

Temple Beth Sholom



The Shofar

Elul 5785/Tishrei/Cheshvan 5786

September/October 2025

A Message to Be Read More Than Once

Shared by Jo Ann Howard, President

Have you ever read an article and just couldn't get it out of your head? That's what happened to me today. I feel so strongly about the message written by Rabbi Rachel G. Greengrass of Temple Beth Am in Miami, Florida, that I decided it is a valuable message which must be shared.

Bearing Witness to "Alligator Alcatraz"

There are moments when the news doesn't just make us uncomfortable. It unsettles us, reverberates in our bones, and interrupts our Shabbat peace.

This is one of those moments.

Just over an hour from where we live, a migrant detention center was built in the swamps of the Everglades. People quickly nicknamed it "Alligator Alcatraz." Some even sold merchandise with the name, as if it were a tourist attraction. But we must call it what it is: a detention camp.

It is a place where men, women, and children — many fleeing violence or poverty — are confined behind barbed wire, without adequate food, water, medical care, or access to family, friends, or lawyers. It is trauma and dehumanization made into policy. And it is happening here, in South Florida.

Our congregation recently brought a bus to bear witness at this site. It was Rosh Chodesh Elul, a time of introspection and preparation for the High Holy Days. By the time you read this, the camp may already have been moved. But whether it sits in the Everglades or elsewhere, the moral outrage is the same: people are being warehoused in unsafe, degrading conditions.

When I first heard about this center, I thought of my own grandparents. They were born in Europe, citizens of their country — until one day, the laws changed. Suddenly they were "foreign." "Other." Stripped of citizenship. Shut out of safe havens. Sent to camps.

What is happening in Florida today is not the Holocaust. These are not extermination camps. But we would be dangerously wrong to pretend there is no connection at all. History teaches us how quickly fear, scapegoating, and nationalism can escalate when good people remain silent.

Jewish tradition offers us three ways of leading in a time of moral crisis.

The Leadership of Imagination and Justice

The prophet Isaiah declared: “Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow” (Isaiah 1:17). Justice in Judaism has never meant simply following the rules. It means daring to imagine a world more aligned with God’s compassion. To show leadership now means saying: this detention camp does not reflect the values we aspire to — as Jews, as Americans, as human beings created b’tzelem Elohim (in God’s image). We must imagine and demand better.

The Leadership of Moral Urgency

The Talmud teaches: “Whoever is able to protest against wrongdoing and does not, is held responsible for it” (Shabbat 54b). There are times when waiting is complicity. There are times when moral urgency demands we say: “This cannot continue. Not in our name.” To respond to Alligator Alcatraz means recognizing that silence is not neutrality — it is surrender.

The Leadership of Steadfast Presence

The rabbis of Pirkei Avot teach: “It is not your responsibility to finish the work, but neither are you free to desist from it” (Avot 2:16). Jewish leadership is not only about bold vision or fiery protest — it is also about persistence. We need those who will keep showing up when the cameras leave, who will walk alongside immigrant communities year after year, who will not abandon the work when it feels overwhelming.

Together, these three teachings offer us a map: vision, urgency, and perseverance. We need all three.

The Torah commands: “You shall not oppress the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Ex. 23:9). “Justice, justice shall you pursue” (Deut. 16:20). Every human being is created b’tzelem Elohim (Sanhedrin 37a). To uphold these values, we must bear witness and refuse silence.

That is why we went to “Alligator Alcatraz.” That is why we will keep showing up. The location may change, but the responsibility does not.

I believe how we respond now will echo for years — not only for the people behind those fences, but for who we become as a community. Let us be the generation that remembered, that refused silence, that acted with courage, vision, and love.

Read it again!

Make a copy and share it with a friend or family member.

Read it again!

Decide how you can make a difference.



