

koleynu

# Relax Your Mind Refresh Your Soul Prepare to be Inspired



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Nancy & Don Carter Campus

1901 North Flagler Drive West Palm Beach, FL 33407

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RABBI

Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin, D.min

RABBI EMERITUS

Howard Shapiro, D.D.

TEMPLE ADMINISTRATOR/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Karen Szteinberg

> RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & YOUTH PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR Jackie Klein

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Editor - Karen Szteinberg Layout Editor - Carol Anne Albee Editorial Assistance: Howard Berman, Barry Horowitz, Pam Wiener



From the President Marty List

#### A Fresh Start

It shouldn't come as a surprise that we are deep into planning our 2021 High Holy Days. What should be a pleasant surprise is that we fully expect to offer in-person worship for all services. As we have done long before we were forced into our COVID shelters, we will continue to offer virtual access of our services for those who can't attend in-person or would prefer the more casual approach (more information forthcoming).

I know how much our congregation has enjoyed having Peri Smilow, our musical artist-in-residence, as a virtual part of our clergy since late 2020 and we had planned to have Peri share the bimah virtually with Rabbi Salkin for our 2021 High Holy Days. Now that we are preparing to host in-person worship in our Sanctuary, I am disappointed to let you know that, unfortunately, Peri is unable to make the switch to join us in-person.

But Peri's respect for Temple Israel and her love for all of our members is such that she reached out to her talented friends to help us find an outstanding "guest artist", even at this late date, to bring beautiful music and inspiration to our Days of Awe. Our High Holy Days' Music Committee interviewed several very talented candidates and, with Board of Directors approval, I am pleased to announce that Tory May will be joining us at Temple Israel for 2021 High Holy Days, including our morning Family services.

Peri has known and sung with Tory for many years and is thrilled that Tory will be worshiping with us. Tory spent over 30 years as Soloist/Music Director at Gates of Prayer outside of New Orleans before she and her husband recently moved to Chicago. Tory has extensive music knowledge, including "our" music, and I am excited that she will be singing with our Choir as well.

### WEEKLY TORAH STUDY

Saturday mornings\* at 9:30am via Zoom Facilitated by Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin

A group conversation on the weekly Parashah, providing references that provoke thoughtful discussions of the ancient texts and how they can be applied to modern day life.



Contact the Temple Office for Zoom access information: (561) 833-8421 or tioffice@temple-israel.com

\*Except on Holy days



# From the Rabbi

Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin

### We Beat COVID – In More Ways Than We Thought

The first thing people say to me when they meet me, face to face, is: "You are so much taller than you are on the screen!"

My response: "So are you!"

How wonderful it has been – to finally jump through the cyber divide and to encounter each other in the sanctuary. At first, it happened slowly, tentatively. As the weeks progressed, more of us have felt comfortable being out in the world – and back in our sacred space.

We have lived through the most difficult year in modern American history, and the difficulties of this past year have affected the Jewish community in a myriad of ways.

But, for us as Jews, challenge has always been pervasive. The late theologian Emil Fackenheim wrote: "At least twice before in history, the destructions of the temples, Jewish endurance in the midst of catastrophe helped transform the world. We cannot know what will happen next. The uncertainty of what we will be may not shake our certainty of what we must do."

Are you ready for some really good news?

We Jews weathered the changes – the way we have always done. We moved our spiritual operations back to our homes. The Tablets of the Law became the tablets on our tables. Judaism went back into the cloud, realizing that "cloud" is a biblical euphemism for God.

Last March, I predicted that our institutions would suffer. I have never been happier to report that I was wrong.

If my anecdotal evidence is correct, most synagogues have not seen a significant drop-off in membership due to the pandemic.

Synagogues have seen a significant drop-off in membership due to other factors – like the general decline of religion in American society, which the most recent Pew study has illuminated for us.

But, COVID? Not so much.

And, Temple Israel?

Not so much. In terms of membership and programs, our synagogue has remained stable, and even thriving.

Whether we knew it or not, those of us who are deeply involved in the Jewish community sent forth the following message:

#### Without community, however defined, there is no more American Jewish religious life. American Jews have a moral obligation to support their communities.

Consider this parable from the literature of our sages.

Two men were on a boat, and one of them took an awl and started boring a hole beneath his seat. His friend said to him: "What are you doing? You are going to flood this boat. We will drown!"

