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Finding belonging and joy in connection.

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SHOFAR

Schaarai Zedek News

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Season of Gratitude and Light

Connection, celebration, and community spirit fill the season.
Chanukah events and calendar highlights inside!

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Public Access Television

TBCN broadcasts our Shabbat Services on public access television in Hillsborough County. Tune in Fridays at 7 PM to the following channels: Frontier Channel 30, Spectrum Channel 639, and Comcast Channel 20. Replays on the above channels air Sundays at 4 PM.

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Simply plug a Roku Streaming Stick into your TV and search for Congregation Schaarai Zedek. Follow the instructions to add it to your channels.

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Watch past services, sermons, and more on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/congregationschaaraizedek.

Podcast

Listen to past sermons on our podcast by searching for Schaarai Zedek on iTunes, SoundCloud, Google Play, and Stitcher.

eNews

Our weekly eNews email goes out Wednesdays with updates on upcoming events. If you are not receiving email communications, please email office@zedek.org to let us know.



The Sacred Gift of Community

Lindsey Dewey
Director of Engagement and Outreach

As the end of the calendar year draws near, while life can feel rather frenzied, our hearts naturally turn toward gratitude and celebration. We reflect on the blessings in our lives, and we recognize how much richer those blessings become when shared with others. At its core, community is about connection—coming together to create something larger than any one of us alone.

In our tradition, there is a mitzvah to build a central place to bring the Jewish people together. At first, that sacred gathering space was the Mishkan, the Tabernacle carried through the wilderness. Later, it was the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, a home for the Divine presence and a place where every Jew could find belonging. These were not simply physical structures; they were symbols of unity, of shared purpose, and an unseen interconnectedness between people based on shared community.

That idea still calls to us today: How do we create a place that belongs to all Jews? How do we build communities—physical

and spiritual—that welcome, include, and celebrate the diversity of who we are?

As we enter the season of gratitude and celebration, perhaps the answer begins with each of us. We build that shared space every time we open a door, extend an invitation, or listen with an open heart. We shape it when we show up for one another, when we bring our traditions and questions and hopes to the same table. Together, we become the builders of a modern Mishkan—a living sanctuary where God's presence dwells among us because we have made space for each other.

As we recognize all we have and all we have built, may we celebrate not only the gifts we receive, but also the gift we create together: a community rooted in gratitude, alive with joy, and open to all who seek a place within it.

We invite you to join us for our upcoming events—from the fun of Game Afternoon, to the warmth of Movie Matinee, and the delicious joy of Taste of Chanukah. Each moment is an opportunity to strengthen our bonds, share in celebration, and continue building a sacred place that truly belongs to us all. ●

SHOFAR



*A bimonthly newsletter by
Congregation Schaarai Zedek*

*Read the Shofar online:
www.zedek.org/shofar*



Warmth, Not Positivity

Rabbi Michael Weiss

This may be a strange concept for Florida natives, but in other parts of the country, folks experience something called “seasons” where the weather changes at different times of year. I jest, but what I’ve rarely heard talked about down here is Seasonal Affective Disorder, a kind of depression that can take hold of someone at a similar time of year every year. It can be serious, mild, or somewhere in between. It often happens when the days get shorter and there’s less sunlight to warm our bodies and souls.

I know when I lived up north, I definitely got the winter blues and had to sit in front of a lamp in the morning that simulated sunlight. On paper, it feels like a weird thing to do, but it worked. A bit of light and warmth can do wonders.

We all have our low moments. Sometimes that’s just how the chemicals in our brains work, and other times, our situation is really just that bad. Moses Maimonides, the great medieval Jewish thinker, who was also a medical doctor, was ahead of his time on the treatment of depression, seasonal or otherwise.

While in some places he prescribed alcohol (probably not the best choice when you’re down), he also prescribed

music. And more importantly, he understood that treatment needed to be done in deep relationship with a medical professional who understood the nuances of their patient’s life in every aspect.

Maimonides knew depression well for he experienced it himself after the tragic death of his brother, David. In a letter to a friend and fellow rabbi, he wrote: “For almost a year after receiving the sad news, I lay on my couch stricken with fever, despair, and on the brink of destruction. Close to eight years have now elapsed and I still mourn for him, for there can be no consolation.”

He knew what it was like to be stuck in bed with no motivation, to dread the day’s activities, and to see only darkness ahead. While Maimonides prescribed himself the study of Torah, he understood that everyone had their own path to emotional wellness.

And what he never said to his patient was something anyone who has been depressed has heard before, something along the lines of, “Look at how great your life is. Why be sad?” This is what we might call toxic positivity. Unable to understand why someone might be so “bummed out,” we push to make them feel better. There is most certainly a better way and I found some inspiration in an unlikely place.

In a Tumblr post I found online, we read, “not sure if this will make sense to anyone besides me but: the antidote to negativity is not positivity, it’s warmth. Positivity tells a sad person there’s no reason to be sad. Warmth asks the sad person if they want to go get some ice cream.”

When we see the people we love hurting, it hurts us as well, and we want to “fix” the problem. But that isn’t how depression works! What actually helps, over time, is knowing that we have a support system, people who will reach out in kindness, who will sit with us in low places, and not pressure us to be inauthentic about how we feel.

In the Talmud, we read a story of Rabbi Elazar falling ill and lying in a dark room. His teacher, Rabbi Yochanan, visits Elazar, spends time with him, listens to his worries, and weeps alongside him. Only then was Elazar able to take his hand and head back out into the light.

Dictating how we think people should feel only widens the gulfs between us, but when we meet someone else’s sadness with warmth, love, compassion, and thoughtful acts of kindness, that’s when the real healing begins.

May we all find people in our lives to share that warmth and strive to be the people who share warmth in turn. ●



Reflections on Chanukah and Extremism

Rabbi Joel Simon

One light each night. That's it. That's all the Talmud describes as the mitzvah of Chanukah for each household. The zealous can light one candle for each member of the family. And the extremely zealous? Well, there's a disagreement there. Shammai said that they should go from eight lights the first night to one the first, and Hillel said they should go from one to eight.

