



OUR NEW HOME!

בית חדש שלנו

For a young congregation, it has been a powerful journey! We started out at the last day of July in a whirlwind of activity to get ready for High Holy Day services, expecting to then have 5-6 children in our religious school. So we started with the little house idea, our Bayit, planning to move from there to a more permanent location on Rosser Road.

We had over 130 at those High Holy Day services, more than 15 in our religious school when we started. We have not been in existence very long, just a bare few months, when we saw clearly that the original Bayit, was just too small already! It certainly is an exciting time for our congregation. There is no question that we are living and making history in Port Saint Lucie and in Judaism.

We all talked about it. You agreed with those observations and voted as a congregation to make the move. Even more importantly, you voted with your hands, legs, hearts, and pockets to make it happen. There was a window in the lease on the Bayit that allowed us to exit the lease at the end of October if we notified them by the 15th, which we did. We had to be out by the 31st, which we were, thanks to the amazing army that helped load the truck after services, the regular Kiddush and all the other regular Shabbat events. We were done in just over an hour. The house was swept clean and we said our bittersweet goodbyes to the little house that started it all.

The Torah portion that morning was about changes and not sacrificing the wrong things. We took that lesson to heart as we moved to Lakeside Center. We moved into a space that needed a little work, which we were promised would take about a week or so to accomplish. We raised the funds, we worked hard, all of us. And we were disappointed by delay after delay, issue after issue. In December, after almost two months of delays and broken promises from the landlord and his people, we looked around to make sure there were other choices in the area that would work for us. We found there were at least three options, all workable, all with pluses and minuses. So we gave the landlord a final notice, a final chance to make the needed changes, like fixing the air conditioning, the plumbing, the electric to what we needed. Deadlines were still missed. (Continued page 5)



Corner of California Blvd and Savona Ave - Oak Hammock Plaza

Note: If you would like to help edit this newsletter, please step forward. If you would like to write articles for it, please step forward. If you want to place an ad in the newsletter, the form is at the end of it or online at www.eitzchayim.org at the newsletter tab. If you would like to help us find advertisers, please step forward. We welcome your help!



Rabbi: Rabbi Shafir Lobb

Treasurer: Erik Planet

Secretary: Rosie Pope

Directors: Stuart Address

Carol Cobb

Ken Heller

Andre Tarraf



Rabbi's Corner

We have a very, very special congregation. I can't even begin to tell you how special it really is. It is not special because of me or because of any other one or two people. It is special because of all of the people and because of the commitment of all of our members. That is something very different.

When the Board and I sat there just a few months ago and made the decision to create a congregation based on the Heart & Pocket model

and the love and closeness we had felt as a Chavurah, we believed it was possible, even though we did not know anyone who had done it. We knew people who had created or moved congregations based on "no fixed dues" models, but holding onto and fostering the sense of the closeness of the Chavurah was going to take a different kind of structure. And we have that structure. And it is demanding of the Board and of our members. And it is rewarding, I believe.

We took the first plunge with our move to Lakeside, raising the needed funds quickly and not without some sleepless nights and some very hard work. We made the needed payments just in time. The location turned out to be less than we had hoped and for the sake of our young congregation, the board knew that we needed to take firm action, make demands, and if reasonable demands could not be met, be willing to find a new home. And so we faced that challenge and moved again.

So again, we took the plunge, once again looking for locations that as close as possible to the permanent Bayit which will be on Rosser, south of Gatlin. And we learned quite a bit about commercial properties, permits, our members, our needs, and our capabilities. We expanded our vision and we believe this location will suit us until our more permanent home is ready.

We are being more demanding about having the space ready very soon and we are doing that by both renting one that is already closer to what we need and by taking the responsibility to make the changes ourselves. The space is ready for a kitchenette - if we decide to outfit it properly, we could probably make it a commercial kitchen. There will be a quiet room at the rear of the much larger sanctuary/social hall space. There is room for a great gift shop and an office or two. The handyman already installed the double doors to the sanctuary and they will be painted before the first Friday (God willing).

