



Welcome to Congregation Beth Am A vibrant Reform community!

We are thrilled you have chosen to deepen your connection with Judaism with us. Our welcoming congregation brings together individuals and families of all backgrounds to share in meaningful religious, life cycle, and community experiences. With programs and events for all ages, we offer a place to feel at home, connect with others, and grow on your spiritual journey.



A message from Rabbi Rosenberg

Looking Ahead To An Amazing Year

There are a lot of New Years in Judaism - Rosh Hashana is, of course, the start of a new year. And Religious School starts up a bit before that, which is another beginning. But, officially, our year as a synagogue begins on July 1; that's when our yearly budget begins, when new Boards begin, and so on. And so, like any new beginning, the start of a new programming year is a chance to look back, take stock, and look ahead.

Frankly, this is an astounding moment to do that. A year ago, we were just welcoming Deb Lilley as our Office Manager, and we were just beginning to get used to running our synagogue without a Cantor. Plus, a new Board, some of whom didn't have much experience with leading CBA was just coming in. There was more than a bit of anxiety around here, as we were still trying to figure out how to move our synagogue forward from a bit of the doldrums we had been in.

At that moment, I don't think I would have believed how things would be a year later. Deb being a magnificent addition to our community was pretty much expected. But, the rest of what this year has looked like? Astonishing. Shabbat services, led by a rotation of talented members, have been a joy, and the number of people – members, prospective members, and guests – have been up, which is bringing a renewed energy to our gatherings. Our classes and social activities have been buzzing. Our Religious School continues to be one of the most wonderful parts of our community. And that new Board has been focused and energized, as much as any Board that I've ever had the pleasure to work with. This has been the most exciting, positive-feeling year of my almost 2 decades as the rabbi of this synagogue (plus, a special "thank you" to our leadership for supporting me in creating the Tampa Jewish Mindfulness Center, which launched this year).

Covid and the lockdown took so much out of our community (and out of all communities), and I don't think we all realized how much we were still living in its wake. For the first time in 5 years, it feels like CBA is back to being what it was, and what it should be. I can't wait to see what this year holds in store for us, and I hope that you'll be there to be a part of it—may we always grow from strength to strength!



Sunday Snapshot - July

As parents, we hear a lot from teachers about the summer slide and how we can help prevent that. I think it's important for kids to get a break from organized learning over the summer and that they have time to play. But I also understand the concerns about losing knowledge gained over the previous school year during the summer months.

Religious School doesn't start until early August, but there are some simple things that we can do as parents to help our kids keep up with their Jewish knowledge over the summer. One easy way to reinforce what your children learned in Jewish Studies this year is to celebrate Shabbat at home. Here's a great resource for celebrating Shabbat at home with children: <https://pjlibrary.org/shabbat>. Another way is to read PJ Library books or PJ Our Way Books with your kids. If you are not receiving PJ Library or PJ Our Way books, here is a link to sign up (it's free!): <https://pjlibrary.org/enroll-in-a-community>.

As for practicing Hebrew and the prayers your kids learned last year, the easiest way to do that is to come to Shabbat Services! We have services every Friday night at 7:00 pm, and we have Shabbat morning services every Saturday, usually at 9:00 a.m. In addition to attending services, here are some websites your children can use to practice their Alef Bet over the summer: <https://wordwall.net/en-us/community/alef-bet> and <https://freehebrewgames.com/>. This site also has prayer practice in addition to Alef Bet practice: <https://www.behrmanhouse.com/playlearn>.

Be on the lookout for information regarding Religious School registration later this month. Until then, enjoy the summer break!

[Dr. Hillary Rosenberg](#)

Religious School Director



A word from our President

There's a big difference between a vacation and a family trip: with the former, you get to relax, take things slow, unwind, or proceed at whatever pace you desire. In the best case scenario, you come back refreshed, rejuvenated, and restored. The latter, on the other hand, often comes with a desire for a much-needed break afterwards, and the younger the children involved, usually, the more likely that break will be desired. We still have a tendency, in my opinion, to call those family trips a vacation as some sort of coping mechanism, a mental contortion designed to convince ourselves that we actually used our paid days off both meaningfully and responsibly.

The truth is, though, it's not contortion at all. Those family trips, despite the inherent stressful experiences we may have as the parents, are still important, and even more so because of the memories made along the way. Very rarely does everything on those trips go exactly as planned. There are always disruptions. There are always changes that need to be made, and circumstances that go somewhat, if not significantly awry. But truthfully, therein lies the beauty of it all.

