

Congregation Ner Tamid • P.O. Box 10261 • Bradenton, FL 34282 • 941-755-1231

• shalom@nertamidflorida.org • www.nertamidflorida.org

Join Ner Tamid twice a month for Shabbat Services & Sunday School.

Jewish living and learning is happening at Congregation Ner Tamid!



The Beamer

Newsletter of Congregation Ner Tamid

November 2011



New year at CNT begins with a bang



Cassidy Jones helps decorate the Lodge during the first day of Hebrew School.



At top left, Marvin Shepard affixes the mezuzah to the door of the Lodge, our new home, as Rabbi Barbara Aiello, top right, leads a prayer. At middle left, Peter Semonick and Avery Manevitch help Lay Leader Rena Morano prepare for the High Holidays. Above right, Dottie Blair and Harold Millstein were treated to a special Oneg to celebrate their birthdays.

Veteran's Shabbat Nov. 11th

Service will honor the late Miriam Goolsby, CNT board member

Congregation Ner Tamid will honor our veterans with a special Veteran's Shabbat on November 11th, with a particular remembrance of the late Miriam Goolsby, one of the founders of Ner Tamid and a retired Air Force Colonel.

Our guest speaker will be First Sergeant Lisa Marie Thomas, who will be speaking about women in the military.

Members of the 39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division Reenactment Group will also make a presentation in honor of our veterans, including Miriam. An egalitarian and participatory Shabbat service will begin at 7 p.m. The Veteran's Day program will begin at 7:30. A dessert Oneg will follow. Call 755-1231 for more information.

The Beamer is published bi-monthly to bring news and information to members and friends of **Congregation Ner Tamid**; edited by Rena Morano, designed by Meg Durshimer **Congregation Ner Tamid Steering Committee:** Meg Durshimer, David Jacobson, Elaine Mittler, Rena Morano, Sandra Williams **Service Leader and Education Director:** Rena Morano **Sunday School Teacher:** Rena Morano **Rabbinic Advisor:** Rabbi Barbara Aiello



A message from Rena

Education Director
and Service Leader

Reflections on Congregation Ner Tamid

A little over seven years ago, when several of us were discussing the idea of starting our own Chavurah, or circle of spiritual friends, we developed our core beliefs in the form of our mission and vision statements.

Our mission statement: *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.*

I believe we are living up to this mission:

- We welcome participation, not by a few who are specially trained *and paid* to enhance our worship, but by *all* members: women and men, girls and boys, young and old, regardless of background or level of Jewish education.
- Our congregation is refreshingly diverse, representing people of

many social and economic situations, and encompassing various lifestyles and religious backgrounds.

- We have celebrated adult and child B'nai and B'not mitzvah, and have offered classes in Hebrew reading, conversion, and holidays, with more to come. Our Jewish Living and Learning Sunday School provides a solid Jewish education with a family friendly schedule.
- In addition to B'nai and B'not Mitzvah, we have solemnized weddings, performed funerals, delivered memorial services, and so on, and *in accordance with Jewish law and tradition.*
- Ner Tamid has fulfilled an ongoing commitment to the community for *tikkun olam*, locally and nationally, from knitting caps for cancer patients to collecting supplies for various causes.
- Our dues are remarkably low, and we offer scholarships for children in our Sunday school.

Additionally, our vision for our fledgling congregation included several significant points: We obligated ourselves to avoid gossip and the spreading of rumors, particularly about our congregants, about other Jewish organizations and places of worship, or their representatives. We decided that we would not place undue financial burdens on our congregants by pursuing a building, or by hiring a rabbi or

cantor. We determined that our congregation would be a warm and welcoming place.

I believe we are also living up to these goals:

- We have been scrupulous in living up to the commitment to avoid gossip within our congregation and in our public outlets. We believe that it is good for the Jewish community to have many opportunities for Jewish experiences.
- Both in Lakeside South and now at The Lodge, we have been fortunate in having stable and adequate consistent space for our services, classes and events. Our lay leadership and congregational volunteers have proven their ability to provide meaningful Jewish experiences for our congregation.
- Time and again visitors have expressed to us their pleasure in experiencing the *haimishness* of Ner Tamid. We in turn thank each of our congregants for being warm and outgoing. We have visited the sick and we have helped each other in times of crisis, without having paid professionals who do so for a substantial fee.

