

Congregation B'nai Torah - Celebrating Over 25 Years Together

TORAH TIMES

February 2026

14 Shevat—11 Adar

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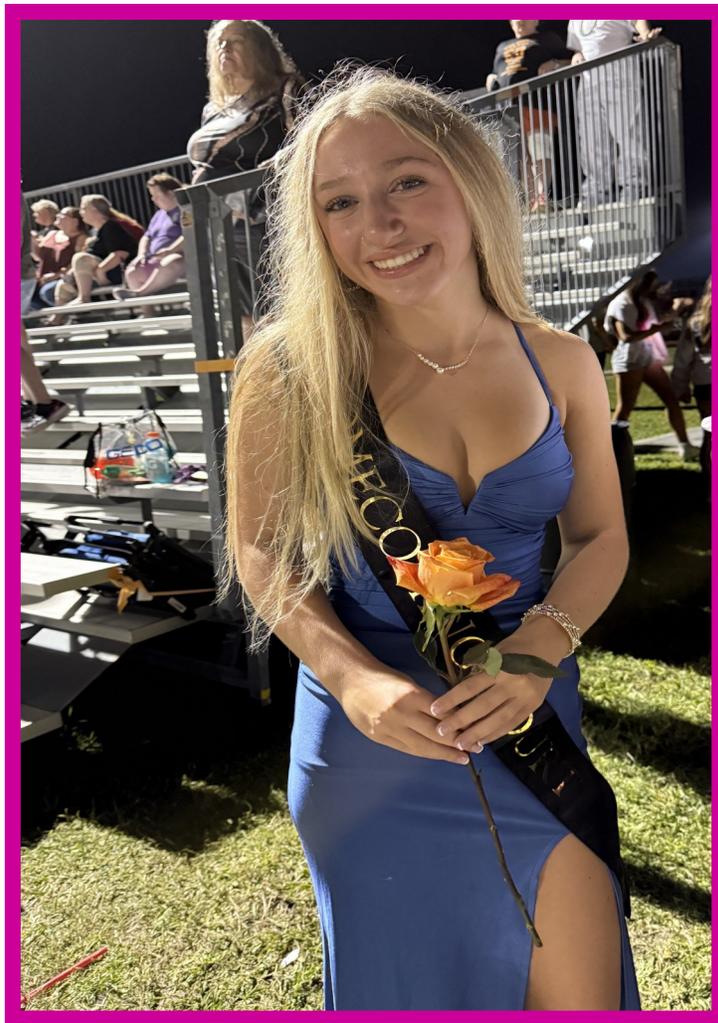
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FEBRUARY



**Tu Bishvat begins at sundown on February 1st
and ends sundown on February 2nd**

**CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR
BAT MITZVAH LAURA**



LAURA YOUNGBLOOD

A Message From Rabbi Kane



What do we know? What can we predict? What do we believe?

What we know is that preparing is better than wishful thinking or fearful shouting.

We can predict some things, but mostly our predictions are wrong. That's why a correct prediction, like a recession, a hurricane, or a relationship which succeeds or fails always gets some attention. Also, through the magic of faulty memories, our predictions become more accurate in retrospect (That's what I thought would happen.)

This is why what we believe is so critical. The stories of King Solomon often involve the lesson of "This too shall pass." The lesson appears to be "don't get carried away". If things are awesome, remember that they probably won't stay that way. If things are terrible, remember that they probably won't stay that way.

Although the roots of these stories are Jewish and the evidence of our lives reinforces the idea that nothing stays the same, the idea that our lives are just a series of chaotic or calm episodes is misguided. We are not small sailboats tossed among the waves or resting in the calm.

The secret here is not that triumph and/or disaster are short lived. Rather, Judaism wants us to see opportunity in both.

Prosperity in Judaism has many measures. Of course there is the financial kind. But in addition to the extra resources, we can also have extra time, extra skills...extra compassion. So we may not all be millionaires, but we can cook an extra portion for a neighbor, recognize a volunteer's kindness, be a mentor to a young person or many other positive uses of our gifts.

Lack of prosperity is also unique in Judaism. In fact, it is more about balancing our resources. If we chase money or power so fiercely that we have no Shabbat, no opportunity to recognize the sources of joy, love and creativity within and around us, then what is life for us?

