



DECEMBER 2017 • KISLEV 5778 ~TEVET 5778

# THE MA'ALOT

Newsletter of Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot, Irvine

## INSTALLATION WEEKEND

### Shabbat Service Installation of Rabbi Sarah DePaolo

December 8th - December 9th

We will welcome Rabbi Sarah DePaolo to the bimah at Shir Ha-Ma'alot as we install her as Assistant Rabbi. She will be accompanied by Rabbi Helene Ferris, her childhood rabbi.

Join us for this wonderful service on Friday, December 8th at 7:30 pm. On Saturday, December 9, Rabbi Ferris will be leading Torah study at 8:30 am.



JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICE TO CELEBRATE CHANUKAH! THERE WILL BE A CHANUKAH THEMED ONEG WITH GAMES, CRAFTS, AND ACTIVITIES IN THE YOUTH LOUNGE FOR ALL TO ENJOY!

### "Building In Jewish Time"

JANUARY 12-14, 2018  
CAMP HESS KRAMER, MALIBU

## FAMILY RETREAT

TAKE THE FAMILY AWAY TO BEAUTIFUL MALIBU FOR A WEEKEND AT CAMP! JOIN YOUR SHM COMMUNITY FOR AN UPLIFTING AND INSPIRING SHABBAT FILLED WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS, PRAYER, STUDY, CELEBRATION, MUSIC AND MUCH, MUCH MORE! THIS WEEKEND IS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN OF ALL AGES TO JOIN WITH OTHER SHM FAMILIES AND FRIENDS IN THE RELAXED AND BEAUTIFUL ENVIRONMENT AT CAMP HESS KRAMER. THIS IS A FAMILY EXPERIENCE YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS!

REGISTER NOW AT [SHMTEMPLE.ORG](http://SHMTEMPLE.ORG)  
FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT RABBI DEPAOLO  
[SDEPAOLO@SHMTEMPLE.ORG](mailto:SDEPAOLO@SHMTEMPLE.ORG)



# THE MA'ALOT

Newsletter of Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot, Irvine

## Executive Committee

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Dr. Rachel Harman  
Co-president

Sharon Blindell  
Past President

Heath Liner  
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Lysa Goldstein, Co-Chair

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THE RONA PERLEY MEMORIAL SENIOR RABBINIC CHAIR

## Rabbi Sarah DePaolo

ASSISTANT RABBI

THE JAFFE FAMILY RABBINIC CHAIR

## Cantor Arië Manela Shikler

THE HOLLANDER FAMILY CANTORIAL CHAIR

## Beth Shikler, M.S.

THE LOEB FAMILY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHAIR

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## Kat Key Entzminger

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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## Lynne Koffler

BOOKKEEPER

## Elle Congelliere

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR/GRAPHIC DESIGN

## Rabbi Bernie King, z"l

FOUNDING RABBI

## SHABBAT SERVICES ~ DECEMBER 2017

### HOW GRATEFUL WE ARE TO BE HOME!

All Shabbat Services will be held at the main SHM Campus.

### Friday, December 1st

- 7 pm: Family Shabbat, featuring 3rd, 4th, and 5th Graders with Youth Band

### Friday, December 8th

- 7:30 pm: Shabbat Service, Installation of Rabbi Sarah DePaolo with Temple Musicians

### Friday, December 15th Chanukah Service

- 6 pm: Chanukah Shabbat Service, Oneg to follow with games, crafts, and activities in the Youth Lounge for all to enjoy.  
All 2nd – 12th graders are invited to participate in the Shabbat service. Email Daylen at [Daylen@shmtemple.org](mailto:Daylen@shmtemple.org) for more information.

### Friday, December 22nd

- 6 pm: Shabbat Service with Homecoming Blessing

### Friday, December 29th

- 6 pm: Shabbat Service

(Additional event details are available online at [www.shmtemple.org](http://www.shmtemple.org))

## DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

A new rabbi came to a well-established congregation, where each week on Shabbat, a fight erupts during the service as to whether the congregation should stand or sit during the Shema. Half the congregation stands because throughout history, thousands of Jews have died with the words of the Shema on their lips. The half that remains seated say, "if you are seated when you get to the Shema, tradition teaches that you remain seated." Every week: Stand up! Sit Down! It was driving the new rabbi crazy. Finally someone told the rabbi about a founding-member of the shul who is 98 years old and has a memory like a steel trap. So the rabbi appoints two people to go with him to interview the man: one person who stands for the Shema and the other person, one who sits for the Shema.

When they come to the founding member's home the "sitter" asks if the tradition was to sit, "No," the old man answers, "That wasn't the tradition."

The other man jumps up excitedly and says, "Ah ha, well then, it must have been to stand!"

"No," the old man says. "That wasn't the tradition."

The rabbi can barely contain himself and interrupts to say: "I don't care what the tradition was! Do you know what goes on in services every week — the people who are standing yell at the people who are sitting, and the people who are sitting yell at the people who are standing."

"THAT was the tradition!" the old man says.

Can you imagine people yelling at each other? Actually, I suppose most of us can. I suppose we have either been the recipient of a yeller or the yeller ourselves. But this story actually tells a more meaningful truth. It is at the core of Judaism. And that is the following. Judaism is not dogmatic. Judaism evolves and grows, reforms and reconstructs, converses and alters.

Judaism does this by on-going dialogue within itself. Even difficult dialogue. The Talmud, sacred second only to the Torah, is a text that has rabbis arguing with each other across the generations; one opinion right next to the opposing opinion. And what our tradition teaches is that it is within that conversation, that holy discussion, that growth happens, that truth is discovered and how our religion and our people develop into the best version of themselves.

