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Rabbi’s Message

We have arrived again to the splendid month of July. For synagogue professionals and clergy this time of the year usually provides an opportunity to recharge batteries and plan for the upcoming year.

We have just completed a new election with a brand-new board of directors. They are capable and devoted to the temple and want to see the temple manage its financial and spiritual affairs.

We will have a unique reorganization plan. The partnership between volunteers and clergy is an integral part of operating a congregation. This year we will have a quartet of three volunteer leaders and myself who will form a wonderful group of dedicated leaders to handle the multiple tasks that every president must handle.

I have full faith that our threesome including our president Joel Greene, first vice-president Robin Katz and immediate past president Candy Solomon, have the ability and the can-do spirit to meet the challenges that come with the territory leading a modern congregation. In fact, I am proud of this historic team and pray that they will not only succeed but set an example of what the meaning of the term “Going above and beyond” really means.

As I begin my fifteenth year as your rabbi, I have witnessed many changes. We now have a wonderful team of soloists today to support Adriana Urato. You will have the chance to hear them in the upcoming months. We have a new director of programming, Rachel Pepin. We continue to plan new ideas and are always watchful of the financial implications of our ideas before we implement them.

Our demographics are clearly changing with a much larger percentage of our congregation living off island. Those facts require us to think into the future regarding how best to serve them and to create a welcoming environment for them at Congregation Beth Yam. We will have four services in Bluffton next year on Shabbat evening to send a message that our Temple is reaching out to all congregants, and we hope you will join us in person for worship and other activities. So far, this idea has worked and the feedback we receive is positive.

Congregation Beth Yam has had multiple generations of devoted leaders, who have given their all with their financial resources and their sweat equity. Hilton Head is the center of our wonderful temple. There should not be an attitude toward congregants off island versus congregants on Hilton Head. We are all Jews and should be unified towards working for a vibrant Jewish community in this region of the lowcountry.

We need not define who matters by how much we donated or how much we volunteered our time. All these activities are important, and we do this not for the acclaim, but to see our noble and worthy dreams for our congregation produce fruit. I had that feeling a month ago when we dedicated our new playground.

Most importantly we would do well to think about how we speak about each other and criticize when we do not agree or do not like someone else. I have learned over the years and quoted this famous exclamation from Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan that one is “entitled to their own opinion” about what goes on at temple. The other side is that “one is not entitled to their own facts.”

As we reflect this summer about our beautiful edifice: are we living up to what our tradition says about how to treat people and cope with the imperfections of the human condition? Shouldn’t the beauty of our temple building match the beauty in a spiritual sense of a congregation that understands and respects itself?

So let us think about what this temple means and how it has served us faithfully over the years. As we return to services can we bring the spirit of humility and kindness and recover tolerance for the mistakes we make or the misjudgments others make including ourselves and your rabbi, too?

Please refresh yourselves and prepare for the coming of our holy days and the beauty of spiritual healing and renewal for us both personally and for our congregation.

Shalom,
Rabbi Brad L. Bloom MSW DD.

The Rabbi’s Summer Schedule

The Rabbi is taking a sabbatical this summer which will include the last two weeks in July and the first two weeks in August. The sabbatical is an important part of the Rabbi’s contract since it allows the Rabbi time to pursue his scholarly interests, including research, writing, publishing, and attending professional meetings.
Message from the President
—Joel N. Greene

What is Jewish Unity?

Today, when you look at Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist and other forms of Judaism, you must ask, do we actually have anything in common? After all, some Orthodox Jews dismiss liberal Jews as not being Jewish, and more progressive communities sometimes dismiss the Orthodox as being narrow-minded and archaic. Oftentimes, it seems as if is it “us” against “them.”

As Jews, it is clear that we do have deep and profound areas of disagreement. How do we overcome such differences and heal the deep rifts that separate us? How do we create Jewish Unity?

The best example of Jewish Unity can be found in the story of revelation at Mount Sinai, which we celebrated during Shavuot in May. In Exodus, the Torah tells us that Israel “encamped there in the desert in front of the mountains.” Rashi notes that the Hebrew word for encamped appears in the singular instead of the plural. He explains that “Israel encamped – with one heart as one person.”

