

# Kol Yisra'e THE VOICE OF TEMPLE ISRAEL

April 2021 • Nisan/Iyar 5781



# Joys of Jewish Learning Program presents

Scholar in Residence

## Rabbi Julia Watts Belser

Associate Professor of Jewish Studies in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at Georgetown University

## Friday, April 16 - Sunday, April 18

Friday at 4:00 pm, Pre-Shabbat Program

Beyond Productivity: How Shabbat Values Underscore Disability Justice Principles

Saturday at 8:45 am, Torah Study

Priestly Bodies and Blemishes in Torah and Talmud

### Sunday at 2:00 pm, An Afternoon of Learning

The Politics of Risk and Resistance: Gender, Disability, and State Violence in the Talmudic Tale of Shimon bar Yohai

(see details on page 10)



## YOUR DONATION OR LEGACY GIFT WILL HELP FUND OUR FUTURE!

The Next 100 Years Campaign has currently raised over two million dollars that will allow Temple Israel to continue to maintain our beautiful facility and continue services and programming for our community.

If you are interested in supporting the campaign, or getting more information, please call the Temple office.

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## **TOT SHABBAT**

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK LIVE

Friday, April 16 at 5:15 pm with Rabbi Fox and Cantor Hass



Tot Shabbat is a fun, informal, child-centered Shabbat Service, designed especially for children, ages newborn to early elementary school age and their loved ones. Through songs, prayers, stories, and Torah time, children love this Service.

## Get Well Wishes

Laura Bleiberg
Colleen Carver
Jacs Ferdman
Jackie Fritz
Andrea Freidenthal
Steve Gratch
Chana Ham Rosebrock
Andrew Hass
Bobbi Horowitz
Ann Martin
Marian Martin
Susan Philips
Roni Shevick
Sharon Sloan

Darrin Hammer

Kol Yisra'el is a monthly newsletter published August - June by Temple Israel (a member of the Union for Reform Judaism). The deadline for submission of all material for the newsletter is the  $10^{\rm th}$  of the preceding month prior to publication.

### **PROFESSIONAL STAFF**

Rabbi Scott Fox • Cantor Sara Hass • Cantor Emeritus Marvin Finnley Eric J. Shatzkin, Exec. Director • Sharon Amster Brown, Educator Kara Liu, Youth Director • David York, Accompanist

*Our Mission* is to actively engage in a journey of Jewish spiritual, educational and social growth.

**Our Vision** is to be a vibrant, caring Reform congregation of living Judaism that embraces the rich legacy of Jewish thought, practice and spirituality.

# SERVICES AND TORAH STUDY ZOOM LINKS

Friday Evening Services - 6:00 pm https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87165332931

Saturday Morning Torah Study - 8:45 am <a href="https://zoom.us/j/163280737">https://zoom.us/j/163280737</a>

Shabbat Morning Services - 10:30 am

https://zoom.us/j/987542891

(Please Note: if there is a Bar/Bat Mitzvah a different link will be provided)

Services are also streamed on Facebook Live

https://www.facebook.com/TempleIsraelLB/



### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020 - 2021**

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# REMEMBERING WHEN TO TAKE A BREAK AND BREATHE

By Rabbi Scott Fox



I remember the first time I saw Jonathan Kreisberg play. I was living in Los Angeles and my guitar teacher John Pisano insisted that I come that week for his Guitar Night at Spazio's. I showed up that Tuesday and saw the usual venerable crowd of Jazz veterans hanging out at tables around the restaurant, people drifting from one table to the next saying hi, asking about the kids, and so on. Many of the people ordering dinner and drinks had themselves been on the other side of

the room, up on stage playing. The performers week to week were a mix of the locals and traveling guitarists, in mainly from New York, to play at some other LA club for one or two nights. John would invite them to play at his weekly program either with a house band or their touring group. This night a young man took the stage, dark hair, quiet. Guitarists are big into gear, but he brought the most common guitar to jazz onto the stage, nothing fancy, and said a modest thank you. It would have been understandable had he been nervous, the who's who of the guitar world came to those evenings, you could find someone who had played with just about every big name in Jazz: Frank Sinatra, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, within 20 paces of each other in one dimly lit red room. He counted off the first song, and the trio came in all on the same beat, and from that first note not a single one seemed out of place, they were brilliantly timed and beautifully chosen. He had access to a whole new vocabulary of harmony and danced in and out of the tight pocket with his other bandmates. This crowd should be nervous to be around him.

I sat towards the back, the cheaper tables, but partway through the first set John motioned me over to sit with him near the front and up by the stage I could hear that Jonathan Kreisberg was doing something strange. While he was playing he was quietly singing along to the notes riffed out on his guitar and honestly not always on pitch (rarely on pitch). After his first set, he said thank you again, put his guitar down, and made the rounds fairly quickly with John to say hi to all the players and enthusiasts in the room. Then he came over to sit with me while John went back to a second room tour. Jonathan was very pleasant to talk to, and after the initial small talk, I finally I asked him about what had been puzzling me through his set. Why was he singing? "Oh you could hear that?" he asked, "that's so I know when to stop playing." Guitar players love to noodle, to play and play, and unlike trumpet or saxophone there's no moment when you run out of breath that causes you to stop the phrase, breathe, and then start with your next one. Guitar players could go for an hour before they get tired and need a break, but what comes out is a jumble of notes. Every melody needs a pause, needs phrasing and rests in order for the listener to appreciate the notes chosen

between the silences. So Jonathan sang along (and I understand still does) to know when to take a break.

It can be really easy, especially with computers and phones which are designed to continue to capture our attention, to keep going and going without a break. Our world seems to take us away from ourselves, gets us to work without a moment to stop, to breathe. We even do this for breaks at times, putting on a TV show and careful algorithms present us immediately with another and another episode or video to watch. It can be hard to stop. That's why we have a built-in breath to our weekly calendar, Shabbat. It can be easy to let the rhythm of the world carry us to a constant go-go, but we need those breaks, that rest. I invite each of us to find a time this month to pause, rest, light Shabbat candles or go on a walk at the end of the week, to stop for a moment after the hard rhythm of the week, and breathe.



