

Temple Beth El Bradenton · Lakewood Ranch

Your Reform Jewish Temple in Manatee County

Discover Your Jewish Path

January 2025 - Tevet / Sh'vat 5785



5150 Peridia Blvd. E. • Bradenton, FL 34203 941-755-4900 • www.bethel-fl.org

A Message from our Rabbi



We have our Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, but it is hard not to have a sense of new beginnings on January 1st, and for some of us it means making New Year resolutions. It is tempting to envision a year in which we become a better version of ourselves. At the planning phase, we tend to underestimate the measures needed to achieve our goals. But, a short time after we start, the enthusiasm ebbs and so does our determination to keep up the hard work. It is not surprising that most resolutions fail, and many don't even make it to the end of January.

Yet as Jews, we don't just believe in our ability to change, we see it as a virtuous path. We read in the Talmud about a person who came to Hillel asking to convert to Judaism on the condition that the rabbi would teach him

the entire Torah while standing on one foot. The idea sounds ridiculous, but don't we do the same with our New Year resolutions? We want it all and fast: to get to our ideal weight, eat healthier, exercise, read more books and watch less TV, spend more time with those we care about, and so much more. In the story, Hillel, in contrast to his colleague, Shammai, was not angry with the man. He accepted the challenge. But, instead of throwing hundreds of laws at him, he gave him only one rule—"That which is hateful unto you, do not do to your neighbor"—and told him that only after he masters it should he come back for more. One interpretation is that Hillel's emphasis wasn't necessarily on the specific rule, as beautiful as it is, as it was on the idea that for a successful transformation, one must start with only one item that is doable and meaningful. Trying to do more may lead to failure and abandonment of the whole endeavor. You might be convinced that you should begin by focusing on one resolution, but how can you identify the right one? Paulo Coelho tells the following story:

The master was strolling through a field of wheat when a disciple came up to him: "I can't tell which is the true path. What's the secret?"

"What does that ring on your right hand mean?" asked the master.

"My father gave it to me before dying."

"Well, give it to me." The disciple obeyed, and the master tossed the ring into the middle of the field of wheat.

"What have you done?" shouted the disciple. "Now, because it is so important to me, I have to stop everything I was doing to look for the ring!"

The master responded, "When you find it, remember this: you yourself answered the question you asked me. That is how you tell the true path: it is more important than all the rest."

Before you commit yourself to a new path for the next year, first take the time to find out what is most important to you, not to someone else. Then remember not to make it too vague and to have a realistic plan for achieving your resolution. I believe that when we find the right path and work hard to stay on it, God will be by our side. Have a wonderful 2025!

L'Shalom, Reb Tuviah

A Message From Our Temple President



Dear Members and Friends,

Happy New Year to one and all. 2024 was filled with numerous events, celebrations, and rituals. On the 27th and 28th of December, the last Shabbats of the year, we celebrated Chanukah during our Friday night service with 96 members and friends in attendance. We "lit up the night" by lighting several dozen Chanukah menorahs at the beginning of the service, and it was indeed a beautiful sight. On Saturday, we celebrated Shabbat, followed by our annual

Hanukkah party, with mountains of latkes, jelly donuts, and many other treats. All had a good time. We are very fortunate to have an abundance of treats, but not all are so fortunate. TBE has always been driven to help those in need, especially when providing food for the less fortunate. On Christmas Day and the day following, 25 TBE members volunteered at "Our Daily Bread," a Manatee County soup kitchen, where we helped prepare and serve over 260 meals. Additionally, our members have prepared thousands of sandwiches, packed thousands of pounds of produce for local distribution, and donated hundreds of pounds of food. This mitzvah, and many others like it, will continue into 2025.

January welcomes a new year and marks the third anniversary of our wonderful Rabbi, Reb Tuviah, and our Rebbetzin Nancy Beltran-Schreiber. We are honored to have them as an integral part of TBE as our spiritual leaders and friends. Our Sisterhood and Men's Club helped financially support the temple throughout the year and provided many activities and events for its members. The Chavurah and Mah Jongg groups kept our social activities moving with lots of laughs and camaraderie. We have had significant exposure and much success exhibiting at the LWR farmer's market and will continue to do so; remember, we are always looking for volunteers. On the education side of things, Reb Tuviah's adult education classes are always engaging and educational. Keep your eyes open for many more in 2025.