Tommy Pope graciously came by and installed the Ner Tamid (Eternal Light) as he had at the two previous locations (from where he also removed it when we moved). He and his family donated it to our congregation as one of our first gifts.

Once the sanctuary is ready, we will move the furniture in from the storage location where it is now. Movers are invited to step forward NOW, please! Please let me know if you can help - either with a truck or with shlepping. Thanks! We plan to do that the second week of February, probably Wednesday. On Sunday, February 14th, at 10AM sharp, we will be meeting on the sidewalk by the Lakeside location to walk the Torah scrolls and some of the sacred objects to our new home. Walking the scrolls from location to location is reminiscent of the days in the desert when our ancestors would walk the sacred objects each time they travelled. Every day things were packed in carts, but sacred objects were carried by hand. We will do the 3.4 mile walk in the early day at a comfortable pace and then celebrate appropriately when we reach our new home.



Later in the month, we will have a ribbon cutting and then many other great things. We will finally have the full schedule we have been looking forward to having. And I will be looking forward to meeting with everyone and having one-on-one meetings to talk more with each of you about our congregation.

As I said at the beginning of the column, we are special, and a big part of the specialness is the way we function. We expect everyone to be engaged in the congregation at a level that is comfortable for them and is also significant. So I will be meeting with you to talk about the different ways that you would like that to happen. What are the things that you want to see our congregation doing; what of the things that we are doing or are planning on doing are most interesting to you, and so on. We call that an engagement commitment

As we grow and can now become more active, I look forward to seeing more and more of our members doing more and more things and our congregation doing more and more programs for ourselves and for and in the larger community. And I can't wait until you see our great new space.

It will not be long now before we are celebrating Purim, then Pesach (Passover). We will have both a first and a second night seder in our Temple. Stay tuned for details - and if you would like to help with either of these holidays or events, please let us know! Thanks!

Shafir



Our New House Continued

So we moved out. The declared the lease defaulted/terminated/non-delivered. We held Friday night in Fratelli's - the kids loved it! By happenstance, a great article came out of this situation. It is included in this newsletter. The following Friday, we finalized a lease in Oak Hammock Plaza, holding services at the home of Eric and Ginna Planet - again the kids loved it!



Our new California Campus

By the end of the weekend, the new space at the corner of California Blvd and Savona Ave had more work done to get it ready than the previous space did the entire first month. We will hold our first Friday services there the first Friday of February and most of the work will be complete the following week.

Most of the work is hanging a few doors, knocking out a few counters, and a whole bunch of painting. Lots and lots of painting. The two worst colors to paint over - dark red and green, that is what we are covering. We are doing the painting ourselves to keep the cost of the space low. We want to give a very special thank you to Amy Shaw for donating the paint and supplies and much of the person-power. Along with Bill, Shafir, and Carol, the rooms are being painted. Amy has worked every day from early morning to late at night, often with Bill nearby. Shafir comes between teaching classes and meeting people, and Carol comes as she is able. The first order of business was the sanctuary.

**Director's Corner**

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we hope everyone had a happy and healthy holiday season. For the young, who likely received oodles of gifts, many of which likely had to be assembled, we hope that the frustrations of the parents were minimal. For the parents, we hope that you experienced much joy in watching your children celebrate the holidays. For the more mature segment of our multi-generational congregation, it was all about the grandkids, right? We hope you had an enjoyable dose of opportunity to spoil them before returning them back to us parents.

The key news of February; our NEW home at Oak Hammock Plaza, on California Blvd., just opposite Oak Hammock K-8, is READY for our first Shabbat service on Friday, February 5th, Kids and adults, together, worked hard this past Sunday scrubbing tile, removing molding, and eating pizza.

Many of you may not be aware of “what happened” with our space at Lakeside Shopping Center. Briefly, since our ribbon cutting in early December, we experienced and were frustrated by inoperative air conditioning, the foul odor of sewage, toilets which didn’t flush, bathroom doors which didn’t lock, etc. After almost three months of working with the Landlord, and his attorney, and seeing agreed upon deadlines pass without our home being ready, the Rabbi and Board decided that we needed to act. While we had great hope for this space, we terminated our lease in late January.

