

Join us as we welcome guest speaker NATASHA FELDMAN TV Personality and Cookbook Author Thursday, January 18 at 7:00 pm



Best selling cookbook author of *The Dinner Party Project*, Natasha Feldman, will be at Temple Israel talking about ways to remove stress from your Shabbat dinners, holiday meals, or any dinner party you're hosting. She will demonstrate easy to make appetizers and you'll be heading home with Sour Cream Coffee Cake inspired by her great great grandmother's recipe!

Bring any questions you have and books to be signed for a Q&A after the demo

RSVP required to attend: clw@tilb.org



YOUR DONATION OR LEGACY GIFT WILL HELP FUND OUR FUTURE!

The Next 100 Years Campaign has currently raised over three 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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Human Trafficking Awareness Shabbat

Kol HaNeshama - Musical Shabbat

Friday, January 12 at 7:00 pm

We will have experts do a short presentation followed by a Q&A session

Get Well Wishes

Saul Budeshtsky Colleen Carver Miriam Elisheva Harriette Ellis Joel Epstein Linda Fox Bill Giser Darrin Hammer Art Levine Robin Nahin Carla Stern-Palmer Harriet Reed Lance Valt



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 10th of the preceding month prior to publication.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Rabbi Scott Fox • Cantor Kelly Cooper • Cantor Emeritus Marvin Finnley Eric J. Shatzkin, Exec. Director • Sharon Amster Brown, Director of Ed. Kara Liu, Youth Director • David York, Accompanist

Our Mission Statement Guided by Reform Jewish values, our mission is to engage in a journey of prayer, learning, and community that inspires us to transform ourselves and the world.

JANUARY SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday, January 5 6:00 pm Family Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 6 8:45 am Torah Study at El Dorado Nature Center 10:00 am Shabbat Midbar Hike and Meditation

Friday, January 12

7:00 pm Kol HaNeshama - Musical Shabbat / Human Traficking Awareness

Saturday, January 13 8:45 am Torah Study 11:00 am Senior Shabbat Luncheon (at Alpert JCC)

Friday, January 19 6:30 pm New Member Recognition Shabbat

Saturday, January 20 8:45 am Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service / B'nai Mitzvah of Lucas and Skylar Wadleigh

Friday, January 26

6:00 pm Tot Shabbat 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, January 27 NO TORAH STUDY 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service



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A YEAR IN REVIEW

By Jerry Levy, Temple President



2024. Just writing that date takes my breath away. My thoughts often include wondering where the time has gone, and if we achieved anything meaningful and lasting. Temple Israel was very busy during the past year, and we indeed accomplished quite a lot. Let's take a look back and take some pride in past year at Temple Israel.

More than anything else, 2023 marked a return to stability for our temple. Our

excellent Human Resources Committee, under the leadership of Norma Stein, negotiated and finalized contracts with both Rabbi Fox and Cantor Cooper, thereby ensuring a stable clergy for the future. Cantor Cooper, after last year's ordination, passed a rigorous exam to become a member of the American Conference of Cantors. We made some important changes in our staff as well. Kara Liu's role was expanded to help support our senior staff while continuing to work with our teens in our nationally recognized ANDI youth group program. We said goodbye to our beloved Keke, who was a constant and valuable staff member of our Temple Israel family. With Keke's departure, we warmly welcomed Danny Phan, and two parttime employees: Tua'afono from Samoa and Oksana, who recently immigrated from Ukraine.

Over the past year, we emerged from all Covid restrictions, returning to a fully open, inviting, and busy temple building. Our membership has grown, and with it, so have membership commitments and Torah Center enrollments. Currently, we have 552 families with 27 new memberships. Our Torah Center, led by Sharon Amster-Brown now has 250 students from pre-K through 12th grade. We welcomed 2 new teachers, Carol Weinfeld (4th grade) and Sara Redondo (4th and 5th grade). This year, we added Social Action, a new committee, chaired by Paul Levitt and Kate Sachnoff, that focuses on our mission to actively "transform ourselves and the community". Our Joys of Jewish Learning catalog was launched with a multitude of engaging, enriching, and enjoyable offerings. Of special note, our Adult B'nai Mitzvah class is beginning in January. If you ever considered becoming an Adult B'nai Mitzvah, now is the time. If you are interested in more information or registering, contact the office.

As always, financial stability and sustainability were a major focus. Our Annual Gala was one of the most successful, in no small part due to the leadership of Justin Perlman and David Jacobson. With increased annual expenses, many of our membership responded by moving to the sustaining level. Additionally, we were the recipient of a \$25,000 renewable grant from Congregation Shir Chadash after they closed their doors. Eric Shatzkin with the assistance of Linda Burney and Reggie Reyes applied for, and we were awarded a security grant of \$163,300 to improve our Temple security. And finally, we received a \$107,000 Employee Retention Tax Credit, giving us a positive financial position for 2023. Co-Chairs Susie Amster and Amy Lipeles continued to skillfully manage the Next 100-year campaign and will close out the year with nearly \$4 million in assets. Our Temple Foundation will pick up the mantle to ensure that Temple Israel is prepared for the next one hundred years and for our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Rick Burney, leading your temple Board and with senior staff, worked tirelessly to formulate and approve a 3-year Strategic Plan. By focusing on issues important to our members, our website was upgraded and now features a new and more detailed calendar which can be viewed at TILB.ORG/events. The general calendar is available to all, and a password protected calendar is available exclusively for Torah Center parents and teachers.

