



# WE'RE MOVING!

## אנוזנו עוברים

We have not been in existence very long, just a bare few months. And already we are moving from the little Bayit (house) where we gathered for Shabbat, religious school, smaller gatherings, and some meetings. It 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.

The first few Kahal sessions (monthly congregational meetings) and services made it obvious that we would outgrow the small space much faster than we had expected. Also, although our neighbors were quite wonderful to us and very accomodating, it was obvious to us that if we grew at all, and clearly we would, we would have an impact on a very quiet neighborhood that, while they would be nice about it and tolerate it, was not the kind of thing we would want in our own neighborhood.

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 we studied that morning was about changes and not sacrificing the wrong things. Lot leaves his life in a wicked town and Abraham sees the angel in time not to sacrifice Isaac. We were leaving the Bayit and not sacrificing the lessons we learned in becoming a congregation. We were taking the love, respect, and wonderful sense of community into a new space that will be our new home until our more permanent Bayit is complete in a year or so. The more beautiful and larger space also allows us to build that Bayit the way it truly needs to be built - properly and carefully, rather than too hurriedly.

So where are we going?

329 SE Port Saint Lucie Blvd

Lakeside Center (next to Tin Fish)

The NE corner of Airoso and PSL Blvds

--- Imagine our sign.... soon.....

*(it's not there yet, we typed it there)*

- SO DON'T LOOK FOR IT YET.....



←---soon,  
not  
yet

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](http://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: Mia Pope

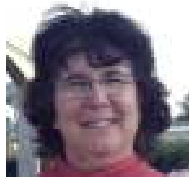
Secretary: Rosie Pope

Directors: Stuart Address

Carol Cobb

Beth Presser-Brown

Aharon Tarrab



### Rabbi's Corner

I foolishly thought that the end of the High Holy Day season meant that I could settle down, get back to my other tasks and shift into the more “routine” things of working with the Board to build what our congregation needs in the way of infrastructure to move us from the wild frenzy of birth to actually functioning. We know we need many things, committees, subgroups, workers, teachers, the lists seem endless. And God laughs.

Don't think for moment, God smiles, that it will be that easy. Yes, the pieces fell amazingly into place to make providing what was so needed in this area available, but meeting in a little house? What on earth makes you think that will work? I can almost hear the Divine laughter now that I reflect back on it. We thought we were being unduly confident as we projected being able to meet our expenses for the Holy Day services; we wanted to be cautious moving through the first year.

Perhaps this moment of “what should we do” that we, as a Board and as a congregation faced, was a test in our faith of the Heart & Pocket model. If it is going to work, it has to work in all situations, and at all times. If we are going to make it, we need to know that right away. So the test comes early. We are clearly growing too fast to stay in what we believed to be a temporary situation. But even as a temporary situation, it was clear that the little Bayit was just too small for the many wonderful things we, as a congregation, wanted to do. There were just too many wonderful things people wanted to do and too many of us who wanted to do them.

So we took the plunge, exercised the option to leave the little Bayit and started looking for a new temporary home. A favorite phrase in this search process was that there was no problem that five years and five million dollars could not solve; we were looking for locations that were just a little less challenging than that. We know that the permanent Bayit will be on Rosser, south of Gatlin, so we wanted to be as close as possible to that location. After looking at almost every available property in Port Saint Lucie, the best answer turned out to be in Lakeside center. We believe people will be very pleased.

So we are moving and not without some challenges. We are not exactly sure when the space will be available, but we are making plans. Chanukah is just around the corner and we have so much we want to do to celebrate. It is an interesting holiday. Most people are not taught the truth about it, just as most people are not taught the truth about Thanksgiving or Columbus.

Chanukah means dedication, as in of the Temple (and we WILL be dedicating our during this time). The books of Maccabees are very poorly written and are not part of our Scriptures. Some of them are maintained in some Christian Scriptures (not all), and we learn from them that the Maccabees dedicated the reclaimed Temple in Kislev during the popular festival of lights because it was not ready during Succot that year and they did not want to wait until the following year.