We were fortunate to locate an even better space on California Blvd. This space is 1 ½ times the square footage, has ADA compliant bathrooms, space for a “quiet” children’s room already established, and all of the hook-ups, etc. for a commercial kitchen. In 1 day following our execution of the Lease on January 29, a wall was opened so that double doors could be installed between two of the three shells which we have leased. While we do need to paint, install a nicer floor, and make some other minor improvements, this space is already in one weekend in better condition than the one in which we hoped to grow.

Please let me apologize to you on my own behalf and on behalf of our Board. We have endured some bumps in the road. Some of you may have become disenchanted given the difficulties which we faced in actually getting our prior space conducive to a comfortable prayer, education, and celebratory experience. If so, please come back.

Come back and see our new location at what we have facetiously called our “California campus”. As wandering Jews, we have wandered from homes of our members, to the Holiday Inn, to the home on Masilunas, to Lakeside Center, and now to California Blvd., where we will remain until we are able to build on the property located on Rosser Blvd. The Jews of Moses’ time wandered for 40 years in the desert before G-d brought them to Israel. We’ve wandered for a few months to find our home on (in?) California. It’s worth the effort and the wait.

As we work, together, the California home will begin to take shape. We have plans for stained glass windows, televisions on either side of the Bima to facilitate following along with services and other educational or entertainment events. Now that we truly have a space in which we can decorate, put up paintings, photos, add furniture, etc., everyone’s ideas are welcome for how to make our new space feel like a true home. Don’t be shy; it’s your congregation. We have so many other plans as well. However, we are still able to begin being comfortably with our first Shabbat service on Friday, February 5.

CONT next page.



The Rabbi and the Board now have many things planned and in the planning stages. We plan on having movie nights, weekly BINGO, interfaith dialogues, and much more. Check for all of our notices and photographs and stories on Facebook, the website (www.eitzchayim.org), and via e-mail blasts.

Also, check the Your Voice weekly newspaper on Fridays for semi-regular stories about our growing congregation. A wonderful, heart-warming story appeared last Friday, January 29th. On portions of four pages, the article told the story of the birth of Eitz Chayim, its travels, and our fundamental vision for the growth and the nature of our community.

Just one example of which we are very proud should suffice to explain our vision for Congregation Eitz Chayim. In the Your Voice article, it is discussed how Ryan Planet, age [8], and Ken Heller (nearing 88), have enjoyed time together playing with Legos. Ryan's excitement when I watched him tell the story to the Your Voice reporter was palpable. His eyes lit up and his mouth transformed into a wondrous grin.

This interaction between the youngest in our community and the "more mature" highlights what we hope for our congregation. We should all be able to appreciate each other and learn from each other. We should all be able to respect each other and recognize what each member, regardless of age, or even Judaic philosophy (Reform, Conservative, Renewal and others) have to offer.

Come check us out again – soon! We are "moving on up" to the "California" side, "deluxe" units in the Southwest (Port St. Lucie) --- borrowed if you cannot tell from "The Jefferson's". We hope to make each of you happy, together with us.

Finally, [please don't make me beg], we have faith in our "heart and pocket" model of membership. In time, as we grow, this will be a more equitable, more ethical, and a more mature model which will help us flourish. For now, though, in our early days, we need some hard cold cash – especially now to provide all the synagogue trimmings to our new home. That's the blunt truth.

We seek your time and efforts in our activities as well, but we must have cash to enable the congregation to run, and, in all fairness, to begin to pay a modest salary to Rabbi Lobb. Soon we will be paying rent; slightly more than \$3,000 each month, not including utilities, and other ordinary operating expenses. Please help us to let the delicate thin branches on our new tree of life grow so that the small leaves which will provide oxygen to our community flourish, and our tree grows larger and sturdier. Other forms of donation recognition will also be coming soon.