One attribute of Temple Israel's leadership is the ability to plan but also to pivot and be flexible when the need arises. This flexibility was put to the test after the horrific attacks of October 7th and the ongoing conflict in Israel. We have responded and will continue to respond with dialogue, mutual support, and by providing a safe and secure place for our congregation to gather, worship, and learn. The Security Committee chairs, Linda Burney and Reggie Reyes, are offering essential information to the congregation and are continuing to work on security enhancements to our temple building.

Finally, and certainly not the least, we celebrated many joyous life-cycle events. Even when the world challenges us, we, as a Jewish community, find joy in these special moments. During the past year, we celebrated fourteen Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, ten births, six weddings, five Bet Dins, AND we are just getting started on the 100th Anniversary celebrations as Temple Israel of Long Beach. I hope to see each of you at the special events planned to commemorate our centennial year.

As we enter the new year, I look forward to many more opportunities to share what makes Temple Israel a special place, whether during a service, a hike at the El Dorado Nature Center, a JJL cooking class, or at one of the many simchas. Wishing everyone a healthy and happy 2024.



RITUAL PRACTICES MESSAGE

By Ron Artstein, VP Ritual Practices



Do you celebrate the new fiscal year? For more than a millennium, Tu B'Shevat – the fifteenth day of the month of Shevat – was not much of a cause for celebration: it was just the beginning of the fiscal year for tree produce, used for determining which fruit were counted for which tithe (tax) year, and for similar laws that had to do with trees and their fruit. The earliest indications that Tu B'Shevat is a festive day are from about one thousand

years ago: a few liturgical poems, and a prohibition on fasting and reciting tachanun (supplication prayers) on the day. But most forms of celebration are only from the past few centuries.

To me, Tu B'Shevat is associated primarily with planting trees. Every year throughout elementary school, our class would plant trees in a forest near Jerusalem, sometimes in the rain and always in the mud; a typical yield would be one tree per child and one load of laundry per parent. Planting trees is a fairly recent Tu Bishvat tradition, starting in the 1880's with the renewed Jewish settlement in the land of Israel. Planting trees is an important cause for the Jewish National Fund, but it is not without controversy. Through most of the 20th century, the dominant planted tree was the Jerusalem or Aleppo pine (imported, ironically, from the western Mediterranean), because these pines are easy to plant and grow fast, allowing for a quick reforestation of large swaths of land. But the pines also mask land features and push out native species; thus, decades of pine planting resulted in monoculture forest with decreased biodiversity that are also prone to fires - an ecological disaster that is slowly being remedied.

Other traditions associated with Tu B'Shevat center around the fruit of the trees. Since the 1500's, European communities have celebrated by eating fruits from the land of Israel. Usually dried fruit were eaten, because fresh fruit were difficult to procure in the middle of the European winter. Interestingly, the custom of eating dried fruit persisted even when European Jews immigrated to Israel, and even though many of the dried fruit available in Israel today are imported. Some communities in Germany substituted brandy and cake for the fruit.

What about the Tu B'Shevat seder? This custom comes from the kabbalists of the 1600's, though its exact origins are unclear. The earliest known mention is by Rabbi Moses Hagiz (1671–c. 1750), who testifies that his grandfather Moses Galante (1620–1689), the first Sephardi chief rabbi of the land of Israel, would eat fruit and study related texts on Tu B'Shevat. For centuries, this custom was confined mostly to Sephardi communities and some hasidic communities, but starting in the 1980's, modern haggadot were written which popularized the Tu BiShvat seder. I have not participated in one myself yet, so I look forward to celebrating the seder at Temple on the night of Tu B'Shevat (January 24). And to receiving my 1099's.

PRE-PASSOVER WINE TASTING AND CLASS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

SUNDAY, APRIL 7 AT 2:30 PM

Join us for an afternoon of wine tasting and learning

Join us for a pre-Passover wine tasting and class told through the international world of high-quality kosher wine. Sample vintages from California, Israel and Europe as we learn why kosher wine isn't the syrupy sweet beverage of your parents and grandparents. Learn how to store wine properly, what to do with that halfdrunk bottle and what varieties and blends pair best with the myriad foods of the Passover Seder. Wine will be available for purchase and order in time for Passover.

The class will be taught by Jerry Hirsch, a Temple Israel member who covered the business of food, wine and agriculture for many years at the Los Angeles Times. Jerry also has served as a wine judge for the Long Beach Grand Cru and the L.A. County Fair Wines of the World competitions.

RSVP required. Cost: \$18 per person If you are interested in sponsoring, contact Joanne Levy at (562) 673- 7327 Sponsors will receive 2 admissions and a bottle of wine!





MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

LONG BEACH, CA

SAVE THE DATE March 17, 2024

https://www.mybelmontheights.org/bhmadd



SISTERHOOD



Women's Night Out

Tuesday, January 16 at 6:30 pm at the Olive Garden in Cerritos

Cost \$30 member/\$35 non-member

Please RSVP to Charmaine <u>clw@tilb.org</u>



HOLIDAY COOKING -NEW TWISTS ON THE CLASSICS In partnership with Joys of Jewish Learning

Sunday, January 28 at 9:45 am Teacher: Amy Lipeles, Temple Israel Congregant



Join us for a fun morning in the kitchen with long time cooking teacher Amy Lipeles. Together, we will try out recipes for Mediterranean cauliflower steaks, Israeli couscous and roasted tomatoes, and a new version of an apple cake. Sounds delicious, doesn't it? See you there! **Cost: \$10/person**

Please RSVP to Charmaine clw@tilb.org

THE SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP

The Gift Shop will be open during Torah Center Wednesdays at 4:30 pm and Sundays at 9:30 am and by appointment. Contact Elyse at (562) 619-8829

TORAH CENTER PANCAKE BREAKFAST



COOKING CLASS TRENDY OR TRADISH KNISH? THEY'RE BOTH DELISH! In partnership with Joys of Jewish Learning

Thursday, February 22 at 7:00 pm

Teacher: Eve and Levi Lunt, Temple Israel Congregants



Mother and Son duo Eve and Levi Lunt will take on the beloved Jewish dumpling in both classic and TikTok styles. Eve will teach you the absolute easiest way to make a yummy potato knish and then her son Levi will take her traditional filling, add some spice and create knishentaschen, a savory cross between a knish and hamantaschen

with a nod to international flavors. Come hungry and ready to roll (a knish that is!) **Cost \$10/person**

UPCOMING EVENT:

Bagel Baking Class taught by Paul Levitt - March 10th





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SAVE THE DATE

Sisterhood will be hosting a celebration for the Temple's 100 Year Anniversary on **Saturday, March 16** in the evening

TEEN (KESHER) / B'NAI MITZVAH



TEMPLE ISRAEL

8th-12th Grade

esher



Madrichim Rep.

December is the month of lighting the Hanukkiah, eating latkes, spinning the dreidels for gelt, and hopefully landing on GIMMEL! During this month, the Kesher Teens went to the NFTY Winter Wellness Retreat at Pali Retreat Center up in the mountains of Running Springs. The retreat was filled with relaxation and fun bonding activities. Teens across SOCAL were able to zip-line through mountains, enjoy healing music, tie-dye, learn

to cook an amazing meal, and challenge themselves on the high ropes course. We had time to spend with friends new and old. The ANDI Board hosted the 6th/7th Hanukkah Party where sixth and seventh graders were able to trade gifts, participate in dreidel competitions, and bond with older teens. ANDI also hosted the 4th/5th jr. youth event where they were able to attend their firstever ANDI function. ANDI's annual Lock-In also happened with our friends from SHMOFTY (Congregation Shir HaMa'alot in Irvine). We prayed, played games, learned about economic justice, danced, and had a great time! Our 10th - 12th grade classes welcomed in their adoptive grandparents and had a lovely time studying and laughing together. The 8th-grade class continued their comparative Judaism curriculum with a trip to Conservative shul B'nai Israel in Tustin. We enjoyed their special musical service and a wonderful Shabbat lunch. The 9th grade class visited our community friends at Belmont Heights Methodist Church down the street from TI and had a fun holiday cultural exchange. We enjoyed teaching dreidel, and they hosted a gingerbread housemaking contest. It was a month full of mixers and events that celebrate the gift of community. Happy New Year everyone!



THIS MONTH'S B'NAI MITZVAH



Skylar & Lucas Wadleigh January 20, 2024

Skylar & Lucas Wadleigh are 7th graders at Oak Middle School. Skylar enjoys art, reading, sports and playing music in a jazz band. Lucas enjoys math, baseball, building computers and hanging out with friends. They have both welcomed the process of learning their Torah portions and prayers. They appreciate the time they have had with Cantor Cooper and Rabbi Fox preparing for their special day. For their Mitzvah Project they volunteer at the Seal Beach Library, which is around the corner from their house. They have been very frequent visitors there from the time they were toddlers, and wanted to give back to a place that has given them so much. Skylar & Lucas are so excited for their B'nai Mitzvah on January 20, 2024!

PARENTS OF TEENS SUPPORT GROUP WITH SARAH BURNEY

Tuesday, January 16 at 5:30 pm (Meeting the 3rd Tuesday of the Month)



With over a decade of experience as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Certified Eating Disorder Specialist & Supervisor, Sarah Burney is a leading expert in her field who has found her purpose in helping others find freedom, safety, and peace. **RSVP to Charmine** *clw@tilb.org*



KOL <u>M'YISRAEL / A VOICE FROM</u> ISRAEL

By Jeremy Rosen



"I wish you could've known the real Israel, the beautiful Israel." We left Tel Aviv an hour ago and stopped at the halfway mark of our journey, for the day's first coffee, with the sun joining us, when, standing here at this gas station serving as the last outpost of civilization, this new acquaintance, wearing the certain weary look of many middle-aged Israelis, made her remark.

Our journey was taking us southwards,

to the Gaza Envelope. A place of spring wildflower blooms, fertile lands, and kibbutzim from the first waves of Aliyah. Last month a killing field and a shattering of the last decades of peacebuilding and security; today, a symbol of resistance, resilience, and mourning. We arrived at a farm near Zohar, closer to Gaza and Egypt than any city of Israel. After the attacks of October 7th, the farmers of this area lost most of their laborers, either because they were no longer permitted to cross from Gaza, or because they fled back to the southeast Asian countries of their origin. So, we pilgrimaged from our cities to fulfill the ultimate Zionist dream.

