

# THE SHOFAR

## BULLETIN

of **TEMPLE BET YAM**



2055 Wildwood Drive  
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May 2017 Iyar / Sivan 5777

### *From the Desk of the Rabbi...*

ALLISON R. SULLIVAN (2010). Mortality Differentials and Religion in the United States: Religious Affiliation and Attendance /Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, 49/ (4), 740-753:

In a new analysis, Allison Sullivan of the Population Studies Center at the University of Pennsylvania has looked at how religiosity in 1992 was linked to early deaths later on.

Jews lived the longest, and Black Protestants died youngest. The non-religious didn't do too well – less well than mainline Christians. In fact, in each year the non-religious were 28% more likely to die than were mainline Protestants.

The data come from the Health and Retirement Study, which was started back in 1992 and has been following a group of 18,000 Americans ever since. Over that time, just over 4,000 have died.

Digging into why this might be, Sullivan found that one important factor is probably the divorce rate. On average, being divorced or separated raised the risk of death by 60%, and being never married raised it by 45%. The non-religious were around 50% more likely to be either divorced/separated or never married, and when she factored this into the stats, it explains a large piece of the mortality differential.

In fact, what this study does is further underline the importance of social integration for happiness and health. Divorce is well known to have large and long-lasting effects on happiness. And having a group of people to meet with once a week provides people with

a ready-made social group. There are other corroborating findings elsewhere.

SO? Despite the limits of an academic study we see that it's good to be Jewish, coupled, and affiliated: it's good for your health and longevity!

**Fred M. Raskind, Rabbi**

### UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATES

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 6:30 P.M.

Limelight Theatre and Silent Auction  
Neil Simon's I Ought To Be In Pictures  
Silent Auction starts at 6:30 p.m.  
Performance at 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 6:00 p.m.  
Congregational Meeting

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 10:00 A.M.  
Mothers' Day Brunch at the Temple,  
sponsored by the Men's Club

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 7:05 P.M.  
Elliot Carman Memorial Baseball Game  
Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp vs Mississippi Braves  
Tailgate party 5:30 p.m. in parking lot

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 6:30 P.M.  
Pizza & Bingo – Fun, Food, and Cash Prizes

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 10:00 A.M.  
Benjamin Feldman called to Torah as Bar Mitzvah  
Luncheon to follow at the Temple

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 11:00 A.M.  
Briggs Hurley ordination  
at the Cathedral in St. Augustine



## May Dates to Remember

(all events to be held at Temple Bet Yam unless indicated otherwise)

**Tuesday, May 2**

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Board Meeting

**Friday, May 5**

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

Israel Independence Day

**Sunday, May 7**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Religious School

**Monday, May 8**

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Choir Practice

**Wednesday, May 10**

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, May 14**

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Men's Club Mother's Day Brunch

**Monday, May 15**

5:00 - 7:30 p.m. Dining with Dignity

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Choir Practice

**Tuesday, May 16**

7:15 -9:00 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club

The Ice Cream Queen of Orchard Street

by Susan Jane Gilman

Moderators: Ileine Hoffman & Ronnie Botnick

**Wednesday, May 17**

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Life Long Learning

Text & Trends

**Thursday, May 18**

7:05 - 10:00 p.m.

Elliott Carman Memorial Baseball Game

**Friday, May 19**

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

**Monday, May 22**

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Choir Practice

**Thursday, May 25**

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Sisterhood covered dish dinner meeting

**Tuesday, May 23**

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Old / New Board Member Event

**Monday, May 29**

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Choir Practice

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