This morning I want to talk about talking to each other. I want to share with you the insights of our tradition on how to have difficult dialogues and why it is so critically important to our future as human beings. The truth of the matter is that we are living in times where people yell at each other all the time with no higher purpose. Furthermore, even when we are not yelling, we are still not listening to each other.

If you are like me though, you are probably conflict averse. I hate conflict. It makes me nervous, causes me anxiety and makes me worry to no end. But I have noticed over the years that when I am at my best and the person with whom I am speaking is at their best and we engage in a difficult dialogue, I come out feeling stronger, better and having grown as I believe the other person does as well.

So insight number one can be found in our machzor — our High Holy Day prayer book. "For sins against God, God will forgive, but for sins against another human being, only that human being can forgive." Let's start with the second part — for sins against another human, only that person can forgive. What is required before we even get to the forgiveness part?....a conversation, a difficult conversation. And by the way, when I say conversation — I don't mean an email. I don't mean a text. I don't mean a voicemail. I don't mean a Facebook post. I don't mean a tweet.



**Rabbi Richard Steinberg**  
The Rona Perley Memorial  
Senior Rabbinic Chair

Those all indicate someone who is conflict averse. Face to face is the only way and it is so scary to think about. It is terrifying at times. The heart beats fast and your hands get sweaty. But you and the person with whom you are speaking, if you are in a calm state, even though you are nervous, you will be better for having had the conversation.

There are certain thoughts we have to overcome in order to enter the conversation. I would like to suggest some key factors in order to have productive difficult conversations — whether you are the seeker of forgiveness or the forgiver, whether you are having a dispute, whether you are discussing politics, whether you are expressing your deepest feelings. . . these are critical steps to consider before entering challenging conversations.

To begin, if you think you are 100% right, my suggestion is, don't have the discussion. My friends, no one is usually 100% right. If one is always 100% right, there is no room for growth and one's world becomes ever so small and myopic. What I do know, though, if a person is always 100%, he or she is usually a pretty lonely person. The rabbis tell us that the greatest sinner of Yom Kippur is the one who thinks he has nothing for which to seek forgiveness. The know-it-all. The definition of being human is there is always room for improvement. It is the essential message of Judaism, of these holy days.

*Continued on page 6*



**Cantor Arie Shikler**  
The Hollander Family Cantorial Chair

## YOM KIPPUR MORNING SERVICE

Moses was the most humble man on the face of the earth the Torah tells us. He stumbles upon a burning bush and his life and our people's lives change forever.

I am not comparing myself to Moses in any way, but you get the idea.

Reb Zusha of Anipoli The founder of a chassidic dynasty in the Ukraine, (Rabbi Meshulam Zusha of Hanipol) was an outstanding disciple of the Maggid of Mezritch, who was a disciple of the Baal Shem Tov, the founder of Hasidism.

When Rabbi Zusha was on his deathbed, his students found him in uncontrollable tears. They tried to comfort him by telling him that he was almost as wise as Moses and as kind as Abraham, so he was sure to be judged positively in Heaven. He replied, "When I get to Heaven, I will not be asked, Why weren't you like Moses, or Why weren't you like Abraham. They will ask, Why weren't you like Zusha?" Why didn't you fully live up to your own potential?

Reb Shlomo teaches that the most important thing is to be real. For me it has always been a way of life and I have been lucky and fortunate to do it my own way.

We created together a warm, welcoming and inclusive house of prayer. The music grew organically and I remember sitting during Bernie's sermon for the night figuring out what song am I going to sing afterwards. Music that reflects the sermon is so powerful, it is a one two punch.

As a young cantor I loved singing Israeli and Chasidic songs engaging with the very young congregation on Lido Island. The guitar is a folk instrument and we shortened the distance between the Bimah and the pew with an inclusive brand of Jewish music.

We danced to Horah around a fire pit at beach services and spirits were high.

Friday night services were and still are a learning experience for me absorbing the rabbi's teachings and sermons.

It was a privilege to participate and lead Life cycle events like brits and baby namings, bnai mitzvah weddings and funerals, in short: from the cradle to the hearse!

I hope humbly that I may have brought a touch of comfort, joy, inspiration, spirituality, love and meaning to all of these occasions.

In the Israeli army I learned how to lead as an officer. At Harbor Reform temple I learned how to be a spiritual leader.

I grew as a Jew here and discovered the beautiful menu of what Judaism has to offer. And the best part about Reform Judaism is that you can choose what you like and what is meaningful to you.

I am very lucky to have done it my own way and that both Rabbi King and Rabbi Steinberg allowed me creative freedom with the music. I was able to incorporate my original melodies like Shir Ha Ma'alot and Mi Chamocha into our service and let me tell you something: There's no better feeling in music than the one when the congregation sings those melodies with me.

You, the congregation today, and so many others through the years let me share my soul with you, a rare opportunity.

This temple has always been my home away from home. My kids grew up here and here I met my wife. Two and a half generations of families later, I am humbled by the fact that I officiated and taught Bnai Mitzvah's, officiated at their Confirmations and weddings and taught their children and even did a wedding ceremony or two for those children.

*Continued on page 13*

"Oh Lord It's hard to be humble," says an old country song, "when you're perfect in every way. I can't wait to look in the mirror cause I get better looking each day.

To know me is to love me,  
I must be a hell of a man.  
Oh Lord It's hard to be humble,  
but I'm doing the best that I can"

Of course, few people actually think they're perfect in every way. But it can still be pretty hard to be humble, especially if you live in a society that encourages competition and individuality.

So especially today, learning to be humble is important.

As you know, I announced my retirement starting this upcoming June with a Sabbatical after many years of service and 2496 Friday nights.

Please forgive me today for humbly sharing with you my feelings as I look back on this incredible journey as your cantor at SHM and what it means to me. Let me indulge a little bit today and reflect about SHM's future and mine and our future together. I am so moved by so many of you who reached out to me personally or by text, phone and email to let me know how you feel about it and your so many good wishes.

