

Temple Beth Shalom

Rabbi Rose Durbin
Cantorial Soloist
Kelly Onickel

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 Vero Beach, FL 32961
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Friday Shabbat Service
April 3, 10 17, 24
6:30pm

Torah Study
April 4, 18
10:00am

Shabbat Morning Service
April 11, 25
9:30am

EVENTS/RSVP's Please RSVP to functions early.

Once capacity has been reached or food order called in, we cannot accept more RSVPs.

NOTE:

Your payment must be received by or before each deadline to be included on the final list for attendance



Last spring, I sat on a particularly memorable beit din (a panel of rabbis who make religious decisions) to approve a conversion. When we asked the candidate, a joyful man in his early 30s about to welcome his first child, which holiday he appreciates most, he said, “Passover.” When I asked why, he replied, “I love how weird it is!”, and then immediately covered his mouth, worried he’d said the wrong thing. Meanwhile, the other rabbis, his very pregnant Jewish wife, and I were laughing with delight. He had named something we often forget: Passover is weird. It’s counter-cultural, detailed, and particular. It makes our kids stand out in school with their peanut butter matzah sandwiches.

Many of us avoid that “weirdness” by attending a seder and then returning to normal life. But what if this year, we leaned into it? I want to encourage you to “get weird” this Passover, to keep it in a way that works for your family but still stretches you. For example, my in-laws don’t keep kosher during the year, but on Passover they strictly avoid bread. It’s meaningful for them even if it results in things I’ll never try, like a lobster roll on matzah. It’s not how I observe, but their intention makes it spiritually real.

As Reform Jews, Passover observance often exists on a spectrum. We want to honor tradition without feeling trapped by it. One of the most common questions I hear is: why is flour itself not kosher for Passover if we eat matzah? The answer goes back to the Exodus. The Israelites fled Egypt so quickly their dough didn’t have time to rise. To commemorate this, we avoid chametz, leavened products made from five grains (wheat, barley, rye, oats, and spelt) that have come into contact with water for more than 18 minutes. The rabbis taught that fermentation begins at that point, which is why matzah must be made quickly under strict conditions.

Regular flour is problematic because modern processing may expose it to moisture before we even use it. That’s why specially supervised flour is required for Passover baking. But beyond the legal details, Rabbi Rachel Adler offers a deeper insight:

“Chametz is about control. Regular bread takes time, it requires planning and predictability. Passover reminds us that true freedom often means letting go of control and moving forward before we feel ready.”

So how do we make this mitzvah our own in 2026? The Hasidic masters teach that chametz represents ego and excess, the spiritual “puffiness” we carry. Passover invites us to simplify and reset.

Instead of focusing on what we can’t eat, we can savor what we can. Lean into foods that feel special: matzah brei, Sephardic rice dishes, or even a little “matzah crack.” Maybe you skip bread but keep corn tortillas. Maybe oat milk stays in your coffee. That’s not failure, that’s thoughtful, intentional engagement.

For our kids, those “weird” lunches can become a point of pride, a chance to share their Jewish identity. A simple conversation ahead of time can transform it from embarrassment into empowerment.

And for those who don’t want to cook all week, you’re not alone. You can still honor Passover while eating out: corn tortillas at Mexican restaurants, eggs and fruit at breakfast spots, or rice-based dishes where appropriate. It’s about spirit, not perfection.

This year, let’s approach Passover not as an obligation, but as an opportunity for mindfulness, connection, and renewal. And yes, by day five we may all be dreaming of bagels. But for now, may we embrace the beautiful, meaningful weirdness of Passover and through it, discover the possibility of real transformation.

Chag Pesach Sameach,

Rabbi Rose

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Cantor's Corner

I can't believe that April is finally here! Why? Because that means I am 27 days away from being ordained! I cannot wait to be done with this part of my life, and I am looking forward to what is ahead. I have had many people ask me what my plan is. In last month's Scroll, my article addressed many of the concerns regarding my ordination and what is to come after. Let me reiterate, I am not planning to go anywhere. Harry and I are very happy here in Vero. Doing a double ordination was purely for educational purposes and the fact that I am not a young chick and if I was going to do it, I needed to do it now. I hope that this helps with any concerns you may be having.

Now, let's talk about celebrating. On the opposite page to this article is a flyer with information about how we will be celebrating. There is no charge for this event because I want everyone who wants to be there to be there. However, it is also a fundraiser, and you can see there are ways in which you can sponsor and I hope you will. There will also be a raffle with tickets starting at \$5.00. So, if the sponsorships are too steep for you this is another way you can give. Also, no amount is too little. All the money raised will go into the Ike and Alezah Music Fund which has been paying for our wonderful Friday evening accompanist Aleya Walters, and I would like to try and build this fund so we can start bringing in some musicians for concerts and or Scholars -in-Residence.

I am looking forward to these celebrations and I am especially looking forward to celebrating with all of you!

