My name is Ryan-Nicole and I am an Eighth Grade Honor Roll student at Hilton Head Island IB Middle School. I enjoy spending time with friends and family, going to the movies, swimming, yoga, the beach and competing with family and friends on Kinect’s Just Dance series. As reading is a great passion of mine, I have chosen literacy as my Bat Mitzvah project, supporting the Literacy Volunteers of the Low Country. I have been working very hard on my Hebrew and am excited about my upcoming Bat Mitzvah on March 8th. I am asking those who attend the service to please bring a book donation to join my efforts in supporting literacy in the Low Country.

“Don’t waste yourself in rejection nor bark against the bad, but chant the beauty of the good.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

Megillah Reading

March 15, 2014 at 6:45 PM

Come help us celebrate PURIM with the Cat in the Hat and other characters from Dr. Seuss’ collection of children’s books. There will be lots of costumes and hamantaschen. We hope to see you at our Seuss-tacular event!

If you never did, you should. These things are fun, and fun is good.
Dr. Seuss

Brief Purim Shpiel

What's It All About, Esther?

A new take on an old story with music by Burt Bacharach, Lyrics by Brick Steel, Luke Tepid, and Constable T. Constable, Written and directed by our own Gobby Cohen

Gobby Cohen started out in Toronto's famed Second City working with John Candy and Martin Short and also starred in countless TV shows and commercials. He retired to Hilton Head in 2012, and is proud to be a member of CBY!
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<td>Movie Night - Lies My Father Told Me</td>
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<td>Yom HaShoah Service with Choir</td>
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You Can Now Make CBY Donations Online Using Your Credit Card

Congregation Beth Yam is now accepting donations to its General Operating Fund and other special funds using the internet and your own credit cards. Yes, you may still make donations by check using the hard copy donation form below and mailing it or hand-delivering it to the office; however, the online donation method offers convenience and a safe, secure, easy way to donate with a credit card. Here’s all you need to do. Click here and follow the guide for making a donation. The guide will direct you to the Congregation Beth Yam Donation Form. If you have any questions or experience any difficulties, please contact the office at bethyam@aol.com.
Editor’s note: This is a wrap up of the interviews with Rabbi Bloom and some very personal feelings that I know we can all relate to.

I have found that the most enduring life lessons often arise from the struggle to overcome challenging situations. Some say whatever is painful makes us stronger. There is truth in that maxim. Others say, ‘no pain- no gain.’ Yet those who have advised me well taught that whatever challenges originate out of difficult situations can ultimately make us stronger and better human beings. I heartily believe that sage advice. What is most important is that life does not permanently embitter us because we all have situations we have had to cope with that threatened to bring us to the dark side of life. Truthfully, I have experienced those moments at times and, thankfully, they were few and far between. Yet, I did, nevertheless, face those ups and downs and emerged, I believe, a better person for it.

I feel blessed to have a congregation of so many who enjoy a full life and already know that wisdom. Sometimes we go into a situation like a job or a relationship and despite the best intentions to make it work it does not happen as we hope. My experiences, good and bad, taught me lessons about life and I strongly believe those experiences prepared me to be the best rabbi I could be and one that this congregation deserves. As the Psalmist said, “Kosi R’vayah,” or “My cup overflows.” I feel appreciative to have a good fit here and for a rabbi to succeed there has to be a certain kind of chemistry that works well between rabbi and congregation. Of course no rabbi can please everyone and rabbis make mistakes, but when that chemistry works it is the best experience in the world and feels like a calling rather than a job. That is exactly how I feel about serving as Rabbi at Beth Yam.

I cherish how to use those moments of melancholy or the struggles of conscience about the world we live in to grow the spiritual side of myself. Poetry and writing sermons or even just playing the flute gives me the opportunity to explore and expand my horizons about life. In some way all these experiences flow into the way I provide pastoral care and lead this congregation towards fulfilling its potential. I feel motivated every day and night that I am called on to assist and support my congregation. Even though I often hear people say to me, “I wouldn’t have your job for a million dollars,” I laugh with them and smile. The congregational rabbinate is not for the faint of heart. It is a 24-7 job, but, when there is that partnership and mutual respect between rabbi and congregation the relationships and purpose of being a rabbi is all the more enriched.