To say that all of us are zealots as we will light our Chanukiyot this Chanukah would be a bit of a stretch, but it all depends on the way we think of the word zealous. In the context of lighting candles in our homes, Hillel and Shammai would have been thinking that the zealous are

those who want to go above and beyond, doing more than that which is required of them. But when it comes to Chanukah, the way we think about zealotry can make things a bit complicated. The Book of Maccabees (found in the Apocrypha and not included in the Hebrew canon) begins with Mattathias speaking against those Jews who have assimilated to Greek culture, and when one of them steps up to the altar, Mattathias kills him along with the Greek official who is with him, destroying the idolatrous altar. (I know, this isn't the Chanukah you learned in Sunday School). Mattathias declares, "Whosoever is zealous of the law, and maintains the covenant, let him follow me." The Maccabees, in the story, while going on to defeat the Syrian Greek army that had forbidden the practice of Judaism

also take all those assimilated Jews who didn't join them as victims.

I'll be exploring this notion of zealotry and religious extremism, from the time of the Maccabees to today, at our lunch and learn on November 13, but I think without getting too deep into religious sociology, there is meaning that we can find in our lives today.

On the one hand, zeal can be *hiddur mitzvah*, adding beauty to a mitzvah. This can be a beautiful Chanukah menorah, but it can also be creating a gourmet meal for our family when the expectation is something simple, or cleaning out the garage when all we were asked to do was find the Chanukah decorations. Hillel and Shammai, even in their disagreement, take the notion of zealotry and water it down from that of



the Maccabees to something that can be truly beautiful.

But we can't ignore the zealotry of Mattathias and our own ability to fall into that trap in our own lives. If we become so convinced of our own righteousness that we view anyone who disagrees with us as wrong, we are guilty of that same destructive zealotry. We may not raise a sword, but words, attitudes, and actions can wound just the same.

Ultimately the Talmud accepts Hillel's practice, for we should only increase in matters of holiness rather than decrease. May our own desire to go above and beyond lead us to add holiness to the world, and may we keep things in perspective if our understanding of what's right is leading us to decrease the holiness around us. May our homes shine bright with the desire to bring love into the world, and may our Chanukah lights help us feel a sense of wholeness and peace. ●



LUNCH & LEARN

ZEALOTRY IN JEWISH TRADITION

WITH RABBI SIMON

Zealotry in Jewish Tradition: From the Torah to the Maccabees to Today

When is passion for faith an act of holiness, and when does it cross the line into dangerous extremism? From the story of Pinchas in the Torah to the Maccabees' revolt, Jewish tradition grapples with both the blessings and the perils of zealotry.

In today's world, where religious extremism often fuels conflict and division, how can we learn from our tradition to ensure our zeal brings light rather than fire?

Thursday, November 13, 12 PM
www.zedek.org/RSVP

CONGREGATION SCHAARAI ZEDEK
NOVEMBER 6, 2025 | EVENING EVENT



FEATURING

Patti Stanger



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Sisterhood

Karen Shanberg & Sarah Shanberg, Sisterhood Co-Presidents

As we welcome the holiday season and embrace the tradition of performing mitzvot, our Schaarai Zedek Sisterhood continues to shine brightly.

In October, we partnered with Gulf Coast JFCS for a meaningful and well-attended social action evening, "Sisterhood Sparkle Squad," led by our outstanding Social Action Chair, Diane Porat. Thank you to all who donated, spread the word, and participated in this impactful mitzvah. The project includes a second event on **Wednesday, November 20**, when we'll assist Gulf Coast JFCS with preparations for their holiday fundraiser.

Save the Date: Franci Golman Rudolph Star Event

Our featured fundraiser, the **Franci Golman Rudolph Star Event**, returns Thursday, November 6, at Congregation Schaarai Zedek. This year's keynote speaker is Patti Stanger, reality TV matchmaker and CEO of MillionairesClub123.com.

- VIP Registration and Social Hour: 5 PM
- General Registration: 6:30 PM
- Food and Program: 7:30 PM

As Sisterhood's primary fundraiser, the Star Event provides essential support for our projects at Schaarai Zedek and beyond- locally, nationally, and internationally. We're grateful to **Rooms To Go**, returning as our 2025 *Stellar Star* presenting sponsor.

In keeping with our commitment to sustainability, registration is available online at zedek.org/starevent.

6 SHOFAR November - December 2025

Depending on funds raised, the Sisterhood Board, guided by input from members, selects five to ten local nonprofit organizations to receive significant donations. Funds also support:

- Salaries for Religious School teacher assistants
- Equipment for the Religious School
- Programming for Schaarai Zedek youth groups

The event honors the memory of **Franci Golman Rudolph**, a beloved Sisterhood past president known for her deep dedication to *tikkun olam* and her widespread service in the Tampa community.

We hope you'll join us in perpetuating Franci's legacy and celebrating Sisterhood's enduring commitment to making a difference.

Sisterhood Appreciation Night

Join us on **Tuesday, November 12**, at 6 PM for **Sisterhood Appreciation Night**. Enjoy a catered dinner, play Mahjong with friends, or learn how to play. Plus, shop the latest selections in our Judaica Shop.

Chanukah Bazaar

Our annual **Chanukah Bazaar** runs from **Saturday, December 6**, through **Sunday, December 14**. Proceeds help support our synagogue and community programs. Volunteer opportunities will be available, look for the signup link in our weekly email.

Coming in the New Year: Hamantaschen!

With 2026 just around the corner, keep an eye out for opportunities to bake, assemble, and sell Hamantaschen. This beloved annual fundraiser directly benefits our Religious School. Watch our emails for specific dates and volunteer information. ●

CHANUKAH

at Congregation Schaarai Zedek

JOIN US!



Visit www.zedek.org/chanukah for our full list of events!

Chanukah Prep Night

Chanukah "Make & Take" for Parents

Thursday, November 20, 6 PM

Join us for a fun and meaningful evening as we prepare to bring the celebration of Chanukah into your children's secular classrooms! At this hands-on "Make & Take" workshop, parents will create engaging, age-appropriate materials and activities to share when teaching about Chanukah. We'll provide supplies, lesson ideas, and creative project inspiration to help you craft a memorable and educational experience. Come ready to learn, create, and leave with everything you need to confidently bring the light of Chanukah into your child's classroom.

