



TEMPLE ISRAEL
LONG BEACH

Kol Yisra'el
The Voice of Temple Israel



September 2025 / Elul 5785 - Tishrei 5786



Join us for the
High Holy Days
2025/5786



TEMPLE ISRAEL
LONG BEACH

FOUNDATION

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

Temple Israel's Foundation oversees the investment of your legacy gifts to allow Temple Israel to continue to maintain our beautiful facility and provide meaningful programming for our community.

If you are interested in supporting our future, or learning more, please call the Temple office.

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	Page 3
Foundation	Page 4
Sisterhood	Page 5
Socail Action / New Member	Page 6
Keshar Program	Page 7
A Voice From Israel	Page 8
Tot Shabbat / Mazel Tov	Page 9
RH Celebration in the Park	Page 10
High Holy Days	Page 11
Sustaining Members	Page 12
SCIC / Women's Book Club	Page 13
Yahrzeits	Page 14
Contributions	Pgs 15-17
Kol Yisra'el Sponsors	Pgs 18-19

Got Shabbat? Service

Generously sponsored by Rob & Debbie Feldman

Friday, September 19 at 6:00 pm

*Got Shabbat features a live Jazz band,
The Shabbatones*

*led by Barry Cogert and includes
piano, sax & clarinet, drums and stand-up bass
with the amazing singing talents of Kendra Cogert*



Get Well Wishes

Colleen Carver
Miriam Elisheva
Linda Fox
Darrin Hammer
Kalilah Leebe
Marc Newman
Kevin O'Grady
Nadine Pekar

Eve Perlman
Sara-Ann Scherwin



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 10th of the 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.

SEPTEMBER SHABBAT SERVICES

**Join us at 5:30 pm before our 6:00 pm Services
for our Pre-Shabbat Oneg Reception**

Friday, September 5

6:00 pm Family Shabbat Service

Saturday, September 6

8:45 am Torah Study at El Dorado Nature Center

10:00 am Shabbat Midbar Hike & Meditation
at El Dorado Nature Center

Friday, September 12

7:00 pm Kol HaNeshama - Musical Shabbat in the Round

Saturday, September 13

8:45 am Torah Study - Kaddish recited

Friday, September 19

6:00 pm Got Shabbat? Service

Saturday, September 20

8:45 am Torah Study - Kaddish recited

Friday, September 26 - Shabbat Shuvah

5:30 pm Tot Shabbat

7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service "Ask The Rabbi"

Saturday, September 27

8:45 am Torah Study - Kaddish recited



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025 - 2026

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Dan Felsenthal Foundation President



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ron Artstein, Temple President



Last month, I ended my column with a mystery: what is the significance of the reverse *Nun* ך characters which decorate our mobile ark? These allude to two verses from the Torah, Numbers 10:35–36, which are bracketed by the reverse Nun characters in Torah scrolls. These verses describe the words said by Moses when the Ark of the Covenant set out on its journey and when it halted, so pointing to these verses is appropriate for a mobile ark. Traditionally, these verses are recited at services when removing the Torah scroll from the ark and upon its return. However, they are not included in our siddur. According to Divrei Mishkan T'filah (commentary on our siddur), this omission is common in Reform liturgy, due to the warlike and vengeful posture of these verses – specifically, the words “Advance, O Eternal One! May Your enemies be scattered, and may Your foes flee before You!”

Concerns about warlike and vengeful posturing are not limited to our liturgy. Many in our community are worried about the increased militarization in Washington, and about Israel's military campaign in Gaza. Partly in response to these worries, the Reform Movement is launching a National Listening Campaign, holding conversations in our communities about our values, concerns, and hopes for Israel and America. The intention is to inform the Reform Movement's action and agenda. At Temple Israel, the listening campaign will be facilitated by Temple Members,

Jim Linden and Vicki Scherwin. In the coming weeks we will share details about how to sign up for a listening session; we hope to hear from all of the voices in the congregation.

In other news, the Temple Board kicked off the year in August with a retreat at the Temple: we updated our Board Covenant, which is the document that spells out the expectations and commitments of Board members. We have five new members on the Board this year (a quarter of the Board). Our Board members are listed on every issue of *Kol Yisra'el* (usually on page 2) and on our website (About Us > Lay Leadership). Please come and talk to us with any issues or concerns (or to give us a compliment). The Strategic Planning Committee also met in August, and will continue meeting every other month. At first we will focus on implementing the plan that was adopted by the Board almost two years ago, and in the spring we may consider revisions to the plan.