On the other hand if we spend all of our time meditating on the meaning of life without attending to our own basic needs and responsibilities, then what is life for us?

We often are trading in an immense barter system involving time, the holiest thing in our lives. While modern management theories may tell us that we can do two things at once, the urging of ancient wisdom is to do each thing well.

We often pray that God accepts how we have spent our time.

It's inevitable.

Time well spent is a life well lived. All of us, too, shall pass.

Rabbi S. David Kane

P.S. Don't forget all Friday night services are at 6:00 PM during February!



The Presidents' Message



Dear Fellow Congregants and Rabbi Kane,

What a month for the CBT Family!

Shalom School began its semester at CBT with a fabulous effort by Valerie Kisseloff and the entire education team.

This is being written while the Kitchen Angels are preparing a magnificent feast for Laura Youngblood's Bat Mitzvah.

The Men's Club made their annual pilgrimage to the Bunnell Shooting Range and as always Naomi Beggelman hosted them with a fabulous feast, safety training and target practice.

The Board of Directors formed a Nominating Committee for next year's Officers and Directors. Please reach out if you are interested.

Thanks to all of our volunteers and donors! You are the pride and joy of our CBT Family.

Looking forward to seeing you at services.

With compassion, mercy, intent, and love, wishing your health and prosperity.

P.S. Mazel Tov to the Youngblood family and to Laura

Howard, President of Congregation B'nai Torah
HowardHeyHeyAyin1@gmail.com 386-886-2343

Congregation B'nai Torah Religious School Report

By Valerie Kisseloff



CBT Religious School Updates

As we turn the calendar to February, we can reflect on the learning, laughter, and meaningful moments our Congregation B'nai Torah families shared throughout January. We kicked off the New Year with Kid & Tot Shabbat, and once again, many of our students helped Rabbi Kane lead Friday night services.

This was an exciting month as we officially began hosting Shalom School classes at Congregation B'nai Torah. Our religious school building and sanctuary came to life with students from CBT and Temple Beth El. Many thanks to our CBT team, especially Howard Silverstein, Alan & Jared Kisseloff, and Ira Freedman, who helped direct parents and ensure our safety team was in place. And a big thanks to all our religious school parents who helped ensure the day was a success from start to finish!

Meanwhile, our students embarked on an exciting journey to Israel without ever leaving the building! Thanks to Rabbi Kane, students took a deep dive into Israel's geography using a giant map spread across the sanctuary, bringing the land of Israel to life in a truly unforgettable way. Students learned about products made in Israel, exploring lotions, soaps, date honey, and beautiful crafts created by Israeli artisans. Laura Ashkenazi also brought in figurines for our students to learn more about important individuals in Israeli history. To top it all off, they made their own blue-and-white keychains, proudly showing their love and connection to Israel.

At our next Shalom School, students focused on the Jewish value of Chesed - **loving kindness**. They learned that even the smallest acts can make a big difference and help build a caring, compassionate community. Putting this value into action, students lovingly handmade cards that will be sent to **Creative Kindness**, an organization that delivers cards to medical centers, retirement homes, and children's shelters. Some of these heartfelt cards will also stay close to home, as Rabbi Kane shares them with members of our own community during visits.

Our Shalom School Youth Group also had an action-packed January, meeting up at Urban Air for an afternoon of jumping, go-carting, rock climbing, followed, of course, by pizza! It was wonderful to see our teens bonding, having fun, and strengthening their connections with one another.

We close out the month with tremendous pride as our congregation comes together to celebrate Laura Youngblood, who will be called to the Torah for her Bat Mitzvah at the very end of January. Laura's dedication and hard work are inspiring, especially as she balances her rigorous high school coursework and competing in her school's weightlifting competitions. Mazel Tov, Laura! We are so proud of you and honored to celebrate this meaningful milestone with you and your family!

Thank you to all our families, students, and educators for making January such a vibrant and meaningful month. We have lots of exciting events to look forward to this Spring!

Save the Date for these upcoming events (all hosted at CBT):

Fri,	Feb. 6	6:00pm	Kid & Tot Shabbat
Sun,	Feb. 8	9:00am	Shalom School
Sun,	Feb. 15	11:00am	Youth Group Purim Prep
Sun,	Feb. 22	9:00am	Shalom School

-Val Kisseloff

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Shalom School & CBT Parent Info

♥ A Heart-Filled February at CBT ♥

February Happenings

We had a GREAT kickoff event at Congregation B'nai Torah! We have more fun ahead in February with two Shalom School dates and a youth group event.

