



Schaarai Zedek Mission to Cuba Reflections on our mission trip to Cuba. Page 3



Lunch & Learn
Join Cantor for a
special Lunch &
Learn discussing
Kabbalat Shabbat.
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Challah in the 'Chood Join us in Brandon for a fun Shabbat evening. Page 13

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.

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.

SHQFAR

A monthly newsletter by Congregation Schaarai Zedek

Volume: 124 Number: 8 View the Shofar Online: www.zedek.org/shofar

March Worship Calendar

Friday, March 6

5:30 pm **Friday Night Tot Shabbat**

Shabbat Service 7:00 pm

Rabbi Farb will speak.

Saturday, March 7

9:00 am **Torah Study**

Marin Shear Bat Mitzvah 10:30 am

Friday, March 13

6:00 pm Challah in the 'Chood - Brandon

7:00 pm Shabbat Service

Rabbi Farb will speak at Schaarai Zedek.

Saturday, March 14

9:00 am **Torah Study**

Benjamin Rieger Bar Mitzvah 10:30 am Johnathan Lavender Bar Mitzvah 4:30 pm

Friday, March 20

Shabbat Service 7:00 pm

> Rabbi Simon will speak about his meeting with Tampa City Council member Orlando Gudes and the impact of stereotypes in Jewish

history.

Saturday, March 21

9:00 am **Shabbat Yoga/Torah Study**

Come As You Are Shabbat Service 10:30 am

Friday, March 27

6:00 pm **Preneg**

Shabbat Achshav Service 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 28

9:00 am **Torah Study**

Aiden Abramowitz Bar Mitzvah 10:30 am





Schaarai Zedek Mission to Cuba

Cuba: A land frozen in time - so close, yet decades away. A Jewish community dedicated to its heritage across half a century of isolation and prevalent atheism.

Dennis Geagan

he CSZ Cuba Trip developed into a wonderful success for those who participated. While there, we visited five Jewish communities, ranging in size from seven families to 200 families, and met with their respective leaders for insights into their experiences there. Similar threads ran through all their stories: one of a past loss, a present recovery underway, and a future clouded by a controlled world around them.

After the Revolution in 1959, those who could afford to leave generally did, and

there was a 90% reduction in the Jewish population. Their stories told of a time when religion, while not persecuted in any way, was still frowned upon. Since then, all religions have been allowed to return and flourish under the current regime with a hope for a more open society.

There are tremendous shortages, and lack of modern goods and conveniences are taken for granted. There is growth in the Jewish communities, but it is clouded by the stagnation of the society and economy that drives the next generation abroad in search of a better future.

Our group was able to provide gifts that were needed and well-received to try and help their existence in such a spartan world.

It was encouraging to see a place that has had a tremendous evolution of society in the past 60 years is rebuilding itself in a place that is without anti-Semitism.

Our group was able to enjoy the Cuban culture for its music and dance, its artistry, and its architecture. While enjoying each other's camaraderie and riding in the classic cars was an experience that won't be forgotten by anyone in the group, the experiences gained from the people there were the highlights of the trip.





From the Clergy

Purim, comedy, and laughing at tyrants

Rabbi Nathan Farb

urim Day, Purim Day, It's a Happy Holiday!" You've probably heard the refrain of silly Purim songs like this one, sung during a holiday famous for its frivolity, humor, and joyous celebration. It is a day of dressing up, playing games, face painting, and masks. As a holiday, it may seem at odds with itself, considering that it celebrates the survival of the Jewish people in the face of near-annihilation. The wicked Haman, a vizier to the king of Persia, developed a vendetta against the Jewish people after learning that we would not bow down to his will and worship him. He eventually coerced the incompetent head of state to pass a cruel law to execute all the Jews in Persia, the world's largest and most powerful empire.

It is only through a fortunate happenstance that the near genocide was averted. The young Queen Esther was secretly a Jewish woman who had caught the eye and heart of the king. By risking her own life, and through some careful politicking, Esther was able to turn the hapless king against his vizier and save the lives of her people. Haman and his sons were publicly

executed for their treason. This led to an all-out war between the supporters of Haman and the Jews who were granted political immunity to defend themselves. Haman's supporters were swiftly decimated.

Despite the dark themes and consequential events recorded in the book of Esther, the tone is jovial and even comical. The powerful head of state is portrayed as a bungler and a buffoon who is petty, impulsive, corrupt, but ultimately clueless. He doesn't know what is going on in his kingdom, even right under his nose. He wields ultimate power, but he wants to play games and party. Only when others interfere with his hedonistic appetite does he take action, yet he somehow continually slips free of any consequences for his irresponsible actions. This is not a description of a world leader in absolute control of the most powerful empire on earth. It is a caricature. It is a parody.

The wicked Haman is depicted no less comically. In one instance, he advises the king to honor him in a brash and overthe-top public ceremony. Yet in a twist worthy of reality TV or a middle-school sitcom, he is humiliated and forced to honor his rival in the very pageantry he designed. He is a mustache-twirling

archetype drawn straight out of vaudeville or the shallowest popcorn movie. He receives a petty slight to his ego from one Jewish man, so he resolves to exterminate the world's Jews, all the while without realizing the queen herself is the Jewish cousin of his rival. His nameless and faceless minions, billed as a ferocious mob, are dispensed of by the heroes as quickly as they appear in the final act.

