

Temple Beth Shalom Polk

Chai Lites

March 2024



Lay Services

You asked for daytime services, we responded:

Exciting news!

A morning, Lay-led Sabbath service is now scheduled for:
Saturday, March 16th at 10:30 A M.

It will be led by Arlene Greenberg, Lee Martinez and Meryl Crews.

There will not be any oneg, but we meet immediately following the
service for lunch at:

Mama's Southern Cooking
518 Memorial Blvd., Lakeland.

Hopefully many will take advantage and attend.

See you all there!





We need you!

NOMINATIONS

ARTICLE VI. NOMINATIONS

Nominations of all officers and trustees shall be made by a Nominating Committee to consist of four members of the Temple plus the chairperson:

To Current Board Members:

Slate of Nominees for the April 21, 2024 Annual Meeting @ 2:00pm
Temple Beth Shalom, Polk County Reform Jewish Congregation, Inc.

Committee Members

Board Members: Sandy Grinker and Beverly Lerner
Congregate Members: Jeff Goldblatt and Polly Weinmann
Chairman: Past President Joseph Rodriguez

Slate of Officers

President: Lorraine Mixer
Vice President: Bert Devorsetz
Secretary: Margo Fleisher
Treasurer: Michael Craig
Past President: Joseph Rodriguez
Brotherhood/Sisterhood President: Beverly Lerner

Trustees:

Meryl Crews
Arlene Greenberg
Sandi Grinker
Lee Ann Martinez
Uriah Rose

President's Musings

by Lorraine Mixter



So many things are happening in March and April. Your committee members have been very busy.

Our first Lay-Led Service on Saturday morning was well attended. The brown bag lunch was casual and relaxed.

March 16th is our next Lay-Led Service. Our Brotherhood/Sisterhood has planned lunch after this service at Mama's Southern Cooking in Lakeland.

I encourage you to attend the next Brotherhood/Sisterhood meeting to hear the plans for next month or make a suggestion of your own.

The February trip to Circle Bar B Reserve in Lakeland was exceptional. A trolley was reserved for us and our guide for the day surprisingly was Jewish! He pointed out so many birds and wildlife and provided us with binoculars. He showed us outdoor classrooms used for local schools and explained how the Reserve came to be.

B/S have a group trip in March to see *Bye Bye Birdie* at a community theatre in Haines City.

Our annual fund raiser is the Mad Hatter Tea Party, Luncheon and Purse Auction. Get your tickets early. Part of the proceeds will go to Polk County Animal Rescue. Many of you have donated tea pots and tea cups for this event. We need new items for our raffle baskets. We also need sugar bowls. We are still looking for sponsors and donors as well as volunteers to help set up, serve and clean up. Please let me know immediately if you are able to help.

The Annual Meeting will be held on April 21st at 2pm. If you are a member in good standing you may attend this meeting and hear about the health of our congregation.

Our Passover Seder will be held on April 23rd. We need volunteers to set up, serve and clean up. Please let me know if you can help.

I look forward to seeing you at all these events.

Lorraine Mixter

TBS Board President

lorrainemixter@aol.com

863-409-8509

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

Rabbinically Speaking
"Jewish Press of Tampa"
(For March 13-April 3)
Rabbi Garson Herzfeld

"Who Knows?"

Megillah Esther is a flamboyant, even farcical tale of good and evil. Its characters are caricatures of virtue and vice. Hamas is the ultimate villain; Ahasuerus somewhat a fool. Mordecai is an unassailable tzaddik; Esther a paradigm of virtue and beauty. As adults, we laugh at the absurdity of such absolutes, which leave little room for the uncertainties and subtleties of the world as we know it. Yet, a closer look at the megillah reveals shades of grey that illuminate our own struggles and provide insight as to addressing the complex and sometimes terrifying world.

Perhaps the verse that represents the prime turning point in the Purim story comes near the end of chapter 4, when Mordecai sends a message to Esther urging her to reveal her identity to King Ahasuerus and plead on behalf of the Jewish people. Mordecai's message hinges on two words: **Mi yodea/Who knows?** He says ***"Mi yodea im la'et kazot higa'at la'malchut?/Who knows if it wasn't for just such a time that you became queen?"*** These are the words that set Esther in motion.

"Who knows?" This is hardly the kind of message that motivates action and courage. We generally expect words that inspire confidence.

The world of Purim, not unlike our own world, is a world without guarantees, certainties, and signs from God. It is a world in which we don't know the limits or possibilities of our own power.

