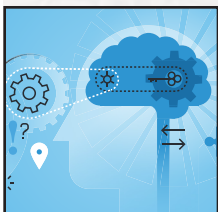


SHOFAR

Congregation Schaarai Zedek, enriching Tampa's Reform Jewish Heritage for over 125 years



22nd Annual Mitzvah Day
Sunday, February 9
See pages 10-11 for projects and registration!



From the Clergy
Rabbi Farb explores the beginnings of the Talmud.
Page 3



Adults' Night Out
Join us for a fun night of bowling on January 30.
Page 4



Shabbat at the Museum
Shabbat morning at the Florida Holocaust Museum.
Page 9

Staff Introductions

Clergy Visits

Do you have family members who are in assisted living facilities, nursing homes, or are home-bound? We offer special programming at their facility for our congregants or their families.

Call Ming Brewer, Clergy Executive Assistant, at (813) 876-2377, ext. 202, with the names and telephone numbers of members or the family of members who may live in one of these facilities. We want to make sure they are included in our planning.

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Congregant Condolence Notices

When congregants pass away, Schaarai Zedek offers the family of the deceased the option of having an email notification of the passing sent to all congregants.

The sending (or not sending) of this condolence notice email is at the choice of the family of the deceased congregant to protect the privacy for the family.

Please call Ming Brewer, Clergy Executive Assistant, at (813) 876-2377, ext. 202.



Each month we will feature a different staff member so you can get to know our family!

Elizabeth Nail is our Executive Coordinator, and acts as an intermediary between our Executive Director and congregants, facilitating communication to better serve the needs of our diverse community. She assists with numerous daily tasks, including logistics, organizing receptions, and corresponding with vendors.

Elizabeth was born and raised in Clearwater to parents who have recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. She is the youngest of three daughters and a proud aunt. She graduated from

the University of Florida with a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts and Education. After working for a prominent Tampa law firm as a certified paralegal, she decided to pursue a more meaningful career.

Outside of work, Elizabeth loves international travel, hiking, and discovering new cultures, languages, and traditions. She is an avid Tina Turner and Freddie Mercury fan, and plays the electric kazoo, crochets, and is currently taking ballroom dancing lessons!

Worship Calendar & Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

Friday, January 3

- 5:29 pm Shabbat Candle Lighting
- 7:00 pm Jews by Choice Shabbat Service
Members of our Jews by Choice Class will Speak.

Saturday, January 4

- 9:00 am Shabbat Yoga
- 10:30 am Come As You Are Shabbat Service
- 4:30 pm Aubrey Knust Bat Mitzvah

Friday, January 10

- 5:34 pm Shabbat Candle Lighting
- 6:00 pm Challah in the 'Chood – Wesley Chapel
- 7:00 pm Shabbat Service
Rabbi Farb will Speak.

Saturday, January 11

- 9:00 am Shabbat at the Museum
- 9:00 am Torah Study

Friday, January 17

- 5:30 pm Pirate Tot Shabbat
- 5:40 pm Shabbat Candle Lighting
- 7:00 pm Shabbat Service
Rabbi Simon will Speak.

Saturday, January 18

- 9:00 am Torah Study
- 10:30 am Joshua Katz Bar Mitzvah
- 4:30 pm Maxwell Haman Bar Mitzvah

Friday, January 24

- 5:46 pm Shabbat Candle Lighting
- 7:00 pm Shabbat Service
Cantor Cannizzaro will offer a sermon in song.

Friday, January 31

- 5:51 pm Shabbat Candle Lighting
- 7:00 pm Shabbat Service
Consecration, First and Second Grade Students, and Grandparents.

SHOFAR

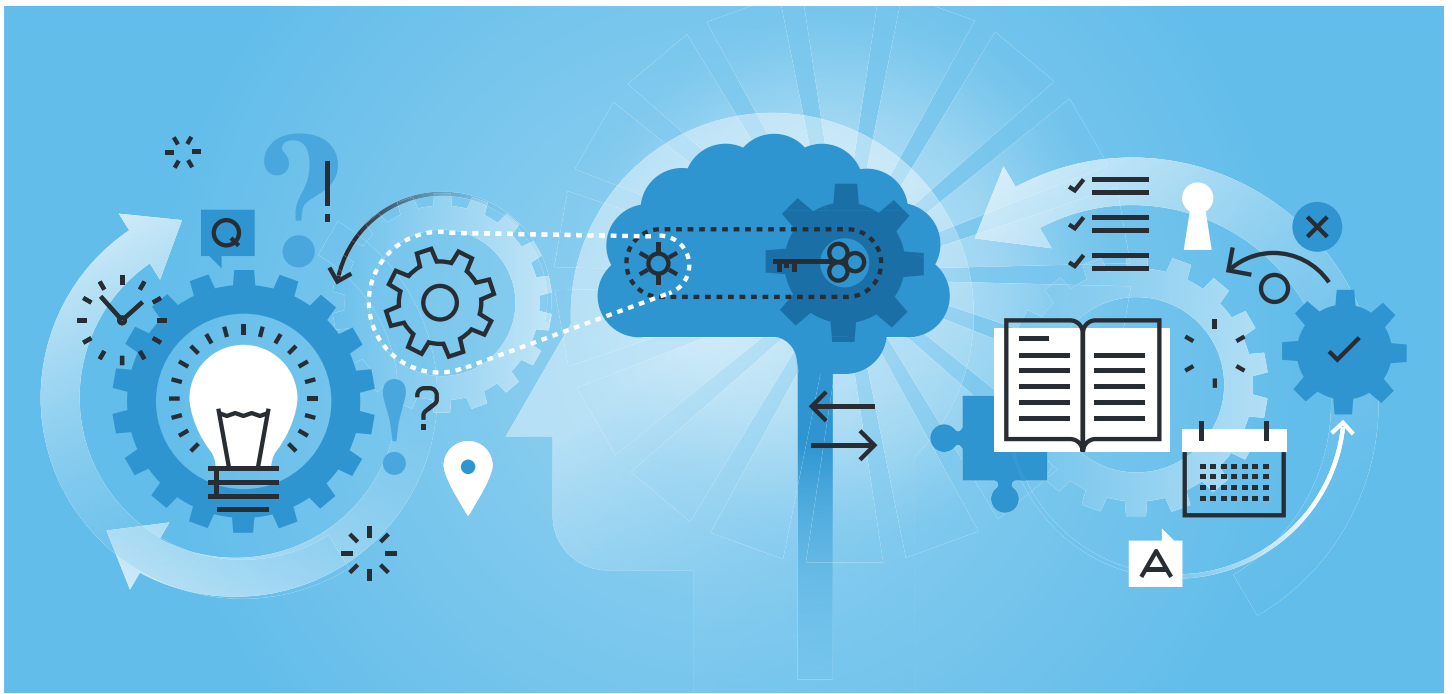
A monthly newsletter by
Congregation Schaarai Zedek