Chanukah Night 1

Yeladim Chanukah Extravaganza

Sunday, December 14 11:30 AM

Calling all K-2nd grade students! Join Yeladim for a hands-on Chanukah Makerspace adventure. Kids will explore open-ended challenges using creative materials - design your own unique menorah, tell the Chanukah story through food, and more! RSVP by Tuesday, December 9.

Chanukah Night 3

20s+30s Chanukah Party

Tuesday, December 16, 7 PM

Join 20s+30s for an evening of light, laughter, and celebration! Enjoy a delicious latke bar, sufganiyot, Chanukah-themed activities, and our much-anticipated raffle. We'll end the night by lighting the Chanukah together as a community.

Chanukah Night 6

Traditional Family Chanukah Dinner

Friday, December 19, 6 PM

Join us for a warm and festive evening as we gather for a traditional family Chanukah dinner, followed by a community menorah lighting before Shabbat services. All are welcome to bring their menorahs, candles, and a lighter as we fill the sanctuary with light and spirit. The community menorah lighting will take place at 6:45 PM, leading into Shabbat services at 7 PM. After services, enjoy a special Chanukah Oneg as we continue the celebration together.

Chanukah Night 8

Taste of Chanukah

Sunday, December 21, 5-8 PM

Step into the spirit of the season at our Taste of Chanukah event, where eight interactive stations bring the miracle of Chanukah to life, all in one joyful night! From hands-on crafts and tasty treats to fun challenges and meaningful moments, each station celebrates one of the eight nights in a unique, engaging way. The fun continues with music, face painting, balloon twisting, a photo booth, and surprises for all ages. We'll end the evening by lighting the candles for the eighth night—filling the room with warmth, wonder, and community light.



Chanukah Music

For many families and communities, singing is a particularly joyous part of Chanukah celebrations. There are many traditional and contemporary songs for the holiday, and videos and recordings are widely available online.

"Maoz Tzur" ("Rock of Ages") is customarily sung after the lighting of the candles each night, and at other times throughout the holiday. It was composed in Europe in the 12th or 13th century.

"I Have a Little Dreidel" is a modern-day children's song frequently sung during the Festival of Lights. Other holiday favorites include "Chanukah, Oh Chanukah;" "Sivivon, sov, sov, sov," a Hebrew folk-song; "Light One Candle," written by Peter Yarrow; and "The Latke Song," by Debbie Friedman, z'l, the renowned Jewish singer and songwriter.

Scan the Spotify code below to hear Schaarai Zedek's Chanukah Jams playlist!



How to Play Dreidel

Dreidel is the traditional game played to celebrate Chanukah. The letters on the dreidel—*nun*, *gimel*, *hei*, and *shin*—are interpreted to stand for the first letter of each word in the Hebrew statement *Neis gadol hayah sham*, which means, "A great miracle happened there" and refers to the defeat of the Syrian army and the re-dedication of the Temple in the story of Chanukah. In Israel, one letter on the dreidel differs from those used in the rest of the world. Instead of a *shin*, you will find the letter *pei*, transforming the Hebrew statement into *Neis gadol hayah po*, which means, "A great miracle happened here."

Distribute an equal number of playing pieces to each person. Begin by having each of the players put one or two pieces into a common pot. Take turns spinning the dreidel and taking the actions determined by the letter you spin:

Nun: The player takes nothing.

Gimel: The player takes all.

Hei: The player takes half.

Shin: The player puts in.

The winner is the person who collects all the playing pieces.



Chanukah Festival of Lights Home Guide

First Chanukah Candle: Sunday, December 14, 2025

Eighth Chanukah Candle: Sunday, December 21, 2025

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, begins on the 25th of Kislev and lasts for eight nights. This year, we light the first candle on the evening of December 14.

The holiday commemorates the re-dedication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in 165 BCE, after a small group of Jewish fighters, known as the Maccabees, rose up against the oppressive rule of King Antiochus IV of Syria. Antiochus had outlawed Jewish practice and attempted to force Greek worship and culture onto the Jewish people as part of a larger political campaign.

While many in the community gave in to pressure, the Maccabees refused to abandon their faith. Against overwhelming odds, they reclaimed the Temple and reignited Jewish life. That victory was both military and spiritual - a story of survival, resilience, and identity.

Although the events of Chanukah aren't found in the Hebrew Bible, they're recorded in the Books of Maccabees, part of ancient Jewish literature. We don't just celebrate the miracle of oil that lasted eight days, we celebrate the enduring strength of a people who held onto their beliefs in the face of adversity.

As we light the menorah each night, we honor the courage of our ancestors and rededicate ourselves to Jewish life, tradition, and community in our own time. ●

Chanukah Blessings (to be recited and/or sung each night)

Light the *shamash* (helper candle) first, using it to kindle the rest of the Chanukah lights. As you do, say or sing:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו
במצותיו, וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שעשה נסים לאבותינו
ואמותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim laavoteinu v'imoteinu bayamim hahaeim baz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

Shehecheyanu prayer, for the first night only:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקיימנו
והגיענו לזמן הזה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higiyanu laz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.

The *shamash* candle (servant candle) is used only to light the other candles. The individual candles are put in place starting with the right-hand side of the Menorah. The *shamash* is lit first. Then the candles are lighted from left to right, i.e., the last one placed in the Menorah is the first to be lit. One on the first evening; two on the second, until the eighth night of Chanukah eight candles are lit.

The Chanukah candles must burn for at least half an hour each night. On Friday eve, the Chanukah lights are kindled before the Sabbath lights. As the lights are lit, the blessings are sung or recited.

Chanukah Values Calendar

Celebrate each night of Chanukah with intention.

First Night - Kindness (*chesed*)

We light this candle to remind ourselves that kindness can be powerful. Every act of compassion, no matter how small, helps bring light to someone's day.

✧ *Tonight's spark: Do one unexpected act of kindness: a compliment, a helping hand, or a note of gratitude.*

Second Night – Justice (*tzedek*)

Tonight, we light for justice - standing up for what is right, even when it's hard. Our tradition teaches: *Tzedek, tzedek tirdof* - "Justice, justice you shall pursue." Justice means fairness, inclusion, and lifting others up.