As many of you know, I never intended to be a cantor. I came to the US to study Industrial design. I walked into Rabbi Bernie King's office looking for a job as a Hebrew teacher and came out a cantor. You couldn't script anything more unpredictable than that.



## Simcha Planning with

**Karen Brutman**

SHM Event Coordinator

Let Karen assist you in planning an event to remember for all of your celebrations at SHM!

An experienced event planner, she has the creativity and ability to guide you in every phase of the event.

**Karen Brutman**

**714-381-1395**

**SHM.event.planning@gmail.com**

LIFE LONG  
LEARNING

# What Is Chanukah?

with Rabbi DePaolo at the SHM  
Kraut Education Center

DECEMBER 13  
7:00 PM

# Chanukah Shabbat

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, 6PM - 7:30PM**

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL FAMILY SHABBAT  
SERVICE TO CELEBRATE CHANUKAH!  
FOLLOWING THE SERVICE, THERE WILL BE  
A CHANUKAH THEMED ONEG WITH  
GAMES, CRAFTS, AND ACTIVITIES IN THE  
YOUTH LOUNGE FOR ALL TO ENJOY!



All 2nd - 12th graders are invited to participate in the Shabbat service!  
Email Daylen at [daylen@shmtemple.org](mailto:daylen@shmtemple.org) for more information.

One of the best pieces of advice I ever got was when a more senior rabbi said to me, "Remember, when you give a sermon, you are not the smartest person in the room." I give you my insight as I see it even as I take in yours and together we grow. One of the reasons I love my job, even as people come to me for advice, is that I mature from each encounter with every human being. I am not perfect and I have a lot of room for improvement, so with an open heart, a clear mind and a confidence to know that in becoming the best version of my self, I have a lot to learn. I hope I feel this way until the day I die. It is the essence of being a Jew. These holy days are all about accepting the idea that we are not perfect. And that is a great frame of mind to approach having a difficult conversation. If both participants tell themselves that in fact they may have something to learn from this discussion, from this other person, then both will be less defensive and both will be more open. Of course there are some exceptions to the rule, but in general, in these interpersonal relationships, knowing you may have something to learn is an excellent way to begin a conversation.

I am not suggesting for a second that a person who has been hurt has anything to "own up" to or to learn... the responsibility for the hurt lies with the offending party, but often times, it is a two way street. Even when a parent disciplines a child, my guess is the honest parent, when in his or her best frame of mind, might have found a better way to reprimand their child. Friends, I am suggesting, that even if you think you are 100% right on an issue, reduce it to 99.9% and leave open the .1% possibility that you might grow, or learn, or strengthen that which you understand or feel.

And let me say, there may in fact be a time when we know we are completely and totally right, but in the end, we must ask, is it worth it to assert how right we are? Many times, the relationship is more important than declaring victory.

Beyond not being 100% right, it is important also, as we enter difficult conversations with each other, to understand that people often speak from

hurt. There is a lot of pain in our world: physical, psychological, economical, social... so much pain. And for many, pain is their whole existence and for most of us, pain is a part of our existence... either way, pain plays a role in difficult dialogues. If it weren't painful, it might not be so difficult. So when we engage in these conversations, it is good to understand our own pain and to have compassion with those with whom we speak – because they too have pain. When spouses fight or friends argue, imagine how less defensive one might be if they put the defense aside and simply focused on the virtue of compassion – asking one's self – where is this all coming from? Asking the person himself, what is going on to cause you to be so upset? And then, we must be patient as they tell us and not interrupt. I know what I am suggesting is critically hard and much easier said than done – but don't we want to grow as people? Aren't we all tired of the same old, same old? That relationship dance we do with our boss, or our spouse or our kids... with the same result time and again. I keep waiting for our leaders all across the spectrum in every area of life to demonstrate this kind of moral, ethical and compassionate behavior and quite frankly, I am done waiting. I want them to talk like adults to each other, but it isn't happening. So why don't we just do it ourselves? Why not set the example right here, right now? If each of us reconciles ourselves to rise above the noise and be an or l'goyim, a light to the nations, in the way we interact with each other, in the way we talk to each other, in the way we solve problems – then the world will indeed shine one person at a time. One at a time. One community at a time, until the world catches on. The Scottish philosophy Hume said, "Empathy is the precursor to morality." Having a compassionate heart leads us to the right place to do the right thing.

In addition to not being 100% right in this new year, and having compassion when in conversations that challenge us, I would like to suggest one other precursor to such challenging conversations. When I trained to become a licensed marriage and family therapist, one of the great lessons of my education was to understand

that when entering dialogue with another, assume nothing. We know nothing about what the other person is bringing us on any particular day. It is why your child can come home from school one day happy as a lark and then another day come home as the Tasmanian devil... we don't know what happened during those 8 hours of school. To assume we do, is a mistake, as so many of us have learned the hard way. So we must be curious and inquisitive, instead of defensive, upset or annoyed. We would do well to ask questions before we come to a conclusion about what is happening in front of us. Push back for sure, but in a way that draws out information and not defense from you or the other. When we don't assume, we can learn and grow in ways totally unpredictable.

Rabbi Yael Ridberg teaches this lesson from the Talmud. "The Talmudic tradition offers us a glimpse into what happens with significant disagreements. In the world of the rabbis it was understood that you could have one set of rabbis declare something kosher and another set declare it not kosher, something forbidden and others say it is not forbidden, in the same conversation. And while it may seem crazy to have majority and minority opinions side by side in the text, that is what happens, time and again. In the Talmud the students are driven mad by this and want to know how they can possibly learn Torah this way, with two conflicting opinions? Rabbi Elazar offers the following: "Make your ear into a funnel, thereby acquiring an understanding heart."