For this new year of 5772, let us all resolve to follow the example of our patriarch Abraham, and be even more welcoming to all.

Let's start by inviting acquaintances, new and old, to experience our very special congregation, Ner Tamid.

SAVE THE DATE

January 6th: Shabbat in Song with Rabbi Barbara Aiello

January 21st: Italian dinner and Tombola party, as well as a Havdalah service, in honor of Rabbi Barbara Aiello, our rabbinic advisor

February 3rd: Tu B'Shevat Seder and Shabbat service **March 2nd:** Shabbat Across America



From the Rabbi

by Rabbi Barbara Aiello
Rabbinic advisor, Congregation Ner Tamid

When the Rabbi Goes to Italy

As rabbinic advisor to Congregation Ner Tamid and resident rabbi of the Kobernick campus, I have the opportunity and the joy to serve a wonderfully diverse group of our Sarasota-Bradenton Jewish community. From Rosh HaShanah through Pesach it is my honor to create services, lectures and activities that celebrate who we are as Jews. And during the summer months I have a similar opportunity in Italy.

My family traces its Jewish roots back to the time of the Maccabees when the Hebrews of Judea launched a search party to find mercenary soldiers who would be willing to fight alongside them in their bid for freedom. Another branch on my family tree traces our origins back to Toldeo, Spain when, during the time of the Inquisition, Jews were forced into Christian conversion. These Jews, referred to in modern times as “*anousim*,” (a Hebrew word referring to Jews who were forced to

abandon their Judaism) often took their traditions into cellars and cantinas where they practiced in secret.

As part of the “marranos” tradition, I write and speak about this experience and how important it is that world-wide Jewry extend the hand of Jewish welcome to our *anousim* brothers and sisters. Part of my work in Italy includes serving the lost and isolated Jews of Calabria, the region located in the “toe” of the Italian “boot,” where my family originates and where we have organized the first active synagogue in the area in 500 years since Inquisition times.

Each summer I spend several months in Serrastretta, a tiny village located 3,000 feet above the beaches of Lamezia Terme and the old city of Nicastro. The village was founded by five Jewish families, running from persecution. They searched for an isolated mountain area that would offer them protection so Serrastretta was a logical choice. The name Serrastretta means “narrow garden” or “terrace garden” and today visitors can see the narrow strips of cultivated area wedged between forests of chestnut trees. Sinagoga Ner Tamid del Sud, “The Eternal Light of the South,” is aptly named especially since our work includes the revival of the Jewish spirit that never died.

Summer 2011 extended our mission as we welcomed Bar and Bat Mitzvah families from America to experience the phenomenon of southern Italians whose greatest desire is to be Jewish again. Samantha Goldstein and her family traveled from Florida to our tiny synagogue to bring the joy of the Bat Mitzvah celebration to our community. Alex Ashton of New Jersey, Adam Shop of Northern Virginia and Louisa Auerbach of Singapore did the same thing. “Sometimes we don’t appreciate what we have,” said Samantha, who marvelled at the realization that she and her American family can choose from among 20 local synagogues while some of our Italian families travel seven hours by train just to experience a Shabbat service.

As each young person read from the Torah scroll, and as families made kiddush in the synagogue’s garden under the “pergola” (the grape arbor) our Italian *anousim*, many of whom had preserved remnants of Jewish tradition for centuries, were filled with pride, hope and promise. As their “seasonal” rabbi, I share their sentiments and I am humbled and honored by the depth of their desire that allows me to help these Italians discover and embrace their Jewish roots – to “come home” to Judaism.

Rabbi Barbara Aiello is **THE RADIO RABBI**

Sunday Mornings 8:30-9:30 a.m. WLSS AM 930.
Or listen on your computer any time at www.rabbibarbara.com



From Selichot to Simchat Torah, it's been a busy time at CNT

Eager to prepare for the High Holidays, Bradenton's Congregation Ner Tamid gathered for its annual Selichot Meditation Service on September 11th.