I am grateful everyday for Amanda: I couldn't do this life without her. I also could not effectively plan a vacation or a family trip without her. Planning these trips is strongly in the center of her Type-A wheelhouse, and we're all better off for it. We would never get to do half of things we have done if it weren't for her planning, but from everything we have done, ever place we have been, some of my favorite experiences are when we had to pivot from the original plan for one reason or another.

It was a missed turn that took me on the most frightening 3-mile-per-hour drive of my life down a steep Italian mountainside. It was an overbooked attraction that got Adam in the driver's seat of Duck Boat in the Tennessee River. It was a missed reservation that led us to one the best meals that I've ever had in my life. It was a change in weather that led us to a serene, misty journey through a valley of waterfalls. It was a change in departure time that led to reconnecting with an old friend in the middle of nowhere. And it was an record-breakingly mild season that led to unconventional dog-sledding experience and family snowball fight.

It's the inadvertent that can make the most significant impressions, as it's inherently difficult to remember the mundane. Even if it may seem scary at times, there is adventure in the unknown, power in the unplanned, and recollection in the unordinary.

These family trips, or even the vacations, can be chaos, at times. But so can parenting as a whole. Right now, as the kids grow quickly, I'm trying to do whatever I can to embrace the chaos (some days more gracefully than others, to be honest), ... because that's where the memories are. It's a rollercoaster ride that I know I'll miss, when the ride begins to slow down, and passengers start to get off.

As the saying goes: We plan. God laughs.

Well, maybe, we, too, should be learning to embrace the joy and the humor in that inevitable disruption... because we probably wouldn't remember it well if the seas were always smooth.

[Jared D Kohn](#)

This week at a glance:

Thursday, July 2

Adult Education

9:30 am - Talmud Study with Rabbi Rosenberg In-person and on Zoom.

Friday, July 3

Shabbat Services

7 pm - Kabbalat Shabbat

8 pm - Oneg - This week will be sponsored by Marilyn Sobel in honor of her Bat Mitzvah on 7-4-26.

(Available on Zoom and Facebook. Links below.)

Saturday, July 4

Shabbat Services

8:30 am - [Shabbat Morning](#) Making Prayer Real Discussion

9 am - Cafe Shabbat - Food and coffee will be provided.

10:30 am - Shabbat Service and Marilyn Sobel being called to the Torah as bat mitzvah

12 pm - Luncheon for Marilyn Sobel

Meeting ID: **802 978 8051**, Password: **2030**, or click on: <https://bit.ly/3YNIKCT>
Friday Night Services are available on [Zoom](#) and Facebook. Saturdays are [Zoom](#) only or in person.

Day of Mindfulness

Saturday, July 18

All are welcome to join us, either for the full day, or any part of it, for our next Day of Mindfulness -- a day of meditation, contemplation, and spiritual exploration.

Plenty of instructions will be given - perfect for beginners, or people with an established meditation practice.

Meals will be provided for those who RSVP. No charge; \$36 requested donation.

Contact Rabbi Rosenberg (RabbiRosenberg@BethAmTampa.org) to RSVP or with questions.



You Have to Read This!

Sunday, July 12

1-3 pm @ CBA

During our next installment of You Have To Read This, you have two minutes to tell us about a favorite book and why we should read it too! CBA members and friends are welcome! Snacks are provided.



Contact for this event: Katie Habgood, katie@yellen.com

Ritual Committee/Advisory Group

Thursday, July 16

We're re-thinking what our Ritual Committee looks like, and we'd like to invite you to be a part of it. We'll be meeting monthly to learn about ritual - about a specific prayer in the service, about a bit of theology, about pretty much anything which connects with our services and prayers. And, we'll use that learning to also have discussions about what our services look like, and could look like, here at CBA.

If this sounds interesting to you, talk to Rabbi Rosenberg (RabbiRosenberg@BethAmTampa.org), or just come to our next meeting and learn more!



Caregivers Meetup

Friday, July 24

12 - 1:30 pm

Are you a caregiver for a parent or another adult in your family? Would you like to get-together to meet and share with others? We have had meaningful discussions, and whether this is your first time or you've joined in past, please join! Meeting ID: **802 978 8051**, Password: **2030**, or click on: <https://bit.ly/3YNIKCT>



Please note that the CBA walkers are taking it indoors!

Please meet us at the front entrance of the Citrus Park Mall (near BJ's) Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:45 a.m.