YAHREZEITS

May Their Memories Be a Blessing

September 5-6/12-13 Elul

31 – Harry Harris
2 – Sarah Heiner
3 – Ida Novakoff
4 – Josephina Sierra de Loper

September 12-13/19-20 Elul

7 – Gertrude S. Kushner
8 – Dr. Robert L. Kushner
9 – Elix Rubin
11 – Joseph Schriebeder
13 – Celia Katzman

September 19-20/26-27 Elul

15 – Samuel B. Numark
15 – Ann B. Passamaneck
16 – Hazel S. Roman
17 – Howard J. Nakdimen
17 – Dr. Herbert R. Silverman
17 – Ernst Wassing
19 – Leonard Miller
20. Gertrude Herman Calisch

September 26-27/4-5 Tishrei

24 – Saul M. Schriebeder
25 – Louis Herman Calisch, Jr.
25 – Nathan Lester
27 – Emmanuel “Manny” Levy
27 – Sam Lyon
27 – Emilie R. Mueller

October 3-4/11-12 Tishrei

28 – Louise D. Kushner
29 – Joseph M. Friedman
30 – Evelyn Novakoff Silverman
1 – Max LeBof
1 – Maurice Lawrence Golsen
3 – Leonard Harris
3 – Lawrence Koplen
3 – Ida Greenberg Newman
4 – Ruth Ann Fufeld

October 10-11/18-19 Tishrei

5 – Florence Koplen
6 – Joan LeBof Newman
8 – Hormidas Santerre
9 – Dr. Dan H. Schriebeder
10 – Bessie Klaff
11 – Dr. Harry Francis Calisch
11 – Moses Harris

October 17-18/25-26 Tishrei

16 – Paul Wall

October 24-25/2-3 Cheshvan

19 – Samuel A. Kushner, Sr.
22 – Moritz Feibelman
22 – Moses Roman
22 – Michael Berchotz
23 – Tessie Berman
23 – Joel Singer
25 – Yitka Frankel Kurtz

Oct. 31-Nov.1/9-10 Cheshvan

26 – Heller Cohen
26 – Joseph Kingoff
27 – Rachel O. Roman
28 – Alvin Harris
28 – Helen S. Silverman
29 – Sayde S. Greenberg
1 – Samuel Costin

When lighting the Yahrzeit candle, you can recite the following prayer:

The human soul is a light from God.

**May it be your will that the soul of (insert name) enjoy eternal life,
along with the souls of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah,
and the rest of the righteous that are in Gan Eden. Amen**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**Let's welcome Shabbat and the Fall Holy Days together in the chapel at
First Presbyterian Church**

SEPTEMBER

Friday, 5 th	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service
Friday, 12 th	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service
Friday, 19 th	Shabbat Service not scheduled	
Monday, 22nd	7:30 p.m.	Erev Rosh Hashanah Service
Tuesday, 23rd	10:00 a.m.	Rosh Hashanah Service
		Lunch at the Howard's home following the service
Friday, 26th	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Shuvah Service
Sunday, 28th	4:00 p.m.	Tashlich at the River

OCTOBER

Wednesday, 1st	7:30 p.m.	Erev Yom Kippur Service - Kol Nidre
Thursday, 2nd	10:00 a.m.	Yom Kippur Morning Service
	3:00 p.m.	Afternoon Service/Yizkor Service/Neilah Service
	6:30 p.m.	Light nosh to break your fast
Friday, 3 rd	Shabbat Service not scheduled	
Friday, 10th	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat/Sukkot Service
Friday, 17th	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat/Simchat Torah Service
Friday, 24 th	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service
Friday, 31 st	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service



The **Fall Holidays** will be here before we know it! We will welcome 5786 and atone for our sins so we can have a prosperous new year. Please make note of the following:

- ✚ If you have a personal copy of the High Holy Days prayer book, please be sure to bring it with you.
- ✚ Erev services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur will begin promptly at **7:30 p.m.** Morning services will begin at **10:00 a.m. Please come prior to those times!**
- ✚ Peter will be contacting you regarding your readings for the Holy Days. Be sure you know when your part is scheduled in the service and if for some reason you are unable to participate, please contact Peter immediately. Hearing the different voices of our congregants makes the service even more meaningful!
- ✚ We will have a Rosh Hashanah lunch again this year at the Howard's home following the service. Please RSVP by September 15th if you will be attending.
We will also have a light nosh to break your Yom Kippur fast - just enough to get you home to enjoy dinner.
- ✚ Tashlich at the River – We will meet at the fountain downtown at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 28th and walk to the overlook. Do not bring the traditional bread crumbs since they are not a natural food source for fish, ducks or geese. Instead, bring an item from nature, such as a small pebble or tiny twig, which will not pollute the water. Thank you to Kathy Sahale, who will once again bring fish food which is fine for the water life in the river. These items will be symbolic of your sins.
- ✚ You should have received your Holy Day Offering form in the mail regarding the names you would like to be read at the Yom Kippur Memorial Service. Be sure to return your form and check by September 15th. If you do not have names to be read, a donation would be appropriate.
- ✚ Join us for Shabbat/Sukkot on Friday, October 10th, and enjoy waving the lulav and smelling the fragrance of the etrog. There will be a special treat for all who attend!
- ✚ Join us the following week for Shabbat/Simchat Torah on Friday, October 17th. Come and join the fun when we sing and wave Simchat Torah flags as we “dance” the Torah up and down the aisle in the chapel, and then read the end of Deuteronomy/Devarim and the beginning of Genesis/Bereshit.





WITH OUR CONGREGATION

(If you would like information printed in this section, please let Jo Ann know.)

Our heartfelt sympathy has been extended to the family of Mildred Koplen Sechtin Barth. Mildred passed away on August 5th, the yahrzeit of her brother Herman Koplen. She was truly loved by her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and other relatives and friends. Ronnie Mand will certainly miss her Mimi. The family has asked that donations may be made to Temple Beth Sholom or Hadassah; just send your check to Jo Ann.

Our wishes for good health are extended to **Bernard Baker, Mira Becher, Carol Caplan, Joe Eisenberg, Eddy Fraifeld, Larry Golsen, Faye Kushner, Don Loper, Debbie Rippe, and Kathy Sahale.**



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Yom Huledet Sameach/Yom Nisuin Sameach – Happy Birthday/Happy Anniversary to you:

September Birthdays: 1 – Barry Koplen; 8 – Ronnie Mand; 11 – Barrett Eisner; 16 – Peter Howard

September Anniversaries: 6 – Ben and Debbie Rippe; 15 – Joe Eisenberg and Melissa Laverack; 29 – Jason and LaTrice Eisner

October Birthdays: 7 – Bonnie Brumfield; 16 – Paul Mandel

October Anniversary: 16 – Matt and Karen Harris



“Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity.”

Uplift another congregant's spirits by giving them a call or sending them a card, email or text! It only takes a few minutes and it will make a big difference in their day and yours!



Temple Beth Shalom Donations

Please remember the Building Fund for such things as Sympathy, Mazel Tov, Thank You, and Speedy Recovery. The list is endless. Your contribution will brighten someone's day and help support **YOUR** temple at the same time!

Brian David Steinberg – In appreciation for your funeral service and support to my family

Sam and Faye Kushner – We would like to commemorate the following yahrzeits: Beloved Mother, Margaret Kushner; beloved brother, Jerry Kushner; Revered grandfather, Rabbi David M. Kushner; dear friends – Joe Stendig, Barbara Manheim, Herman G. Koplen, Ruth Koplen, Walter Feibelman, and Ruth Feibelman

Bernard and Belinda Baker – **In honor of Sam Kushner** for his wisdom; **In honor of Ronnie** for her thoughtfulness; **In honor of Kathy Sahale** as she continues her journey; **In honor of Bonnie** for all her cards and well wishes

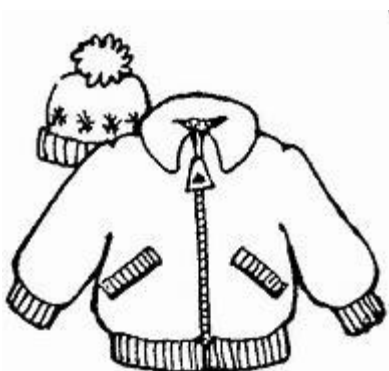
Don Loper – In memory of my wife, **Lynne Steinberg**

In Memory of Mildred Koplen Sechtin Barth – Ronnie and Steven Mand, Jo Ann and Peter Howard, Gwen and Jerome Paulson, Linda and Berryl Speert, Sam and Joan Cohen, Ruth Lenrow and Family, Howard and Susan Pelteson, Susan and Hank Dufour, Lindy and Myron Levey, Melanie and Kevin Vaughan, Ronald Daniels and Joanne Rosen, Dale and Leslie Barth

Bernard and Belinda Baker – **To Eddy Fraifeld** – Sending good vibes your way



Our calendars for 5786 have been ordered by Townes Funeral Home. We'll let you know when they arrive!



