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# The Menorah

## Greetings from President Allen Shane....

Fall is always a busy time around the synagogue as we prepare for the High Holy Days, Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. This year we also had the joyous occasion of Manny Barickman's Bar Mitzvah to celebrate with the Eskin/Barickman family. It takes many committees and people to plan and coordinate our religious and festival celebrations. The entire ritual committee, co-chaired by Jordan Eckert and Amy Blocher, did an outstanding job planning the High Holiday Services.

Dan Leviten, deserves a huge "thank you" as he so willingly has led our morning High Holy Day services for more years than I can count. The shofar troupe, everyone that received honors/readings, Rosh Hashanah reception bakers and our caterers, Ada and Edie, all deserve a "thank you" for contributing to our High Holy Day services. Rabbi Goldstein and Cantor Paul Goldstein did a remarkable job in leading the services and contributed greatly to the beauty and enrichment of our Holidays.

Hurricane Irma came the week before the High Holidays and caused water damage to the sanctuary roof and ceiling. We were unable to hold services in the Temple due to the damage, but this did not slow down the Board or our Temple members. Everybody rolled up their sleeves and offered to help. Assisted by the kindness and generosity of our friends at First Presbyterian Church we had our services, reception and Break the Fast as planned.

Although we were sorry to see the Monarch School close and the rental income loss to the Temple, the timing worked in our favor. We moved our services and activities back to Renz Hall and the education building. We are seeking a new tenant to lease the building.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Chanukah Party  
Sunday 12/17/17

Dinner and the  
Meshuga Nutcracker  
Tuesday 12/19/2017

Book Club  
Tuesday 1/9/2018

Marvin Wyman  
Tribute Dinner  
Sunday 1/14/2018

Tot Shabbat  
Friday 2/5/2018

Live Artfully...Spain  
Annual Fundraiser  
2/17/2018

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Go to our new website  
calendar & visit our  
Facebook page for  
details on all events!

*Dear Rabbi Goldstein and our new friends at Temple Emanuel,*

*Thank you all so very much for making the High Holydays one of the most meaningful and spiritual that we have experienced as a family. Your warm, gracious and caring welcome, especially after what the Congregation had experienced just a week before, was truly touching.*

*Please accept these donations toward your Hurricane Irma repair efforts as a small token of our gratitude.*

*To paraphrase a Pesach phrase from the end of the Seder- "Next year at Temple Emanuel".*

*B 'Shalom and may your year be filled with the blessings of Hashem,*

*Hazzan Paul, Cynthia & Jason Goldstein*

## **Light 'em Up — About the Archives by Cat. Eskin**

As we enter the holiday season, we do well to remember that the Hanukkah-Christmas debate continues for children growing up in predominantly Christian places. Many Jewish homes—whether those homes include two or only one Jewish parent—have found creative and sensitive ways to respect traditions and adapt to the locations in which they have found themselves. I'd like to share a few excerpts from our Temple Emanuel Archive's Oral History Project.

First is from a family that arrived in Lakeland in 1951. The Vandroffs were active members of the Temple for about three generations. I have interviewed two members of the family, Howard Vandroff (of blessed memory) and his daughter, Debbie [Vandroff] Kuniansky. Debbie is a USY past president at Temple Emanuel (c.1986) who lives in Atlanta, where she is an active member of her synagogue and a leader in allied Jewish organizations (especially Jewish day schools). Debbie remembers having some conflicts, but demonstrates here that her mother was flexible in her approaches and ultimately successful at ensuring her daughter's sense of Jewish identity.

