



Temple Beth El Israel 551 SW Bethany Drive Port St Lucie, FL 34986 phone 772-336-2424

December 2022 KISLEV / TEVET 2022 / 5783 Join us on Friday night, December 23rd as we celebrate Chanukah and light our outdoor Chanukiah at 6:30 p.m.



From the Desk of Rabbi Bruce Benson

December presents every year, an event known as the "December dilemma". Multiple faith communities and secular cultures celebrate winter "holidays", Chanukah, Christmas, New Year's Eve and more. Each of these represents a benchmark in the timeline of our lives and our ongoing human journey.

This year we need to take special notice of the way our world is turning and twisting towards more and more chaos. One of the stories on today's news was marking the 600th mass shooting event in the US this year! That equals just under 2 mass shootings a day in America. Our



nerves are frayed, and I hear today that the price of turkey for Thanksgiving is up 24% from last year.

But let us sit at the table for Chanukah and remember that Chanukah was an act of rededication, of creating and acting to create a reconstituted vision of who we were, who we could be and to provide us hope against challenging odds. This is a far greater miracle to be celebrated. The ability of mankind to reach new heights even when being pushed aside and down by circumstances seemingly out of control.

Let's get back to speaking with one another and finding the middle. The celebration of Chanukah is, in many ways, a shared vision, making room for lighting the candles either from right to left or left to right. (meaning the first candle up to the 8th candle having the miracle get brighter and stronger, or 8th to 1st showing the length of the miracle even as the light dims but proving the miracle sustained us. Either statement is strong and there is room for each of them.

What I love so much about Reform Judaism is it's relentless leaning to allow room for different viewpoints without villainizing an alternative vision. Let's remind ourselves of this during the celebration of Chanukah this year.

Watch for an announcement regarding a Shabbat film shown after services on December 17.

Let's turn Shabbat and the temple into a destination for a Shabbat experience and a day where we share a part of that weekly reoccurring holiday with our temple family.

Watch for expanding chances for engagement with your temple family. Judah and the Maccabees rebuilt the temple, they did it and their challenges were far more difficult than ours - and our hot dogs are way better!!

Rabbi B.

Rabbi Bruce Benson

President Michael Zeff

Vice President Faith Krumenacker

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Sisterhood Co-Presidents Evelyn Poulter & Eve Epstein Brotherhood President

Jeff Kreiss

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The President's Message.....

I look forward to seeing you at our December 3, semi-annual congregation meeting. The meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 pm.

At this meeting, we begin the process to determine the slate of officers and board members for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Serving on the Board is a privilege and a responsibility. It takes time, involvement in temple activities, and commitment but it is extremely rewarding.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the TBEI Board of Directors, as either an officer or trustee, please pick up an application from the temple office.

The Nominating Committee is looking for people who will show responsibility, commitment to the temple, and leadership qualities. Please consider sharing your talents with the temple.

I would like to wish each of you a very Happy Hannukah.

Michael Zeff President, TBEI



You're Invited!!!!

Join Rabbi Benson on Thursday mornings at 10 AM for our Torah Study Class on ZOOM

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Greetings Sisterhood ladies! Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

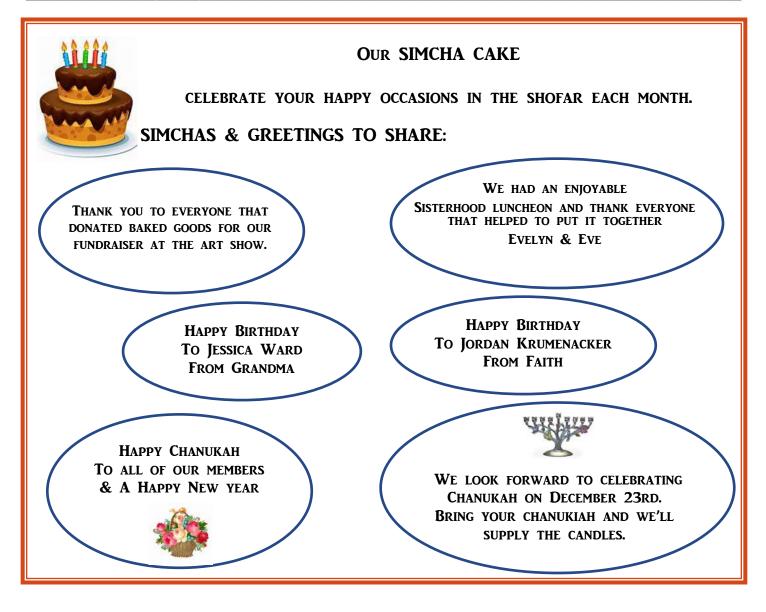
Our November meeting highlighted Jessica Ward's recent, very informative, Birthright trip to Israel. Thank you to Fran Cooper for arranging the luncheon and to Meta Thomas for providing our Simcha Cake.