Would that all real-world evils were so easily foiled.

We have seen in our own lifetimes what true villainy looks like. Hatred can be subtle and cunning, disguised as fear, mistrust, or even a kind of twisted reason. Cruelty often wears the mask of strength and resolve. Those who follow petty tyrants do not vanish when their leaders are vanquished, but rather fester in hatred, preserving their toxic ideology and carrying on oppression into future generations. In reality, Haman and the king are one and the same. When faced with tyrants in any age, it is irresistible to portray them as either buffoons or madmen, as opaque and single-minded masterminds, or as bumbling and self-serving fools. We often see wicked leaders depicted as both simultaneously;

Continued on page 9

CSZBrotherhood

February was "Volunteer Month" for Brotherhood. We were able to participate in a few volunteer events: Mitzvah Day and NFTY-STR Spring Kallah. It was great seeing so many members show up to volunteer! Volunteering is an excellent way for us to come together!

March is starting in the same spirit with the Purim Carnival on March 8. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us.

Get excited about the 11th Annual Brotherhood Signature Event! This year, Shapiro's Delicatessen from Indianapolis (www.shapiros.com) will be the deli for the event. Come with empty stomachs and be ready to enjoy corned beef and pastrami, as well as other delicious sides and drinks! Look for the flyer insert in this Shofar. We will send out invitations soon. Deli Night is always a great event, so make sure you get your tickets early!

Besides finding event information in the Shofar and emails, please find information and links on www.zedek.org and join the Brotherhood Facebook page.

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 steve@gerstengroup.com. We invite all male adult congregants of Schaarai Zedek 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 to participate.

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

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

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

CSZSisterhood

Munch, read, learn, and make a positive difference with Sisterhood!

- We hope you're hungry! Enjoy delicious homemade Hamantaschen for only \$10 per bag. This fun-raiser supports our Religious School, so there is no guilt involved in buying and enjoying multiple flavors. You can choose from our annual favorites: chocolate chip, cherry, apricot, plum, poppyseed, and these new additions: almond and lemon.
- Our **Sisterhood Presidents Council**, composed of current and past Sisterhood presidents, will meet on Tuesday, March 3, at 6:30 pm to discuss upcoming events and projects.
- Join us for **Sisterhood Book Club** on Monday, March 23, at noon to discuss Laurie Frankel's This Is How It Always Is, a story close to the author's heart and inspired by her transgender child.
- Back by popular demand, Sisterhood co-president and educator Andi Parker will offer an informative Positive Parenting Presentation about "What We're Doing Right" on Sunday, March 29. Come at 9:00 am for breakfast, and the program will start at 9:30 am. Babysitting is available if you register to attend in advance.
- Are you looking for a fun and meaningful way to spend time with your family? We hope to see you on Sunday, March 29, at 11:30 am for Sisterhood's Social Action Birthday Party benefitting Tampa Bay Party Project, an organization that believes all children deserve to experience the joy of celebrating their special day regardless of their family situation or financial ability. We will eat lunch and learn about the organization from

- its founder. Then, we will work together to support this group's efforts to brighten the lives of children in our community.
- Save the date for **Sisterhood's Shabbat Dinner and Service**. You do not want to miss it! Friday, April 3, at 7:00 pm. Professional speaker Mindy Corporon will share her personal story that will touch your heart and inspire you with her faith and kindness approach to make our world a better place.

L'shalom,

Andi Parker, Co-President andironp@aol.com

Diane Porat, Co-President drp1223@verizon.net



StaffProfile

Meet Becca Pollak, our new Religious School Assistant!

Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, Becca moved to the Tampa area in August 2019. She received her Bachelor of Science in Zoology from Michigan State University and has worked at zoos, aquariums, and other educational facilities caring for animals and teaching environmental education.

She has worked with manatees, dolphins, penguins, giraffes, snakes, crocodilians, and sea turtles (her favorite!).

Becca is an excellent fit for the Religious School because before moving to Tampa, she was a senior staff member at Camp Livingston, a Jewish sleepaway camp in southern Indiana. She was also a program coordinator for teens and tweens at the Mayerson JCC in Cincinnati. In that position, she had the



Becca Pollak Religious School Assistant

opportunity to lead the local BBYO youth groups, as well as organize and lead a March of the Living trip to Poland and Israel. Becca was also a co-founder of the Cincinnati Moishe House, an international organization that helps establish Jewish programming for post-college young adults.

Outside of work, Becca trains four to five days a week in partner acrobatics and enjoys beachcombing for shells and shark teeth. •

The World Zionist Congress elections are here, and it is time to have our voices heard in Israel! Each and every vote is crucial to maintaining a strong Reform presence. This is our chance to combat the challenges the Reform Movement faces in Israel. Together we can grow our Reform Movement and work towards making progress on the issues we care about: religious freedom, equality, and many more.

Voting is open now until March 11, 2020. Your vote in this election is the only democratic opportunity you have to influence Israeli society. Visit zionistelection.org to Vote Reform and visit ARZA's website (arza.org) for more information.

