

Temple Beth Shalom, Polk

## *Chai Lites*

January 2025

### **Do Jews Celebrate Secular Holidays?**



Yes, Jews have always observed civic and secular holidays. Some synagogues have a national flag on display and many synagogues participate in interfaith observances of holidays such as Thanksgiving and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

[Mishkan T'filah](#), the prayerbook of the Reform Movement, contains the national hymns of Israel, Canada, and the United States.

Many interfaith families celebrate Hanukkah and Christmas. This past year Chrismukkah occurred as Hanukkah and Christmas occurred on the same evening. This rare occurrence will not happen again until 2035, due to an extra month added to keep the Jewish holidays aligned with the correct seasons of the 365-day Solar calendar.



We often get requests from those who are looking for homes for Judaica after a loved one downsizes or passes on. The museum mentioned below, may be a place where your Judaica can be sent. Please include the story behind the item when looking to re-home your loved one's precious items.

AS an example, in 1994 my father gifted the museum his bombing maps of Germany, used when he was a Bombardier in WWII.

The B'nai B'rith Holocaust and Related Materials Collection, organized and funded by a generous grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Inc. and the Rabbi Israel Miller Fund for Shoah Research, Documentation and Education, includes correspondence, books and periodicals, directories, and maps pertaining to B'nai B'rith in Europe, Asia, Africa and the United States in the years before and after the Holocaust.

Remembered for the Judaica exhibitions mounted at B'nai B'rith's former Washington, D.C. headquarters from the mid-1950s through the year 2001, the B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum transferred its extensive acquisitions, consisting of paintings, sculptures and liturgical objects in 2015 to the Skirball Museum, also located on HUC's campus, where these artworks are now part of its permanent collection.

**Contacts:**

For more information about the National Jewish Museum and/or the B'nai B'rith Archives, please call 202-857-6647 or email [museum@bnaibrith.org](mailto:museum@bnaibrith.org).

B'nai B'rith's Center for Jewish Identity and Culture includes the B'nai B'rith Collection of artworks and artifacts at the Skirball Museum and the B'nai B'rith Archives at the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, which are located on the campus of Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati.

Reach the Skirball Museum in Cincinnati: [csm.huc.edu/](http://csm.huc.edu/)

Research inquiries for the B'nai B'rith Archives at the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives at HUC: [americanjewisharchives.org](http://americanjewisharchives.org) or call 513-487-3000

**Holocaust Art Resource List**

As part of the commitment of the National Jewish Museum to the recovery of Holocaust-era cultural assets, we are pleased to include a [Holocaust Art Resource List](#) as well as a selection of works [from the Museum's collection](#).



# President's Musings

by Lorraine Mixer

Our Chanukah celebration was well attended. To all of you who helped make the evening a success by setting up the room, preparing and serving the food and those who helped clean up, a huge thank you. To those who sent kudos to our team of ladies and gents who set up, cooked and cleaned up, the compliments were much appreciated. These events take planning and teamwork. We always welcome contributions of your time, and energy. We heard the gleeful joy of children opening Chanukah surprises at our dinner. Adults and children played with dreidels while waiting for their dinner!



The new year brings much anticipated changes to our congregation. New members looking for conversion and inclusion into our Jewish community. New members with young children who will be attending our religious school. The sound of children during our services.

We are looking for teachers for our Sunday school, as well as teachers for Adult Education classes. If you would like to volunteer, please let one of the Board members know.

I continue to encourage participation, not only in attending religious services but participation in our hybrid Torah study. We have adjusted the time to allow you to sleep in and still brunch and learn. I look forward to treating you to something yummy while we learn about the Torah.

Lorraine Mixer  
TBS Board President  
[lorrainemixer@aol.com](mailto:lorrainemixer@aol.com)  
863-409-8509

# Temple Beth Shalom Board

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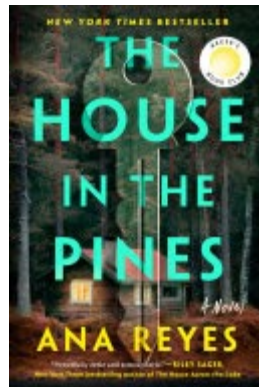
Uriah Rose



The Book Club will meet at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.

The January choice is:

*The House in the Pines* by Ana Reyes



# Notes from the Past Pres.

by Joseph Rodriguez

2025 January Chai Lites

“Wanting to be someone else is a waste of the person you are.”

~ Marilyn Monroe

Shalom Aleichem!

Can you believe that we have marked a quarter century? We started with the fear of Y2K and ended with the fear of Covid.

Today, we are celebrating the Eight Days of Hanukkah and reflecting on the resilience of the Jewish people. Hopefully, in 2025, peace will come to several locations around the world and in our cities. Let us not waste time resolving problems. Let us come together now. Stop playing politics and work for a common goal of peace and prosperity.

As Past President, our Bylaws require me to be Chairman of the Nominating Committee for Temple Board. If you wish to serve on our Temple Board, please contact me at [JrodTBS2021@gmail.com](mailto:JrodTBS2021@gmail.com).