✧ *Tonight's spark: Share or support a cause that reflects your values.*

Third Night – Love (*ahavah*)

Love strengthens families, friendships, and communities. When we nurture our relationships, we bring lasting light into our lives.

✧ *Tonight's spark: Call or message someone just to say, "I love you."*

Fourth Night – Responsibility (*achrayut*)

We are responsible for one another - in our homes, schools, and the wider world. Our actions matter, even the small ones. Jewish tradition calls us to take part in creating a just and caring society.

✧ *Tonight's spark: Pick one small thing you can do to improve your neighborhood or community.*

Fifth Night – Freedom (*cherut*)

We honor the freedom our ancestors fought for - and reflect on those still yearning for it today. Freedom means the ability to live with dignity, to speak your truth, and to practice your faith. It also means protecting these rights for others.

✧ *Tonight's spark: Light a candle or say a prayer for people across the world who are not free.*

Sixth Night – Peace (*shalom*)

Peace is more than the absence of war - it's justice, safety, and wholeness. Our ancestors dreamed of a world where swords would become plowshares. Let us do our part to build that world, starting with how we speak and act.

✧ *Tonight's spark: Practice active listening — hear someone out without interrupting.*

Seventh Night – Life (*chayim*)

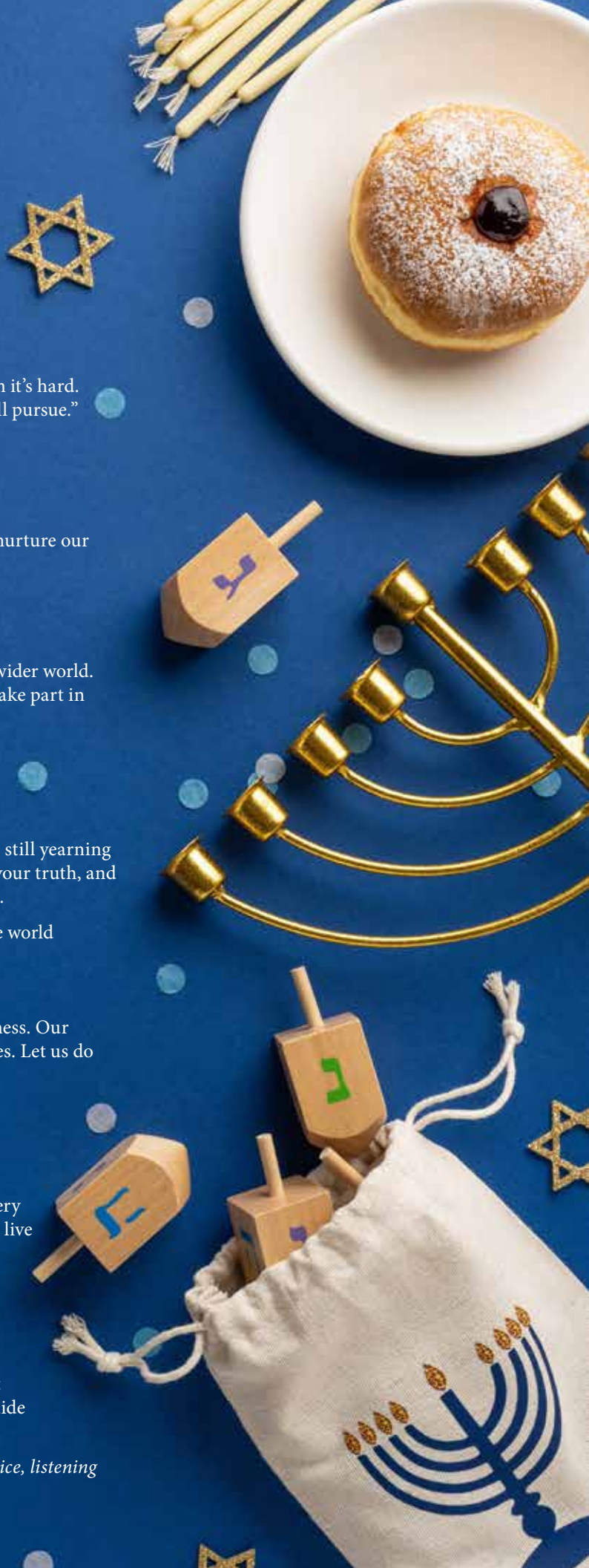
We celebrate the gift of life - in all its joy, sorrow, and complexity. Every moment we are alive is a chance to bring goodness into the world. To live fully is to live mindfully, with awareness and appreciation.

✧ *Tonight's spark: Take a moment to breathe deeply, be present, and give thanks for being alive.*

Eighth Night – Repairing the World (*tikkun olam*)

As our menorahs shine at full brightness, we renew our commitment to help heal a broken world. May the light we've kindled this week guide us all year long.

✧ *Tonight's spark: Choose one habit to carry forward — kindness, justice, listening — and make it part of your everyday life.*



Flom Religious School

Debbie Steinfeld,
Religious School Director

Our 2025–2026 Religious School Year Is Off to a Fantastic Start!

I'm so excited to share that our new Religious School year has begun with incredible energy and enthusiasm! From our youngest learners to our high school students, the building has been buzzing with joy, community, and meaningful learning.

Our opening weekend was made even more special as Spike and Fishy led our T'filah services, filling the day with music, spirit, and smiles all around.

Over the past few weeks, our students have explored the themes of the High Holy Days and celebrated the festivals of Sukkot and Simchat Torah in creative and engaging ways. One of the highlights was a special visit from a local beekeeper, who gave a fascinating presentation about bees and honey production—an especially

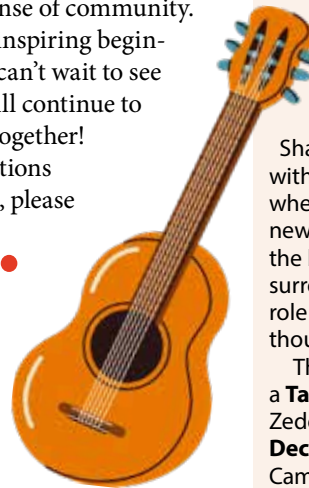
sweet way to connect with the traditions of Rosh Hashanah.