ARZA, the Israel arm of the Reform Movement, serves as the connection between American Reform Jews and the State of Israel, and as Rabbi Simon wrote about in the February Shofar, the World Zionist Congress elections are an important way to make sure the American Reform voice is heard and that Reform institutions in Israel receive the support they deserve. Please consider casting your vote for ARZA.

If you have any questions, please let Rabbi Farb or Rabbi Simon know – they are happy to help!



VOTE FROM YOUR PHONE IN SECONDS

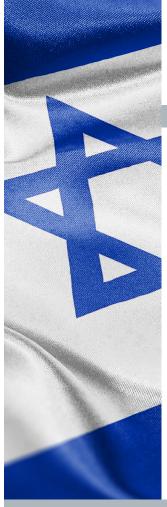
FOR THE WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTION!

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO GET TO THE VOTING WEBSITE:

- Open up the camera on your cell phone
- Point your phone camera at this QR code
- A notification will pop up on your phone. Click the notification, and you will be directed to the election website!



For step-by-step instructions on how to vote, visit ARZA.org/Election





AdultEngagement

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.



ROMEO Lunch Bunch

Thursday, March 5, 11:45 am

Buffet-style lunch at Schaarai Zedek CSZ Members \$10, Non-Members \$15

Join Rabbi Birnholz and our ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out) for good food and good conversation at Schaarai Zedek. This month, Rabbi will introduce a different take on the Purim story: "Queen Esther, Courtesan or Spy?" Decide for yourself and add your two cents to the group discussion.

Nu Frontiers Bike Ride & Lunch

Saturday, March 7 10:30 am: Bike Upper Tampa Bay Trail 12:00 pm: Lunch at Ballyhoo Grill

> Enjoy a ride along the Upper Tampa Bay Trail and lunch at Ballyhoo Grill. Want to ride but don't have a bike? Rent a bike and helmet at Citrus Park Bikes by calling (813) 749-6732. We invite everyone (whether you're biking or

not) to meet up and pay for your own lunch at Ballyhoo Grill. We strongly encourage the use of helmets and bike locks. Riders and non-riders need to RSVP so we can make reservations by Thursday, March 5.



Lunch & Learn with Cantor Cannizzaro

Wednesday, March 11, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

"Kabbalat Shabbat: Music and Meaning." This class will focus on the Kabbalat Shabbat service. We will take a look at the meaning of Kabbalat Shabbat, how it came about, and the psalms and songs that make up the service. We will listen to music that has been written for the various components of Kabbalat Shabbat and explore why some are more popular than others. No charge for lunch.

Senior Luncheon

Thursday, March 19, Seating at 11:15 am

Please join us for a toe-tapping good time with The Brian Leneschmidt Band. The band features Blues, Rock, and R&B music with Brian Leneschmidt (vocals and guitar), Jason Lewis (bass), Dave Dube (drums), and Thomas Mignella (saxophone). Move to the beat with a mix of the band's original music and cover songs. Please RSVP by March 17. Our Amy Gail Buchman Preschool Singers will perform at 11:30 am as the program begins.

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



A project of Congregation Schaarai Zedek's 20s + 30s Connection to help you... adult.

20s+30s Adult-ing

Saturday, March 21, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

We are excited to present our new 20s+30s Connection program, Adult-ing. Thinking of buying a house? Wish you knew how to take care of your ever-changing skin? Wondering how you boil an egg? Adult-ing is an opportunity for you to talk to a real live expert instead of your search engine.

Once a month 20s+30s Connection will offer the chance for you to hear from someone who is an expert in one aspect of "adulting." We hope you will join us to learn, laugh, and grow up together.

First up, "How/When/If to Buy a House." A realtor, a mortgage broker, and a rabbi will walk us through the steps of buying a house and then how to make that house a home. Join us for lunch and bring your questions! Have a topic you wish we would cover? E-mail Molly Levy at mlevy@zedek.org.

Nu Frontiers "12 Angry Men" Show & Dinner

Sunday, March 22, 1:45 pm – 7:45 pm

CSZ Members \$33, Non-Members \$42

Show and Cast Chat only (no bus transportation) \$25 Stageworks Theatre (1120 East Kennedy Blvd, Suite 151) Join us for this electrifying courtroom drama where tempers flare, and arguments grow heated as the jurors in a murder trial reveal the hidden truths about themselves and their morals, values, and lives. Talk with the actors after the show during the Cast Chat. Then pay for your own dinner from the menu when we eat as a group at Tampa Bay Brewing Company. RSVP requested by March 8, online at www.zedek.org/RSVP, or by calling the temple office at (813) 876-2377.



Movie Night "Never Again is Now"

Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 pm at Rodeph Sholom Synagogue 2713 Bayshore Blvd. Tampa, FL 33629 Join us at Rodeph Sholom for a movie screening and discussion with Evelyn Marcus, followed by a reception. "Never Again is Now" is a must-see documentary investigating the troubling

global rise of anti-Semitism in Europe, a story told through the eyes of a woman who fled Europe to America in 2006. Evelyn Marcus was raised in Holland by parents who witnessed the anti-Jewish violence in the 1940s. When Marcus saw the sign of the same disturbing trends returning to the Netherlands, she left the land her family called home for centuries. "Never Again is Now" is Evelyn's story, her warning to the world that anti-Semitism is back and shows the signs of it in America todav.