Being a rabbi is a daily challenge and I fully recognize that even with my failings or the mistakes I make I am confident that this was the right choice for me in my life’s work. All of you at Beth Yam make a difference for me and for each other. All our imperfections help us in some mysterious way if we are open to change to emerge wiser in life and feel connected to the wellsprings of Torah. What would life be if we were all perfect? It would certainly be a boring world. I have believed that religious growth is not about the ends but about the journey. Sometimes life has its bumps and despite them we can, if we pray, study and reflect diligently, overcome obstacles and move forward. When we have those precious moments, when we sense that growth, one can experience the divine presence in our lives.

Rabbi Brad L. Bloom M.S.W.  D. D.

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**Rabbi's Message**

**HOT TOPIC**

March 15
10:00 AM
**Parashat Tzav**

March 22
9:30 AM
**Parashat Shemini**

March 22
**Parashat Shemini**

March 29
**Parashat Tazria**

March 1
Parashat Pekude
March 8
Parashat Vayikra
March 15
Parashat Tzav
March 22
Parashat Shemini
Torah Portion:

March 15
10:00 AM
Parashat Tzav

The death of Aaron’s sons

What is the “ideal” of holy for modern times?

The death of Aaron’s sons

Coping with and grieving after an unexpected death
President’s Message

Despite our unusually cold weather in February, activities were hot at CBY! For the first time we established a new tradition with Shabbat Shirah, a tiny tots service for kids from ages 0-5 led by Sarah Bornstein. The service was lively and fun! It was followed by a Fusion Shabbat dinner and service with the largest crowd ever of over 100. It was wonderful having that many congregants of multiple generations celebrating Shabbat together. Our Super Bowl party sponsored by the Men’s Club also had the largest crowd. Along with the blowout game, the crowd had a blowout time! We were honored to have Rabbi Gary Zola speak about how Abe Lincoln was connected to Judaism which was sponsored by our Adult Ed Committee. We were also extremely blessed with an anonymous donation of $10,188 from the Chai-Minded Foundation who gives money to congregations they feel worthy. Take a look at their website: www.chai-minded.org to find out how they operate.

Your Board of Directors has been hard at work updating our CBY policies to more accurately reflect the contemporary manner of our governance. Both our by-laws and policies are available in our office for any congregant to review. For our newer members and even for a little refresh for some of our longer term congregants, my ‘Did You Know’ this month is a highlight of some of our policies, so...

Did you Know?

♦ Our by-laws can only be changed by a congregational vote which requires all resident families to be notified in advance, a meeting scheduled, proxies provided for any who can’t attend the meeting and a majority vote to enact or change a by-law. Policies can be added, deleted or changed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

♦ Any congregant can attend the Board of Director meetings to observe the proceedings. Notice must be given to the President in advance to make sure space is available.

♦ Softcopy of e-mail addresses, mailing labels or membership lists are not available for distribution to congregants.

♦ Our restricted funds can only be used for the purpose for which they’re designated. The use of the money in the funds is recommended by the individual or committee who has the oversight responsibility of the fund.

♦ Our cemetery plots at Six Oaks Cemetery are available for purchase for all congregants and their families. In the event that a congregant wants to sell their plot(s), it can only be to another congregant.

♦ Eligibility to attend our Religious School is for the children of congregants only. The children of non-members of CBY are not eligible.

♦ All B’nai Mitzvah children receive their own personal copy of Mishkan T’filah to prepare for their big day.

Obviously, the above are only condensed versions of a few of our policies. As always, if you have any questions contact me.

Nominating Committee ~ Judy Bluestone, Chair

The CBY Nominating Committee is in the process of putting together a slate of officers and board members for 2014. Terms of office are three years for the Board of Directors and one year for officers. Leadership at CBY is a meaningful experience, an opportunity to grow, to help develop the programmatic and spiritual direction of Congregation Beth Yam. In the words of past URJ president Eric Yoffe “it is a sacred trust” and CBY leaders take their responsibilities very seriously. If you have interest in being considered for leadership, now is the time to contact the chair of the nominating committee, Judy Bluestone. She is looking forward to talking with you.