### **SAVE THE DATE**

Farewell to Cantor Hass

Saturday
June 5 at 7:30 pm

Concert and Thank You Presentation via Zoom

# Sunday June 13 from 10am-12pm

Congregational Farewell at Wardlow Park

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### **JUST A REMINDER...**

By Steve Gordon, Temple President



I'm going to start this article by telling you it is being written for selfish reasons. Having said that, I'm still hoping that all of you find it meaningful and appropriate, but the truth is, I need this for me.

Over the last year (wow, it's really been a full year) that we have been unable to be together inside our beautiful building, temple business has nonetheless continued. As president, I have attended many meetings,

including The Executive Committee, Board meetings, Temple Foundation, Budget and Finance, Staff Meetings, the Reopening Task Force, as well as three different search committees, just to name a few. All of these groups exist for the purpose of conducting temple business. Some are ongoing and continuous, while others are temporary.

At these meetings, all on Zoom, of course, we do what we need to do. Some last an hour or so, and some go on much longer. Fortunately, because of the current technology, we are able to see each other, address the business at hand, but also laugh a bit, be playful, and catch up with friends. I am proud to be associated with so many people who are giving of their time, energy, and intellect, for the benefit of our temple.

I know you will find this hard to believe, but from time to time, we experience disagreement. What's the old joke? Two Jews and three opinions? But that's okay. In order to accomplish our tasks and find resolution, differences of opinion are necessary. It would be artificial, and completely absurd if everyone agreed on everything all the time. All of us have common ground as members of Temple Israel, and we all have the same ultimate goal, that is to make decisions that are in the best interests of our temple.

And while I enjoy the interactions, as well as the opportunity to see people and perhaps kibbitz a bit, we are still working. There is a reason they call it work. We are engaged in various tasks, which include, studying, discussing, presenting opposing viewpoints, and making decisions. What we are not able to currently participate in is the "parking lot" meetings. This is a phenomenon that occurs after many meetings when small groups of people gather outside the building on the way to their cars. We either continue the discussion we had been having, perhaps engage in a little gossip (despite its prohibition in our tradition), or just catch up with each other. From time to time we make plans to see each other socially, or spend even more time sharing what's going on in our lives.

The absence of this, of course, is not unique to those attending meetings. The lack of social interaction is something we all have been experiencing for far too long. But what's happening is, I, along with many others, are continuing to do the work we have always done, but without the social aspect that is so fulfilling. I'm spending so much of my "Temple time" working on temple business without the opportunity to engage as we had prior to the Pandemic. My frame of reference in regard to Temple Israel has been sliced and diced down to crunching numbers, following agendas, and dealing with issues that require attention and response. When your exposure to an organization is largely limited to business responsibilities, and this what you have been doing for over a year, your perception becomes skewed. With so much of my attention having to be focused on the business at hand, I have lost sight of who we are.

But here's the good news; I was recently at a couple of meetings (so what else is new), when people were asked to go around the room (Zoom room) and tell a little about themselves in regard to the temple. They shared their time as members, how their children have gone through Torah Center, and all the great friends they have made over the years.

Hearing those stories was nothing new to me, but I was surprisingly startled, and in a good way. I have been so bogged down in the "work," I had forgotten why we are all here, and what so many of us are getting as members. One of the most meaningful stories I heard, was from someone who described going "Schul Shopping." Their first stop was at Temple Israel, and because we were so welcoming, they didn't need to go anywhere else. They had found their home. Other folks in the meetings described how much they love being in the Temple Israel family, what it has meant to themselves and to their families.

I recently received a text from a friend asking if we have had many members resign over the last year. I was very pleased to respond that we haven't, and asked him why he wanted to know. The answer was he had heard about another synagogue that lost about 25% of their membership during that time, and he was curious if we had experienced something similar.

We are all here for many different reasons; spirituality, social connections, learning (for ourselves and our children), religious observance, as well as other purposes. It goes without saying that we are all chomping at the bit to get back to some form of normalcy, both at Temple, and in the rest of our lives.

What I need to remember, and not lose sight of, is the reason we are all proud members of Temple Israel. Despite the budget numbers that need to be studied, the agendas that need to be constructed and followed, the differences of opinion, and the rest of the business that requires attention, we are still an amazing place, even after nearly 100 years. Temple Israel is my home, and I love it more today than ever before.

As I said at the outset, this article was for me. But if anyone out there has experienced similar feelings, you have my permission to use these words for yourselves as well (but you have to give me 50 cents).

We will be back. And when we are, it will be just as great as before we left.

Please continue staying safe and healthy.

## WELCOME CANTORIAL SOLOIST KELLY COOPER PERLER



Dear Temple Israel family,

We are thrilled to announce that Kelly Cooper Perler will officially join our congregation as Cantorial Soloist, starting July 1, 2021. Rabbi Fox strongly endorses her as his future clergy partner, and is overjoyed at the prospect of their working together to further strengthen our Jewish community.

Headed by Leslie Ciletti and David Jacobson and consisting

of a cross-section of congregants, the search committee worked diligently for months to find exactly the right candidate. After a nationwide search involving consideration and interviews of many highly qualified applicants, the field was narrowed down to two finalists. Once the process entered this stage, it became increasingly clear to all involved that Cantorial Soloist Cooper was the perfect candidate. From there, she participated in intense interview sessions, led multiple Torah teachings to a variety of focus groups, conducted a mock Shabbat service, and submitted additional audio recordings and supplemental material. Throughout the entire process, the search committee took their role extremely seriously, treating all candidates equally and without bias, while following all protocols outlined

by the American Conference of Cantors. The committee made a recommendation to the Board – with a great deal of weight placed on Rabbi Fox's recommendations as well as the results of the congregational survey. Members of the Board, search committee, and Rabbi Fox voted unanimously to welcome Cantorial Soloist Cooper as our newest clergy member.

For the last three years, she served as Cantorial Soloist for Temple Menorah in Redondo Beach, leading services, preparing B'nai Mitzvah students, performing life cycle events, teaching religious school and adult education, leading the choir, and participating in pastoral care duties. She is also a student at the prestigious Academy for Jewish Religion, where she will receive her ordination in May 2022.