Cantor Kelly

Please notify the Temple Office, Rabbi or Cantor, if a family member or fellow congregant is ill, or has had an accident. Clergy can only reach out, if they are informed that they are needed.

President's Message

Dear Friends,

Jay Foley and Sherry Alpert have issued a challenge to the congregation. They will match up to \$10,000 of every dollar donated by you. NO AMOUNT IS TOO SMALL.

Currently, \$3,500 has already been contributed. We have until April 30, to take advantage of this opportunity. In the note portion of your checks write "Foley/Alpert match."

Jay and Sherry are part time residents. Let's show them how much we appreciate their generosity.

Thank You,

Steve Berlin
305-772-6620



*We welcome our newest members to
our Temple Beth Shalom family*

Barry and Marianne Rindner

Sisterhood

Sisterhood would like to send a big thank you to Meryl Felds and Cookie Compton for organizing such a wonderful Mahjong tournament. It was an event filled with fun, laughter and of course friendly competition.

We also shared our Women's Seder. A big hug to Linda who never lets us down with completing our seder plates that help make the evening so meaningful and special for all of us. Rabbi Rose and Cantor Kelly as always, a big thank you as well. You could feel the respect and love in the room.

Looking ahead, April will bring another fun afternoon activity to help us raise money. We will be having our 52 card Bingo on April 19 at 2:00pm. We hope many of you will come out and join us for what promises to be a lively and enjoyable time.

Before we know it, May will be here and we will be having our closing event. This is the time where we would have elections or announce a new board. At this point we don't have one.

I encourage you wonderful women to step up, get involved and participate in Sisterhood. Our organization thrives because of you amazing people. We need your time, ideas and energy. Please don't let us down.

With love,
Sandy Oswald
President

Religious School

Our Wicked *Purim* Party last month was a fun-filled celebration of the month of *Adar*!

Thank you to everyone who participated, especially all who volunteered with setting up, food service and cleaning up. It really does take a village.

With that, *Passover* is already upon us! Dan and I wish you all a wonderful Passover holiday with best wishes for meaningful seders and yummy matzah creations. I know I look forward to all the *Passover* staples, like matzah pizza and matzah chocolate bark. What are some of your favorite ways to eat matzah?

Following *Passover* and Spring Breaks, our Sunday programs scheduled for this month are **April 12, 19, and 26** 9:30am until noon.

On Sunday, April 12 during class we will talk about the importance of *Zachor*/Memory. We will honor *Yom HaShoah* (Holocaust Memorial Day) and add memory stones to our butterfly garden. On **Monday, April 13** at 6:30pm there will be a *Yom HaShoah* program in the sanctuary. We would request that students in grades four and higher attend this event. Some students will be invited to participate. Watch the email news updates for more information.

On **Sunday, April 19** we welcome *Let's L'Rkod Miami* – a dance trio who will teach us Israeli Folk Dancing and energize our congregation with music, joy, laughter and fun. This program is designed to be for all levels of dancers, from beginners to advanced; young dancers and older dancers, we will pace the morning for all to enjoy. Please plan to be with us. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers or dance shoes. Bring your water bottle. (You can skip the gym today for this one.)

It is going to be a great time. As we plan to serve refreshments, please make sure to rsvp so there will be enough for all.

Looking forward a bit, please reserve your spots at the Shabbat dinner on Friday, May 1 when we begin the festive celebration of the Ordination of Kelly Onickel as Cantor Rabbi. We are proud of Cantor Kelly for this tremendous accomplishment and pleased to celebrate and honor her. Students will participate in the installation concert and luncheon on Sunday, May 3 in Cantor Kelly's honor immediately following Sunday classes. All are invited and urged to rsvp early to ensure we have a spot for you!

Am Yisrael Chai!

Mindy Lessem Pollack

**COFFEE
and
Kibbitz**

**See you next month
on May 2**

Grief Support Group

Grief Group meetings
continue on Mondays
April 6, 13, 20, 27
at 11:30am.

Book Club

Join us April 28 at 10:30am, in the Social Hall to share a discussion about this month's book. Bring a list of a few books you would like the club to read. For book info and **RSVP: [Susan Berlin](#) or see the Temple Tidings weekly email for updates.**

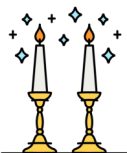


Purim:

What a great time everyone had at our *Purim* spiel and after party. Thank you Rabbi Rose, Cantor Kelly and Mindy Pollack for organizing everything from the spiel, decorations, the DJ and food. We appreciate our cast of *Purim* characters who bravely put on our spiel with a *Wicked* twist. We thank those who stepped up to serve the food to our guests and those who cleaned up.



Snowbirds: Please remember to call or email the office 2-3 weeks ahead of leaving Vero to return to your northern homes so that mail from Temple Beth Shalom continues uninterrupted to you. Everyone will receive membership renewal forms mid June.