Often when we ask, **"Who knows?"** we shrug our shoulders or look up with uncertainty as if not knowing "what next." Who knows how to resolve the Gaza war? How can we assist Ukraine to defeat the Russians? How can we fix our broken immigration system in the States? Moreover, how can we resolve the myriad of other problems at home and abroad?

Where will our efforts be most effective? All too often, **"Who knows?"** becomes an excuse for inaction.

However, in this remarkable exchange between Mordecai and Esther, something quite different happens. **"Who knows?"** becomes not an excuse, but an invitation to action. Consider the possibility that it is up to us to act out of responsibility for each other in order to make room for God's presence in the world. Esther's willingness to act on a possibility is what makes her a prophetess, according to Midrashic tradition.

"Who knows if it wasn't for just such a time that you became queen?" This is the legacy that Mordecai and Esther bequeath to us - a dual legacy of humility and hope, of radical uncertainty and radical responsibility.

So, Megillah Esther teaches us to turn toward each other with courage in the face of uncertainty and love in the face of fear.

"Who knows?" Consider that this is why we are here.

A Celebration of a Special Life



The family of Philip Grinker, Sandi, Debbi, Rich and Jane would like to personally thank All of those named below and many others, not shown for the love and prayers offered to them.

Phil loved Temple Beth Shalom. He loved participating in our services as well as High Holiday services. This was his extended family.

PHILIP GRINKER HONOARARIUMS		
Aase Feder	Lee Ann Martinez	Karen Neubart
Arlene Greenberg	Kat Smith	Herb & Diane LeShay
Bert Devorsetz	Sybil Weiss	Jerry Heyman
Varda Rotenberg	Beverly Lerner	Polly & Jan Weinmann
Lorraine Mixter	Pam Fox	Greater Winter Haven Democratic Club
Barbara & Clint Brooks	Diana Kramer	Roberta Spaccia, David Johnathan & Families. Gayle Holms & Family
Korina Masters	Sandy Gasson	
Scott & Rhonda Bohlen	Renee & Allan Cohen	
David & Randi Kaplan	Meryl Crews	Tricia Safer
David Altman, MD	Sharon Shuller	Lynn Mawhinney and Douglas Calloll
Diane Murphy	Karen Neubart	



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.

March 22, 2024 is your next 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.

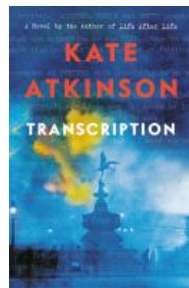
Lorraine Mixer: 863-409-8509 or lorrainemixer@aol.com



The Book Club will meet at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 12th.

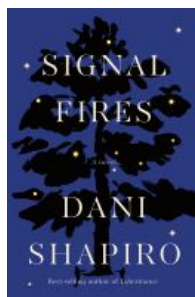
The March choice is:

Transcription by Kate Atkinson



The April choice is:

Signal Fires by Dani Shapiro





Notes from the Past Pres.

by Joseph Rodriguez

March 2024 Chai Lites

“People ask me what I do in the winter when there’s no baseball.

I’ll tell you what I do.

I stare out the window and wait for spring”

~ Rogers Hornsby

Shalom Aleichem – *Peace to you!*

This past week Spring Training started and baseball is back on the satellite. Hopefully it will make me and others feel better. It is the start of warmer weather.

The Snowbirds are preparing to leave and locals will be able to come out. Each year we see the traffic increase since Polk County has one of the fastest growing populations in the country. Everywhere we see new construction and new residences. It appears that the Snowbirds are unable to fly back to their northern homes.

Also in the spring, we have spring cleaning. Get your dust pan and feather out.

I have my box of Cracker Jacks so “Take me out to the ballgame. Play ball!”

Alekhem Shalom - *To you be peace* and thank you Polly for the cheerful card you sent me.

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.

Tickets are \$20 and they are available from:

Sandi Grinker: sandigrinker@gmail.com or 863-207-7440.

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

Arlene Greenberg: arlenegreenberg@gmail.com or 561-374-0266

We are also looking for sugar bowls and new items to place in our raffle baskets.

Bring your gently used purses, sugar bowls and new items 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



New Member Service

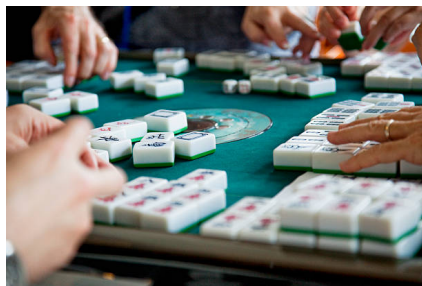
We honored our new members at our last service.