Save the Date ~ Saturday June 21, 2014

Mike's Retirement Party

Help Mike celebrate his retirement as President of CBY

More details will be coming but put that date on your calendar

Mike’s Retirement Party

Help Mike celebrate his retirement as President of CBY

More details will be coming but put that date on your calendar

April, 2014

5:45 PM

preceding Fusion Dinner

Led by Sarah Bornstein, Adriana Urato, and David Kimbell

Service for children birth through first grade
Fundraising Committee ~ Alan Meiselman, Chair

♦ Dine-Around at Black Marlin from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM on Monday, March 10 and then at The Cottage on Wednesday, March 26. Call Diane Miller for all reservations. Do not call the restaurant directly.

Library Committee ~ Felicia Pascal and Linda Stern

Cold and rainy weather is a great time to settle down with a good book or maybe an interesting DVD. The library in the Jewish Resource Center has readings and films to satisfy a variety of tastes. You don’t need a library card; just stop by and see what we have or check our listing on the CBY web page.

We received some lovely additions to our collection donated by Dr. John and Gene Griz of Greenville, South Carolina. There is a 5 volume set by Zalman Sorotzkin: *Insights in the Torah: Bereishis, Shemos, Vayikra, Bamidbar and Devarim*. The Brown-Drive-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon is a great addition and will be put in our reference section.

We also received a volume edited by Reuven Hammer: *The Jerusalem Anthology, A Literary Guide*. Our thanks to the anonymous donor of this interesting book. The sisterhood donated a copy of *The Promised Land* by Ari Sharit. We are grateful for the continued generosity of our members and friends of the Congregation.

**The Lion Seeker** by Kenneth Bonert
Reviewed by John Stern
The author weaves the history of his grandparents, Lithuanian Jews, into the fictional story of a small family, who escapes from Lithuania, prior to the outbreak of World War II. The family settles in Johannesburg, South Africa. The father is a watchmaker and the mother is facially disfigured. They have escaped from the pogroms and are resolved to make a better life with their son Isaac and daughter, Rively. This is a rich saga against the backdrop of white and black society in pre-war South Africa. This book is available is in the library.

**A Century of Wisdom** by Caroline Stoessinger
Reviewed by Ellen Lash
A treasure trove of insight and reflection. Sommer’s life is a tribute to the purity of artistic endeavor under the most devastating circumstances. A survivor of Theresienstadt and a world class Czech pianist shares her amazing story of survival and triumph. She recently passed away at the age of 110. She was the oldest living survivor of the Holocaust. This is an elegant book about an artist who found deliverance in her passion for music. This book is available is in the library.
Sisterhood ~ Janet Weingarten, Sisterhood President

A big thank you to all those who made February another great programming month for Sisterhood. Randy Kurjan opened her lovely home for our Lilith group. Diane Berman facilitated our discussion. We had another successful Sweetheart Luncheon chaired by Sue Gostanian. Our lunch was terrific due to the efforts of our shoppers, cooks and bakers. It was fun and informative to hear our auctioneers tell us about the value of the many treasures we brought in for evaluation.

Did you know that WRJ adopts resolutions and takes positions on a wide array of policy topics and issues of national concern? At the Biennial, WRJ reaffirmed its commitment to civil rights in a new resolution on voting rights after the Supreme Court gutted one of the most important provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In another resolution, on the school to prison pipeline, WRJ will advocate in a new area of social action concerning the intersection of education, criminal justice and children’s issues. WRJ is concerned about a system that sends too many children to jail who should be disciplined in school. If you would like to learn more about these resolutions and others, you should go to the WRJ web site and find out more about the issues and what actions can be taken.

I’m looking forward to seeing you and your families at the Women’s Seder and Community Seder.

Yours in Sisterhood
Janet

Book Club
Join us at The Cypress on March 13, 2014 at 12:30 PM to hear Minnie Levine review the book, A Century of Wisdom by Caroline Stoessinger. This is the true story of a woman whose life spans an entire century. She recently passed away at the age of 110 and is an inspiration to us all! We will be joined by the Book Club of the Cypress. If you have not yet signed up for this review, either at our last meeting or by e-mail, please do so.

Passes are needed to enter Hilton Head Plantation. The book is available in the temple library. RSVP Judie Aronson.

Women’s Seder
Remember to send in your reservations for the Women’s Seder and Luncheon which is on April 3, 2014 at 11:00 AM at CBY. The cost is $32.00 each for Sisterhood members and their mothers and $35.00 for guests. To make a reservation, please send a check, made out to CBY Sisterhood, and mail to Cathy Kite.

