



Congregation Ner Tamid • P.O. Box 10261 • Bradenton, FL 34282
941-755-1231 • shalom@nertamidflorida.org • www.nertamidflorida.org

The Beamer

January -February 2009

Tu B'Shevat

is

the New Year of the Trees.



Tu B'Shevat

*signifies growth, renewal, and
the continuity of life.*

Tu B'Shevat

*is when we re-affirm
the strong links between
the people of Israel and the Land of Israel.*



Congregation Ner Tamid

Invites you, your family and friends to join us for our

Fifth Annual Tu B'Shevat Seder



Taste the fruits of the Land of Israel.

Join in blessings, songs and celebration.

Where? Lakeside South Clubhouse

When? Friday, February 5th at 7:00 PM

Donations Appreciated

RSVP: 755-1231 or shalom@nertamidflorida.org.

(The seder will be followed by a brief Shabbat service and Oneg.)

Coming in February

Deli Dinner & a Movie
Entertainment! Door Prizes!
Saturday, February 14th, 6pm
RSVP by February 6th

Coming in March

Cowboy Purim Party
with Rabbi Barbara Aiello
Friday, March 6th, 7 pm

Shabbat Across America & Canada
Friday, March 20th, 6 pm



****From the Rabbi****

*by Rabbi Barbara Aiello
Rabbinic advisor, Congregation Ner Tamid*



From Italy to Kobernick House

In my ten years in the rabbinate I've had several fascinating Jewish journeys. The first took me from Florida's east coast to the "best" coast and Bradenton's Temple Beth El. During those years I had the unique opportunity to co-lead a Jewish tour to China where I was honored to meet and work with congregations in Beijing and Shanghai. Then it was on to Italy, from north in Milan and then far south, to my roots at Synagogue Ner Tamid del Sud in Calabria. And now, demonstrating that one can indeed "go home again," I find myself serving as resident rabbi for the Kobernick House and Anchin Pavilion in Sarasota.

Living and working on the Kobernick/Anchin campus is exciting, interesting and fulfilling. When Kobernick's Executive Director, Darlene Arbeit, suggested that I might consider serving the residents here, I was fascinated, especially because she was adamant that a Kobernick rabbi should be a resident rabbi. "The rabbi we choose must commit not only to work with our residents but live among them as well," Darlene emphasized. I agreed, especially since I recalled my earlier experiences at Kobernick where I would rush to visit a resident or meet with a family, at the end of a long hard day in the shul. Darlene was right; a Kobernick commitment could not be a rabbinical after thought.

"What's it like living there?" That's the question that I am asked most often, and I believe it originates from a basic trepidation -a little "nudginess" if you will, that many feel when they think about what it

might be like to make a move into a senior facility. Sort of the polite version of my father-in-law Sam's (z"l) lament as he approached his later years when he would set his jaw, shake his head and bellow, "You're never gonna get me to go to a home!"

I arrived at Kobernick last December with baggage that was more than just suitcases and boxes. I came overloaded with the myths and misconceptions that so many of us have about life in a place like Kobernick/Anchin. In my two months as a Kobernick resident this is what I've learned.

1. **Kobernick/Anchin is a pleasant happy place.** I've heard it said that facilities like Kobernick are depressing. Not true. Instead it is exceedingly uplifting to be part of a community of seniors who have lived life to its fullest and who have so much to share. In my short time here I have dined alongside judges, authors, teachers, artists and a leader of a famous Big Band. These open and friendly people have taken time to tell me about their lives and their work and to share the treasures of their accomplishments with me. Their conversations give me a daily dose of hope and strength.
2. **Kobernick/Anchin is family to its fullest.** Especially on weekends when the children, grandchildren and greats make regular visits. It's not unusual to see toddlers in the



Rotunda and teens at the piano. When resident Philip Small celebrated his 101st birthday, the festivities included a violin and piano Chanukah concert by his son and granddaughter. At Anchin extended families meet in the dining room where the little ones assist me with Shabbat candle lighting and songs. When baby Cole, just 17 months, kissed his tiny plush Torah, he was everyone's grandson that night.