The text continues that another rabbi, Rabbi Yehoshua, who was an elder at the time, offered the observation that a generation that has that Rabbi Elazar as a teacher in it will be a well educated generation. What made Rabbi Yehoshua offer such a compliment? According to Rashi, the great commentator, it is because Rabbi Yehoshua himself once changed his mind after hearing an opinion of Rabbi Elazar."

Imagine, entering a conversation thinking one way and then being so moved that one changed, completely or ever so slightly, their opinion.

*Continued on page 15*

## FROM YOM KIPPUR MORNING

Beth: In 1977, I was a Senior Girl Scout and attended a Wider Opportunity in New Jersey called "Get the Message." This was a week-long deep dive into communication and learning about how technology could change how we communicate. We visited Bell Labs and discovered that fiber optics were the next big thing. Touch-tone phones were just being introduced. The picture phone was right around the corner. The future seemed very exciting, and very far away.

1977 was also the year of "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" – a movie about learning to communicate with aliens and the changes it forced on the world. It was the year of "Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope" where C3PO, the golden robot, reminded Luke that he was fluent in 6 million languages in his offer to assist with communications. These films were futuristic, but did not foresee many of the real changes and advancements we've experienced. We have seen the rise of cell phones, Smartphones, the Internet, social media services like Facebook, Twitter, and Snapchat. Do you ever find yourself wondering how you got all your friends gathered for an event without tools like Evite, text messaging, and WAZE? Do you wonder how your remote teams at work were effective before video conferencing tools like Zoom or Webex?

I know I would be having a lot more separation anxiety from my son Max, in his first year at the University of Hawaii, if it weren't for FaceTime. How did our mothers stay in touch back in the day? Today, it's normal to be sitting at a restaurant thinking of something you want to share. A few seconds later and you're chatting, sharing pictures, and sending a calendar invite for a birthday celebration. All on one device that fits in the palm of your hand. Wow – that's a lot of change in a mere 40 years!

Advancements into the future don't happen in multiple years any longer, they happen in months. Change has accelerated. Communication is headed toward augmented reality systems. We'll soon be wearing special glasses to see real-time digital information about what we're viewing. Imagine, some stranger walks toward you and their name, their Facebook profile, and their Twitter feed pops up in your field of vision. We're not far off from the advent of devices that will allow for data and communication to be sent directly into your brain.

Rachel: I imagine my own medical career in the future as seen in a sci-fi movie, I put on my special glasses and the patient's entire chart, vitals, and perhaps even body scan appears in my visual field. I try not to wear a white coat in my practice, so as not to frighten my little patients, imagine the appearance of me in high tech specs! In the past 40 years, advancements in medical science have prolonged and improved the quality of life for many suffering from infectious, autoimmune, or oncologic diseases. The advent of the electronic medical record has probably been the single greatest change in medicine since I began practicing. This has given medical practices a way to monitor and communicate our patients' health in a much more detailed and coordinated way than ever before. It allows for quickly and legibly sharing information between care givers, and providing patients with easy access to their own medical records. Overall, it is a remarkable change with tremendous benefit to patients and caregivers alike. All this change can be a bit daunting – I sometimes yearn for the days of pen in hand charting, phone calls with busy signals, and actual invitations that come in the mail.

Raising teens in this age of constant, instantaneous communication has been a challenge and a blessing. I also enjoy being able



**Beth Carroll &  
Rachel Harman**  
Temple Co-Presidents

to see my son face to face even though he is two thousand miles away at college, it is comforting to be able to communicate instantly with my daughter on days I am late coming home from work and it is thrilling to have the ability to research and gather information the moment a question enters my mind.

Innovation and change are leading the way to brilliance and discovery. That's how we feel about where we've been this last year and where we are going. So much change – all headed down a bright path. The most significant changes for our congregation this year are in our facilities, our clergy, and our school.

Facilities: We are all sitting here on Lake Street on Yom Kippur, so it is apparent that we did not quite make our time table for completing our project in time to return to our campus for this High Holy Days. This was disappointing for all of us, but the right move for our future. Several changes along the way – the design, our architect, our contractor – as well as winter rains, steel delivery delays, some surprises when we opened the walls and floors in our existing structure, led to our return being staggered in two phases. The first phase will complete in October, as we move into the renovated building and begin to hold religious school and services in our home.

We have been blessed with the friendship of the Mormon community, welcoming us to their building for the past 10 months. We will be forever grateful for their hospitality, but it will be great to be home, back in our own building.

*Continued on page 16*

## Welcome New Members

Shellby Ribakoff

Ian & Geri Feldman

Efrem & Allison Joelson

Jaime Pollack & Susanne Stark

Andrew Saxon &  
Ashley Baynham

Arthur Friedman & Carol Gross

Cara Marlin

David Lustig

Ivan Nathanson

Zachary Johnson &  
Sarah Klivans

Gabriel & Michelle Bergman

Robert & Elizabeth Krinsky

Morton Glass

Kenneth Post &  
Karen Schoenman-Post

Roberta Lange

Michael & Heather Jarzyna

## Condolences to...

Tasha Alpert on the passing of her father, Greg Mlynarczyk

Robin King, on the passing of her mother, Ellen Glick

TAUGHT BY  
RABBI DEPAOLO

# Living Room Learning

December 6 at 7:00 pm  
at the home of Rachel Harman

*This program, designed for women, will cover issues, concerns and topics in a safe, intimate and warm environment. This year, there are both evening and morning living room learning events.*



## TORAH STUDY

**Saturdays at 8:30 am**

**(back at SHM Main Campus)**

**Meets: 12/2, 12/9, 12/16**

**No meeting: 12/23, 12/30**

Each week our Torah portion invites us to search our souls for meaning, memories, mitzvah, and lessons on how to be a mentsch.