To which his friend responded: "Hey, what are you worrying about? I am only making a hole beneath my seat!"

All American Jews are now in the same boat. If we puncture the space beneath our communal seats, we all drown.

But, let us not be sanguine. COVID has brought the entire religious "delivery system" into question. Churches, synagogues, mosques: all have found themselves united in struggling with the question of how we deliver religious services and education in the absence of an in-person world.

It started as a technical question: How do we do this on Zoom?

But, it rapidly moved to the deeper question: What does it mean for us to do this on Zoom? Who are we? What is the nature of community? Has COVID and technology destroyed community, or has it only hastened the process of re-imagining it? How do we encounter the life cycle on Zoom? What does it mean to be at a Zoom funeral? How do we maintain membership and engagement in this crisis? What will it all look like when it's done?

COVID will provide the test for our time. Will our religious structures respond, or simply re-hash the old answers?

Consider this: it is possible that for the past thirty years, phones, tablets, laptops, instant messaging, Facebook, Twitter, and Zoom were all lying in wait as a test to see how we could use these tools to adapt ourselves to a moment of crisis. We passed the test.

The contemporary Jewish theologian Rachel Adler quotes the poet Adrienne Rich. We must dive into the wreck. I must dive into the wreck of this tradition and I salvage what I can. "I bear within me a ruined Temple, and I am always trying to build it."

The "ruined Temple" is the ancient Temple in Jerusalem, destroyed by the Romans.

Guess what? The modern temples of America were not destroyed by the pandemic.

Here is why. Because we carried those temples, those synagogues within us, and each one of us tried to build it.

We succeeded.

Have a great summer.



#### **TI GREETING CORPS**

When it came to our re-opening, our greeters were first in line and eager to assist! Led by Tracy and Mark Simkowitz, these wonderful volunteers quickly absorbed our new procedures and maintained a warm, welcoming and safe environment to all of our members and guests. Many thanks goes to Tracy and Mark, as well as Linda and Howard Solomon, Terry Resk, Kyle Mayans, Barry Horowitz and Charlie Eaton for assisting us these past few weeks!

*If you would like to be a greeter, please contact:* Mark Simkowitz – mgoose54@aol.com, (561) 762-7947 Hugo Ottolenghi – hugoott@aol.com, (561) 818-2946



From the Executive Director

Karen Szteinberg, Temple Administrator/Executive Director

I recall my first cruise in 1986 and the excitement of embarking on a new journey, both literally and figuratively. Cruising in those days was quite elegant. I can vividly recall the stateroom, the butlers, the Italian announcements at dinner time, the gown that I wore for the formal night... and that the average age of the guests was over 70, many who had waited for their retirement or had saved up to cruise. I could not fathom waiting a lifetime for something I desired (provided it was within reach.) From that point forward, I chose to balance my life as best as possible so that we could travel often and enjoy life to its fullest...

As we get older, we realize just how short life is. How vulnerable we are. Whether our personal health or a pandemic, whether business time constraints or obligations to a loved one, whether financial woes or not... we are each faced with how to balance our lives and sustain our well-being. But the more we put our cravings aside, the less time or ability we will have to satisfy our heart's desires.

Recently I vacationed in Hawaii, my first time there. I had dreamed of a Hawaiian honeymoon 35 years ago (unfortunately my fiancé didn't share that dream) and my desire to go ceased shortly thereafter. But given the opportunity recently, I grabbed it. The optional tours were of no interest to me. I wanted to see local talent and headliners, relax by the beach, drive around the island and go on a helicopter ride. I've been wanting to experience a helicopter for the last year so why wait? Doors off, front seat buckled, headset on... I loved it! (Truth be told, I clenched the side bar for the first ten minutes.) We later drove along the coast, stopped for macadamia nuts and Dole Whip, and hiked up a mountain. We laughed with Wayne Brady and sang along with Josh Tatofi. I read 1½ books on my balcony and saw 4 movies on the plane. I returned to Florida relaxed and refreshed.

I'm already planning for my next vacation. So what's the rush?

Because life is fragile. Hurricanes, 9/11, Superstorm Sandy. More recently, the Covid pandemic, bombings in Israel, the collapse of a Surfside building. Tragic losses of our friends, our families, our people. And it could have easily been one of us.

