

Temple Beth Shalom, Polk

Chai Lites

December 2024

Kristallnacht/60th Anniversary of the Memorial Scrolls Trust Event



Meryl Crews, Margo Fleisher, Krystal Rose, Beverly Lerner, Sandi Grinker, Lorraine Mixer

Six of our members attended the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, Anniversary of the Memorial Scrolls Trust event on November 10, 2024, to honor our Holocaust Torah.

Temple Beth Shalom is the steward of #960, a Czech scroll.

History of the Czech Memorial Scrolls

In 1942, in the midst of World War II, a group from Prague's Jewish community created a plan to rescue religious treasures, including Torah scrolls, which had been left behind in deserted communities and destroyed synagogues throughout Czechoslovakia. More than 100,000 artifacts were brought to a museum in Prague with the hope of returning them to their original communities when the war ended. Just over 20 years later, 1,564 of the rescued Torah scrolls were purchased from the Communist government in Czechoslovakia and taken to the Westminster Synagogue in London to be recorded, labeled, and indexed by the Czech Memorial Scrolls Museum. A trust was designed to preserve the scrolls and to find new homes for each, as a symbol of hope, yet a reminder of a dark time in European Jewry.

Over the years the scroll was plagued with problems pertaining to the wooden frame that holds the Torah, called a Torah Roller. The wooden spindles had grown old and unfortunately rotted with time. They broke several times. Recognizing the decaying nature of our Torah Roller, Betty Mehrlust volunteered to donate a new Torah Roller in memory of her husband, Jessie Mehrlust who passed away in July 1997.

A small plaque on one of the rollers that was inscribed with the following:

Number 960
Czech Memorial Scrolls
Westminster Synagogue
London 1964 - 5724

This plaque remains as a reminder of our special honor to remember the horrors of Nazism. Our scroll was from a synagogue in Czechoslovakia. This synagogue may have been supported by members from three towns: Caslav - Golcuv - Jenikov. During World War II, Hitler confiscated over 1,564 sacred scrolls and kept them probably with the intention of showing them as the prize for the annihilation of the Jewish people.

After Hitler's defeat, these same 1,564 sacred scrolls were kept in storage by the Czech government until 1963. At that time with funding from an English philanthropist these sacred scrolls were purchased and brought out of Czechoslovakia to the care of the Westminster Trust as governed by the Westminster Synagogue. On February 7, 1964, 1564 sacred Jewish scrolls were delivered to the Westminster Synagogue who then took to task the restoration and cataloging of these sacred items.

Requests from all over the world poured in for the opportunity to have one of these sacred Holocaust scrolls. Through the efforts of our early board members; Barbara Brooks, Janis Koike, Priscilla Gerber, and Karen Kaplan and with the help of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, this Temple was deemed a worthy recipient and in 1986 we received our first Torah. The original holocaust Torah roller with its inscription plaque will be housed in our new Ark protected by the blue Torah cover. The new Torah Roller will be dedicated by Rabbi Arfa at our shabbat service on October 15th., 1999. At this time, we give thanks to all those past and present who have helped us to receive and keep our Torah.

Robert K. Lerner. December 2018



President's Musings

by Lorraine Mixer

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will be over and Chanukah will be only three weeks away.

This is the season of thankfulness. We reflect on all those things that not only are we thankful for, but that make us happy.



It's the season of being with family and friends. It's the season of remembering those that are no longer with us physically but remain in our hearts.

When I sent out my monthly request for articles to put into Chai Lites, I received these:

Uriah Rose: I would like to thank all participants & members who volunteer to do service for TBS 🇺🇸

Bert Devorsetz: So thankful for the wonderful, free life we all enjoy, as well as freedom from the wants and needs so many other societies are forced to endure. Also, I am so thankful for wonderful family, friends and those who have made Temple Beth Shalom so meaningful for the 20 yrs I have belonged.

I personally have so much to not only to be thankful for, but to kvell over. A new great-granddaughter, a new career for my grandson, a new career for my daughter, a college graduation to attend in 2025 and my husbands' retirement.

I hope all of you have much nachus and happiness in the season and that we get to worship together again soon.

Lorraine Mixer

TBS Board President

lorrainemixer@aol.com

863-409-8509



Get Ready To Light The Candles!

Chanukah Celebration

Learn about Jewish resistance and survival.

Gather at the table with friends, songs, a Chanukah skit 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 27th at 6:00 pm

Dinner will be catered by Love Bird Almost Famous

Fried or Grilled Chicken, Vegetables, Potato Latkes, Drinks and Dessert.

Hanukah Gelt and Dreidels included!

Members \$12.00. Non-Members and Guests \$15.00.

No cost for children five and under.

Please RSVP no later than December 22nd.

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

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

For more information or for reservations: lorrynemixer@aol.com

863-409-8509



Temple Beth Shalom Board

President: Lorraine Mixer

Vice President: Bert Devorsetz

Secretary: Margo Fleisher

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Meryl Crews

Arlene Greenberg

Sandi Grinker

Lee Ann Martinez

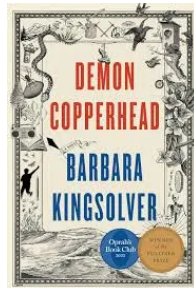
Uriah Rose



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

The December choice is:

Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver



Notes from the Past Pres.

by Joseph Rodriguez

2024 December Chai Lites

“A little more fun, a little more love, a little more light every night.

That is the joy of Hanukkah.”

~ Unknown

Shalom Aleichem!

The World now comes to the annual *Festival of Lights*. Jews and Christians and others are preparing for their Festival. There is much happiness and joy in the air. Music is playing that provides us with fun, love and joy. Many of the tunes and songs were produced by Jews. You do what you have to do to make a living.