3. **Kobernick/Anchin creates community.** From the dining room that my own friends refer to as “the restaurant,” (the food is that good!) to the lectures, concerts, presentations, scrabble tournaments and movies, staff go out of their way to plan a variety of activities to suit every taste and style. I remember my own mother, of blessed memory, who refused to leave her home up north, even when it was apparent that throughout the winter months she was nearly isolated in her house, afraid to venture out onto the icy streets and sidewalks. She was trapped – most of all by her misconceptions about senior communal living. Like so many others, she didn't give herself the opportunity to break free of stereotypes and see how positive life could be in a physically safe environment where care is given on an “as needed” basis and where there are friends for the making and joys as well as challenges to share.
4. **Kobernick/Anchin is Yiddishkeit in action.** For those who want to experience the joys of Jewish life

and for me as a rabbi, to have a chance to provide it, Kobernick/Anchin offers a variety of meaningful cultural and religious experiences. Kabbalat Shabbat services in the chapel, often led by dedicated volunteers, are warm, welcoming and only a short walk away. I especially enjoy our Havdalah services each Saturday evening where anyone who wants to can say goodbye to Shabbat and hello to a new week. Chanukah saw the light of dozens of menorahs – some made by hand, others brought from Europe centuries ago. And Tu B'Shevat, the birthday of the Trees (or Jewish Earth Day!) will find residents volunteering to make special terrarium gifts for local teachers as a way to honor their service to Sarasota's neediest children.

If I sound like a Kobernick commercial it's intentional! Maybe I'm so enthusiastic because like so many, I came with a preconceived notion of what life in a senior residence would be like. In a few short months my eyes have been opened and I see the ageing process in a brand new light. I am honored to serve as Kobernick/Anchin's rabbi and humbled by the depth and breadth of the experience here. To my Ner Tamid family, I say, “Come see me. We'll talk, we'll eat (The Bistro Restaurant is delicious!) and you'll see what I mean.

Rabbi Barbara lives at Kobernick House, 1953 N. Honore Ave. in Sarasota. She returns to Italy in April and can be reached anytime by email: rabbi@rabbibarbara.com



RSVP today for the Deli Dinner & a Movie, Saturday,
February 14th, 6 pm

****ANNOUNCEMENTS****

Sunday School Teacher Do you enjoy being with children? Do you know a little Hebrew? Would you like to pass along Jewish traditions to a new generation? Ner Tamid's Jewish Living and Learning Sunday School is growing and looking for Sunday School teachers for the coming year. Interested? This is a perfect opportunity for anyone who loves children and Yiddishkeit, whether you are a college student, retired, or just have time available on a Sunday morning. Contact Rena at 795-8687 or email shalom@nertamidflorida.org.

Chanter *As part of our continuing commitment to make our services relevant and meaningful, we are looking for someone to chant Kol Nidrei for next year's Yom Kippur High Holiday Service. Please ask those interested to call 755-1231.*

New Address Congregation Ner Tamid has a new mailing address. Send all correspondence to Congregation Ner Tamid, P. O. Box 10261, Bradenton, FL 34282.

Teen Scene Our new teen group, under the leadership of Meg Durshimer, welcomes all teens who want to make new friends and find ways to live Jewishly through *tikkun olam* / community service activities, please mention our group and what we do. The teens have accomplished much in just a few months and look forward to doing more for our congregation and community. Email Meg at mdurshimer@verizon.net for more information

Rabbi Barbara in Sarasota Our beloved rabbinic advisor, Rabbi Barbara Aiello, is in Sarasota for an extended visit through April. You may contact her at www.rabbibarbara.com. Look for announcements of upcoming events and services with Rabbi Aiello.

Notary Services In addition to witnessing signatures, here in Florida notaries can also officiate at weddings, both civil and religious. If you have any need for a Notary Public, please call Rena Morano at 795-8667.

RSVP PLEASE!! Please help us continue to make *Congregation Ner Tamid's* events the successes they have been. Your RSVP's are important in order for us to accurately order food and supplies. And please honor those reservations and your financial obligations when you are unable to attend due to a last minute illness or other situation.