We are fortunate that our community supports each other; the Jewish Federation of Miami has setup an emergency assistance fund to help those affected by the Surfside tragedy, and many of our congregants and our TI Sisterhood have already generously donated. I'd like to personally thank those who have given – whether a donation or in prayers – as, at the time of my writing this, I am still anxiously awaiting word on my own family members who lived in the Champlain Towers.

"Enjoy life for it is the gift of God." (from Ecclesiastes)



### The Mussar Moment Barry Horowitz, M.D.

Sometimes it takes very little to be spiritual. Recently, I was at a family function and the father of my wife's cousin's spouse (yes, 6 degrees of separation) came up to me and introduced himself. I had met him several times before and he obviously forgot. Now, I could have said to him: "We have already met before." But instead, I responded: "Pleased to meet you."

The word for honor in Hebrew — *kavod* — can also be interpreted as "reverence." It comes from the same Hebrew root as the word meaning "heavy" (*kaved*). When we approach another person, or the world, or God with *kavod*, we acknowledge that there is really something present in the other. The one whom we face has substance (hence, "heaviness"). When we see the world through the soul-trait of honor, we see the Presence in all, and that leads us to hallow every encounter, every moment.

The Mussar teachers consider honoring others to be a primary characteristic of the refined soul. The concept is that each and every person is a soul that was breathed into their body by God. In this way, we are connected both to Ha'shem and to each other. And it is for this reason that we place Kavod above all else in our thoughts, deeds and interactions with others.

It is easy to practice Kavod with those we love, a friendly acquaintance, and co-workers with whom we have interacted positively. But what about Honoring those in our lives that are difficult or whom we dislike? That is certainly more problematic and challenging, but no less essential, especially for our spiritual growth. We must try to regard them as being a holy soul and treat them as such.

So, I knew that reminding the gentleman at the family function that we had already met might make him feel badly for not remembering me. I therefore took a different course of responding without judgement, thus preserving his Honor. Studying and practicing these Middot or Soul Traits allows them to imprint on our hearts so that our responses become naturally more elevated. This in turn allows us to climb higher on our spiritual ladders towards wholeness.

# **CHAIR YOGA**

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# Religious School

Jackie Klein, Religious School & Youth Programming Director

As I write this article, I am in the middle of what I am calling a personal two-week reset. My partner took me on a week of surprise activities for vacation that involved very little of my own planning and lots of fun and excitement. Yes, it was great. Yes, he did a terrific job planning it. Yes, it was a much-needed break from reality. But it wasn't a very Jewish experience except for only eating Kosher-style foods and explaining at the local seafood restaurants that I don't eat shellfish. And that is okay!

My Jewish *neshema* yearned for a learning reset as well. I yearn to learn and I have a daily Talmud learning experience. Unfortunately, this past year there has been a lack of group learning for the sake of learning (excluding a monthly class facilitated by our own Iris Koller through ARJE.)

Summer for Jewish Educators tends to be a balancing act between planning and professional development. When an opportunity to learn recently came along, I jumped at the change for a week-long experience with Hadar, a North American pluralistic Jewish learning space (for free!)

The current topic of the week is Learning Through Midrashim. Midrashim are the stories that we share to clarify parts of the Torah; they are Torah as well. Included in the lessons are Midrashim from the Rabbinic and Modern ages. This is an area of learning that I don't often lean into on my own and it was just what I needed for a learning reset.

Educators like to learn, especially Jewish educators; it's a way to stay involved in our field and to remind ourselves why we care so much about facilitating others' learning. For me, it is also the way I continue to dream big. I am inspired by textual tradition, especially those like Midrashim that were created in order to solve gaps in the text. I am excited to reset over the next week while learning.

As we move into this next school year, it will be a little different at Temple Israel's Religious School and youth programs— we are enhancing our curriculum and increasing our schedule. We are refocusing our model to include more informal communal learning as well as social action. Our education will still be held primarily at Temple Israel and also include experiences off-site. I am so excited to share our program and curriculum over the next coming months and year.

Our families, youth and congregation will be joining together to start off the month of Elul at the beach on August 13<sup>th</sup> for our *Erev Shabbat* out-of-the-box services that evening. That date happens to be my birthday and what better way to bring in my third decade than by celebrating Shabbat with my Temple Israel family! I hope you can join us!