We read the Torah over and over again each year as we gain more insight into its depth.

Study the weekly Torah portion with our rabbis and gain inspiration that will nourish your soul.

## SUPPORT GROUPS AT SHM

### Women's Support Group

FACILITATED BY EILEEN LENSON

The group provides a safe, supportive environment to explore issues specific to women. The group is comprised of women striving to stretch their comfort zones and examine issues, feelings and beliefs that lead to self-acceptance and authenticity. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Eileen Lenson at 949-854-2200.

## LISTEN TO OUR LEADERS

### Rusty Kennedy, CEO OC Human Relations Council

Thursday, January 4th at 11:30 am

### Chief David Maggard, Chief of Airport Police Division

Sunday, March 11th at 11:30 am

# DECEMBER 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> 7 pm - Family Shabbat Service	<b>2</b> 8:30 am - Torah Study 10 am - Bar Mitzvah of Noah Outwater
<b>3</b> 8 am - Religious School 9:45 am - Adult B'nai Mitzvah 10 am - NaSHiM Judaica Art Event 11:45 am - Youth Band/Musical Theater	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 4:45 pm - Hebrew School 6:30 pm - Executive Committee Meeting 7:30 pm - Board of Trustees Meeting	<b>6</b> 7 pm - Adult Choir 7 pm - Living Room Learning with Rabbi DePaolo	<b>7</b> 6:30 pm - Temple Musicians	<b>8</b> 7:30 pm - Shabbat Service, Installation of Rabbi Sarah DePaolo with Temple Musicians	<b>9</b> 8:30 am - Torah Study 10 am - Bar Mitzvah of Joseph Rosenberg 6 pm - SHMoFTY Event
<b>10</b> 8 am - Religious School 9:30 am - 4th Grade Family Camp 9:45 am - Adult B'nai Mitzvah 11:45 am - Youth Band/Musical Theater	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 4:45 pm - Hebrew School 5 pm - 8th-10th Grade 5 pm - 7th Grade BMC 6 pm - 11th & 12th Grade 7:30 pm - Men's Spirituality	<b>13</b> 11 am - Holocaust Survivor Luncheon 7 pm - Adult Choir 7 pm - Life Long Learning with Rabbi DePaolo 7 pm - Women's Group	<b>14</b> No Temple Musicians	<b>15</b> 6 pm - Chanukah Shabbat Service	<b>16</b> 8:30 am - Torah Study 5 pm - JiFTY Event
<b>17</b> 9:45 am - Adult B'nai Mitzvah 10 am - Adopt-A-Family 11:45 am - Youth Band/Musical Theater 12 pm - MiTY Event	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 4:45 pm - Hebrew School 6:30 pm - Education Committee	<b>20</b> 7 pm - Adult Choir 7 pm - Women's Group	<b>21</b> No Temple Musicians	<b>22</b> 6 pm - Shabbat Service with Homecoming Blessing	<b>23</b> No Torah Study this week
<b>24/31</b> No Religious School	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> No Hebrew School	<b>27</b> 7 pm - Adult Choir	<b>28</b> No Temple Musicians	<b>29</b> 6 pm - Family Shabbat Service	<b>30</b> No Torah Study this week

## A NEW CHANUKAH TRADITION



**Heather Rosenthal**  
 Religious School Principal  
 The Alpert-Waldman Family  
 Education Chair

Every year during the Chanukah season, I struggle with how to teach my children about the importance of engaging in acts of kindness. This can be an exceptionally difficult task to teach our children when there are so many different advertisements of products on the television, social media and the internet bombarding them at any given time. In my house, I hear at least five times a week about what product one of my children want for Chanukah.

The holiday season is a perfect time to think about others, instead of ourselves. And, of course, this can be tough to teach our littlest in our families. Nevertheless, it is a valuable lesson to teach. We can understand this concept through our acts of tzedakah. For some, tzedakah means only the charitable monetary giving that we offer. But, tzedakah is so much more than that. Tzedakah can be translated into “justice” and therefore, any act of social justice is an act of tzedakah. Yet, tzedakah is part of something larger, Tikkun Olam, which means “to repair the world”. What if our simple act of tzedakah made someone’s world a better place? Wouldn’t you want to teach this to your children?

For me, I want my children to experience these acts of tzedakah during the holidays. Therefore, I wanted to share a new Chanukah tradition, one that you may want to adopt, even if it is just one aspect of it. On one of the Chanukah nights, we will give a gift or two to our

children. They do not need tons of presents and, to be honest, Chanukah is not about the presents. On another night, we have family join us and they give gifts to our children.

But the other nights are devoted to different aspects of tzedakah. On one night, we may play the Dreidel game and the coins that we play with go into our tzedakah boxes at home, which will be given to a charity close to home. On one night, we may make bags of some essential items for the homeless. We put non-perishable food into a Ziploc bag, along with a water bottle, a camping blanket and a “Happy Holidays” card and these bags go into the trunks of our car, so that when we see someone who needs these items, we can pass them out. On another night, we may write cards for our military serving overseas. And on another night, we may make blankets and chew toys for dogs in shelters.

For me, it is important that my children know that they don’t need toys to make them happy. Yes, the holiday season is filled with opportunities to buy our children all that they want, but where is the value in that. Instead, my hope is that your family chooses to engage in at least one act of tzedakah this holiday season. What our world can be if everyone did just one act that benefited someone else in need! Only then would we be living toward Tikkun Olam, repairing the world, and leaving this world better than we found it.