Reminiscing back through 2024, we faced a lot of challenges, such as hurricanes and antisemitism. As Jews, we have never backed down, and we will continue to move forward in supporting our community and our heritage. The willingness of our volunteers measures the success of Temple Beth EI; those people have put their best foot forward to ensure that we have a house of worship where we can feel safe and at home with other fellow members of our community. To all of you who have contributed and helped, I wholeheartedly thank you for your time and dedication.

On behalf of Temple Beth El's Board of Directors, my family, and myself, I would like to wish everyone a new year of health, happiness, and prosperity.

Warm Regards, Joel Auerbach

News from Sisterhood & Brotherhood



Thursday, December 19th, The Sisterhood had our annual Chanukah Party. We visited with each other, had latkes, wine, cheese, and played Jewish bingowhich was fun and funny. Those who weren't able to attend missed a entertaining afternoon. The money collected at the party will go to a local non-profit. The non-profit will be decided at the next Sisterhood meeting will be on January 16 at 3:15 p.m.

Tuesday, January 7th at 7:00 p.m., Sisterhood is sponsoring a Temple-wide event featuring Itzhak Perlman. It is a rehearsal being held in a heated tent at the University of South Florida Campus. He will be showcasing talented teenage string players as they learn and practice with him. It is free, but please RSVP to Carol Segal at carolcsegal@gmail.com so she has a head count of who will be attending.

Sunday, Feb. 23rd @ 3:00 p.m., Rebbetzin Nancy will be doing a Challah bake at the Temple. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Cheryl Kramer at cbkramer59@gmail.com.

Marla Perlstein, Sisterhood President





The next Men's Club meeting will be held on January 7th @ 10 AM at Temple Beth El. We are excited as we have lots of scheduled events for 2025!

January 24th the Men's Club will sponsor the Oneg and have the Men's Club Friday night service.

February 11th @ 10 AM, we will carpool to the James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art AKA the "Cowboy Art Museum" in St. Pete for a tour followed by lunch. The museum cost is \$10, lunch will be at a local restaurant.

March 11th We hope to go to the Gamble Museum

April 11th, we are looking to play ball at GT Bray Park. This event is open to both male and female temple members and prospective temple members.

All other outings are open to any male temple member and potential male temple members. Watch for details!

Mitch Mallett
Men's Club President

Welcome New Members!

Joining our synagogue reminds us that we're part of a wider community and gives us a chance to reach out and unite with others. We are a warm and inviting community. Our Shabbat services are open to everyone.

Let's all welcome our newest members:

Brigitte Cavanaugh
Michael Wald and Teri Weinstock
Lynda and Joe Warshawsky



Join today and get your new member gifts and engraved name badge!





Temple Beth El
Bradenton/Lakewood Ranch
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January 2025 Tevet / Sh'vat 5785

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 1:00pm Mah Jongg	7:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	4 10:00am Shabbat Service
5	6	7 10:00am Men's Club @ TBE 7:00pm Itzhak Perlman Concert 7:00pm Adult Hebrew	8	9 1:00pm Mah Jongg	7:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9:30am Shabbat School 10:00am Shabbat Service
12 10:00am Plan Ahead Seminar and Luncheon at Robert Toale and Sons	13	7:00pm Adult Hebrew (via Zoom)	15	1:00pm-4:00pm PB&J Drop-off 1:00pm Mah Jongg 3:15 Sisterhood Mtg.	7:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9:30am Shabbat School 10:00am Shabbat Service
19 10:00am TBE @ LWR Farmers Market 5:00pm Jewish Professionals Trivia Night	20	7:00pm Adult Hebrew (via Zoom)	7:00pm TBE Board Meeting (via Zoom)	9:30am Feeding those in Need at Our Daily Bread 1:00pm Mah Jongg	7:00pm Men's Club Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9:30am Shabbat School 10:00am Shabbat Service
26	7:00pm Holocaust Remembrance at the Ora	28	29	1:00pm Mah Jongg	7:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9:30am Shabbat School 10:00am Shabbat Service

Remember to Mark Your Calendar!

