



TEMPLE EMUNAH 55+ CLUB



SUNDAY BREAKFAST SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2011 AT 9:45 AM DESIREE GIL "THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF CUBA"

Desiree Gil, a former President of Congregation Shirat Hayam, has led three missions to Cuba, with her fourth and final mission scheduled February 16-24, 2012.

Ms. Gil is married to Arye Gil and together they own ARI Boston - The Men's Store in the heart of Boston's financial district. Together they have three children, Rebecca, Chantal and Jonathan. Ms. Gil holds her BA from Sarah Lawrence College and her MFA from Northwestern University.



Desiree and Arye



Jews have lived on the island of Cuba for centuries; some trace Jewish ancestry to Marranos who fled the Spanish Inquisition. There was significant Jewish immigration to Cuba in the first half of the 20th century and, prior to Fidel Castro's coming to power, there were approximately 15,000 Jews and five synagogues in Havana. Following the revolution 90% left Cuba and today there are about 1500 Jews on the island, primarily in Havana. Cuba has one kosher butcher shop and one Rabbi based in Havana. Even though Cuba has cut off diplomatic relations with Israel, reports state there is no evidence of anti-Semitism in Cuba.

The breakfast charge, payable at the door is: members: \$8.00
non-members: \$10.00

Please make reservations (even if you just think you might come) BEFORE Thursday, September 15th with either:

Mickie Leff: 781-933-3889, Charlotte Alterson, 781-861-8111, or Arthur Orenberg at arthur1771@aol.com.