We also thank everyone that donated baked goods to the Art Show fundraiser.

Our Oneg on December 2nd is sponsored by Faith & Evelyn to celebrate their Birthdays. We invite you to sponsor an Oneg - just call Evelyn or Eve to arrange it. And, on December 23rd we will be celebrating Chanukah.

Although it's early, we want you to think about being on the Sisterhood Board for the coming year.

Evelyn and Eve, Sisterhood Co-presidents



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BROTHERHOOD NEWS:

Dear Members,

On February 18, 2023, Brotherhood will be sponsoring a concert at TBEI entitled, "A Musical Evening" starring (our own crooner) Jeff Leiter accompanied on the sax by Ed Humphries.

The concert will feature music from the 'The Great American Song Book.' Showtime is from 7-8:30 pm to be followed by refreshments in the Social Hall.

Tickets are \$18 per person and can be purchased at the Temple Monday to Friday from 10 am to 1 pm. (Tickets may also be purchased online – more info to follow).

Plan now for an enjoyable evening of music from composers and singers that you know. Dancing is permitted (and encouraged).

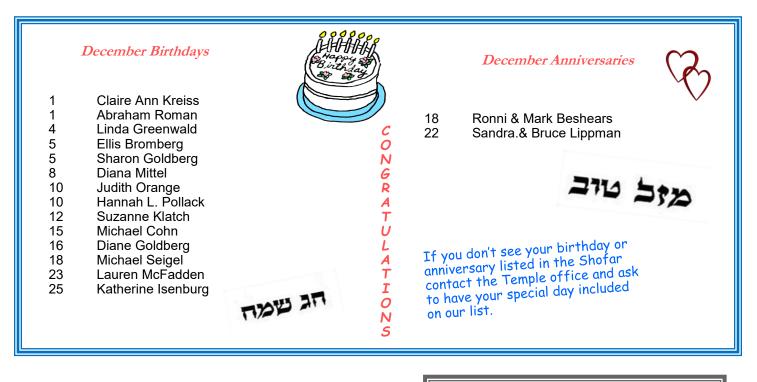
Jeff Kreiss, President



Life Cycle Events ~ Get Well Wishes and speedy recovery to:

Arno Cassel Marty Cohen Carol Seigel Ronni Winer Linda Chazin Linda Greshes Mark Stuart Marilyn Clopman John Schierbaum Michael Vesey Michael Zelinsky







IDA RUBIN BOOK OF LIFE

GET WELL WISHES AND SPEEDY RECOVERY TO LINDA CHAZIN: Doris Haendel

GET WELL WISHES AND SPEEDY RECOVERY TO MARILYN CLOPMAN: Doris Haendel



PLEASE CALL KAROL LEVINE TO SEND IDA RUBIN CARDS 240-285-3039

REMINDER

MASKS ARE OPTIONAL IN THE TEMPLE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

It will be our great honor to welcome Brigadier General David Mendelson, the son of our members Marvin and Judy Mendelson, to the Bima during our Shabbat evening service on December 30th.

Please make every effort to be here to share this moment with your temple family.



THE STAMP CORNER ~ ~ HANUKKAH: CHILDREN CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY
by Ellis Bromberg

Among all Jewish holidays, Hanukkah is a particular favorite of children, and this month's featured stamp, issued in 2014 by Israel, is among only a few that illustrate the participation of young people in the celebration.

Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabees, a family of Jewish patriots, over Greek-Syrian oppressors in 164 B.C.E. The rebellion broke out after the regional king, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, enforced edicts nullifying religious practices of people under his rule. Jews were forbidden to keep Shabbat, the Temple in Jerusalem was desecrated by idol worship, and Jewish rituals previously conducted there were halted.

But after a number of battles led by Judah Maccabee, Jerusalem was liberated. The Babylon Talmud (Tractate Shabbat 21b) tells us that after recapturing the Temple, the priests searched for pure oil with which to light the only menorah that had not been rendered impure by the Greek-Syrians. They discovered enough for just one day, but miraculously the oil burned for eight days until more could be brought.

Because of that, Hanukkah is celebrated for eight nights and days, and a nine-branched menorah, known as a hanukkiah (eight candles for the eight days, and a ninth candle -- the shammes -- to light the other eight), is a centerpiece of the holiday. The stamp shows a boy, wearing a kippah, and a girl admiring a fully-lit hanukkiah emblazoned with a Magen David on the eighth and final night of the holiday.

During Hanukkah, it is also customary to eat foods fried or baked in oil, preferably olive oil, to commemorate the miracle. One traditional deep-fried sweet is a jelly-filled donut known as a *sufganiyah;* a bowl of the donuts, topped with powdered sugar, is shown on the tab (the label attached to the bottom of the stamp). Bakeries in Israel have popularized many new types of filling for them besides the traditional strawberry jam, including chocolate cream, vanilla cream, caramel, and cappuccino.

The colorful stamp and its tab also illustrations include of several dreidels, the four-sided spinning top that is used in a game popular with children during the holiday. For the Jewish people, Hanukkah symbolizes the victory of good over evil and justice over injustice. And for children, there are many holiday traditions that are fun as well as meaningful. This year, Hanukkah begins on the evening of Sunday, December 18, and ends on the evening of Monday, December 26 (25 Kislev-2 Tevet, 5783).

Chag Hanukkah Sameach!

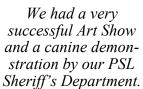


This past month:









Rabbi Benson won the 50/50 and donated it back to the Temple.

Thank you to all our volunteers who made it the success it was.













YAHRZEIT FUND DONATIONS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR **GENEROUS DONATIONS:**

Donations to the General Fund:

Richard & Betsy Weissel

NOTE:

Above donations were received in October

Our Semi Annual Congregation Meeting Saturday, December 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

Please attend We need a quorum to conduct business.

From:

Martin Schachter Dorothy Kamm Claudia Rodburg **Donald Rose** Hannah L. Pollack Avonne Rosenthal **Richard & Karol Levine** Alma Mittleman Susan Redman

William Weinshank L. F. Klein Linda Greshes

Karen Wolf Francine Tama

Blanche Kampf Rose Teich Ida Rose **Phillip Sinoway** Edwin Rosenthal George Levine Louis Mittleman Jeanette Redman, George Redman Gertrude Neal Howard Klein Edward Greshes, Martin Greshes Gerry Greshes, Arthur Greshes, Jennis Greshes, Jack Greshes Michael Merlin. Jeanette Merlin. Morris Merlin Ida & Morris Siegman Michael Tama Raymond Feldman & Arona Winer **Evelyn Rainon-Berkowitz** Leonard C. & Vivian R Berkman Charles Forgelman, Bernard S. Rashbaum Ruth H. Bornstein Sally Cohen

In Memory Of:

Melvin Karpf

Donations listed above were received in October

For more information about what's happening in the Temple visit our Website: **Templebethelisrael.org**

J Alan Bornstein

Martin & Cindy Cohen

PLEASE ...

Notify the Temple office or call the Rabbi if a family member or fellow congregant is ill, has had an accident, or is in need of the Rabbi's services. The Rabbi can only help if he is informed.



They make a great gift!!