The big program coming up is, of course, the High Holy Days. Our clergy have been working out the details for months, our office staff have been sending out invitations and collecting RSVPs, our

choir started rehearsing in late August, our shofar blasters are warming up their horns, and our Ritual Practices Committee members are working on organizing our greeters, ushers, and other volunteers. There are many events and services, catering to all constituencies in our Temple – including, of course, the Rosh HaShanah Family Celebration in the Park featuring our mobile ark. You can find the schedule and details in this issue. We rely on our many volunteers to make our services safe and welcoming, so please help out if you are able.

Wishing everybody a happy new year – Shana Tova!



THIS YEAR'S RABBINIC INTERN - JOSH LESS



Josh Less is a 4th year Rabbinical student at HUC-LA. Josh moved to LA after spending two years studying in Jerusalem at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies. Born and raised in Memphis, TN, Josh is a lover of music, the outdoors, and Judaism. He grew up at Temple Israel Memphis and was married there last September to his wonderful wife, Leah. He is a proud dog-dad to two amazing golden retrievers, Teddy and Gus. Josh is passionate about cultivating Jewish identity, learning and becoming Torah, and investigating and wrestling with history. Josh is excited to be a part of the HHD this year at Temple Israel Long Beach and feels incredibly grateful for the opportunity. He can't wait to meet everyone!



TAKE IT FROM A TEEN - YOUR SUPPORT TO THE TEMPLE ISRAEL FOUNDATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

By Max Perler, ANDI President

Each year in late spring, the ANDI board passes a “Thank You” card around the table during one of our meetings. Signed with every member’s name, the card expresses our unwavering gratitude to the people on the Temple Israel Foundation Board and its donors, without whom our experience as Jewish teens would not be the same. Thus, I was surprised to learn that many people are unaware of how much the Foundation does for our teens in the congregation, as well as for Temple Israel at large.

In a world where there are as few as one or two Jews in a high school class of hundreds, the ability for Jewish teens to come together and connect with one another is invaluable. Doing so is how we stay connected to our identity and put our traditions in the context of the modern world. Enter the National Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY), the teen-oriented division of the URJ, and The Reform Teen Network, a collaboration of Southern California congregations (including Temple Israel), dedicated to raising funds and providing programming to ensure teen engagement. NFTY’s Southern California chapter is one of the most prominent organized movements in the area for Jewish teens to be together. NFTY SoCal partners with the Reform Teen Network to put on three regional retreats each year. These Fall, Winter, and Spring retreats, not to mention West Coast Party (which brings West Coast NFTY chapters together), are the highlights of many teens’ Jewish experience. There’s also L’Taken, the social justice seminar in DC that culminates in a network of lobbying efforts; this experience proves life-changing for many (including myself!). These events are opportunities to learn, try new things, and make lifelong memories. Jewish rituals, traditions, and values are also core to the effort, as participants sign a “Brit K’hilah” affirming these values before every event.

Unfortunately, these transformative programs are also expensive. The standard

retreats can cost upwards of \$300 a person, with events that are longer and further away, like West Coast Party and L’Taken, costing even more with the cost of airfare. It’s a hefty price tag for most people, but the cost of missing out on opportunities to spend time being Jewish is greater.

This is where the Temple Israel Foundation steps in. Established in 1977, the Foundation has two goals, according to Past President Mark Sharzer. The primary goal is to “disburse money for designated charitable purposes,” and the secondary goal is to “achieve long-term growth of assets via sound investments and donations.” Those assets and investments are then used to ensure the Temple keeps running and thriving. Recently, the next 100 years of our community have been on the minds of many congregants. Part of the Foundation’s job is to ensure as best they can, that we are financially secure for those next 100 years.