We came to work the land, make the desert bloom, to fill crates with the products of the land, and prepare the land for the next crop. For this city slicker, just the experience of being a farmer for a day would be worthy of a column. After a day of squishing in the muddy field, my sneakers went straight to the trash. As we moved down the rows, we gently plucked the ripe tomatoes from their vines, filling crates in wheelbarrows, grooving to the playlist of whoever brought a speaker, and making small talk. Keeping the beat to our work were the low booms, more rumblings of only the lowest frequencies, out of sight but not too distant, every 30 seconds or so; a metronome for the four hours we were there, of Israeli shells fired into Gaza.

At the end of the day, we reboarded our bus for the homeward journey. More awake this time around, I gazed through the glass at the arcadian scenery. Small farms on rolling hills, greenhouses dotted with groves of trees. And rising off in the distance, pillars and clouds of black, blotting the horizon.

From that place, the nightly news broadcasts images of biblical destruction, of cities of ash and ruble. From that place, return only the bodies of our fallen. From that place, we await the homecoming of our hostages.



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ACTION FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET ON TU B'SHEVAT Tu B'Shevat Virtual Lobby Day for Climate Solutions with Jewish Earth Alliance

By Kate Sachnoff and the Social Action Committee/ Climate Tzedek Subcommittee



Tu B'Shevat began in ancient times as a day to calculate the age of trees for the purpose of tithing. Today, it has become the Jewish Earth Day - a day to remind us of our dependence on nature and our responsibility to take care of Earth so that she can take care of us.

Today Earth itself is threatened by

climate change. This Tu Bishvat we can take action to accelerate the transformation that is already underway by advocating for policies to clean up the pollution caused by fossil fuels, build renewable energy capacity, and further equity by investing in communities that have suffered the most from the energy systems of the past.

You can make a difference on Tu B'Shevat by joining with the TI Climate Tzedek Subcommittee and Jews across the U.S. for virtual meetings with U.S. Senators and staff. Jewish Earth Alliance is organizing the meetings and will provide you with everything you need to participate. Mark your calendar for January 25th to speak out. It's easy and effective! Register at *http://tinyurl.com/2hmjda8y*

SAVE THE DATE Saturday, February 10 6:00 pm Temple Israel's 100 Year Anniversary Celebration

SPECIAL SHABBAT SERVICES





SHABBAT MIDBAR at Cl Dorado Nature Center

Saturday, January 6 Meeting at the grass area picnic tables at the rear of the parking lot

Torah Study at 8:45 am Hike and Meditation 10:00 am



Senior Shabbat and Luncheon

Saturday, January 13 at 11:00 am at the Alpert JCC

Led by Temple Israel Clergy followed by Luncheon and Entertainment

Entertainment funded by TI's Sarah & Wolli Kaelter Sabbath Fellowship Fund

RSVP Call Anneleise Thompson (562) 426-7601 <u>https://jewishlongbeach.ticketspice.com/senior-shabbat</u>

New Member Recognition Shabbat Friday, January 19th

Help us welcome out newest members prior to Services for an interactive program designed to build relationships and introduce you to other members of our Temple community. A special art project is planned for the children!

Evening Schedule

Reception and Program 5:00 pm Shabbat Service 6:30 pm

Please RSVP if you plan to attend the Pre-Shabbat Oneg by Friday, January 12th to clw@tilb.org



TOT SHABBAT at Temple Israel *Generously sponsored by Lauren Friedman*

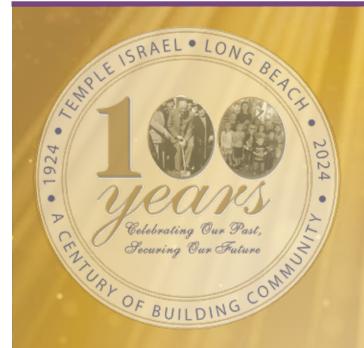
Friday, January 26 at 6:00 pm with Rabbi Fox and Cantor Cooper

Followed by a FREE dinner!



Tot Shabbat is a fun, informal, child-centered Shabbat Service, designed especially for children, their loved ones. Through songs, prayers, stories, and Torah time, children love this Service! Free Pizza Dinner provided.

Please RSVP to Michelle at *mdt@tilb.org*



Celebrate Temple Israel's 100 Year Anniversary

with these upcoming events

Join us as we spend this year celebrating our 100th Anniversary with special programs throughout the year

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ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND CELEBRATION Shabbat Services with Singer Songwriter, Julie Silver Friday, February 9



100th Anniversary Party Saturday, February 10 Family Concert with Singer-Songwriter Craig Parks Sunday, February 11 High Tea & Temple Israel Stories Sunday, March 3

Lapid-Shapiro Scholar-in-Residence Cantor Jonathan Friedmann History of Temple Israel Book Release April 26-28

> Temple Israel Gala Journey Back to 1924 Saturday, May 11

An Evening at Joe Jost's 100 Years of Long Beach Fun Thursday, June 6 JOYS OF JEWISH LEARNING

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm Beginning January 10 Teachers: Rabbi Scott Fox and Rabbi Michal Loving



We invite you to join with learners of all backgrounds in our Introduction to Judaism course. The course will cover a broad cross-section of topics related to Judaism in a discussion-based format with experts in the field. This

class is ideal for anyone looking to explore Judaism for the very first time, seeking conversion, or for folks who would like to fill in pockets of knowledge in a tradition that takes a lifetime to learn. Everyone is welcome. We look forward to your joining us.