Volume: 124

Number: 6

View the Shofar Online:

www.zedek.org/shofar



From the Clergy

The Great Thought Experiment

How a simple question led to one of the greatest literary achievements of all time

Rabbi Nathan Farb

We have scientists and artists and engineers and economic gurus working every day throughout our civilization to design and build the future, but what would happen if we instead put all of our greatest thinkers together to solve the meaning of life?

Imagine for a moment that there was a civilization who gathered together 100 of their wisest, most brilliant minds, and put them all together in a room to once and for all solve the mystery of the universe, creation, and the purpose of human existence. Picture in your mind that they were given the task and sealed in a room for ten years to work without distraction. What amazing wonders would they discover? What awesome insights would they reveal? What profound secrets would they be able to unravel? Imagine that at the end of a decade, they emerge with a document compiled from their various approaches to the singular question – a record of their most important and productive

conversations and conclusions.

Wouldn't you want to read what it said?

It turns out that there *is* such a civilization. Except they didn't send 100 of their best and brightest, and they didn't spend a decade on the endeavor. In reality, it was more like 800 years, and the diligent work was carried out by more than 1500 scholars over those generations. The document that they produced at the end is unique in the course of human achievements. It is a genre of literature unto itself, *sui generis* among all written works of all the civilizations of the world throughout history. It is comprised of 63 volumes, totaling 2,711 double-sided folios. The civilization that devoted centuries of its best and brightest minds to this singular endeavor is, of course, Judaism. The work that we created is called the Talmud, sometimes known as the Oral Torah.

The Talmud contains philosophy, theology, folklore, aphorisms, legal discourse, historical analysis, ethics, inspiring stories, love, tragedy, humor, as well as the ins and outs of daily life. It is globally

recognized for its unique depth, sophistication, and ability to teach complex critical thinking. Some people have credited the Talmud with even the survival and success of the Jewish civilization. It has guided our people, whether eking out a life in a New York tenement or building the "start-up nation" of Israel.

The Talmud is studied by elite boarding school students in South Korea, in business leadership courses in Israel, and by finance moguls in China. The unique teachings and everyday wisdom of the Talmud make it perhaps humanity's best answer to the age-old questions of what our purpose is in this universe. However, mastering the text is no easy task. Reading at a careful pace of one page a day, the entire Talmud takes 7 ½ years to complete. This "Daf Yomi" cycle (daily page) begins again on January 5, and we will start to explore this exciting text here at Schaarai Zedek on Saturday mornings. When it comes to the Talmud, there are no true experts – we are all beginners. Begin with us or on your own. •

Adult Engagement

Congregation Schaarai Zedek offers a variety of social, cultural, and educational activities, giving congregants an opportunity to participate and connect with other like-minded people. Refer to the **Our Community** and **Calendar** pages on our website for more information. RSVP online at www.zedek.org/RSVP or call (813) 876-2377 for all programs (unless otherwise noted) so we can prepare.

20s+30s: New Year, New You

Saturday, January 4, 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Join us for an afternoon of thinking about the future. Who do you want to be in the new year? What are your goals for yourself and your community? We will enjoy a healthy lunch and programming from specialists in the field of wellness and organization. We hope you will come earlier for Shabbat for the Body, Mind, and Soul, starting at 9:00 am. RSVP requested online by visiting www.zedek.org/RSVP or by calling the temple office at (813) 876-2377.

“Nu” Frontiers Tarpon Springs Fun Day

Wednesday, January 8, 10:00 am - 4:45 pm

Bus and Tour: CSZ Member \$23, Non-Member \$33



Journey back in time on a guided tour of the Safford House Museum, one of Tarpon Springs' best kept secrets, where we will have the opportunity to experience Florida life as it was more than 100 years ago. Following the tour, we'll visit Replay Museum,

home to over 120 pinball and arcade games, spanning more than 50 decades of history. We'll dine at Mykonos, where you can order off the menu and pay for your delicious Greek lunch with our group. After lunch, feel free to browse the sponge docks and shop on your own. Bus transportation will be provided. RSVPs requested no later than Sunday, January 5. RSVP requested online by visiting www.zedek.org/RSVP or by calling the temple office at (813) 876-2377.

OPERA TAMPA

Senior Luncheon

Thursday, January 16, 11:15 am

Please join us for a performance by the Opera Tampa Singers, one of Tampa Bay's treasured assets for many years. Experience a customized concert of operatic and musical theater that you will remember long after the last note! Our Amy Gail Buchman Preschool Singers will perform at 11:30 am as the program begins. RSVP requested online by visiting www.zedek.org/RSVP or by calling the temple office at (813) 876-2377.

Our Senior Luncheons are provided by the Esther N. & Leo M. Weiss Seniors Endowment Fund.