The second definition Mark cites is “a basis upon which something is supported.” This refers to who supports our Jewish community: *JEWS*. And to find the source of more Jews, you only have to look knee-high (or in the case of us teenagers, maybe higher). And so the Foundation uses part of its funds to provide scholarships for Torah Center and its programs, Jewish summer camps, and, you guessed it...Teen Retreats. Not only does the Foundation fund scholarships for every Temple Israel attendee who requires it, but they contribute the cost of airfare when needed. The members of the Temple Israel Foundation Board know that the cost of teens missing out on opportunities to spend time in their Jewish community is missed opportunities that in turn distance these teens from their religion. But with Jewish teens who are proud of and have engaged with their identity, the future of our community will be in good hands!

Mark expressed hope on behalf of the Foundation Board, that Jewish teens will pay it forward by supporting Jewish institutions later in life. I for one am sure

they are right. High schoolers who have experienced NFTY go on to join Hillels and Jewish fraternities/sororities in college to find that same camaraderie and sense of belonging. They stay connected to their Judaism and eventually join congregations, maybe sending their kids to Jewish summer camp and the very same retreats that they went to. After all, my own grandmother went to NFTY retreats when she was a teen! **Of all the assets the Temple Israel Foundation invests in, the most important one is the generational chain of Jews who are proud of the religion and its traditions.**

And since those “Thank You” cards won’t get passed around until spring, here’s a few Temple Israel teens who wanted to share their thoughts with me on the record:

“I’ve made unforgettable memories [at NFTY] and formed friendships I wouldn’t have found any other way.”

- *Gaby Ibarra, 12th grade*

“From the moment I went to my first event, I knew it wasn’t going to be my last. The idea the community gave me of what it means to be Jewish is something I will cherish for the rest of my life.”

- *David Quintana, 12th grade*

“NFTY has given me a home where I feel truly seen and a place where I can connect with my Jewish community...[it] has given me so many unforgettable memories and a family I know will always be there to support me.” - *Heather Axel, 11th grade*

“These events have made me the person I am today...[and] gave me connections and friends I couldn’t find anywhere else. These events are a part of me and I couldn’t see myself today never going...”

- *Michael Moreland, 10th grade*

“NFTY means community building and making memories with old and new friends. NFTY also helps me get closer with my religion and better my connection with my peers.”

- *Mason Smeltzer, 9th grade*



A NEW CHAPTER

By Judy Blumenthal and Debi Felsenthal, Sisterhood Co-Presidents



It is an honor and incredibly exciting for us to step into the roles of Co-Presidents of Temple Israel Sisterhood.

While we have both served previously as President, we are looking forward to doing this together. We are inspired by the dedication of our members and board members and the impact they have together. Our hope is to build on the incredible work of predecessors and lead into a new era of growth and impact.

This year, we are hoping to provide a wide range of programming. We encourage you to find new ways to engage with us. Please contact us to attend events, volunteer, share your expertise on a committee, or simply spread the word about our events and

contributions. We hope to see you at an event soon!

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Shana Tovah!



SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP

Visit our Gift Shop
for Rosh HaShanah Gifts!
The Gift Shop is open
Sundays from
9:30 am - 12:00 pm
and by appointment.
Contact Elyse at
(562) 619-8829



Temple Israel Sisterhood End of Summer Soiree Picnic

**Sunday, September 14
from 12:30 - 3:30 pm**

Rossmoor's Rush Park
3001 Blume Dr., Rossmoor, CA

*Bring your own lunch
Drinks, Desserts plus activities
will be provided*



RSVP to Debi Felsenthal
djfelsenthal@earthlink.net

SAVE THE DATES

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9
6:00 PM**

Women's Night Out
Location TBD

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 15
6:30 PM**

Hanukah Party
Latkes and Dinner

Address given to the first 15 people
who RSVP



AUGUST FOOD DRIVE FOR IMMIGRANTS LOADS THE TRUCK!

By Kate Sachnoff, Board Member and Co-Chair of Immigrant Protection Subcommittee of SAC



Our community partners, Latinos in Action and CLUE (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice) were thrilled to receive the donations gathered at Temple Israel for their city-wide drive. The rice, beans, toothpaste, diapers, etc. that many of you generously brought to the Temple were sorted by teen volunteers and delivered directly to some 80 families. A generous monetary donation will also provide additional supplies to more families in the future. These are families of many backgrounds who are so threatened by the ICE raids that they hesitate to shop, go in public or in some cases, go to work or school.