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## B'nai Mitzvah Students



### Noah Outwater

December 2, 2017

Son of David and Randi Outwater  
I attend: Sierra Vista Middle School  
I enjoy: soccer, drums, videogames, and spending time with friends  
Mitzvah Project: Project Access - Back To School - backpacks and school supplies for 60 kids and tutoring



### Joseph Ethan Rosenberg

December 9, 2017

Son of Ilana and Mike Rosenberg  
I attend: Thurston Middle School  
I enjoy: hockey, skimboarding, skateboarding  
Mitzvah Project: Helping train puppies to be guide dogs for the blind



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## YOUTH GROUPS @ SHM

(Register online at [shmtemple.org/youth-rsvp](http://shmtemple.org/youth-rsvp) or follow the link in your email notice. See you there!)

### SHMoFTY 9th-12th Grade Youth Group Chanukah Party!

Saturday, December 9th, 6pm – 9pm  
SHM Youth Lounge

### JiFTY 6th-8th Grade Youth Group Chanukah Party!

Saturday, December 16th, 5pm – 7pm  
SHM Youth Lounge

### MiTY 5th & 6th Grade Youth Group Color Me Mine Tustin

Sunday, December 17th, 12pm – 2:30pm  
Meet in the SHM Youth Lounge & drive over

If you have any questions about these events or about any youth program please contact Daylen at [daylen@shmtemple.org](mailto:daylen@shmtemple.org)

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The Beatles line: "and at the end the love you take is equal to the love you make" is so meaningful to me.

The love and kindness I genuinely gave, came back to me seven fold.

The leadership always treated me with kindness, love and support beyond words. You the members have given me so much in return. I see it in your eyes when I sing to you, I feel it as a powerful rush whether it is during the holidays, Friday Night Live, a concert or Shabbat services. Your words texts phone calls and emails humbled me and made me feel so good to know that I affected you in such a positive way.

Teaching the Bnai Mitzvah kids never gets old. It is a wonder to see them mature right before your eyes. Then I see them later and they high five me when they're in high school!

After all these years they still think I'm cool?

The Youth Band and the Junior choir brought so much naches and richness to all of us and some continue to play in bands or have a career in music. One of my students played in Carnegie Hall. I am so proud of all of them!

And the gifted Temple musicians, those who are with us today and others who no longer live here. What a sacrifice of your time you have made. I am eternally thankful to you for sticking with me all these years. You take time off your busy life to come and practice and play at Friday night especially this year. You are my angels!

The Adult Choir and director Matthew Martinez: Your dedication love and enthusiasm for singing is an inspiration and a gift. Sometimes I close my eyes as you sing and let you carry my spirit higher and higher.

With the arrival of Rabbi Steinberg 17 years ago, we created the Friday Night Live Program and experience.

We started in October with Hebrew Jazz and it became a tradition. Before coming to the US, I was a Jazz and folk singer in Israel. Chazzanut

(cantorial material) allows you to improvise and interpret the melody just like in jazz. What a thrill!

Paul Carman brought his vast knowledge of music and leads his handpicked musicians in an outstanding way. He is a mentor and a friend not to mention saxophonist extraordinaire!

FNL is the service with the most fun and joy! Live music has power beyond comprehension. The feedback is immediate, and although the rabbi asks you to respond with Amen there were many times that you instinctively clapped and hollered.

The live music and congregation in the room gives me an experience that is an indescribable rush. I feel it from the exchange with you and to be honest it is the hardest thing for me to give up.

To quote from Winnie the Pooh: "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard"!

Our past and future are woven together and I'll be around, (believe me!) Yes, I'll have an office at the temple and if they beg hard enough I might sing a song or two. I will be starting a foundation that will have something to do with the preservation of Israeli Jewish music and Yiddishkeit, details forthcoming.

I feel very good about the music that I have created, shaped and formed here. We have a warmth that is not fake and is felt by anyone entering our temple. Guests from other parts of the country or the world always comment about how our service and music made them feel good.

I believe that the future is bright for SHM and that the spirit and essence of the music will continue and rise to new and higher levels.

I will be on Sabbatical starting the end of June and you won't see me for one year. I'll be back! And you'll see me often afterwards. I'd like to see one more generation come through the doors and as Cantor Emeritus serve as an ambassador for us.

As long as I have a voice I'll keep singing and as long as I have fingers I'll play my guitar, she is not retiring!

All in all you have shown me kindness beyond belief, gave me love that makes my heart explode and I am so humbled by this experience. For a little kid from Ramat Gan who never intended to be a cantor and do all of this, it's overwhelming! I am the luckiest cantor!

### **Thank you!**

All the Rabbis, Beth, all the Presidents

Dana and Yossie Hollander for underwriting the Cantor Chair

All the singers through the years especially Kim Cohen

All the FNL bands and Paul Carman

The Adult Choir and Matthew Martinez

My parents

And God who gave me the talent and inspiration

## BUILDING UPDATE FROM CO-PRESIDENTS

We are currently occupying the renovated building under a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy, which will be maintained until the full campus is completed. Every week new accomplishments are evident in both facilities – painting, polishing, building, and refining. Some remaining areas to complete: Chapel, Youth Lounge, electrical switches, café, and some millwork. In the meantime the clergy and staff are working onsite and services and school have resumed on our property!!

Hats off to the core Building Committee for their incredible accomplishments thus far and looking forward to more to come: Sharon Blindell, Ed Horovitz, Deborah Goldman, Beth Shikler.

Parking will continue to be a bit of a challenge over the next few months as we are still using a large portion of the lot for construction equipment and supplies. We are looking for volunteers to assist with parking for both Shabbat services (4 people) and Sunday's Religious School (2 people). If you would like to volunteer, please let Rachel or I know and we will have you put on our list for weekly reminders. We appreciate everyone's patience as we work around this limitation.

The Construction Loan has been executed with Pacific Premier Bank (Plaza Bank) with final stages well under way (recording, funding). Special thank you to Fred Forester, Ed Horovitz, and Beth Shikler for bringing this home for us!