Our 7th and 8th graders kicked off the year with dynamic team-building adventures, including zip lining and escape rooms that encouraged problem-solving, trust, and friendship.

Meanwhile, our Confirmation class has already begun diving into deep, meaningful discussions and activities. Our Madrichim continue to shine as inspiring role models for our younger students. I'm especially proud that more than 70 high schoolers are actively engaged with us each week—filling our halls with leadership, energy, and a strong sense of community.

It has truly been an inspiring beginning to the year, and I can't wait to see all that our students will continue to learn and accomplish together!

If you have any questions about Religious School, please reach out to me at dsteinfeld@zedek.org. ●



Important Dates:

- November 23 – No Religious School
- November 30 – No Religious School
- December 22 – No Religious School
- December 29 – No Religious School
- January 4 – No Religious School

Amy Gail Buchman Preschool

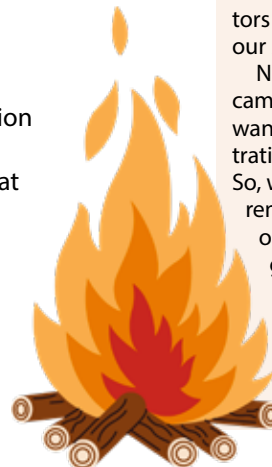


November 2025

- Nov. 3-5: Candy Drive
- Nov. 5-19: Food Drive
- Nov. 18: Pre-K Thanksgiving Show & Celebration
- Nov. 19: 3s Thanksgiving Singalong
- Nov. 21: Toddlers and 2s Thanksgiving Shabbat
- Nov. 25: Early Closing
- Nov. 26-28: Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2025

- Dec. 1-11: Holiday Gift Drive
- Dec. 12: Chanukah Play during Shabbat
- Dec. 22-Jan. 2: Winter Break
- Dec. 31: Early Closing



A Taste of Camp

Naomi Litwak
Director of Youth Programming

Arms wrapped around my best friends, swaying to the melody, and breathing in the spices and smoky scent of our Havdalah candle – this is one of my favorite memories from my summers at URJ Camp Coleman. It's a memory that is shared amongst many of our congregants, our children, and individuals around the world.

Residential Jewish summer camps offer a unique blend of cultural immersion, personal growth, and community building that creates lasting value for children and teens. These camps provide more than just fun memories – they foster strong Jewish identities, leadership skills, and lifelong friendships in a supportive and engaging environment.

Camp is a place where Jewish values are lived every day, where Shabbat becomes a celebration filled with song, reflection, and community. It's where kids of all ages can try something new, unplug from screens, and discover the best versions of themselves – all while surrounded by caring counselors and role models who help them grow into thoughtful, engaged young adults.

That's why we are so excited to bring a **Taste of Summer Camp** to Schaarai Zedek, during our **Camp Weekend: December 12-14, 2025!** Join us and URJ Camp Coleman, URJ 6 Points Creative Arts, Sci-Tech, and Sports, for a weekend full of *ruach* (spirit) and fun:

• **Friday Night, December 12:** Experience a joyful, camp-style Shabbat service with music by our Teen Band, following a camp-inspired Shabbat dinner.

• **Saturday Night, December 13:** Bring the whole family for a night of camp activities for kids (K-12) and parent information sessions to learn more about the impact of Jewish camp. Dinner will be provided.

• **Sunday Morning, December 14:** During Religious School, enjoy casual time to schmooze with our camp directors and special camp programming for our students.

Not only do we want to bring a piece of camp into our winter months, but we also want to remind everyone that camp registration is already open and filling up fast! So, whether you are looking to reflect and remember your own camp experience or want to introduce camp to the next generation, there is something for you during our camp weekend. It is a wonderful way to connect with our community and explore the magic of Jewish summer camp. We hope to see you there! ●



Lifecycles

NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS (AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2025)

Genevieve & Steven Brubaker

Daniela Hogue & Tobias Cruz

Janet Ettleman

Becca & David Fisher

Johanna & Matthew Flicker

Alyssamarie & Robert Gellman

Cher & Jared Gopman

Cassandra Nelson & Bradley Gordon

Kelley & Jeff Halpern

Flor Henk

Rabbi Garson Herzfeld

Lauren & Matthew Katz

Andrea & Eric Kay

Leslie Kirsner

Karen Kruglick

Julia & Elias Kushner

Jared Lynn

Sarah & Joseph Malatesta

Alma Gonzalez & Ken Miller

Lisa Goldberg & Stephen Morgano

Alyse Newton

Steven Nixon

Paula & Jeffrey Rosenblatt

Barbara & Harold Saul

Herbert Schmoll

Sarah Dooley & Grant Schuster

Faith & Matt Shifrin

Michael Shine

Lauren & Kristopher Shold

Erin & James Smith

Joy Solomon

Ilyssa Spergel & Alex Spektor

Anna Visher

Sara & Mark Woodward

Laurie & Samuel Zeidman

BIRTHS (AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2025)

Ari Schuster

Son of Sarah Dooley & Grant Schuster

IN LOVING MEMORY (AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2025)

Linda Bernstein

Leonard Marks

Lawrence Cyment

Heddy Starr

Gail Simon

Gail Shankman

Eva Gruman

Charlotte Heitlinger

Anne Diamond

MAZEL TOV TO OUR B'NEI MITZVAH

Sydney Levitt

Parents: Laura & Michael Levitt

November 8, 2025

Ashley Thompson

Parents: Deborah Cohen & Joshua Thompson

November 8, 2025

Emma Goldstein

Parents: Robyn & Warren Goldstein

November 15, 2025

Ari Landis

Parents: Alexis Landis & Eric Landis

November 15, 2025

Rachel Lazar

Parents: Jessica Lewis & Mark Lazar

November 29, 2025

Michael Lazar

Parents: Jessica Lewis & Mark Lazar

November 29, 2025

William Martinez

Parents: Susan Stromberg & Frances Martinez

December 13, 2025

Chase Blacker

Parents: Julie & David Blacker

December 13, 2025



Chase Blacker



Emma Goldstein



Ari Landis



Sydney Levitt



William Martinez



Ashley Thompson

Calendar Highlights

Please visit www.zedek.org/RSVP for more information and to register for all events!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 6-9 PM



Parents Night Out!