Quick reminder...It's great to send your kiddos to Shalom School with refillable water bottles and Tzedakah money!

Shalom School Dates

Sun. Feb 8th

Sun. Feb 22nd

All activities will be hosted at Congregation B'nai Torah unless otherwise noted

Kid & Tot Shabbat

Fri. Feb 6th

Begins promptly at 6pm followed by services at 7pm

Coming Soon! Purim Carnival

Sun. Mar 1st @ Temple Beth El

The annual Purim Carnival will be hosted at TBE. Our youth group students will meet in February to help prepare carnival games!

Questions?

Contact Val Kisseloff at 386.871.0214

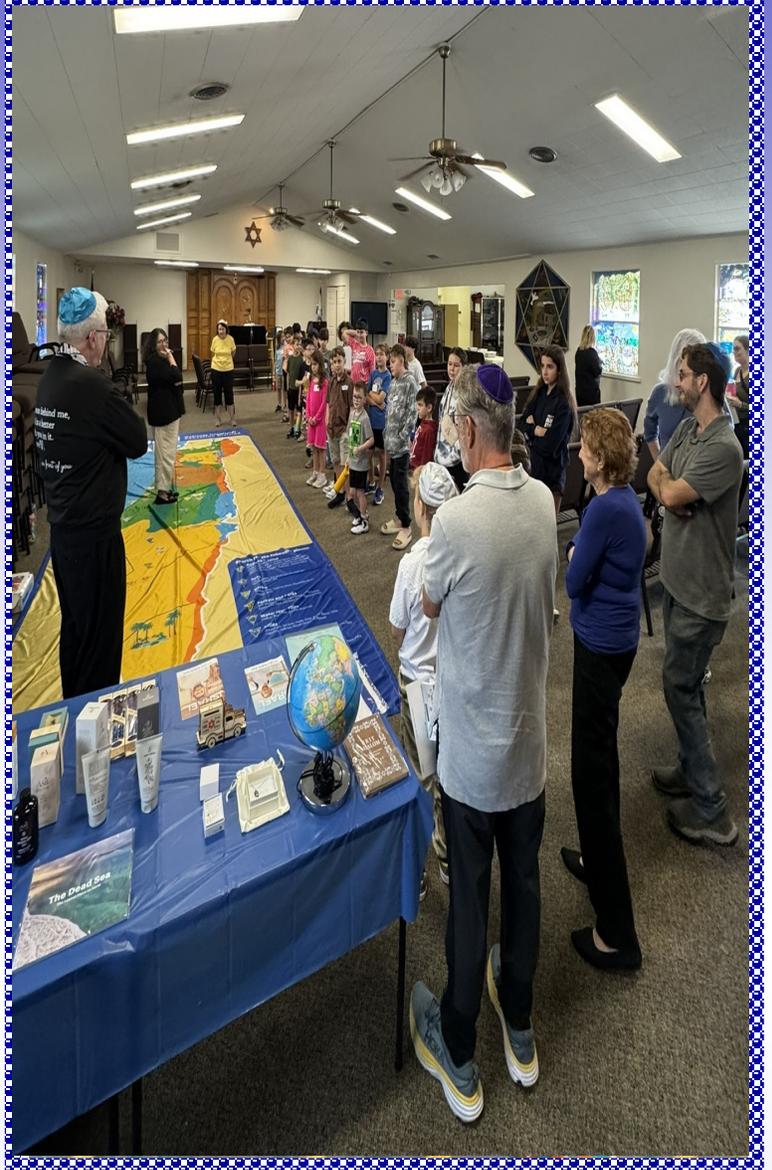
Shalom School





URBAN AIR OUTING





Learning The Map of Israel



Sisterhood in the News

Dear CBT Congregants and Sisterhood,

Greetings from the Mediterranean Sea! I hope you are enjoying the weather in Florida. I am enjoying visiting new destinations and seeing the sights here.