This year we honored and welcomed into the TBS Family:

Donna & Jack Culver
Sharon Johnson
Deborah Grinker
Ethan Feldman and family
Michael Craig
Donald Maize
Patricia (Trish) Safer

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 to learn how to play Mah Jong, they will teach you.

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

March Calendar

Mar 1	7:30 p.m.	Religious Services via Zoom
Mar 2	9:30 a.m.	Torah Study via Zoom
Mar 3	9:30 a.m.	Brotherhood/Sisterhood at Angie's Restaurant in the Hamptons Clubhouse
Mar 5	10:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Mar 5	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Mar 10	1:00 p.m.	Tea Party Basket Making
Mar 12	10:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Mar 12	11:00 a.m.	Book Club
Mar 12	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Mar 16	10:30 a.m.	Lay Service in Person Led by Arlene Greenberg, Meryl Crews and Lee Ann Martinez followed by Lunch at Mama's Soul Food Restaurant
Mar 19	10:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Mar 19	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Mar 22	7:30 p.m.	Early Purim Religious Services
Mar 23	9:30 a.m.	Torah Study via Zoom
Mar 26	10:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Mar 26	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, March 3rd at 9:00 am 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.

Last month B/S took a trip to Circle B Bar Reserve. We saw many birds and an alligator,
a bald eagle, osprey as well as many other birds.





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

March 22	Bert Devorsetz and Dottie
April 23	Congregational Seder



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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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.
- Thank you to Beverly Lerner for sending thank you notes.
- Thank you to Polly Weinmann for sending greeting cards.
- Thank you to Polly Weinmann for making the centerpieces and door prizes for the Tea Party guests.

Donations

- The Maj Jong Ladies continue to make donations to help cover the cost of air conditioning cost and supplies for the building.
- Baron Krisher has made a donation in support of the Jewish Nation.
- Arlene Greenberg has made a donation in memory of Korina Masters' brother.
- Norman Small has made a donation to the temple.
- Diane Murphy has made a donation to the Building Fund.
- Baum and Knowles have made a corporate donation in support of the Tea Party.
- Sharon and Al Goldberg have donated a yahrzeit plaque in memory of Phil Grinker
- Lorraine Mixer has made a donation in memory of Leonard Hodes, Arline Peters and Harry Goldstein.

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

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 March 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		

March Yahrzeits

Yahrzeit Date	Deceased	Relationship
Mar	Beth Cheryle Chain	sister of Lloyd Chain
Mar	Morris Spiwak	grandfather of Randy Spiwak
Mar	Samuel Essig	grandfather of Robert Poller
Mar	Louis Steckel	grandfather of Robert Poller
Mar	Art Levine	husband of Lois Levine
1-Mar	Pauline Kantor	grandmother of Irwin Korn
1-Mar	Ruth Soberman	mother-in-law of Myrna Soberman
2-Mar	Harry Goldstein	grandfather of Lorraine Mixter
4-Mar	Ernie Hewitt	brother of Deena Williams
5-Mar	Victoria Braverman	perpetual yahrzeit
8-Mar	Harry Small	father of Norman Small
10-Mar	Leonard Hodes	father of Lorraine Mixter
10-Mar	Helen Handler	mother of Meryl Crews
11-Mar	Tad Michael Stoler	perpetual Yahrzeit
16-Mar	Isabel Antonia Rodriguez	mother of Joseph Rodriguez
16-Mar	Herman Mervis	father of Allan Mervis
18-Mar	Philip Adelman	father of Jay Adelman, former husband of Sandy Gasson
19-Mar	Edward Kimmel	former husband of Brenda Kleinman
23-Mar	Oscar Sandler	uncle of Steven Chayt
23-Mar	Murray Handler	father of Meryl Crews
23-Mar	Stan Friedmann	father of Richard Friedmann
24-Mar	Julius Cohen	father of Bev Lerner
26-Mar	Abraham Shuller	grandfather of Sharon Shuller
26-Mar	Laura Kleinman	mother of Irwin Kleinman
26-Mar	Miriam Landau Segal	grandmother of Jett Segal
26-Mar	Elaine Mazzio	sister of Jacki Korn
27-Mar	Herman Baum	father of Robert Baum
27-Mar	George Feder	brother of Art Feder
29-Mar	Charlotte Devorsetz	mother of Bert Devorsetz

30-Mar	Aharon Rotenberg	husband of Varda Rotenberg
30-Mar	Arline Peters	aunt of Lorraine Mixter

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.

**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 Mixter (lorrainemixter@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 2024 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

Baum and Knowles