

Tu B'shevat 101

The name of this festival is actually its date: "Tu" is a pronunciation of the Hebrew letters for the number 15, and it falls in the Hebrew month of Shevat. Traditionally, was not a Jewish festival. Rather, it marked an important date for Jewish farmers in ancient times. The Torah states, "When you enter the land [of Israel] and plant any tree for food, you shall regard its fruit as forbidden. Three years it shall be forbidden for you, not to be eaten" ([Leviticus 19:23](#)). Only the fruit of older trees could be eaten. This law raised the question of how farmers were to mark the "birthday" of a tree. The rabbis therefore established the 15th of the month of Shevat as a general "birthday" for all trees, regardless of when they were actually planted.

On this day it is customary to partake of the fruit with which the Holy Land is praised ([Deuteronomy 8:8](#)): olives, dates, grapes, figs and nuts in shells. If tasting any of these fruit for the first time this season, remember to recite the *Shehecheyanu* blessing. (A blessing recited on joyous occasions, thanking [G-d](#) for "sustaining us and enabling us to reach this occasion." This blessing is recited before the standard "*Ha'etz*" blessing recited on fruit.)



President's Musings

by Lorraine Mixter

Temple Beth Shalom has had so many activities in recent weeks! You'll see photos in this edition from our Hanukah dinner and the Hanukah play written by author Beverly Lerner. There are also photos from the Brotherhood/Sisterhood trip to the L.B. Brown House in Bartow.



We are still looking for volunteers to lead religious services when our Rabbi is not present. Please let me know if you would like to lead a service.

We also are looking for hosts for our *onegs*. Please contact Arlene Greenberg (561-374-0266) if you are interested in hosting an *oneg* in honor of a birthday or anniversary.

We offer condolences for the passing of Jacki Korn to her husband Irv Korn. Jacki was an active member of our Maj Jong Ladies. *Baruch Dayan Ha-Emet!*

We also offer condolences to the family of Donald Maize who passed January 24th and was laid to rest at the TBS cemetery.

Jimmy Carter, president from 1977-1981 passed away December 29, 2024. Our own member Korina Masters provided this photo when she learned of President Carters' death. Korina is shown here with the late Rosalynn Carter and the late Dick Ross at the Carter's home in Plains, Georgia.



Lorraine Mixter

TBS Board President

lorrainemixter@aol.com

863-409-8509

Temple Beth Shalom Board

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



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

The February choice is:

The Matchmaker's Gift by Lynda Cohen Loigman



Our Hanukah Celebration



Guests in line for dinner



Sandi Grinker serving



Guests seated for dinner



Jan & Polly Weinmann

RABBINICALLY SPEAKING RABBI GARSON HERZFELD

I am writing just prior to Martin Luther King Day. American Jews supported the civil rights struggle more than any other white group in America. Most of you reading this article probably know individuals who spoke out at rallies or marched in various locales, often in the South. My rabbi, Arthur J. Lelyveld from Cleveland was among them.

Recently, I read an article in "Sources-A Journal of Jewish Ideas" that is produced by the Shalom Hartman Institute. This piece compares one of the most well-known activists, Abraham Joshua Heschel, scholar and faculty member at Jewish Theological Seminary, with Charles (Chuck) McDew, who probably is one of the least known Jewish civil rights leaders. I suspect few people in the Jewish community recognize his name, let alone the role he played in the civil rights struggle.

Charles McDew, an African American, converted to Judaism. He was the second Chair of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and held that position from 1963-65. He followed the founding chair, Marion Barry (later mayor of Washington, DC) and preceded John Lewis (later a Congressman from GA.) McDew immersed himself in grassroots civil rights organizing and activism. His leadership of the SNCC includes freedom rides, voter registration campaigns, and he was among those who organized the famed March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Yet, knowledge about him in the Jewish community remains historically obscure, for the most part.

During his college years, McDew personally experienced white Jewish racism. During a "religious emphasis week" on his campus, he relates that most Christian clergy encouraged him to adopt their set of beliefs but would not welcome him to attend their churches. However, the rabbi he met, invited him to attend his synagogue, even though he probably would lose his job, and the congregation would not be welcoming. The rabbi's willingness to take the risk impressed McDew and he went on to study with rabbis in Chicago, San Francisco and Atlanta.