Our next Sisterhood meeting will be on **February 18th at 7 pm on Zoom.**

Sisterhood will be going to Dancing with the Stars Live at Peabody Auditorium on March 25th at 7:30 pm. Please purchase your tickets directly from the venue or ticket agent. **Please rsvp to Barbara Bailen 914-420-3183.** Plans for dinner before show will be forthcoming.

Sisterhood is planning to assemble a cookbook in “pdf” format as a fundraiser. Please select a favorite family recipe for submission.

We need a chairperson or 2 co-chairs for the annual yearbook project. This is our largest and most important fundraising project.

We are discussing some new social events, possibly crafting at a local studio. If you have any suggestions, please contact me.

It is not too late to join Sisterhood. We have 40 members with a goal of 50. If you have any ideas for Sisterhood social activities, please share those ideas! We would like to plan some fun and interesting activities! If you prefer evening or weekend events, please let us know.

I look forward to meeting those I haven’t and to seeing all of you!

CBT Sisterhood Board of Directors;

- President..... Eileen Surrey
- Vice President Barbara Kusnick
- Vice–President Programing..... Netta Weiner
- Vice -President Fundraising..... Sema Friedman
- Secretary..... Laura Ashkenazi
- TreasurerLea Moskowitz
- Membership Chair Marcia Bergman

Eileen Surrey, President 386-236-9939

[Download the CBT Sisterhood Membership Application](#)

[HERE](#)



MEN'S CLUB®

By Ken Haberman

January was a cold month, but the cooler weather was perfect for our Brunch & Shoot at the outdoor shooting range in Bunnell. We met Sunday, January 18th for a delicious brunch, gun safety by Naomi Beggelman, and time on the range. The baked homemade French Toast that Naomi made was to die for! We had attendees representing CBT, Temple Beth-El, and Temple Beth Shalom of Palm Coast.

The Federation of Jewish Men's Club, Florida Region, is planning a Shabbaton Retreat Weekend for Friday, February 20 to Sunday, February 22, hosted by Temple Beth Shalom in Palm Coast. Jay Givarz of TBS is the primary planner and our own Mark Givarz also lends his excellent organizational skills. Please see the flyer for more information. We look forward to a great weekend with Men's Club members from all over the state, and also guest speakers from California and Pennsylvania.

Super Bowl Squares is coming up, your opportunity to win some money and have fun. Please reach out to Mark Givarz, Past President, at cbtobmensclub@gmail.com to let him know you want to participate. Mark will reply with payment instructions and other information. (You can pay by Zelle, Venmo, or drop off a check to the Synagogue office.) Cost is \$20 per square. See flyer for more info!

We would love to have you join us in the CBT Men's Club. Dues are only \$36 a year! We currently have 18 members and a lot of fun events.

CBT Men's Club Officers:

President: Ken Haberman

Past President: Mark Givarz

Vice-President: Mike Keenum

Treasurer: Jerry Leibman

Secretary: Doug McEwen

Any questions or comments, please contact me.

Thank you,

Ken Haberman, CBT's Men's Club President

386-679-2320, kchaberman@hotmail.com

Please visit our Men's Club page on the CBT website:

<https://mybnaitorah.org/mens-club/>



SUPER BOWL SQUARES 101



VS



How does Super Bowl Squares work? It's simple. Mark Givarz is our point of contact for this randomized numbers game in a fun way to win money and support the CBT Men's Club.

We'll draw a 10x10 grid (One axis represents the last digit of the AFC team's score, and the other axis represents the last digit of the NFC team's score - the 2 axes will be randomly assigned.)

Participants buy random squares in the grid. Each square represents a unique combination of final score digits. Each square costs \$20. We will randomly assign your square(s).

Next, we'll randomly assign numbers (0-9) to each row and column after all squares are sold. This keeps the game fair and prevents people from choosing the "best" numbers.

At the end of each quarter, look at the last digit of each team's score, find the intersection of these digits on the grid to determine the winning square. The person whose name is in the winning square wins a prize for that quarter!

Example: If the score at the end of the first quarter is AFC 14 and NFC 7, you look at the column labeled "4" and the row labeled "7". The person who bought that square wins the prize for the first quarter.

Mark will email all participants the final Squares sheet by 4 pm on Sunday, Feb 8.