Following our walk, there is a Starbucks there for a refreshing beverage.

Please let [Judy](#) know if you will be there a day or two prior, so that someone will be sure to meet you.



Religious Action Center (RAC)

I am reaching out to ask you to join me in a Tampa Bay wide outreach for Every Voice Every Vote. I am working with the Religious Action Center (RAC) of Reform Judaism, to coordinate this effort.



The focus of the Religious Action Center (RAC) of Reform Judaism for 2026 is Every Voice, Every Vote. This is a non-partisan effort, and is relevant to every voter.

Let's work together to ensure that every eligible voter has a say in the decisions that impact our lives to create a better future for ourselves and for all people. August 18th is the upcoming primary (for those registered in a political party) but also may include non-partisan races such as school boards, judges, etc.

In Florida, if you want to vote by mail, you must request a mail ballot prior to the next general election. Your driver's license is used to confirm your identity. If you renewed your license after 2024, you were assigned a new number, and it might not match what the Election Office has. So this must be updated to request a mail ballot. These new rules affect every voter regardless of party affiliation.

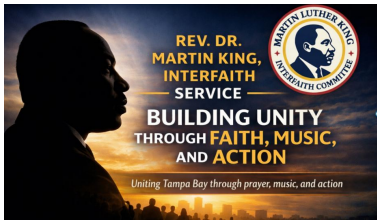
We will be having voter outreach activities this summer so watch the weekly email for dates and times! We are also planning an event on the evening of July 30th with Hillsborough County's Supervisor of Elections, Craig Latimer as a featured speaker! You will be able to learn how Craig and his team secure our elections to make them free and fair! We are hoping to invite some local non partisan candidates for a panel discussion. RAC has some great trainings for this effort. Please sign up through [my team link here](#) to get started.

[For RAC trainings and information click here.](#)

RAC Florida is one of the state-based affiliates to help our community engage in the goals and vision of RAC. Again, this is a non-partisan group, not endorsing or affiliating with any political party. RAC Florida has a lead staff, Michele Eiger, whose role is to coordinate our efforts across the many Reform congregations and includes outreach to secular and other religious organizations.

Thank you for all you do! I hope you will join me in this effort!

[Jan Wessells](#)



Calling All Singers for the MLK Interfaith Service!

This year's MLK Interfaith Service is scheduled for Sunday, January 17th at 4:00 pm, and they're putting together the choir now. If you want to be part of an incredibly joyful musical experience, please reach out to Rabbi Rosenberg.

May Donations

We would like to recognize all who have donated for the month of May.

Capital Campaign

Arlene Diaz-Johnston
Lenny and Aileen Zuriff

General Fund

Carol Bakwin
Joe and Barbara Kerstein

Memorial Plaques

David and Rudina Richter



Kvell Korner

- A big thank you to our recent Oneg sponsors. We really appreciate your continued dedication to make Shabbat special!
Emilie Carr, Marilyn Sobel, Sara Wilson, Ben Dunmire, Jared and Amanda Kohn and Criss McConnell
- Everyone who contributed to the Pot Luck Shavuot dinner
- Mazel tov to the engagement of Patti Rinner and John Testa
- Mazel Tov to Sam Weiss on his new position at Hillel Academy



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

July 4 - Marilyn Sobel's Bat Mitzvah

July 12 - You Have to Read This.



July 16 - Ritual Committee

July 18 - Day of Mindfulness

July 22 - Tisha B'Av Commemoration

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

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

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

Jewish Community Events:



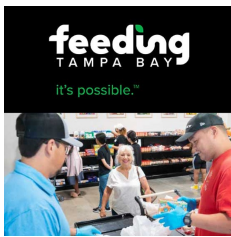
Connect Coffee Hour

Come meet your Jewish community! Sunday, July 12 at 10:30 a.m. Join us for a relaxing morning of coffee and conversation. All ages welcome. Free to attend, food and beverage at your own cost. [Learn more.](#)



Support the Disaster Relief in Venezuela

The damage is catastrophic. Your donation will go directly toward funding shelter, medical supplies, clean drinking water, and essential relief packages for the families who have lost everything. [Learn more.](#)



iVolunteer and Feeding Tampa Bay

Monday, July 13, 12:00 PM. Join us in partnership with Feeding Tampa Bay, for a hands-on service project. No special skills required. Must be 13+ years old. Limited spots available. [Learn more.](#)