From our own history, we Jews know what it is to live in fear. We think of those courageous people who helped some of

us and many of our forebears as we reach out to others facing danger.

This 4-day “flash drive” in early August, showed how motivated our congregants are to help: in this short period, with no notice and minimal publicity. A pick-up truck was filled to brimming and it was impressive to see the many committed, energetic teen volunteers at the drop off site and how well the groups organized the larger drive.

This was one of the many activities that the Social Action Committee’s “Immigrant Protection” Subcommittee has promoted. To be added to the email list for the subcommittee, offer ideas or learn more, please contact David Sacks dasacks1@verizon.net or Kate Sachnoff ksachnoff6@gmail.com.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS - BEMOWSKI FAMILY



Temple Israel gives a warm welcome to Emma, and Adam Bemowski and their twin daughters, Ayla and Ophelia.

Adam grew up in Long Beach and Emma is from Los Angeles. They met in the Bay Area and lived in Oakland and then New York before moving to Long Beach in 2021. Emma is a kindergarten teacher and elementary literacy coach, currently taking a pause in her career to stay home with the girls. Adam is a software engineer. Ayla and Ophelia both attended the Alpert JCC for preschool,

and this Fall will be starting kindergarten at Patrick Henry Elementary.

As a family, the Bemowskis love spending time traveling, gardening, being outside, watching movies, and visiting friends. Emma is an avid reader, and Adam enjoys woodworking and playing baseball in his free time.

They are excited to be a part of our Temple community and for the girls to begin Torah Center this year!



קשר TEMPLE ISRAEL **Kesher** 8th-12th Grade



Max Perler
ANDI President

The school year is alive and well, and so are the Kesher teens. On August 15, we came back together for the Temple's Annual Shabbabaque at the Alpert JCC, where the ANDI Board led a fun, poolside service. Afterwards, there was a game of Head, Shoulders, Knees, Cup, followed by activities like basketball and art. It was a great start to the year! Next up is the official Kesher Welcome Back Event, which will take place at our Youth Director Kara Liu's home and Heartwell Park the evening before Torah Center starts. There will be dinner, relay races, capture the flag, and a Havdalah Service to cap off the night.

Later in September is NFTY SoCal's Fall Leadership Retreat, where 31 (*and counting!*) Kesher teens will descend on Camp Bob Waldorf in Glendale to strengthen their bonds with other Jewish teens and gain some powerful leadership experience. The very next night after our

return, ANDI's Religion and Culture VP, Asher Kain-O'Grady, plus the rest of the ANDI Board will lead the teen-only Erev Rosh HaShanah Service. This service will be followed by a mixer and a new-year-themed social action program, which has been thoughtfully crafted by our Social Action VP, Andrew Kahn. Adults who wish they could be there have no need to fret—come to the Rosh HaShanah Family Service the next day to see the ANDI Board lead most of the prayers there as well. Finally, the day after that is ANDI's Welcome Back for the 6th and 7th graders. The first of three such events throughout the year, the ANDI Board will bring our familiar mixer-then-program format to those close to entering the Kesher community themselves. It is sure to be a blast! September is busy, but it's only a sign that ANDI and Kesher are strong. Shana Tova, everyone.



Pictures from Our Annual Shabbabaque



KOL M'YISRAEL / A VOICE FROM ISRAEL

By Jeremy Rosen



700 days. That is the number of days that we approach, since the skies tore asunder to rain down fire and the ground split open and swallowed up our people. 49 of them are still left there, rotting away, the living and the dead. "Signs of life" get released periodically: images showing emaciated bodies digging their own graves.

During this whole time, one phrase, a commandment, a mitzvah, repeats itself as it's stuck in my head:

לא תעמוד על דם רעך

Basically, the translation reads "Do not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor." The first time I remember being exposed to this phrase is during the campaigns the Long Beach Jewish community took

to help the people of Darfur, an example of turning Jewish values into action. The aforementioned translation is, however, quite interpretive. More literally, however, the commandment is, "Do not stand on the blood of your fellow." Here the commandment is still a call to action to save. In putting this into practice last week, 2.5 million Israelis took place in a national strike, to try to press for a hostage release deal to be signed. A sign of hope in dark times; and I know Jewish communities all over the world take similar actions too.