Speaking of wanting to be someone else, the TBS Mighty Players, led by Beverly Lerner, performed at our Hanukkah Dinner providing entertainment on *Questions of Hanukkah*. There was no typecasting. We cannot wait for more from Beverly!

Remember to wear nothing to bed except Chanel No. 5.

May Peace Be With You!

Joseph Rodriguez, Past President

[JrodTBS2021@gmail.com](mailto:JrodTBS2021@gmail.com)

See us on Facebook or our Website: [web@templebethshalompolk.org](http://web@templebethshalompolk.org)



# 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](mailto:lorrainemixer@aol.com) for your opportunity in January to host the Rabbi.

Sign up to host the Rabbi by contacting Lorraine Mixer: [lorrainemixer@aol.com](mailto:lorrainemixer@aol.com) 863-409-8509

## January Calendar

Jan 5	9:30 a.m.	Brotherhood/Sisterhood at Schalar Creek Community Restaurant
Jan 7	10:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Jan 7	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Jan 11	11:00 am	L.B. Brown House tour followed by lunch at Zest Bar & Grill
Jan 12	9:30 a.m.	TBS Board Meeting
Jan 14	10:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Jan 14	11:00 a.m.	Book Club
Jan 14	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Jan 17	7:30 p.m.	Religious Service
Jan 18	10:00 a.m.	Torah Study
Jan 21	10:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Jan 21	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Jan 25	10:30 a.m.	Lay Service
Jan 28	10:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Jan 28	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong

For more information, please email: [web@templebethshalompolk.org](mailto:web@templebethshalompolk.org)  
or call: 863-292-0722

# Brotherhood Sisterhood

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 tour of the LB Brown House is confirmed for Saturday, January 4, 2025, at 11:00.

Reservations for lunch have been made at Zest Bar and Grill, 315 E. Sumerlin St. in Bartow.

It's a few blocks from the L.B. Brown house and in the heart of downtown Bartow.

We are looking forward to a fun day!

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.

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](mailto: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](mailto:arlenegreenberg@gmail.com)

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 Beverly Lerner for sending thank you notes.
- Thank you to Polly Weinmann for sending greeting cards.

## Donations

- Debbie Stern has donated Chanukah dreidels, toys, and menorahs.
- Sharon Shuller has made a yahrzeit donation in honor of Isadore, Florence, Stephen, Abraham, and Martha Shuller.
- Sharon Shuller has made a yahrzeit donation in honor of Victor and Sarah Golfman.
- Lorraine Mixter has made a yahrzeit donation in honor of her late husband, John Mixter, and her aunt Sandra Rosen.
- Ethan and Lisa Zohn have made a High Holiday Donation.
- Barron Krisher has made a donation in honor of the Jewish people.
- Randi Kaplan has made a donation to Temple Beth Shalom.

Arlene Greenberg found this article from the newspaper from 1986 in a Dear Abby column. It was written for church members. I changed the word church to synagogue. It was in a church newsletter, the *Kipsap Adventist News*. I thought it could apply to our people of Jewish faith. I saved it from 1986. I guess, I must have liked the message.

### **Go to the Synagogue**

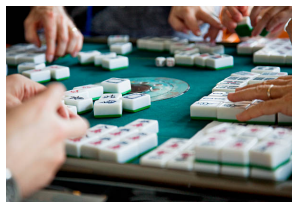
Dear Synagogue Members. Or Dear People of Jewish faith.

Dear Jewish People don't wait until the hearse hauls you to the synagogue.

If you do:

1. You will go regardless of the weather.
2. You will go regardless of the condition of your body.
3. There may be beautiful flowers there, but you won't enjoy them.
4. You will go regardless of how your family feels.
5. The Rabbi may say many good things, but they will do you no good.
6. There may be beautiful music there, but you won't hear it.
7. There may be heartfelt prayers, but they will not touch your heart.
8. There may be friends and relatives there, but you won't pray with them.
9. You will go, no matter how much you are needed at home or at work.
10. You won't feel concerned about your clothing.
11. You will never have to decide about attending the synagogue again. Aren't you glad to be alive and well and full of zest and be able to choose to go to the synagogue?

### **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](mailto: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
Bobby Baum	3-Mar	2025	Your name here		
Barbara Brooks	28-Aug	2027	Korina Masters	18-Aug	2025
Arlene Greenberg	13-Jun	2025	Varda Rottenberg	3-Mar	2025

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

**January Yahrzeits**

<b>Yahrzeit Date</b>	<b>Deceased</b>	<b>Relationship</b>
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	Marc Randall Kahn	son of Marvin and Elsa Kahn
1-Jan	Lena Briklod	grandmother of Meryl Chayt
4-Jan	Joseph Greenberg	Father-in-law of Arlene Greenberg
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	mother of Jerry Heyman
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	Arthur 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.

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.



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](mailto:Bevlerner@aol.com)



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