of calculating the age of trees for tithing. See [Lev. 19:23-25](#), which states that fruit from trees may not be eaten during the first three years; the fourth year's fruit is for [G-d](#), and after that, you can eat the fruit. Each tree is considered to have aged one year as of Tu B'Shevat, so if you planted a tree on Shevat 14, it begins its second year the next day, but if you plant a tree two days later, on Shevat 16, it does not reach its second year until the next Tu B'Shevat.

There are few customs or observances related to this holiday. One custom is to eat a new fruit on this day, or to eat from the Seven Species (shivat haminin) described in the Bible as being abundant in the land of [Israel](#). The Shivat Haminin are: wheat, barley, grapes (vines), figs, pomegranates, olives and dates (honey) ([Deut. 8:8](#)). You can make a nice vegetarian pilaf from the shivat haminin: a bed of cooked bulgar wheat or wheat berries and barley, topped with figs, dates, raisins (grapes), and pomegranate seeds, served with a dressing of olive oil, balsamic vinegar (grapes) and pomegranate juice.

Some people plant trees on this day. In the 16th century, [kabbalists](#), developed a seder ritual conceptually similar to the [Pesach \(Passover\) seder](#), discussing the spiritual significance of fruits and of the shivat haminin. This custom spread primarily in [Sephardic](#) communities, but in recent years it has been getting more attention among [Ashkenazim](#).



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.



Tu B'Shevat preparations are in the works!

Want to help?

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



President's Musings

by Lorraine Mixer

Temple Beth Shalom has been my spiritual home since I moved to Central Florida. The members of our congregation are as close to me as family – I see them more often than I see my family! Sandi and Phil Grinker were the first couple I met at Temple. Phil made sure I knew his political and religious outlooks and enlisted me in many of his endeavors. I will miss his rendition of “*R'tzei*”. He was active in our congregation and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood.



We worship together each *Shabbat* and on Jewish holidays throughout the year. We welcome our friends and family each month with an active worship experience that adds to the joy of *Shabbat*.

Temple Beth Shalom is also a place for people of all ages to do Judaism the way they want it. From movie nights to fund raising projects; from *Maj Jong* and *yoga* to cake decorating and game nights to Diner with the Rabbi and Torah study classes Temple Beth Shalom is the place to be. We have a lot to offer and are always ready to explore new ideas and programs.

We strive to offer all who come a diverse, inclusive and welcoming community, and we value all our members. We welcome guests to visit and experience Temple Beth Shalom's hospitality and spirituality. Join us for social programs dinners, and Brotherhood/Sisterhood excursions.

Lend a hand and make Phil's dream of *tikkun olam* your pledge to make the world a better place.

You are always welcome here.

Lorraine Mixer
TBS Board President
lornainemixer@aol.com
863-409-8509



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

A Celebration of a Special Life



Sandi Grinker and her family invite you to Celebrate the life of Philip Grinker with them on January 3rd, at 2:30 p.m.

We received the sad news last Thursday, that our friend Philip Grinker passed away. Our hearts are with Sandi, Rick, Jane, Debbie, and their extended family as they prepare to lay Phil to rest.

As many of you know, Phil had a long illness and he expressed gratitude daily for the time he had to continue serving his synagogue and the community. Phil was a *mensch*, warm and kind, a model of what it is to do *tikkun olam*; and we are grateful for the time he gave to us as well.



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.

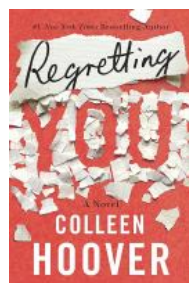


The Book Club will meet at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 9th.

The January choice is
Home Front by Kristin Hannah



The February choice is
Regretting You by Colleen Hoover



Linda Brown is making this blank space look beautiful. Check back next month for photos!

She also donated clocks for our building. Many thanks!





Notes from the Past Pres.

by Joseph Rodriguez

January 2024 Chai Lites

“You never know what worse luck your bad luck has saved you from.”

~ Cormac McCarthy

Shalom Aleichem – *peace be upon you!*

As we start 2024 think of how lucky we are or was it our rendezvous with life. Is it preordained? Do we exist to serve mankind?

When you think of how bad your luck has been, could it have been worse? Think of all the good luck you have had. Your family and friends! Of course, you are stuck with family, but how did you meet your friends. Was it by luck?

I have had one friend for over 69 years. We met in kindergarten. I met another friend umpiring baseball over 50 years ago. Although one lives in Illinois and the other lives in Tennessee, I speak to them at least once a week. How lucky I was to have met them and that I still have the friendship.

Since I moved to Polk County, I have made several friends at the shul. They call me regarding my physical therapy on my legs three times a week and if there is anything they can do to help. How lucky I have been to know them.

Alechem Shalom - *unto you peace!*

Joseph Rodriguez, Past President

JrodTBS2021@gmail.com

See us on Facebook or our Website

TempleBethShalomPolk.Org



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



Afternoon tea is a British culinary tradition of sitting down for a mid-day treat of tea, sandwiches, scones, and cake around 4 p.m.