Community Seder
Send in your reservations for the Community Seder which is on April 15 at 5:00 PM at CBY. To make a reservation, please send a check made out to CBY Sisterhood, your reservation form, and mail to Sharon Bass. Please look for your e-blast on March 17.

Onegs
Thank you to these women for providing the Onegs for January: The Outreach Committee, The Social Action Committee, Richard and Anne Feldman, Marcia Frezza, and Barbara Freeman.

Proposed Slate of Officers for Sisterhood
President .................................................. Cathy Kite
Executive VP ................................................. Sue Gostanian
VP Membership ........................................... Kathy Burnce
VP Fundraising ............................................ Diane Miller
VP Congregational Services .......................... Nadyne Ulicny
VP Community, Social & Cultural ............... Randy Kurjan & Hilary Williams
Recording Secretary ..................................... Sharon Bass
Corresponding Secretary ................................ Bev Averack
Treasurer ...................................................... Elaine Lust

Please let Helen Hauer know if you or someone you know would like to be considered for the Sisterhood Board of Directors. Elections will take place at the Women’s Seder on April 3.

Membership
We are pleased to report that Women of Reform Judaism has committed $75,000 to NFTY (National Foundation of Temple Youth) to commemorate their 75th birthday toward for the URJ Youth Initiative. This is what paying your sisterhood dues helps to create. If you are not yet a member, please consider doing so – even if you do not want to participate in a leadership capacity or only attend limited events. Your dues help the NFTY Camps, student rabbis and student cantors by providing scholarships. CBY Sisterhood is a proud member of WRJ.

Kathy Burnce, VP of Membership

Lilith Salon
The Lilith Salon held on February 6th was a great success. Randy Kurjan opened up her lovely home and new member Diane Berman, with an injured arm, facilitated the article “On discovering a man I was secretly in love with wrote a poem portraying me in an unflattering light.” As always the conversation turned to many other topics with a lot of personal experiences, which creates great discussion and more camaraderie among the sisters. Thank you so much to Randy and Diane for their wonderful participation and to all the fabulous cooks who always think we are expecting an army to eat with us. The next salon will be in May at the home of Twyla Sable. Information will follow as we get nearer the date. Hope to see you then.

Sweetheart Luncheon Report
On February 13th, CBY Sisterhood held its annual Sweetheart Luncheon and Fundraiser. This year, Gallery 95 Auction in Hardeeville conducted an Antique Road Show, where attendees could have jewelry, antiques, and other treasures appraised. Our members enjoyed the luncheon as they learned the history and value of the heirlooms they brought to the Road Show. Along with the oohs and aahs was a collective gasp as Appraiser Kelly Dykes put an astonishing value on a jade heirloom submitted by a member of Sisterhood! Many thanks to Steve Allen and Mark Thibodeau, owners of Gallery 95 Auction, and Kelly Dykes, Professional Art and Antiques Appraiser, for their generosity. They donated their services for the Sisterhood Sweetheart Luncheon Roadshow. Thank you to Sue Gostanian, Fundraising Vice President and Program Chair.
CBY Men’s Club ~ Nelson Adelman, President

The Men’s club held their annual Super Bowl Party on Sunday February 2nd and, as usual, it was a great success, even though the game itself left a lot to be desired and appeared to be over after the first half. The ladies in the room had a much better night enjoying each other’s company playing Mah jongg and cards while the others lamented the evening. The food saved the night as well as the socialization with all our friends. A special thank you to Carol Katz for her super chili which, as always, was a great success.

All the Men’s Club can say is that which old Brooklyn Dodger fans used to say “well, wait till next year.”

Wednesday night February 19th we had our first men’s night out meeting at Frankie Bones. The turnout was great, good dinner, terrific conversation and friendship. We reviewed our past year events which were all very successful, meeting all expectations and more to Congregation Beth Yam and the community. Special thanks go to Alan Meiselman and Stan Kleiman for their help in making this a successful evening.

The Men’s Club is well into planning our events for the year 2014 and look forward to another year of great participation.