ROMEO Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, January 22, 11:45 am

Buffet-style lunch at CSZ

CSZ Members \$10

Non-Members \$15



Join Rabbi Birnholz and our ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out) for good food and conversation at Schaarai Zedek. Connect with others and enjoy a new and relevant discussion topic each month. This month, Carl Zielonka will speak on, "Gasparilla: Why does Tampa celebrate pirate Jose Gaspar? How did the festival start? The legend of Jose Gaspar – myth or fact?" RSVP requested online by visiting www.zedek.org/RSVP or by calling the temple office at (813) 876-2377.

Bowl, Kibitz, Nosh, Repeat: Adults' Night Out



**Thursday, January 30
7:00 pm- 9:00 pm**

**Pin Chasers Veterans
5555 W Hillsborough Ave
Tampa, FL 33634**

Calling adults of all ages!
Join us for social time and

bowling. All skill levels welcome. \$12 per person. Price includes three games of bowling and rental shoes.

RSVP by Sunday, January 26, online by visiting www.zedek.org/RSVP or by calling the temple office at (813) 876-2377.

JCC Softball Tournament

Sunday, March 1, 2020 (Please note the date change)



The Tampa JCC & Federation invites the Tampa Bay community to "play ball" in the Annual Co-Ed Softball Tournament, now at Skyway Park. Schaarai Zedek will form a team to compete, and we are especially looking for women to join! \$35 per player when joining the CSZ team (\$45 per player if you sign up through the JCC). For more information, please contact Rabbi Farb at nfarb@zedek.org or (813) 876-2377, ext. 229.

Save the Dates: Adult Education

Rabbi Jack Bemporad, Professor of Interreligious Studies at the Vatican's Angelicum University, will deliver several lectures at Schaarai Zedek and Saint Leo University, during the first week of February 2020:

"God, Science, and Religion"

Monday, February 3, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Congregation Schaarai Zedek

"Faith and the Message of the Prophets"

Tuesday, February 4, 9:30 am - 10:30 am
Saint Leo University

"Prophetic Judaism and its Significance for Our Time"

Thursday, February 6, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
Congregation Schaarai Zedek

These events are co-sponsored by the Saint Leo University Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies and Congregation Schaarai Zedek. Please RSVP and indicate which event(s) you will attend by February 1, to the temple office online at www.zedek.org/RSVP, or by phone at (813) 876-2377. We hope to see you there.



Rabbi Jack Bemporad

is the director of the nonprofit Center for Interreligious Understanding (CIU), which he founded in 1992. It aims to bring people of all religious

faiths together to promote open dialogue, mutual respect, and theological understanding of the common foundations shared by the world's religions. Rabbi Bemporad began teaching at Vatican universities in 1998 and has been Director of the John Paul II Center and Professor of Interreligious Studies, both at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), in Rome since 2009. Concurrently, he also serves as Rabbi of Congregation Micah of New Jersey, in Cresskill.

Fleeing the fascist takeover in Italy prior to WWII, Bemporad and his family traveled to the U.S. when he was five years old. Thus, having personally suffered as the result of persecution and prejudice, he has dedicated his career to improving relations among Christians, Muslims, and

Jews worldwide. Rabbi Bemporad is recognized internationally for his diplomatic skill and leadership in matters of religious understanding and reconciliation. He is one of the rare Jewish leaders to have had a personal audience with Pope John XXIII, numerous personal audiences with Pope John Paul II, and was one of three rabbis to have blessed him shortly before his death. Most recently, he met with Pope Francis at the conclusion of the "Refugees and Migrants" conference, co-sponsored by the CIU in Rome this past November.

From 1966-72, Rabbi Bemporad served as Chairman of the Interreligious Affairs Committee of the Synagogue Council of America. He was chief rabbi of Temple Emanu-El in Dallas from 1972-83 and concurrently served as Professor of Philosophy at Southern Methodist University during those years. He taught philosophy at Hebrew Union College in New York as well, from 1960-65, and from 1965-72 was Director of Worship and Adult Education for the Reform Movement, based in New York.



VOTE REFORM

#VoteReformWZC

Did you know that only 20% of Jews in Israel are Orthodox, yet...

- The Israeli government pays the salaries of hundreds of rabbis. Only nine are Reform.
- The Israeli government does not recognize non-orthodox weddings performed in Israel.
- Plans for an expanded egalitarian section of the Western Wall have been thwarted by ultra-orthodox cabinet members

The World Zionist Congress makes decisions regarding key institutions which allocate nearly \$1 Billion annually to support Israel and World Jewry.

As Reform Jews living in America, we can make a difference by voting in the World Zionist Congress Election.



The World Zionist Congress Elections are coming soon, and your vote is critical to maintaining a large Reform presence in Israel and the United States!

Your vote is the only democratic opportunity you have to influence Israeli society as we continue our efforts towards equality, pluralism and tolerance. Our congregation saw a positive voter turn out last election, but we know that we can do better.

Voting takes place online starting January 21, 2020 to March 11, 2020 and will take less than 90 seconds to participate. If you're 18+ and identify as Jewish, we hope we can count on you to vote Reform.

Intrigued? Visit the ARZA website to learn more: ARZA.org. Contact Rabbi Simon or Rabbi Farb with questions or if you would like to help.

 **Vote Reform**

World Zionist Congress Elections | January 21-March 11, 2020 | ARZA.org

ARZA - ארגון רפורמים ישראלים

CSZ Sisterhood

Sisterhood wishes everyone a very happy and healthy new year!

Do you enjoy reading psychological thriller novels? Come to the temple for Sisterhood's book club on Monday, January 6, to be part of the discussion of Adrian McKinty's "The Chain."

On the morning of Sunday, January 12, everyone is invited to learn about hereditary cancer risk and how to thrive and support yourself or someone you care about who is facing or has been diagnosed with cancer. Rabbi Simon will provide a Jewish perspective on medical intervention, support, and resources. Laura V. Barton, MA, MS, CGC, a Certified Genetic Counselor at Moffitt Cancer Center, will present an overview of cancer genetics, testing, and risk management. Andrea Katz, a bone marrow recipient, cancer survivor and thriver, and author of "Chemo Katelynn: Humorous Perspectives on Life Before Cancer and After Diagnosis," will share how humor and a positive attitude can influence the journey after a cancer diagnosis. Tammy Li, board member of Facing our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE), and Michelle Passon, founder of Cancer Thrivers Network for Jewish Women, will discuss how their organizations inform, empower and provide friendship.