Well my mom [Arlene Vandroff] always makes everything beautiful and lovely and sets a beautiful table. ... I remember Hanukkah in our house because that was always the dilemma.... and it still is for so many Jewish people competing with Christmas, especially [if,] where you grow up, you're one of the only Jews. ... Christmas is over the top and the kids are getting all kinds of presents. I think their parents ... needed to give them socks, so instead of just giving them socks they would wrap them up and put them under the tree with everything else, so the kids had a million presents to open and we didn't really have that. My dad used to say, "I got a dime a night and by the end I'd have eighty cents." Like, "you got it better than us." I do remember we had a fake tree, like a plastic fake tree in the house. A fichus, just for decoration, and one year my mom strung decorations on it just to try and make me feel like, "look, there's our 'Hanukkah tree' or 'Hanukkah bush,'" but I was like, "no, I'm good." And she had ... an antique sewing table and she would put out lots of Menorahs, like every Menorah she collected. She would put out all of our Menorahs and would light them all and make it very festive and play the dreidel game. She would always try to make it a lot of fun so we would feel like, "well, Hanukkah is cool, too." But that only lasted us a short amount of time and then you covet [what you don't have] and then you get older and you're like, "yeah, I don't care about that. At least I don't have to put a Christmas tree up and down." When you get older you realize what a lot of work Christmas is for them.



Betty [Weiner] Grus grew up in Wauchula, Florida. Her family had to drive over an hour to attend synagogue in Lakeland (she was confirmed c.1964). Sam Weiner, her father, had his bar mitzvah in a private home in Sebring in 1923. After he returned from the war (WWII), he ran Weiner's Department Store in Wauchula. Betty remembers Christmas very clearly.

Well, as a Southern Jew who grew up in a town where there were not Jewish people, I know all the Christmas carols. When it was Christmas in Wauchula, they piped in the Christmas [carols in the downtown area and there was a very festive mood all around].

And I was the one who, at Hanukah, brought a Menorah to school.... my father had a store, and so he had a Christmas tree in his store, a little Christmas tree. And so I decorated the tree in his store. My neighbors, the Jedons, First Baptists, they had a big tree and every year I would go and decorate their tree. So I never felt like I missed out because I decorated and we had Hanukkah. ....so it never, I never wanted a Christmas tree. And I guess because I decorated theirs I didn't feel like I missed out on that. ... And then, on Christmas day, I would go over to see what [my best friend] got [as presents].

Yet Betty also remembers that holidays made her feel particularly different from her friends and neighbors. As much as I didn't have any anti-Semitism, I still knew I was different. I knew there was a difference just because of the holidays. ... There was a girl I was friends with who was Mormon, so they went to a different church, but they still celebrated Christmas; whereas, those weren't my holidays. And when I was in Sunday school, maybe I liked Sunday school more because I had this comfort level and because I went to Blue Star in the summer. I was around Jewish kids so my Jewishness was all synagogue.

Both Debbie and Betty remember Christmas as non-threatening. They also remember their Jewish community—especially their experiences at Temple Emanuel—as a space of comfort and reassurance. When we create a space of religious and cultural tolerance, we welcome not just others into the fold, but reinforce our own sense of belonging.



*picture by the amazing Harry Wladawski*

## A Weekend of Wonder

The Eskin-Barickman Family would like to thank our Temple family for making Manny's Bar Mitzvah weekend both memorable and meaningful.

We were all unsure about how the event would fare when we learned about the damage to our beloved Temple building. Thanks to the dedication of our leadership, both lay and religious, each obstacle was overcome – from location (thanks First Pres) to kitchens (thanks caretaker's cottage) to prayer books (thanks temple in Boca) to transportation (thanks 2 Men and a Truck) to flexible guests (thanks everyone). We feel honored and blessed to have such a wonderful community.

If you have not yet noticed, Manny's mitzvah project, off-the-grid lighting for the entrance to the synagogue, is now complete. Please check out the lights which are both decorative and environmentally sensitive. Those who saw the original plan may notice that Hurricane Irma knocked out at least one of the trees that was going to be illuminated. We adjusted.

Our sincerest and most heart-felt thanks to everyone!

Cat, Michael, Tilly, and Manny.

### Manny's Torah Portion Summary

In my summary of today's portion I will be using the pronoun they for god which is usually plural because when G-d created man G-d said in OUR image. When G-d began to create the universe they first created light and called it day and the darkness night, then day after day they created new additions to their universe: Heaven, land, seas, plants, sun, moon, stars, animals, man, and women. And they finished all the earth and rested on the seventh day.

