Mitzvah Day 2009

Sunday, November 1

Don’t forget to set back your clocks one hour!

Mitzvah Day 2009 is a project of the Valley Beth Shalom Chesed Connection in conjunction with the Jewish Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation Valley Alliance
Heed the call to action and join us on MITZVAH DAY 2009, Sunday, November 1. Valley Beth Shalom, in collaboration with organizations across the Valley, will be undertaking many Mitzvah projects, both onsite and at other locations. This is a wonderful opportunities for families, friends, and loved ones to spend an amazing day together reaching out to help those in need. Help us exceed our goal of 3600 hours of congregational service!

“Strengthen the hands of those who defend us” - Siddur

**Operation Gratitude**
Assemble care packages for US soldiers stationed. Pre-registration required. Two-hour shifts from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Ages 12 +. 
RSVP to volunteers@opgratitude.com or (818)909-0039

**Tell Them That You Care**
Decorate heartwarming cards and write letters of encouragement for US soldiers serving overseas and for soldiers serving in the Israel Defense Force. Benefitting A Package from Home (IDF) and Operation Gratitude (US military). VBS, 9:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m.

“Provide shelter to the homeless” - Isaiah 58:7

**Welcome Tiles**
Decorate welcome tiles for families moving into the new homes built by Habitat for Humanity VBS, 9:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m.

**Habitat for Humanity**
Habitat For Humanity, 9a.m.-2 p.m. Pacoima, Ages 10+, RSVP required: JGrair@humanityca.org or (818) 884-8808.

“As my father planted for me, so I plant for my children” - Talmud

**Tattletales**
Bring your children and teens to audio-record fables, fairy tales and nursery rhymes for distribution to children in hospitals and shelters. VBS, 9:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m.

**Be a Bookworm**
Join us in sorting books and affixing book plates for books for donation to shelters by Operation School Bell VBS, 9:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m.

**Cycles for Smiles**
For the first time on Mitzvah Day! Come join the Valley Beth Shalom Early Childhood Center as they host their 10th annual trike-a-thon benefitting Beit Issie Shapiro Institute in Israel and Our Space (the collaborative programming for children with special needs by VBS and Temple Aliyah). Contact Becky Hoffman or Frances Azaren in the Preschool Office at (818)788-0567 for age-specific times.

**Pacific Lodge**
Senior USYers and more! Come spend the afternoon tie-dying with the residents of Pacific Boys’ Lodge in Woodland Hills. RSVP to Allison Bluestein at (818)530-4025 or abluestein@vbs.org 1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

**Texture Books**
Help assemble texture books for the children with special needs of the Beit Issie Shapiro Institute in Israel. VBS, 9:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m.

**Tree People**
Come join TreePeople’s Ryan Allen and the Jewish Community Relations Council for some much needed tree care. All volunteers much pre-register one week before event. Contact Lisa Sotelo at volunteer@treepeople.org

**Teach a Child to Read—KOREH LA**
Train to be a literacy reading partner. In the following weeks, you will be placed with a child at a local school. Pre-registration is mandatory. For training locations and details, call Heather Silver at (818)817-0007 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Or 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

To register, call the Mitzvah Day Hotline at (818)530-4086 or email mitzvahday@vbs.org
**“Comfort the afflicted” - Psalms**

To Help Heal

Be creative and decorate get well cards to those in our community recovering from an illness, surgery, loss, or celebrating a new birth. The Valley Beth Shalom Healing Center offers support to our members, especially during moments of life's transitions and celebrations.

VBS, 9:00 a.m. —12:00 p.m.

**“Whoever saves a single life is as if he had saved an entire universe” - Sanhedrin 4:5**

Jewish World Watch—Do not Stand Idly By

Help put “End the genocide in Darfur” by assembling citizen advocacy kits and writing postcards.

VBS, 9:00 a.m. —12:00 p.m.

Jewish World Watch Basketball Free Throw Program

Shooting hoops is a great way to spend a Sunday, but just imagine if it also helped build a school for those who have nothing. In partnership with the NBA's Darfur Dream Team, JWW is inviting you to show your skills in a Free Throw challenge. Funds raised will go towards building, staffing and equipping two schools for the refugee children of Darfur. $5 donation suggested.

VBS, 9:00 a.m. —12:00 p.m.

Blood and Bone Marrow Drive

Give hope, give life, give blood. Participate in Heschel Day School’s Blood and Bone Marrow Drive.

Contact Edye Ashe at (818)705-7795 to schedule your appointment.

Heschel Hall, 17701 Devonshire Street, Northridge. 8:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

**“Share your bread with the hungry” - Isaiah 58:7**

Brown Bag Lunches

Make PB&J sandwiches, assemble and decorate lunch bags for the homeless served by the Children Helping Poor and Homeless People (CHPHP)

VBS, 9:00 a.m. —12:00 p.m.

Feed the Homeless

Help distribute the brown Bag Lunches with CHPHP locally. RSVP to the Mitzvah Day hotline at (818)530-4086 or email mitzvahday@vbs.org

Thanksgiving Baskets

Brighten the holidays for families in our community supported by the Adopt a Child Abuse Caseworker (ACAC) program.

Help us assemble and decorate baskets

VBS, 9:00 a.m. —12:00 p.m.

Casserole Baking

Assemble and bake casseroles for donation to the Women's Care Cottage which helps women and children move off the streets permanently and succeed independently in the community.

VBS, 9:00 a.m. —12:00 p.m.

Beautiful the SOVA box!

Young artists are welcome to come decorate the Valley Beth Shalom SOVA collection box.

VBS, 9:00 a.m. —12:00 p.m.

SOVA Food Bank

Help stock shelves and dispense food at the SOVA Food Pantry in Van Nuys from 3:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

To RSVP email debi.arditi@sbcglobal.net

**To register, call the Mitzvah Day Hotline at (818)530-4086 or email mitzvahday@vbs.org**
## Mitzvah Day Wish List

- Canned fruit, yams, corn, vegetables*, soup*, beans*, tuna*, packaged rice, pasta*, boxes of potato buds or similar potato product*
- Candy and toiletries for Operation Gratitude
- Diapers and wipes
- Children’s books

*these items needed with Kosher hechshers, preferred, but not mandatory

## Shoes That Fit

Provide new shoes to children in need so that they can attend school in comfort and with dignity. Shoe size requests will be available starting the last week of October through Mitzvah Day. Please purchase the requested shoes and return to VBS within two weeks. For details, call Robin Greene at (818)939-9639 or email robinllean@aol.com

The above items donated will go to benefit the following organizations:  
VBS Food Bank, SOVA, Operation School Bell, Operation Gratitude

### 2009 Mitzvah Day Schedule

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Special thanks to our Mitzvah Day 2009 Committee:

*Chairs:* Noelle Rips, Susan Feldman, Gavi Roisman
*Committee:* Debi Arditi, Nancy Beiser, Tara Beiser, Susan Brenner, Barbara Goldsmith, Patti Jacobs, Randi Simenhoff, Ornit Toren