Wishing all a Happy Chanukah from your Sisterhood friends at TBEI

Ferne & Bill Barishman Debbie Brateman Lydia Bauman Miriam & Arno Cassel Linda & Bernie Chazin Cunthia & Martin Cohen Fran Cooper & Harvey Levy Eve & Len Epstein Diane & Benjie Goldberg Linda Greshes Doris Haendel Pam & Richard Holmes Kathy & Ray Isenburg Carol & Marty Kahn Eileen Katzman Sue Klatch Faith Krumenacker





Karol & Richard Levine Cecile & Sam Levy Sandra & Bruce Lippman Judy & Marvin Mendelson Judy Orange Maryann Polk Hannah Pollack Rene & Harvey Safeer Naomi Saphire Susan & David Schlein Sue Schwartz Belle Sidel Ruth Siegel llene & Peter Sobel Fran Tama Meta & Vic Thomas Kay & Michael Vesey



For a \$5 donation you can still be listed in the Passover issue of the Shofar



CHANUKAH.....

The kindling of the Menorah is the focal point of the Chanukah holiday, symbolizing religious freedom and the strength of the Jewish spirit. The menorah is kindled on each of the eight nights of Chanukah. This year Chanukah begins on Sunday night, December 18th. The candles are lit right after sunset and usually stay lit for at least a half hour after sunset. The Chanukah candles are lit before the Shabbat candles and after the Havdalah candle at the end of Shabbat. The candles are lit from left to right.





Assistant Judge Advocate General for Military Law and Operations U.S. Army Brigadier General David E. Mendelson



Brigadier General David E. Mendelson grew up in Princeton, NJ. He graduated Nova Southeastern University Law School in 1994. He was commissioned in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps in 1995.

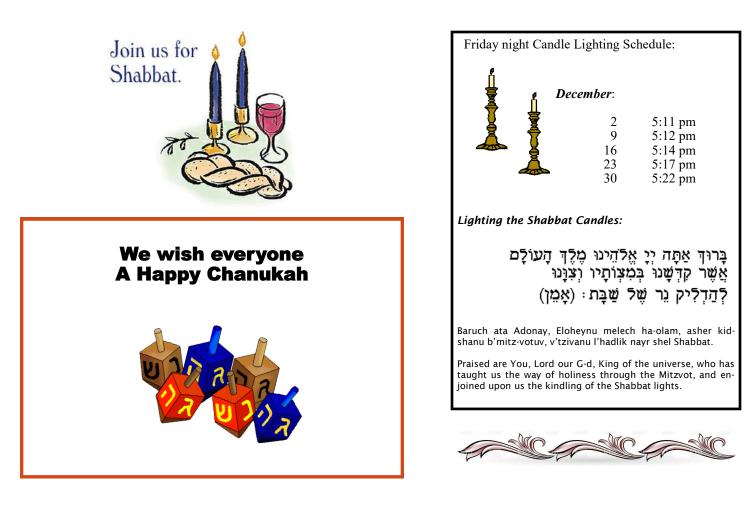
Brigadier General Mendelson most recently served as the Staff Judge Advocate of III Corps, Fort Hood, Texas. During his time assigned to III Corps, Brigadier General Mendelson deployed to Iraq and also served as the Staff Judge Advocate, Headquarters, Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve. His previous assignments include Executive Officer to The Judge Advocate General, Office of The Judge Advocate General; Staff Judge Advocate, Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Staff Judge Advocate, Grafenwoehr, Germany; Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, USAREUR, Heidelberg, Germany; Assignments Officer, Personnel, Plans, and Training Office (PPTO); Officer-in-Charge, Hanau Branch, Heidelberg, Germany; Chief, Administrative Law, Baghdad, Iraq; Litigation Attorney, U.S. Army Legal Services Agency; Operational Law Attorney, Ethics Counselor and Chief of Client Services, Fort Hood, Texas; Legal Assistance Attorney, SAUSA, and Trial Counsel, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Brigadier General Mendelson received his Bachelor of Science degree in Telecommunications and Business Management from Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York in 1991; a Juris Doctorate degree from Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida in 1994; a Master's degree in Law (LL.M) from The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School, U.S. Army, Charlottesville, Virginia in 2004; and a Master's degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania in 2014.

