

the Ma'alot

January 2015 • TEVET~SHEVAT 5775



Join Us for These Events & Much More!

- **Community Scholar Program at SHM with guest, Dr. Hartley Lachter**
Saturday, January 3rd, 8:30 am



- **Chardonnay Shabbat**
Friday, January 9th, 6:30 pm

- **Shabbat Service honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. with guest, Rabbi Stephanie Kolin**
Friday, January 16th, 7:30 pm



**Scholar-in-Residence,
Rabbi Sally Priesand**
January 23–25, 2015

- Shabbat Service, Jan. 23rd at 7:30 pm
- Torah Study, Jan. 24th at 8:30 am
- Religious School, Jan. 25th at 8:30 am

- **“The Story of the Jews” Series**
Beginning: Tuesday, January 20th, 4:00 pm

- **Friday Night Live! Shabbat Service,
“Secret of Life”**
Friday, January 30th, 7:30 pm

the Ma'alot

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FOUNDING RABBI

THE SHABBAT PERSPECTIVE

Friday, January 2nd

- 7:00 pm: Family Shabbat Service
with Youth Choir & Band

Friday, January 9th

- 6:30 pm: Chardonnay Shabbat
sponsored by SHM Brotherhood
- 7:30 pm: Jr. Congregation (Grades 3-7)
- 7:30 pm: Shabbat Service with
Chavurah Blessing



Friday, January 16th

- 6:30 pm: Tot Shabbat Service
- 7:30 pm: Shabbat Service honoring
Martin Luther King, Jr. with Temple
Musicians & guest, Rabbi Stephanie
Kolin

Friday, January 23rd

- 7:30 pm: Shabbat Service with Adult
Choir & Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi
Sally Priesand, "Reflections on My Life
as a Rabbi"

Friday, January 30th

- 7:30 pm: Friday Night Live! Shabbat
Service, "Secret of Life"

DEPENDING ON YOUR PERSPECTIVE...



Rabbi Richard Steinberg
The Rona Perley Memorial
Senior Rabbinic Chair

I haven't had a lot to say publicly about the recent publicity in Ferguson and Staten Island regarding Police/Community relations. However, it is important to note that I am anything but ambivalent about the issues at hand. So why have I had difficulty articulating my feelings publicly? For the last two months, I have been exploring this struggle inside myself.

Here is the answer: I am a Jewish white middle-aged man, who has by and large, only had positive experiences with the police throughout my life. In fact, my natural inclination whenever I hear about "police brutality" is to give the benefit of the doubt to the police, because I know how hard their job is. This is my life's context. It is neither wrong nor right—it just is and I don't apologize for it either.

But what I have come to understand, and have always really known on a certain level, is that, of course, my life's context is not the same of people who might use different adjectives (not: Jewish white middle-aged) to describe themselves. If I was a black twenty-two year old unemployed young man, my interactions with the police might be qualitatively different. Is that interaction with the police different than mine because of my own behavior or the police's attitude about what they perceive my behavior to be?

Ideally, if we are all obeying the law then the police's reactions ought to be the same? Is there a predisposition among law enforcement to seek out black men to suspect them of wrong doing more than white men? Is a police officer more likely to shoot a black person because he perceives him as more of a threat than a white person?

Each and every case has its own fact pattern. And if asked to sit in

judgment in each case, it would be hard to generalize. For me, the facts of Ferguson are unclear at best and not a good example of white police racism against blacks. On the other hand, what happened in New York—which is clear on video—is that the police not only used excessive force, it was most likely illegal force. That there was no indictment sends a message, whether intended or not. And the message plays into the narrative that white police officers are harsher, more aggressive and more likely to use force against you if you are black, than if you are white. And even more, the message is that if you are that white police officer, you won't be held accountable for your actions.

The Torah tells us numerous times that we were strangers in Egypt and therefore we must "not mistreat or oppress foreigners in any way. Remember, you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt." African Americans are not "strangers" in America, but rather this quote is suggesting that we ourselves have been the victims of governmental forces and we have an obligation to try to empathize with the oppressed. So for two months, I have tried to psychologically and emotionally understand the context of the minority in our midst with respect to law enforcement. Truthfully, it is very hard to do. Given my criminal justice degree, my relationship with the Irvine Police Department, my time as a twenty-one year old working for a police department for a year, it is hard to see the other side.