Many of you might be familiar with Cantorial Soloist Cooper from her work with Temple Israel as a choir soloist, Hebrew teacher, Tot Shabbat leader, Shabbat in the Park, and Rosh HaShanah Adventure in the Park leader. Additionally, she previously worked for the Alpert JCC as song leader for Camp Komaroff and Women's Weekend and Cantorial Soloist for the Senior Shabbat lunch program. She and her family, husband Joel Perler and children Max and Molly, are also active members of the larger Long Beach and Temple Israel communities.

Please join us in welcoming Cantorial Soloist Cooper into her new role. Deeply committed to sharing her love of Judaism and music while facilitating a feeling of belonging to all who are part of the Jewish community, she is looking forward to reconnecting with familiar faces and creating and fostering new relationships.



### Friday, April 23 at 6:00 pm

Join Temple Israel clergy, in partnership with Jewish Family and Children's Service, for a new monthly Healing Service.

These deeply spiritual experiences will include meditation, prayer, and music. They are designed to build a community of healing; to bring well-being and wholeness to those facing challenges, and offer others the opportunity to help those in need feel supported.



### **ASK RABBI FOX**

Ask Rabbi Fox is our weekly video segment that will help our community get to know our new rabbi. Send in your questions for Rabbi Fox, and if selected, we'll video your conversation with him. Answers will be posted weekly (Thursday afternoon) to Temple Israel's Facebook and YouTube Channel.

Submit your questions to: <u>TItransitionCommittee@gmail.com</u>



### DR. SY AND REVA ALBAN -A LEGACY OF GENEROSITY



For Sy and Reva Alban Temple Israel is the focus of Jewish activities in their lives. They believe that with the proper support it will continue to grow and provide the foundation for a strong Jewish community in the Greater Long Beach area. That is why the Albans are donors to the Next 100 Years Campaign. Their major gift will help support Youth Education

through the Endowment of the Educator and Rabbinic Chairs and will be felt for many years into the future. It is our pleasure to recognize their generosity and share their story.

Sy grew up in Chicago and knew from the time he was 10 years old that he wanted to be a physician. He pursued his dream and graduated from Loyola Medical School in Chicago and then served in WWII as an Army Air Corp Flight surgeon. After the war, Sy came West to join his brother, Harry in his orthopedic medical practice.

His parents, Joseph and Edna, had previously come to Long Beach from Chicago. Joseph was Temple Israel's first Hebrew coach for the confirmation classes and he tutored Temple Israel's first B'nai Mitzvah students. This marked the beginning of the Alban Legacy at Temple Israel, a legacy that continues today.

After his arrival, Sy started going to services at Temple Israel along with other members of the Alban family: his older twin brothers, Arthur and Harry, Arthur's two sons, Bob and Bill. Harry's three sons Steve, Ken, and Dan all attended Sunday School

Reva's road to Long Beach was very different. She was born in Twin Falls, Idaho where her father, who had emigrated from Russia was a potato farmer. The family moved from Idaho to Texas when Reva was six years old, settling in Plainview in the panhandle of Texas. The Steinbergs were the only Jewish family in Plainview. The nearest synagogues were in Lubbock, forty miles from Plainview, or Amarillo, seventy-five miles from Plainview. Being so isolated from other Jewish families and any Jewish community, Reva and her sister Geraldine, did not have any education in Judaism or Hebrew. Both Geri and Reva knew their mother's one wish was for them to marry Jewish men and remain Jewish. Transferring from the University of Texas to USC, introduced her to California and Sy. She fell in love with both, thus fulfilling her mother's wish. In 1953, Sy and Reva met at a Bar Mitzvah in Los Angeles. After just one year of courtship, she and Sy were married in Long Beach. While he was busy building his medical practice, Reva completed her degree in Education at CSULB. She got a job through the school psychologist and taught a program in Parent-Child communication. She would

later change course and go on to get her real estate license, where she would continue to work in that industry for a decade. Having four children who were B'nai Mitzvah at Temple Israel was very important to Reva.

Rabbi Moskowitz was the first Rabbi she felt connected to and misses him and Ana to this day.

Being an honorary grandparent at Temple Israel has been a great source of joy. "I wish the religious school had been directed by Sharon Amster Brown the school years of my children."

Reva's sister and brother-in-law, Drs. Geraldine and Bernard Landes also settled in Long Beach when Bernie became a professor at CSULB. The Landes family: Bernard, Geraldine, Sharon, and Jodie were active members of Temple Israel. Geri continues her affiliation to this day.

The Albans have four children: Julie, Jill, Joe, and John, all of whom became B'nai Mitzvah at Temple Israel. Today, they especially enjoy spending time with them and their four grandsons.

Sy and Reva Alban were recognized for a Lifetime of Service at the Legacy of Leadership event in January 2015, sponsored by the Jewish Community Partnership (Jewish Community Foundation, Alpert JCC, Hebrew Academy, Long Beach Hillel, JFCS, and the Jewish Federation).

Both Reva and Sy have served in critical leadership roles in our Jewish community. Including, chairing the UJA and Israel Bonds in the 60s, leading a mission to Israel in 1987, and then leading a second mission of California police leaders under the umbrella of the Anti-Defamation League. There were many subsequent trips to Israel; Sy and Reva even lived at Hadassah Hospital for two months when Sy volunteered as a teaching professor. Reva served in the Federation's Women's Division and is a Life Member of both Hadassah and the NCJW.

The Albans have been supporters of the Paralysis Project, The Long Beach Symphony, Long Beach Library Foundation, The Ronald McDonald House, CCEJ, both St. Mary's and Memorial Hospitals, Long Beach Museum of Art, MOCA, CSULB, Loyola University Chicago, and Stritch School of Medicine.

Sy and Reva feel fortunate to have been part of this community for 60 years and wanted to make a meaningful gift to the congregation. When we talked to them about their wishes for the Campaign gift, they wanted it to support two major areas: youth education, where they have expressed particular interest in science and Judaism, and the role of prayer in healing. Their gift each year will be directed to help create permanent endowments for both our Senior Rabbi and Educator.

We are truly blessed to have the Alban family as members of the Temple Israel Community and donors to the Next 100 Years Campaign. Thank you for creating your Legacy!



Join us as we welcome Guest Speaker

# ChayaLeah Sufrin,

Executive Director of Long Beach Hillel

# Wednesday April 28 at 7:00 pm

(via Zoom)

Topic:

The Chassidim Community and Life Inside the Community for Women



### **OUR THANKS TO CANDY LOVERS!**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Passover Candy Sale! You got delicious Passover treats and helped make \$800+ to support the Temple!

