



## Welcome to Congregation Beth Am A vibrant Reform community!

We are thrilled that you have chosen to deepen your connection with Judaism with us. Our congregation welcomes families and individuals of diverse backgrounds to share in religious and life cycle events.

Our community is where you can feel at home and connect with others on your spiritual journey. We offer a variety of programs and events that cater to all ages and interests, so there's something for everyone. Whether you're new to the area or looking to reconnect with your Jewish roots, we invite you to join us in our warm and welcoming community.



### A message from Rabbi Rosenberg

#### The Silent Rabbi

In the middle of November, I'm going to be spending 5 days in a former monastery, not speaking.

That's an odd sentence for me to write, and one that I wouldn't have imagined I'd *ever* write up until a few years ago. But, many of you know that, over the years, I've become a practitioner of Mindfulness Meditation. And, every now and again, I get to go on a silent meditation retreat – this time, one that's being held at the Garrison Institute, a meditation center which used to be a monastery, and which often gets used by the Institute for Jewish Spirituality.

A lot of people are stunned at the idea that *anyone* would ever voluntarily stay silent for even a full day, let alone 5, and I'm happy to talk with anyone about why I do these things, what it's really like, and what I get out of it. But, what I think is important to say is that Mindfulness Meditation is a means to an end. And, what is that ultimate end? The exploration and growth of my inner life.

We use lots of words for this – spirituality is probably the most common. But, this kind of practice is grounded in the idea that we each have an inner life, and that inner life is *usually* ignored most of the time, and so it's underdeveloped. And so, if we want to have a full and meaningful inner life (and, hopefully, we all do), we're going to have to find some way to work on it. Just like most of us need exercise to stay physically healthy, we need some program, and some practice, to stay spiritually healthy.

So, even if 5 days of silence doesn't sound like the way, I really encourage you to think about what *does* help your soul (which is just another fancy-sounding way to talk about inner life) to grow? What activities make you feel more whole, more grounded, more connected? And, can you set aside time to make sure that you're *doing* those things?

And, of course, I'd love to talk about it with you – feel free to reach out and make some time with me for that, if you think it might help. You never know what you'll find when you actually stop and look!

[Rabbi Jason Rosenberg](#)

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### **Sunday Snapshot - November**

We have spent the last month celebrating the fall holidays together in the Religious School.

First, we came together as a school to decorate our Congregation Beth Am sukkah. All our students contributed to the beautiful decorations. They also got a chance to visit the sukkah, learn with Rabbi Rosenberg, and wave the lulav and the etrog. Then, our youngest students (kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) got a closer look at our Torah as part of their lessons for Simchat Torah. We talked about what makes the Torah special and how a Torah is written. We ended the holiday season welcoming our newest Religious School students at Consecration, followed by a joyous celebration for Simchat Torah.

The holidays may be over, but we are still hard at work in our school. We are learning Hebrew, hearing stories from the Torah, making crafts, and participating in electives. Soon enough, though it seems hard to believe, we will be getting ready to learn all about Chanukah and celebrate with our annual Latke Bash!

[Dr. Hillary Rosenberg](#)

Religious School Director

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### **A word from our President**

A parasocial relationship is a one-sided relationship that is formed with, usually, a celebrity or public figure, where you feel emotionally invested in their lives despite there being no true connection that actually exists. The closeness we feel to that individual is so genuine that we can legitimately be impacted by events in their lives as if ours are intertwined with theirs, though they never have been or will be.

Personally, I've never really cared much about the celebrity world, knowing that, outside of their support for a cause that is meaningful to me, their lives have no real impact on mine. As a result, the closest thing I have to a parasocial relationship is with a group of morning radio-show hosts in Atlanta that, after 25 years, will have come to an end by the time this is read. Of those 25 years, I have been a devout listener for more than 20 of them. Although the cast has changed over time, this show has been with me longer than I've been married to Amanda, throughout almost my entire working life, through job changes, the most joyous experiences, and some of my darkest mental states. It's been a comforting, welcoming, constant more than I would probably prefer to admit. They have always been there for me, whether they knew it or not, and have been one of my more consistent relationships, even if it was one-sided.

Relationships come into your life for a season, for a reason, or for a lifetime. Whether we want to admit it to ourselves, the vast majority of our relationships will fall into one of the first

two categories. If we're really lucky, we get to have at least a few that fall into the final one: and I consider myself blessed to have some that do.