However, the more I learn and understand, the more it becomes clear to me that there many different Americas within our "united" states. From socioeconomic issues to

educational opportunities, all play a part in a person's experience with law enforcement.

As a religion committed to Tikkun Olam, the reparation of the world, we must believe that there are solutions to the problems that ail us. My suggestion is that everyone needs to "up" their game. If our country is going to unite, we must each do our part. The police must train in the areas of controlling one's bias as much as they train with their weapons. The African American community must do everything to lift its young people up toward opportunity and advancement, as must all cultural and ethnic communities. We, the rest of the community, must provide ladders for people to climb high so that they might reach their God given potential.

The problems that afflict us will not be solved if only one group does one thing—this kind of systemic change requires us all to do our part in the spirit of growth, change and peace.



Rabbi Leah Lewis
Rabbi & Director of Lifelong Learning
The Jaffe Family Rabbinic Chair

Jeremiah Society and Mandel House Partner with SHM 7th Grade Students for Chanukah Celebration



On December 7th the SHM 7th grade class hosted 17 guests from local Jewish organizations that assist adults with developmental disabilities. The students, who are studying Jewish values, planned an interactive morning of challah baking, Chanukah songs, and cookie decorating. A fun morning of learning and community was shared by all in attendance.

Back in September, the *Jewish Daily Forward* published an article entitled “10 Reasons Why Celebrating Both Secular and Jewish New Years is a Win-Win.” As we enter into the secular new year this month, I offer you my personal favorite...number nine:

Get Together - Rosh Hashanah is a family holiday; New Year’s Eve is not. On Rosh Hashanah our brisket and kugel entice the kids to come home; these kids are even tolerant of Cousin Ronnie’s embarrassing questions, like, “Do you have a boyfriend yet?” On New Year’s Eve, it’s embarrassing to admit you have nowhere to go except to Ronnie’s party for the cousins.

The article goes on to list nine other differences between the two new years’. It makes the case that both are important and each is distinct. I can’t help but wonder what could happen if we took serious the charge to bring a little bit of each new year commemoration into our observance of the other. In particular for this month, I am mindful that the Rosh HaShanah tradition of *Cheshbon HaNefesh*, taking an accounting of our souls, would provide some renewed perspective for the new year. We do not have to wait until the shofar blows to consider whether we are living the lives we intend to live. We can do that just as easily when the ball drops in Times Square!

Rabbi Eliezer, the Talmudic sage who was known for the many disciples who followed his every word, used to teach that we should repent one day before we die. “How are we supposed to know when that day will come?” His student asked. Not at all surprised by the question, Eliezer smiled and nodded. “Exactly,” He replied, “None of us knows when we will die. For that reason, we should repent every day.” In other words, Eliezer reminds us that we should live each day as if it is our last.

So while the world is busy with new year’s resolutions, making promises for the year ahead, spend a few moments to take an accounting of your soul and of your life, now. Ask yourself: Do you live every day as if it were your last? What are the things each of us wants to do in order to make sure that we live our lives most fully?

I encourage you not only to consider the answers to these questions, but to use them to inspire others, as well. Next time you are at temple, stop by the bulletin boards near the restroom hallway. There, you will see a type of ‘public art’ installation that we want you to be a part of by writing down and posting what you want to do in order to live your life most fully. There is no wrong answer and names are not necessary. All of the materials are there and ready to be used to share your ideas. Our hope is that this will be an intergenerational endeavor so that every member and guest of our community can post their own thoughts and be inspired by others’, as well. The members of the “Happiness Project” discussion group have already listed their thoughts, as have some of our Religious School students. Now it is your turn. Go ahead...what a wonderful way to ‘ring in’ the new year!

Chardonnay Shabbat

Friday, January 9th, 6:30 pm

Join us before services to say goodbye to the week that was, while focusing on the sweetness to come on Shabbat. We will have the opportunity to toast one another with Chardonnay (and maybe even some red wine) and experience the fullness of Shabbat.

Sponsored by the SHM Brotherhood

Shabbat Service with Chavurah Blessing

Friday, January 9th, 7:30 pm



Bring your entire Chavurah and their families to join the clergy and congregation this Shabbat in a special blessing celebrating community at SHM!