They may also have wanted to provide an alternative reason for lights during this time, but that is not as explicitly discussed. Mostly it is a military celebration. No where in those books is there any mention about sacred oil in any context. That idea is Talmudic. The rabbis in Talmud redefine the holiday miracle with a little legend about one day's oil lasting eight days that has become a central theme, but the original miracle was that a few raggedy men beat the mighty and powerful army, certainly a dangerous thing to be celebrating under later Roman rule.



The history after the rebellion of the Maccabees, or Hasmoneans, as they were also known, is in many ways problematic. They were far from the best of rulers and the rabbis have many problems with their dynasty, partly because they were also Cohanim (priests), who Jewishly, are not supposed to be Kings or Queens. One of main reasons for that objection is that it eliminates the check-and-balance of a separation of "Temple-and-State" - and at least in this case, it did lead to problems. One such problem was forced conversions. Other problems included poor government policies, high taxation, corruption, and an ever increasing Roman presence, not unconnected to the other problems. Ultimately, these problems led to the destruction of the Temple and Judea.

On the other hand, they were the ones who stepped up and stopped Judaism from going the way of other peoples and disappearing in a time when most other peoples did just that. So it is a challenging time. The rabbis were faced with people who were celebrating a holiday perhaps for one of two reasons, neither of which they liked. So the story of the oil transformed the miracle. The Haftarah (the section of prophets read after the Torah reading in a traditional Torah service) assigned to Chanukah became Zachariah, famous for the line: "Not by power, not by might, but by My Spirit (4:6)," which was used by Debbie Friedman in her song "Not by Power."

Today we recognize the holiday as being one of freedom from oppression and an opportunity for hope and celebrating human dignity and rights, all things we as a congregation hold as important Jewish values. It is a much celebrated holiday in Israel, even among very secular Israelis because of these understandings. And so we are changing this festival even today.

I am particularly proud that our congregation is doing some things this season to recognize others in that connection. Yes, we will have a Bash, our Night of 10,000 Lights, and a Public Lighting of the Chanukiah (Chunukah Menorah). Details on all of those things are in this newsletter and will be posted on Facebook, the Web site, and in the E-Kol.

I also ask you to think of those in our community who could use a little extra. We are collecting NEW underwear for children, all sizes. Please bring them to our new site with you and we will distribute them to families in need discretely - you can bring an unwrapped toy as well. Regardless of how the holiday of Chanukah came into our calendar, what it means to us now as individuals and as a community is what matters.

May your Chanukah be joyous and wonder-filled! Happy Chanukah!

חג חנוכה שמח!!!



**Director's Corner**

Since my last message in our newsletter, so many exciting things have transpired for the "little temple that could", Congregation Eitz Chayim. It is hectic, confusing, and sometimes exasperating; but always exciting. The future is NOW. We have a NEW HOME.

Our High Holy days holiday services at Traditions Town Hall were better attended than either the Board or the Rabbi dared to hope. The interest in our fledgling congregation is strong and the excitement is palpable. Indeed, on Yom Kippur morning, we definitely had significantly more than 100 congregants adding their voices to transform Town Hall into a vibrant religious experience. We even live streamed most of the High Holy day services to those who wanted to participate but were unable to attend.

Since the holidays, including Sukkot which immediately followed, we have moved out of our Bayit. It seems only months after moving in, we needed more space to accommodate those who attended for Shabbat services on Friday and Saturday, for our Hebrew School children and many parents who remain chatting and noshing over coffee & bagels.

We have now leased a new home, still temporary until we have our own synagogue built off of Rosser Road. Our new home is being retrofitted as you read this for use as our synagogue, our Hebrew School, and our meeting place. It's larger than our Bayit and better fits our needs as we continue to grow. Our ribbon-cutting is scheduled for December 4th, when we will march from City Hall with our Torahs to our second home, which we are calling Beit Kinyon, (Center Home) across the street.