It was a fitting date to begin the serious task of examining our actions, and our relationships with God and our community. The central focus of the service was a Jewishly oriented guided meditation which included blessings of thankfulness, psalms, contemplative prayers and specially selected poems to commemorate the national tragedy of September 11, 2001.

Highlights of the evening included a unique ceremony to change the Torah mantle to its holiday white coverings followed by an invitation to each participant to commit to one new mitzvah for the coming year. Shanah Tovah U'metukah – Ner Tamid wishes a sweet and happy New Year to all!

Memories of Sukkot

By Jennifer Michaels

Here's a story from when I was 6 or 7.

I grew up on a farm in English-town, N.J. My parents tried very hard to be farmers. Our neighbors, the Gellmans (2 parents and 4 children), were farmers and it was fall.

Mort Gellman, the father, had cut the hay fields and the hay was drying on the ground. But one night, rain was predicted, and Mr. Gellman was afraid the rain would cause the hay to rot and be ruined. He called neighbors and asked everyone to come out to bale the hay at night before the rains came.

So the neighbors went, including my parents, me and my sister. My sister was 5 years older. The older kids were put to work baling the hay. The younger ones, me included, were placed in a makeshift shelter in the middle of the field. Our walls were hay bales already constructed. Our roof was the hay not yet baled. We were to sleep there on the ground and we had some blankets. We were each given some food and drink and left for the night.

There were about 6 to 8 of us. We could hear the balers all around us and the men and women, our parents and neighbors and the Gellmans, as they called out to each other and went row by row. We were supposed to give water and some food to the neighbors if they came in thirsty.

When morning came, most of us had slept. We woke to rain but the hay was baled and put up in the

barns. They adults came back for us and we all sat around in the drizzle enjoying our makeshift shelter that was getting quite wet.

I believe that was my first suk-koh.

Simchat Torah

After the solemnity of Yom Kippur came the joyousness of Simchat Torah. Literally "the Happiness of the Torah," Simchat Torah celebrates the joy we have felt throughout the ages for God's wonderful gift of the Torah.

On Friday evening, October 21st, we completed the yearly cycle of Torah reading with the story of the Death of Moses at the end of the Book of D'varim. Then we returned to the Creation Story of B'reishit. Mark Rubin, our hagbah, carried the Torah, and Marcia Shepard was our Baalat Yad.

We learned some happy new Hebrew songs and we will dedicate our Sunday School children to the sweet study of Torah.

Thank you to Maddie Hazuda for her poster depicting one of the Ushpizin, Sukkot guests, and for her creative comparison of the power of Aaron's staff to that of her pencil!

Rabbi Barbara Aiello dedicates and blesses congregation's new home in Bradenton

"When we enter our Temple or our homes, we kiss the mezuzah as a sign that we are leaving behind our worldly cares. When we leave, we kiss the mezuzah in order to bring with us the peace of our homes and sanctuary."

With those words, Rabbi Barbara Aiello led the congregation in blessing the new mezuzah, which members Bill Karr and Marvin Shepard affixed to the

doorpost of Ner Tamid's new home at The Lodge, on 26th Street in Bradenton.

The dedication of our congregation's new home on August 12th coincided with the celebration of our seventh birthday. The evening continued with a joyous Shabbat service, co-lead by our service leader Rena Morano and Rabbi Aiello, and a delicious supper of our congregants' favorite dishes.



Jewish Living and Learning Sunday School kicks off a new year

Shalom!

We students know that the beginning of the Hebrew School year is also the time of preparation for the important and serious holidays of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. We thought about all of the good deeds we can do to help people in our families, our schools and our communities, and we put them on a Good Deeds Calendar. Morah Esta came back to help us with our calendars.

Then, Morah Rena taught us some special stories that we remember on the holidays. On Rosh HaShanah we told the story of Hannah, who was Samuel's

mother, and how Samuel came to be a famous prophet. On Yom Kippur we told the story of Jonah, and I guess you know that one!

Some of my friends couldn't believe that kids like us are actually a part of the serious holiday services, but at Ner Tamid we kids are one of the family.

For the holiday of Sukkot we learned about the Ushpizin, who are the famous guests from Jewish history who are invited into the Sukkah. Each one represents a "midah," which is a quality we admire. For example, Abraham represents love and kindness, and Isaac represents courage.