Parents enjoy trivia, dinner, and fun while kids (ages 4+, potty-trained) enjoy crafts, pizza, and a movie. Cost: \$10/adult, \$5/child.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 11:30 AM



Yeladim Kickoff: Barnyard Bash

Open to all K-2nd grade kiddos! Come learn about and play with barnyard animals and other cuddly critters.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 3 PM



Florida Holocaust Museum Tour

Tour starts at 3 PM, followed by a 4 PM panel discussion with clergy and The Florida Orchestra, exploring Bernstein's Kaddish and the power of remembrance through art.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 6 PM



Dinner & The Florida Orchestra: Beethoven & Bernstein

Dinner at The Barrymore Hotel (\$30 with parking), concert at 8 PM (\$40). Limited tickets available.

SAT., NOV. 8, 11:30 AM-2:30 PM



20s+30s Splash In Shabbat

At Epperson Lagoon. Includes beach, obstacle course, swim-up bar, kayaks, paddle boards, and more. Bring your own towel and RSVP by November 5.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 11:30 AM



Chaverim Engineering

3rd-5th graders become engineers using Legos and other materials with Snapology.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 10:30 AM



Movie Matinee: Regretting You

Private screening at AMC Westshore. Free tickets with RSVP. Film adaptation of Colleen Hoover's novel. Snacks available for purchase.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 6:30 PM



20s+30s Friendsgiving

Join for dinner and game night. Bring your favorite Thanksgiving dessert to share.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 7 PM



Lightning Game Night

Tampa Bay Lightning vs. New Jersey Devils. 100-level seats: \$120 each. Benchmark International Arena.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 11:30 AM



Senior Luncheon with Rabbi Birnholz

Enjoy lunch and meaningful conversation in the spirit of gratitude and connection.

DECEMBER 5-7



Middle School Retreat

Open to 6th-8th graders across Florida. Weekend includes service projects, a pool party, and a two-night sleepover at CSZ. \$150 per participant. Register by November 17.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 10:30 AM



Movie Matinee: Eternity

Private screening at AMC Westshore. Free with RSVP. A romantic dramedy about life after death starring Elizabeth Olsen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 12 PM



CSZ at the Straz: Les Misérables

Lunch at CSZ at noon, bus departs at 1 PM. Show at 2 PM. \$90 (includes lunch, transportation, and ticket). Only 45 spots available.

DECEMBER 12-14



Camp Weekend

Friday: Camp-style Shabbat with Teen Band and themed dinner
Saturday: Camp activities for K-12 kids; parent info sessions.
Sunday: Meet camp directors and enjoy special programming during Religious School.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 12-3 PM



Purim Spiel Auditions

Audition for next year's Purim Spiel! More details coming soon.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 11:30 AM



Senior Luncheon with The Boomerz

Enjoy live doo-wop music from a local favorite group and a festive meal with friends.

NOVEMBER 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						9:00am Torah Study 1 6:00pm Parents Night Out!
7:00am Confirmation Trip 2 9:00am Religious School 9:30am 5th Grade Parent Brunch 11:30am Yeladim Kickoff Event 3:00pm Florida Holocaust Museum Joint Program	3	4 Election Day	12:00pm Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 5 6:00pm SchZFTY Hangout Night 6:30pm Intro to Judaism	1:00pm Game Afternoon 6 5:00pm Sisterhood Star Event	5:45pm Primary Shabbat & Dinner 7 6:00pm The Florida Orchestra and Dinner 7:00pm Shabbat Service	10:30am Bat Mitzvah of Ashley Thompson 8 9:00am Torah Study 11:30am 20s+30s Splash In Shabbat 4:30pm Bat Mitzvah of Sydney Levitt
9:00am Religious School 9	6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting 10	11 Veteran's Day	12:00pm Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 12 6:00pm Middle School Hang Out Night 6:00pm Sisterhood Member Appreciation 6:30pm Intro to Judaism	10:00am Teenokot 13 12:00pm Lunch & Learn 6:30pm Brotherhood - Newman Cigar Factory	11:00am Mah Jongg 14 4:00pm Allegro Hyde Park Shabbat Service 5:30pm Tot Shabbat 7:00pm Shabbat Service - Veterans Shabbat w/ Choir	9:00am Torah Study 15 9:30am Playground Playdate 10:30am Bar Mitzvah of Ari Landis 4:30pm Bat Mitzvah of Emma Goldstein 5:00pm SchZFTY Event
9:00am Religious School 16 9:30am Sixth Grade Parent Brunch 11:30am Chaverim Engineering	10:30am Movie Matinee at AMC Westshore – Regretting You 17 6:30pm 20s+30s Friendsgiving	7:00pm Tampa Bay Lightning vs New Jersey Devils 18	12:00pm Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 19 6:30pm Intro to Judaism	10:00am Sisterhood Social Action Event 20 11:30am Senior Luncheon 6:00pm Chanukah “Make & Take” Program	7:00pm Shabbat Service 21	9:00am Torah Study 22 9:15am Shabbat Yoga 10:30am Bagel Minyan
23	7:00pm Board of Trustees Meeting 24	25	12:00pm Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 26	27 Thanksgiving Day	7:00pm Shabbat Service with Band 28	9:00am Torah Study 29 10:30am B'nei Mitzvah of Michael Lazar and Rachel Lazar
30						