Shabbat Service in honor of



Martin Luther King, Jr.
with guest speaker,
Rabbi Stephanie Kolin

Friday, January 16th, 7:30 pm

“We Have a Dream—How Can We Make it a Reality?: Issues of Social Concern”

Please join us for this special Shabbat Service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. as we welcome Rabbi Stephanie Kolin. Rabbi Kolin is Co-Director of the URJ’s Just Congregations. She is the Lead Organizer of Reform California, a statewide campaign of the California Reform Movement that works in partnership across the lines of race, class and faith and celebrated victory in statewide immigration reform in 2013.

“The Story of the Jews”

Facilitated by Jeff Blutinger, Chair of Jewish Studies, CSULB

Series begins: Tuesday, January 20th



4:00–5:00 pm Screening

5:00–6:00 pm Discussion

Join with other SHM members to watch and discuss episodes of the critically acclaimed 5-part PBS series, *The Story of the Jews*. Explorations of each period of Jewish history will be guided by special guest, Professor Jeff Blutinger.

Join us for one or all of the episodes:

January 20

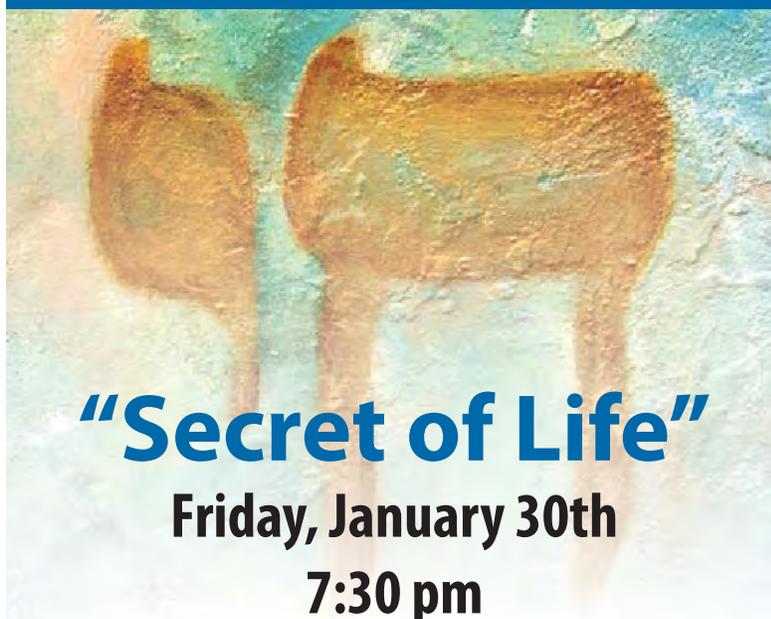
February 24

March 17

April 21

May 19

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE!



“Secret of Life”

Friday, January 30th

7:30 pm

Music is a powerful tool for evoking the inner space within which transformative prayer can happen. The ancients knew this, and music was a big part of the ancient temple ritual.

This service features congregational melodies and eclectic, contemporary music which compliment the creative service booklet compiled by Cantor Shikler, specifically for this service.

2015 Scholar-in-Residence



Rabbi Sally J. Priesand, America's first female rabbi, was ordained in June 1972 by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio. From 1981-2006, she served as Rabbi of Monouth Reform Temple, becoming Rabbi Emerita upon her retirement.

Rabbi Priesand is the recipient of many awards and honors, most recently honored in 2010 by Good Housekeeping magazine as one of the 125 women who changed our world.

RABBI SALLY PRIESAND

America's First Female Rabbi

January 23–25, 2015

Friday, Jan. 23rd, 7:30 pm
"Reflections on My Life as
a Rabbi"

Saturday, Jan. 24th,
8:30 am (Torah study)

Sunday, Jan. 25th, 8:30 am
(During Religious School)
"Why I am a Reform Jew"



A L I F E T I M E O F B E L O N G I N G

JUDAISM 101 IN FULLERTON

Since moving to Fullerton, we're still getting to know our way around, especially the restaurants. Having lived in the Irvine area for the past 18 years, we hadn't ventured to this area much until we started looking at houses here. We're also getting to know the people in the area, and have found them to be very friendly and welcoming.

When Max's Sunny Hills High School basketball game ended at 2pm in Pico Rivera this last Saturday, we battled the freeway to return home and were in search of a place to have a late lunch/early dinner. We came upon a local Fullerton Ramen Noodle place and decided to give it a try. Halfway through our meal, a family sat down right next to us. Their eldest daughter had on a Sunny Hills sweatshirt so we struck up a conversation. If you have been around my family much, you'll know that it doesn't take much to get us talking with people we have just met!