Regardless of the category, or the reason, though, it can be very difficult to say goodbye, to grieve the loss of a friendship, even a parasocial one. But as I frequently tell Adam if he begins to cry at the end of a family visit or unique vacation: it's okay to be sad, and it's okay to cry, ... because that is your way of knowing, of understanding, that what you experienced was something truly meaningful, powerful, and special.

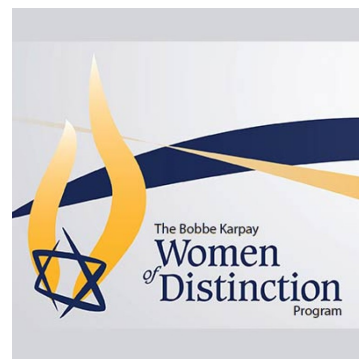
Over time, to most of these relationships, and to these experiences, we must inevitably say and seek Shalom, and in almost every sense. I've found Shalom to be a beautiful and wonderfully optimistic word, and impressively comprehensive, as well. For whatever season we may be welcoming, or whatever person may be departing, we can only hope that there will be a sense of peace in having been a part of it.

[Jared D Kohn](#)

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### **Congregation Beth Am's 2025 Women of Distinction Honoree**

Each year the Tampa JCCs & Jewish Federation Bobbe Karpay Women of Distinction Community Program honors women who have worked diligently to help make our community and our world a better place. Over twenty Jewish organizations and congregations recognize a deserving woman.



**Sheryl Bowman** has been selected as Beth Am's 2025 Women of Distinction Honoree

The community event is on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 held at Congregation Schaarai Zedek.**

**Please join in the celebration to honor Sheryl by attending the event (buy tickets at [www.JewishTampa.com](http://www.JewishTampa.com); and/or place an ad in the event program ([www.JewishTampa.com](http://www.JewishTampa.com)) And/or Donations can be made to Congregation Beth Am in honor of Sheryl.**

**Sheryl A. Bowman** is Congregation Beth Am's Women of Distinction Honoree

Sheryl Bowman has been a member of Congregation Beth Am since 2006, when she joined along with her husband Dave and daughters Sarah and Deanna.

Sheryl's time at Congregation Beth Am has focused both on management of the inside of the synagogue as well as the outside environment. Shortly after joining CBA, she noticed that their stormwater pond was in need of maintenance. She obtained a grant from the Tampa Bay Estuary Program in 2009 and enlisted congregants and Religious School students to remove invasive exotic plants and replant with Florida natives. In 2019, she worked with a Bar Mitzvah candidate to transform an area of the pond into an outdoor classroom as his Tikkun Olam project. She also supported the construction and landscaping of Congregation Beth Am's first Genizah in 2022.

Sheryl has served as a Religious School teacher at Congregation Beth Am for 14 years. She teaches Judaics, Hebrew, and a special elective, Judaism and the Environment, which is held outdoors to establish the connection between Jewish principles and nature.

She is presently in her second term as Vice President of Facilities and Operations on the Board of Directors and actively participates in numerous committees and groups, including the house, caring, and newsletter committees, choir and Sisterhood. She plays an essential role in security and preparing the synagogue for emergencies. She responded immediately before and after Hurricanes Helene and Milton, assessed the damage, and spent months hiring contractors and organizing volunteers for repair and cleanup. For the past four years, she has administered a federally funded security grant to Congregation Beth Am, obtaining more than \$60,000 worth of physical improvements including perimeter fencing, LED lighting and camera system.

More important than the formal titles that Sheryl has, she is incredibly generous with her time and doesn't hesitate to jump in and help when she sees a need. There is many a Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg, for example, that was enhanced by her efforts to find people and to help organize it. She often drives congregants to and from services.

Sheryl retired from Hillsborough County government in 2021. Most of her 35-years was with the Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program, where she evaluated and managed preserves set aside for wildlife. She was responsible for the development of most of the original management plans for more than 60,000 acres of preserved lands.

All that Sheryl does is done in a quiet way without asking for special recognition, working to create a warm and welcoming community at Congregation Beth Am. Beth Am is extremely fortunate to have Sheryl and her family as members, and particularly to have Sheryl's leadership on our Board. We are delighted to select her as a Woman of Distinction.