Winter Coat Drive – Bernard Baker has organized a winter coat drive through his Roman Eagle Masonic Lodge 122. One Hour Martinizing will clean and then distribute them in the community. If you have coats you would like to donate, either drop them off on September 13th at the Lodge, 134 Tunstall Road, or contact Bernard. (Editor's note: I am sorry for the delay in getting this information out.)

FYI: It was the Roman Eagle Masonic Lodge 122 that laid the cornerstone of our Temple Beth Sholom building!



If you are willing to host a Havdalah service in your home, please let Jo Ann know.



A Little Humor is Good for the Soul!

Take some time to laugh...it has been said that "laughter is the best medicine!"

I call my horse Mayo
And sometimes Mayo neighs

For Chemists, alcohol is not a problem
It's a solution

I bought a fake koi fist
It's my dekoï

Inspecting mirrors is a job
I could really see myself doing

Larvae was a great band
Before the Beatles emerged

Ants never get sick because
They have little anty bodies

I was in a band called the Hinges
We opened for the Doors

It wouldn't have been Wright
If Ford invented the airplane

My neighbor couldn't afford his water bill
So I got him a get well card

My GPS and I decided to take things to the next level
It's a turn-by-turn relationship

You should wear glasses when doing math
It improves division

September - October 2025
A Message from Martha Woody, Danville President

As I usually do, I've just reread the last message that I wrote in the hopes that I won't be repeating myself as I write a Hadassah Danville President's message once again. Unfortunately, not much has changed since I last wrote, and if anything, has gotten worse. Climate change continues; our current and future economic situation remains murky at best; political polarization has hit new heights, etc., etc.

I'm currently reading a book entitled "Democracy in Retrograde" which offers practical steps to overcoming inaction in the face of seemingly overwhelming challenges. One suggestion was to become a better consumer of both digital and print news sources, and I had one of those "ah ha" moments when I realized what a wonderful resource we have in Hadassah!

Looking at just a few of the recent emails that I've received from HWZOA, I found new policy statements regarding increasing security to prevent antisemitic violence, promoting pluralism in the Zionist movement, and calling for action to strengthen our democracy as we prepare to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country's founding. All of these policy statements are worth reading and easily found on the Hadassah website (on the website, under "Get Involved", click on "Advocate and Take Action" then scroll down to "Speak Out on the Issues" and click on Policy Statements underneath). These policy statements provide a basis in our Jewish values for the stances that Hadassah takes in regard to the various issues confronting us.

In addition, through connecting with Hadassah online, you can send an email to the UN which recently blacklisted Hamas due to its weaponizing of sexual violence, something Hadassah has spent years advocating for. And now, Hadassah is asking for justice, that Hamas be held accountable for the crimes it has committed against Israel. It's quick and easy to sign and send the email; Hadassah has done all the prep work for you! And if advocacy is your thing (as it is mine!), Hadassah is planning a Day on the Hill in March 2026 so that we can meet with our federal legislators and advocate for our priorities.

Of course, let us not forget the Hadassah Medical Organization and the wonderful work that is being done there. HMO is both providing state-of-the-art treatment as well as diligently researching the treatment, cures, and prevention for diseases such as ALS, Parkinson's, diabetes, cardiac problems, infertility issues, and many more. And of course HMO has been instrumental in providing the immediate treatment and longer-term rehabilitation needed since the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023.

As members of Hadassah, I hope each of us will refuse to give into despair and apathy during these troubling times. We are, after all, women who DO! Small acts of kindness, an email to a legislator about an issue you care about, support for HWZOA and HMO – all of these are ways to make a difference, and who knows what good may ripple out from such efforts!