Shhh, it's a secret but our new home will have a special sound dampening kids' room for when younger ones become more rambunctious. They and their parents can still enjoy services by participating through a large window with the sounds of the service piped into the kids' room. Thus, we have found a wonderful inclusive way to better enable all, young, middle-age (is that me?), and senior to enjoy our services.

Hanukkah, Chanukkah, Hanukah, Chanukah, or however one spells it is almost upon us. In our new home, we plan to celebrate and party. Stay tuned on Facebook, our web page, and in your e-mail boxes.

Congregation Eitz Chayim is proud of its "Heart & Pocket" model where there are no fixed dues for membership, Hebrew School, or even for High Holy days' tickets. Some people might be a little confused about how this works and exactly how we "do" membership, especially since we are so new. Well, we do not have fixed dues - that means we do not tell you, or anyone else, how much you have to pay to belong. We are candid with all of our members about what it costs to run the congregation, you are informed of what is happening. We have monthly Kahal sessions where you are invited to participate, ask questions, have your voices heard, and be part of the process of running OUR congregation. And if you want to be part of the Board, we have openings. If you want to be part of a committee, we have many openings. Workers are always wanted and needed!

So how are dues set up then? Well, it's up to the individual. Each person will have a private meeting with Mia, our treasurer. Together they will see what that individual wants to do - what is in that person's Heart and Pocket to contribute. For some people, an annual contribution is the best method, for some it will be quarterly. For many today, Mia is finding that setting up a monthly payment plan is working out the best. There are many members who are able to set up \$100 each month and there are some who are setting up \$50 each month. Others contact her each month and tell her what they can give or just send it directly to the congregation. Whatever model works best for you is what Mia will strive to accommodate. It is all driven by what is in your Heart and Pocket.

CONT next page.



With us, though, while money is certainly important, it is NOT the primary consideration in membership. So how does our membership model work?

First, you are considered a prospective member as soon as you say you want to be. We add you to our email, phone, text, and mailing lists as soon as you give us the needed information to do so and agree to be on those lists. You can do that on paper at one of our functions, on the phone, or on the web.

Then we ask you to complete a membership application. It asks you to fill in all the information we need, like family information, Yahrzeits, and all of that kind of data. Then we consider you a member.

The next step is a meeting with the rabbi for your engagement commitment. You and the rabbi will review all of the things that the congregation does and needs to do, like worship enhancement (making the services beautiful), fundraising, community service, inreach, outreach, interfaith activities, religious training, adult education, grounds, the list grows every day. You may even help her add a few things to the list. Together, you make a commitment of what you agree to help the congregation accomplish - that is your membership engagement commitment. These meetings are scheduled at mutually agreeable times and at agreeable locations like your home, the Beit Kinyon (now), or even a café. At this point we consider you an engaged member.

The final step is to meet with Mia and set up that part of your membership. Of course, you are more than welcome to make donations and even set up monthly or other plans before the membership application or commitment agreement is in place, especially in these months of getting started. Just know that we strive to have all three parts in place.

And yes, we will ask for extra funding as special needs arise from time to time, such as now.

We do desperately need your help right now as we prepare to move into our new home. There are so many expenses associated with our move, and with making our new space a home. Anything is appreciated; a one-time donation, a periodic donation, a monthly donation. However, we do ask that you help as best you can during this special time to help bring this infant congregation into its toddler period, so that it remains here to grow in Port St. Lucie.

The saying is "money makes the world go 'round". In the lyrics of Cabaret, "a mark, a yen, a buck, or a pound, a buck or a pound. A buck or a pound, is all that makes the world go around, that clinking clanking sound, can make the world go 'round." Please reach into your hearts and offer your new congregation just a little of what is in your pocket.

Shalom,  
Stuart M. Address, Director



VERY IMPORTANT.....

**RIBBON CUTTING - Friday - DEC 4th 1PM -- MEET AT CITY HALL --**

We will walk the Torahs across the street to our new home, cut the ribbon, place the scrolls in the Ark, and P A R T Y !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Then Shabbat.....