No charge. RSVP online at www.zedek.org/RSVP or call the temple office at (813) 876-2377.



20s+30s Trivia Night Wednesday, March 25

7:30 pm - 10:00 pm Join us for trivia at The Blind Goat (4106 Henderson Blvd, Tampa, FL 33629)! Appetizers and your first drink are on us.

Just bring your brain and maybe a few smart friends. Trivia Night is a monthly event, stay for the whole time or just a couple of rounds! We hope to see you there! RSVP online at www.zedek.org/RSVP or call the temple office at (813) 876-2377.



Adults' Night Out: Game Night

Saturday, March 28, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Come for an exciting, action-packed Game Night at Schaarai Zedek. We will have a complimentary dinner with beer and wine, high-energy team games, and a special Havdalah service to mark the end of Shabbat.

Adults' Night Out is a community for those whose kids have left the nest, those who are soon-to-be empty nesters, and those who do not have kids but are of a similar age. We invite anyone who wants to connect and spend time with others to experience the joys of this new life stage.

No charge. RSVP online at www.zedek.org/RSVP or call the temple office at (813) 876-2377.

Clergy Article continued

they are as conniving and petty as Haman, but somehow also as incompetent and clueless as the king.

We live in a world that frequently fails to muster the strength to defeat tyrants and takes years or decades to remove them from power. The Purim celebration challenges us to meet tyranny not with vitriol, but with humor. Comedy has incredible power over despots because it removes the fear and awe that dictators demand from their subjects. Autocrats thrive on the promulgation of an impenetrable image. The propaganda of Hitler,

Stalin, Kim, and Khomeini all depict these men as resolute and revered. Indeed, nearly all wicked dictators capture, kill, and silence those who dare to make light of them. When our ancestors began to celebrate Purim, the power of humor was not lost on them.

Purim is less about Haman and the king of Ancient Persia than it is about recognizing both figures in every despot of every age. It is about the power of humor and parody to chip away the invincible image of oppressors and their followers. By making a mockery of laughable

ideologies, it is possible to defeat them in a way that rage and violence never can. The incisiveness of parody empowers us to cut out hatred, ignorance, and misinformation, and to shine a light into dark places. It is what allows us to laugh and celebrate in the face of those who would destroy us. The power of Purim is its joyfulness, and it is relevant every year that we celebrate. So laugh and celebrate with joy this year! •

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, March 4, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

(Grades 9-12) Join us for our March Open House! We will enjoy dinner and time as a community as we relax and reflect on SPRING KALLAH 2020! We will have board games and coloring pages to relax and recharge! Bring your homework (or not) and bring a friend! RSVP so we can order enough dinner for everyone!

SchZFTY Elections

Sunday, March 8, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

(Grades 9-12) It is time to start looking towards the 2020-2021 school year and elections! If you are considering running for a position on SchZFTY Board, schedule a meeting with Lindsey Dewey to discuss the expectations and requirements of different board positions.

If you are interested in running, you must contact Lindsey

Dewey in writing by Friday, March 6, at 2:00 pm, and include
the board position for which you are running. Please include a
statement (no more than one page) of why you would

like to run for this position. If you are choosing a "drop-down" position, you must indicate so in your statement of intent. All applicants are required to prepare a speech no longer than three minutes in length, explaining why you would be suitable for your desired position.





Kallah Celebration Dinner

Wednesday, March 11, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

We would love to thank all of our remarkable Kallah volunteers with a dinner celebrating our success! Teens and adults are invited to join us for an evening of reflection and celebration! RSVP online so we order enough for dinner!

Teenokot Spring Sensory Play

Thursday, March 12, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm (Ages 0-4) Come for a nosh and spring sensory play with our littlest friends! We will have all kinds of sensory stations set up for indoor fun! Join us for a morning your kiddo won't forget!



Young Families Tot Shabbat Touch-A-Truck

Saturday, March 28, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Kids 5 and under (and their siblings) will love this unique, interactive community event coming for the first time to Schaarai Zedek! This event features a festival-type atmosphere where children can climb on, learn about, and explore various trucks, as well as meet the people who use these vehicles to serve our community. Kids will have a chance to play in the Tumblebus as well as enjoy a snack from a food truck as a family!

Jr. SchZFTY Event

March 29

March 6:

Details to follow, keep an eye on your inbox for more information!



News from the Amy Gail Buchman Preschool

March 2-4: Class and Cap & Gown Photos

March 13: Purim Play During our two Shabbat Services

Dr. Seuss School-Wide Shabbat

March 16-20: Spring Break - School Closed for Part-Time

and School Day Students only

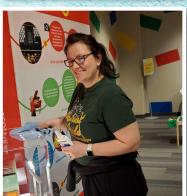
RSVP to any Youth event online at www.zedek.org/RSVP or by calling the temple office at (813) 876-2377.

On February 9, over 400 volunteers came together for Schaarai Zedek's 22nd Annual Mitzvah Day to help repair the world - tikkun olam. Thank you to everyone who helped make this day so successful!