Story of creation round two. G-d created Adam out of the dust of the earth in their image and dropped him in the Garden of Eden, for which G-d conveniently had the blueprints. They also made a few rivers going to the garden for irrigation. They told Adam he can eat of any food in the garden but not the tree in the center lest he die.

So, G-d thought it isn't good for a man to be alone and he was going to make him a helper and so he created all the animals we know and love today such as mosquitoes, bats, and snakes all to be Adam's helper so in short they messed up so since no fitting helper could be found he put Adam to sleep and took Adam's rib and fashioned a woman (who is later named Eve).

The serpent who is the sneakiest snake of them all told woman that she and Adam could eat fruit from the tree in the center of the garden, so it gave some to woman and she gave some to Adam. Then they hid because G-d had just come in to check on them and then punished them by chucking them out of the Garden of Eden (among other things).

While out of the garden Adam named his wife Eve. They also gave birth to Cain and Abel. The brothers were farmers and shepherds respectively and it seemed to Cain that Abel was getting more attention from G-d for his offerings and even with G-d's warnings Cain still ended up killing his brother Abel and was punished because of it.

Then Adam and Eve had their third son Seth and from him he gave birth to Enoch and several generations later Noah and now the celestial beings began having children with man and these were the heroes of old. And then God regretted creating man and was saddened and then resolves to kill them all except for Noah because God liked him. He was a pretty cool dude.

#### Life Lessons

I have chosen two of the many life lessons in my torah portion to share with you today the first lesson is that we must think carefully about the consequences of our actions and their effect on us and on others. The life lesson of thinking about our actions comes from just before Cain kills Abel when G-d says 'sin crouches at your door but you can be its master' which means that you can control your actions but you must put forth some effort to consider carefully what you are about to do or are going to do. Most of us have been tempted to do something wrong; this lesson calls on us to consider the effects of our actions. For example road rage is a problem in today's world and just because you don't like someone else's driving doesn't mean you should get even. You could lose your license or even your life.

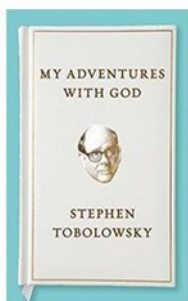
Another example is taking home an animal. A kitten or puppy might look cute but you have to really think about if you can take care of it. All our actions have consequences and we need to think about those consequences more than we do.

The second lesson I have chosen, is to give whatever you're doing your best. This lesson comes up when Cain and Abel give their sacrifices to god. Abel takes his time and gives his best. Cain just grabbed his grain and gave it to G-d with no thought what so ever. Abel's offering is rightfully recognized while Cain's offering is ignored. For example, when I play soccer, if I try my hardest and really work for it, then we have a higher chance of winning, but if I don't, then the team will suffer for it. I may be the only one who knows that I didn't put in total effort, but it will affect how I feel about myself.

Once your name is on something, it represents to others, what you do, which can and most of the time will get you less money because you slacked off. Like while playing soccer, when you win, you get the yay feeling, but if you lose, you get the boo feeling. So, let's put it this way would you rather be cheered or booed?



## Book Club



The next Temple Emanuel Book Club meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 11 a.m. in the Education Building's Media Center. Everyone is welcome to attend. You do not have to be a Temple member so bring a friend!

Our book selection is "My Adventures with G-d" by Stephen Tobolowsky. Stephen is a well-known character actor who currently appears on "The Goldbergs," HBO's "Silicon Valley" and Norman Lear's new show, "One Day at a Time." The book is available from Amazon in hardcover, paperback and Kindle editions.

The book is a collection of stories that wrestle, in a humorous way, with how belief shapes our lives. It deals with love, catastrophe and triumph through the lens that is an evolving relationship with G-d. The stories tell of a boy growing up in the wilds of Texas, losing and finding love as well as himself. It is both funny and thought provoking.