Shalom lihitraot – see you next time!



CHANUKAH HAPPENINGS

Sunday, December 4th, 10-12 p.m.

Pre-Chanukah Sunday Brunch

This is open to current and prospective members and children. Be our guest for wonderful Jewish comfort breakfast food... lox, bagels, and all the fixings.

Further information to come, but be sure to mark your calendar. Please bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the food bank.



Friday, December 16th, 6 p.m.

Menorah lighting and Chanukah party

It's time for our annual Chanukah party and potluck dinner. Bring your dreidels, your appetite and your voice for a singalong and much, much more. We'll also be collecting gifts for needy children, to be distributed by Jewish Family and Children's Services. Details coming soon!

Monday, December 19th Downtown Chanukah party

Be sure to come out and show your support for the local Jewish community as we "light" the menorah and celebrate Chanukah in downtown Bradenton, on the waterfront, in front of the Manatee Players building.

Directions to our new home

The Lodge

4802 B 26th Street West Bradenton

From Cortez: Go south on 26th Street West. Turn right onto 48th Ave. Take the second driveway on the left into Parkwood Professional Park.

From State Road 70 (53rd Ave. W.): Go north on 26th Street West. Turn left onto 48th Ave. Take the second driveway on the left into Parkwood Professional Park.





Announcements

OUR DAILY BREAD This is our 7th year serving a Christmas meal on Dec. 25 at Our Daily Bread here in Bradenton. We also do this on Easter Sunday. It is our way of giving of ourselves to those in need. We can use a certain amount of volunteers so if you are a member and are interested please call. We always keep a backup list of volunteers that we may call on at the last minute, so do leave your name and number. Call 755-1231 for more information.

PROJECT MOT We will be collecting signed Chanukah cards and notes to be sent to our Jewish troops abroad. We also will take small donations of money so we can purchase Chanukah candles to be sent along with small personal items. The notes are generic in nature with just a thank you to these special people who do so much to keep us safe. If you have any blank cards please bring them and we will fill them out on Nov. 11 when we celebrate Veteran's Day.

MAH JONGG Beginners mah jongg is going well. Lorraine H. is the teacher. Call 755-1231 if you are a beginner and if you are a player looking for a game

HOSPITALITY Thank you to Sheila Dorff and Bobbi Berkan, who are now sharing the volunteer job of hospitality for CNT.

TIKKUN OLAM If you are interested in helping collect gifts for needy children at Chanukah or in assisting with this project in another way, please contact Meg Durshimer via email at mdurshimer@tampabay.rr.com or by calling her at 792-5768.

If you have another ideas for Tikkun Olam projects and can assist in any way, from making phone calls to spearheading projects, please contact Meg. Our community needs our help!

SPONSOR 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.

Volunteers needed

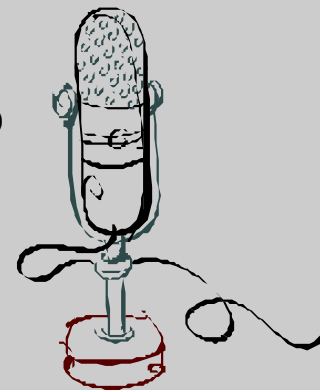
There are many ways to be involved with your congregation, even if you don't regularly attend services. From the comfort of your own home, you can be a caller for or telephone squad. You can also get involved with our membership committee by welcoming new members at Shabbat services and other gatherings. If you enjoy community service, you can help with a variety of Tikkun Olam projects, such as collecting food for our local food bank. And we can always use your help setting up for any of our events, from Shabbat to Passover. Whatever your desire, your assistance is always welcome!

Donations desperately needed

Congregation Ner Tamid will have two food collection barrels at all services and events for non-perishable food items. This will benefit the Manatee County Food Bank, which is facing a critical shortage of supplies.

Sponsors needed

The Radio Rabbi show has moved to Sarasota! You can now find Rabbi Barbara Aiello on your dial at WLSS AM 930, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings. Congregation Ner Tamid is looking for sponsors to help spread the word about our great congregation and all that we do. An advertisement is \$30 per week, or \$120 per month; all donations will be greatly appreciated!