When put into the context of the surrounding mitzvot, however, a new meaning, and a warning, becomes clear from the commandment. "Do not go as a gossip among your people. Do not profit from the blood of your fellow... You shall not hate your brother in your heart..." These days, the nation is racked by continuous scandals of public leaders abusing the families of the hostages, of stories of the families being attacked on the streets as if they themselves were the enemy, of people close to the heart of government active in campaigns to torpedo deals, of calls to settle Gaza on top of their graves. Most recently, even over the recommendation of the vast majority of current and former military leaders, and their warning that the

hostages' lives will be gravely endangered, the political echelon approved a new military campaign in the heart of Gaza City.

These days, I think of the continuous cycle of Jewish history, where Jewish sovereignty and security is lost when we stray from our holy laws, maybe as divine punishment or maybe because those laws work to protect our society. These days, I think of what we could prevent if we actually took heed to those laws and the warnings of history. The last commandment in the section is, "You shall love your fellow like yourself."

It is not a prohibition by contrast, but a positive, mandatory action. These days, I think of what if we all loved the hostages and their families like ourselves, and how that would translate into our actions, and how those actions would help begin to heal the deep pain felt by our people over the 700 days.



LOCAL GROUP MEETS SUNDAY MORNINGS

10:00 am at the corner of Ocean and Bayshore

Join our local community in this international program where they meet once a week in a designated location in the neighborhood, for a short 1km walk/run to show support for the immediate release of the hostages held by Hamas. It takes about 18 minutes.





Sweet New Year Shabbat

Fri • Sept 12 • 5 PM • Free
at the Alpert JCC

RSVP at alpertjcc.org

Ring in a sweet new year with a High Holy Day experience at the Alpert JCC on September 12 starting at 5 PM! Get messy with hands-on activities for little ones and a special Tot Shabbat with Cantor Kelly Cooper. Everyone is welcome! RSVP at: <https://alpertjcc.org/event/sweet-new-year-shabbat/>

TOT SHABBAT

Friday, September 26 at 6:00 pm



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

Welcome Baby!



Maxel Tov to Hannah Greenbaum & Hayden Goodsir on the birth of their daughter **Goldie Kathleen Goodsir** born on April 5, 2025. We also extend congratulations to big sister Rae Goodsir.



Norma Schumowon the birth of her great granddaughter and Melissa & Baltazar Osorio on the birth of their granddaughter **Liana Josephine** born on July 4, 2025 weighing 7 lbs. 13 oz. and 20.5 in long. We also extend congratulations to parents, Aubrianna Osorio and Kenton DeBouter.



Norma Schumow on the birth of her great grandson and Melissa & Baltazar Osorio on the birth of their great nephew **Simon Louis** born on July 11, 2025 weighing 6 lbs. 2 oz. and 19 in. long. We also extend congratulations to parents, Emily and Will Carter.

ROSH HASHANAH **Family Celebration** **in the Park**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 ~ 10:00 AM

Family-friendly Service

Led by Rabbi Fox, Cantor Cooper, and Sharon Amster Brown

BANDSHELL AT RECREATION PARK

4900 East 7th Street

JOIN OUR TZEDAKAH WALK!

Follow the Giant Apple on a walk - raising funds for charities.

Music • Crafts • Apples & Honey and Much More!

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE OF A KIND CELEBRATION!

COST:

**NO CHARGE TO ATTEND - RSVP REQUESTED
REQUESTED DONATION \$20 PER FAMILY**

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Contact Charmaine if you would like to help!

clw@tilb.org



High Holy Days

2025/5786

HIGH HOLY DAYS SERVICES

Erev Rosh HaShanah: Monday, September 22

7:30 pm Teen Service

7:30 pm Service

Rosh HaShanah: Tuesday, September 23

10:00 am Service

3:00 pm RH Family Service

4:00 pm Group walk to beach for Tashlich

Tashlich: At The Beach at Belmont Pier (*Ocean at 39th Place*)

4:30 pm Tuesday, September 23

Kol Nidre: Wednesday, October 1

7:30 pm Service

Yom Kippur: Thursday, October 2

10:00 am Service

1:00 pm Yom Kippur Forums (*approx. time*)

2:00 pm Family Service

4:00 -7:00 pm Afternoon, Yizkor, N'ilah Services

6:15 pm Tot Service with Kendra Cogert

Havdalah - following N'ilah (*approx. 7:00 pm*)

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Rosh HaShanah Family Celebration in the Park:

Sunday, September 21 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

(Bandshell at Recreation Park - 4900 East 7th St.)