Room Rental We are fortunate to have the Lakeside South Clubhouse available to us for our services and programs. We do have to pay a nominal rental fee for our use of the facility, so please come prepared to contribute \$2.00 per adult (age 13 and over) to cover this cost each time you attend services. As you know, our membership fees are negligible, and we do not have a budget to cover room rental. Our congregation depends on you to help us maintain our arrangement with Lakeside South. So, please leave your \$2.00 in the basket by the door.



****UPCOMING EVENTS****

Tu B'Shevat Seder Taste the fruits of the Land of Israel at this Kabbalah inspired seder, Friday, February 6th, 7pm.

Deli Dinner What could taste better than sandwiches overflowing with corned beef, pastrami or turkey, catered by TooJays? On February 14th plan on having dinner with your friends at Ner Tamid. Then, stay for Havdalah and a movie. Don't miss the live music and door prizes. RSVP by February 6th is a must!

Cowboy Purim Yeeee haw! Party with Rabbi Barbara Aiello and your partners at Ner Tamid's Purim celebration, Friday, March 6th, at 7pm. Dust off those ten gallon hats and claim your prize for the

best costume. There will be plenty of fun as we praise Mordechai and Esther and say boo to Haman.

Shabbat Across America and Canada

For the last four years, Congregation Ner Tamid has been the only location on the west coast of Florida to join thousands of others across the continent in a celebration of Shabbat. Plan to join us for a delicious traditional Shabbat dinner, on March 20th, prepared by our in-house caterer, Teresa Moser, followed by a Kabbalat Shabbat service. The cost is only \$10 for members, \$12.50 for non-members, and \$7.50 for children under 12.

****RECENT HIGHLIGHTS****

Congregation Ner Tamid is a vibrant, growing community. In every issue of the Beamer, we like to mention just a few of the events sponsored by our congregation, as well as significant events in the lives of our members. Please submit your contributions to this column to shalom@nertamidflorida.org

Tikkun Olam at Our Daily Bread

Early Christmas morning Ner Tamid volunteers gathered in the dining room of Our Daily Bread, local center for feeding Bradenton's homeless and needy. For Susan Skrovonek and Gin Harper, committee chairs, along with Elaine and Rhonda Mittler, Murray Rudnick, Enrico Mascaro and Rabbi Barbara Aiello, it was a labor of love. The food was donated from individuals, families and local businesses and prepared with loving care by the regular kitchen staff. And what a feast it was! The traditional Christmas dinner was served to

over 300 men and women, some of whom were quite young, others senior citizens, but all in need of not only a hot meal but a nice portion of holiday cheer as well.

And that's what they got from Ner Tamid's intrepid crew! Lots of smiles from Elaine and Rhonda as they distributed sodas and greetings, healthy portions of ham and turkey, veggies and potatoes dished up with love by Gin, Susan, Enrico and Rabbi Barbara, and topped off by a nice slice of pie, cut and plated by Murray.

Over our shoulders and in a place of prominence the late Mary De Lazzer's



RSVP today for the Deli Dinner & a Movie!

photograph cast a lovely glow. Sadly Mary passed away just a month earlier but her spirit encouraged each volunteer who remembered her wonderful work with Our Daily Bread. Thanks to each Ner Tamid volunteer who worked so hard to give regular volunteers a Christmas day at home and who offered everyone who came through the door not only a Christmas dinner but so much more... the sweet taste of "Tikkun Olam," the repair of our world. feasted at the bounteous break fast.

Teen Breakfast for Mazon They can read from the Torah, they can do

mitzvot, and... they can cook! On January 25th our Teens cooked and served breakfast for forty guests at their second fund raiser for Mazon, a Jewish Response to World Hunger. The pancakes and eggs were delicious, and the leisurely opportunity for a Sunday morning chat with friends raised over \$220 dollars. Yofi and thank you to the young men, Vajra Morano, Jake Durshimer, Max Hazuda, and Ben Durshimer. It couldn't have happened without the Teens' sponsor, Meg Durshimer. Special thanks to Art Durshimer and to Janet Hazuda.

****Hebrew School Events****

Here is the school report:

Shalom Everyone,

At our Jewish Living and Learning Sunday School we are learning and practicing the mitzvah of doing for others. We shopped for Chanukah presents and school supplies for children whose families could not provide them. We also made aromatic spice boxes for Rabbi Barbara to use for Havdalah with her congregation at Kobernick House.