Surfing our Website ~ Joe Levy & Michael Shapiro

For this month, let us click on the “Learning” tab on the Bethyam.org Website, followed by the RSS feeds popup menu. The term RSS is an acronym for Rich Site Summary, although many people think of it as standing for Really Simple Syndication. And that indeed is the reason for the usage of RSS feeds: it lets the reader follow developments at sites of interest. For a good tutorial on RSS (it is not highly technical, we promise), go to: http://rss.softwaregarden.com/aboutrss.html.

Courtesy of the Union for Reform Judaism, our Website makes a number of RSS feeds available to us, in the form of Website addresses we can click on. The Website author maintains a list of notifications in a standardized way, i.e., an RSS feed. This is a great convenience to us, and as you can see, we have four RSS feeds available to us, each a single click away.

The RSS feeds for The Jerusalem Post, Jewish Telegraphic Agency and Jewish Headline News feed contain lists of headlines of Jewish interest, in addition to many of general interest, and are, of course, updated daily. You might wish to add these to such sources as the New York Times online, to get a news worldview which reaches beyond our little island paradise. You may also find the Ten Minutes of Torah of interest – it’s a daily commentary on a topic of Jewish interest. It is the only one of these RSS feeds which requires a personal sign-up, after which it becomes a daily email delivery. Welcome to the world of RSS – read and learn!

Yom HaShoah Service - Eve Sanker

Second Generation of Holocaust Survivors: Coping with the Memory

On Sunday, April 27th at 1:00 PM, Beth Yam will hold it’s Annual Holocaust Memorial service. The entire community is invited to attend. Poetry readings, our wonderful choir, and the participation of our youth group will make this a special service.

Please contact Eve Sanker with the names of any Holocaust survivors or children of survivors in our community who would like to attend and light a memorial candle.
CBY Film Series 2014 ~ Steve and Sharon Burstein

There will be no film in March.

April 3 - Lies My Father Told Me
Growing up in a ghetto is tough on David, an 8-year-old Orthodox Jewish boy. His only real friend is his grandfather, who places great value on tradition. But David's father is anxious to assimilate, creating constant tension in the household.

The 2014 Film Series ends with the May 1 showing of Language of the Enemy.

Care Committee ~ Susan Britanisky and Sandy Leff

CARE COMMITTEE
SENIOR PASSOVER PROGRAM
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2014
**Special Dual Event...Don’t Miss Either One**

**Event 1:**
*The Story of the Jews with Simon Schama*

**Monday, March 24, 8:00 PM**

You may know some of the history of the Jews, but you haven’t heard it the way Simon Schama tells it—full of rich detail and a keen sense of how people really lived. Schama’s *The Story of the Jews: Finding the Words 1000 BC-1492 AD* (a new book and television series, soon to air on PBS) takes us all over India, Spain, Oxford, Syria, Paris, Cairo and beyond to show how Jews everywhere lived not as a people apart, but as a vital force in any society they joined, inspiring and being inspired by everything around them. Don’t miss this event giving a rich insight into how Jews lived from the times of King David and Solomon to the expulsion from Spain. Register now at [www.bethyam.org/92stY](http://www.bethyam.org/92stY).

**Event 2:**
*Lunch and Learn ~ The Story of the Jews – Simon Schama*

**Thursday, March 27, 2014**

The 92nd Street Y Live Broadcast on March 24: "The Story of the Jews" from the time of King David and Solomon to the Spanish expulsion (1,000 BC-1492 AD) with famed historian Simon Schama, will leave us wanting to discuss what we have seen & heard. We will have the chance to do just that March 27 with Rabbi Bloom over lunch. (Bring your own) There is no charge. Please RSVP at bethyam@aol.com.

**Elie Wiesel**

**Thursday, May 22, 8:00 PM**

Don’t miss the opportunity to learn from Elie Wiesel, founder of the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity and Nobel Laureate, at 92Y.

All Broadcasts will be shown at Congregation Beth Yam, 4501 Meeting St., Hilton Head Island, SC. Space is limited. Register early. Tickets for single broadcasts are $10 for Congregation Beth Yam members and $15 for non-members, payable by cash or check. To register for one or more broadcasts, go to [www.bethyam.org/92stY](http://www.bethyam.org/92stY) for on-line credit card purchases or to print out a mail-in registration form. Tickets for a single broadcast are good for that broadcast only. Tickets are non-refundable, but transferable to friends and colleagues.