B'naiMitzvah



Marin Shear Bat Mitzvah: March 7, 2020 Parents: Kelly and Jeffrey Shear **Torah Portion:** Titzaveh



Benjamin Rieger Bar Mitzvah: March 14, 2020 Parents: Natasha and Jarett Rieger **Torah Portion:** Ki Tisa



Johnathan Lavender Bar Mitzvah: March 14, 2020 Parents: Barbara and Daniel Lavender **Torah Portion:** Vayakhel-Pekude

Aiden Abramowitz Bar Mitzvah: March 28, 2020 Parents: Dory and Ilan Abramowitz **Torah Portion:** Vayikra

ReligiousSchool

Cafe Zedek Sundays during Religious School

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









Our littlest congregants enjoyed a day at the park on February 13.

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 plague 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.

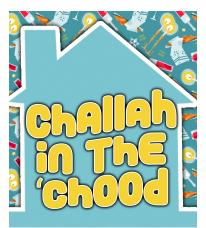
If you are interested in being a part of our Friendly Visitors Program, or if you know of anyone in the congregation who may be in need of some extra support, contact Rabbi Farb at (813) 876-2377, ext. 229 or nfarb@zedek.org.

Shabbat&Worship

Beginning Talmud: Torah Study with Rabbi Farb

Saturdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28, 9:00 am

Every seven and a half years, Jews around the world begin a new cycle of Talmud study. Join us as we start 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.



Challah in the 'Chood - Brandon

Friday, March 13, 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, March 13, at 6:00 pm in Brandon. We invite everyone to participate in this Shabbat experience; you don't have to be a Brandon resident to attend. Shabbat service will also be held as usual at the temple this evening, but we'd love to see you in the 'chood! Please RSVP for the location. RSVP online at www.zedek.org/RSVP or call the temple office at (813) 876-2377.

Shabbat for the Body, Mind, and Soul

Saturday, March 21

9:00 am – Shabbat Yoga or Torah Study

9:00 am – Kids' Shabbat Yoga and Art Project (ages 2-6)

10:30 am - "Come as You Are" Shabbat Service

Make Shabbat morning a part of your week! Start with Shabbat Yoga or Torah Study. We are offering a Shabbat program for children (ages 2-6) whose caretakers are attending Shabbat Yoga or Torah Study. Children over the age of six are encouraged to join in the regular Shabbat Yoga class! After Shabbat Yoga and Torah Study, we invite everyone (all ages!) to 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.



OurSynagogue



The Early Days of Schaarai Zedek

Excerpts from the minutes of the Temple Board*

December 11, 1910

President Maas...then stated that as no meeting had been held since May 2, 1909, and but a very small amount of dues having been paid, that the indebtedness of the Congregation had accumulated and that the time was opportune for action.

The Treasurer stated that there was a balance on hand of \$13.03 and that the indebtedness of the Congregation amounted to \$325.13...

A general discussion ensued as to the future of the Congregation, and the Secretary made an appeal for renewed activity in behalf of the cause of Judaism.

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



Perpetuating Judaism requires constant renewal. In addition to the wisdom that comes with age, a vibrant temple community needs the enthusiasm and energy of the young. Recruiting and retaining young members is critically important because young people represent the future of the congregation.

In July 2001, the Board adopted a new dues structure to encourage young adults – singles, married couples, and families – to affiliate. With the incentive of a sliding scale of affordable dues, we make it attractive for people under age 35 to become active participants in the life of the temple. Over the past years, many young adults have joined the congregation. The vast majority have remained members. By making membership affordable, the Young Adult Member Plan has succeeded in bringing new life to our synagogue. Those members under 35 who can afford more than their age-related dues are encouraged to raise their commitment voluntarily through Torah Circle.

The Torah Circle funds enable us to have a Young Adult Member Plan. With this important program, we are helping to establish a fundamental relationship that perpetuates Judaism for generations to come.

Thank you so much for your generous contributions.

- Rabbi Richard J. Birnholz Torah Circle Committee



In honor of our 125th anniversary, we are encouraging the members of our community to help ensure our next 125 years by supporting our Eternal Light Schaarai Zedek Endowment Fund through our Legacy Campaign.

Rabbi Simon, Marc LeVine, or Rabbi Birnholz are happy to discuss how you can make Schaarai Zedek a part of your legacy giving plan.

We want to recognize those who have already included us in their legacy plan by including them in our Eternal Light Society. If you have included Schaarai Zedek in your estate plan and you're not sure if we're aware, please let Marc know so we can properly recognize you.

Lifecycles

Mazel Tov to Our Members Who Have Experienced Joy

Casey and Chris Nakamura on the birth of their daughter, Sadie Jay Nakamura.

Tiffany and Scott Swartz on the birth of their daughter, Abigail Elyse Swartz.

Hilary and Brent Waluzak on the birth of their son, Evan James Waluzak.

Condolences to Our Members Who Have Suffered Recent Losses

Edith Dressler on the death of her father, Donald Gross Northey.

Nancy Hamilton on the death of her husband, and Stephanie and Samantha Hamilton on the death of their father, George Hamilton.

Nancy Siegal on the death of her father, Stephen Perel.

Patricia Taback on the death of her husband, and Rachael Mitchell on the death of her father, Stephen "Denny" Taback.

