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March 2018
Volume 18, Issue 1



The Menorah

Greetings from Rabbi Goldstein....

When I was very young I was taught that the community is one of the most important values of Judaism. The holidays and rituals of our religion all exist to support and maintain the values that Judaism maintains is necessary to live a good life. There have been a series of studies recently that claim community and involvement in a community are among the most important contributions facilitating a long life. The studies all agree that it is more valuable to be part of a community then it is to quit drinking and smoking, or exercise if the goal is to live long. Judaism teaches us that the goal in life is not just to live long but also to live a worthwhile life, contributing to our world and making a better place because we are in it. It is not enough to just become a member of the synagogue, one must also participate.

Ideally the synagogue should be a part of your extended family. Temple Emanuel can be a major force for good here in Lakeland, but that is only possible with your involvement. Currently there is a small core of individuals who work hard to create and present a variety of different programs at Temple Emanuel and while they don't complain they are overworked and stretched thin. I am appealing to all of our members to take a more active role.

I believe that Temple Emanuel can grow with your help. I hope that you will take advantage of the social and prayer opportunities that we offer. I want to see our children continue to enjoy the benefits of a strong Jewish community, a place where they feel safe in an increasingly unsafe world.

I invite you to join me at our Passover Seder, Shabbat services, Adult Education classes, Book Club, or for the monthly movie. Please don't just be a name on the roster, be a part of the family. We will all benefit and you may just find that it will help you to live a longer and happier life.

B'Shalom
Rabbi David Goldstein

Greetings from President Allen Shane...

It's hard to believe that we were just celebrating Hanukah and welcoming 2018. Now we are well into the first quarter of 2018 and we have been very busy at the Temple.

It began with the lovely Tribute Dinner honoring Marvin Wyman for the many years of service, dedication, and love he has given to the Temple. At the dinner we presented Marvin with a leaf that will hang on the Tree of Life in our upper rotunda. We also surprised Marvin with making him an Honorary Trustee of Temple Emanuel. Todah Rabah, Marvin from the entire Board of Trustees, and congregation.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Book Club
Tuesday 1/9/2018
See Page 2 for Details

Passover Seder
Saturday 3/31/18
See Page 2 for Details

Tot Shabbat
Friday 4/6/18

Israel Independence
Day Celebration
Sunday 4/15/18

On going events:
Mah Jongg
Mondays 1 pm

Services
Fridays 7:30 pm
Saturdays 9:30 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS from Lori Dougherty

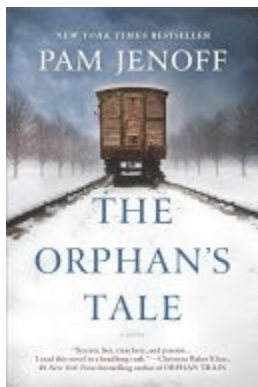
Sunday school is moving right along and running smoothly. We are half way through the year. We did lose our teacher Sam right before the holiday break. Alyssa Poretz stepped into that class and we could not be happier. The children with their parents met at Circle B Bar Reserve and celebrated TuB'Shevat for their Sunday Class on January 28th. It was a lot of fun.

We have some exciting events coming up for the kids, including the Purim carnival March 4th, and a model Seder which will include how to prep for Passover on March 18th. Also we plan on going to Campfire to celebrate Lag B Omer on April 29th.



BOOK CLUB by Jane Renz

Temple Emanuel's next Book Club Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 27 at 11 a.m. in the Education Building's Media Center.



Our book selection is The Orphan's Tale by Pam Jenoff. Based on historical events, it is a riveting novel about unsung heroes, courage, love, friendship and family. Set in a traveling circus during WWII, it is told with passion and heart.

This book is available in paperback, on Kindle and at the Lakeland library. An optional lunch out will follow our meeting. Everyone is invited to attend and bring a friend. We look forward to fellowship, learning and fun!

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

Passover Second Night Seder at Temple Emanuel—Saturday, March 31, 2018 at 6:15p.m.