### THE SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP

The Gift Shop will be open by appointment only, Monday through Friday between 9:30 am and 1:30 pm. Contact Elyse at (562) 429-8626

### **SAVE THE DATE**

# SISTERHOOD BOARD INSTALLATION AND ANNUAL MEETING

The Sisterhood Board Installation will be done online with Zoom on **Monday, June 14 at 7:00 pm.**Please mark your calendars.

Sisterhood members will receive an e-mail with the Zoom information and can join the Sisterhood Board on this call.



### **MEMBER APPRECIATION**

Sisterhood Members, we appreciate you! We hope you are enjoying your gift!



### **ATTENTION ALL CRAFTERS!**



Do you knit, crochet, paint, or do something else crafty? Sisterhood is beginning to plan a **Craft Fair** where you can show and sell your one-of-a-kind creations. We are targeting **summer of 2021** (dependent on status of event restrictions), so get your wares ready for this exciting event!

If you are interested in participating, please call or email Maryse Fujimori at (714) 588-8923 or <a href="mailto:3maryse3@gmail.com">3maryse3@gmail.com</a>



### **KOL M'YISRAEL / A VOICE FROM ISRAEL**

By Jeremy Rosen



(The article below represents the view of the author. If you would like to give feedback or alternate points of view email <a href="mailto:VPRitualPractices@tilb.org">VPRitualPractices@tilb.org</a>)

Although normally I would like to keep entries from being so overtly political, this last month particularly, and the year in general, has been dominated by a singular question, "Will Bibi go to jail?" This may very well be answered on March 23rd when Israelis go to the polls for the fourth

time in two years. The Prime Minister has one simple extremely successful campaign strategy: always be the headline. To execute this strategy, he has engaged in political engineering that is unprecedented even for Bibi. Here I sit in Tel Aviv wondering about the precipice upon which Israel sits.

Israel has been stuck in a never-ending election cycle as both Netanyahu and his opposition fail to build a successful coalition in the Knesset. After the third election a power sharing and rotating premiership agreement was agreed upon by Netanyahu and Benny Gantz, leader of the Blue and White centrist party. It was unsuccessful in giving Netanyahu enough support to pass legislation that would give him immunity from his corruption charges. With his unsuccessful last effort to effectively terminate the rotation, he will again try his luck in the polls.

The latest election cycle has felt extraordinary even in these most extraordinary of times. Under the guise of Corona, the Prime Minister pushed Israel into a new lockdown so severe that even protests (which were all aimed at him) were limited. During this lockdown, however, the national police made secret dealings with Orthodox communities (one of Bibi's major power bases) allowing them to leave their schools fully open and hold 10,000 people funerals and weddings... no hyperbole here. Under the guise of Coronavirus mutations, Bibi shuttered Ben Gurion Airport, the one connection between Israel and the world. Stranding up to 500,000 Israeli citizens abroad, the Exceptions Committee would only allow back the Orthodox. An Israeli can only vote in Israel in person, so those citizens abroad are all disenfranchised. The country has completely reopened overnight, in order to prove Bibi's election overture as the messiah with the vaccines correct. The potential looming disaster, as infection rates have barely fallen and hospitals are still near capacity, will only be realized after the election. Finally, he has created a vote sharing agreement with the Jewish Power party, the successor of a party so extreme it was banned by the Supreme Court, and demanded pledges of allegiance from the Orthodox parties.

The country is looking into an abyss. The future Netanyahu wants to build is undemocratic, theocratic, actual Apartheid. His right-wing opposition shares his vision with the exception he should be the person to lead the country there. The left-wing opposition is non-existent. I hope that by the time this is reaching you my fears will have proven to be unfounded and that the Israeli electorate and politicians will rise to overcome.

### TEMPLE ISRAEL

# HIGH SCHOOL

### PROGRAM



Jakob Friedman Madrichim Representive

Our temple teens continue to do amazing work! The Purim shpiel was a great success and was enjoyed by children and parents alike. We thank our cast and director once again for their time and effort put into keeping our traditions alive. We also had a great havdalah led by our ANDI board members, marking the one year anniversary of the pandemic and our move to online programming. Our teens keep doing amazing work to keep our community connected and strong.

Our teens have finished up the Religious Action Center's third unit of the Social Justice Academy which focused on advocacy and action. This was a continuation of previous topics, like civic engagement, diversity, and inclusion, which helped us to better understand challenging issues and how we can best fix them.

Some of our TI teens are also busy with NFTY SoCal events. We have the NFTY SoCal Chesed Kallah coming up, during which our teens will connect with the great friends they have made throughout our region, as well as vote for the Regional Board. The NFTY senior fair will also take place during the weekend – a special program where our seniors will be honored and will be able to reflect on their NFTY experience throughout high school.

Teens are also encouraged to attend the Annual Faith Forum and Festival, where they will be able to interact with their peers from various faiths. They will be able to engage in discussion withother teens and learn more about their faiths.

We also excited to join Sharon Amster Brown for The Great Jewish Torah Center Passover Baking Show program on Sunday, March 21st. Can't wait to see what kind of fun we'll have in the kitchen!

As the end of the year is coming closer, we continue to work on our end-of-year teen Shabbat service, which is scheduled for Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Although our service will be online, we continue to work hard, focusing on what makes the teen service so great year after year. Please plan to join us for this special service.

### THIS MONTH'S B'NAI MITZVAH



**ZACHARY BAMBADJI** April 17, 2021

Zachary Bambadji started his Jewish Education at the Alpert JCC at the age of 2. He is proud be a part of the TI Torah Center Family. When he is not working hard on homework or preparing for his Bar Mitzvah, he loves playing soccer and taking care of his animals. Zach's love for animals was evident in his Mitzvah Project where he collected a truck load of donations, new and used, for our local animal shelters. It is his hope to make this drive an annual event. Zachary is

very excited for his upcoming Bar Mitzvah.