Martha Woody, President

Activities and Projects



Laughter & Ice Cream are the Best Medicine!

What a fun-filled Zoom meeting we had on August 24th! We shared funny stories, giggled at a Candid Camera video starring Beverly Maurice, enjoyed ice cream, and laughed a lot. Everyone felt good...stress was gone while we were together. Thank you to all who attended, especially all of our guests.

5786 Hadassah New Year Card forms and checks were due to Susan Dufour by September 5th. Oops...if you haven't mailed yours back yet, please do it today! Send a note via this email that you want to participate and then put form and your check for \$18 or more in the mail. The money made from this project will be used for Young Judaea Scholarships, which offers opportunities for our children and grandchildren to attend educational programs and Young Judaea camps, which will help them develop their Jewish identity.



Angels of Mercy – Our Angels of Mercy campaign is a special one this year...this is our 75th year for running this project! When your letter arrives asking for your support for our two world renown Hadassah hospitals in Israel, don't hesitate to respond. Just think, research at our hospitals is shared world-wide and might affect you or a family member!

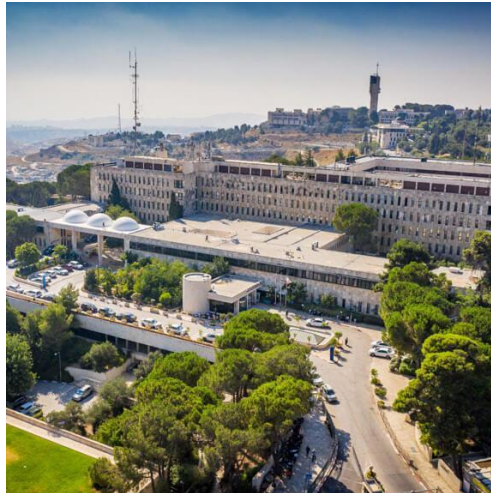


Birthday/Anniversary Cards –What a wonderful way to remember family and friends on their anniversaries and/or birthdays and at the same time support our two Youth Aliyah villages in Israel. You will receive information in early November.

This is Why Our Angels of Mercy Project is So Important!

Hadassah Hospital Mt. Scopus

Hadassah Hospital Mt. Scopus. Fourteen miles from Ein Kerem on panoramic Mount Scopus, Hadassah's hospital serves both as a top-tier community medical center and addresses special needs of the greater Jerusalem area. Families rely on the pediatric chronic disease center, a hospice and the region's rehabilitation center. A new comprehensive rehabilitation center will bring cutting-edge robotics to soldiers and civilians, stroke and terror survivors, as expansions and improvements bring advanced care to busy adult and pediatric emergency rooms, including at a new shock trauma center. Women giving birth continue to trust the outstanding care provided at the Rady Mother and Child Center. A cardiac catheterization lab provides immediate



Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem

Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem shares a large campus with the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Medicine, with scientists collaborating from both institutions. The 19-story inpatient Sarah Wetsman Davidson Hospital Tower, Hadassah's gift to the people of Israel on its centennial, dominates the Ein Kerem campus. The underground state-of-the-art surgical suites are sheltered deep in the Jerusalem hillside and fortified against conventional, biological and chemical warfare. Hospital gardens provide green space for emotional sustenance of patients and staff. The iconic Round Building, opened in 1962, is being modernized and expanded to meet the city's growing needs. Research and clinical trials draw patients from around the world.



Rays of Hope & Celebration

This year-round project has given members a way to virtually light a menorah at a meeting and/or send a mazel tov, get well, or an expression of sympathy to a friend or family member. Each menorah you light is \$18. You can either pay by credit card on-line:

<https://bit.ly/DanvilleRaysofHopeandCelebration>, or send your check to Jo Ann Howard, 326 Rosemary Lane, Danville, VA 24541. If you want the information sent to a friend or family member, please include their mailing information when you send your check and menorah information to Jo Ann.



Diane Bisgaier

*My menorah is for Martha Woody and Jo Ann Howard.
I have enjoyed working with both of them.*



Susan Dufour

Four candles for Cheryl Cole and Dominique who shared their time and stories with us. Cheryl has decided to join our Danville Hadassah. She lives in Miami Florida and will join us through zoom

Four candles for Ronnie for shlepping me to services every week and in honor of her birthday on September 8.