<u>Members:</u>	<u>Non-Members:</u>
Adults: \$40	Adults: \$50
Children: 4-15 \$25	Children 4-15: \$25
Member Family Max \$130	

Please RSVP by 3.17.18 <https://templeemanuellakeland.com/events/community-seder/>

Appointment of Agent for Selling of Leaven

I, _____

, residing at _____

hereby permit and fully empower Rabbi David Goldstein, 844 Glendale Street, Lakeland, Florida 33803, to act on my behalf to sell all HAMETZ (leaven foods or utensils used with leaven) which I possess (known and unknown to me) in accordance with HALACHAH (Jewish Law).

By designating Rabbi Goldstein as my agent, I understand that all leaven products in my possession at the following address(es):

will be sold no later than 10:00 a.m., Thursday, March 29, 2018 and that I may derive no benefit from these products after the sale. I give Rabbi, as my agent, the power to sell my HAMETZ to a purchase of his choice.

Authorization

I hereby appoint Rabbi Goldstein, to act as my agent in selling all Hametz in my possession:

(Printed Name)

(Signature)

I have been authorized by the following person(s) to sell Hametz on their behalf for the following addresses:

“Those Two Young Fellas”

About the Archives by Cat. Eskin

Perhaps some of you remember a column I wrote back in 2009 about Tillie [Barkin] Estroff, the mother of Selig Estroff and aunt of Harris Estroff. Tillie was born in New York City in 1898 and died in Florida at age 37, a victim of cancer. I’m currently working on an essay about the lives that she and her husband Sam built here in Lakeland between their arrival in 1925 and her untimely death in 1935. I’m looking specifically at their social and economic lives as members of the growing Lakeland community. How did they navigate their identity as Jews, their identity as Americans and their identity as Southerners? And how might we, in a season that celebrates freedom, learn something about perseverance and good old-fashioned chutzpah?

Tillie Barkin was born in the United States (New York City) and Samuel Estroff was born in Russia. Both grew up and lived in the American South (Tillie’s family moved when she was about 2, Sam and his extended family were in and around Georgia, certainly by the 1910s). Tillie’s father was naturalized as a US citizen in Vicksburg, Mississippi in 1902 (he arrived in the US around 1888). While Sam’s family may have been a bit more stable, Tillie was used to moving around. America offered a mobility that would have been

impossible in Russia.

Sam and Tillie met and courted in Augusta, Georgia in 1917. Tillie was a clerk at a jewelry store and Sam was enlisted in the Army for World War I. I still don’t know if he was sent overseas, but I know that he was a veteran and the couple were married upon his discharge in 1918. They began their economic enterprises in Lyons, Georgia, where the two had their first child, Melvin, in 1920 (they are recorded on the census for Toombs, GA—the county in which Lyons is located—during that year). Sam had joined forces with a cousin, William Estroff (from Vidalia, GA), and the pair of recent vets opened a store with the tagline, “Buy from ‘Those Two Young Fellas.’”

By 1925, Sam and Tillie were ready to go even further afield. Tillie was pregnant with her son, Selig, as she crossed the state line between Georgia and Florida, ready to make use of the skills both had learned in retail around the South. I am trying to find out if Sam was already a Shriner in Georgia or if he joined in Lakeland; joining the organization would have been both a business and a political move. As an American, I imagine he felt it part of his responsibility to be a member of the larger community. I’m also unsure about Tillie’s relationship with Eastern Star. I made inquiries after finding that she is mentioned “In Memorium” on a 1936 Proceedings of the Grand Chapter in Tampa

(April 1936). In that publication, she is listed as Lakeland Chapter (No. 26). I know that when Sam Estroff died in 1953 in Birmingham, he is lauded as a member of the Masonic Order in his obituary.



Sam Estroff & Tillie Barkin courting 1917



Melvin and Selig Estroff, 1930

“Those Two Young Fellas” Continued

About the Archives by Cat. Eskin



During their time in Lakeland, Sam and Tillie were also active members in the Jewish community. They were likely the first family to have a kosher bris in town, importing a *mohel* (likely from Tampa) and welcoming family and friends from Georgia to the festivities. Tillie’s mother and brothers moved down to Lakeland shortly after the couple’s arrival, though when the Florida boom turned bust, many moved back up to Georgia. Sam and Tillie persisted, joining forces with many of the other Jews who moved to Lakeland in the 1920s with the hope of securing a location for a Jewish house of worship. By 1932, Sam and other prominent businessmen had found the location for the Temple in Dixieland. Calling themselves the Jewish Alliance of Lakeland, they quickly began a Jewish Religious School and their son, Melvin, celebrated the first Bar Mitzvah in 1933. By that time, Sam’s younger brother Nathan had moved to town and would shortly be courting in Tampa and starting his own family.