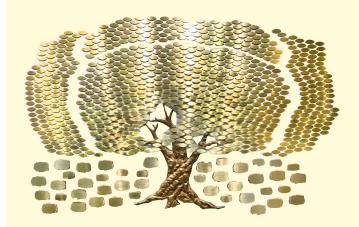
Congratulations to Our Members on Their Achievements

Scott Jaffe on being honored by the Professional Societies of the Tampa Jewish Federation.

Mark Wolfson on being honored by the Professional Societies of the Tampa Jewish Federation.

New Members

Carolyn & Matt Adler Sharon Krackov & Jerome Buff Elizabeth & Leonardo Dosoretz Audra & Adam Gaswirth Samantha & Eric Heaps Lois Hoffer Elizabeth & Justin James Carrie & Michael Levine Yael & Paul Lieber Julia Freling & Chiredu Madu Eric Maier Stephanie Dowling-Neymotin & Arie Neymotin Ali & Loren Pincus Noga Afik & Steven Schoenfeld Beverly & Michael Stevens Hope & Seth Van Der Stelt Hilary & Brent Waluzak



Tree of Life

Commemorative Brass Leaves

Celebrate special occasions in your life or honor friends by purchasing a leaf (\$250) or a stone (\$1000 or \$1800) on our "Tree of Life" in the Buchman-Rachelson Social Hall. Call Debra Zepeda at the temple office for details at (813) 876-2377, ext. 234.





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 January 4 - February 3, 2020.

RABBI SIMON'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Renee & Stuart Baritz

in honor of the baby naming of Sadie Nakamura

Jean & Leonard Gilbert

in honor of Les Scharf's 90th birthday

Sharon & Bruce Gobioff

in memory of Howard Gobioff

Jerilyn & Stuart Goldsmith

in honor of Jay Older's 80th birthday

Elaine & Geoffrey Gross

in memory of Marvin Robert Jacobowitz, brother of Arthur Jacobowitz

Audrey Haubenstock

in memory of Marvin Robert Jacobowitz, brother of Arthur Jacobowitz in memory of Jerome Schine, father of Michael Schine in memory of Beverly Spitzer

Jennifer & Michael Jain

in honor of Rabbi Simon for performing the baby namings for Juliette & Giselle Jain

Janet & Michael Kass

in memory of Jerome Schine, father of Michael Schine

Caren & Robert Katz

in honor of Joshua Katz' Bar Mitzvah

Sarah Kline

in memory of Marvin Robert Jacobowitz, brother of Arthur Jacobowitz

Jeffrey Levin

in memory of Joan Levin Gewirtz

Casey & Chris Nakamura

in honor of the baby naming of Sadie Nakamura

Allen Root

in memory of Priscilla Root in memory of Louis Greenberg

Laura & Steven Salzer

in memory of Donald Gross Northey, father of Edith Dressler in memory of Jerome Schine, father of Michael Schine in memory of Larry Wittek

Lori & David Schwartz

in memory of Brian Neuman, husband of Carlyn Neuman

Jill & Rich Teitelbaum

in honor of Alex Teitelbaum's Bar Mitzvah

RABBI FARB'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Marcie & Owen Linder

in appreciation of Chanukah services in honor of Rabbi Farb for his visitation with Harriet Kaplan and family

Mindy & Mark McLaughlin

in honor of Madison McLaughlin's Bat Mitzvah

Allen Root

in honor of Rabbi Farb

Jill & Rich Teitelbaum

in honor of Alex Teitelbaum's Bar Mitzvah

CANTOR CANNIZZARO'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Janet & Michael Kass

in memory of Jerome Schine, father of Michael Schine

Lisa Kiev-Chen & Alex Chen

in memory of Selma Kiev

Mindy & Mark McLaughlin

in honor of Madison McLaughlin's Bat Mitzvah

Meg & Gary Moskovitz

in memory of Donald Gross Northey, father of Edith Dressler in memory of Jerome Schine, father of Michael Schine

Elaine Stupp

in memory of Jerome Schine, father of Michael Schine

Jill & Rich Teitelbaum

in honor of Alex Teitelbaum's Bar Mitzvah

RABBI EMERITUS DISCRETIONARY FUND

Michael Schwartz

in memory of Louis Schwartz

RABBI RICHARD & DONNA BIRNHOLZ EDUCATION FUND

Suzanne Gellens

in honor of Donna Birnholz

Laureen & Scott Jaffe

in honor of Donna Birnholz, Susan Kessler, and Lynn Mollett receiving the Women of Distinction Award 2019

FOOD BANK FUND

Leslie & Gene Balis

in honor of Marilyn & Robert Farber's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Evelyn Straus

in memory of Marvin Robert Jacobowitz, brother of Arthur Jacobowitz

HOLOCAUST TORAH RESTORATION FUND

Alice & Stanley Rosenthal

in memory of Claire Grupp

ESTHER N. & LEO M. WEISS SENIORS ENDOWMENT FUND

Dorothy & Burt Haskins

in memory of Jerome Schine, father of Michael Schine

Ellen & Martin Richter

in honor of Alicia LeVine's birthday

SCHAARAI ZEDEK PILLAR FUND

Ann & Alan Poch

in honor of the baby naming of Margot Rose Poch

SUSTAINING FUND

Paula & Nathan Davis

in memory of Miriam Hirsch

Marianne Fisher & David Moore

in memory of Jerome Schine, father of Michael Schine

Debbie & Steve Rovner

in memory of Marvin Robert Jacobowitz, brother of Arthur Jacobowitz in memory of Jerome Schine, father of Michael Schine