One candle for Melanie Vaughn, thanking her for all her work on our flyers which are all very creative!



Jo Ann Howard

Menorah #1: In memory of Lynne Steinberg

Menorah #2: In memory of Mildred Koplen Sechtin Barth

Menorah #3: In memory of Penny Rush



Lindy Levey
In Memory of Mimi



Ronnie Mand
Menorahs 1 and 2 are in honor of Lindy's 75th birthday
Menorah #3 is in honor of Melanie's 2nd place in an art show



Beverly Maurice
My menorah is for my grandson Darrin. He was able to drop trombone
so he could be in percussion!



Ronni Nishamin
In honor of my grandson who said "Shabbat Shalom" to me for the first
time!



Melanie Vaughan
In memory of Mildred Barth, Ronnie's aunt and a wonderful woman.
In memory of my Aunt Marilyn, my mother's youngest sister and the
last of that generation.
For my Hadassah family
The remainder to wish everyone a very sweet New Year.



Martha Woody

In memory of Lynne Steinberg and Mildred Barth

In memory of Nancy Bryant, a friend from Martinsville

With gratitude for the good work of Hadassah

With thanksgiving for my Hadassah buddies, my family, and friends

With prayers for our country, its people, and its government

With prayers for the remaining hostages & their loved ones

*Remembering all who are suffering in that troubled area and with
prayers for some progress towards peace there*



Mildred Koplen Sechtin Barth

May 27, 1927 — August 5, 2025

Mildred Koplen Sechtin Barth, 98, of Atlanta, Georgia, passed away peacefully on August 5, 2025, surrounded by her beloved family.

Born in 1927 in Danville, Virginia, to Bessie and Abe Koplen, Mildred was the youngest of three children and joined her older brothers, Herman and Albert. She attended Converse College for one year before graduating from Richmond Professional Institute (now Virginia Commonwealth University) with a degree in distributive education.

During a visit to Baltimore, Mildred met her true love, Daniel Sechtin. They married on November 23, 1950, in Danville. They soon settled in High Point, North Carolina, where Danny was a partner in a furniture manufacturing company. Together, they raised two children, Jill and Alan.

In 1966, Mildred faced the heartbreaking loss of Danny in a plane crash. Two years later, she married Dr. Ira Barth and moved to Marion, South Carolina, where she utilized her business acumen to manage his medical practice. After their divorce, she returned to her hometown of Danville and began a new chapter, running Dr. Tom Harvey's ophthalmology office. This role led to the founding of Parkview Optical, which she co-owned for many years. With her impeccable sense of style and warm personality, Mildred built a loyal customer base and took great joy in helping people find the perfect eyewear.

In Danville, Mildred was active in the community. She treasured her membership in the Wednesday Club, volunteered at the Science Museum, and served as the long-time treasurer of Temple Beth Sholom's sisterhood. She was a lifetime member of Danville's Hadassah Chapter, where she participated in the Angels of Mercy Campaign. She loved cooking, fashion, and was an avid Mah Jongg player. She moved to Atlanta in 2017.

Mildred is survived by her daughter, Jill Paulson, and son-in-law, David Paulson; her son, Alan Sechtin, and daughter-in-law, Nancy Sechtin; her grandchildren, Dana Eisenman (Matthew), Abby Lesorgen (David), and Daniel Sechtin; and her great-grandchildren, Reid, Sophie, and Drew Eisenman, and Maya and Hallie Lesorgen. She is also survived by her sister-in-laws Elaine Kolodkin (Alan) and Marilyn Cherson, as well as many nieces, nephews, and loving cousins.

HADASSAH, THE POWER TO HEAL OUR WORLD. TOGETHER.

We believe we can and must do all we can to advance justice and healing.

We've been defying the odds for more than a century, creating new leadership roles for women, sustaining a vibrant Jewish state and paving the way for a pioneering health care system that saves lives every day. We are the power of women who do.

And we believe that each of us has the power to heal our world, to take action, to make an impact.

We hope you do, too.

Join us in our efforts to make a difference in so many lives!