Elaine Mittler
When you need a friend

(941) 755-1231 Home
(941) 545-7266 Cell
emittler@tampabay.rr.com



Upcoming Yahrzeits

Please remember to attend services to observe your loved one's yahrzeit

Rosalind Kosoff remembers daughter Lauren Goldfarb, November 3

Florence Shulman remembers niece Lauren Goldfarb, November 3

Barbara Allen remembers mother Gertrude Abramson, November 4

Frank Samson remembers mother Mae Samson, November 6

Dorothy Blair remembers sister Ruth Yonis, November 8

Danny and Arlene Kates remember mother Florence Shrier, November 9

Judy Goldstein remembers father Meldon Hall, November 14, and daughter Susan Chamberlain, November 15

Steven and Barbara Rothman remember father Israel Louis Grower, November 22

Florence Shulman remembers husband Leonard Shulman, November 29

Rosalind Kosoff remembers brother in law Leonard Shulman, November 29

Irving and Lita Press remember son Matthew Press, November 29

Jay and Linda Sherman remember sister Sandra Strassman, November 30

Dorothy Blair remembers mother Ida Aronson, December 1

Elaine Mittler remembers father Joseph Teiger, December 3

Rhonda Mittler remembers grandfather Joseph Teiger, December 3

Brad Messick remembers father James E. Messick Sr., December 10

Dorothy Blair remembers husband Max Blair, December 11

Henry Schneiderman remembers mother Leah Schneiderman, December 14

Judy Shapiro remembers mother Sara Welsch, December 15

Joy Yelin remembers brother George Colin, December 19

Jocelyn Powsner remembers sister Anna Karson, December 20

Harold Milstein remembers father John Milstein, December 21

Harold Milstein remembers mother Anna Milstein, December 24

Marvin and Marcia Shepard remember mother Ida A. Sachs, December 25

Norman and Linda Sage remember father Jacob Schlosberg, December 29

Thank yous and other news

Welcome to our new members Burton Yellin and Eleanor Nassau

Wonderful to have shared High Holidays with our congregants and their relatives and friends from in and out of town.

Some of them are :

Larry Teiger

Bernie Teiger

Joan Reeser

Jerry Slavin

Arthur and Helen Steinberg

Jane Plitt

Judith Goldman

Jennifer Michaels

Yahrzeit donations:

Linda and Jay Sherman in memory of Jerry Strassman

Esta and Steve Snider

Linda and Jay Sherman in memory of Shirley Reitberg

General Donations:

D'Angio family in memory of Miriam Goolsby

Larry Teiger, Esq.

Sheila Dorff

Rhonda and Ken Kaplan

Shirley and Jerry Solomon

Caryn Capriotti

Diane and Margaret Goolsby in memory of Miriam Goolsby

Carol and Bill Karr

Tessie Freeman in memory of Miriam Goolsby

Sponsored Oneg by Judi Littell in honor of Harold Millstein and Dottie Blair birthdays.



Donation Tribute Cards

Donor cards offer the opportunity to honor family, friends, and loved ones while providing financial support for the congregation's programs and services. People use donation cards to:

- Celebrate *simchas* and milestones;
- Thank a host or hostess
- Send a message in honor of
- Offer a message in memory of
- Express your appreciation to
- Wish a speedy recovery to

To send a card, contact Bobbi Berkan at 756-2530.

Calendar of Events

November 6

*Sunday School

November 11

**Veteran's Shabbat

November 18

**Shabbat Service

November 20

*Sunday School

December 2

**Shabbat Service

December 11

*Sunday School

December 16

†Chanukah Party and Potluck Dinner, 6 p.m.

January 6

**Shabbat Service

January 8

*Sunday School

January 21

†Italian dinner and Havdalah 6 p.m., followed by Tombola (Italian bingo)

January 29

*Sunday School

February 3

**Tu B'Shevat Seder and Shabbat Service

February 12

*Sunday School

February 17

**Shabbat Service

February 26

*Sunday School

March 2

†Shabbat Across America, 6 p.m.

March 4

*Sunday School

March 9

**Purim Party and Shabbat Service

March 25

*Sunday School

** Shabbat Services begin 7 PM

* Sunday School begins 9 AM

† Community event

Enrollment is Open for the 2011-2012 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!**