Prizes

1st Quarter Winner 10% of proceeds (i.e. \$200 if sold out)

Halftime Winner 10% of proceeds (i.e. \$200 if sold out)

3rd Quarter Winner 10% of proceeds (i.e. \$200 if sold out)

Final Score Winner 20% of proceeds (i.e. \$400 if sold out)

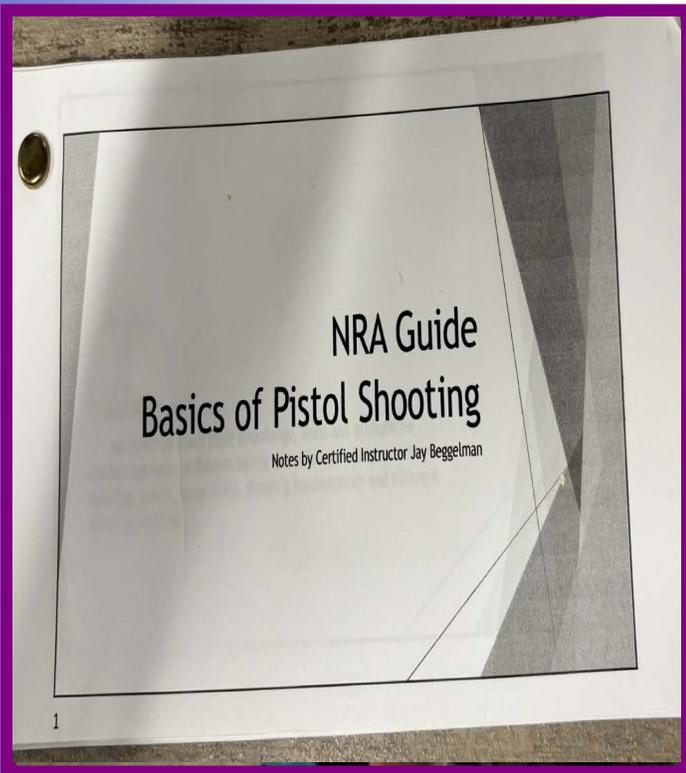
Contribution to CBT Men's Club 50% of proceeds (i.e. \$1000 if sold out)

Please reach out to Mark Givarz, Past President, at cbtobmensclub@gmail.com to let him know you want to participate. Mark will reply with payment instructions and other information. (You can pay by Zelle, Venmo, or drop off a check to the Synagogue office.)

Cost is \$20 per square. Maximum of 100 squares to be sold. Maximum of 10 squares per buyer, in order to give everyone a chance to participate. (This may be waived in the last few weeks, if needed).

All Monies are Due & Received by 5:00 pm, Friday, February 6, 2026. FIRM!

Brunch & Shoot





More Brunch & Shoot



Ken's on Target!





What: Florida FJMC Region Shabbaton Retreat

Where: Temple Beth Shalom - 40 Wellington Drive, Palm Coast, FL 32164

When: Friday, February 20th through Sunday, February 22nd.

Costs: Registration Cost: \$118 to include catering and retreat expenses.

Registration Link: [Register Here:](#)

Housing: Hilton Garden Inn 55 Town Center Blvd, Palm Coast, FL 32164

Phone Number: 386-586-2463

For those staying at the Hilton Garden Inn, specify that the Special group rate of \$179.00 is listed **under "FJMC."** Ask for the manager.

Home Hospitality Available upon request

Payment: Zelle \$118 to: tbsmensclub@att.net or mail check to TBS Men's Club

Highlights Include: Optional Golfing Outing on Friday morning
Health and Fitness Special Guest – Artie Gardella
Meet fellow Men's Club / Brotherhood Members from across Florida
Florida Region and International FJMC Leaders will present
Discussions on current topics relevant to our Jewish Community
Fantastic Kosher Food
Learn leadership / programming skills to take back to your club.

For more information on Florida Region and to register go to:

<https://floridaregionfjmc.org/>





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MENSCH OF THE MONTH

By our Congregant Ray Leonard

February “Mensch’s of the Month” Semareva Friedman

Congregation B’nai Torah’s February’s “Mensch of the Month” Semareva Friedman has lived a life full of giving and service; to her family, our congregation, and our Jewish heritage. We have been incredibly fortunate to count her as one of our Congregants. Despite a life that has seen more than the usual share of challenges, she has remained resilient and hopeful for the future.