DECEMBER 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	11:00am Sisterhood Book Club 1	2	12:00pm Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 3 6:00pm SchZFTY Hang Out Night 6:30pm Intro to Judaism	1:00pm Game Afternoon 4	4:00pm Middle School Retreat 5 6:00pm 3rd-6th Grades Family Dinner 7:00pm Shabbat Service - Family Service led by 5th Grade	Middle School Retreat 6 9:00am Torah Study
Jr. SchZFTY / Middle School Retreat 7 9:00am Religious School 11:30am Teen Band Practice Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	10:30am Movie Matinee at AMC Westshore -- Eternity 8 6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting	9	12:00pm Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 10 6:30pm Intro to Judaism	10:00am Teenokot 11 12:00pm CSZ at the Straz - Les Mis	4:00pm Allegro Hyde Park Shabbat Service 12 6:00pm SchZFTY Shul In 7:00pm Shabbat Service - Teen Service	9:00am Torah Study 13 9:30am Playground Playdate 10:30am Bar Mitzvah of William Martinez 4:30pm Bar Mitzvah of Chase Blacker 6:00pm Camp Night (K-12)
9:00am Religious School 14 11:30am Yeladim Chanukah Extravaganza 12:00pm Purim Spiel Auditions Chanukah: 1 Candle	15 Chanukah: 2 Candles	7:00pm 20s+30s Chanukah Party 16 Chanukah: 3 Candles	12:00pm Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 17 Chanukah: 4 Candles	11:30am Senior Luncheon 18 Chanukah: 5 Candles	6:00pm Traditional Family Chanukah Dinner 19 7:00pm Shabbat Service - Chanukah Family Service Chanukah: 6 Candles	9:00am Torah Study 20 9:15am Shabbat Yoga 10:30am Bagel Minyan Chanukah: 7 Candles
5:00pm Taste of Chanukah 21 Chanukah: 8 Candles	22 Chanukah: 8th Day	23	12:00pm Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 24	25	7:00pm Shabbat Service 26	9:00am Torah Study 27
28	29	30	12:00pm Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 31 New Year's Eve			

TempleDonations

It is a common Jewish tradition to make a charitable donation both in times of joy and in times of sorrow. Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness, and your support of our congregation. *Schaarai Zedek is strengthened by your support, and your gift makes a difference – each and every day.* **The following gifts were received from August 1 to September 30, 2025.**

ABE AND SADIE ZBAR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

from **Michele & Shayne Plosker**
in memory of Lawrence Palkes from **Liz & Julian Greengold**

AMY GAIL BUCHMAN PRESCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND

in memory of David Neal Zielonka from **Cookie & Booky Buchman**
in memory of Arielle Buchman from **Julie & Keith Roher**

AMY GAIL BUCHMAN PRESCHOOL FUND

from **Nancy & Al Hess**
in honor of Rob and Brielle Zamore's wedding from **Aida & Charles Weissman**
in memory of Eva Gruman from **Glynn & Bob Stoler**
in memory of Eva Gruman from **Lori & Alan Rash**
in memory of Phyllis Shaw from **Lyriss & Eric Newman**
in memory of Rochelle Seiden from **Lyriss & Eric Newman**
in memory of Charlotte Heitinger from **Lyriss & Eric Newman**
in memory of Byrneece Jaffe from **Naomi Jaffe**

ASSOCIATE RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

in appreciation for Rabbi Weiss's memorial service for Anne Diamond from **Hilary Black & Jeffrey Diamond**
in appreciation for Rochelle Seiden's Shiva from **Pattie & Adrian Schreiber**
in honor of Benjamin Levi Probasco's Bar Mitzvah from **Eliane & Joseph Probasco**
in memory of Andrea Zazik from **Alexa & Alex Bourne**
in memory of Eva Gruman from **Cari Nathanson**
in memory of Anne Diamond from **Julie & Michael Kittredge**
with gratitude to Rabbi Weiss from **Donna Anderson**

BIRNHOLZ EDUCATION FUND

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Esther & Rick Happle**
in memory of Eva Gruman from **Sharon & Wally Wallace**

BROTHERHOOD ENDOWMENT FUND

in memory of our cousin, Larry J. Cymant, from **Phyllis & Cary Lemkowitz**

CANTOR DISCRETIONARY FUND

in appreciation for Cantor's concert from **Margarita Almorza**
in honor of Benjamin Levi Probasco's Bar Mitzvah from **Eliane & Joseph Probasco**
in honor of the wedding of Cantor and Miles from **Richard Rudolph**
in honor of the marriage of Mr. & Mrs. Buchman from **Rose Schiff**
in honor of Cantor Buchman's marriage to Miles from **Schaarai Zedek Sisterhood**

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

from **Jackie Lovering**
in memory of Eva Gruman from **Norene and Brett Bennett**

ENDOWMENT FUND

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Diane & Bob Reich**
in memory of Eva Gruman from **Leigh Ann & Don Weinbren**

FLOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL TZEDAKAH FUND

in memory of Eva Gall Gruman from **Judith Ranells**

FOOD BANK FUND

in memory of Lillian Slobodow Lenhoff from **Madelyn Lenhoff Davidson**

HIRSCH FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

in honor of Andy Hirsch's birthday from **Carrie & Harry Tishler**
in honor of Andy Hirsch's birthday from **Joan & Marc Wadler**
in memory of Eva Gruman from **Joan & Marc Wadler**

INTERFAITH & OUTREACH FUND

in honor of Melissa Kwitko from **Paula & Geoffrey Kwitko**
in memory of Eva Gruman from **The Whitcomb Family**

JEWISH CONTINUITY & LEADERSHIP PILLAR FUND

in memory of Anne Diamond from **Ely Gutfreund & Arlene Bacharach**

LAWRENCE D. HOFFMAN MITZVAH ENDOWMENT FUND

from **Michele & Shayne Plosker**

LILLYAN DEE NEUSNER ENDOWMENT FUND

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Mimi Osiason**

MEMORIAL FUND

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Judith & Richard Herman**
in memory of Eva Gail Gruman from **The Team of Tom Pici & Son Builders, Inc**

RABBI DAVID L. ZIELONKA CAMP COLEMAN FUND

in memory of David Neal Zielonka from **Anne & Greg Yadley**
in memory of David Neal Zielonka from **Janet & Michael Kass**
in memory of David Zielonka from **Suzanne Gellens**
in memory of Eva Gruman from **Suzanne Gellens**

RABBI EMERITUS DISCRETIONARY FUND

in appreciation for leading Shiva for Rochelle Seiden from **Pattie & Adrian Schreiber**
in memory of Eva Gruman from **Anita Saphier**
in memory of Eva Gruman from **Lloyd Mazer**

RUTH E WAGNER JEWISH CULTURAL ENDOWMENT FUND

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Melanie & Rudy Acosta**

SAMUEL L. FLOM NFTY FUND

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Mary & Randy Osiason**

The Dave Felman Family, in honor of Dr. Al and Lynne Felman, have made a generous donation to our Endowment in support of the Amy Gail Buchman Preschool.