We spent time thinking about the meaning of Embracing Our Differences, and we submitted some quotes that we hope will be displayed at the annual exhibit. Here are a few of them:

Raine Stryczny said, "Many grapes, many sizes. Big, small, short, tall. All the same tastes and all the same juices, all together makes a whole bag!"

Ashley Manevitch said, "Color doesn't matter. Friendship does."

Peter Semonick said, "Everyone's different in their own ways, and sometimes you just have to live with it."

We learned about TuB'Shevat, the birthday of the trees by making edible dirt (Yum! You should try it!) and by making G'matria Granola. (Do you know why the holiday is called Tu B'Shevat? Hint: What is the numerical value (g'matria) of the Hebrew letters tet and vav?)

Till next time... Shalom from The Kids!

****ADULT EDUCATION****

Rosh Chodesh Study Group The Women's Rosh Chodesh Study Group will meet the second Tuesday of each month. All women who are

members of Congregation Ner Tamid are welcome to attend. Our meetings are informal, friendly and interesting. You don't have to be a scholar to participate, you don't have to know Hebrew. All you



need to bring is the desire for good conversation. The idea is to share thoughts, feelings and ideas related to Jewish life and study. We learn together.

The next meeting will be on February 10th at the home of Carolyn Keller from 10:30 to 12:00

If you are a member of Ner Tamid and wish to attend a meeting please contact Lynne Belford at 739 3057 or lynne2@tampabay.rr.com. If you e-mail please include "Rosh Chodesh" in the subject line.

B'Shalom,
Lynne Belford

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Why do people choose to have an adult Bar or Bat Mitzvah? For

some, it is the opportunity to celebrate a life cycle event that may have been missed in their teen years. For some, it is the fulfillment of the desire to affirm to the congregation their adult commitment to Judaism, family, and Jewish culture. For others, it is the wish to rededicate themselves by remembering as an adult the Torah study and prayers they did at their youthful Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

For information on Adult B'nai Mitzvah preparation and celebration, call Rena at 795-8687.

****SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES****

Oneg Shabbat An enjoyable way to commemorate an occasion, or to honor the memory of a loved one, is by sponsoring an Oneg. If you would like to do this, call 755-1231.

Richard Goldstein Memorial Scholarship Fund Started by Judy Goldstein in memory of her husband Richard, this fund is for the purpose of providing scholarships for children for Hebrew school, Bar or Bat Mitzvah preparation, or for summer camp. If you would like to contribute to this fund, send your donation to Congregation Ner

Tamid, earmarked the Richard Goldstein Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Your generous donations made Hebrew school possible for several young students this year.

Advertising Your Congregation welcomes donations for advertising expenses. Help us get out the word about our programs, services and Hebrew school. Call Elaine at 755-1231 to ask about sponsoring an ad.

****TIKKUN OLAM****



As Jews, we believe that we draw closer to God through three pillars – Torah, or Jewish history and law, Avodah, or worship, and G'milut Chasadim, or acts of loving-kindness. We call our acts of kindness *Tikkun Olam*, or repairing the

world. We repair the world by doing our part to right wrongs, correct injustices, and relieve suffering. Tikkun Olam has been a big part of Congregation *Ner Tamid*. We have participated in hurricane relief, food donations for migrant families, Jewish Family and Children Services, the Salvation Army, Our Daily Bread, and more.



****COMMUNITY SERVICES****

Para-Chaplains for Jewish Patients

Lynne Belford and Barbara Allen proudly represent Congregation Ner Tamid in the Jewish Family and Children Services Para Chaplain program. Para Chaplains visit Jewish people in hospitals, and nursing homes and those who are home bound. When people are admitted to hospitals and nursing homes they are usually asked to fill in "religion" and whether or not they want a Chaplain to visit. Most people they think this refers only to Christians. Please know, and tell others, that there are now Jewish Para-Chaplains. If people fill out the religion part of the admission papers, someone from the Jewish Family Services may visit. So far, Lynne and Barbara are at Blake, Manatee Memorial, Sarasota Memorial and Doctor's Hospitals. They have also begun bringing



Shabbat services to several nursing homes, where they are welcomed by both Jewish and non-Jewish residents.