Semareva’s maternal grandparents began their lifelong love affair at an early age. After a very young marriage, they fled czarist Russia buried in a hay covered wagon shortly after the pogrom of 1905 with only the clothing on their backs and a golden candlestick. Arriving in America through Ellis Island, her grandfather opened a bakery in New Haven where they raised seven children. Because the parents spoke little English, the children played a major role in running the business. Semareva’s mother went to college and learned to be a bookkeeper. However, she then opened a beauty parlor. When she married, her husband ran a nightclub. Semareva was the oldest grandchild. The extended family all lived in one building with the businesses located clustered around each other. She remembers growing up surrounded by family.

When World War 2 started, her father closed the nightclub and began working in a factory making ammunition. They moved to the suburbs, where her two younger sisters were born. Semareva remembers a happy childhood in a predominantly Jewish neighborhood, with a close family. She loved to read and draw and dreamed of eventually becoming a painter or architect. In high school, she was the President of the B’Nai Brith Girls.

Shortly after graduating from high school, Semareva met her future husband, Jack. After marriage they moved to Brooklyn and then Rockland, and their family grew with the birth of their three daughters. While Jack was pursuing a career in “shmatsa” (fabrics) with Klottman Mills, Semareva became involved in community and service to others. She concentrated her efforts with the organization Women’s American ORT. This organization, founded in 1880 is renowned for empowering women and girls and supporting Jewish values. At that time, it was particularly focused on supporting the devastated European Jewish survivors. At the same time, Semareva got an Associate Degree in bookkeeping at Community College and continued her painting lessons.

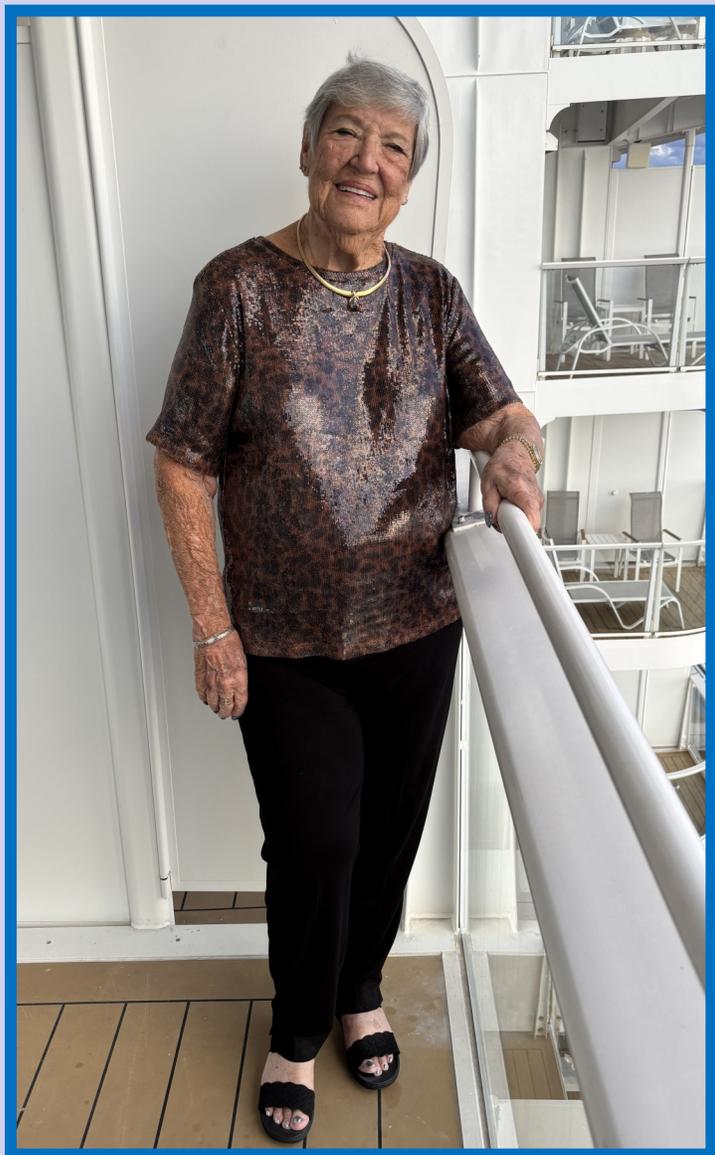
As the children grew up, Semareva and Jack decided on a new course. In 1969, they bought a Hallmark Card and Gift Shop in New Jersey and ran it together, with Semareva keeping the books. In 1982, however, they decided to move south to Port Orange, Florida. Semareva continued to use her bookkeeping skills, first at Bealls, then at a clinical lab. In 1989, she turned to help her daughters as caretaker for her grandchildren. Sadly, in 1995, Jack became ill with cancer and passed away in 2000.