January 2025

Wednesday, January 1-2		Days seven/eight Chanukah		
	Tuesday, January 7	10:00	am	Men's club Meet-Up
		7:00	pm	Sisterhood to Itzhak Perlman
	Sunday, January 12	10:00	am	Plan Ahead Seminar/Luncheon
	Thursday, January 16	1:00	pm-4:00 pm	PBJ Sandwich Drop-Off
		3:15	pm	Sisterhood Meeting
	Sunday, January 19	10:00	am	TBE at LWR Farmers Market
		5:00	pm	JYP -Trivia at 3 Keys Brewery
	Wednesday, January 22	7:00	pm	TBE Board Meeting
	Thursday, January 23	9:30	am	Mitzvah Project: Feeding the Hungry
	Friday, January 24	7:00	pm	Men's Club Shabbat
	Monday, January 27	7:00	pm	Holocaust Remembrance @ the Ora

Mah Jongg every Thursday from 1:00 pm-3:00 pm at TBE

Shabbat School every Saturday at 9:30 am

Click Here to see all of our calendar events

COME CELEBRATE SHABBAT WITH US!

Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service Friday evenings at 7:00 pm

<u>Traditional Shabbat Morning Service</u> Saturday mornings at 10:00 am



Our Mitzvah Projects

Serving Meals at Our Daily Bread

Feeding The Hungry is a heart warming mitzvah project that temple members and friends participate in. We arrive at 9:30am on the 4th Thursday of every month to prepare and serve food to those in need. It is a meaningful and rewarding opportunity to help others that are less fortunate. No rsvp needed, just come to "Our Daily Bread of Bradenton" soup kitchen and help the staff prep and serve meals. We typically serve over 200 meals to men, women and children. Join us!



Collecting Toiletries

"Our Daily Bread" in Bradenton is a community-driven organization supported by churches, foundations, and numerous other community-oriented organizations. In addition to feeding the hungry, they collect health and beauty aids, everything from soap and shampoo to lotion and sunblock, to give to those in need. Please consider donating to this worthwhile project. Please place your donated items under the bulletin board in the lobby.



TBE PEANUT BUTTER and JELLY PROGRAM IS BACK!

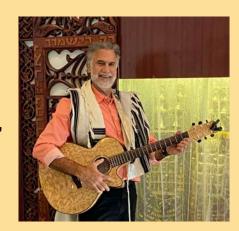
It's easy-peasy. All you need to do is make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches or peanut butter and fluff sandwiches, wrap them in individually sealed zip lock bags, and bring them to TBE on the 3rd Thursday of every month. You can drop them off at the temple between

1 pm and 4 pm. Ken Handelman will come to TBE to pick them up and deliver them to Our Daily Bread, so they can be handed out at the food pantry on Friday. The smallest things can make a HUGE difference.

Ask the Rabbi

Question:

Is it prohibited for Jews to tattoo their bodies? If so, why?



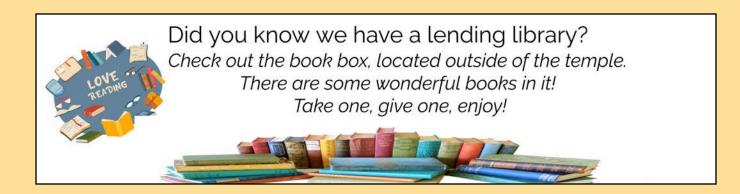
Answer:

Tattoos are technically prohibited based on the Torah verse in Leviticus 19:28; "You shall not make gashes in your flesh for the dead nor incise any marks on yourself: I am the Lord."

Reform Judaism generally takes a more lenient stance, often viewing the prohibition as rooted in ancient pagan practices, where tattoos were associated with idle worship, and not necessarily applying to modern interpretations of the practice. Based on this interpretation, many Reform Jews may choose to get tattoos depending on their personal beliefs and understanding of the religious text.