Immediately following the program on Sunday, January 12, Hamantaschen dough making will begin at noon in the temple's kitchen. KitchenAid and other heavy-duty stand mixers are needed.

We are looking forward to seeing all of our Sisterhood Members, including Little Sisters, at our Sisterhood Membership Appreciation Night on Tuesday, January 14. A special evening of health, wellness, relaxation, and stress reduction is planned for our Sisterhood Members. Musician and vocalist Ona Kirei will set the tranquil tone. We'll participate in a Tai Chi and Qi Gong class for all levels taught by certified instructor, Bonnie Birdsall, where we can improve our strength, flexibility, and balance. We will also experience a guided meditation with a registered yoga teacher, Willow Marcotte, which can help us to relax and reduce stress. There will be additional health practices such as massage and acupressure. You will feel refreshed and renewed. This event is free of charge to all Sisterhood Members and includes a healthy dinner and fun surprises. We will show our appreciation for our Sisterhood Members with this night dedicated to your health and well-being!

Be sure to join us for Hamantaschen dough making and baking on Tuesday, January 21, in the morning and Monday, January 27, in the evening. We have a great time working together to create delicious treats whose sales benefit our religious school. Please look for the emails and postcards you will receive with details and information about these exciting programs and events.

L'shalom,

Andi Parker, Co-President
andironp@aol.com

Diane Porat, Co-President
drp1223@verizon.net

CSZ Brotherhood

Happy New Year! We are very excited to have ended the year with our Tampa Bay Lightning hockey game. It was great to see everyone and spend time watching hockey together during Chanukah! A big "thank you" to Steve Gersten for organizing this event! Our next event will be held at Top Golf on Thursday, January 16, at 6:30 pm. We will have bays reserved for our group, along with a buffet dinner. Transportation will not be provided. If you would like a ride, please contact Craig or Jared. This is a fun event, and we look forward to hitting the range with you.

Our first February event will be Mitzvah Day, on February 9. You will be receiving more information on the volunteer opportunities shortly. Our second February event is still in the works; please stay tuned for further details.

Besides finding event information in the Shofar and emails, please find event information and links on the Congregation Schaarai Zedek website and join the Brotherhood Facebook page.

Save the date for the 11th Annual Brotherhood Signature Event – Our Famous Deli Night is on Saturday, April 25, 2020. Anyone wishing to be a key sponsor, call Steve Gersten at (813) 334-9745.

If any congregant would like the honor of ushering a Friday night service, please get in touch with Steve Gersten at (813) 334-9745 or sgersten@tampabay.rr.com. We would also love to hear your feedback on what your favorite delis are as we start that selection process for Deli Night. Email Steve Gersten with your suggestions!

We invite all male adult congregants of CSZ to get involved in our dynamic and active Brotherhood and to join ALL our festivities and community events during the year. If you haven't joined Brotherhood yet, please call the temple office.

Call us anytime to discuss Brotherhood and how you can be involved.

Craig Federer, Co-President
craig.federer@raymondjames.com

Jared Miller, Co-President
jared.e.miller@gmail.com



Deli Night Returns!
SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2020

Main Event Sponsor:
CONTINENTAL WHOLESALE DIAMONDS
Mention Deli Night for a 20% discount

Corned Beef King Sponsors:
SEGAL FUNERAL HOME
360 REALTY

Do you have a favorite deli? Help us choose!
Contact Steve Gersten with your ideas or for sponsorship opportunities:
(813) 334-9745 or sgersten@tampabay.rr.com

OurSynagogue

The Early Days of Schaarai Zedek

Excerpts from the minutes of the Temple Board*

January 20, 1895
Pews and Seats

Art.9 Sec.1. – The rental for pews and seats shall be fixed by the Trustees, but these pews and seats shall be sold yearly on the Sunday immediately preceding New Year - Rosh Hashanah – to the highest bidder, and the prices so realized shall be a premium in addition to the fixed price for the pews and seats.

Art.9 Sec.3. – Persons of either sex may occupy the same pew and the family of the pew-holder are entitled to seats in his pew.

January 27, 1895
From the by-laws: Duties of the Collector

Art. 8 – He shall have charge of the Synagogue and everything pertaining thereto, and shall keep the same in good order under the immediate direction of the Trustees. He shall collect all outstandings under direction of the Secretary, and shall perform such other duties as he may be directed to do by the President. He shall attend the Synagogue on all occasions of divine worship and see that it is kept in proper order....For the faithful performance of his services he shall receive such compensation as may be determined upon yearly by the Congregation at their annual meeting.

*These minutes were prepared by Dr. Carl Zielonka, Archives Chair, for your information about our history.

RABBI RICHARD J. BIRNHOLZ

Torah Circle

A N N U A L G I V I N G

For the past several months, we've used this space to tell you about some of the important activities and programs supported by the Torah Circle. This month, we want to give you an update on the status of the 2019-2020 campaign.

Thanks to the outstanding generosity of **Francine and Dick Dobkin, Russell LaFuenta, Lee and Saul Rachelson, and Rena L. and Joel Singer**, we began the year with a tremendous boost. The 2019-2020 **Dobkin-LaFuenta-Rachelson-Singer Torah Circle Challenge Gift** provided \$100,000 to match all new and increased Torah Circle donations. Because of this Challenge, each new or increased dollar is worth two!

As we hoped, the Challenge sparked a raft of new and increased contributions. But we still need the help of everyone in the Congregation who is eligible (paying full Temple dues) to join Torah Circle. If you have not yet made a contribution, please do so now. Your donation is critical to all aspects of the Congregation's operations.