However, there is also a midrash in the Talmud that expresses a different view of Jewish unity by asserting that each person at Sinai experienced revelation individually. The Ramchal (Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato), the great Jewish sage of the 18th century, wrote that “there are 600,000 explanations of the Torah, and that each person received an interpretation according to the root of his/her soul and ability.” This follows the tradition that 600,000 Jews were at Sinai to receive the Torah. According to Rabbi Luzzato, Jewish Unity reflects individual uniqueness and individuality.

Dr. Bradley Artson, Dean at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Study, notes that when we argue or disagree it means that we are taking our ideas very seriously. He says, “Woe to the Jewish people when we no longer think our ideas and opinions are worth a good argument.”

A similar observation about Jewish Unity appears in the Book of Isaiah. In Isaiah, Adonai says, “Come now, and let us reason together; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” In other words, the correct response to different opinions is more discussion. This is how we serve God and live Torah.

Judaism reflects multiplicity, discourse and individual interpretation. When we received Torah at Sinai, we received it as individuals and not as one heart, or one person. No other religion reflects this kind of personal freedom and individuality.

For Jews, unity is the opposite of uniformity, of sameness, of thinking as one mind, one interpretation, or one viewpoint. Our diversity of opinion gives Jewish Unity its resilience and strength. In short, Jewish Unity reflects our contentiousness – our tendency to challenge each other’s viewpoints and ideas. It is the hammer that strikes the ore and produces gold.

Thank you,
Joel N. Greene ★

Ritual Committee
—Janet Kelley, Chair

I am happy to announce that a 7:30 PM Shabbat service is returning to the Beth Yam calendar for the next year. A number of congregants have spoken with me over the last year requesting the 7:30 PM service for a variety of reasons. Starting in September, the last Friday of each month will be a 7:30 PM service. I am appreciative of the Rabbi’s willingness to have the later service as we work together to try to accommodate the religious, spiritual and social needs of all our members. While there may be much diversity within our congregation, (jokingly, two Jews, three opinions) we are all one congregation, one Beth Yam. ★

Are you interested in scheduling an in-home visit with Rabbi Bloom?

Contact the office by phone, 843-689-2179, or by email, info@bethyam.org ★
Sisterhood—Helen Hauer, President

We are in slow mode as the activity year winds down. This article will serve as a summary of what you can look forward to in the upcoming year in Sisterhood. All new women members of Beth Yam are automatically members of Sisterhood their first year (opal level). No dues needed. Dues structure is $45 for resident members and $26 for affiliate/associate members. There are honors levels for providing additional funds for Sisterhood. Please inquire to the Membership Chair—Donna Adelman.

Some annual events you can look forward to are:

Paid up Membership Luncheon: hosted in the fall. Dues are a minimal charge but will go a long way to helping us maintain our presence at Beth Yam.

First Thursday Programs: Usually held at Beth Yam. Sometimes we “hit the road” as we did with a trip to the Conroy Center in Beaufort and to the Morris Center in Ridgeland to see The Supper Table exhibit. We occasionally have speakers as we did when Ahmed Ward, director of the Mitchellville Project, spoke. We invited all temple members.

Book Group: We are fortunate to have an on-going book group, set to meet 5 times this year. We gather for lunch, most recently at the Port Royal Golf Club, and discuss a book selected by our members. Our guidelines for book selection are that the author is Jewish or that the subject matter is of interest to our Jewish heritage. Last spring, we discussed Geraldine Brooks’ Horse and on deck is Jennifer Robson’s The Gown, about a Jewish seamstress involved in the embroidery on Queen Elizabeth’s wedding gown in 1947. Suggestions are welcome.

Annual Women’s Seder: We gather to celebrate the Exodus and the many women who made it possible. This year our project will include revising the Haggadah to include modern women. We invite your participation in this revision project. Contact Ellen Jenner if you are interested.

Poetry writing: lead by Sandee Willis. We started to understand the different ways of poetry. Sandee will continue this program.