After sharing thoughts on girls soccer and boys basketball at Sunny Hills, where education is headed with Common Core, kids these days, and their recommendations for other local Fullerton fare, the conversation turned to religion and the fact that I was Jewish. The couple was fascinated.

They had decided to leave their traditional church and were learning under the guidance of a pastor about other religions. They were currently studying Judaism and wanted to share with me what they knew and ask some questions. Their study called for them to celebrate the Jewish feasts throughout the year, so they were now studying Chanukah, the Feast of Dedication.

This experience reminded me why it is so important for Jews to study our history and the bible so we can meaningful conversations with people who are interested in learning what we are about. This very lovely, friendly, and

bright couple had so many questions and things they wanted to run by me.

For instance, they had been taught that the twelve tribes were based on the people who were spread all over the world by the disruption caused by the Tower of Babel being destroyed and languages being confused. I was able to share with them that Jews would not consider Babel to be the origin of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. We talked about the Jewish teaching that the twelve tribes of Israel were the descendants of the twelve sons of Jacob and that Jacob later took the name Israel. They didn't realize that the twelve tribes really were formed well after the Tower of Babel.

They knew that the Torah was the five books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. They had learned about the Tanach, but they were not aware that the Tanach was an acronym for the Torah, Nevi'im (Prophets), and Ketuvim (Writings). We talked about the fact that the oral history origins of the Bible forced many acronyms and mnemonics (memory aids like "Every Good Boy Does Fine" for the music staff keys – E, G, B, D, F or the alphabetical recitation of sins during Yom Kippur) to be used to help ancient rabbis and scholars memorize lists and concepts when they had so much to keep straight in their heads.

It was interesting to me that they were looking forward to more study of the Talmud, the recorded discussions of ancient rabbis and the foundations of Halakha - the religious laws that dictate all aspects of life for observant Jews from when they wake in the morning to when they go to sleep at night. Every imaginable topic is covered, from architecture to trapping mice. To a greater extent than the other main Jewish



Beth Carroll
Temple President

holy book, the Torah, the Talmud is a practical book about how to live. They wondered why there were multiple threads of discussions in the Talmud on the same topics, and I shared with them how Judaism is a religion that welcomes questioning and expects us to be active participants, not just passengers in a religious journey. They liked the thought that we are most interested in what we DO rather than what we say we believe. Our actions are our religion in practice, not just the words or ritual.

It was great to be educated enough about the Jewish religion to contribute meaningfully to an inquisitive and interested person's education about who we are and their appreciation for the fact that so much of this ancient culture has persisted up until today. I encourage you to spend some time learning about our religion and history so you can be a good representative of our people in the community. Where better to start than our Temple?



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Ask about special offer for SHM Congregants



Talia White
 Religious School Principal
 The Alpert-Waldman Family
 Education Chair

One of my favorite activities on Sunday morning is visiting classrooms. I enjoy watching our SHM teachers in action and love seeing our students engaged in meaningful Jewish learning. Last week, as I entered our 6th grade classroom, I found the students in a lively discussion about Maimonides. The twelfth-century Jewish sage was the first person to write a systematic code of all Jewish law, known as the Mishneh Torah. He also created the Eight Levels of Tzedakah. I was struck by the intensity of the students' conversations as they listened intently to their teachers and each other discussing the various levels of giving charity.

Maimonides defines eight levels in giving charity (tzedakah) each one higher than the preceding one. On an ascending level, they are as follows:

8. When donations are given grudgingly.
7. When one gives less than he should, but does so cheerfully.
6. When one gives directly to the poor upon being asked.
5. When one gives directly to the poor without being asked.
4. Donations when the recipient is aware of the donor's identity, but the donor still doesn't know the specific identity of the recipient.
3. Donations when the donor is aware to whom the charity is being given,

but the recipient is unaware of the source.

2. Giving assistance in such a way that the giver and recipient are unknown to each other. Communal funds, administered by responsible people are also in this category.
1. The highest form of charity is to help sustain a person before they become impoverished by offering a substantial gift in a dignified manner, or by extending a suitable loan, or by helping them find employment or establish themselves in business so as to make it unnecessary for them to become dependent on others.