Cost: \$200 plus the cost of textbooks

ADULT B'NAI MITZVAH CLASS with Instructors Cantor Kelly Cooper, Rabbi Robin Foonberg, and Rachel Van Raalte

Beginning Wednesday, January 10 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm



Participation in our Adult B'nai Mitzvah Program is an incredible way to strengthen one's connection to Judaism and the Temple Israel community. We are excited to welcome a new group of adult learners this January who will have become B'nai Mitzvah in Fall 2025.

Learners who register for the Temple Israel Adult B'nai Mitzvah course are making a 22-month long commitment to learning. In the first year, we will learn the prayers of the Shabbat morning service, learn key liturgical vocabulary, and discuss the meaning of many of our key prayers. Our Judaica studies will focus on the Jewish lifecycle, Reform observance and history, Torah Study and commentary.

Please note that there is a beginning Hebrew prerequisite for this class. Temple Israel will be offering a beginning Hebrew class this fall. If you are considering participating in the Adult B'nai Mitzvah program and have questions about your level of Hebrew reading please contact Sharon Amster Brown.

Cost: \$500/ year (total \$1,000)

INTERMEDIATE HEBREW

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm January 10, 17, 31, February 7, 14, 21 Teacher: Janet Liss, Temple Israel Congregant



This six-week class is for people who want to learn in a fun and encouraging environment some basic blessings that we use often, as well as a standard prayer recited at every service. Prayers will depend on who enrolls in the class and interest level for specific prayers. We will look at the meaning of the prayers, as well as learn the Hebrew.

Cost: \$80, including learning materials

LET'S TALK ABOUT ISRAEL

Thursdays at 7:00 pm January 11, February 15, March 21, April 25, and May 23 Facilitator: Mark Dressner, Temple Israel Past President



We are very pleased to share a new 10part Israel educational curriculum, to be facilitated by Mark Dressner, offered by URJ (Union of Reform Judaism) and ARZA (Association of Reform Zionists of America). The curriculum is based on the framework of the "4 Hatikva Questions" – "To Be," "A People," "Free," "In Our Land," taken from the penultimate line of Israel's National anthem "Hatikva."

It is a resource to address all of Israel's complexities in a safe and thorough way, focusing on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Sessions will include: Introduction to the concept, Peoplehood, Democracy, Israeli General Elections, Home-Land, The Kotel, Israeli Judaism, The "O" Word, and Morality of War.

TORAH CENTER PARENT DISCUSSIONS



Sunday, January 21 at 9:45 am with Cantor Cooper

Come join Cantor Cooper for coffee and conversation and enjoy this opportunity to connect with the clergy and meet other parents. We'll discuss

current events, explore big Jewish questions, and have a little fun along the way!

(This opportunity is for current Torah Center parents only.)

JOYS OF JEWISH LEARNING

GARDENING WORKSHOP AND JEWISH LEARNING

Saturday, January 20 at 2:00 pm

Location: The Lunt Home Teachers: Rabbi Michal Loving and Andrew Lunt, Temple Israel Congregants



Proven backyard farmer Andrew Lunt will demonstrate how to harness Long Beach's Mediterranean climate to grow your own produce in a smallfootprint, raised bed garden, for a minimal cost. Southern California's growing season moments and their alignment with Jewish holidays like Tu B'Shevat will be discussed. Be

the magic alchemist of sun, soil, seed, and water and feel the satisfaction of growing what you eat.

TU B'SHEVAT SEDER

Wednesday, January 24 at 7:00 pm

In partnership with the Ritual Practices Committee

The holiday of Tu B'Shevat marks the new year or the birthday of the trees. Tu B'Shevat translates as the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat; A harbinger of spring, Tu B'Shevat falls during the time that trees in Israel begin to bud. The Tu B'Shevat seder is a beautiful way to celebrate this holiday. Based on the Passover seder, the Tu B'Shevat seder was instituted by the Kabbalists, who connect each segment of the ritual to a different mystical teaching about the body and spirit. During the seder, we will drink four glasses of wine (or juice), read texts about agriculture and vegetation in Israel, sing beautiful songs about nature, and recite special blessings over different groupings of fruits and nuts. Please join us for this unique learning and social opportunity. **Cost: \$10/person**



NEW MUSICAL TRENDS AND COMPOSERS: SHABBAT LUNCH AND LEARN WITH CANTOR COOPER

Saturday, January 27 at 11:30 am



Jewish music has always been influenced by the music of the surrounding culture. Pop, country, rap, and other styles of music are impacting what modern Jewish composers are writing now. Come discuss and listen to what is new in Jewish music.

NEW JEWISH FUNERAL AND BURIAL PRACTICES

Tuesday, January 30 at 7:00 pm *in partnership with the Ritual Practices Committee*

Join us for a fascinating conversation about contemporary trends in funeral practices, including new liturgy, water cremation, human composting, and green burial. Panel discussion will feature Rabbi Fox, Rabbi Jonathan Bernhard (green burial expert), Laura Cassidy (Recompose), and David Perfito (White Rose Aqua Cremation).