Sema began a new phase in her life, moving to Daytona in 2000 and joining our Congregation B'nai Torah later that year. She also became deeply involved in Hadassah, serving as President for three years and discovered her special talents for fundraising. She became a vital member of our congregation serving as President of the Sisterhood. Her fundraising efforts have played a major role in the continuation of our congregation for these 25 years. She is affectionately known as the "Mah Jongg lady," running the tournament for ten consecutive years. In all this time, she has never stopped her painting lessons and has continued to produce beautiful artwork.

Semareva has experienced further personal loss; she remarried to Alvin in 2014 and he passed away in 2020. She lost her youngest daughter in 2020 and middle daughter in 2023. She is close to her oldest daughter and her five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, especially since she played such a major role in raising her grandchildren.

Her grandparent's family came from Orthodox Judaism. Semareva's parents were not deeply religious, but traditions and holidays were important, and she has worked hard to show the younger generation of her own family the meaning and heritage of our religion.

To end on a happy note, on June 5th, 2025, Sema got a call from George Selis inviting her to lunch and a deep friendship has grown. Good things happen to good people.



Sema's Lovely Painting



Yahrzeit Donations



Larry Silverstein by Howard Silverstein
Gladys Schankerman by Irma Sue Stofsky
Isaac Reed by Irma Sue Stofsky
Shimon Ravede by Joan Ravede
Lewis Abel by Irv Abel
Alan Josephson by Linda Holbert
Leon Frenkel by Monica Frey
Leland Beck by Charles Beck
Jay (Judah) Weiner by Netta Weiner
Sidney (Zisha) Weiner by Netta Weiner

Funeral Services for Maria Kaufman will be held in New Jersey on the weekend of February 6th, 7th & 8th.

There will be a local Memorial Service on Tuesday, February 17th at Congregation B'nai Torah, 403 N. Nova Rd., Ormond Beach at 7:00 P.M.

The Kaufman family encourages donations in Maria's memory to either Congregation B'nai Torah (www.mybnaitorah.org) or to the Jewish Federation's Jerry Doliner Food Bank.

Thank You for Your Donations to The Rabbi Fund

Martha & Eric Liebman & Family

Would you like to perform a mitzvah??

Our Chevra Kadisha (Jewish Burial Society) is a group of men and women who participate in the mitzvah of caring respectfully for the deceased according to centuries-old Jewish rituals and traditions. Caring for the holy remains is considered a very special mitzvah, one of the most sacred tasks in Judaism, and being a part of the Chevra Kadisha is a blessing for both those who perform it and those who receive it. Please consider this as an invitation and, if you would like to be a part of this holy society, please call:

Men call Charlie Moskowitz 386-871-0427 Women call Sue Abel 386-846-0431

FEBRUARY



Happy Birthday



- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Sema Friedman | 16 | Dr. Thomas Berger |
| 3 | Amara Freedman | 16 | Dr Richard Rhodes |
| 9 | Dr. Marianna Machacek | 19 | Dr. Barry Kusnick |
| 10 | Charles Moskowitz | 21 | Harry Lasris |
| 10 | Annette Ashkenazi | 22 | Netta Weiner |
| 13 | Alan Sens | 23 | Gail Cohen |
| 13 | Daniel Yfrah | 24 | Lorna Ravede |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 10 | Alicia & Neil Tomkin | 23 | Lea & Charles Moskowitz |
| 11 | Valerie & Rabbi Kane | | |

EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION

Many thanks to Valerie Kisseloff & all of the “helper” Kisseloff’s for getting us ready to host Shalom School this semester.

We appreciate Naomi Beggelman and her Bunnell Shooting Range for hosting “Brunch & Shoot”. Rumor has it that her “French Toast” is so good that some people just come for the Brunch.