High tea is historically a term reserved for a more serviceable, post-work meal with heartier fare (served at a "high" table or counter)

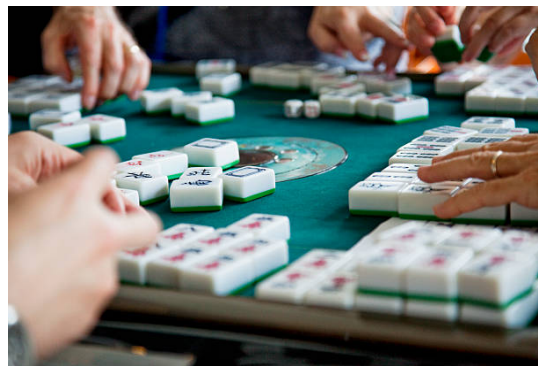


Are you the Son or Daughter of a Holocaust Survivor?

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 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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January Calendar

Jan 3	2:30 p.m.	Celebration of Life in Honor of Phillip Grinker
Jan 5	7:30 p.m.	Religious Services via Zoom
Jan 6	9:30 a.m.	Torah Study via Zoom
Jan 7	9:30 a.m.	Brotherhood/Sisterhood at Angie's Restaurant in the Hamptons Clubhouse
Jan 9	10:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Jan 9	11:00 a.m.	Book Club
Jan 9	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Jan 14	9:30 a.m.	TBS Board Meeting
Jan 16	10:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Jan 16	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Jan 19	7:30 p.m.	Tu B'Shevat Seder (in person service)
Jan 20	9:30 a.m.	Torah Study via Zoom
Jan 23	10:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Jan 23	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong

For more information, please email: web@templebethshalompolk.org
or call: 863-292-0722

Brotherhood Sisterhood

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, January 7th 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.



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.
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 Grinker



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

- Thank you to Rob Lerner for caring for our building and its safety.
- 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.



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.
- Shelly & Joe Epstein have made a donation to the Building Fund.
- Lee Ann Marinez has donated funds to support our Hanukah Diner.
- Sharon Shuller has made yahrzeit donations in honor of: Florence Shuller, Isadore Shuller, Stephen Shuller, Abraham Shuller, Martha Shuller, Sarah Golfman and Victor Golfman.
- Aase Feder has made a donation in honor Phil Grinker.
- Arlene Greenberg has made a donation in honor of Phil Grinker.

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



Our Hanukah Diner and service were well attended.

If you missed it, join us in 2024!

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

**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

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		

January Yahrzeits

Yahrzeit Date	Deceased	Relationship
1-Jan	Lena Briklod	grandmother of Meryl Chayt
Jan	Charles Cooper	perpetual yahrzeit
Jan	Anna Starlight	grandmother of Steve Zwerling
Jan	Charles Starlight	grandfather of Steve Zwerling
Jan	Robert Stiles	perpetual yahrzeit
Jan	Herman Zwerling	father-in-law of Susan Zwerling
Jan	Jack Goldblatt	Jeffrey Goldblatt
4-Jan	Joseph Greenberg	Father-in-law of Arlene Greenberg
6-Jan	Marc Randall Kahn	son of Marvin and Elsa Kahn
6-Jan	Isadore Shuller	father of Sharon Shuller
8-Jan	Jeanne Sundheim Siegel	sister-in-law of Adrienne Sundheim
8-Jan	Gladys Spitzer	sister of Joe Epstein
10-Jan	Richard (Dick) Ross	father of Arthur & Robert Ross
11-Jan	Sadie Heyman Bergman	
12-Jan	Harry Hershman	father of Marilyn Fisher
12-Jan	Leo Kleinman	father of Irwin Kleinman
12-Jan	Morris Kohen	grandfather of Margo Fleisher
14-Jan	Martha Shuller	grandmother of Sharon Shuller
14-Jan	Stanley Sundheim	father of Rabbi Frank Sundheim
19-Jan	Stanley Friedman	father of Scott Friedman
19-Jan	Norman Greenberg	husband of Arlene Greenberg and father of Steven Greenberg
21-Jan	Arhur Kastner	cousin of Meryl Crews
23-Jan	Abraham Silverstein	father-in-law of Dick Ross
24-Jan	Charlotte Browde	sister of Arlene Greenberg
24-Jan	John Mixter	husband of Lorraine Mixter
25-Jan	Pola Bromberg	mother of Varda Rotenberg
25-Jan	Stephen Zwerling	husband of Susan Zwerling
26-Jan	Bella Polley	mother of Polly Weinmann
27-Jan	Harry L. Podoll	grandfather of Janis Koike
27-Jan	Phyllis Smith	mother of Julia Smith
28-Jan	Sandra Rosen	aunt of Lorraine Mixter
30-Jan	Debra Segal	mother of Jett Segal; perpetual yahrzeit

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.

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

Angie's Grill

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Temple Beth Shalom Brotherhood/Sisterhood

Joyce Preston

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