Thank you. We pride ourselves on being friendly, welcoming newcomers, welcoming back old friends, and working to make everyone feel comfortable to be part of our community. No cliques allowed. We are one community, one congregation. Let us be a model in our own backyard, in our nation, and, perhaps, one day, to the world.

Shalom,
Stuart M. Address, Director



RIBBON CUTTING - Friday - Feb 26th 3PM - 6PM Snacks and Great company
- MEET AT OUR TEMPLE -- Open House --



THE FAMILY TABLE

Though the outside temperature may be warm, it is still February, and could mean colds and flu are part of living. Every ancient culture has a recipe cure all. This is mine. I hope your family enjoys it.

Carol Marie

DIRECTIONS

Using a large pot begin heating water to a boil. Add the tomato, onion, carrots, celery, and garlic. When broth begins a rolling boil, add the chicken wings. Loosely cover the pot, and reduce the heat to a medium simmer. Add the savory, sage, curry powder, bouillon cubes, salt and pepper. Allow the aromas to fill the kitchen as the broth reduces and the chicken wings cook to the point of falling apart (about an hour). Remove the wings to a plate to allow cooling. At this point you can add your favorite noodles, tortellini, matzo balls, or dumplings. When the wings have cooled, pull the meat from the bones. Add the meat back to the broth. Correct the seasoning to your taste. Cover the pot and turn off the heat.

Allow the the soup to relax about ½ hour. Serve hot.

Now, if you can refrigerate the soup overnight, the flavors will all meld together.

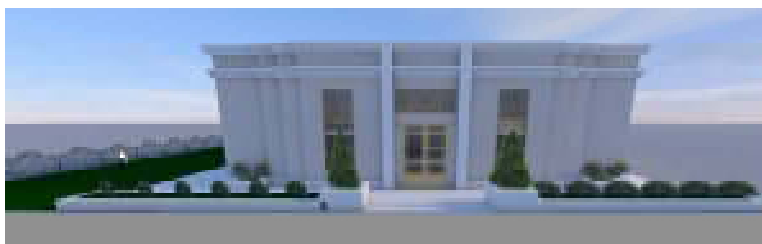
If are not feeling well as you begin to make the soup, I suggest you stand over the pot and breathe in the curative aromas. One bowl will taste wonderful. The second bowl will cause sweat. As that passes you should begin to feel better.

I try to keep some chicken soup in the freezer. Sometimes you just want to warm the soul and the heart.



SOUP

1 pkg 6 to 8 Chicken Wings
 1 medium Tomato
 1 large Onion (whole)
 6 to 8 Carrots (cut into bite size pieces)
 3 stalks of celery (cut into bite size pieces)
 3 to 4 cloves of Garlic (coarsely chopped)
 1 tsp Savory
 1 tsp Sage
 1 tsp Curry Powder
 Salt and Pepper to taste
 4 Chicken Bouillon Cubes
 12 cups of Water



Our Future Home on Rosser



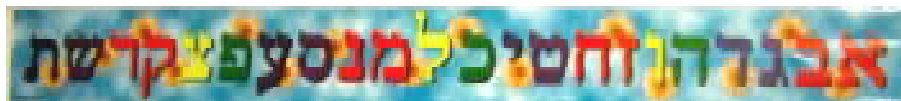
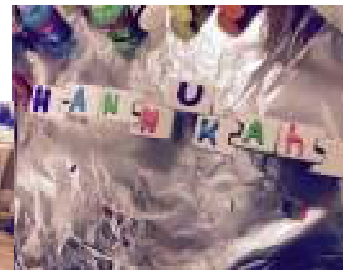
Religious School

Religious School has been going well, even with all the craziness. We had outings to parks, and Superplay. We made Chanukiot, Tzedakah boxes, Chanukah houses (and then ate them), pictures, bracelets, and other projects. Some new students joined and we expect some more students coming this month.