Thank you,

Rabbi Richard J. Birnholz Torah Circle Committee



Above: SchZFTY students enjoyed a Challah Bake Off after Religious School on November 3.



Above: Our "Nu" Frontiers group enjoyed a tour of the Judah P. Benjamin mansion on December 5.



ReligiousSchool

Cafe CSZ

Sundays, January 12 and 26, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

All adults are welcome. Have a bagel and a cup of coffee at Café CSZ on Sunday morning. Join the conversation. Greet friends, fellow parents, and other congregants. Café CSZ will be open on Sunday mornings when Religious School is meeting. See you there!

Interested in teaching or substituting?



Do you have a desire to further Judaism and enjoy spending time with great children? Become a teacher or substitute at our Flom Religious School on Sunday mornings! It's easy and fun. We supply the lesson plans and materials for you. Join the team and start making a difference. For more information, contact Donna Wood at (813) 876-2377, ext. 210 or email dwood@zedek.org.

B'naiMitzvah



Aubrey Knust

Bat Mitzvah:
January 4, 2020

Parents:
Janet and Andrew Knust

Torah Portion:
Vaychi



Maxwell Haman

Bar Mitzvah:
January 18, 2020

Parents:
Rachel and Jason Haman

Torah Portion:
Sh'mot



Josh Katz

Bar Mitzvah:
January 18, 2020

Parents:
Caren and Robert Katz

Torah Portion:
Sh'mot

Gesher L' Mishpachah: Jewish Family Fun

Your family is invited to join in the adventure!

Who can participate? First timers and past participants can all participate! Even if you've completed the program before, with each passing year the experience comes with a new perspective and understanding!

What will you do? Each family completes 18 easy activities in the areas of Torah (Study), Avodah (Worship), and G'milut Chasadim (Acts of Loving Kindness) from a list of more than 70 activities during this school year. You have probably already completed these activities without even realizing it!

What happens then? After you complete and submit the checklist, you will be honored at the Family Shabbat Service in May, and your family's name will be engraved on our Gesher plaque in the Religious School hallway.

For more information, contact Donna Wood at (813) 876-2377, ext. 210 or email dwood@zedek.org.

Celebrating a Shehecheyanu Moment

Schaarai Zedek is a partner in the transitional moments of our members' lives.

Whether a baby naming or bris, bar or bat mitzvah, conversion or wedding ceremony, or a recovery from illness, our clergy and staff strive to ensure that each sacred "Shehecheyanu Moment" is deeply fulfilling and personal. A donation to one of the Schaarai Zedek Funds is a lovely way to mark a personal life-cycle experience, to honor friends or family celebrating a happy milestone, or in gratitude for the services the clergy provide during these profound moments.

Friendly Visitors Program

Visiting the sick and the elderly are two ancient and important mitzvot in the Jewish tradition.

Schaarai Zedek is organizing opportunities to participate in this sacred mitzvah.

- Visit assisted living homes to spend time with residents
- Visit home-bound members of our community
- Brighten someone's day

You will receive personalized Friendly Visitor training and learn about prayer and empathetic presence.

If you are interested in being a part of our Friendly Visitors Program, or if you know of anyone in the congregation who may be in need of some extra support, contact Rabbi Farb at (813) 876-2377, ext. 229 or nfarb@zedek.org.

Shabbat & Worship

Jews by Choice Shabbat Service

Friday, January 3, 7:00 pm

Members of the 2019-2020 Intro to Judaism class will share their thoughts on becoming Jewish as part of this meaningful Shabbat. Their insights provide a way for each of us to reconnect with our faith. Seeing Judaism through the eyes of newly converted Jews is a vibrant, spiritual experience. Please join us for this unique service.

Shabbat for the Body, Mind, and Soul

Saturdays, January 4 & February 1

9:00 am – Shabbat Yoga

9:00 am – Torah Study

10:30 am – “Come as You Are” Shabbat Service

Make Shabbat morning a part of your week! Start with Shabbat Yoga or Torah Study, then join us for a casual “Come as You Are” Shabbat Service (we’ll provide the bagels and coffee). RSVP at www.zedek.org/RSVP or call the temple office at (813) 876-2377.

Challah in the ‘Chood - Wesley Chapel

Friday, January 10, 6:00 pm

Rabbi Simon is bringing Shabbat traditions beyond the synagogue walls and straight into your neighborhood! Join us for an intergenerational Shabbat dinner on Friday, January 10, at 6:00 pm in Wesley Chapel. Everyone is invited to participate in this Shabbat experience; you don’t have to be a Wesley Chapel resident to attend. Watch for similar events in other neighborhoods. Shabbat service will also be held as usual at the temple on these dates, but we’d love to see you in the ‘hood! Please RSVP for the location. RSVP online at www.zedek.org/RSVP or call the temple office at (813) 876-2377.

Beginning Talmud

Torah Study with Rabbi Farb

Saturdays, January 4 & 18, 9:00 am

Every seven and a half years, Jews around the world begin a new cycle of Talmud study. Join us as we begin this journey together. Each week we will explore a new lesson from the Talmud and what modern Jews can learn from this ancient text. Come and enjoy coffee and refreshments with friends. For more information, contact Rabbi Farb at nfarb@zedek.org or (813) 876-2377, ext. 229.

Shabbat at the Museum

Saturday, January 11, 9:30 am

Florida Holocaust Museum

55 5th St S, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Come and observe Shabbat at the Florida Holocaust Museum on January 11, at 9:00 am. Join us for a short service with bagels and coffee, and then experience the museum’s “Beaches, Benches, and Boycotts” exhibit, covering the history of the Civil Rights movement in the Tampa Bay area. Officer Leon Jackson, one of the last living members of the St. Petersburg Police Department’s “Courageous 12” will be speaking to our group. We would love to have you spend the morning with us at the museum! RSVP online at www.zedek.org/RSVP or call the temple office at (813) 876-2377. Children must be in the fifth grade or older.