I am interested in Sam and Tillie’s business dealings and relationship to other, non-Jewish business owners during their years here (1925-1935). I wonder how their roles as boosters of Lakeland and deeply involved Jews may have helped them find purpose and a sense of belonging. I marvel at their initiative and look forward to finding more documents that will better help me consider the impact of both their patriotism and their difference.

As we move into the season of Passover, let us celebrate the freedom we have—as Americans and Jews—to make our country, and our world, the kind of place we want it to be. Most of the institutions that we often take for granted, including our Temple, were begun by people who had the vision and the gumption to be the first. May we see their memory as a blessing and ensure that we are not the last.

PASSOVER RECIPES

Azerbaijani Charoset

- 1 cup dates, pitted
- 1 cup walnuts
- 1-2 tablespoons of sweet wine

Combine everything in a food processor and pulse, adding enough wine to create a spreadable yet coarse consistency.

Persian Charoset

- 1/2 cup pistachios, 1/2 cup almonds, 1/2 cup walnuts, 1/2 cup hazelnuts, 1 cup pitted dates, 1/2 cup raisins
- 1 large apple, peeled
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 3/4 cup sweet red wine
- 1 tsp. cinnamon

You can alter the preparation of this to be as smooth or coarse as you prefer. For a smoother consistency, combine everything in the food processor and pulse. For a more textured charoset, chop each half cup of nuts separately, then combine in a large bowl. Combine the remaining ingredients, process, and add to the bowl. Then combine everything. Many people enjoy shaping this into a pyramid for serving.



We followed it with our fundraiser Live Artfully: A Taste of Spain. It was very well attended and the comments from many were "It was the best fundraiser, we have had". We are still closing the books, and don't have final tally's, but it appears that we exceeded our income from last year. Todah Rabah to Jodie Snyder for her efforts chairing the committee and for so willingly giving of herself every year. I also would like to thank the entire committee for all their efforts in helping to make this a tremendous success.

We just finished our celebration of Purim and now look forward to Passover. Make plans to attend our second night Seder. Rabbi Goldstein will be leading the Seder and it will be fun as well as educational for the whole family. I hope to see everyone at the Seder.

We discussed having a community event for Israel Independence Day but decided to have a smaller event this year for our Temple Family, due to limited preparation time. Watch your email for information on our celebration.

We are planning to have a community wide event for Israel Independence Day in 2019. We will need everyone's participation for the event to be successful.

An update on our Hurricane damage. We have retained Jon Trohn to assist with appealing the insurance denial. The appeal has been sent and we are awaiting the response from the insurance company to determine what our next steps will be.

Also, In January the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released new funding rules that now allow funding for Houses of worship that experienced damages from Hurricane Harvey and Irma. We filed a new application with FEMA which is pending review of our damages and their determination.

Once we receive the responses from the insurance and FEMA, the Board can make informed decisions regarding sanctuary repairs.

In closing, I am thankful for the talented and hardworking Board of Trustees, Rabbi, and committees that give so much of themselves to keep the Temple operating.

Each of us has unique talents and abilities. I am asking each of you to use your talents, to help make Temple Emanuel the center of Jewish life in Polk County.

Allen Shane, President

And some other things.....

- ◆ **3x your impact!** From March 12-31, Amazon is **tripling the donation rate** on your first [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-0915228) purchase! Go to smile.amazon.com/ch/59-0915228 and Amazon donates to Temple Emanuel.
- ◆ MAKE THE LAND OF ISRAEL MORE BEAUTIFUL...Plant Fruit Trees in Israel Today!
<https://unitedwithisrael.org/planting-fruit-trees-in-israel/>
- ◆ Check out our new and improved website where you can view our Temple Emanuel events calendar, photo gallery, videos, archives, bylaws, links to our online affiliations, make dues payments and donations, and more!
<https://templeemanuellakeland.com/>
- ◆ Deadline for submissions for the next Menorah is May 31, 2018. Please send articles to irmacole26@gmail.com Thanks!!