RSVP requested for all JJL Programs to Charmaine clw@tilb.org

WE RECOGNIZE THE GENEROSITY OF OUR SUSTAINING MEMBERS

LIFE MEMBERS Julie Alban Reva Alban Jack & Binnie Berro Jean Feldman Ronald & Sylvia Hartman David Tillman & Karen Zoller

RABBI'S CIRCLE

Richard and Amy Lipeles Howard & Karen Ort

TEMPLE DOME

Ron Artstein & Nancy Hall **Beverly August** Mark Beizer & Cathe Hagerman-Beizer John & Marcie Blumberg Elaine Davis Joe & Laurie Dempsey Mark Dressner & Matthew Davis **Dustin & Maryellen Jackson** Steven & Pamela Keiles Michael & Cheryl Laven David & Irene Leib Gerald & Joanne Levy Alan & Robin Lilien Howard & Dove Mayo Susan Stuhlbarg Isaac Waksul

DOUBLE CHAI

Anonymous Laurie Arroyo Michael & Suzanne Brodsly Alan & Rosecarrie Brooks Richard & Linda Burney Ruth Cooperman Clifford Corman & Deborah Fabricant Rob & Kris Damon Hank & Joyce Feldman Joanne Feldman Gary & Lindsey Fields **Renee Florsheim** Dennis & Lea Gerber Cliff & Laurie Gerstman Harvey Gobas & Rhonda Weitzman-Gobas Steve & Michelle Gordon Adolfo Guzman-Lopez & Lysa Saltzman

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January 10-16

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January 24-30

Iona Alpert Jean Ball * Irene Baral Joseph H. Beckerman Mr. Clifford Bleich Shirley Blumberg Cathenia Kinslow Briggs Edith Brodsly William Brodsly Lee Brozinsky Graciela Cardenas Sally Chasin * Shirlee Collins Jennie Crystal * Max Dworkin * George Feldman * Saul Feldman Richard I Gerson * Arylene Hope Grant Sam Indes * Dwight Jaffe Margaret Josephson Sam Josephson * Julia Kelen Max Levin Michael Levy Sylvia Kurtz Lewis Mel Mermelstein Simon Miller Fred Neuburger * Harry Pokras * Ralph Polsky Lois Present Franklin Nathan Rayor * Gottlieb R. Rosenfeld * Julia Saslow Shirley Schnee Edith Kadison Schneider * Faye Shapiro Rose Silverman Mr. Dan Spellens * Mildred Tillman Joseph Webster Marshal Weitz Bill Wood Ruth Yavitz

January 31 - Feb 6

Sylvia Ash Lena Bair Harriet Bell Jennie Wagenheim Berman Mazaltov Berro Sarah Chester * Maurice Chodosh Avern Cohn Maurice Mark Davis Margie Edelman Jacob Epstein Rabbi Norman Frank Feldheym Gerald Fishkind * Ruth Gordon **Continued on page 14**

* These names are permanently inscribed on our memorial wall and will be read in perpetuity.

YAHRZEIT'S CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

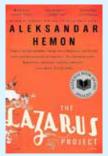
Frances Gross Mary Kagia * Betsy Kanarek John Grinham Kerr Paul Kizner Miriam Lapid * Lawrence Lasker Richard Leff Mr. Eugene Lentzner Nancy A Locks Kathy Meltzer Sara Mosk * Judy Namak Harry Pearlman Rima Rabb Murray Saltzman Irving Schneider * Brenda Schoenbrun Joseph Seifer * Toby Sharzer Thelma Ruth Shevick Roslyn Shohen * Mr. Norman Slomann Harold Spellens * Harry Stenge * Belle Stern Zelda Greenberg Stotland Helen Perkins Strok Stanley Weinstein James Welber Hyman Wisotsky



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Discussing The Lazarus Project by Aleksandar Hemon

Wednesday, January 10 at 7:00 pm (Zoom Only)



On March 2, 1908, nineteen-year-old Lazarus Averbuch, an Eastern European Jewish immigrant, was shot to death on the doorstep of the Chicago chief of police and cast as a would-be anarchist assassin. A century later, a young Eastern European writer in Chicago named Brik becomes obsessed with Lazarus's story. Brik enlists his friend Rora - a war photographer from Sarajevo - to join him in retracing

Averbuch's path.

Through a history of pogroms and poverty, and a prism of a present-day landscape of cheap mafiosi and even cheaper prostitutes, the stories of Averbuch and Brik become inextricably intertwined, creating a truly original, provocative, and entertaining novel that confirms Aleksandar Hemon, often compared to Vladimir Nabokov, as one of the most dynamic and essential literary voices of our time.



INTERFAITH GREETINGS An Interfaith Pledge: Opposition to Antisemitism & Islamaphobia

By Roni Love, member of the South Coast Interfaith Council

The SCIC's Board of Directors, responding to events in Israel/ Gaza and its resulting impact on both the world and here in our own communities, has addressed people of conscience in our region, signed by a very long list of interfaith community leaders including Rabbi Fox, Cantor Cooper, and myself. If you agree, become a cosigner by going to Facebook at <u>www.scinterfaith.org</u> or by contacting the SCIC at <u>office@interfaith.org</u> or at (562) 983-1665.

In an increasingly fragmented world defined by conflict and war, we, as leaders of various faith and interfaith communities, stand united to confront the disturbing escalation of antisemitism and Islamophobia, both in our local neighborhoods and on a global scale. This surge of intolerance starkly conflicts with our faiths' core values, including respect, understanding, empathy, and the universal human values of dignity and compassion.

As a community, we commit to transcend divisive rhetoric and extend support and solace to each other in this time of pain and grief. No doubt the practice of the moral principle of compassion shared by all our faith traditions reaches its zenith when we stand together for justice for all, regardless of faith, belief, nationality, or background. Together, in our diverse and rich religious and spiritual traditions, we stand united against all forms of discrimination, inequality, and intolerance. Our collective moral compass, guided by the wisdom of our varied faiths, compels us to uphold the dignity and rights of every individual.