"Ask the Rabbi" is a column in the newsletter. If you have a question about Judaism, and think others would also be interested in the answer, click below to email the Rabbi directly.

Ask the Rabbi a Question





December Oneg Sponsors

December 06 Temple Beth El In honor of our wonderful TBE MEMBERS, Thank you for

keeping Judaism alive and well in Manatee County.

December 13 Cheryl/Ira Kramer In memory of Paula Kramer

Mitch Mallett Yahrzeit of his Mother, Nathalie Mallett

December 20 Gary Weinberg Wishing his darling wife Sarah (Meg) Weinberg the happiest

of birthdays

Joe/Lynda Warshawsky In memory of our mother, Bernice Warshawsky, age of 100.

Phyllis Hemler For Bob's full and speedy recover from back surgery.

December 27 Phyllis Hemler In memory of her mother, Evelyn Cohen

December 28 Ginger and Roy Manas In honor of 70 years of marriage

Click Here to Sponsor!

Our January Simchas

January Birthdays

Elissa Gomez	January 2	Carol Harris	January 18
Andrew Clark	January 3	Lisa Breitberg	January 21
Caroline Zucker	January 3	David Basham	January 23
ChrisAnn Allen	January 3	Rhonda Kaplan	January 28
Jeffrey Corey	January 5	Francine Fontaine	January 29
Ruthie Weiss	January 6	Phyllis Hemler	January 30
Jeff Orlove	January 7		





Murray and Jerilyn Dimant January 25

Yahrzeits for January

It is traditional to light a Yahrzeit candle on the evening of observance. In addition, we urge you to attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of your beloved and to recite Mourner's Kaddish on the Yahrzeit. May your memories of the departed always be a blessing.



January 03 January 04		
Jeffrey Schneiderman	remembers	George Schneiderman
Diane Hart	remembers	George Roth
Murray Dimant	remembers	Schura Dimant
Marlena Johnsky	remembers	Harry Klein
Beverly Safron	remembers	Henry Hartwich
Judy Wilkinsky	remembers	Sherow Meyer

January 10 January 11		
Katherine Richmond	remembers	Louise S. Richmond
Anna Feldman	remembers	Stephen Feldman
Joe Tully	remembers	Paul Marcus
Louise Klain	remembers	Jack Gallagher
David Basham	remembers	Marjorie Dee Hayner
Howard Millstein	remembers	Anna Millstein
Judie Littell	remembers	Mildred Littell
Rise Bausch	remembers	Leonard Baumgarten
Meg Weinberg	remembers	Richard Patton Ballard
Carol Bodzin	remembers	Wilber Spitz
Sylvia Kupferman	remembers	Elise Epstein

remembers	Deborah Jane Spitz
remembers	Isadore E. Cohen
remembers	Nathan Spirtas
remembers	Larry Harris
remembers	Sophie Ostrov
remembers	Michael Millstein
remembers	Shepard Cohen
	remembers remembers remembers remembers

David Morgen	remembers	Snepard Conen
January 24 January 25 Robert Kupferman	remembers	Morris Kupferman
January 31 February 01		
Beverly Safron	remembers	Nancy Buchalter
Judy Littell	remembers	Herbert Littell
Lionel Bodzin	remembers	David Shalom Bodzin
Josh Leuchter	remembers	Joel Leuchter
Rise Bausch	remembers	Beatrice Baumgarten

Photos of events in December Sisterhood's Chanukah party on December 19th















Our Daily Bread -Mitzvah

Throughout the year many of the Temple members offer their time and energy to help those less fortunate. During Chanukah when we lit the 2nd candle it was for Tzedakah meaning justice. This year because our schedule landed on December 25 and 26, (the first and second day of Chanukah) we many new volunteers came and assist because they wanted to help, and for some, their work schedule allowed it. As we round the corner into the new year, think about not only how lucky we are, but how a helping hand can change someone's life. If you find the time and/or money to help, please do.

