Consecration & Grandparents

Family Shabbat Service

Friday, January 31, 7:00 pm

Grandparents and their grandchildren will be blessed together as part of this special Shabbat service.

Our youngest students will be welcomed into our Flom Religious School and consecrated and will open the service with their “Bim Bam Band.”

Our first and second-grade students will also participate in this service. We’ll have January’s birthday blessings and enjoy a special story.

Invite grandparents to be part of our Schaarai Zedek traditions. All generations are welcome!



Above: Art Chug students hard at work creating beautiful marbled art pieces and gratitude notes during Religious School on November 17.



MITZVAH DAY

TIKKUN OLAM - REPAIRING THE WORLD

2020

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020

Join us for our 22nd Annual Mitzvah Day and make a difference!

Mitzvah Day is a day for all members of Congregation Schaarai Zedek to come together as a community to work on numerous mitzvah projects benefitting a wide range of local social service agencies. Mitzvah Day is also a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and reconnect with old friends.

Schedule

7:45 AM - 8:45 AM

Congregation Schaarai Zedek

Jr. SchZFTY Pancake Breakfast

Join us for an "all you care to eat" pancake breakfast, prepared by Schaarai Zedek's Jr. SchZFTY youth group. Donations accepted.

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM

Congregation Schaarai Zedek

Kick-Off Service

Join our clergy as they welcome and inspire Mitzvah Day volunteers.

9:15 AM - 10:00 AM

Congregation Schaarai Zedek

Meet Your Team

Meet with your team captains for a briefing before heading off to your Mitzvah Day project.

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Various Locations

Mitzvah Projects

Volunteer!

Registration Deadline: Sunday, January 19

- Parents are responsible for their children at all project sites.
- Wear comfortable clothing that you don't mind getting dirty or ruined.
- Closed-toe shoes only, no sandals or flip-flops.
- Please bring a canned food item to donate to the Tampa Jewish Food Bank.
- For outdoor projects, bring water and sunscreen.

Questions? Call or Email:

Debbie Rovner (813) 968-9218 mitzvahday@zedek.org

Donna Wood (813) 876-2377, ext. 210 dwood@zedek.org

Mitzvah Projects

1. Allegro Hyde Park

Ages 5+. Brighten the day of elderly residents at this assisted living facility.

2. Amy Gail Buchman Preschool

All ages. Help with a variety of projects in the courtyard and other areas of the preschool.

3. Clothes To Kids

Ages 10+. Sort, tag, and restock clothes at this store-front agency that provides clothes to children in need.

4. Colonial Assisted Living at Tampa (formerly Sunrise Village)

All ages. Brighten the day of elderly residents at this assisted living facility.

5. Dawning Family Service (formerly Alpha House of Tampa)

Ages 12+. Improvement project at this facility which aids individuals and families in need.

6. Feeding Tampa Bay

Ages 5+. Sort food at this food bank distribution agency.

7. Florida Aquarium

Ages 10+. Project to be determined.

8. Home Association

All ages. Enjoy making crafts with residents.

9. Horses for Handicapped (BAKAS)

Ages 5+. **One adult per child required.** Help with barn chores and yard work.

10. Judeo Christian Health Clinic

Ages 10+. Spruce up furniture at this community health clinic.

11. MacDonald Training Center

Ages 12+. Light yard work at this training facility for adults with disabilities.

12. Mary Walker Apartments

All ages. Brighten the day of elderly residents at this assisted living facility.

13. Menorah Manor

All ages. Join Cantor Cannizzaro to entertain and brighten the day of elderly residents at Menorah Manor.

14. Metropolitan Ministries

Ages 12+. Help in the kitchen at this family living center.

15. Metropolitan Ministries Thrift Store

Ages 12+. Help organize and stock items at this donation center.

16. Pinellas Hope

Ages 14+. **Not for individuals with food allergies.** Prepare meals for Pinellas County homeless individuals. This project is held at Schaarai Zedek.

17. Quantum Leap Farm

Ages 16+. Help with barn chores, painting, and mulching at this therapeutic equestrian farm.

18. Ronald McDonald House

Ages 14+. Give families in residence some time off by taking over their light daily chores.

19. Schaarai Zedek Cemetery

All ages. Light yard work at our own historic cemetery.

20. Sweetwater Organic Farm

Ages 10+. Wash vegetables in preparation for the Sunday market. Light weeding may also be needed.

21. Tampa Bay History Center

Ages 8+. Participate in gallery cleaning. Stay and enjoy a complimentary pass to the museum.

22. The Spring

Ages 8+. Assemble Valentine's Day craft kits and activities for children staying at this women's shelter. This project is held at Schaarai Zedek.

23. VA Hospital / Haley's Cove Community Living Center

Ages 8+. Make Valentine's Day cards and prepare goodie bags for residents. This project is held at Schaarai Zedek.

24. Warming the World

Ages 10+. Make baby caps using small plastic looms which will be sent to NICUs worldwide. This project is held at Schaarai Zedek.

25. Weinberg Village

All ages. Brighten the day of elderly residents at this assisted living facility.

26. Ybor City Museum

All ages. Project to be determined.

Auxiliary Projects

20s+30s Connection: Children's Home Network

Participate in games and crafts with the children at this facility from 2 pm to 4 pm. RSVP to Molly Levy at mlevy@zedek.org.

Brotherhood: Amy Gail Buchman Preschool

Help with a variety of projects in the courtyard and other areas of the preschool. RSVP to Drew Kronick at dkronic1@gmail.com.

Nu-Frontiers

Project to be determined. RSVP to Lisa Kiev-Chen at lkievchen@zedek.org.

SchZFTY: Title One Charter School

Help beautify this educational facility. RSVP to Lindsey Dewey at ldewey@zedek.org.

Senior Mitzvah Corps

Project to be determined. RSVP to Lisa Kiev-Chen at lkievchen@zedek.org.