As people of conscience, we choose to create an environment of understanding and mutual support in both our words and actions by offering the best of ourselves and our faith boldly and strive to model among ourselves the quality of relationships that we would like to see fostered in our larger world. To this end, acknowledging the complexities of the situation at hand, we pledge to bring forth messages of unity and care in our everyday dialogue with one another as well as sermons and religious talks shared with our community of faith by continuing to advocate for human rights, uphold the dignity of humankind, acknowledge the shared oneness of humanity, and promote the eradication of violence and prejudice of all kinds.

There is power in solidarity. Let us build a world in which we can all thrive "as a hope of light in the darkness." (Southern Poverty Law Center)

~ shalom, salaam, paz ~

Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87285748108

TEMPLE ISRAEL FUNDS

Tzedakah is a central mitzvah of Judaism. It humanizes both the giver and the recipient. It acknowledges an important occasion, honors a person for a job well done, or pays tribute in sympathy.

TEMPLE ISRAEL FUND

General Fund

For the support of on going congregational activities

DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

Rabbi Scott Fox Tzedakah projects at the Rabbi's discretion

Cantor Kelly Cooper *Tzedakah projects at the Cantor's discretion*

Educator For benefit of the Torah Center and its teachers

President
 For special projects at the President's discretion

COMMUNITY FUNDS Homeless Assistance

Helps those in need

Caring Community
 Funds programs for Temple families in need

Nancy Leff and Donald Leff Memorial
 Purchases Chanukah gifts for children of needy families

□ Yad B'Yad Purchases kitchen and catering supplies for Yad B'Yad

MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS

Rabbi Wolli & Sarah Kaelter
 Sabbath Fellowship
 For Sabbath Fellowship senior programming

Stan Solomon Building For building repairs

Miriam's Youth Social Justice Education Helps teens participate in the URJ Social Action Programs

MUSIC FUNDS

- **Rob & Debbie Feldman Family Got Shabbat** *Funds quarterly alternative music service.*
- Music Patrons
 Funds musical programs

CAMP FUNDS

- □ Paula & Michael Avchen Campership Camp/trip program for children in financial need
- Lester Elbert and Corinne Van Boemel Memorial Campership Camperships for those in financial need
- **Lipeles Family Camp & Adult Shabbaton** *Fund for Families in need*
- **Jewish Campership** Camperships for those in need

TORAH CENTER FUNDS

- Torah Center Fund
- **Polly Alevy Memorial Education** *Funds for Torah Center*
- HUM (Horim U'Morim)
 Funds Torah Center projects
- Torah Center Scholarship
 Assists with Torah Center fees and scholarships
- Roselle & Herbert Sommer
 Scholarship Fund
 Assists with Torah Center fees and camp scholarships

BOOK FUND

Library Fund
 Purchase of library books

PROGRAMMING FUNDS

- ANDI Programs for our teens
- □ Jack Bard Memorial For Jewish programs of interest to the congregation
- **Social Action** For social action and programming needs
- **Joys of Jewish Learning** Funds adult education programs at the Temple



TEMPLE ISRAEL FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Please make checks payable to TI Foundation

- □ Temple Israel Preservation Fund (TIP Fund) Funds building beautification and refurbishment
- **The Speizer Youth Development** *Funds youth activities*
- **Pilger Lectureship** Funds annual guest speaker lectures
- □ Lapid-Shapiro Funds annual lectureship programs and Torah Center educational programs
- Syd Lemmerman Jewish Camping and Youth Fund In support of Jewish camping, Israel experiences, and other informal Jewish educational programs

To make a donation, please check off any fund above to which you would like to donate and fill out the form below. Tear out this sheet and mail to: **Temple Israel - 269 Loma Avenue, Long Beach CA 90803**

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Message:					
Send Card To:					
Address:					
Payment:	Check	Credit Card	□VISA □Mastercard	1	
Credit Card #			Exp. D	ate:	
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CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH DECEMBER 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

Reva Alban & Geri Landes in loving memory of their father, Otto Steinberg.

Reva Alban in loving memory of her mother-in-law, Edna Alban.

Rosecarrie & Alan Brooks in loving memory of Rosecarrie's mother, Henriette (Hetty) M. Goslins.

Douglas & Rebecca Cringean in memory of Jane Cringean, beloved mother of Douglas.

Asher & Heather Edwards in loving memory of Asher's grandfather, Allan Edwards.

Harriette Ellis in loving memory of her sister, Elizabeth Lieberman.

Lyn & Joel Epstein in loving memory of Lyn's mother, Jeanne Weil.

Lidia Fahlk in loving memory of her father, Alfred Neumann. Harvey Gobas & Rhonda Weitzman-Gobas in loving memory of Harvey's mother, Fannie Sophie Gobas.

Jerry & Joanne Levy in loving memory of Jerry's grandfather, Gilbert Katz.

Jerry & Joanne Levy in loving memory of Jerry's

grandmother, Ida Katz Haith.

Jerry & Joanne Levy in loving memory of Jerry's

grandfather, Michael Levy.

Joanne & Jerry Levy in loving memory of Joanne's mother, Shirley Schnee.

Joanne & Jerry Levy in loving memory of Joanne's close friend, Randi Carp.