The B'nai mitzvah students have been meeting with the Rabbi privately and are decoding smoothly. They are now starting to work on Tefilot (prayers) and vocabulary. Once we are settled in the new California Campus, the Rabbi will start working with the younger students to have everyone at the promised grade level by the end of the year, regardless of where they are now.

The first week of February, we are meeting at Veteran's park and will be learning about the Four Veterans and also the life of the Jewish serviceperson. What are the challenges of being Jewish in the military? The second week, February 14, we will meet at Lakeside and walk our Torah scrolls to our new California Campus. The walk starts promptly at 10AM. There will be frequent stops for drinks and snacks and make the trek.

Team B'nai Mitzvah students will be making their own Tallitot from fabric they select - stay tuned for more details.



Please note, we would normally want to include Yahrzeits, anniversaries, birthdays, donations, and many other such very important information in an edition of our newsletter. Everyone is new, so welcome everyone! We are just getting around to tabulating the Yahrzeits, anniversaries, birthdays, and donations, as there is just so much information to input into the database that we were overwhelmed. We apologize. We admit we prioritized getting the move into our new home accomplished over getting those bits and pieces in place and into the newsletter. Next month we hope to have a double month for you and that information. Thank you for your understanding.

We were confident that we grow over time and we knew that we would have more people for High Holy Day services than we could have in the Bayit, but the response has surprised us on many levels very pleasantly. We were well past 100 members even before we started doing much of anything. The simple volume of data to be input into the system has been impressive. Not surprisingly, the Rabbi has not been able to schedule any engagement commitment meetings with anyone yet. First because of the High Holy Day season, then the move, then the complications and the second move, but soon she will be very busy getting to know everyone.



Rabbi said that she is looking forward to meeting everyone as there are so many new people in the congregation that she never met before, and that thrills her. All of us look forward to getting to know each other better over the coming weeks and months. We are glad you have joined with us. Young, old, in-between; single, with a partner, a friend, or with your own family, it makes no difference: you have family here - you ARE family here.

Quick notes!



BINGO is COMING! We are adding a Bingo night and maybe an afternoon or two to our weekly schedule starting in March - right now we are thinking it will be Wednesday evenings.

WE NEED WORKERS - have you ever worked Bingo? Would you LIKE to work Bingo? Please contact Rabbi or a Board member and join the Bingo team if you can help out - experience a plus, but not necessary - and if you can help on an afternoon, let us know that as well - it might help us know which afternoons we can offer Bingo. THANKS!



Monthly Kahal Session - Special night -
February 17 - 6PM Pizza / 7PM Meeting
Come see the new Temple.....
Let's make some plans together!
We need you!

TORAH WALK - FEB 14 - 10 AM SHARP - from LAKESIDE
(sidewalk near old location)
to our new California Campus - just over 3 miles.

Walk part of it, Walk it all.
There will be water and snack stops along the way.



We have something new - a tree that is being planned. It is for our SIDE wall.

It will look something like this:



The trunk is made - we will be mounting it soon. Come see it!

It will be special. We will mount it on the side wall of the sanctuary/social hall. AND, we will be able to move it to our permanent Bayit when it is ready.

You can already sponsor a leaf or a dove or a boulder on the tree.
There are different levels and sponsorship can be made with **payments over time**:

Leaves:

Brass Donors \$300-399

Silver Donors \$400-649

Gold Donors \$650-999

Boulder Donors \$1000 +

Dove Donors \$2000 +

Introductory Special, thanks to a Donor -
For Leaves, a \$100 credit after \$100 is paid toward your total,
For Boulders, a \$200 credit after \$200 is paid toward your total,
For Doves, a \$400 credit after \$400 is paid toward your total.
MUST BE RESERVED BY MAR 31, 2016

Each leaf, boulder, or dove can be engraved with up to 50 characters
for your special message.

You can also sponsor a chair in our sanctuary if you would like.
Plates for our chairs are \$90 each

Please use form on back side to reserve/order your special leaves, boulders, or doves.