DAVID SOLYMAR April 24, 2021

Hi, my name is David Solymar. I am 12 years old and on April 24<sup>th</sup> 2021, I will be having my Bar Mitzvah. I consider myself a regular kid. I like video games, LEGOS, and when I can, hanging out with my friends. I live with my parents, my older sister Kylie, and our dog Blackie. Getting ready for my Bar Mitzvah has been challenging thanks to COVID-19 and by the time I have my Bar Mitzvah, I may be back at school! Cantor Hass has been helping me

over Zoom and I have been meeting with Rabbi Fox on Zoom as well. Part of my Bar Mitzvah is my Mitzvah Project. For my project, I have been helping a local family take care of their young children, their home, and their many pets. It is helping me mature and show me that I can be a big help. To be called to the bimah to read from the Torah makes me excited and yet nervous too for my Bar Mitzvah.



### **FOCUS ON NEW MEMBERS**

### **Rebecca and Aaron Talvy**



Temple Israel is happy to welcome new members Rebecca and Aaron Talvy, and their 3 month old son, Elias.

Both Rebecca and Aaron are life-long local residents. Rebecca grew up at Temple Israel - She is the daughter of long time members Jon and Cindy Gotz and granddaughter of Marilyn Gotz of blessed memory. Just like her older sister Mollye, Rebecca became a Bat Mitzvah and was confirmed in our Torah Center. Aaron was raised right down the road in Cypress. He grew up in a conservative household and became a Bar Mitzvah at Shul by the Shore. They recently purchased their first home in Downey.

Both Rebecca and Aaron are teachers. Rebecca teaches third grade in the Bellflower Unified School District and also first grade in our Torah Center! Aaron is an Elementary PE Teacher in Brea Olinda Unified School District. When they are not busy teaching or caring for Elias, Rebecca enjoys crafting and they enjoy cooking and golfing together.

We are so pleased to welcome Rebecca, Aaron, and Elias (back) to Temple Israel!





To Donna and Barry Mitnick on the birth of their granddaughter, Ruth Bertie-Mae Draper born on March 22, 2021, weighing 7lbs 6oz. We also extend congratulations to parents Rachel and Adam Draper.

### **JOYS OF JEWISH LEARNING**



# VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE LOS ANGELES MUSEUM OF THE HOLOCAUST

Wednesday, April 7 at 7:00 pm

This docent-led tour of the Museum galleries will include meaningful dialogue and in-depth learning around artifacts and themes of the Holocaust via Zoom.

Zoom Link: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87135428353?pwd=</u> aC8xeEFEVE1jZWQ3NDNqNVBDYkhBdz09\_

Zoom Pass: 564493



### MOVIE DISCUSSION: DEFIANT REQUIEM

Thursday, April 8 at 7:00 pm

Facilitator: Cantor Marvin and Hannah Finnley



Defiant Requiem is about how a rare form of courage, hope, and survival sparked an entirely unique method of fighting Nazi oppression, enabling the prisoners to maintain their dignity and humanity while battling the worst of mankind. The Nazi legacy of brutality is well-established; however, the virtually-unknown

Terezin legacy of hope is told dramatically in *Defiant Requiem*.

Available on Amazon Prime

Zoom Link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83407988468">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83407988468</a>

### **JJL WINE AND TEXT STUDY**

Thursday, April 15 at 7:00 pm

Facilitator: Cantor Sara Hass



Explore the Book of Psalms with us. Bring your favorite bottle of wine (or other beverage) and your thirst for knowledge, as we discover why these verses of comfort and consolation have aided the Jewish people for generations. We will meet once a month, and all are welcome!

Zoom Link: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82106608521</u>



# Scholar in Residence

Rabbi Julia Watts Belser,

Associate Professor of Jewish Studies in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at Georgetown University

### Friday, April 16 - Sunday, April 18

Friday at 4:00pm, Pre-Shabbat Program
Beyond Productivity: How Shabbat Values Underscore
Disability Justice Principles

This session draws the voices of disability culture leaders into conversation with Jewish tradition to show how the practice of Shabbat can offer us an opportunity to counter the relentless pressures we face to measure our worth on the basis of our work. Together, we'll explore how tapping into Jewish wisdom can help us challenge ableism and embrace the spiritual and political insights of disability movements.

Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83656607843

# **Saturday at 8:45am, Torah Study Priestly Bodies and Blemishes in Torah and Talmud**

In this interactive text-study, we'll examine Leviticus 21's prohibitions regarding disabled priests—and their interpretation and transformation in Jewish law and practice.

Zoom Link: https://zoom.us/j/163280737

# Sunday at 2:00pm, An Afternoon of Learning The Politics of Risk and Resistance: Gender, Disability, and State Violence in the Talmudic Tale of Shimon bar Yohai

After his insult incites the wrath of the Roman Empire, Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai eludes arrest by sheltering for thirteen years in an isolated cave—an experience that results in a profound transformation of his mind and body. In this session, we'll discuss the story with an eye toward power and privilege, gender and disability politics, the long reach of empire in the rabbinic imagination, and the insights this story offers for our own pandemic times.

Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85610179161

### RITUAL PRACTICE MESSAGE



### WHO IS JEWISH?

By Mark Dressner, VP Ritual Practices

Probably no ritual in ritual practice is more important than defining who actually is Jewish. On March 1, 2021 a historical event took place in Israel in defining who is Jewish and also eligible for Israeli citizenship according to the Law of Return. The Israeli Supreme Court, in an 8 to 1 judgement, supported Reform and Conservative conversions within Israel. Formerly, only Orthodox conversions were accepted within Israel proper. Although one could convert outside Israel through Reform or Conservative Judaism and subsequently be recognized as Jewish and be eligible for Israeli citizenship, this was not true inside Israel. One could not convert to Judaism through Reform or Conservative Rabbis. This has been a 15 years fight in the courts of Israel and a major step in equality for the Reform/Progressive movement in Israel. This movement was led by IMPJ (Israeli Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism, http://www. reform.org.il/Eng/Index.asp) and IRAC (Israel Religious Action Center, <a href="https://www.irac.org/">https://www.irac.org/</a>).

There continues to be a stronghold of Orthodox Judaism in Israel despite only a very small minority of the country actually practicing Orthodox. An outside marriage would be recognized in Israel, though it cannot be performed there. If one would like to marry a non-Orthodox Jew, they would have to leave the country. The country of Cyprus has had a big boom to its economy due to becoming a major site for Israeli marriages.