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

Candice Schneider in loving memory of her husband, James Ellis Schneider.

Harold Seifer in loving memory of his wife, Gerda Seifer.

Alain Silverston in loving memory of his father, Maurice Silverston.

Janice & Mitch Wellsteed in memory of Sylvia Heilbrunn, beloved mother of Janice.

Libby Wilson in loving memory of her father, Max Fleischer.

GENERAL FUND

Ashley Flynn in support of Temple Israel.

Lauren & Stuart Friedman as sponsors of Temple Israel's Tot Shabbat program.

Seth & Sara Linden in support of Temple Israel.

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

Burton & Michele Goldstein in honor of Dr. Lawrence Kosmin.

CANTOR DISCRETIONARY FUND

Cheryl Avirom in honor of Roni Love on her 80th birthday. Jeanne Halliday in loving memory of her stepmother, Ida Pinto Nahum.

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE FUND

Cheryl Avirom in memory of Michael Tate, beloved husband of Ruth Cooperman.

Linda C. Fox in memory of Michael Tate, beloved husband of Ruth Cooperman.

Chana & Glenn Ham-Rosebrock in memory of Michael Tate, beloved husband of Ruth Cooperman.

Jonathan & Lynne Kass in memory of Michael Tate, beloved husband of Ruth Cooperman.

Carole Moskovitz.

David & Sadie Sacks in memory of Michael Tate, beloved husband of Ruth Cooperman.

Janet & Carl Schultz in memory of Michael Tate, beloved husband of Ruth Cooperman.

Kristina & Bill Shafton in memory of Michael Tate, beloved husband of Ruth Cooperman.

Barbara & Lee Shoag in memory of Michael Tate, beloved husband of Ruth Cooperman.

David Tillman & Karen Zoller in memory of Michael Tate, beloved husband of Ruth Cooperman.

JOYS OF JEWISH LEARNING FUND

Carol Beckerman in loving memory of her friend, Marcel Salomon.

MUSIC PATRONS FUND

John & Marcie Blumberg in loving memory of John's grandfather, Sidney Hartmann.

TEMPLE ISRAEL PRESERVATION FUND

(Hiddur Mitzvah Fund-Foundation)

Gail & Thomas Levy in support of the Next 100 Years Campaign.



Welcome Baby:

Mazel Tov to Sylvia & Ronald Hartman on the birth of their great grandson Asher Ronald Saunders born on October 29, 2023 weighing 8 lbs. 3 oz.

We also extend congratulations to parents, Sarah & Stewart Saunders and grandparents Bruce & Julie Hartman.



Mazel Tov to Joanne Ratner and Wayne Slavitt on the birth of their granddaughter Ariel Beatrix born on December 20, 2023.

We also extend congratulations to parents, Elizabeth and Seth, big and adorable brother Reuben, excited aunts Hayley, Emma and Remi, and grandparents Susan and Ron Pross.



17(

Condolences

Pokras Family on the death of Sheila Pokras

Pamela & Marcos Weinstein on the death of her mother Marlene Goren on the death of her father David Goren





- 1 Tawny Correa & Rachel Van Raalte 13 years
- 2 John Burkholder & Barbara Pollack 40 years
- 3 Daniel & Rebecca Buckley 14 years
- 4 Cantor Marvin & Hannah Finnley 38 years
- 11 Glenn & Michele Newman 21 years
- 13 Gregory & Melanie Basich 16 years
- 17 David & Terry Braunstein 59 years Greg & Lisa Endelman - 26 years
- 18 Paul & Martha DeYoung 32 years
- 19 Marshall Blesofsky & Susan Sklar 49 yearsLaszlo Fodor & Morgan East 4 years
- 20 Daryl & Sandy Phillips 51 years
- 21 Mark & Elizabeth Thompson 51 years
- 23 Stewart & Brooke Baxter 13 years
- 29 Jeffrey & Laura Engerman 19 years



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Rent the Temple Building for a wedding, party or special event!

Contact Eric Shatzkin, Executive Director ejs@tilb.org

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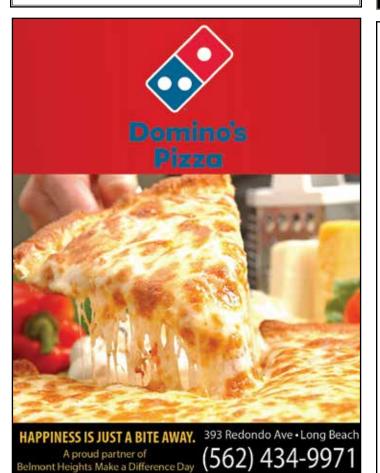
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IN FEBRUARY 2024 WE CELEBRATE 100 YEARS JOIN US AS WE COUNTDOWN TO



WITH SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

h

A Powerful Evening of Music and Community CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF TEMPLE ISRAEL WITH BILL SHAFTON AND FRIENDS Saturday Evening, January 13th 7:30 pm

Join us as we remember the countless moments of harmony, history, and Torah, and celebrate the years ahead!

We will be joined by the amazing talents of musicians Barry Cogert, Eric Hirschhorn, Christo Pellani, David York, and Tl's Kol HaShabbat Team. Listen to the wonderful Temple Israel Choir performing an original piece written for this evening by Bill Shafton!



RSVP Required by Wednesday, January 10 (562) 434-0996 or info@tilb.org