Following our one hour meeting, you are invited to a Dutch treat lunch at a nearby restaurant... the location of which is yet to be determined. Please join us for fellowship and a great discussion!

Any questions, please call Jane Renz, [863-944-8750](tel:863-944-8750).

### A few pictures from the November Book Club Meeting



#### Manny's Speech continued from page 4

##### Why I Choose To Be Jewish

I choose to be Jewish because the fact that you can argue with G-d or anyone else who tells you your view is wrong and with that Jews learn that people will try to change the way you think some might even try to convert you but if you stay true to what you believe you will always be able to do what you want to do.

I also choose to be Jewish because of the community. I benefited from that when my sister and mom were away with the car and my dad and I were without a car. Marvin (Wyman) drove me to synagogue and many others volunteered to help so thank you for that.

I would like to thank my mom and dad for driving me to synagogue and for making me keep on working towards my goal of becoming a bar mitzvah and for my sister for having a bat mitzvah service and being someone to look up to for mine. I would also like to thank rabbi specifically and I would also like to thank all my Hebrew teachers for the past forever so thank you to all of you.

I would also like to thank my cousins and my aunts and uncles and grandparents because of all you have done for me. I would also like to thank those of you who come to services every week. You really helped me be there every week that I could and so thank you to all of you.

I would also like to thank Allen Shane, our synagogue president, without whom this bar-mitzvah could not happen because he drove down to Boca Raton to pick up the books for the service.

The Board has worked tirelessly to develop plans to repair our roof and sanctuary. The insurance claim and many applications for assistance had to be filed after the hurricane. Air quality was tested and quotes were obtained from many roofing and building contractors. One of the first things we had tested in the Temple was the air quality, to determine whether we could allow our members to enter the Temple building. On October 2nd, we had O2 Consulting/IBC Engineering Environments Construction, a Florida Licensed Asbestos Consultant, perform the testing. The purpose of the air monitoring was to document the levels of asbestos fibers released during the water intrusion. The results indicated that all samples were below 0.01 f/cc (fibers per cubic centimeter) which is the EPA's standard for clean air. Even though the **air quality is clean throughout the entire Temple building**, we have closed off the sanctuary and boardroom access to the sanctuary in an abundance of caution until the asbestos repairs are completed.

After the clean air quality results, we have reopened the Temple building to our members. With the exception of the sanctuary and boardroom, we have complete use of the rest of the building including the office wing, kitchen, and Berkovitz Hall. We recently enjoyed a lovely Thanksgiving Shabbat Dinner in our Social Hall and will have other dinners, services, and events in Berkovitz Hall while we work toward repairing and restoring the sanctuary.

Our marketing committee, chaired by Irma Cole, has put in countless hours updating our social media presence and redesigning our website. The new, impressive website will be going live soon. Please don't forget to follow us on Facebook so you can stay updated on what is happening at the Temple.

## MEMBER NEWS

I would like to thank Temple Emanuel for their meaningful tribute to the veterans of our congregation and to all veterans who have served. I am a Vietnam vet and we were not welcomed home. For me, between Rabbi David's expression of gratitude to all who served, while being surrounded by a loving and supportive congregation, I finally feel that I have been welcomed home after all these years.

Thank you also to all who prepared the beautiful red, white and blue oneg, especially Ms. Edie. Thanks to all who made this a memorable Veteran's Day.

Gratefully, Marie Eisen

Althea Miller has moved to Lake Mary and has a new telephone #....321-363-4075. She would love to hear from you all!

Mazel Tov to Harris and Linda Estroff on the birth of their granddaughter to daughter Erica and son-in-law Adam Woodruff.

Thank you to Manny Barickman for the new outdoor solar lights he installed as his Bar mitzvah project. Good job Manny!

Deadline for submissions for the next Menorah is February 28, 2018. Please send to [irmacole26@gmail.com](mailto:irmacole26@gmail.com) Thanks!!