So who is Jewish actually according to the Israeli government? The Law of Return passed July 5, 1950 states that every Jewish person in the world has the right to settle in Israel. This was amended twice – in 1954 and again on March 10, 1970. In 1970 the definition of a Jewish person was made explicit:

"4B. For the purposes of this Law, "Jew" means a person who was born of a Jewish mother or has become converted to Judaism and who is not a member of another religion."

Equally as important, the following was added:

"4A. (a)The rights of a Jew under this Law and the rights of an oleh under the Nationality Law, 5712-1952\*\*\*, as well as the rights of an oleh under any other enactment, are also vested in a child and a grandchild of a Jew, the spouse of a Jew, the spouse of a child of a Jew and the spouse of a grandchild of a Jew, except for a person who has been a Jew and has voluntarily changed his religion."

(https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/israel-s-law-of-return and https://www.nbn.org.il/aliyahpedia/government-services/government-benefits-new-immigrants-oleh-chadash/the-law-of-return/)

As URJ advocates a big tent of inclusion it is imperative that Reform Jewish people in diaspora support this ideal both outside Israel AND inside Israel. This is one reason we so adamantly encourage, congregants to vote for Reform Judaism at the recent World Zionist Congress. As always please share any thoughts on this or other issues at <a href="https://www.vpraces.org/leas-states-new-months-en-line-new-mont



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR US TO PRAY TOGETHER FRIDAY SERVICES ONLINE SCHEDULE

Fridays at 5:40 pm (or 6:40 after the Healing Service)

A "Musical Prelude" to our Shabbat Evening Services with David York on piano

April 2 at 6:00 pm Family Shabbat Service

April 9 at 6:00 pm Family Camp Style Service

April 16 Tot Shabbat at 5:15 pm Shabbat Evening Service at 6:00 pm

April 23 - Two Services
Healing Service at 6:00 pm
with Jewish Family and Children's Service
7th Grade Shabbat Service at 7:00 pm

April 30 at 6:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service

**Zoom Link:** 

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87165332931

### WE RECOGNIZE THE GENEROSITY OF OUR SUSTAINING MEMBERS

### **LIFE MEMBERS**

Julie Alban Seymour and Reva Alban Helen Barrad\* Jack and Binnie Berro Jean Feldman Ronald and Sylvia Hartman David Tillman and Karen Zoller

### **RABBI'S CIRCLE**

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Anonymous Laurie Arroyo Ron Artstein and Nancy Hall **Beverly August** Michele Berro John and Marcie Blumberg Jim and Peggy Brady Michael and Suzanne Brodsly Alan and Rosecarrie Brooks Richard and Linda Burney Bill and Sharon Coleman Michael Tate and Ruth Cooperman Mark Dressner and Matthew Davis Howard and Nancy Epstein Joanne Feldman Gary and Lindsey Fields

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# Anything Goes!

### Fridays at 4:00 pm

Facebook Live - https://www.facebook.com/TempleIsraelLB/

Join Sharon Amster Brown and Eric Shatzkin for a review of the week, fun chat about topics of interest, and a discussion with a special guest for the week.

### APRIL'S FABULOUS GUESTS!



### April 23 Robin & Alan Lilien

Alan is currently the Temple Foundation's President and Robin currently serves as the TI Sisterhood President



### April 30 Jeremy Rosen

Live from Israel. (read Jeremy's article on page 8)

Do you have any suggestions of people you would like Sharon and Eric to interview, or do you have any comments you would like to share about or for the show? We're always looking for potential guests! Email Eric Shatzkin at <a href="mailto:ejs@tilb.org">ejs@tilb.org</a> or Sharon Amster Brown at <a href="mailto:sab@tilb.org">sab@tilb.org</a>.





Mazel tov to Robin and Alan Lilien on the March 6<sup>th</sup> marriage of their son Isaac to Nicole Henricks.



# INTERFAITH GREETINGS THE EQUALITY ACT ~ FAITH AND EQUALITY ARE NOT IN CONFLICT!

By Roni Love, SCIC Member

On February 25, 2021, Katy Joseph, Director of Policy & Advocacy for the Interfaith Alliance wrote the following letter which I believe is important to the members of Temple Israel and those we love. The mission of the alliance is to celebrate religious freedom by championing individual rights, promoting policies that protect both religion and democracy, and uniting diverse voices to challenge extremism.

"Minutes ago, the House of Representatives passed the Equality Act, a landmark civil rights bill that would strengthen nondiscrimination protections under federal law. And they did so with the support of over 600 civil rights, education, health care, and community organizations - including more than 120 religious groups from across the country.

Across faith traditions, we honor the basic tenet that every person has inherent dignity and worth. And wherever we call home, we share the desire to go about our daily lives without fear of harassment or harm. But under our current patchwork of laws, too many still face discrimination simply because of who they are or who they love.

It's time to change that. The Equality Act will ensure that people of all identities and beliefs are treated with respect within the public sphere. Right now, we have the opportunity to modernize existing civil rights laws, including protections against religious discrimination, and expand protections for women and LGBTQ+ people in key areas of everyday life.

We believe in equal treatment under law. But opponents in the Senate have already made clear that they'll fight the Equality Act under the guise of religious liberty - even as tens of thousands of clergy, community leaders, and faith-based activists are calling for its passage. We're working with the Faith for Equality coalition to build a groundswell of support that the Senate can't ignore. By adding your voice, you will celebrate the inherent worth of all people - and call on the Senate to do the same."

SHALOM-SALAAM-PAZ-SHANTI-HER PING-PEACE

# **→**

# YAHRZEIT OBSERVANCE

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The memory of the righteous are a blessing



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April 28 - May 4

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### **CONDOLENCES**

### Laurie Arroyo

on the death of her mother, Leah (Lee) Nathanson Leibner Perry

Corey, Mark, Sammy, and Daniel Brackmann on the death of mother and grandmother, Beverly Handelman

**John, Alex, Michael, and Lily Moreland** on the death of mother and grandmother, Lyn Moreland

### **Bob Urling**

on the death of his cousin Judith Klein



<sup>\*</sup> These names are permanently inscribed on our memorial wall and will be read in perpetuity.

## **TEMPLE ISRAEL FUNDS**

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### CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH MARCH 10

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support Temple Israel by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through generous contributions

### **IN LOVING MEMORY**

Bruce & Michelle Baral in loving memory of Bruce's father, William J. Baral.