FOR OUR *T R E E O F L I F E*

Your Name: _____

Your Phone: _____

Please complete ONE FORM for EACH ITEM SPONSORED - Thank you!

Level of Donor (Check selected level)

Bronze _____	\$300-399	Amount of Total Sponsorship _____
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'Wandering' Jewish congregation finds new home, identity

Randall P. Lieberman

FOR YOUR VOICE NEWS & VIEWS
info@YourVoiceWeekly.com

ST. LUCIE WEST — It's not very often a Jewish Shabbat (Sabbath) service takes place in an Italian restaurant.

But that's just what happened on Friday evening, Jan. 22, when Congregation Eitz Chayim held its Shabbat service in Fratelli's Pizzeria in the Lakeside Center Plaza across from Port St. Lucie City Hall.

"We've had some Shabbats in some weird places," said Ryan Planet, 8, of Port St. Lucie.

"This will be a memorable experience — especially for the children," added Rabbi Shafir Lobb, Eitz Chayim's spiritual leader. "They'll always remember this weird Shabbat service."

So, how did this strange happening come to be?

Until July of 2015, Temple Beth El Israel — located within St. Lucie West — was the only Jewish temple in Port St. Lucie.

According to Temple Beth El Israel's website, the roots of the temple trace to the late 1940s on the Treasure Coast, with the synagogue originally located in Fort Pierce.

During the 1980s, Congregation Beth Israel was established in Port St. Lucie.

In the early 1990s, Temple Beth El merged with Congregation Beth Israel — with both synagogues selling their existing facilities and the combined entity building a new synagogue in St. Lucie West at 551 S.W. Bethany Drive.

About four years ago, according to Lobb, she moved to this area from Tucson, Ariz., to be the rabbi of Temple Beth El Israel.

According to attorney Stuart Address of Port St. Lucie — a board member of Congregation Eitz Chayim who was previously a longtime member of Temple Beth El Israel — initially, Lobb was very well received at Beth El Israel and that congregation had a resurgence.

According to Address, a couple of years ago a group of members of Temple Beth El Israel formed a small chavurah (alternative, egalitarian prayer group) that would meet twice monthly for services and programs that hadn't been part of Temple Beth El Israel's regular programming.

The chavurah had more of a focus on children (and families with children), Address said, as Temple Beth Israel, he said, more generally focused on an older crowd.

According to Address, when Lobb was terminated from her contract at Temple Beth El Israel in July of 2015, a central group from Temple Beth El Israel decided to splinter off and form a new temple — Congregation Eitz Chayim (meaning "Tree of Life" in Hebrew) — under Lobb's leadership.

Among those who decided to join Congregation Eitz Chayim was Ken Heller, 88, who lives in St. Lucie West.

"It was a difficult choice," said Heller, "as we had been with Temple Beth El Israel for 21 years. But, Congregation Eitz Chayim is small and intimate, and we really love the rabbi. It's quite spiritual."

"Plus, there's not an onerous dues structure as nobody gets turned away because of money. The congregation also is opened to all facets of Judaism, and those who are in interfaith mar-

Continued next page

riages. We take Jews of all persuasions."

Originally, Congregation Eitz Chayim, according to its website, met in a private home for smaller functions and Tradition Town Hall for larger services and programs.

For the Jewish New Year High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the temple had services for about 150 people in Tradition Town Hall.

Congregation Eitz Chayim — which now numbers about 130 families, according to Lobb — soon outgrew the private home it was meeting in, and was looking for a facility to hold its services in until it is able to build the new synagogue it is planning on building on Rosser Boulevard.

The temple found such a meeting place in the Lakeside Center Plaza and held a ribbon-cutting for this new space on Dec. 4, 2015.

Despite holding weekly services and a Hanukkah holiday party in this space in December and January, according to Address, the landlord was not providing some of the basic amenities he was supposed to provide.

"We had no air conditioning, painting needed to be done, and toilets needed to be fixed," Address said.

So, during the week leading up to Jan. 22, the board of directors of Congregation Eitz Chayim made the decision, according to Address, to vacate its lease at the Lakeside Center.