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL SHABBAT SERVICE WITH

# Homecoming BLESSING

*for college aged kids*

DECEMBER 22, 2017

6 PM - 7 PM

SHM KRAUT EDUCATION CENTER

Please join us for one of the most special Shabbat services of the year, College Homecoming Shabbat. All college and graduate students are encouraged to come, with or without their families, to reconnect with one another and with our synagogue and congregation. It is always wonderful to see the room filled with those who grew up at our temple and to hear what they are doing. Oneg Shabbat will follow services.

The Boarnet family will be hosting a post-Hanukkah potluck dinner following the services and the Oneg at their home in University Park for all of the returning students and their families. Please email Barbara at [bboarnet@cox.net](mailto:bboarnet@cox.net) to RSVP.



JESSICA HERRON  
CARING & SHARING  
PROGRAM

**Thanks so much to all of you who helped provide grocery gift certificates to families in need for Thanksgiving this year.**

**We were able to help so many!**

If you can, please join us in sponsoring more families in need for **Chanukah** and **Christmas**. You can make a donation to the Jessica Herron fund of any amount by clicking on the link below or you can buy gift cards to Target or Walmart. If you would like to purchase presents for a specific family in need for Christmas, email Barbara King at [frombking@cox.net](mailto:frombking@cox.net). If you would like to buy gifts for a specific family in need for Chanukah, please contact Dana Klein at [nevatolate@aol.com](mailto:nevatolate@aol.com).

Thank you for your help!

*Rabbi from page 6*

Friends, we, human beings, are built for relationships. And as long as we are built as such, we would do well to act and engage in ways that make those bonds strong and fortified. Our fears get in the way and we believe when we have tough conversations, it will ruin a relationship. If done right, I promise you, it will bring change, insight and wisdom. When entering these conversation – let's not be 100% right. Let's have compassion and let us not assume anything until we know something.

So do we stand or sit for the Shema? It doesn't really matter as long as you pay attention to the word: Shema Yisrael... Hear, Listen, to each other... standing or sitting, let's just talk and listen to each other this year as we grow into being our very best selves.



RSVP TO EVENTS VIA THE  
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# WE ARE GOING TO GERMANY AND ITALY

MAY 1ST–13TH, 2018  
LED BY RABBI STEINBERG

GERMANY: MAY 1–8  
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CONTACT THE TEMPLE OFFICE AT  
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OR EMAIL LINDSEY MORLAN AT  
[lmorlan@shmtemple.org](mailto:lmorlan@shmtemple.org)



Phase 2 will complete in March 2018 as we open our new sanctuary and social hall. We plan on throwing a spectacular grand opening event to celebrate this milestone.

Our campus is shaping up to be a destination for the Jewish community here in Orange County, with a ton of room for school activities, a social hall that boasts room for 350, a caterer's kitchen and top rate security and audio visual throughout the campus. Open space, access to outside, light and room to schmooze are going to be available throughout. We're especially excited about the 400-square-foot deck off the youth lounge, windows in the classrooms, direct access to our stained-glass windows, our new chapel that will comfortably hold 75 people, as well as our wonderful la-cantina doors that will allow us to open both the social hall and sanctuary onto the grand walkway both for overflow and access to fresh air and nature. The additional room throughout the building for programming will be a life changing asset for our clergy and school – more space to spread out, more space to pray, learn and have fun together. Check out the website for video tours starring our very own Rabbi Steinberg!

**Clergy:** Another area of change is our clergy. On July 1, we welcomed Rabbi Sarah DePaolo to our clergy team as Assistant Rabbi. Rabbi DePaolo and her husband David moved here from New York, and are quickly getting settled here in Orange County. Her thoughtful sermons, engaging stories, warmth and intelligence have proven her to be a wonderful addition to our congregation. She's a great partner for Rabbi Steinberg, bringing new ideas and fresh perspectives as well as complementing his talents and making the work of supporting 600 families manageable. We welcomed Rabbi DePaolo with a lovely brunch, where she was introduced to the women of NaSHim – our sisterhood. One of the star events for the NaSHim this past year was the first women's retreat, and the group is very excited about planning a follow up with our new Rabbi.

As we welcome Rabbi DePaolo, we begin the

process of saying farewell to our beloved Cantor Shikler. Cantor Shikler announced his retirement earlier this year and has been serenading us with memories ever since! We are celebrating his wonderful career all year and culminating the festivities with the Gala which will be held this Spring in his honor. Be sure to join us on Friday Night Live Shabbat services as we share thoughts about Cantor Shikler and his legacy of music, spirituality and inspiration. Following this year, as Cantor Shikler becomes Cantor-Emeritus Shikler, we will begin a year of exploring many cantorial styles with a series of guest cantors leading music in our services.

Rabbi Steinberg remains our constant in the clergy team – constantly inspirational, constantly encouraging, constantly moving!! He continues to amaze us with his energy, innovation, and commitment to Shir Ha-Ma'alot and our community. Whether it's leading life cycle events with our congregation, leading activities with our children in school, acting as one of the Chaplains for the Irvine Police Department, or the Chair of the Orange County Human Rights Commission – his leadership, vision and Jewish values are a constant reminder to us all how fortunate we are to have him as our Senior Rabbi. It's no surprise to any of us that Rabbi Steinberg was recently named one of the top 500 opinion shapers by the Orange County Business Journal for the second year in a row!