Michele Berro in loving memory of her grandmother, Mathilda Berro. Michele Berro in loving memory of her great-grandfather, Jacob Levy. Al & Rita Birch in loving memory of Al's father, Joel Livne.

Edie & Joel Brodsky in loving memory of Edie's father, Jack Chinski. Rodney Browarny in loving memory of his father, Harry Browarny. Jessie Butler in loving memory of her husband, Stanley Butler.

Morgan East & Laszlo Fodor in loving memory of Morgan's grandmother, Carla Marie Fill.

Raymond Edelman in loving memory of his mother, Buddie Edelman. Gayle Ehrenberg in loving memory of her brother,

Lloyd Richard Ehrenberg.

Jean Feldman in memory of her loving husband, Julius W. Feldman. Joanne Feldman in loving memory of her father, Lyle Bowman. Dan & Debi Felsenthal in memory of beloved father and father-in-law, Eric Felsenthal.

Elizabeth & Terry Fiskin in loving memory of Elizabeth's father, Kurt Fleischer.

Juanita Gaglio in loving memory of her father, Reyes Gaglio. Michelle & Steve Gordon in loving memory of Michelle's father, Stan Fleishman.

Alain & Tari Hirsch in loving memory of Alain's uncle, Henry Sassoon. Gerald & Sandra Joffe in loving memory of Gerald's father, Charles Joffe. Florine Karabenick in loving memory of her father-in-law, Samuel Karabenick.

The Lentzner Family in loving memory of Eugene Lentzner, husband of Ann.  $\,$ 

Ann Lentzner in loving memory of her father-in-law, David Lentzner. Dorothy Levin in loving memory of her mother, Anne Roth.

Joanne & Jerry Levy in loving memory of Joanne's mother, Frieda Schnee. Joanne & Jerry Levy in loving memory of Joanne's aunt, Sally Boone. Jim & Nancy Linden in loving memory of Jim's mother,

Evelvn Linden Baldwin.

Roni, Tontra, Sushila & Nat Love in loving memory of their aunt, Gertrudis Rios

Roni, Tontra, Sushila & Nat Love in loving memory of their cousin, Rose Antignas.

Harry & Eva Lowenstein in loving memory of Harry's mother, Pauline Lowenstein.

Bethlaine Moreno in loving memory of her mother, Ethel Shefrin Singer. Laurie & Robert Raykoff in loving memory of Laurie's father, Jerhert Samuels

Harold & Gerda Seifer in loving memory of Harold's brother, Melvin Seifer.

Melanie Spellens in loving memory of her husband, Dan Spellens. Melanie Spellens in loving memory of her father-in-law, Harold Spellens.

Sheryl & Jeff Stewart in loving memory of Sheryl's father, Michael Musicant.

David Tillman & Karen Zoller in loving memory of David's father, Aaron Tillman.

Rachel Van Raalte & Tawny Correa in loving memory of Rachel's grandmother, Marie Van Raalte.

### **GENERAL FUND**

Rochelle & Jim Anderson in celebration of the birth of Aaron Max Slakter, grandson of Laurie & Brian Garabedian.

Catherine Benamou in support of Temple Israel.

Binnie & Jack Berro in honor of the arrival of Madison Danielle Blumberg, granddaughter of Marcie & John Blumberg.

Binnie & Jack Berro in honor of the arrival of Aaron Max Slakter, grandson of Laurie & Brian Garabedian and great-grandson of Arline Hillinger.

Al & Rita Birch in honor of Eloise Miller's Bat Mitzvah.

Al & Rita Birch in honor of Fletcher Rosenberg's Bar Mitzvah.

Al & Rita Birch in honor of Noah Henry Jackson's Bar Mitzvah.

Judy & Denny Blumenthal in celebration of the birth of Aaron Max Slakter, grandson of Laurie & Brian Garabedian.

Benjamin & Elinore Brown in recognition of Susie Amster for her dedication and service to Temple Israel Long Beach.

David A. Free in support of Temple Israel.

Bill Giser & Margaret Locke sent their wishes for better health to Bill McDaniel.

Cindy & Jon Gotz in celebration of the birth of Mick Murphy, grandson of Kathryn McDermott.

Cindy & Jon Gotz in celebration of the birth of Aaron Max Slakter, grandson of Laurie & Brian Garabedian.

Dawn Haldane & Art Lim in celebration of the birth of Aaron Max Slakter, grandson of Laurie & Brian Garabedian.

The Lentzner Family in celebration of the birth of Guy Rostam Hassani Goldin, grandson of Trish & Jared Goldin, son of Amelia & Lee Hassani Goldin.

Robin & Alan Lilien in celebration of the birth of Connor Levi Shenhav, grandson of Margaret Locke & Bill Giser.

Seth & Sara Linden in support of Temple Israel.

Amy & Rich Lipeles in honor of the birth of Mick Murphy, grandson of Kathryn McDermott.

David & Sadie Sacks in celebration of the birth of Guy Rostam Hassani Goldin, grandson of Trish & Jared Goldin.

David & Sadie Sacks in honor of the safe arrival of Mick Murphy, grandson of Kathryn McDermott.

David & Sadie Sacks in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Noah Henry Jackson, son of Bryon & Shlomit Jackson.

Kristina & Bill Shafton in celebration of the birth of Mabel Hallie Duncan, granddaughter of Karen Calechman & Jerry Prell.

Melanie Spellens in remembrance of Flora Spellens on her birthday. Audrey Zahler in celebration of the birth of Aaron Max Slakter, grandson of Laurie & Brian Garabedian.

### **RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Dana & Harvey Harmatz in honor of Rabbi Fox for officiating the funeral of Judy Namak, beloved mother of Dana.

Ilsebill Wolfe in celebration of the birth of Mick Murphy, Kathryn McDermott's first grandchild.

### **PAULA & MICHAEL AVCHEN CAMPERSHIP FUND**

Paula Avchen in memory of Marlene Ross, beloved mother of Freda Ross, loving grandmother to Emily and Ethan.

Paula Avchen in honor of Mabel Hallie, new granddaughter of Karen Calechman and Jerry Prell.

Paula Avchen in honor of Madison Danielle Blumberg, new granddaughter of Marcie and John Blumberg.