Did you know the Zimmermann’s are a teaching couple? Channah teaches everyone in Torah while Joe makes sure the teenagers know how to cook & bake around the kitchen Jewish style.

Thanks to Doug McEwen for leading the Tu B’Shevat tree planting.

Rosh Chodesh Adar begins at sundown on Monday, February 16th and ends at nightfall on Wednesday, February 18th.

BE A CBT MITZVAH MAVEN!

Have an extra hour (or two)? Volunteer!!!

We have several homebound congregants who have found a visit from a CBT Family Member is one of the best ways to bring a smile to their faces.

Interested in spreading some sunshine?

Contact Valerie Kane, our interim Chair of the Visiting Committee at 386-871-9909. You can help assist the elderly members of our congregational family. So please consider joining us with this important mitzvah!

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

Sharing a link to AJC's website:

**Resource for reporting Antisemitism to Federal Agencies, Law Enforcement, and Social Media Guidance
(<https://www.ajc.org/ReportingAntisemitism>)**

SPREAD THE NEWS

Friday night services begin at 6:00 PM through the month of February.

The Kane's will be celebrating their 20th Wedding Anniversary on a short cruise.

Jewish Federation is now hosting a monthly Bagel, Nosh & Schmooze every second Thursday of the month, starting Thursday, February 12th at 9:30 AM.

Some members of Sisterhood & Hadassah attended a cooking class at the Library which was very enjoyable and had a nice turnout, organized by Netta Weiner.



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 Sat. 9:00 a.m. - Noon

MEMORIAL BOARD

The Sanctuary of Congregation B'nai Torah houses impressive memorial boards.

Memorial plaques with the names of our dearly departed loved ones adorn the boards. A brass memorial plaque with the name of your departed loved one inscribed thereon can be added to the Memorial Board for a donation of **\$350.**

J. Richard Rhodes, MD
 Orthopaedic Surgeon
 UF Health Orthopaedics - Medical Center of Deltona
 University of Florida



386.457.6384 (O)
 386.457.6385 (F)
UFHealth.org
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 Deltona, FL 32725

TREE OF LIFE

The Sanctuary of Congregation B'nai Torah houses an impressive Tree of Life, donated by Dr. & Mrs. Richard Rhodes. Stylized "Leaves" or "Foundation Stones" celebrate any occasion and will be engraved with the name of the celebrated person(s) and any other appropriate information. A leaf can be added for a donation of **\$118.** For extra special occasions, a limited number of "Foundation Stones" are available for a donation of **\$500.** Please call the office at **(386) 672-1174** if you would like more information about either the Memorial Board or the Tree of Life.



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FEBRUARY

Upcoming Events

Shabbat services start at 7:00 PM each Friday

RESERVE THESE DATES

CBT REGULAR OFFICE HOURS Mon—Fri 9:00 AM—1:00 PM

Mon	Feb	2/3		CBT OFFICE CLOSED
Tue	Feb	3,10,17,24	7:00 PM	Bible Study with Rabbi Merrill Shapiro
Fri	Feb	6	6:00 PM	Kid & Tot Shabbat
Sun	Feb	8	9:00 AM	Shalom School at CBT
Mon	Feb	9	7:00 PM	CBT Board Meeting In Person at CBT
Thu	Feb	12	9:30 AM	Bagel Nosh & Schmooze, Jewish Cultural Center
Wed	Feb	18	7:00 PM	Sisterhood Meeting on ZOOM
Fri	Feb	20/22		Men's Club, FJMC Shabbaton Retreat, Palm Coast
Sun	Feb	22	9:00 AM	Shalom School at CBT

Officers and Trustees

President: Howard Silverstein
Vice President: Mark Givarz
Treasurer: Barbara Singer
Secretary: Rebekah Jamieson-Keenum
Trustees: Sherry Armstrong, Larry Cooperman, Semareva Friedman, Harriet Fritts, Ken Haberman, Alan Kisseloff, Eneida Kwetkus, Charlie Moskowitz, Dawn Marie Mullins & MaryAnn Serkin
Religious School Chair: Valerie Kisseloff
Sisterhood: President, Eileen Surrey
Men's Club: President, Ken Haberman
Past Co-Presidents: Adrienne Cooperman & Robin Freedman

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