**School:** A strong partnership between clergy, staff and our lay leadership has continued to drive innovation and our program has thrived throughout our temporary residence at Tarbut V'Torah and the BackBay Conference Center. Under leadership from Heather Rosenthal, this year we have changed our curriculum to imbed more music and technology to give kids even more opportunity for learning with both in school and at home instruction. Our children will continue to have the opportunity to learn through elective based learning in Sunday school. We remain the largest, by far, religious school in Orange County with over 350 children enrolled. We have over 60 Madrichim, post B'nai Mitzvah program participants. Our new Director of Youth

Engagement, Daylen Degelsmith is hard at work creating leadership programming for these eager teens who serve as assistants to our classroom teachers. Our youth groups bring smiles to our children's faces and keep them energized and knowing that it's cool to be Jewish!

Adult learning continued to flourish this year. Our theme was "The Blessings of Religion, Celebrating Faith" and we joined in prayer and study with leaders from many different faiths as well as other segments of the Jewish religion. From Sikhism to Mormonism, from Jewish Orthodox to Reform, we were privileged to learn and grow from these experiences.

In addition to celebrating religion, our own celebrations were changed up a bit, given the state of our facility. Last year we celebrated Sukkot in the homes of congregants, many of whom had never built a Sukkah before and were excited to share the experience with friends and family. This was such a successful community event, we are looking forward to having these dinners in our congregants' own Sukkahs again next week. We celebrated Shavuot in Rabbi Steinberg's home and heard what our Rabbis believed about God. Women of our Congregation shared a wonderful Passover Seder in Laguna Beach, and prayed, danced and ate together in an entirely unique way. It was so beautiful. And just a few weeks ago, we welcomed the High Holiday season with S'lichot services at the home of one of our own congregants.

We have changed and continue to change. Our wandering this year has made us stronger. We have demonstrated that no matter where we hold school, where we pray, where we celebrate holidays, we are a warm, caring, and thriving community. We are excited to see the change of our campus come to fruition, to welcome our congregation home to 3652 Michelson Drive. Rachel and I cannot wait to see what our new Campus has in store for us – the changes our new facility will allow us to make, how we will continue to blossom and grow, and how we will bring the warmth of our community into our new space. We wish you an easy fast and a good new year!

*(Building Update on page 14)*

# TZEDAKAH DONATIONS

## RABBI STEINBERG'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Debbi Gordon, congratulations to Aaron and Rowena Kramer on their wedding. Thanks to Rick for the wonderful ceremony.

Stuart & Susanna Wolfe  
Jerome Dunn

Brenda and Joe Colgate, thank you Rabbi Richard Steinberg for the wonderful High Holiday service and the moving service to honor the generosity of Irvine's Morman church congregation.

The Hauptman Family, Rabbi Steinberg, we are forever grateful to you for making Gabrielle's Bat Mitzvah service so beautiful and meaningful.

## RABBI DEPAOLO'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ruth Shulman, in memory of Leonard Shulman

## CANTOR SHIKLER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Joe & Brenda Colgate, in honor of Arie Shikler, Thank you for your beautiful High Holiday sermon and for being the soul of our congregation. We love you!

## GENERAL FUND

David & Gail Spivack, condolences to Bob and Jennifer Langer on the passing of Bob's father, Martin Langer. May his memory be for blessing.

David & Gail Spivack, congratulations to Gary and Linda Greene on the birth of their granddaughter, Mariah Corinne Morf.

Jon White & Hope Sherwood-White, Mazal Tov to Gary and Linda Greene on their new granddaughter Mariah!

## JESSICA HERRON ADOPT-A-FAMILY FUND

Barbara King & Marc Cohen, in memory of Jessica Herron, Bernie King, & my beloved parents

Amy Neterer, Jessica will always and forever be in our hearts and minds.

Sam Smetana

Jordon & Lisa Steinberg

Mark & Kristen Perlmutter

Nancy Platka

Rod & Bonita Stern

David & Randi Outwater

Larry & Bonnie Bann

Michael & Ilana Rosenberg

Mary Harrington, Jessica's legacy of kindness and beauty will never be forgotten.

Arie & Ilana Goldberg

Bob & Barbara Kaitz

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Rita Khosrova

Robert & Jann Glasser

Deborah Granow

Susan Bender

Russell Pyne

Kismet Collins

Lori & Dave Bechok

Cynthia & Mike Dell

Jay Herron & Dana Klein, Jessica is greatly loved and deeply missed.

Lynda & Tom Armbruster

Janet & Eric Horwitz

## Yahrzeit Fund

Marvin Blum, in honor of Betty Blum. On the first anniversary of her passing, she is remembered with love by all her family and friends.

Norman & Adrienne Witkin, in memory of brother, Rodney Witkin

Larry & Debbie Sogolow, in memory of Ed Vilim

Eleanor Weinstein, in memory of Gertrude Buckman - Mother, Alfred Buckman - Father, and Dr. Gerald Weinstein - Husband

David & Denise Schapiro, in memory of David's father, Harry Schapiro

Rick & Marcey Alpert, in memory of Abe Alpert

Edward & Sara Pulwer, in memory of Rose Lelowski

Jay & Erin Rindenau, in memory of Chaya Rindenau. We miss you.

Phil & Debbi Ferentz, in memory of my father, Wallace Ferentz. Always remembered, always missed.

Connie & Ted O'Connor, in loving memory of my parents, Stan & Maxine Greenblatt, taken way too young.

Connie & Ted O'Connor, in loving memory of Grandpa Izzie

Bob Langer, in memory of Martin Langer

Lori Schwartz, in memory of Marti Schwartz

Nancy Daniel, in memory of Lynn Taslitz

## CULTURAL ARTS/FNL FUND

Nancy and Bob Wolf thank Harriet Raff for taking us to Friday night services.

Nancy and Bob Wolf thank Jeffrey Brenner for taking us to High Holiday services.

Curtis Browne, sponsoring Friday Night Live



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| <input type="checkbox"/> Cantor Shikler's Disc. Fund                | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Steinberg's Disc. Fund                    |
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# Happy Chanukah!