The last weekend of December, the Temple members got to really enjoy Chanukah with a action packed weekend

Light up the Night Shabbat Chanukah

Friday, December 27th, everyone brought their favorite menorah from home, to light up the TBE Sanctuary. We had an amazing turnout of almost 100 people there to enjoy the Menorah lighting, and festive Chanukah service.



































Chanukah Morning Shabbat

Saturday morning, December 28th the celebration continued with a Chanukah themed Kiddush with latkes and jelly donuts. There was live music and a photo booth.





















Oneg Celebrations and other special moments



Happy Birthday Betty Klein

> Neil Clark frying his yearly donation of 100 latkes for Temple Beth El



Happy 70th Anniversary Roy and Ginger Manas





Happy Birthday Meg Weinberg





Tuesday, Jan. 7th 10:00am at the temple



RSVP to Mitch Mallet at mallettagency@gmail.com

Have a bagel or a nosh. Bring your favorite coffee or beverage

Guests interested in joining the temple may also attend.



All men of TBE are welcome!

COME HEAR THE MUSIC PLAY!

The Temple Beth El Sisterhood is sponsoring a truly extraordinary experience!

The entire TBE family is invited to watch and listen as renowned violinist,

Itzhak Perlman

works with the talented students participating in the Perlman Suncoast Winter Residency program as they prepare for their upcoming 'Celebration Concert'.

Enjoy his comments, humor and engagement with the students and audience at this incredibly special evening.

University of South Florida 8350 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota (behind the main building in the big tent)



Tuesday, January 7th 7:00-8:30 pm

RSVP HERE

Join Us for a Special Presentation Free Delicious Lunch Drawing for a Gourmet Gift Basket



Your life. Your Legacy.

Plan to make it right.

- · Discover 4 simple steps to planning your final arrangements
- · Bring peace of mind to yourself and your family
- · Refreshments, conversation, door prizes and helpful advice

Sunday, Jan. 12 - 10:00 am

Hosted by Robert Toale & Sons Celebration of Life Center Located at 4310 Solutions Lane, Bradenton, FL 34211

Please contact Jewish Liaison Gerry Ronkin with questions at: (941) 809-5195 or geraldronkin@gmail.com



RSVP Required CLICK HERE



Come see your temple friends at the LWR Farmer's Market at "Waterside"

Sunday, Jan. 19th 10am - 2pm



Over 100 vendors! Grab a knish or a bagel, shop, eat, visit.
Bring the dog! Stop by the TBE table!







Join us for:



SUNDAY, JAN. 19
5:00PM (Trivia starts at 6) 4

3 KEYS BREWING 2505 Manatee Ave E, Bradenton

order off the menu- dinner- snacks- drinks

Contact Christina for more info christina.mcintyre@myyahoo.com or 727-612-5824

JOIN US!

4th THURSDAY of each month

Serving Meals at Our Daily Bread



NEXT DATE:
JANUARY 23
9:30AM-11:30AM

Our Daily Bread's mission is to 'feed the hungry'...to provide for the nutritional needs of the poor and the needy of our community. It is a soup kitchen for those individuals and families with food insecurity in the Bradenton area.

701 18th Ave W. Bradenton

Contact Ken Handelman for more info: kmhande63@ymail.com

RSVP Required CLICK HERE

You are Invited to the TBE MEN'S CLUB SHABBAT



FRIDAY, JAN. 24, 2025 - 7:00PM

Join us for a very special Shabbat evening service as the Temple Beth El Men's Club welcomes the Shabbat by officiating much of the service!