We have a new person taking over for Lorelle for our onegim. Lorelle is moving on to spend more time with her family. Please make Barry, who is taking her place feel welcome as well as Melody, his wife.

Many Thanks

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IN MEMORY OF

her mother, Charlotte Shebowich
her mother, Edith Thorner
his mother-in-law, Jessie Winfield
remembering, Judith Mendelsohn
his wife, Marilyn Ohring
her aunt, Helen Isaac
their daughter, Michelle Bragg
her mother, Rose Weiss
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her husband, Howard Culver
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her mother, Elinor Rosenthal Kraut
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Dorothy and Jerry Wallach in memory of
Stanley Simon
Susan Block and Terri Goldberg in memory of Meryl Felds
mother, Marcia Mittlemark
Sam Ohring remembering his wife, Marilyn Ohring with a
Memorial plaque
Steve and Linda Friedman in honor of Rabbi Stephen Fuchs
80th birthday
Melodie Singer
Alan Lang for a leaf on our Tree of Life for Rabbi Fuchs for
all he has taught him, especially from his sermons
Pamela Sheiffer for sponsoring our congregational *seder*
Sam and Linda Block

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Helen Freeman in memory of Ross Epstein

Block Family Scholarship
Joshua Zwerner

GOLDSTEIN YOUTH ISRAEL TRAVEL

Ellen Zollenberg in memory of her brother, Harold Goldstein
& her grandmother, Ida Abramson

***Thank you Cliff Wardlow, owner of Vero Estate
Jeweler for repairing our Torah silver***

***We thank Robbi Rose for her generous donation
of office supplies and computer monitors***

****Please consider directing donations to****

General Fund (whatever is needed most)	Enrichment
Eddie Levine TBS Religious School Scholarship	Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Block Family Scholarship (send a child to Jewish Camp)	Cantor's Discretionary Fund
Ike & Alezah Music Fund (congregational musical events)	Sisterhood/Men's Club Caring Community
Goldstein Youth Israel Travel Fund	Youth Group Music (worship enrichment, pianist)

Tree Of Life



***Our Tree Of Life, located in the
Steyer Social Hall foyer,
celebrates and remembers
every kind of occasion.***

Next time you visit our social hall,
please take a moment to look at this
beautiful wall.

In that moment, reflect on all the B'nai Mitzvah,
weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, memorials,
and other dedications that friends and
loved ones have given to each other
over the years.

If you would like to honor,
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Please contact the [office](#)
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*Temple Beth Shalom offers its heartfelt condolences
to the family of:*

Leslie Benardo, on the loss of her husband
Steve Benardo

TBS mourns the loss of our member, David Schoenen

*May G-d Comfort All Who Mourn
In Zion and Jerusalem.*

L'Chaim Anniversaries

Stephen and Dorothy Schindel Marty and Bev Paris
Wayne and Amy Gould Peter and Susan Solomon



Birthdays



Sherry Alpert
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Genevieve Mallon
Bev Paris

Marshall Samler
Suzanne Seldes
Ilene Sobel
Jon Sternberg
Reed Sternberg
Jeff Susi
Jerry Zollenberg
Tamra Zuker

Mazel Tov to everyone celebrating their anniversary or birthday this month

Oneg Shabbat



**Thank you to our March
Oneg Shabbat sponsors:**

Sherry Alpert and Jay Foley, Sisterhood, Allen Lang

****Call or email the office to [rsvp](#) for sponsorship
Sponsors needed for: April 3, 10
May 1, 15 June 5, 12, 19, 26**

**We depend on our families to take turns sponsoring or
co-sponsoring with friends for our Oneg Shabbat.**

**PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING
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A little fruit, cheese, crackers, veggies,
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Please contact our Foundation Board Members,

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305-772-6620 or

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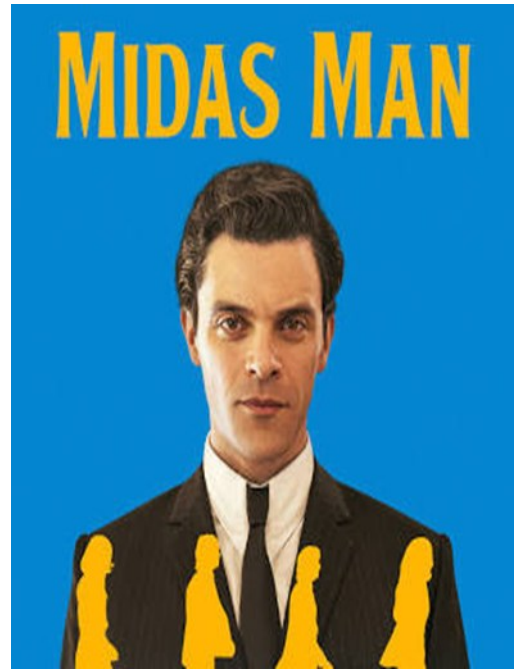
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MAP5911614 | AD-03-25-0564 | 472538PM-0124 | 04/2025