When asked in an interview for "Jet Magazine" (September 20, 1962) why he "disavowed Christianity and embraced Judaism," McDew replied that "Judaism represents justice, brotherhood, social consciousness, and action, social responsibility, active concern for your fellowman and the oneness of mankind."

McDew also found Hillel's famous admonition central to both his Judaism and his commitment for civil rights work: "*If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?*" He credited Judaism for his social activism in SNCC. "I think my Judaism also informed my thoughts," he wrote. "Here are people for 2000 years who had been persecuted and continued to stand up for what is right. And they paid a price for that, and I could pay a price as well. If something is worth something, it is worth fighting for and dying for."

Unfortunately, in the 1960's, McDew's leadership of the SNCC never gained attention from Jewish leaders or the organizations they ran. His work was never recorded in the minutes of Jewish agencies and the primary source documents he created himself were never included in Jewish archives at the time. So, his leadership, until recently, had been erased from Jewish history.

So, thanks are extended to Dr. Marc Dillinger, a professor of Jewish Studies and Social Responsibility at San Francisco State University, for enlightening us about this "unsung" Jewish leader, Charles McDew, in his article describing Jewish social justice leadership in "Sources" journal.

Notes from the Past Pres.

by Joseph Rodriguez

2025 February Chai Lites

“It is good to love many things, for therein lies the true strength, and
Whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much,
And what is done in love is well done.”

~ Vincent Van Gogh

Shalom Aleichem!

Well this is the month of love. Do you remember sending and receiving valentine cards in elementary school? I know it is the month of love because both my children were born in February.

OH NO! David is 47 and Lauren is 51 this month. February is making me feel old rather than lovable.

This month's Brotherhood/Sisterhood outing is to the RITZ in Winter Haven to see *Tony and Tina*. What fools, they are in love and getting married. The B/S Hood has become very active due to President Beverly Lerner's leadership. Everyone loves the job she is doing.

So share your love with Temple Beth Shalom and join us at our functions.

And do not forget to show your love to your dog by giving your dog a big hug – Lakota Sunka is now 12.

May Peace Be With You!

Joseph Rodriguez, Past President

JrodTBS2021@gmail.com

See us on Facebook or our Website

web@templebethshalompolk.org



Dinner with the Rabbi

Enjoy a meal with Rabbi Herzfeld, take the opportunity to chat with the Hosts and the Rabbi.

Sign up to host the Rabbi on February 14th by contacting

Lorraine Mixer:

lorrainemixer@aol.com 863-409-8509



February Calendar

Feb 2	9:30 a.m.	Brotherhood/Sisterhood at Schalar Creek Community Restaurant
Feb 4	10:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Feb 4	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Feb 9	2:30 p.m.	Brotherhood/Sisterhood at <i>Tony n' Tina's Wedding</i> at Ritz Theatre
Feb 9	9:30 a.m.	TBS Board Meeting
Feb 11	10:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Feb 11	11:00 a.m.	Book Club
Feb 11	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Feb 14	7:30 p.m.	Tu B'Shevat Religious Service
Feb 15	10:00 a.m.	Torah Study
Feb 18	10:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Feb 18	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Feb 22	11:00 a.m.	Lay Service – Sandi and Debbie Grinker
Feb 25	10:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Feb 25	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.

We brunch at 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, January 5th 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.

Beverly Lerner, president

Jeffrey Goldblatt, vice president

Joseph Rodriguez, treasurer

Ethan Feldman, secretary



The Brotherhood/Sisterhood is attending The Ritz Theatre to see Tony n'Tina's Wedding
On February 8th. Contact Sandi Grinker for ticket information:

sandigrinker@gmail.com or 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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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

February 14 Lorraine Mixer

March 14 Host needed



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 & Torah Study 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 Beverly Lerner for sending thank you notes.
- Thank you to Polly Weinmann for sending greeting cards.
- Thank you to the Maj Jong ladies for their donations.