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**OUR VOLUNTEERS**

This is the first installment of a new Tidings category, “Our Volunteers”, where you will find information and reports outlining the activities of each member through various charities and charitable organizations. It is the work of these hands that make our congregation strong, both within and through our community’s recognition.

**HUNGER AND HOMELESS COALITION By Janet Weingarten**

I am chairperson of the Hunger and Homeless Coalition founded in 2010 under the leadership of CBY members Twyla Sable, Judie Aronson and myself. Four years later the organization has many volunteers from CBY along with volunteers from St. Andrews by the Sea Methodist Church, All Saints Episcopal Church, 1st Presbyterian Church, Christ Lutheran Church and St. Francis by the Sea Catholic Church. Sue Gostanian and Judie Aronson serve on the Board of Directors.

The vision of the coalition is to have a community free of hunger and homelessness. To that end the coalition operates Backpack Buddies. CBY members have not only been generous with financial support but under the leadership of Nancy Lerner, volunteers have picked up, delivered and packed backpacks filled with nutritional food for needy Hilton Head elementary school children on the weekend. The following members of our congregation have volunteered many hours of their time to ensure that children are not hungry and ready to learn when they return to school on Mondays: Howard Misthal, Joel Lerner, Mike Weingarten, Joanne and Ray Doyle, Nikki Greenberg, Sue Britanisky, Elyse and Myron Meister, Cathy and Steve Kite, Joan Diamond, Linda Silver, Teddy Finn, Lois Golub, and Sandy Leff.

Under the leadership of Sue Gostanian and Barbara Frogel, sisterhood members cook and serve a hot meal once a month at the St. James soup kitchen. Financial support is also provided to the Campbell soup kitchen in Bluffton. The following women generously volunteer their cooking and serving expertise for those that otherwise might go hungry: Helen Hauer, Paula Rudman, Elaine Lust, Twyla Sable, Judie Aronson and Randy Kurjan. Thank you to all of our congregants that perform tikkun olam. Feel free to contact any of the above named members to find out how you too can help.
We are Kita Gan, the youngest members of the CBY Religious School. Some of us are 3, some are 4, and some of us have already turned 5. We are not in kindergarten yet. There are 6 of us: Aleayah, Cora, Sunny, Elliott, Bennett, and Isaac. Our teacher is Ms. Debbie.

We have already learned so much about what being Jewish means. We read Hebrew sounds, we pray in Hebrew, we count to ten, and we know some greetings and good manners words. Of course, we have learned about the Torah and the synagogue. We have also learned many stories from the Torah. We especially loved lining up all the animals in pairs and made a parade into the ark; the line stretched across our classroom and into the hallway, almost to Ms. Judi’s office! We made our own Megillahs and we are learning the four questions for our Passover Seder. We collect tzedakah money every class, and we will give it to our mitzvah project. Look at us holding our Torahs.

PURIM CARNIVAL
Sunday March 9 10:30 – 12:30
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
$8.00 per child, $2.00 per Adult, $25.00 Max per family
**Admission includes LUNCH**
$1.00 from each admission will go towards our Mishloach Manot baskets!!!
(Which will be donated to those less fortunate in our community)
Sponsored by BYYG (Beth Yam Youth Group)
For more information please contact Sheryl Keating
** Adults must accompany children at all times during the Carnival**

Ma Koreh!
Translation: What’s going on!
Check out our Newsletter by clicking the image above

The theme for our program this year is What it means to be a Jew in the modern world.

CBY Congregants were treated to an outstanding lecture on February 20 by special guest, Rabbi Gary Zola, professor at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati and executive director of the American Jewish Archives. A noted historian, Rabbi Zola took us on an entertaining journey to 19th century America and the tumultuous times of President Abraham Lincoln. We learned about the fascinating relationship he cultivated with the immigrant Jewish community of his day. He was Father Abraham to most Americans, and a man with a Jewish soul among Jews who saw within him a kindred spirit, qualities we embrace as well in modern times.
FAMILY TO FAMILY

Would you like to perform the mitzvah of hosting an interfaith family for Passover Seder? The CBY Outreach Committee is beginning to plan for the second year of this innovative program, one of several projects for which our synagogue won the URJ’s prestigious Belin Award again this year.