Rosh HaShanah Family Service:

Tuesday September 23 at 3:00 pm

Yom Kippur: Thursday, October 2

Children's Programming (depending on sufficient registration)

10:00 am – 12:00 pm Grades K-3

11:00 am – 12:00 pm Grades 4-6

Yom Kippur Family Service: 2:00 pm (at Temple Israel)

Yom Kippur Tot Service: 6:15 pm

(Tots and their parents will join the congregation for Havdalah)

STREAMING SERVICES ONLINE

LiveStream will be password protected. Please request the password by emailing Charmaine Weiner at clw@tilb.org.

Temple Israel's Livestream Channel

<https://www.tilb.org/temple-israel-livestream/>

SELICHOT PROGRAM & SERVICE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

7:30 pm Refreshments

8:00 pm Program

9:00 pm Selichot Service



ADULT SIMCHAT TORAH CELEBRATION & PARTY

Saturday, October 11 at 7:00 pm



*You've partied with us
for Purim, now party
with us for
Simchat Torah!*

Details coming soon!

SUKKOT SERVICES

MONDAY

October 6 ~ 6:00 pm

Wine and Cheese Reception
followed by short evening Service

TUESDAY

October 7 ~ 10:30 am

Followed by Oneg in Sukkah



TORAH CENTER FAMILY SIMCHAT TORAH CELEBRATION

Sunday, October 12 at 11:00 am

SIMCHAT TORAH SERVICE

Tuesday, October 14 at 10:30 am

Yizkor will be observed

WE RECOGNIZE THE GENEROSITY OF OUR SUSTAINING MEMBERS

LIFE MEMBERS

Julie Alban
Reva Alban
Jack & Binnie Berro
Jean Feldman
David Tillman & Karen Zoller

RABBI'S CIRCLE

Richard & Amy Lipeles
Howard & Karen Ort

TEMPLE DOME

Ron Artstein & Nancy Hall
Beverly August
Mark Beizer &
Cathe Hagerman-Beizer
John & Marcie Blumberg
Steve Brenton & Martine Korach
Joel & Edie Brodsky
Alan & Rosecarrie Brooks
Benjamin Chapman &
Elizabeth Stewart
Elaine Davis
Joe & Laurie Dempsey
Mark Dressner & Matthew Davis
Asher & Heather Edwards
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Susan Stuhlbarg
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Bruce & Susie Amster
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Lysa Saltzman
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INTERFAITH GREETINGS

Honoring Rabbi Howard O. Laibson z"l

By Roni Love, South Coast Interfaith Council Member

On July 16, 2025, Rabbi Laibson z"l, Temple Israel's former rabbi who made a lasting impact on our local faith community and beyond, passed away. He was elected SCIC's first president in 2004 and his influence is responsible for enticing me to join and become a member. It is to him that I honor him and dedicate this month's article.

In 1953 the South Coast Interfaith Council (SCIC) was first established, comprised solely of various Christian denominations, but in 2004 it transformed from ecumenical to an interfaith council by a historical vote of the community it then represented. Today it includes over 150 member faith communities and 1700 individual members, electing Rabbi Laibson as its first interfaith president, with the responsibility to promote mutual understanding, respect, appreciation and cooperation among all people of faith in the greater South Bay-Harbor-Long Beach-West OC areas by extending hospitality, fostering community, offering educational opportunities, providing moral leadership, sharing in service, serving youth and working for justice.

Rabbi's interfaith involvement extended beyond the SCIC. He greatly engaged with the CCEJ (California Conference for Equality & Justice, formerly the National Conference for Christians & Jews), and became a recipient of their Humatitarian Award, CCEJ stating that he had "devoted his life and career as a community leader to Jewish diversity, interfaith communication, intergroup relations, and religious education."