# President's Circle



Michael and Amy Jonas, Co-chairs

### Cruisin' On a Sunday Afternoon

Last month, the President's Circle held its first ever upgrade event. Members of the President's Circle who increased their level of annual support by moving to a higher PC level, as well as those Temple members who first became President's Circle members in 2021, were invited to enjoy a private afternoon cruise along the Intracoastal. The event was conceived as a special thank you to those who answered "Hineni" to a request to do even more to strengthen our Temple through their commitment to the Presidents' Circle.

Ellen and Ron Goldenson did a spectacular job of chairing the event and together with Karen and Marty List graciously underwrote the sips and snacks that we had on board. They thought of everything. From the moment we arrived at Sailfish Marina and were given a personalized goody box, to the end of the cruise when we all said goodbye, we all felt appreciated and glad to be part of a very special group who share the goal of enhancing Temple Israel.

All thirty-five of us on board that Sunday thought the cruisin' day was a wonderful opportunity to be together with long-time TI friends while at the same time developing new friendships. Everyone is excited about the Temple's future and looks forward to continuing to make a difference as President's Circle members.

Prior to the High Holy Days, the President's Circle recognition plaque that hangs in the Social Hall Lobby will be updated to reflect the current commitment levels of our supporters. This makes this summer the perfect time for you to consider either joining the President's Circle or, if you already are part of the PC, to consider stepping up to the next level. Remember, all the PC levels are inclusive of and not in addition to your annual membership commitment. Please speak with Karen Szteinberg at (561) 833-8421 or karen@temple-israel.com or Amy Jonas at (561) 714-9000 regarding your name on our plaque and the President's Circle.



### JOIN US AT SERVICES WHEN NEAR OR FAR!

Access us through Zoom or watch us livestreamed (and saved) on our website temple-israel.com and later to our Facebook page (Temple Israel, West Palm Beach).



Pray 🗢 Connect 🌣 Thrive

# PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE BOAT CRUISE ON THE INTRACOASTAL



On June 6th, we celebrated those members who upgraded their TI membership to our President's Circle and those who upgraded within our President's Circle in 2021. What a beautiful, sunny and fun day! We thank all of our PC members for stepping up to support Temple Israel even further!

# Sisterhood Corner

Deborah Hirsch, Communications Vice President

More than 30 women attended Sisterhood's annual election to vote for the dynamic slate of officers listed below. Many exciting program ideas were proposed at the brainstorming session following the installation.

The board will be using the summer months to plan our upcoming calendar of events. Please contact any board member with your ideas and/or suggestions. Check your email for information on our annual High Holy Days programs: Honey From the Heart for Rosh Hashanah and Break-the-Fast for Yom Kippur.

All female members of Temple Israel are automatically Sisterhood members. However, our Supporting Members go the extra mile in helping to expand our programming. If you aren't already, please consider becoming a Supporting Member for only \$36. Simply send your check (indicating Sisterhood in the memo line) to the temple office or include it with your upcoming statement payment.

<u>Sisterhood Board of Directors 2021-2022</u> President: Valerie Eaton Communications Vice President: Debbie Hirsch Fundraising/Judaica Shop Vice President: Lynn Levy Membership Vice President: Ellen Goldenson Social Action Vice Presidents: Jane Herring & Janice Rosenberg Recording Secretary: Kristine Thurston Treasurer: Barbara Willen At Large: Michell Escobar Beryle Goverman Karen List Jennifer Strauss

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What a wonderful turn out for our Sisterhood's Officers Elections & Installation and accolades to those who have accepted a position (and to our Nominating Committee as well.) We're looking forward to many exciting Sisterhood events!

# SPOTLIGHT ON EARNTON MOSLEY

Thirty years ago, Dr. Richard Shugarman recommended someone to Temple Israel to assist our facility manager, Herbert Smith. The gentleman had worked for the Shugarman family for about 7-8 years as a hard worker, skilled and trustworthy. And thus in October 1991, Earnton Mosley walked through our doors.

Earnton was immediately enamored by our congregation, but the position was part-time and soon after he left for full-time work. He nonetheless returned to Temple two or three times, and then finally as a full-time employee in January 2007 when Herbert took ill. And as much as our hearts were broken with Herbert's passing, we were thrilled to have Earnton home again.