Congregation Eitz Chayim is now in the process of finding a new meeting space, and Lobb said she expects the temple will have a new lease in place by Feb. 1.

However, that still left a dilemma about what to do for the Shabbat on Jan. 22 and Jan. 23.

"We did not feel comfortable continuing to use a space where we were vacating the lease," Lobb said. "So, we decided to meet in Fratelli's on Friday night and The Tin Fish in the same plaza on Saturday morning."

Lobb said it was ironic that the portion in the Torah — the Five Books of Moses part of the Old Testament — that was read that Shabbat weekend was Beshalach, which is about the Pharaoh telling the Jews to get out of Egypt.

"This was like our Egypt," Lobb joked.

Eitz Chayim board member Carol Cobb of Port St. Lucie, however, said that this inconvenience and strange occurrence was just a temporary "bump in the road" for Congregation Eitz Chayim.

"I've lived long enough to know that you are going to have your



Mitch Kloorfain/chief photographer

Rabbi Lobb instructs Ryan Planet and other members of her congregation during a bible study session on the Jewish Sabbath Friday, Jan. 22 at Fratelli's Italian restaurant.

Continued next page

bumps in the road, but you get over them. I believe in the concept of this temple and what we are doing. We are a family.

"Rabbi Lobb is a very special person. She has been working very hard to make this all come together."

Cobb's thoughts were echoed by Ginna Planet, Ryan's mom.

"This temple is an extension of my family. It's a very comfortable place to come," Planet said.

"My kids actually want to come to temple here. They are directed to take part in the services in whatever way they can.

"Instead of getting frowns when my 2-year-old, Levi, is trying to sing along during services, my children are actually encouraged to participate here."

Address said Eitz Chayim's focus on children is very important.

"Our Jewish children are our future. In this day of intermarriage, we need to make sure Jewish kids are welcome at temple, so we hold on to as many as we can," Address said.

Address' son — Aaron, 12 — also likes the fact that Eitz Chayim has a family atmosphere.

"We're like one big family. We are always happy. Plus, the rabbi is teaching me the way to properly say the prayers."

"Everybody is very friendly here," added Ryan Planet. "When I first met the rabbi, I said 'Who is this person?' But, she is a cool person."

Planet also has a close friend in Heller, as the two often play with LEGO building toys together.

"I was playing with LEGOs one day, and he just came over to me and asked what I was doing," Planet said. "We are good friends now."

"That multi-generational mixing is what this temple is all about," Lobb said. "Where else can you see someone eight and someone in his eighties playing together and learning from each other?"

"These are the lessons of connection and friendliness that we want Ryan to be able to pass on when he is 80."

Lobb said that Congregation Eitz Chayim will be doing much more outreach — including interfaith activities — when the temple gets settled in a new facility.

"There are about 8,000 to 9,000 Jews in St. Lucie County. Many do not know about any temples in Port St. Lucie. We have a lot of room to expand and grow.

"Too many Jews today don't know what's available to them spiritually in their own religion. How many Jews do yoga for spiritual healing and don't know they can find it in the ancient traditions of Judaism?"

"We, at Eitz Chayim, are not just one type of Judaism. Jews with all sorts of beliefs are welcome — as are intermarried couples. We try to present different things to different people."

For more information about Congregation Eitz Chayim, visit www.eitzchayim.org, check out the temple's Facebook page (Search for "Congregation Eitz Chayim"), e-mail Lobb at rebshafir@earthlink.net, or call (772) 934-4110.

Photos from our Chanukah Bash:



Good memories of a fun time!
May the light of Chanukah
fill our lives
and bring peace to all the world!



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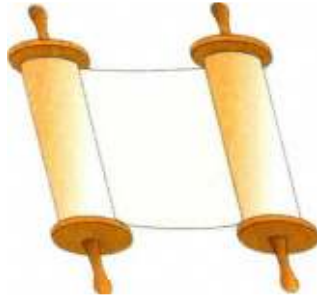
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