Peace and love may be coming to the land of milk and honey. A cease fire is burning and is being negotiated in the Holy Land. Maybe there are returning hostages.

Floridians are hoping for a White Christmas north of Atlanta. How beautiful that White Christmas is when you do not own a snow shovel, but you do have a pair of skis.

This year the Joy of Hanukkah is considered late. So late that, we will be able to take advantage of “After-Christmas-Sales”. Maybe better than wholesale prices! Yes, we can say something else than “Happy Holidays” this year. Love is in the air.

Remember: ‘Only You Can Prevent Grandma from Getting Run-over By a Reindeer’.

May Peace Be with You!

Joseph Rodriguez, Past President

JrodTBS2021@gmail.com

See us on Facebook or our Website.



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: lorrynemixer@aol.com for your opportunity in January to host the Rabbi.

Sign up to host the Rabbi by contacting Lorraine Mixer: lorrynemixer@aol.com 863-409-8509

December Calendar

Dec 1	9:30 a.m.	Brotherhood/Sisterhood at Schalar Creek Community Restaurant
Dec 3	10:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Dec 3	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Dec 8	9:30 a.m.	Board Meeting
Dec 10	10:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Dec 10	11:00 a.m.	Book Club
Dec 10	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Dec 17	10:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Dec 17	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Dec 27	6:00 p.m.	Chanukah Dinner and Service

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.

We brunch @Schalamar Creek Golf & Country Club Restaurant
4500 U.S. 92, Lakeland, Florida 33801

Come join us on the First Sunday of each Month.

@ 9:00 am for social time and monthly meeting following.

Dues are \$25.00 per year for Family Voting Rights.

Everyone is Welcome to all our Events.

The Brotherhood/Sisterhood is an active, vibrant part of Temple Beth Shalom. While our main purpose is to raise money for the Temple, we are involved in many other valuable functions.

We get together for social, cultural, and educational activities during the year. We meet for dinner at local restaurants, tour museums, and visit local parks and water ways in and around Polk County. When we're not busy socializing we serve as ushers and greeters during Shabbat and holiday services.

Our monthly meetings are fun, lively and informative. Please join us on Sunday, December 1st at Schalamar Creek restaurant at 9AM for breakfast. The meeting will begin at 9:30.

Membership in the Brotherhood Sisterhood is \$25 for the year.

Joseph Rodriguez, treasurer

Jeffrey Goldblatt, vice president

Beverly Lerner, president

Ethan Feldman, secretary





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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Onegs (also known as Kiddush)

The mitzvah of sponsoring an Oneg is a wonderful 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, but 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 27 Chanukah Dinner
January 17 Margo Fleisher
February 14 Polly & Jan Weinmann



2024 – 2025 Directories are ready

Many thanks to Ethan Feldman for his diligent work formatting our 2024 – 2025 Directory.

If you received an email copy, the printed version has many corrections. Members only are invited to pick up a copy of the printed version.

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



- Thank you to Diana Kramer for organizing *Aliyahs* on Shabbat.
- Thank you to Bobby Baum for providing delicious homemade Challah.
- 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 Meryl Crews for coordinating and paying for the exterminator.
- Thank you to Meryl Crews for sending out Chai Lites to those who do not have access to email.
- Thank you to Meryl Crews for printing our directory.
- Thank you to Beverly Lerner for sending thank you notes.
- Thank you to Polly Weinmann for sending greeting cards.

Donations

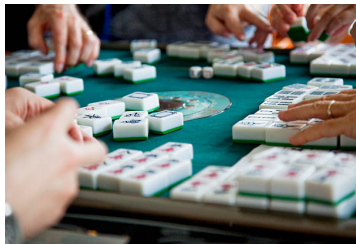
- The Maj Jong Ladies continue to make donations to help cover the cost of air conditioning cost and supplies for the building.
- Judy Richter has made a donation in honor of Polly Weinmann.
- Barron has made a donation in honor of the Jewish people.
- Deena Williams has made a donation to Temple Beth Shalom.



The Fleisher, Jones and Bond family have something to kvell about!
They made a donation in celebration of Elliott Bond's promotion to Private First Class in the Florida Army National Guard. Elliott is a member of the 53rd Field Artillery in Pinellas Park.



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.



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
Diana Kramer	3-Mar	2025	Joseph Rodriguez	13-Aug	2026
Janis Koike	26-Jan	2027	Beverly Lerner	9-Jun	2028
Brotherhood/Sisterhood	4-May	2031	Jeffrey Goldblatt	13-Jun	2026
Jerry Kosten	19-Jul	2026	Jerry Heyman	16-Jun	2026
Barbara Brooks	28-Aug	2027	Korina Masters	18-Aug	2025
Arlene Greenberg	13-Jun	2025	Varda Rottenberg	3-Mar	2025

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
7-Dec	Lisa Rose	wife of Uriah Rose
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 yahrzeit
8-Dec	Suzann Bendersky	perpetual yahrzeit
10-Dec	Jerry Kaplan	brother-in-law of Sandi Grinker
11-Dec	Julia Galan	mother of Jacob Martinez
12-Dec	Stan Fenster	Brother of Diana Kramer
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 yahrzeit
21-Dec	Harry Feder	father of Art Feder
22-Dec	Lena Siegel	mother of Saul Siegel
28-Dec	Jan Grayson	perpetual yahrzeit
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.



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

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



**Thank you to all the members and families who donated
and thank you to our 2024 Advertisers:**

Baum and Knowles College Advising

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Putters Restaurant on the 9th, Restaurant and Bar

Steven Greenberg Insurance

B'nai Brith Lodge

Temple Beth Shalom Brotherhood/Sisterhood

Joyce Preston

Crews Transportation