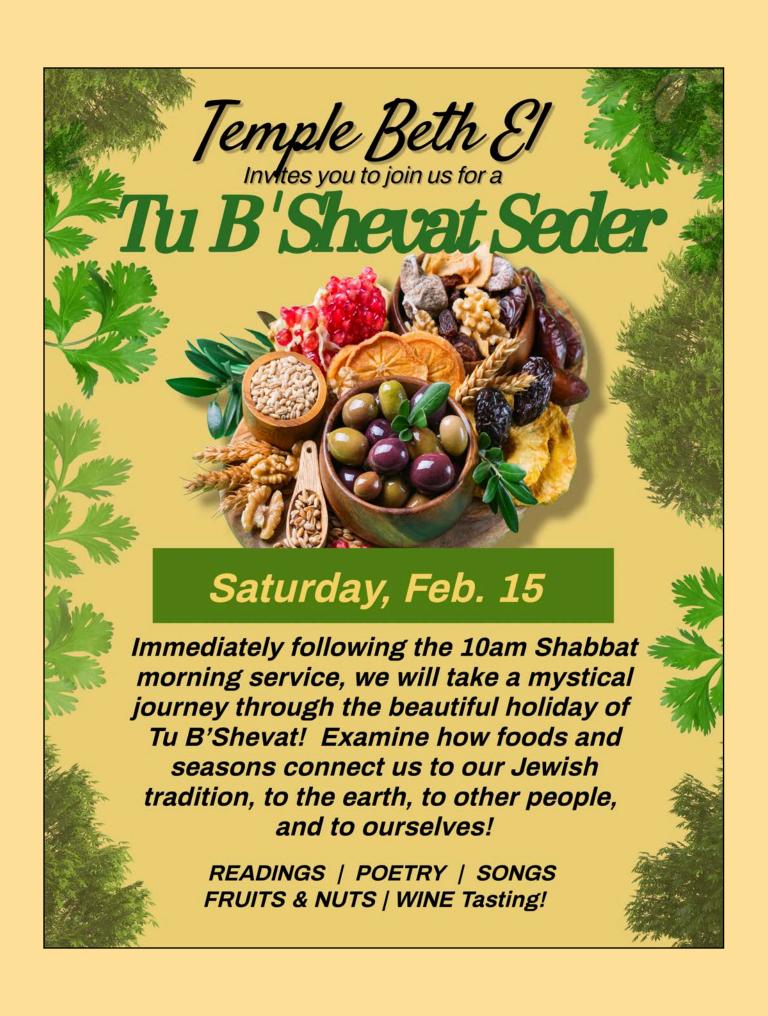


Shabbat Shirah!

This Shabbat we will be celebrating Shabbat Shirah, the Sabbath of Song. This is a very special moment in the Torah and a very musical moment in Jewish biblical history.

We will highlight this Shabbat by creating a service brimming with extraordinary music to celebrate Moses and Miriam leading the Israelites across the Sea of Reeds (The Red Sea) and out of Egypt.

Friday 7pm
Saturday 10am
at Temple Beth El







SHABBAT SCHOOL!



Saturday Mornings 9:30-12:00

A DIFFERENT KIND OF LEARNING

Where your children will learn core Jewish values, study the holidays, actively participate in the Shabbat service and have fun!



For more information, contact:
REB TUVIAH AT REBTUVIAH@GMAIL.COM

Scholarships available

Religious School - A New Way, An Exciting Way!





Our religious school, called "Shabbat School" happens every Saturday morning beginning at 9:30am. The students are included in the true celebration of Judaism. They become a part of their religion in a meaningful, practicing way, participating alongside their parents and/or grandparents and the rest of the congregants. This is the way learning was meant to be.



If you know of anyone interested in "Shabbat School" for their children, please have them contact Rabbi Tuviah.

If you would like more information, including Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparations and how to enroll, contact Rabbi Tuviah at rebtuviah@gmail.com

Learn More







An Easy Way to Donate to TBE

Most of use have a dish where we collect coins that fell into our pockets or purses. Please consider donating them to the Temple's "Pushki Fund." One hundred percent of the coins donated will go to the Temple's general fund and help us fund on-going operations. We will acknowledge your donation by letter and, if you itemize deductions, you can use the amount to lower your tax bill. Just put the coins into a sturdy plastic bag along with a note with your name and address. Leave the bag on the Temple's desk in the office the next time you come to services. We'll take it from there.

Ira Kramer, Treasurer 908-723-4078 treasurer@bethel-fl.org





Please consider Temple Beth El in your Trust or Will stating a gift is to be made upon your passing. Your legacy gift will help ensure that Temple Beth El's 50-year history will serve the community for generations to come.