Caring Committee *Bikkur Cholim*, visiting the sick, is a special mitzvah. If you would like to be a part of this committee, or if you know someone who would appreciate a visit or a phone call, please call Lynne Belford at 739-3057.

Donation Cards *Congregation Ner Tamid* has tribute cards available for all occasions. Please call Bobbi Berkan at **756-2530** if you would like to send a card to commemorate a birthday, anniversary, *yahrzeit*, or any other special occasion.

****Donations****

We thank the following for their donations to *Congregation Ner Tamid*:

David Eisner, in honor of daughter Kimberly's wedding
Judy Littell, in memory of Jay & Linda Sherman's sister Sandy Strassman
Miriam Goolsby, in memory of Jay & Linda Sherman's sister Sandy Strassman
Elaine Mittler, in memory of Jay & Linda Sherman's sister Sandy Strassman
Adele Kaplan, in memory of Jay & Linda Sherman's sister Sandy Strassman
Meg Durshimer, in memory of Jay & Linda Sherman's sister Sandy Strassman
Bobbi Berkan, in memory of Jay & Linda Sherman's sister Sandy Strassman
Elaine Mittler, in memory of Lil Katzman's friend Gloria Fisher
Adele Kaplan in memory of Lil Katzman's friend Gloria Fisher
Elaine Mittler, in memory of Cheryl Peck's mother
Rhonda Mittler, in memory of Cheryl Peck's mother
Elaine Mittler, in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Oscar Morales' & daughter's mother and grandmother

**** R'fuah Sh'laimah ****

Our continued thoughts and prayers are with the following for a speedy recovery: *Adele Kaplan, Shirley Solomon, Phil Yelin and Stanton Eisenberg*

****Yahrzeits****

The following Ner Tamid members recently observed *yahrzeits*:

December, 2008: Dorothy Blair, Carl and Carla Klein, Elaine and Rhonda Mittler, Mel and Billie Dimmer, Norman and Linda Sage, Judy Shapiro, Jocelyn Powsner Harold Milstein, Miriam Goolsby, Marvin and Marcia Shepard, Linda Sage.

January 2009: Judith Littell, Danny and Arlene Kates, Rosalind Kosoff, Florence Shulman, Dorothy Blair, Darl and Carla Klein, Harold Milstein, Jan and Linda Sherman.



Calendar of Events

- February 6 †**Tu B'Shevat Seder & Shabbat Service
February 8 * Sunday School
February 13 ** Shabbat Service
February 14 †Deli Dinner & a Movie, 6pm
February 22 * Sunday School
March 1 * Sunday School
March 6 †**Cowboy Purim, & Shabbat Service
March 15 * Sunday School
March 20 †Shabbat Across America and Canada, Dinner and Shabbat Service, 6pm

* *Sunday School start time: 9-12 AM grades 3 and up. 10-12 AM K-2.*

** *Shabbat Services begin 7 PM.*

† *Community event – invite friends, relatives and neighbors*

We look forward to seeing you at *Congregation Ner Tamid's* services and activities.

Hebrew School & B'nai Mitzvah Preparation

- An inexpensive alternative to Temple Membership
 - Family friendly *semimonthly* schedule
 - Certified, experienced teachers
- Family centered Shabbat experiences
 - Interfaith families warmly welcomed
- No previous religious education required
 - Teen Service Program

Enrollment is Open for the 2008-2009 School Year!

Call 755-1231

shalom@nertamidflorida.org

Congregation Ner Tamid

Join us twice a month for Shabbat Services & Sunday School

Rena Morano, Education Director & Service Leader • Rabbi Barbara Aiello, Advisor

**JEWISH LEARNING IS HAPPENING
AT CONGREGATION NER TAMID!**

The mission of Congregation Ner Tamid is to create a Jewish community that encourages participation in meaningful Jewish worship, accepts diverse Jewish backgrounds and interfaith families, provides Jewish education for children and adults, celebrates all life cycle events, and initiates opportunities for committed social action (*tikkun olam*), all for a modest membership fee.