How does Family to Family work?
Interfaith families can sometimes find themselves at a loss when it comes to preparing for and celebrating Passover. Family to Family seeks to find congregants who are willing to host an interfaith family for Passover Seder. We then match them with one of our interfaith families, paying particular attention to families where there is no extended family close by. The goal is to provide a warm holiday experience for the interfaith family and to give the non-Jewish family members an opportunity to learn more about our Jewish traditions.

Please consider being a host family.
Passover is only a few months away, April 14-22. Please join the growing number of families who are becoming Family to Family participants and earning mitzvah’s by clicking HERE to complete our online form. For additional information, please contact Marcia Frezza.

“OUTREACH ON THE MOVE,” one of the programs that won the Belin Award, will travel to Charleston on May 8, to visit these extraordinary historic sites of culture and history and not to be missed.

KKBE: Founded in 1749 as a Sephardic Orthodox congregation, in 1841, Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim—also known as KKBE—was firmly committed to the path of religious Reform Judaism,” according to President Anita Rothberg. “Our sanctuary is the second oldest synagogue building in the United States and the oldest in continuous use. We invite you to experience for yourself KKBE’s rich past and vibrant present.”

KKBE’S Coming Street Cemetery (189 Coming Street) is the oldest surviving Jewish cemetery. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Buried here are: ten congregants who fought in the American Revolution, six soldiers of the War of 1812, two soldiers in the Seminole Wars in Florida, 21 Civil War participants, of whom eight died in the Confederate cause, six rabbis of the congregation, 18 past presidents of the congregation, four of the eleven founders of the Supreme Council of Scottish Rite Masonry in 1801.

St. Mary’s Catholic Church: The oldest Catholic Church in the Carolinas, with a parish founded in the 1700’s and a church building dating from 1838. Every surface is adorned with fine art, the windows are stained glass and the historic pipe-organ fills the space with heavenly music. Located in the hotel district between Meeting and King streets, it’s a close walk or a great place to rest on your way to another historic site nearby.

Lunch at the lovely Sermet Restaurant: Sermet’s is a fine dining Mediterranean restaurant on King Street directly around the corner from both KKBE Synagogue and St. Mary’s Church. This is one of the best meals I have experienced during my 10 years visiting Charleston. We each ordered something different and shared. Each appetizer and entree was outstanding in its preparation, presentation, and taste. The tiramisu was the best I have ever eaten! I would also like to mention that the portion sizes were truly very generous.

There is, NO CHARGE for this trip except for your lunch. We will car pool or drive individually to Charleston. Maps and directions will be provided. Parking at the Charleston Place Hotel Lot (Directions will be provided).

The trip is limited to 35, so please RSVP as soon as possible to Rita Suntup or Marcia Frezza.
These chapters of Parashat Vayak’hel form a comprehensive narrative about the design, construction and dedication of the Tabernacle, the Israelite’s portable sanctuary in the desert. Of particular interest are the descriptions of the women’s contributions. It is clear that the women in the community are among the skilled artisans and their expertise is acknowledged and valued.

The Israelites demonstrate their commitment to fulfilling God’s commands with their offerings of material to be used for the tabernacle. The people are so eager to give that they bring more supplies than the builders can use.

“Take from among you gifts to Adonai; everyone whose heart is so moved shall bring them – gifts for Adonai: gold, silver and copper; blue, purple and crimson yarns, fine linen, and goats’ hair; tanned ram skins, dolphin skins, and acacia wood; oil for lighting, spices for the anointing oil and for the aromatic incense; lapis lazuli and other stones for setting, for the ephod and the breastplate.”  Exodus 35:5-9. The descriptions of these gifts are so elaborate that the reader will recognize that these contributions represent the outpouring of peoples’ hearts.

We women of WRJ offer technical skill, physical dexterity and practical knowledge to everything we do like our ancient forbearers in the Torah. Whether it’s fundraising, programming, cooking or the many other tasks we perform daily (in our roles as volunteers for WRJ), we embrace the values set out in this Parashat. We support our temples in many ways through religious school, libraries, onegs, Judaica shops and bereavement. As the Parashat teaches us, the talents of both men and women are required to build the tabernacle. I submit that sisters are building the Tabernacle again, every day. According to the Tabernacle model, God is manifest in the community no matter where the community resides. In order to come into contact with God, the people do not need to make pilgrimages to a fixed location; they need only to maintain a set of behaviors that will allow God to reside in their midst no matter where they are. Today’s Tabernacle is the modern Temple or synagogue which forms the center of Jewish spiritual life in the Reform movement. As we make our houses of worship more beautiful like the ancient Israelites did we also enhance the quality for everyone who enters and participates in our congregations.