Youth

Congregation Schaarai Zedek's Youth Groups offer a multitude of activities including social, religious, cultural, community service, and more. All are designed to provide opportunities for our Jewish youth to meet and socialize. RSVP online at www.zedek.org/RSVP or call (813) 876-2377 for all programs (unless otherwise noted) so we can prepare.

SchZFTY Open House

Wednesday, January 8, 6:30 pm



(Grades 9-12) Join us for our January Open House. We will enjoy dinner and time as a community as we gear up to host Spring Kallah 2020! Dr. Rick Weinberg, a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Child and Family Studies at USF, will join us to spend some time talking about our programming themes and ideas for Spring Kallah. RSVP at www.zedek.org/RSVP so we can order enough dinner for everyone!

Teenokot on the Town

Thursday, January 16, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

(Ages 0-4) Come explore Little Play Place, a new creative play space for children located in Carrollwood! We will have snacks for kids and adults alike. RSVP online required for our group block. Little Play Place is located at 14425 N Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa, FL 33618. Please arrive 10 minutes before our 90 minutes of scheduled open play! RSVP requested at www.zedek.org/RSVP.

Pirate Tot Shabbat

Friday, January 17, 5:30 pm



Join us for an evening of celebrating Tampa's pirates as we welcome Shabbat (ages 0-5 and siblings of all ages). A complimentary Shabbat dinner will follow singing and celebration. Feel free to come in your pirate attire! RSVPs requested by January 16 at www.zedek.org/RSVP.



Above: SchZFTY students enjoyed a Winter Wonderland night out on December 7.

SchZFTY Shabbat Dinner

Friday, January 24, 6:00 pm

(Grades 9-12) Slow down and celebrate Shabbat with your SchZFTY friends. We will come together for a traditional Shabbat dinner, socializing, Shabbat games, and more. \$20 covers dinner and activities. RSVP for address at www.zedek.org/RSVP.

Chaverim at Bricks 4 Kidz

Sunday, January 26, 11:30 am

(Grades 3-5) Get excited for dynamic build challenges with the team at Bricks 4 Kidz. Stick around after Sunday School for lunch and an exciting afternoon of building and creative exploration. Please complete emergency contact information prior to Sunday school. Pick up is at 2:15 pm at Schaarai Zedek. \$20 includes lunch and activities. Sign up at www.zedek.org/RSVP.



News from the Amy Gail Buchman Preschool

Jan. 1:	School closed for New Year's Day
Jan. 17:	Pirate Parade
Jan. 20:	School closed for MLK Day
Jan 29-31:	Donuts with Dad

NFTY-STR Spring Kallah

Friday, February 28 - Sunday, March 1

Spring Kallah is an incredible opportunity for Jewish engagement for our students in grades 8-12 and teens from all over Florida! Spend an amazing weekend with your NFTY-STR community. Be prepared to participate in creative programs, meet new people and learn something new about yourself. Spring Kallah promises to be a wonderful event filled with laughter, community, trust and friendship.

We can't do any of this without your help! Our teens have been hard at work planning since August and we need your help to execute the first event of the decade! Please see the included volunteer insert for ways you can help!

RSVP to any Youth event online at www.zedek.org/RSVP or by calling the temple office at (813) 876-2377.

Lifecycles

Mazel Tov to Our Members Who Have Experienced Joy:

Jennifer and Michael Jain on the birth of their daughter, Giselle Rivkah Jain.

Linda and Don Rich on the birth of their granddaughter, Emily Erin Brown.

Condolences to Our Members Who Have Suffered Recent Losses:

Dianne Baruch on the death of her brother, Frederick Martin Mohel.

John Dingfelder on the death of his father, Simon Dingfelder.

Allen Keller on the death of his father, John Keller.

Jason Wagner on the death of his grandmothers, Mary Hemberger and Margaret Wagner.

Congratulations to Our Members on Their Achievements:

Andi Jacobs on being honored by the Tampa Bay Lightning as their "Community Hero."

Eric Newman on being awarded the 2019 Tampa Bay Ethics Award.

New Members

Elyse Acanda

Kara and Asher Bernstein

Dr. Erica Schultz and Adam Fauer

Meredith Ashley and JD Hill

Marissa and Kevin McCarthy

Jamie and Josh Noland



Above: Yeladim students painted ceramic menorahs for a fun Chanukah activity on December 6.

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Donations

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who remember and honor their loved ones and friends through contributions made to our Temple Funds. If you would like to make a donation, please contact the temple office at (813) 876-2377 or visit www.zedek.org/donate. The following gifts were received from November 9 - December 5, 2019.

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in appreciation of Rabbi Simon's caring presence

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in memory of Harriett Cyment

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in memory of Simon Dingfelder, father of John Dingfelder

in memory of Herman Yolofsky

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in memory of Simon Dingfelder, father of John Dingfelder

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RABBI RICHARD & DONNA BIRNHOLZ EDUCATION FUND

Alicia & Michael LeVine

in honor of Donna Birnholz receiving the 2019 Women of Distinction Award

FOOD BANK FUND

Elaine Stupp

in memory of Simon Dingfelder, father of John Dingfelder

ESTHER N. & LEO M. WEISS SENIORS ENDOWMENT FUND

Elaine & Geoffrey Gross

in honor of Donna Birnholz receiving the 2019 Women of Distinction Award

SUSTAINING FUND

Paul Evans Switalski

in memory of Simon Dingfelder, father of John Dingfelder

Bobbie & Ted Taub

in memory of Philip Adler, father of Joshua Adler

in memory of Simon Dingfelder, father of John Dingfelder

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The Sisterhood Floral fund provides flowers to beautify the bimah on Shabbat and holidays in the memory of loved ones and friends.