## THE FAMILY TABLE

I came across this recipe, and I thought it would be fun to do for a family cook-together, perhaps for a Sunday night dinner together. I hope you enjoy the fun. Please share your results with me. These are the things that make family memories.

Carol Marie

## DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Using a sharp knife, cut off the tops of two sugar pumpkins and then halve them. Use a sharp spoon to scrape out all of the seeds and strings.

Brush the flesh with oil and place face down on the baking sheet. Bake for 45-50 minutes or until a fork easily pierces the skin. Remove from the oven, let cool for 10 minutes, then peel away skin and set pumpkin aside.

To a large saucepan over medium heat add 1 Tbsp olive oil, shallot and garlic. Cook for 2-3 minutes, or until slightly browned and translucent. Turn down heat if cooking too quickly.

Add remaining ingredients, including the pumpkin, and bring to a simmer.

Transfer soup mixture to a blender or use an emulsion blender to puree the soup. If using a blender, place a towel over the top of the lid before mixing to avoid any accidents. Pour mixture back into pot.

Continue cooking over medium-low heat for 5-10 minutes and taste and adjust seasonings as needed. Serve as is or with Kale-Sesame topping.

For the Kale-Sesame topping: In a small skillet over medium heat, dry toast sesame seeds for 2-3 minutes, stirring frequently until slightly golden brown. Be careful as they can burn quickly. Remove from pan and set aside.

To the still hot pan, add olive oil and garlic and sauté until golden brown - about 2 minutes. Add kale and toss, then add a pinch of salt and cover to steam. Cook for another few minutes until kale is wilted and then add sesame seeds back in. Toss to coat and set aside for topping soup.

Recipe serves 3-4. Leftovers keep in the fridge for up to a few days, and in the freezer for up to a month or more.



## SOUP

2 sugar pumpkins (~2 1/4 cups pumpkin puree)  
 2 shallots, diced  
 3 cloves garlic, minced  
 2 cups veggie stock  
 1 cup light coconut milk (or sub other non-dairy milk with varied results)  
 2 Tbsp maple syrup or agave nectar (or honey if not vegan)  
 1/4 tsp each sea salt, black pepper, cinnamon, nutmeg

## GARLIC KALE SESAME TOPPING (optional)

1 cup roughly chopped kale  
 1 large garlic clove, minced  
 2 Tbsp raw sesame seeds  
 1 Tbsp olive oil  
 pinch salt

ENJOY! Serves 4

NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION: Serving size: ~1 cup Calories: 178 Fat: 9g Saturated fat: 3.8g Carbohydrates: 24g Sugar: 10g Sodium: 149mg Fiber: 4.8g Protein: 3.8g



## Religious School

Religious School has been going well. We did blessings for the lessons in the Bayit before we left and posted them on the wall! Here is the picture of them posted:

We also made a panel for a wall hanging that is yet to be sown and that will be hung in the new Beit Kinyon about our Judaism. We will have a picture of it once it is ready.

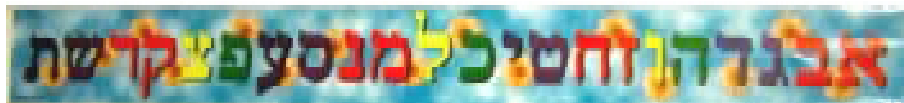


The B'nai mitzvah students have been meeting with the Rabbi privately and are decoding smoothly.

They are now starting to work on Tefilot (prayers)

and vocabulary. Once we are settled in the new Beit Kinyon 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.

During the transition weeks, we are planning some great outings, so stay tuned. We'll be posting them on Facebook. For Chanukah, we expect to be decorating some great Chanukah projects in the new Beit Kinyon starting right after the Thanksgiving break. 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, 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.