Aside from the tax incentives, there is no greater gift than leaving a lasting memory. Your gift can be a monetary gift, a piece of property, or a valuable or collectible item that might be relevant to your faith in G-d. And just as importantly, your gift might inspire others to give back as well.

The synagogue can purchase burial plots in the "Gardens of Abraham" section of the Skyway cemetery and pass the savings on to our members.

Our Treasurer, Ira Kramer is taking names of those who might be interested.

Contact him for more information treasurer@bethel-fl.org or 908-723-4078



Donations

Help us in supporting Israel. <u>DONATE TO ISRAEL HERE</u> Please help support our efforts to provide Israel with funds for much-needed medical supplies and services. Our homeland is under attack, and we must be as helpful as possible.

Future Expansion Fund Anonymous Donors Rise Bausch

Thank you for your donation!

In Honor Of

Elaine Mittler IHO Marlena Johnsky Karen Knoell IHO Cole + Lily (grandchildren)

Yahrzeit/In Memory Of

Bruce Prince IMO Earl H Prince
Robyn Spirtas IMO Michael Gregory Roesser
Jeff Schneiderman IMO Dorothy Schneiderman
Ron and Robin Padelford IMO Robert
Celia Stickler IMO Blanche Strickler
Celia Stickler IMO Nathaniel Strickler
Celia Stickler IMO Penelope Maguffin
Joel and Cathy Auerbach IMO Bernice Ottmer
Robyn and Neil Spirtas IMO Bernice Ottmer



Security Fund

A very big thank you to the many people who donated to the security fund this month, your donations are always appreciated!

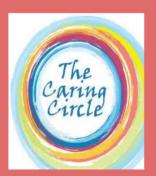


DONATE

Thank you to all of our generous donors. Your gift helps keep Reform Judaism alive in Manatee County. There are many ways and reasons to make a donation to TBE.

We Care! TBE's Caring Circle

If you, or someone you know is ill, had a fall, was in an accident, or has other needs, we are here for you!



The mission of TBE's Caring Circle is to support any member who may be in need. If you or someone you know needs our help, reach out to us! As a family at Temple Beth El, we care about you and your loved ones!

Please notify the temple office with your name or the name and contact information of any TBE member in need. With your consent, we will also include you/them in our Mi Shebeirach Prayers each week.

Go to bethel-fl.org or call the office 941-755-4900

Click here to make a prayer request

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- Emergency Appointments New Patient 40+ Years of Experience Botox and F Non-surgical Skin Cancer Treatment - Botox and Fillers

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Bradenton Dermatology & Laser Center

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www.mybradentondermatology.com



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Learn More



Respecting Holiness in Our Gathering Place

The TBE Sanctuary is a special place where we go for spiritual connection, reflection, and prayer. We ask that during services, congregants refrain from wearing tank tops, spaghetti straps, mini-skirts, shorts, or t-shirts. Please turn your cell phone off or place it on vibrate and refrain from social conversations once the service has begun.

TREE OF LIFE!

Leaves are available on the Tree of Life in the temple lobby. Have your leaf custom engraved to honor a loved one for \$100. Call the temple office for details. 941-755-4900





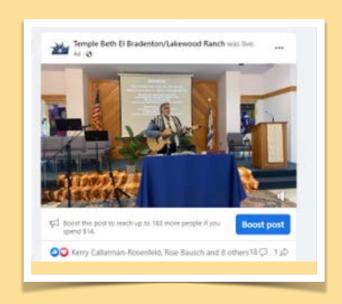
Do you have a facebook page? Have you "liked" TBE's page? Go to our <u>FaceBook page</u> and hit "like". Keep up with everything going on at the Shul. Also, consider joining the "Jewish Community of Manatee" on facebook too. We can comment and support each other there.

For questions about using Facebook, contact Robyn Spirtas



And follow us on Instagram: @tbemanatee

Watch live services or see a past service.... Go to www.facebook.com/tbebradenton



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