Sisterhood supports many programs at Beth Yam:
- Oneg Shabbat coordination
- Our Bereavement Committee
- Any special Shabbat programs

Religious School support:
- Provide funds for books, multimedia items and playground
- Gifts for Bar/Bat mitzvah honorees
- Co-sponsorship of family activities

Community Support:
- Local Charities: Backpack Buddies, Volunteers in Medicine, Mitchellville and Hopeful Horizons
- National foundations including WRJ, Jewish Federation and Jewish National Fund. These programs include MAZON (Jewish Response to Hunger), YES: Youth Education and Special Projects, and ORT America, to name a few.

Please join Sisterhood and offer your talents in whatever way you can. It is a most rewarding endeavor.

Yours in sisterhood,
Ellen Jenner ♡

Fundraising Committee—Gene Meyers, Chair

Your Fundraising Committee has been at work soliciting and obtaining ads for this year’s Ad Book. The book will be distributed during High Holy Days. Remember, please support the advertisers as they are supporting Beth Yam.

BINGO is coming to our congregation. Members and their friends will be able to participate. This is a great opportunity for socializing with our members and members of the Hilton Head/Bluffton Communities. The format and schedule are being developed. Please contact Gene Meyers (704-771-5123) or by email to express your interest in helping run the program.

Remember ... We make things work at Beth Yam, by giving of ourselves. Watch for future announcements. Thank you! ♡

Board of Directors—May 2023

The Board was updated on upcoming events: Yom Todah May 21 (Day of Thanks), the Annual Meeting June 6 and the Board of Directors Installation June 9.

The BOD meeting in June will be a longer meeting due to a working session by a facilitator, who will review a non-profit board’s Roles and Responsibilities. A follow up strategic planning session will be scheduled in October for all board members.

The budget for the upcoming year was presented. The BOD accepted the budget as presented. The budget will be presented during the annual meeting. ♡
The Committee Fair is Coming!
“Back to Shul” Night Shabbat on August 25, 2023 will include Congregation Beth Yam’s Committee Fair. Below is a list of committees for 2023-24. Please consider joining the Membership Committee and offering our volunteer time, ideas, efforts, creativity, changes and additions to our synagogue. It’s rewarding and a wonderful way to connect with fellow congregants. Contact Pat Levitt or Robin Katz

- Administration
- Adult Education
- Arts & Acquisition
- Care
- Cemetery
- Communications
- Endowment
- Executive
- Finance
- Friends
- Fundraising
- House Maintenance
- Legal
- Life Cycle Events
- Membership
- Music Administration
- Nominating
- Religious school
- Resources
- Rituals
- Security
- Social action
- Technology
- Temple Tidings
- Website
- Youth
- Men’s club
- Sisterhood

SAFETY TIPS
A Message from Your Security and Safety Team

Steps to take to help a congregant who appears to be “unconscious.” (Not talking, eyes closed, not moving)

- CALL 911
- One person goes to front door to direct EMT’s to person who needs help.
- One person assesses for pulse and ability to respond. If not talking:
  - START CPR
    - One person gets defibrillator and grey basket that contains scissors, razor, rolled towel for under neck, etc.
    - Everyone trained in CPR, gathers near person administering CPR. Be prepared to change every two or three minutes to continue active CPR.
    - Prepare “patient” for defibrillator as taught. Expose chest, cut away clothing, lift or cut bra, shave chest hairs. Attach pad. Activate defibrillator and listen to directions carefully. Clear as shock is administered.
    - ALWAYS CONTINUE CPR AS YOU ARE PREPARING PERSON FOR THE DEFIBRILLATOR.
    - TYPICAL EMT RESPONSE TIME IS ABOUT 6 TO 8 MINUTES.

Mens Club—Jeff Shapiro
On behalf of Beth Yam Men’s Club Board of Directors, I’d like to invite you to join the Beth Yam Men’s Club. Our membership level is currently at 82 and we are looking forward to increasing our membership with your participation.

For those of you unfamiliar with our Men’s Club, we are an affiliate organization of Beth Yam. Membership is open to all adult male members of Beth Yam. We meet monthly (except during the summer) at various restaurants on and off the island for camaraderie and conversation.