To say that Earnton has institutional memory is an understatement. He was here just as we were finishing our 1991 renovations and here throughout the three phrases of our 2008 renovations which took several years to complete. He knows every nook and cranny of our facility, and has poured out his heart and sweat with infinite repairs, rebuilds, painting... you name it and Earnton has literally handled it.

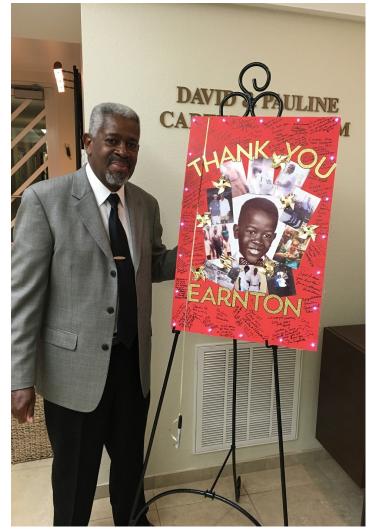
Earnton vividly recites the fourteen board presidents he has worked under in twelve presidencies starting with Bernie Rakoff; four rabbis (Rabbis Shapiro, Chapin, Olshein and Salkin); three cantors (Cantors Blum, Offenkranz and Kruk); six administrators (Richard, Linda, Joanne, Carol, Linda in her second round, Jennifer and Karen); six education directors (Ceceil, Peter, Lisa, Stephanie, Iris and Jackie), seven youth group directors (Judy, Lori, Julie, Marli, Stephanie, Lily

and Jackie), ten administrative assistants (Martine, Lynn, Helene, Barbara, Julie, Lori, Tracy, Susan, Tamekia and Michele); nine bookkeepers (Debbie, Devika, Rose, Noreen, Virginia, Clover, Jocelyn, Julie and Susan); and seven clergy assistants (Cora, Julie, Tracy, Deborah, Susan, Tamekia and Michele.)

Earnton is both delighted and proud that he still maintains relationships with so many of our staff and he asked that this article be dedicated to his mentor, Herbert, and to acknowledge all who have helped him take care of our campus through the years: Theresa, Proby, Maryanne, David, Dennis, Greg, Jerry, Yishmar, Rodric, Robert, Sherman and Isaiah.

(How many of our wonderful achievers and past board, clergy and staff do you recall?)

When asked what work he is most proud of, Earnton explained there are too many to name but he has felt most accomplished in the last couple of years. Many projects and repairs had lingered through the years but were only recently approved, and having a closed facility during Covid allowed him to take care of many special projects including painting. He is ecstatic to be able to make Temple Israel shine and seeing both staff and congregants notice our beauty.



Earnton takes a spiritual approach to maintenance and feels congregants can feel the spirituality of his taking care of their synagogue. He fondly recalls the love and attention that he received from the very first congregant he met which has multiplied ten-fold through all the bnai mitzvah, baby namings, weddings, funerals and other events; it brings him such joy to see our families smile and he feels our pain at our crying moments as well.

What is the most heartwarming part of being at Temple Israel? To Earnton, it's the respect and involvement in our community that Temple Israel exemplifies. The Food Pantry. Saint George's Christmas Meal. The Lord's Place. CROS Ministries. Joint interest with various churches including the Historic Tabernacle Baptist Church to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. and for so many other causes. All of our efforts truly touch Earnton's heart.

He is so appreciative of the opportunity that Temple Israel has given him, allowing him to help create a spiritual and warm environment for his temple family. (Truth be told, Earnton also helps out many of our congregants in his spare time, making sure their homes are safe and sound as well!) In 2016, Earnton was honored by our congregation for his 25<sup>th</sup> year at Temple Israel – twenty-five years of friendship, love, dedication and caring. Almost his entire family came in for the celebration, and so many congregants attended to congratulate and thank him as well. It is no surprise when several years later, Earnton was suddenly faced with an illness and mounting medical bills and our Board and congregation generously stepped up and donated towards his expenses. This is what family does for one another, and Earnton is so grateful for all the donations and kindness shown to him during this turmoil and distress.

As for his "other family", Earnton and his beautiful wife Debra married in January 1999 in a small family wedding. Their bridal party consisted only of his and Debra's parents and his sons Troy as best man and Charles as a groomsman. Unfortunately his daughter Treesy couldn't come in from Georgia and his son Jason was in training to go to Afghanistan at the time. Although Earnton was born in Georgia, his family soon moved to Riviera Beach which he has called home ever since then.