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in memory of Michael Rothburd

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JANUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Office Closed New Year's Day		Jews by Choice Shabbat Service 7 PM	Shabbat Yoga / Torah Study 9 AM Come As You Are Shabbat Service 10:30 AM 20s+30s Event 12 PM Cuba Meeting 12 PM Audrey Knust Bat Mitzvah 4:30 PM
Sisterhood Book Club 12 PM Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 PM			Nu Frontiers Tarpon Springs Fun Day 10 AM SchZFTY Open House 6:30 PM	B'nai Mitzvah Family Program 6 PM	Challah in the 'Chood 6 PM Shabbat Service 7 PM	Shabbat at the Museum 9 AM
Religious School 9 AM Cafe Zedek 9 AM Sisterhood Cancer Thrivers Network Presentation 9 AM Sisterhood Hamantaschen Dough Making 11:15 AM	Sisterhood Board Meeting 11:30 AM Brotherhood Board Meeting 6:30 PM	Sisterhood Membership Event 5:30 PM	Adult Hebrew Class 6 PM Nominating Committee Meeting 7 PM	Teenokot Event 11 AM Senior Luncheon 11:15 AM Brotherhood Event 6:30 PM	Pirate Tot Shabbat 5:30 PM Shabbat Service 7 PM	Torah Study 9 AM Joshua Katz Bar Mitzvah 10:30 AM Maxwell Haman Bar Mitzvah 4:30 PM
	Office Closed Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday	Sisterhood Hamantaschen Baking 8:30 AM	Nu Frontiers ROMEO Lunch Bunch 11:45 AM Adult Hebrew Class 6 PM		SchZFTY Shabbat 6 PM Shabbat Service 7 PM	Gasparilla Parade
Religious School 9 AM Cafe Zedek 9 AM Chaverim Event 11:30 AM	Sisterhood Hamantaschen Baking 5:30 PM Board of Trustees Meeting 7 PM		Adult Hebrew Class 6 PM	Adults' Night Out Bowling 7 PM	Consecration, First and Second-Grade, and Grandparents Family Shabbat Service 7 PM	

FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Shabbat Yoga / Torah Study 9 AM Come As You Are Shabbat Service 10:30 AM Chloe Cohen Bat Mitzvah 4:30 PM
2 Religious School 9 AM Cafe Zedek 9 AM Sisterhood Hamantaschen Baking 9 AM Yeladim Event 11:30 AM Groundhog Day	3 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 PM Guest Speaker - Rabbi Jack Bemporad 7 PM	4	5 Adult Hebrew Class 6 PM SchZFTY Open House 6:30 PM	6 Sisterhood Hamantaschen Baking 8:30 AM Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Jack Bemporad 11:30 AM	7 Shabbat Service 7 PM	8 Torah Study 9 AM Ian Villasin Bar Mitzvah 10:30 AM Winter Wonderland 3 PM
9 Jr. SchZFTY Pancake Breakfast 7 AM Mitzvah Day 9 AM	10 Sisterhood Book Club 12 PM Sisterhood Board Meeting 11:30 AM Brotherhood Board Meeting 6:30 PM Tu BiShvat Seder & Wine Tasting 7 PM Tu BiShvat	11 Sisterhood Social Event 6 PM	12 Sisterhood Hamantaschen Baking 8:30 AM Nu Frontiers ROMEO Lunch Bunch 11:45 AM Adult Hebrew 6 PM BACA Concert 7 PM Lincoln's Birthday	13 Teenokot Event 10:30 AM	14 Shabbat Service 7 PM Valentine's Day	15 Torah Study 9 AM Isaac Teichman Bar Mitzvah 10:30 AM Lana Thomas Bat Mitzvah 4:30 PM 20s+30s Event 5 PM
16	17 Sisterhood Hamantaschen Baking 5:30 PM Board of Trustees Meeting 7 PM President's Day	18	19 Adult Hebrew 6 PM	20 Senior Luncheon 11:15 AM Brotherhood Event 6 PM	21 Friday Night Tot Shabbat 5:30 PM Family Shabbat Service 7 PM	22 Torah Study 9 AM Briana Kahn Bat Mitzvah 10:30 AM Adults' Night Out Havdalah & Dinner 6 PM SchZFTY Event 6:30 PM Washington's Birthday
23 Religious School 9 AM Nu Frontiers Solomon's Castle Tour 9:45 AM Cafe Zedek 9 AM Sisterhood Hamantaschen Baking 9 AM	24	25 Mardi Gras	26 Adult Hebrew 6 PM	27	28 Shabbat Service 7 PM	29 Shabbat Yoga 8 AM Torah Study 9:15 AM Come As You Are Shabbat Service 10:30 AM

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Live Streaming

Each Shabbat and holiday service is live streamed on our website at www.zedek.org/streaming and will be available for a limited time after its conclusion for "on demand" viewing. Private family lifecycle events (i.e. b'nai mitvah services or funerals) will not be made available to watch "on demand."

Roku Channel

Watch Schaarai Zedek on the big screen! Roku is a streaming service used to connect your TV to a variety of free and subscription channels. You can purchase a Roku Streaming Stick and simply plug it into your TV. Once your Roku has been set up, search for Congregation Schaarai Zedek and follow the instructions to add it to your channels.

Facebook

Our live stream feed is available via Schaarai Zedek's Facebook page on Facebook LIVE. Join this interactive viewing experience to like, comment, and share!

Podcast

You can look forward to each Friday night's sermon being posted the following Monday. You can find it by searching for Schaarai Zedek wherever you listen to podcasts: iTunes, SoundCloud, Google Play, and Stitcher.

YouTube

On our YouTube channel, you can find past Shabbat and holiday services, sermons, adult education, and more. Find us by searching for "Congregation Schaarai Zedek."

eNews

Schaarai Zedek sends out an e-newsletter each Wednesday with updates on upcoming events. Members are automatically sent the email each week. If you are a member and are not receiving email communications, please email office@zedek.org to let us know.

Shofar

At the beginning of each month, the Shofar is sent to the homes of our members. It has newsworthy information such as words from our clergy, upcoming events, updates from the our Sisterhood and Brotherhood, and more!

In preparing for the Shofar, we welcome all Schaarai Zedek members' announcements of communal, academic, and professional achievements. Please email office@zedek.org or mail it to the synagogue, marked "ATTN: Shofar."