July 2026 Anniversaries

July 1-7

Sara and Scott Wilson, Julie Ann and Corey David Linick, Donna and Neal Huneycutt

July 8-14

Stephen and Sherry Wolbarst, Samuel and Kerry Joy-Weiss, Jared and Amanda Kohn, Marilyn and David Sobel

July 15-21

Peggy and Alan Dakoff, Judith and Andrew Bern

July 22-28

Kory and Gruenbaum, Edward and Della Mandel

July 29-31

David and Wendy Hess

July 2026 Birthdays

July 1-7

Alexandra Diane Schwartzberg, Sheryl Bowman, Elliott Polster, Shannon Fleat, Wendy Hess, Bruce Maier, Vera Ballin Vanden, Mya Jordan Winokur, Julia Connerly Frary, James Edmaond Shoemaker

July 8-14

Kaitlynn Wander, Suzette M Feinstein, Braden Venger, Ellen Small, Robert Wise, Rudina Richter

July 15-21

Sylvia Ann Massman, Paul Saturno, Jill Hekkanen

July 22-28

Ryan Hildebrandt, Mindi Friedman, ILisa Barash, Ean Mendelsohn, Ian Gabriel Schwartzberg

July 29-31

Andrew Bern, Jordan Frary

Yahrzeit List

July 1 - July 31, 2026

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, July 3

*Audrey Maier, daughter of Bruce and Robin Maier
Rachel Cohen Mack, mother of Marsha Fisher
Gladys Persky Yanow, aunt of David Persky
*Dr. Martin Schick, husband of Dr. Marla Schick
Addi Morris Bloch, friend of Victoria Silverman
Jack Bakwin, father of Carol Bakwin

The following names will be read during services on Friday, July 10

Rebecca Rifkin, grandmother of David Rifkin
*Sam Friedman, father of Bob Friedman
Irene Lewis Perry, first mother-in-law of Geoffrey Gross
Ted Gibson, grandfather of Anthony Deluna
Sanford Baer, son of Doris Baer

The following names will be read during services on Friday, July 17

*Charlotte Wolbarst, mother of Stephen Wolbarst
Eula Austin, mother of Debra Meister
Kitty Greenspan, grandmother of Ean Mendelsohn
Gloria Schier, step-grandmother of David Cutler
Jeannette Molish, paternal grandmother of Lisa Wilcox
Joseph Singer, grandfather of Jodi Rigberg
Edward Thomas Downing, father of Mary Young
Hy Plavin, uncle of Bill Brehm
*Robert Horowitz, brother of Margaret Ziegler
Diantha Perry Gross, first wife of Geoffrey Gross
Herbert Wisselman, father of Stefanie Wisselman
Bertie Schwartz, aunt of Bob Friedman
*Edna Tockman, mother of Mel Tockman
*Irving Samuel Tockman, father of Mel Tockman

The following names will be read during services on Friday, July 24

Irving Weissman, uncle of David Rifkin
*Harold Brehm, father of Bill Brehm
Rena Polster, aunt of Mark Polster
Sarah Cohen, mother of Elizabeth Carter
Guy Matthew Nizin, father of Jodi Logan
Samuel Brehm, grandfather of Bill Brehm
*Bernard Greenstein, brother-in-law of Meg Ziegler

Maurice Mernoff, father of Doris Baer

David Feinstein, father of Harris Feinstein

The following names will be read during services on Friday, July 31

Arnold Molish, father of Lisa Wilcox

Joseph Persky, uncle of Dr. David Persky

Seymour Polster, father of Mark Polster

Scott Hess, son of David and Wendy Hess

Pauline Hertz, grandmother of Bobbsie Rifkin

Susan Maier, mother of Bruce Maie

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

Refuah Sheleima

The Congregation extends wishes for a speedy recovery to:

Doris Baer, Robert Bardekoff, Robert Bern, Robert Blalock, Neal Block, Elizabeth Carter, Wes Crenshaw, Marie Crescenzi, Lillian Cutler, Ben Dunmire, Ross Fischler, Isaiah Fox, Richard Guess, Adam Hess, Keith Merill, Mark Polster, Vanessa Schwartz Pope, Bill Randle, Susan Razin, Laura Reuterfors, John Roberts, Jason Selmont, Linda Sherman, Elizabeth Weiss, Stephen Wittenberg, Shayna bat David v' Resela



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 or 813.968.8511

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.

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 to sign up and see what's happening in our Jewish community!

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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