## THEY DONATED - THANK YOU!

|                           |                         |                          |                          |
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| STUART ADDRESS            | JO GELTMAN              | ROBERT KRIEGSTEIN        | DON ROSE                 |
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| NICO APFELBAUM            | ALAN & LILLIAN GLAUBMAN | JILL & BARRY LEEDS       | LEIGH SANDEROFF          |
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| PENNY BERG                | RUTH & DAN GOLDSTEIN    | RABBI SHAFIR & BILL LOBB | STU SCHUSTER             |
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| LISA & ROB FRIEND         | SYDELLE KRAMER          | EDEN RODRIGUEZ           |                          |

## SOME IMPORTANT DECEMBER DATES

December 4 - 1PM - Ribbon Cutting -- Meet at City Hall, then walk to Beit Kinyon

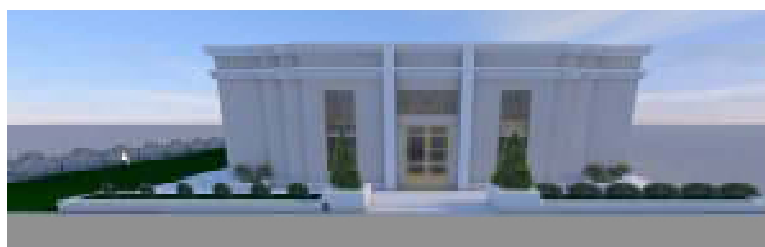
December 5 - Rock 'n Roll Chanukah Bash - Details see flier

December 11 - Night of 10,000 Lights - Bring a Chanukiah (Chanukah Menorah) and 7 candles

December 13 - Light the Chanukiah (Chanukah Menorah) - Sportsman's Park 3-6PM

Next Kahal Session (Monthly Congregation Meeting): December 19 @ 6PM - BEIT KINYON  
as part of the HAVDALAH

December 25 - Friday - Chinese Dinner Shabbat



Our Future Home on Rosser



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

It will look something like this:



But the trunk will say Eitz Chayim  
in Hebrew like this:



It will be special. We will mount it on the back 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 JAN 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)

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|---------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Bronze _____  | \$300-399 | Amount of Total Sponsorship _____ |
| Silver _____  | \$400-649 |                                   |
| Gold _____    | \$650-999 |                                   |
| Boulder _____ | \$1000+   |                                   |
| Dove _____    | \$2000+   |                                   |

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Mailing address for Checks: Congregation Eitz Chayim,  
4499 SW Hagaplan St, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34953

Payments may also be made ONLINE at [www.eitzchayim.org](http://www.eitzchayim.org)

*You're Invited...*



TO

Congregation



Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 1pm

Gather by City Hall

Help us walk the Torah

to our NEW HOME

329 SE Port Saint Lucie Blvd

We'll cut the ribbon

and

lovingly place the Torah in the Ark.

Then we party

Then Shabbat

More information [www.eitzchayim.org](http://www.eitzchayim.org) or

934-4110

**IT'S CALLED  
THE  
EITZ  
CHAYIM**



**HANUKKAH  
BASH**

**WE WILL HAVE**



**LIVE MUSIC**

**DANCING**



**FULL DINNER**

**With Latkes of course**



**Salad, chicken, veggie and dessert**

***ALL AT OUR NEW HOME***

***329 SW PORT ST LUCIE BLVD.***

***Next to Tin Fish NE corner Airoso & PSL Blvd.***

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 5th 6:00 - 9:00**

**\$20 per person \$10 Kids 10-12 Free under 10**

Payable on our website [www.eitzchayim.org](http://www.eitzchayim.org) click  
donations or call Mia at 579-2979



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(A Founding Member and an Initial Director of Congregation Eitz Chayim)

# Problems with the powers that be?

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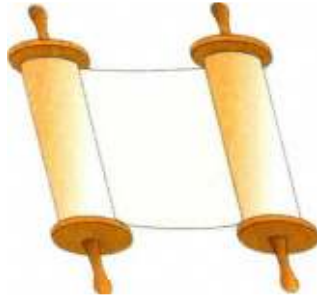
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Funeral Director

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Fax 772-871-5637

[nathan.clopman@dignitymemorial.com](mailto:nathan.clopman@dignitymemorial.com)  
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