

# Congregation Beth Israel

## KOLEINU (Our Voice)

May 2020

Visit us online at [www.bethisraelofocala.com](http://www.bethisraelofocala.com)  
and on Facebook: Congregation Beth Israel of Ocala

*There will be no services until further notice.*

## Membership

As of now the board has decided that there will be NO dues for the year 2020. *Please let us know if you do NOT intend to continue as a member by replying to this email.* We are getting together a new directory to share with all members.

## A Note from Our Editor

Testing is still not widely available in our country. Marion County has so far reported over 100 cases, but that does not mean that there are not many more that have yet to be determined. Getting together with others is NOT safe. You do not know if they have practiced the same stringent guidelines that you have followed.

When and if the board determines that it is safe to hold an event, we will continue with our program. Until then let us all do our part in staying safe and praying for our friends, relatives, community and world.

### Message Details

Name: Marjory Siegel

Email: [asiegel528@aol.com](mailto:asiegel528@aol.com)

Subject: Thank you

Message: I am writing to thank you and the JCNCf for supplying Mishloach Manot to my mother, Gloria Marks, who lives at Canterfield of Ocala. She was so happy to receive the Hamentashen and other treats. I live out of state so I can't be there to share holidays with her. It warmed my heart that she could participate in her Jewish customs.

-Marjory Siegel

## CBI and the JCNCf

We are pleased to announce that we have received a grant from the JCNCf (see Sisterhood) again. They have been so supportive of us and our programs. On the sidebar to the left you will see a note sent to us by the mother of one of the recipients of the Purim gifts that we distributed to assisted living residents.

## Sisterhood

Through the efforts of Janet and Mary we have applied for and received a grant from the JCNCf to help purchase various Jewish cookbooks which will become a part of a lending library for our congregation. With this money we were able to purchase 13 wonderful books with all types and genres of Jewish cooking and baking. Books are due in soon and will be given out to those who ordered them. Recipients

### Editor:

Mary Chang

### Board:

Janis Cohen

Don Donnenberg

Lois Gherman

Fredda Goodstein

Steve Lande

Richard Lawrence

Elaine Morrison

Andrea Paprocki

Janet Sadowsky

### Upcoming Holidays:

5/12 – Lag B'Omer

5/19 – Shavu'ot



will keep their books for now, going through them, and preparing for the future when we meet again for a Grand Celebration Luncheon! At the luncheon those who have cookbooks will tell us a bit about them and will prepare one recipe from their chosen book. The books will become part of a lending library for the congregation and Sisterhood.

Our end of the year luncheon is usually in June. At this luncheon it has been our custom for the last few years to donate clothing for the homeless children in Ocala. This year with all that has gone on this becomes particularly vital. We are asking for all sizes of school aged children T-shirts this year. If our meeting is not held in June we will arrange for your donations to be picked up and brought to the school. *Note: T-shirts can be ordered online at several stores and sent to your home or picked up curbside.*

*Support your local restaurants: for great salad, soup and pizza  
Pie-o-Mine is open for takeout. They will bring your order to your car.*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Yahrzeits for May

|                          |                  |                 |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Bradley Scott Peyser     | son of           | Janis Cohen     |
| Jacob Peterson           | father-in-law of | Sonia Peterson  |
| Anne Siegal              | mother of        | Phil Siegal     |
| Herbert Weinman          | husband of       | Edie Weinman    |
| Ceil Halsband            | aunt of          | Lois Gherman    |
| Clara Gherman            | mother of        | Ernie Gherman   |
| Edythe Morrison          | mother of        | Elaine Morrison |
| <b>Birthdays for May</b> | Meryl Peters     | Jackie Ludmer   |

### *from the Book of Joel by Joel Rosenblum*

We speak eloquently of Judaism and our shana tova. Our celebrated presence on the holiday makes us realize the Jewish household continues as a family scattered over the world but aware of a unity which neither persecution nor dispersion could destroy. The eternity of the people of Israel is contrary to all logic that such a fragment of humanity should outlast the erosion of the centuries. Why is this, as Isaiah said thirty centuries ago, "Am Olom", an "indestructible people"?

Let us consider the chances, the odds on this religion's surviving. The whole world was pagan. Everybody's "religion" consisted of, or was aided by, the worship of idols. But our small-in-number people eschewed the concept of idols being a substitute for our worship of an omni-present, invisible God. What odds would a historian give for this strange, religious exception existing and enduring, entirely different from all the iconoclasm everywhere!

Paganism: Needing to explain the forces of the world by visible art, the power of the sky, the forces of mountain and stream. They made a statue which could be seen, and it automatically embodied an idea for them. Paganism is in accordance with human nature. But on the contrary, Ancient Jews were believers in One spirit, invisible and yet alive within us.

And who was asked to believe this complexity? Philosophers? No. It was the farmers, blacksmiths, carpenters and petty merchants who were beckoned to accept a refined and difficult and delicate concept of an invisible God Who rules by justice and righteousness. The religion did many times abandon the Almighty. But with the intelligence of prophets, judges, lawgivers and inspired leaders, restoration came about with the expression of a truth: it is God's will that Judaism should live. The Bible, reviving the faith in God scores of times, did it not only by eloquent exhortation but by devising methods to continue the faith.

Indeed, we might say the Bible is the record of methods for the recovery of the concept of G-D.