Richard Rudolph

in memory of Jerome Schine, father of Michael Schine

HIRSCH FAMILY TORAH ENDOWMENT FUND

Gail Hirsch

in memory of Simon Dingfelder

LILLYAN DEE NEUSNER LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & **LONG-RANGE PLANNING FUND**

Mimi Osiason

in memory of Jerome Schine, father of Michael Schine

RABBI DAVID L. ZIELONKA **CAMP COLEMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Diana & Aaron Bloom

in memory of Mario Epel

Francine & David Rosenberg

in memory of Jeffrey Roslow

Paula & Carl Zielonka

in memory of Brian Neuman, husband of Carlyn Neuman

JULIA M. & SAMUEL L. FLOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Heidi & Scott Shimberg

in honor of Aubrey Knust's Bat Mitzvah in memory of Brian Neuman, husband of Carlyn Neuman

AMY GAIL BUCHMAN PRESCHOOL FUND

Joan Altshuler & Lee Rubin & Samuel

in honor of a speedy recovery for Heidi Shimberg

Arline & David Dresdner

in honor of Isabel & Layla Lincoln

SISTERHOOD FLORAL FUND

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

Anita & Howard Adlin

in memory of Bernard Snydman in memory of Rose Leah Snydman

Arlene Berkowitz

in memory of David Nachumson

Sherri & Brian Cherry

in memory of Judith Ygual

Carole Cherry

in memory of Aaron Kenneth Van de Rijn

Nanci Coller

in memory of Florence Farkas

Nadine & Dennis Feldman & Family

in memory of Esther Feldman

Frances Friedman Williams

in memory of James Williams

Kimberly & Daniel Goldberg

in memory of Jack Goldberg

Jerilyn & Stuart Goldsmith

in memory of Seymour Goldsmith

Terrill Hameroff

in memory of Honey Gallin in memory of Murray Hameroff

Barbara Ingber

in memory of Henrietta Goodman

Lisa Kassak-Weiss

in memory of Richard Weiss

Martha Loewenthal

in memory of Steven Loewenthal

Lori & Stuart Markman

in memory of Harold Markman

Linda & Evin Netzer

in memory of Barbara Netzer

Lois & Jay Older

in memory of Gertrude Older in memory of Lester Older in memory of Francis Rosner in memory of Gertrude Rosner

Rosemary Perfit

in memory of Anne Perfit

Bobbie Reed

in memory of Jack Goldberg

Barbara Rosenthal

in memory of Aaron Getzoff

Ann Rubin Goldman

in memory of Mollye Green

Pattie & Adrian Schreiber

in memory of Dorothy Seiden

Rochelle Seiden

in memory of Dorothy Seiden in memory of Martin Seiden

Leigh Ann & Don Weinbren

in memory of Nathan Weinbren

Hanna Weiss

in memory of Mimi & Abe Weiss

Roberta & Gary Zamore

in memory of Jay Katz in memory of George Pegler in memory of Lorayne Pegler in memory of Albert Zamore in memory of Geri Zamore in memory of Gloria Zamore

MARCH 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Religious School 9 AM Sisterhood Hamantaschen Sales 9 AM JCC Softball Tournament 12:30 PM	2	3 Sisterhood Presidents Council 6:30 PM	4 Adult Hebrew 6 PM SchZFTY Open House 6:30 PM	5 ROMEO Lunch 11:45 AM	6 Friday Night Tot Shabbat 5:30 PM Shabbat Service 7 PM	7 Torah Study 9 AM Nu Frontiers Biking & Lunch 10:30 AM Marin Shear Bat Mitzvah 10:30 AM
Religious School & Megillah Reading 9 AM Cafe Zedek 9 AM Sisterhood Hamantaschen Sales 11 AM Purim Carnival 11 AM	Sisterhood Board Meeting 11:30 AM Brotherhood Board Meeting 6:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 PM	10	11 Lunch & Learn 11:30 AM Adult Hebrew 6 PM	Teenokot Event 10:30 AM 20s+30s Purim Party 6:30 PM	13 Challah in the 'Chood 6 PM Shabbat Service 7 PM	Torah Study 9 AM Benjamin Rieger Bar Mitzvah 10:30 AM Jonathan Lavender Bar Mitzvah 4:30 PM
SchZFTY Elections 1 PM Daylight Saving Time Begins		Purim	Shushan Purim			
15	16	17	Adult Hebrew 6 PM	Senior Luncheon 11:15 AM	Shabbat Service 7 PM First Day of Spring	Shabbat Yoga 9 AM Torah Study 9 AM Come as You Are Shabbat Service 10:30 AM 20+30s Adulting 12 PM
Nu Frontiers Show & Dinner 1:45 PM	23 Sisterhood Book Club 12 PM Board of Trustees Meeting 7 PM	24	25 Adult Hebrew 6 PM Movie & Discussion 7:00 PM 20s+30s Trivia Night 7:30 PM	26	Preneg 6 PM Shabbat Achshav Service 7 PM	28 Torah Study 9 AM Aiden Abramowitz Bar Mitzvah 10:30 AM Young Families Event 3 PM Adults' Night Out: Game Night 6 PM
Religious School 9 AM Cafe Zedek 9 AM Sisterhood Positive Parenting Seminar 9 AM Sisterhood Social Action Project 11:30 AM Jr. SchZFTY Event 11:30 AM	30	31				