Rabbi Laibson believed that "the enduring friendship between Jewish clergy and Black Christian clergy has long stood for justice." All Americans, especially Jewish Americans, should resist efforts to drive a wedge between Black and Jewish communities. "That relationship cannot be easily undermined by those acting in bad faith who do not value our communities." As a result, the SCIC, under Rabbi Laibson's leadership, instituted an annual interfaith celebration of the life and work of Civil Rights leader, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. on King's birthday. Many of our Temple Israel members have taken part in this annual celebration.

And although Arab-Jewish dialogue had taken place in Southern California, most of it had not emphasized religion. One exception was a group formed by Rabbi Laibson and Soheil Naimi, an active member of the Islamic Center of Southern California, gathering both at Temple Israel and the Islamic Center: Jews and Muslims - overcoming fear and stereotypes, together attending Passover Seders and breaking Ramadan fasts. What made their group significant, Rabbi Laibson said, was that "we are not academics, political activists or community leaders talking to each other, just plain folks... grass-roots dialogue."

We affirm our commitment to move beyond divisive language and offer support and comfort to one another during times of pain and grief. Practicing compassion - a principle central to all our traditions - reaches its highest point when we join together for justice, regardless of faith, nationality, or background. Collectively, our religious and spiritual heritages guide us to

MISSED RABBI FOX'S AUGUST SERMONS?

Use The Links Below to Read Them:

[Friday, August 8 -https://conta.cc/45yPB5f](https://conta.cc/45yPB5f)

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[Friday, August 29 - https://conta.cc/3JAiPcK](https://conta.cc/3JAiPcK)



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Discussing

*Being Jewish After the Destruction
of Gaza: A Reckoning*

By Peter Beinart

Wednesday, September 10 at 7:00 pm



In Peter Beinart's view, one story dominates Jewish communal life: that of persecution and victimhood. It is a story that erases much of the nuance of Jewish religious tradition and warps our understanding of Israel and Palestine. After Gaza, where Jewish texts, history, and language have been deployed to justify mass slaughter and starvation, Beinart argues, Jews must tell a new story. After this war, whose horror will

echo for generations, they must do nothing less than offer a new answer to the question: What does it mean to be a Jew?

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

oppose discrimination, inequality, and intolerance in every form and to uphold the rights and dignity of every individual.

We pledge to foster an environment of understanding and mutual support, not only in our words but also through our actions. *

This interfaith pledge, signed by many of us at Temple Israel and by Rabbi Laibson, reflects the life he strove to live. May we honor him and all humanity, by committing ourselves to this call and its commitment.

Shalom, Salaam, Peace...

*A Call and Commitment of the Faith and Interfaith Organizations of Southern California



Yahrzeit Observance

"Zeher Tzadik Livracha"

The memory of the righteous are a blessing



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on the death of her brother Barry Beckerman

Owen Fudim and Danielle Fudim

on the death of brother in law and uncle Frank Krisnowich

Judith Hardaker

on the death of her sister, Linda Gale Gordon

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For benefit of the Torah Center and its teachers

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Helps those in need
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Funds programs for Temple families in need
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Purchases Chanukah gifts for children of needy families

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Camp/trip program for children in financial need
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Camperships for those in financial need
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Fund for Families in need
- ☐ **Jewish Campership**
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Funds Torah Center projects
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Assists with Torah Center fees and scholarships
- ☐ **Roselle & Herbert Sommer Scholarship Fund**
Assists with Torah Center fees and camp scholarships
- ☐ **Miriam's TC Social Justice Scholarship**
Helps Temple teens participate in the URJ Social Action Programs

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- ☐ **ANDI**
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- ☐ **Social Action**
For social action and programming needs
- ☐ **Joys of Jewish Learning**
Funds adult education programs at the Temple