The Biennial in San Diego clearly demonstrated and exemplified how the women of WRJ have been enriching Judaism no less strongly than the women at Sinai with equal passion and ability. We have many mentors and role models, both in this age and from many ages past. We learn from them today and we emulate them in our performance of mitzvot or sacred acts every day. The matriarchs throughout Jewish history continue to guide us even today and in our own way they still inspire us to cope with and make a difference in the challenges of our own lives.
The Membership Committee is pleased to welcome new members Jonathan and Jessie Brinsfield. This brings our total membership to 289 families (219 Resident, 67 Affiliate, and 3 Associate). Please be sure to introduce yourself the Brinsfields when you see them at services and other temple events.

On Sunday, March 23, the Membership Committee will show its appreciation for this year’s congregational Ambassadors at our 6th Annual Ambassador & New Member party (by invitation) at the home of Barbara & Marvin Frogel. Many thanks to this year’s Ambassadors: Donna & Nelson Adelman; Sharon & Nick Bass; Judy & Stan Bluestone; Susan & Mark Britanisky; Jennifer Friedman; Barbara & Marvin Frogel; Judy and Joe Gimbel; Sue & Fred Gostanian; Shelby Kaufmann-Weiss & Jason Kaufmann; Phyllis & Steve Napoli; JoAnne Perchick & Tobin Spirer; Donna & Eric Popky; Shaya & David Shatz; Susan Sneider & Jon Mills; and Jessica & Dustin Sparks.

Anyone who joined CBY during the past 5½ years has benefited from being assigned an Ambassador to help them get involved in congregational life. In fact, many new members have “paid it forward” by becoming Ambassadors themselves. If you are interested in performing the mitzvah of serving as an Ambassador, please contact Judie Aronson or Sharyn Brager.

Save the date! Our New Member Shabbat service will take place on Friday, May 16 (revised from a previously announced date). This is an annual service where we welcome and honor those congregants who have chosen to become part of the CBY family during the previous year.

We are always on the lookout for new members. If you know someone who may be interested in joining Congregation Beth Yam, please contact Pennie or Twyla.

Membership update:
We have a total of 289 Families: 219 Resident Families 70 Affiliate & Associates

Social Action ~ Judie Aronson

Women’s Shelter Report
Thank you to everyone who donated to our women’s shelter project. The women who are serviced love the gifts that are brought and the “treats” that are served. The SAC chaired by Alys Blumberg and Fran Behrens were accompanied by Susan Silver and Kathy Burnce.

Join the CAN CAN Shopping Club (See e- blast flyer on-line and in temple lobby)
Sign up to collect canned goods for a month - just buy one extra food item whenever you go food shopping and donate them to Deep Well. Place collected items in the Donation Box located in the social hall. Contact Eve Sanker to sign up. Thank you to the following members who are donating food in February/March.

- Eve Sanker
- Bev Averack
- Helen Kahaner
- Alys Blumberg
- Judy Schriger
- Ruth Levy
- Barbara Freeman
- Lucille Robinson

Mitzvah Week
Beginning May 4th and continuing during the week. Help us service the community and the temple by becoming involved in Mitzvah week activities. We are so pleased that many temple committees will be taking an active part in many projects. Some examples of our activities:

- Plant flowers at CODA and/or the Humane Society
- Visit the Wellness van
- Stock shelves at Deep Well
- Walk the beach (with or without your pet) and join the group for lunch
- Visit Bloom House and mingle with the guests

AND MUCH MUCH MORE!
Sign-up sheet will appear in the April Tidings and on the website. For more information, contact Laurie Feuerman. The SAC is so pleased that members of the Youth Group will be participating in Family Promise. Next work in this area is the week of April 27.
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2013/2014 Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Michael Weingarten  
Twyla Sable  
Pennie Meiselman  
Robert Sable  
Judy Bluestone  
Susan Sneider  
Irwin (Ted) David  
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Recording Secretary  
Corresponding Secretary  
Immediate Past President

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Rabbi Brad L. Bloom

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Men’s Club President, Nelson Adelman