Brigadier General Mendelson's military education includes: The Judge Advocate Basic and Advanced Courses, the Command and General Staff Officer's Course, and the Army War College.

Brigadier General Mendelson's awards and decorations include: Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Achievement Medal, the Iraq Campaign and Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal. He is also authorized to wear the Parachutist Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Brigadier General Mendelson and his wife Maria have two children, Aaron and Gabriel.



Our new Shofar advertising year begins with the September issue.

If you or anyone you know would like to advertise in our monthly newsletter please contact the Temple office for details.

Rates are as follows per year:

FULL PAGE	\$325.00
HALF PAGE	
QUARTER PAGE	\$145.00
BUSINESS CARD	
ONE-TIME FULL PAGE	\$ 40.00 / ISSUE

Print-ready ads must be submitted no later than August 10th for the September issue. Please send your ad to:

faithkrumenacker@comcast.net



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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2023 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. \$18. per person

Tickets can be purchased Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at TEMPLE BETH EL ISRAEL 551 SW Bethany Drive Port St Lucie, FL 34986 For information call 772-336-2424

Watch Jeff & Ed on Youtube for a preview of their show



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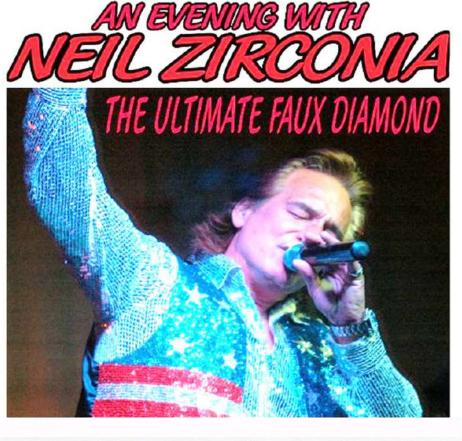


We meet every THURSDAY beginning at 10:00 a.m. to study and reflect on the weekly Torah portion. Join us for this study of the Torah and its specific lessons for the week. Here's the Zoom link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84122238910

We look forward to having you join this lively discussion.

TEMPLE BETH EL ISRAEL PRESENTS:



SATURDAY, MARCH 18th, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

TICKETS \$25

AVAILABLE AT THE TEMPLE OFFICE 551 SW Bethany Drive St Lucie West For information call 772-336-2424 Office hours 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday - Friday

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A love story between clashing cultures and families. A romantic misadventure crossing all Borders. When two generations of Israeli women fall for a German woman and a Palestinian man, chaos follows.

NEIGHBORS

JANUARY 8, 2023 TEMPLE BEIT HAYAM

In a Syrian border village, Sero attends school for the first time. There is a new teacher whose goal is to turn all into Arabists who hate Jews and love Assad. Siro is confused because his neighbors are a good Jewish family.

TANGO SHALOM FEBRUARY 12, 2023

FEDRUART 12, 2023

TEMPLE BETH EL ISRAEL

A orthodox Rabbi is asked to enter a dance contest. Due to his beliefs, he is not allowed to touch his partner. He creates a plan without sacrificing his or his family's beliefs.

POWDERKEG

MARCH 12, 2023 TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

Almost half the players on the Israeli national soccer team are Muslim including the captain. In a European tournament they are taunted by racist fans as well as the media.

GREENER PASTURES

APRIL16, 2023 TEMPLE BEIT HAYAM

Dov is a widower and is sent to live in a nursing home and feels he is in jail. He dreams of rebuying his old home. Dov discovers you can buy cannabis legally in the home and this is his way out.

PLEASE VISIT OUR AMAZING WEBSITE AT tcjff.com

All films will be shown at 2:30 PM preceded by wine, fruit, vegetables and desserts at 2:00 PM. Charges are \$6.00 per person (payable at door) or \$25.00 per person for the series. Patrons are \$30.00 per person for the series and are recognized in each film program.