#### *Congregation Beth Am's Past Honorees*

2005 Wisselman, Stefanie  
2006 Brunhild, Golda  
2007 Friedman, Cathy  
2008 Katz, Harriet  
2009 Davidson, Madelyn 1 - January  
2009 Klein, Ruth (ז"ל) 12 - December  
2010 Cohen, Lisa  
2011 Moudy, Barbara (ז"ל)  
2012 Bursten, Mindy  
2013 Baer, Doris  
2014 Polster, Irma  
2015 Lehman, Marilyn  
2016 Cain Stull, Victoria  
2017 Silverman, Vikki  
2018 Ergas, Sarina  
2019 Hekkanen, Jill  
2020 canceled due to COVID  
2021 Bowen, Deb  
2021 Peikin, Susanne  
2022 Rosenberg, Hillary  
2023 Corning, Sue Ellen  
2024 Phillips, Sarah

We're excited that our community will have the opportunity to be part of the second pilot phase of the forthcoming [The New Reform Torah Commentary](#). Along with hundreds of communities across North America, we will gather together to study and offer feedback on this transformative new resource. This historic project supports meaningful, accessible Jewish learning and lifts up diverse perspectives in Torah study for generations to come.

This piloting session will take place on November 8th at 10:00 am. Participants will see a full sample *parashah* and help ensure that the final *Commentary* reflects the real needs, voices, and insights of the communities who will engage with it. Join us and become a part of shaping the future of Torah learning. All participants will be asked to share feedback online after the session.



### Ice Skating Hanukkah

Sunday, December 14

Calling all CBA Youth!

Join us for Hanukkah on Ice. Ice-skating session will take place 6pm-7pm. Arrive early (between 5:30 and 5:55) to choose the right ice skates for you. It will be at the Advent Health Rink in Wesley Chapel. 3173 Cypress Ridge Blvd. Wesley Chapel, FL 33544

We will ice skate together, then enjoy a Hot Cocoa Bar and light the Menorah.

Ice Skating admission fees and skate rentals for Youth Members will be fully sponsored by the Beth Am Youth Committee.

Grown-Up Members (and Kids-at-Heart!) who would like to ice skate are invited to join the fun for our discounted group rate of \$16 for skate session admission and skate rental.

Questions? [Contact Kerrie Rigberg here.](#)

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### Zahav

Tuesday, November 18 at 12 pm

Come join together for lunch!

Haveli Indian Kitchen - 12908 N Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa

Questions? Contact Marty Greengrass at 813.431.4955 or [MartyGreengrass8@gmail.com](mailto:MartyGreengrass8@gmail.com)



### Kvell Korner

- Ari and Aiden Weiss attended their first Friday night Shabbat service with their father Sam on October 3, 2025.



- A massive thank you to Steven Russell for putting the “S’chach” on our Sukkah, reshelving the machzorim, and returning chairs to the closet after HHD services..
- Thanks also to Milt Orkin, Quinn Dakoff, the Kohn Family, the Klein Family, Irma Polster, Marilyn Sobel, Jordan Alagna, Lorinda Gamson, Sarah Phillips and all of those who contributed to HHD setups and Sukkah construction.



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### Simchat Torah and Consecration





Waving the Lulav and Etrog with instruction from Rabbi Rosenberg.





### Did you miss the last text reminder?

Your FOMO is over! Join the CBA text group and never miss a reminder again. Sometimes it's about our great upcoming events or other times just a simple Shabbat reminder. We don't want you to miss out. [Sign up here.](#)

### Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming Events

November 7 - This is Your Life(cycle) - Funerals!

November 7 - Sip and Nosh

November 9 - Justice Circle

November 13 - This is Your Life(cycle) - Conversion!

November 16 - You have to read this!

November 21 - Friendsgiving Pot Luck dinner

December 14 - Youth Ice Skating



### New Office Hours:

[Deb](#) will be in the office Tuesday, Thursday and Friday's from 9 am - 4 pm. Please stop by to say hello or to have her assist you with your needs.

### Looking for that special gift?

*A unique way to say thanks?*

*Want a way to recognize a graduation?*

*Bar or Bat Mitzvah gift?*

*Looking for a way to remember someone special?*

You can have an engraved leaf on the Tree of Life!  
Have a brick created with a special message added to the walkway!