The Men’s Club is very proud of the many mitzvot we do for the members of Congregation Beth Yam. We support the Friends campaign and this year the Israel at 75 events. Our Charity Golf Tournament was a huge success this year, and we plan to bring it back next spring. We provide ushers for the High Holy Days services, memorials, as well as sponsor Congregation events with donations and volunteers.

The Men’s Club Board of Directors is currently busy planning the events and activities for the 2023-2024 season. We are here to provide a fun and rewarding experience for our members and the goodwill of the Beth Yam community at large.

For new members of Beth Yam, your first year’s membership is free, so please come join us.

Contact me and I will add your name to our Men’s Club roster.
All the best. ✪
Israel at 75 – Judy Bluestone, Chair

The celebration of Israel’s 75th anniversary as an independent nation has come and gone at Congregation Beth Yam, but in Israel this momentous occasion will continue throughout 2023-24.

I hope that those CBY members who participated in our varied activities and programs found not only enjoyment but a continued and renewed appreciation of Israel's meaning to us as the major diaspora and a reminder of the hardships and achievements of our Israeli brothers and sisters throughout its history. No matter current events, American Jews and Israelis will always be “one”.

Many thanks to the following who served on the committee offering great ideas and genuine support in every way. They are Bonnie Bloom, Robin Katz, Robin Krumholz, Pat Levitt, Sheila Margeson, Renee Roth, Kim & Jeff Shapiro, Debbie Urato, Roni Wolk and the CBY Men's Club. Thanks also to Pennie & Alan Meiselman and Randy Kurjan whose enthusiastic input and energy helped kick start our celebration.

I deeply appreciated those members whose monetary support ensured the success of our programming. They will be thanked personally but without them we could not have underwritten so many excellent events.

Thanks, as always, to Rabbi Bloom for his contacts and suggestions and to Michele Johnson, Garrett Keyes and David Kimbell who performed their usual fine work responding to our needs. ♠
HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

BEFORE THE HURRICANE
- Monitor news outlets
- Check supplies
- Fuel vehicles & generators
- Cover windows/Bring objects inside
- Take pictures of property & contents for insurance

DON’T FORGET THE PETS!
Pet disaster kits should include:
- Medications
- Leashes and collars
- Carriers to transfer pets if needed
- Current photos, food, water, litter/pan

EMERGENCY KIT
At least 3 Days worth
- First aid kit
- NOAA Radio
- Flashlight & batteries
- Bottled water
- Non-perishable food
- Personal items
- Medication & copies of prescriptions
- Cash
- Important documents

IMPORTANT CONTACTS
S.C. Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) scemd.org
S.C. Department of Public Safety Emergency Traffic Network | scdps.sc.gov
National Hurricane Center (NHC) hurricanes.gov
The Official Website of the State of S.C. sc.gov
American Red Cross redcross.org • 1-866-438-4636
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) fema.gov • ready.gov
S.C. Department of Transportation scdot.org • 855-GO-SCDOT • 855-467-2368
### Temple Tidings

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Diane Butcaris  
Michele Johnson  
Sheila Margeson

Deadline for submitting materials is the 15th of the month preceding publication date. The Editor reserves the right to select and edit materials which are submitted.

Please submit articles to Sheila Margeson by email at tidings@bethyam.org or USB flash drive by the 15th of each month.

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### To view active or recent live-stream videos of services go to

[Congregation Beth Yam | StreamSpot](https://venue.streamspot.com/c3408706)

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### Be Sure to Follow Us!

[congregationbethyam@CBYinHiltonHead](mailto:congregationbethyam@CBYinHiltonHead)  
[congregationbethyam](http://congregationbethyam.org)  
[https://www.facebook.com/congregationbethyam/](https://www.facebook.com/congregationbethyam/)

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### 2022/2024 Board of Directors

#### OFFICERS

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<td>Ed Fine</td>
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<td>Doug Luba</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>Janice Fradkin</td>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
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<td>JoAnne Doyle</td>
<td>Corresponding Secretary</td>
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<td>Candy Solomon</td>
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#### DIRECTORS

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**Rabbi Brad L. Bloom**  
Sisterhood President, Helen Hauer  
Men’s Club President, Jeffrey Shapiro