APRIL 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 SchZFTY Open House 6:30 PM	2 20s+30s Pre-Passover Pizza 6:30 PM	3 Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner 5:30 PM Sisterhood Shabbat Service 7 PM	4 Torah Study 9 AM Sisterhood Event 9:30 AM Nathan Best Bar Mitzvah 10:30 AM SchZFTY Event 6:30 PM
			April Fool's Day			
Religious School 9 AM Cafe Zedek 9 AM Yeladim Event 11:30 AM Sisterhood Event 6 PM	Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 PM	7	8	Congregational Passover Second Night Seder 5:15 PM 20s+30s Second Night Seder 8 PM	Friday Night Tot Shabbat 5:30 PM Shabbat Service 7 PM	Shabbat Yoga 9 AM Torah Study 9 AM Come as You Are Shabbat Service 10:30 AM
			Erev Passover	Passover	Passover	Passover
12	Sisterhood Board Meeting 11:30 AM Brotherhood Board Meeting 6:30 PM	14	15	Teenokot Event 10:30 AM Senior Luncheon 11:15 AM	17 Challah in the 'Chood 6 PM Shabbat Service 7 PM	Torah Study 9 AM Sophia Goldsmith Bat Mitzvah 10:30 AM Jr. SchZFTY End of Year Event 6 PM
Passover	Passover	Passover	Passover	Passover		
Religious School 9 AM Cafe Zedek 9 AM Nu Frontiers Winery Tour & Lunch	20 Sisterhood YES Fund Luncheon 11 AM Board of Trustees Meeting 7 PM	Community Yom Hashoah Event 7 PM	22 ROMEO Lunch Bunch 11:45 AM SchZFTY Banquet & Installations 6 PM	23	24 Family Shabbat Dinner 6 PM Family Shabbat Service 7 PM	25 Torah Study 9 AM Cooper Thompson Bar Mitzvah 10:30 AM Brotherhood Deli Night 6 PM
		Holocaust Remembrance Day			First Day - Rosh Chodesh	Second Day - Rosh Chodesh
Religious School 9 AM Cafe Zedek 9 AM	27 Sisterhood Book Club 12 PM	28 Israel Remembrance Day	29 20s+30s Trivia Night 7:30 PM	Comedian Joel Chasnoff 7 PM		

PreschoolUpdate

After months of construction, we were happy to surprise our Amy Gail Buchman Preschool students and parents with an early opening of our new playground!

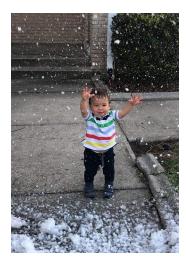


















Our tots enjoyed a Tampa-style blizzard on February 8 at our annual Winter Wonderland Snow Day!

















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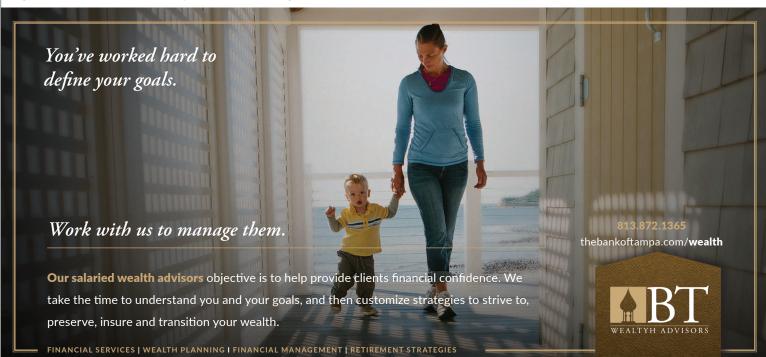
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A Reform synagogue affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism

To reach any clergy or staff member via email, please use first initial, last name@zedek.org (ex: Marc LeVine - mlevine@zedek.org).

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Senior Rabbi	Joel Simon
Assistant Rabbi	Nathan Farb
Cantor	Deborrah Cannizzaro
Rabbi Emeritus	Richard I Birnholz

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VP, Administration & Building	Scott Shimberg
VP, Fundraising	Pattie Schreiber
VP, Religion, Education, & Youth	nGayle Geagan
VP, Membership & Programmin	gCarla Markowitz
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Secretary	Susan Glickman
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Religi	ious School Assistant	Becca Pollak

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Preschool DirectorJodi Cohen

Congregation Schaarai Zedek

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March 1, 2020 DATED DELIVERY

SCHAARAI ZEDEK ONDEMAND

We take every opportunity to strengthen the bonds of our community and to bring Schaarai Zedek into your home. Keep in touch with us through one of the many tools we use to communicate with our members:

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."