You can have a leaf engraved for the Tree of Life in the lobby at Congregation Beth Am and/or a brick engraved and placed in the walkway at Congregation Beth Am.

The current pricing for a leaf or a brick is \$108.

Want more information? Please contact [Admin@BethAmTampa.org](mailto:Admin@BethAmTampa.org)

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### **Did you know the Congregation Beth Am has a cemetery?**

CBA owns a portion of the Jewish section of Hillsborough Memorial Gardens in Brandon. If you'd like to learn more, and to find out about buying a plot, please contact

[Admin@BethAmTampa.org](mailto:Admin@BethAmTampa.org)

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### **Yahrzeit Plaques**

Congregation Beth Am has memorial yahrzeit plaques located on the back wall area of the sanctuary as way for your family and our community to honor the memory of your loved one.

Want more information? Please contact [Admin@BethAmTampa.org](mailto:Admin@BethAmTampa.org)

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### **Jewish Community Events:**

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#### **Jewish Book Festival Tampa 2025**

Events happening on select days through December. The Jewish Book Festival will be showcasing 6 national authors and 4 Florida authors with panel discussions, luncheons, book sales and signings. [Learn more..](#)

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### **GIVING TUESDAY - DECEMBER 2, 2025**

Getting ready for Black Friday and Cyber Monday? The Tampa JCCs & Federation invites you to add "#GivingTuesday" to your calendar this year, on Tuesday December 2. [Learn More.](#)



### **November 2025 Anniversaries**

#### **November 5 - November 11**

Ephraim and Theresa Gerstein, Micah Massman and Sarah Phillips, Leonard and Aileen Zuriff, Marcus and Melissa Millican, Charles and Lauren Weiner

#### **November 19 - November 25**

Stephen and Lisa Barash, Robert Bardekoff and Susan Keller, Maggie and Anthony DeLuna

**November 26 - November 30**

Steven L. Snyder and Rabbi Jean E. Eglinton, David and Mary Persky, Geoffrey and Elaine Gross

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**November 2025 Birthdays**

**November 1 - November 4**

Marcus Millican

**November 5 - November 11**

Kerrie Rigberg, Frances Ehrlich, Martin Greengrass, Adam Benjamin Kohn, Jordan Rosenberg

**November 12 - November 18**

Ayla Brooke Logan, Donald Wexler, Christopher Barger

**November 19 - November 25**

Jonathan Corning, Eric Fleat, Rebecca Schwartzberg, Ken Young, Sue Ellen Corning, Alice Habgood, Irma Polster, Samantha (Sammy) Cooper, Debbie Saturno

**November 26 - November 30**

Steve Hekkanen, Levi Mendelsohn, Michael Gruenbaum, Riley Virginia Russell

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**Yahrzeit List**

**November 1 - November 30, 2025**

If you would like to donate in memory of your loved one, please use our [PayPal link here](#).



**The following names will be read during services on Friday, November 7**

\*Frances Minowitz, grandmother of Deanna Oberbroeckling

Minnie Eagle, grandmother of Sara Wilson

Uldine Roberts, aunt of Cathy Friedman

Robert Leonard Ward, friend of Geoffrey Gross

Lenny Hochman, uncle of Milt Orkin

Saul Levy, cousin of Bob Friedman

\*Zelda Blustein, grandmother of Deanna Oberbroeckling

Peter Yellen, father of Katie Habgood

Connie Janelle Thompson, sister of Julie Linick

Roger E. Cohen, stepbrother of Elizabeth Carter

**The following names will be read during services on Friday, November 14**

Sylvia Haidt, great-grandmother of Anthony Deluna

Milton Levine, father of Jack Levine

Martin J. Katz, father of Linda Crollick

Frances Ehrlich, mother of Steven Ehrlich  
Ruth Caplan Farber, mother of Anne Levin  
Elaine Stein, aunt of Lenny Zuriff  
Samuel Auspitz, stepfather of Ken Young