For more information about our different funds and various ways to give, please visit:
www.zedek.org/donate.

SAUL RACHELSON ENDOWMENT FUND

in memory of Carol Schwartz-Funk from **Nancy & Robert Tropp**

SENIOR RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

in appreciation for the beautiful baby naming ceremony for our granddaughter, Hannah Widom, from **Ellen & Glenn Widom**

in appreciation for the Soschin Family from **Michael Cohn**

in honor of Benjamin Levi Probasco's Bar Mitzvah from **Eliane & Joseph Probasco**

in honor of the baby naming of Sophia and Kaia Pear from **Karen Katz**

in memory of Andrea Zazik from **Alexa & Alex Bourne**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Beth & Carlo Franzblau**

in memory of David Neal Zielonka from **Betty Solomon**

in memory of Bonnie & David Solomon from **Bonnie & Richard Hoffman**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Drew & Lauren Zalkind**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Fredda & Steve Weisbond**

in memory of Phyllis Shaw from **Marcia & Anatoly Naroditsky**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Marcia, Stacy, Toly Naroditsky**

in memory of Joyce Hartmann Karpay from **Ronald Lasday**

SENIORS ENDOWMENT FUND

in memory of William Saffren from **Marla & Robert Rothstein**

in memory of Elfriede Danzig from **Marlene & Clifford Wolf**

SISTERHOOD PROGRAMS

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Evelyn Straus**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Ruth Adrian**

SISTERHOOD FLORAL FUND

in memory of Morris Root from **Allen Root**

in memory of Leo Kushner from **Alyce & David Kushner**

in memory of Netti Chalfin from **Anatoly, Marcia, & Stacey Naroditsky**

in memory of Matt Snyderman from **Anita & Howard Adlin**

in memory of Audrey Maas Shine from **Barbara Hicks**

in memory of Robert Getzoff from **Barbara Rosenthal**

in memory of Sally Warner from **Brenda & Warren Mack**

in memory of Herman Zinober from **Cynthia & Peter Zinober**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Debbie & Todd Rosenthal**

in memory of Bruce LeVine from **Ellyne Myers**

in memory of George Aaron Levy from **Frances Friedman Williams**

in memory of Helen Kornblau from **Hunter & Bryan Kornblau**

in memory of Helen Golin from **Jane & Joel Strom**

in memory of Sherryl Albert and Betty Sternberg from **Jerilyn & Stuart Goldsmith**

in memory of Rae Ronson and Adrienne Ross from **Jerilyn & Stuart Goldsmith**

in memory of Adrienne Ross and Rae Ronson from **Jerilyn & Stuart Goldsmith**

in memory of Vivian Roffer from **Jerilyn & Stuart Goldsmith**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Jo Lapides**

in memory of Rose Karpay from **Joel Karpay**

in memory of Shirley Borkowf from **Kailie & Maurice Shaw**

in memory of Edward M Waller Sr from **Laura & Ed Waller**

in memory of Dr. Ernie Reiner from **Leslie Reiner & Tony Kriseman**

in memory of Richard Neiman from **Linda & Evin Netzer**

in memory of Lawrence Palkes from **Liz & Julian Greengold**

in memory of John Melendi from **Lori & Stuart Markman**

in memory of Gladys Newman and Clemmie Courson from **Lyris & Eric Newman**

in memory of David Neal Zielonka from **Lyris & Eric Newman**

in memory of Irma Zilbert from **Lyris & Eric Newman**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Madelyn Davidson**

in memory of Raphael Engelberg from **Marcia Israeloff & Paul Jacobsen**

in memory of Ella Engelberg from **Marcia Israeloff & Paul Jacobsen**

in memory of Betty Lou Linder from **Marcie & Owen Linder**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Nancy & Richard Chad**

in memory of Jack Hirsch from **Paula & Nathan Davis**

in memory of Diane Golman from **Richard Rudolph**

in memory of Franci Rudolph from **Richard Rudolph**

in memory of Sonia Foster from **Roberta Reed**

in memory of Ben Lasky from **Roberta Reed**

in memory of my father, Bud Perfit from **Rosemary Perfit**

in memory of Helen Slone from **Sheree & Frederick Slone**

in memory of Eva Gail Gruman from **Susan Lippincott**

in memory of Arnold Fisher from **the Fisher Family**

SISTERHOOD SOCIAL ACTION FUND

in honor of the marriage of Deborah and Miles Buchman from **Diane & Ron Porat**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Elaine Rubel**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Lisa Zalkind & Sarah Grimaud**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Sarah Kline**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Sharon Lore Weiss**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **The Anton Family**

STEPHEN ZIELONKA MEMORIAL CAMP COLEMAN FUND

in memory of David Neal Zielonka from **Cindy Spahn**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Cindy Spahn**

in memory of David Neal Zielonka from **Cynthia & Fred Weiss**

in memory of David Neal Zielonka from **Dana & Eric Gruman**

in memory of David Neal Zielonka from **Leigh Ann & Don Weinbren**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Paula & Carl Zielonka**

in memory of David Neal Zielonka from **Phyllis & Gary Gould**

SUSTAINING FUND

in honor of Elliott Tepper's 90th birthday from **Barbara & Allan Goldman**

in honor of Marina Reed's Bat Mitzvah from **Susan Nigro**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Ann Campbell**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Deborah Kents**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Debra Burns**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Miriam Weil**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Sally McKee**

in memory of Eva Gruman from **Sandra & Errol Pegler**

WEISS SENIOR PILLAR FUND

in honor of President Charles Weissman from **Jean & Leonard Gilbert**



Congregation Schaarai Zedek

3303 West Swann Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33609-4643

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RABBI RICHARD J. BIRNHOLZ

Torah Circle

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

If you would like to contribute to the
2025-2026 Rabbi Richard J. Birnholz Torah Circle,
please visit zedek.org/torahcircle.

If you have questions about donating, please contact Marc LeVine
at mlevine@zedek.org or (813) 876-2377 ext. 206.