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- ☐ **Temple Israel Preservation Fund (TIP Fund)**
Funds building beautification and refurbishment
- ☐ **The Speizer Youth Development**
Funds youth activities
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Funds annual guest speaker lectures
- ☐ **Lapid-Shapiro**
Funds annual lectureship programs and Torah Center educational programs
- ☐ **Syd Lemmerman Jewish Camping and Youth Fund**
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Beverly August in loving memory of her mother, Bella Milkes.
Michele Berro, Aaron, Nathan & Miriam in loving memory of aunt Sylvia Aboulafia.
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Susanne Cameron & Jackie Fritz in loving memory of their mother, Edith Stone.
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Owen Fudim in loving memory of his relative, Harriet Lang.
Dennis & Lea Gerber in memory of Elliott Gerber, beloved brother of Dennis.
Rhonda Weitzman-Gobas & Harvey Gobas in loving memory of Rhonda's stepmother, Dorothy Simmer-Weitzman.
Jill Fisher Granek in loving memory of her grandmother, Minnie Feldheym.
Alain & Tari Hirsch in loving memory of Alain's uncle, Herb Scharf.
Bobbi Horowitz in loving memory of her mother, Anita Horowitz.
Judith Leff in loving memory of her mother, Helen Wisotsky.
Holli Levitsky & Mark Weitz in loving memory of Holli's mother, Sylvia Levitsky.
Jerry & Joanne Levy in loving memory of Jerry's grandfather, Louis Levy.
Joanne & Jerry Levy in loving memory of Joanne's grandmother, Ida Goldhirsch.
Aaron & Kimberly London in loving memory of Aaron's father, Edward London.
Roni Love in memory of her beloved mother-in-law, Ellen Love Porter.
Mona Panitz & Ed Zwieback in loving memory of Mona's sister, Ivy Gold Shapiro.
Leon & Barbara Shoag in loving memory of Leon's mother, Ida Levin Shoag.
William & Marian Siegel in loving memory of William's brother, Richard Siegel.
Sherri Sobel in loving memory of her husband, Craig Myers.
Nealy & Richard Solymar in loving memory of Nealy's father, Harvey Balakofsky.
Zalemon Tepper in loving memory of his father, Wolf Tepper.
Howard & Ava Weiss in loving memory of Howard's father, Marvin Weiss.

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Keren Schumow Carter in honor of the births of Simon Louis & Liana Josephine.
Jaren & Trish Goldin in memory of Ann Lentzner, beloved mother of Jay Lentzner.
Annette Kashiwabara & Marty Isozaki in memory of Ann Lentzner, beloved mother of Jay Lentzner.
Seth & Sara Linden in support of Temple Israel.
Jennifer Taylor in support of Temple Israel.

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David Tillman & Karen Zoller as a thank you for officiating at Andie Vassar's naming ceremony.

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Drew & Lauren Adams - 1 year
- 2 Nico & Elisa Turien - 30 years
- 3 Alan & Robin Lilien - 36 years
- 4 Geoffrey & Sandra Carr - 65 years
- 5 Philip & Stephanie Gonshak - 19 years
Sanford & Francine Levy - 65 years
Aaron Kuck & Marah Fineberg-Kuck - 10 years
Luis & Litha Maimoni - 16 years
- 6 David & Shari Alpern - 27 years
Scott & Melissa Newman - 16 years
- 7 Jeff & Andrea Salisbury - 22 years
Edgar Zwieback & Mona Panitz - 28 years
- 8 James & Barbara Kahn - 46 years
- 9 Neil & Laura Chasin - 36 years
Daniel & Maryse Fujimori - 41 years
Cliff & Laurie Gerstman - 35 years
- 11 Howard & Ava Weiss - 49 years
- 12 Hayim & Joy Zadaca - 32 years
Michael & Virginia Kahn - 16 years
- 13 Ian Desberg & Gwen Schwimmer - 17 years
David & Mary Sramek - 17 years
Marc & Cindy Sherman - 16 years
Craig & Melissa Burke - 11 years
- 14 Scott & Jennifer Fudal - 28 years
- 16 David & Carla Palmer - 36 years
- 17 Jonathan & Lynne Kass - 36 years
- 18 Jonathan Weiner & Carrie Zoubul - 20 years
- 20 Bryant & Selma Lee - 23 years
- 21 David & Mindy Raslevich - 17 years
- 22 Gordon & Judith Lentzner - 51 years
- 23 Harry & Eva Lowenstein - 41 years
- 24 Michael Rosen & Deborah Lewis - 42 years
- 29 Michael Kapson & Ellen Polsky - 4 years
- 30 David & Carol Jones - 19 years

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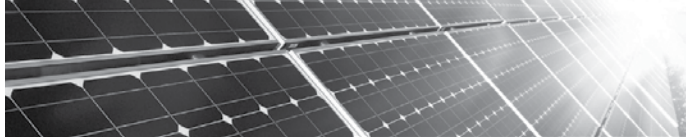
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