Donations

- Renee Cohen has made a donation in honor of Gertrude Peckman and Ida Eisenberg, her mother and grandmother.
- Baron Krisher has made a donation in honor of the Jewish people.



Lay Services

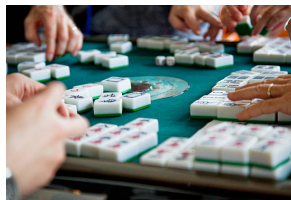
February 22nd, 11:00 a.m.

Led by Sandi and Deborah Grinker, along with Soloist Meryl Crews
Following the service, The Grinker Family will host a dairy luncheon
in memory of Morris Steinberg, father of Sandi Grinker and
grandfather of Deborah Grinker, who was born on
President Washington's birthday.

All are invited to join.



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	2026	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
Bobby Baum	3-Mar	2026	Your name here		
Barbara Brooks	28-Aug	2027	Korina Masters	18-Aug	2025
Arlene Greenberg	13-Jun	2025	Varda Rottenberg	3-Mar	2026

**Yahrzeit Reminders - May their Memories be a Blessing.
A candle should be lit the night before at sundown.**

January Yahrzeits

Yahrzeit Date	Deceased	Relationship
Feb	Ella Adelman	grandmother of Jay Adelman;
Feb	Harold Chain	father of Lloyd Chain
Feb	Justine Kahana	cousin of Adrienne Sundheim
1-Feb	Jonas Guttenberg	father of Sandy Adelman Gasson
1-Feb	Harold Devorsetz	father of Bert Devorsetz
2-Feb	Isidore Picker	uncle of Brenda Kleinman
2-Feb	Henry Weintraub	father of Jo Ann Lesnett
2-Feb	Irene Gillins	mother of Amy Jo Montgomery
3-Feb	Tobias Arnold Polley	father of Polly Weinmann
5-Feb	Zeal Fisher	husband of Marilyn Fisher; perpetual yahrzeit
6-Feb	Henry Pincus	father of Bernie Pincus
6-Feb	Morris Samuel Segal	grandfather of Jett Segal
7-Feb	Herman Greenbaum	father of Korina Masters
8-Feb	Belle Picker	aunt of Brenda Kleinman
8-Feb	Brett Devorsetz	son of Bert Devorsetz
9-Feb	Ruth Soberman	mother-in-law of Myrna Soberman
10-Feb	Justine Kahana	cousin of Adrienne Sundheim
10-Feb	Ian Peckman	nephew of Renee Cohen
12-Feb	Melanie Friedmann	grandmother of Richard Friedmann
14-Feb	Tillie LeShay	aunt of Herb LeShay
18-Feb	Wayne Scofield	grandson of Diana Kramer
19-Feb	Geraldine Ravdin Pendergast	aunt of Brenda Kleinman
20-Feb	Deborah Ross	wife of Dick Ross
22-Feb	Robert Henry Weinmann II	father of Jan Weinmann
25-Feb	Sam Forman	father of Shelley Epstein
26-Feb	Selma Bauer	mother of Adrienne Sundheim
26-Feb	Robert Crews	brother of James Crews
28-Feb	Louis Geller	father of Milton Geller
29-Feb	Susan Zwerling	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.

Candles may be purchased at the temple.

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.

L.B. Brown House Museum

Former slave, L.B. Brown, built this house turned museum in 1892.

The Brotherhood/Sisterhood toured the L.B. Brown House January 11th.



Brotherhood/Sisterhood members with our Tour Guide



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

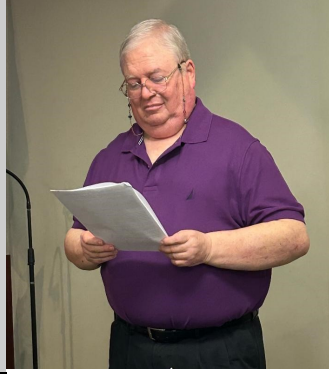


Our Hanukkah Celebration

After the candle lighting, we enacted a play written by our own author
Beverly Lerner



Author Beverly Lerner



Actor Howard Kerner



Sandi Grinker, Deborah Grinker



Howard, Meryl Crews & Lorraine Mixer



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and thank you to our 2024 Advertisers:**

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