**The following names will be read during services on Friday, November 21**

Dana Bragin, best friend of Stefanie Wisselman  
Albert Silverman, father of Bruce Silverman  
Robert Binisti, uncle of Juliana Cooper  
Doris Schwartzberg, mother of Jill Hekkanen  
\*Buddy Nepon, father of Janice Nepon-Sixt  
\*Emily Rifkin, daughter of Bobbsie and David Rifkin  
Sarah Schier, grandmother of David Cutler  
Ruth Seleznick, mother of Mitchel Seleznick  
Sarah Stern, grandmother of Richard Stern  
Aaron Solomon, godfather of Karen Steinbach  
Bertha Garand, grandmother of Jim Corning  
Ralph Crollick, father of Jeff Crollick  
Isadore Bernstein, cousin of Susan Guess  
George Briggs, father of Irma Polster  
Alvin Brehm, uncle of Bill Brehm

**The following names will be read during services on Friday, November 28**

Sidney Cutler, father of David Cutler  
Steven Uliss, nephew of Susan Razin  
Jacob Weiner, father of Irving Weiner  
Richard May, grandfather of David Richter  
Ruth Fox, aunt of David Richter  
Leo Cutler, uncle of David Cutler  
Jane Wald, aunt of Mark Polster  
Carol Carroll, mother of Patrick Carroll  
Leon Plavin, uncle of Bill Brehm  
David Mark Mendelsohn, friend of Geoffrey Gross  
Samual Richter, grandfather of David Richter  
Ned Reinstein, uncle of Hillary Rosenberg  
Catheryn Steinberg, friend of Doris Baer  
George Klinetsky, father of Elaine Gross  
Thomas Altman, brother of Deborah Conley  
Jerome Leviten, grandfather of Sara Wilson

*An asterisk \* indicates that the name has a memorial plaque on the memorial board in the temple sanctuary.*

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## Refuah Sheleima

### The Congregation extends wishes for a speedy recovery to:

Alice Arlen, David Arlen, Robert Blalock, Marie Crescenzi, Ross Fischler, Isaiah Fox, Richard Guess, Josie Hanlon, Robert Konig, Leah Pshedesky, Candi Remington, Laura Reuterfors, John Roberts, Linda Sherman, Stephen Wittenberg, Shayna bat David v' Resela

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### Shabbat isn't the same without you!

Come make a difference in your Shabbat by taking on a volunteer position. Tap the link below to see how you can enhance your experience and that of others by performing an easy mitzvah!

Training/advice will be provided if requested. [Contact Marilyn Sobel Volunteer/Oneg Signup Sheet](#)

### Your involvement is needed at Congregation Beth Am

#### Volunteer Opportunities

Are you ready to meet new friends while doing a mitzvah?

We need a few helping hands in making Beth Am a vibrant and a stronger community for us all. Here's your chance!

Looking for help in the following areas:

- Fundraising ideas
- Upgrading the CBA website
- Help with Religious School events
- Have ideas for adult classes
- Want to have input of the rituals at Beth Am
- Help with building upkeep
- Help with landscaping
- Help is often needed with arranging the chairs in the sanctuary
- Want to be involved with creating social activities
- Help by sponsoring an Oneg
- Ideas for Social Action?
- Want to participate in the caring committee
- Help to plan Social Action events
- Can help with Strategic planning
- Have ideas for expanding membership
- Help with updating CBA Membership Directory

Have ideas? Suggestions? Questions?

Feel free to contact Rabbi Rosenberg at [RabbiRosenberg@BethAmTampa.org](mailto:RabbiRosenberg@BethAmTampa.org) or 813.968.8511

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### COLLEGE CONNECTION

We feel very strongly that maintaining connections with our students who are pursuing post high school education so they still feel part of the Beth Am family is very important. Twice a year, Sheryl Bowman will send your student (s) a note and gift card as a way of saying "hi, we miss you and wish you the best". Please [contact Sheryl](#) with your student's name and address so she can reach out to them during this time of year.

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## See What's Happening Jewishly in Tampa

Do you receive the official, weekly e-newsletter of the Tampa JCCs & Federation?

Sign up today to read Etta's Book Morsels, learn what's happening with Jews in the News and listen to our Third Opinion podcast.

Shalom Tampa is made possible by the Schoenbaum Family Foundation.

Visit [JewishTampa.com](http://JewishTampa.com) to sign up and see what's happening in our Jewish community!

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## Are You a Member of our [Facebook](#) Group?

It's an easy way to stay up to date about all the things happening at Congregation Beth Am.

Join us on [Facebook](#)

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[Website](#)

[Prayer](#)

[Learning](#)



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