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Our Monthly TBEI Library Book Review.....by Sheilah Korinow



Hanukkah, which is the holiday fast approaching, is one in which most of my senses are so active that I am able to enjoy what the holiday has to offer. My sense of sight allows me to enjoy the beauty of its menorah's candles - sometimes dancing in the moving air, and sometimes absolutely still. These flames take hold of my heart as well as my soul. My sense

of taste lets me enjoy the latkes I eat, and the sufganyut, the jelly donuts which make you lick your lips, adding sweetness to your life. My sense of hearing helps me join in and sing some beautiful Hanukkah melodies on my CDs, and perhaps humming while I cook. On Zoom I watch my younger relatives play "spin the dreidel" and then watch them open their presents which they received. My sense of smell kicks into over gear when latkes are sizzling on the stove, and I smell the smoking candles reaching the end of their lives, letting me know that this day's festivities are over. To fully enjoy Hanukkah, there is a book in our library that will give you many ideas to add to what you may already do. That book is *The Hanukkah Anthology*, organized by Philip Goodman. It looks at almost every aspect of this holiday. If you look through the anthology, you will be able to find many items in it to be interesting. With space and time limitations, I will introduce you to the many facets of Hanukkah so that you can see more that Hanukkah holds!

There are twenty-one sections in this book. The first six of them present traditional texts for study and historical background. They are: "Hanukkah and Its History," Hanukkah in the Bible," "Hanukkah in Postbiblical Writings," "Hanukkah in Talmud and Midrash," "The Medieval Scroll of the Hasmoneans," and "Hanukkah in Jewish Law". But beyond the historical background of the first six chapters, what does this book have to offer? Chapter 7 has "Hanukkah in Modern Prose," a good look at a list of many Jewish writers who give their ideas about such things as the Hanukkah lights, the meaning of Hanukkah, Hebraic and Hellenic Views of Life, the Maccabean Legend, Hanukkah and the rebirth of Israel and the challenge of the December Dilemma - to name only a few. Other chapters include Hanukkah in Art, which discusses the beautiful ceremonial objects of the holiday, and Hanukkah Drama which includes "Judah Maccabeus" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Chapter 10 is a fascinating section named "Hanukkah in Many Lands." It includes articles about Hanukkah among Eastern European Jews, among Sephardim, in London, in a Lithuanian ghetto in Russia, in a 19th century American home, with American soldiers in WWII, in a Monastery, in the Warsaw ghetto, in Bergen-Belson, and in Jerusalem and in other parts of Israel. The list goes on and on. In chapter 11, for those of you who are interested in poetry, you will find many poems about Hanukkah. Chapter 12 includes some wonderful short stories about the holiday. Some might even put a smile on your face! This is followed by a chapter on "Hanukkah Oddities" such as the dreidel, gelt, riddles and more.

What are some of the "Hanukkah Sidelights" in Chapter 14? Included are discussions about the holiday's name, Judah's surname, what is omitted, the eight-day miracle, the Maccabees in Christianity, Hanukkah and Sukkot, and several more topics. What about Hanukkah cuisine? There are delicious recipes for Duck A L'Orange, mashed potato kugel, fruit Latkes, and sufganiot, plus more. For the children in some of our homes, there are wonderful stories in Chapter 16, and thirteen poems in Chapter 17. A short chapter follows with words for the candle blessings and songs which you might want to sing if you decide to conduct some sort of short home service for Hanukkah. Chapter 19 concerns Hanukkah programs and activities and gives you many new ideas that you may not have even thought about as a way to celebrate the holiday. For example, some suggestions are lecture and discussion themes, ideas of what to do for a latke party, photography, games such as jumbled letters, Hanukkah gelt treasure hunt, and a latke eating contest. There are ideas for arts and crafts such as making all sorts of menorahs -with illustrations, Hanukkah mobiles, decorations, party invitations, and place cards are included. The next chapter discusses dances for Hanukkah (with directions). The final chapter includes music for Hanukkah - both well-known songs and others you may never have heard before. Musical notes are included. Let me note that this book also includes numerous examples of photographs, illustrations, artwork and more, all labeled.

For your enjoyment of Hanukkah, this book shares with you various valuable resource materials that people from all walks of life -, parents, students, rabbis, parents, teachers, and Jews by choice, can enjoy. Both religious and secular literature is included. With this book in hand, enjoy and use much of what Hanukkah has to offer. Bring the brightness of the holiday into your home and heart.