Paula Avchen in honor of Christina Boatwright.

Paula Avchen in honor of Nancy Schneider for her love, support, and kindness.

### **CARING COMMUNITY FUND**

Florine Karabenick in honor of the much-appreciated condolences for her husband, Edward Karabenick.

Shirlee Sappell in memory of her beloved husband, Donald Sappell.

# ROB & DEBBIE FELDMAN FAMILY GOT SHABBAT FUND

Robert & Laurie Raykoff in loving memory of Robert's grandmother, Rose Reed.

Robert & Laurie Raykoff in loving memory of Robert's mother, Betty Raykoff.

### **HOMELESS ASSISTANCE FUND**

Chana & Glenn Ham-Rosebrock in memory of Chana's beloved mother, Bernice Ham.

Chana & Glenn Ham-Rosebrock in memory of Chana's dear brother Bobby, Robert George Ham.

Chana & Glenn Ham-Rosebrock in loving memory of Chana's aunt, Millie Rozner.

Chana & Glenn Ham-Rosebrock in celebration of Sarah Rose & Josh Marris' ninth wedding anniversary on March  $7^{th}$ .

Chana & Glenn Ham-Rosebrock in celebration of Isaac & Martina Ham-Rosebrock's 18th wedding anniversary.

Chana Ham-Rosebrock wishes a happy 73rd birthday to her husband, Glenn Ham-Rosebrock.

Roni, Tontra, Sushila & Nat Love in loving memory of their mother and grandmother, Dorothy Lynn Lerner.

Roni, Tontra, Sushila & Nat Love in loving memory of their aunt, Edythe Gelzer Jones.

Roni, Tontra, Sushila & Nat Love in memory of their uncle, Ben Jones. Karen Zoller & David Tillman in celebration of the birth of Aaron Max Slakter, grandson of Laurie & Brian Garabedian.

The following donations to the Homeless Assistance Fund were made through PayPal to support Long Beach organizations assisting those in need in our community.

Ron Artstein & Nancy Hall.

Mark Dressner & Matt Davis.

Jill Fisher Granek.

Arla Lewis.

Howard & Dove Mayo.

Shirlee Sappell.

Adam & Sharlene Siegel.

Heidee & Daniel Stoica.

### **JOYS OF JEWISH LEARNING FUND**

Kate Levinstein in gratitude for the genealogy class with Sheryl Stahl.

### **LIBRARY FUND**

Jean Feldman in loving memory of her father-in-law, Jacob Feldman.

### **MUSIC PATRONS FUND**

John & Marcie Blumberg in loving memory of John's grandmother, Florence Hartmann.

John & Marcie Blumberg in loving memory of John's grandmother, Jenny Blumberg.

Chana & Glenn Ham-Rosebrock in celebration of the birth of Madison Danielle Blumberg, granddaughter of Marcie & John Blumberg.

### TEMPLE ISRAEL NEXT 100 YEARS CAMPAIGN

Peter Finkle in loving memory of his father, Dan Finkle, beloved father of Amy Lipeles.

### **TORAH CENTER FUND**

Denny & Judy Blumenthal in loving memory of Denny's father, Israel Blumenthal.

Judy & Denny Blumenthal in loving memory of Judy's grandmother, Eva Sreiberg.

### **TORAH CENTER SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Jay Alhadeff in memory of Marlene Ross, beloved mother of Freda Ross. Tara Barnhart in memory of Marlene Ross, beloved mother of Freda Ross. Carol Beckerman in memory of Marlene Ross, beloved mother of Freda Ross, and in memory of Burrell Ross, beloved father of Freda Ross. Jared & Trish Goldin in memory of Marlene Ross, beloved mother of Freda Ross.

Jill Granek in memory of Marlene Ross, beloved mother of Freda Ross. Chana & Glenn Ham-Rosebrock in memory of Marlene Ross, beloved mother of Freda Ross.

Marian & Paul Martin in memory of Marlene and Burrell Ross, beloved parents of Freda Ross, loving grandparents to Emily and Ethan. Kristina & Bill Shafton in memory of Marlene Ross, beloved mother of Freda Ross.



2 Eric Newman & Loren Albeg - 4 years

3 Steven & Pamela Keiles - 16 years

Rick & Nealy Solymar - 17 years

6 Bob & Wendi Bender - 30 years

8 Kip & Christina Boatwright - 11 years

10 Adam & Sarah Moss - 11 years

11 Al & Rita Birch - 45 years

16 Robert & Jennifer De France - 12 years

17 Rosendo & Mireya Gonzalez - 33 years

**20** Saul & Falina Budeshtsky - *47 years* Mark & Marilyn Weiss - *54 years* 

21 Douglas & Joy Wadleigh - 14 years

23 Michael & Suzanne Brodsly - 21 years

**26** Jonathan & Beth Dobkin - 12 years

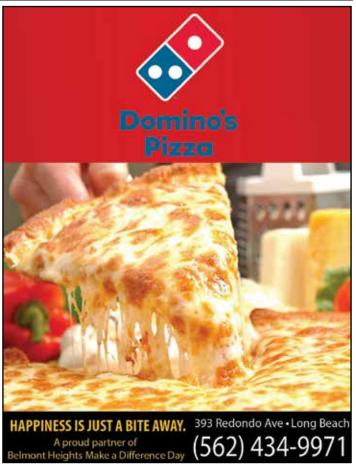
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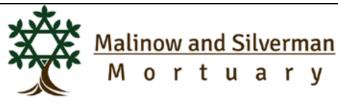


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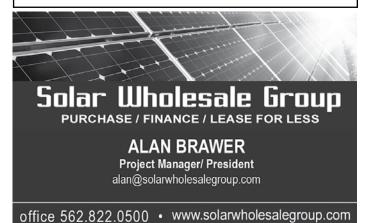


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# **SAVE THE DATE** SATURDAY, MAY 22



More details about the evening and information about pricing and sponsorship opportunities will be publicized soon!

UNTIL THEN...PLAN TO JOIN US FOR A FUN AND CELEBRATORY SATURDAY NIGHT!
Drive-Thru Fun, Games, Food, and Music!

Event Co-Chairs: Mindy Casas and Andrea Salisbury VP of Ways & Means: Deborah Fabricant