But we know better – Earnton is always home at Temple Israel.





We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support Temple Israel by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions.

#### **GENERAL DONATION**

In Honor of: **The birth of Debbie & Brian Haft's grandson Tucker Nash** Amy & Michael Jonas **The birth of Karen & Marty List's granddaughter Willa Jean List** Amy & Michael Jonas

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#### MEMORIAL PLAQUES

All of our members and their families are so important to us. Remember a loved one by adding a Memorial Plaque in our sanctuary and be a part of a longstanding Jewish tradition and practice. The plaque, which is engraved and mounted for a \$500 donation, will be lit on your loved one's yahrzeit each year. To order a plaque for a loved one who has

passed, or to reserve one for yourself, contact the Temple Office.



#### SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In Honor of: The marriage of Eunice & Jim Baros' daughter Hope to Alex Terry Resk The marriage of Mary Arpe & Michael Gelfand's daughter Sarah to Scott Terry Resk

In Memory of: Ann Blicher Doris Ellenbogen Shelly Borin Terry Resk Penny Mazepa Esther Perman Mary Resk Terry Resk

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#### MAZEL TOV to...

Karen and Marty List on the birth of their granddaughter Willa Jean List, born on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to proud parents Jenna and Braden List and big sister Kaia. We wish the entire family much love and happiness.

#### PLANNING ASSURES THAT YOUR WISHES ARE CARRIED OUT

Temple Israel has a section in the Star of David Cemetery with plots still available, currently priced at \$5,000 which is

considerably less than the cost of purchasing them directly from Star of David. These plots are available for purchase by any Temple Israel member. Temple Israel also has an affiliation with Eternal Light Memorial Gardens for your consideration and planning.



Advanced funeral arrangements will be comforting for your loved ones during their grieving.

For more information, contact our Executive Director Karen Szteinberg at (561) 833-8421 or karen@temple-israel.com.

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### **TEMPLE ISRAEL PROGRAMS**

For more information and to confirm programs, please contact our Office, check your emails and visit our website -- temple-israel.com. Stay engaged with Temple Israel... we're here for you!

We are still planning programs for the summer, so please keep checking your emails for updates!

#### 2021 JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturda	у
27	28	29	30 <b>10:30am</b> Chair Yoga	01	02 6:30pm Erev Shabbat worship service	<b>9:30am</b> Torah Study via Zoom	03
04	05 Office Closed (Independence Day)	06	07 <b>10:30am</b> Chair Yoga	08	09 <b>6:30pm</b> <i>Erev Shabbat</i> worship service	<b>9:30am</b> Torah Study via Zoom	10
11	12	13	14 <b>10:30am</b> Chair Yoga	15	16 6:30pm Erev Shabbat worship service	<b>9:30am</b> Torah Study via Zoom	17
18	19	20 Board Meeting	21 <b>10:30am</b> Chair Yoga	22	23 6:30pm Erev Shabbat worship service	<b>9:30am</b> Torah Study via Zoom	24
25	26	27	28 <b>10:30am</b> Chair Yoga	29	30 <b>6:30pm</b> <i>Erev Shabbat</i> worship service	<b>9:30am</b> Torah Study via Zoom	31

Pray 🌣 Connect 🌣 Thrive

1901 N. Flagler Dr., WPB, FL 33407 | Tel: (561) 833-8421 | Fax: (561) 833-0571 | Email: tioffice@temple-israel.com | www.temple-israel.com



#### **BIMAH FLOWERS**

Our Sanctuary is stunning and flowers can add to its beauty! Whether in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one, let us know if you would like to sponsor a floral arrangement for our *bimah* (\$125). You can specify the Erev Shabbat date and we'll have it delivered that Friday afternoon, or consider contributing to the Vineberg Floral Fund for our ongoing floral décor needs.

For more information, contact the Office at (561) 833-8421 or tioffice@temple-israel.com



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Summer Time And The Living Is Easy...



It may be summertime, but we're already planning for the High Holy Days!

We are planning to be in-person for the High Holy Days at Temple Israel and will have new protocols to obtain tickets. Please watch for information on your TI member statements, in emails and via mailed correspondence. We want to see you back home at Temple Israel for the holidays!