To borrow this book, contact me at skorinow@gmail.com



Beth El Memorial Park, Inc.

Located on Old Dixie Highway in Fort Pierce one mile north of Indrio Road. There are four pricing levels for gravesites, all of which include Perpetual Care.

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- B Members of other Temples in the area.
- D For non-members.

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Note: For the purpose of this pricing, a member is one who has been a paid up member of their Temple for a period of more than one year. Opening and closing of 5 x 10 grave is \$1200 with a tent & chairs, opening and closing of 3 x 3 grave is \$450 without tent & chairs or \$750 with tent & chairs.

Add additional charge for Sunday & Holiday burials of \$300 for 5 x 10 and \$250 for 3 x 3. No burials on Shabbat or Jewish Holidays.

For more information please call: Bob Polakow (772) 807-3355 or Harold Schwartz (561) 635-5237

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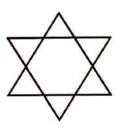
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12/10 - 12/16

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12/3 - 12/9

Gerhard Asher Maurice Aaron Brateman Harry Firestein Arthur Fuss Sophia Goldman Vivian Goldman Elizabeth Grunor Carol Diane Haid Frieda Hartogsohn Abigail Huber Michael Huber Tess Huber **Dorothy Janin** Beverly Karon Leo S. Kastner Isidore Kimmel Abe Klein Judith Kroitor Larry Levine Lynn Carol Lipson Louis Lirtzman William Millman Sue Plavac John Pollack Petrice Potash Lucja Schleicher Rosten A. Robert Sameroff Doris L. Sawicki **Richard Schnabolk** Sidney Schweiger Hortense Selkin **Rosalie Sherman** Edith Sobel Anna Steiner Clara Trachtenberg Emanuel Weiss





12/17 - 12/23

Gay K. Barland Bernard Bernheim Fave Brateman Edward Cagan Julius Cohen Grace Dabrusin David Dalke Adele Deutsch Frances Emas Harry L. Evans Manuel S. Fink Sylvia Hartogsohn Miriam Jaffe Ceil Lesser Beatrice Lisansky Martin Moskowitz Rhoda Saxe David B. Schulman Selma Seligman Sam Slote David Sobel Victoria Lynn Stewart Dinah Stoller Marusia Wishnevsky Sylvia Wortman Clara Woskobojnik

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12/24 -12/30

Irving Barenberg Milton Barishman Tillie Baron Esther Beauchamp Clara Bernheim William Birnbaum Rose Brandsschain Fannie Brown Andrea L. Camras Jacob Chazin Max Fink Rissa Fink Morris Goldfarb Harry Halper **Richard Handler** Sharon Harrison Bertha Jacobs Joseph Jones Lillian R. Kanarek Oscar Kanarek Esther Kingsberg Joseph Klein Irving Lerner Pearl Honig Levine Margaret Meadow Samuel Medvedeff Rabbi Max Meyer Shirley Morin Dorothy Peltz Benjamin Pinkowitz Edith Pollack **Betty Prepon** Sandra Puchaski Sima Rubin Irving Schnapp Harry Schneider Saul Schulley Joe Selkin Jerrold Tobias Shakofskv Ida Shatkin Leah Siegel William Siegman Harry Snider Harry Stein Sidney Suss Dorina Tanner Charles Tartak Fannie Weismann Dov Woletsky

12/31 - 1/6

Albert Axler Armin Baker **Bernard Baloff** Frances Cohen Geraldine Cohen Jose' Miguel Da Cesia Frances Friedman Franklin Geltman Sadye Gerzog Gilbert Greene Victor Halper Ida Katzman Ida Kirsch Arnold Harry Kroitor Eugene Levitt Harry Lewen Jacob Lirtzman Irma Meinhardt Eva Pieck Dr. William Robinson Eugene Rose Emma Rubin Meyer Rubin Charles Silverman Ethel Silverman Jovce Starr Phillip Walter Edward Weinerman Bertram Weinshank Ruth Kaplan Wolf Harvey Wolfgang



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