As I left the classroom, I reflected on the meaningful charity that our temple community has participated in this year. The results have been truly remarkable. Just over the past two months, we have

actively participated in:

- Mitzvah Launch
- We've Got Your Back
- Giving Children Hope
- Food Finders
- Socktember!
- Jessica Herron Sharing & Caring Chanukah & Christmas Program

Your participation has made a difference in the quality of life for many and as Maimonides has shown us, our actions have a direct effect on the lives of others and how we choose to engage with our fellow man. Our community actively has chosen to make a commitment to teach these eternal principles of Judaism to our children and keep alive the spirit of tzedakah. We thank you for your participation in these meaningful events.

Shalom

Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot

Jewish Overnight Camp Fair

Sunday, January 11th

10:15—10:45 am

Want to send your kids to Jewish Overnight Camp this summer?

The following Camps will be represented:

- Wilshire Blvd. Temple Camps (Hess Kramer & Hilltop)
- URJ Camps Newman & Six Points Academy
- Camp JCA Shalom
- And more!

Jewish camp helps shape children's Jewish identity, but also provides them with Jewish friends that will last a lifetime!



B'nai Mitzvah Students



Sabrina Dresnick

January 3, 2015

Daughter of Alana & Bob Yonowitz
I attend: Hewes Middle School
I enjoy: Hanging out with my family and friends and competitive cheerleading
Mitzvah Project: Volunteered with Friends of Orange County's Homeless Pets adoption days and donated pet supplies



Zachary Cohen

January 24, 2015

Son of Bad & Kim Cohen
I attend: Corona del Mar Middle School
I enjoy: Playing club soccer and the beach, surfing any time I can
Mitzvah Project: Raised money for "Twinz Team One Dream" for children at UCLA & CHOC fighting cancer.



Ethan Magursky

January 17, 2015

Son of Valerie & Frank Magursky
I attend: Sierra Vista Middle School
I enjoy: Playing soccer, video games, reading and hanging out with friends
Mitzvah Project: Volunteered with the Shadetree Partnership and helped with beach cleanup



Sydney Cohen

January 24, 2015

Daughter of Brad & Kim Cohen
I attend: Corona del Mar Middle School
I enjoy: Dance, cheerleading, the beach and performing in musical theater
Mitzvah Project: Raised money for "Twinz Team One Dream" for children at UCLA & CHOC fighting cancer.



Henry Lawsky

January 19, 2015

Son of Amy & Sarah Lawsky
I attend: New Vista
I enjoy: Video games
Mitzvah Project: Held a Bake Sale for homeless shelter



Nathan Mouchawar

January 31, 2015

Son of Jeanine & Alan Mouchawar
I attend: St. Margaret's
I enjoy: Soccer, football, skiing, wake boarding and hanging with friends
Mitzvah Project: Volunteered at Emeritus, a senior living home, playing games and visiting with residents

SHM Youth Groups

Register for these events online at shmtemple.org under "Events & RSVP" or follow the registration link in the emails.

CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!

SHMoFTY (Grades 9-12): Improv Comedy Night!

Saturday, January 10th, 6-9 pm

Meet at SHM for dinner, and then we will walk over to Improv City down the street for some funny improv comedy! It's sure to be an evening full of laughter!

JIFTY (Grades 6-8): Groovy 70's Tie Dye Party!

Saturday, January 24th, 6-9 pm

Flashback to the 70's! We will tie dye, have themed food, music, activities and a great time! Sign up to enjoy a groovy evening with your JIFTY friends! Bring a white shirt to tie dye! Drop off and pick up at SHM.

MiTY (Grades 4 & 5): Sleepover at SHM!

Fri-Sat, January 9th-10th, 7:15 pm-8:30 am

MiTY Overnight! Come to SHM for a night full of fun, starting with Jr. Congregation and then continuing on through the night with games and good times with your MiTY friends! Drop off on Friday at 7:15 pm and pick up on Saturday at 8:30 am.

MINI-MiTY (Grades 2 & 3):

Top SHMEF!

Sunday, February 8th, 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Mini-MiTY heads to UCI to learn how to cook our own lunch from scratch! We will be making edible art with a professional chef! Lunch included; drop off and pick up at the Anteater Recreation Center at UCI (the ARC)!

Welcome New Member

Susan Hinchey

Adult Learning Programs

Torah Study

Taught by Rabbi Steinberg & Rabbi Lewis
Saturdays at 8:30 am
1/3, 1/10, 1/17, 1/24 & 1/31

Nosh and Drash

Taught by Rabbi Steinberg, Rabbi Lewis and other amazing teachers

Sundays 8:30–9:30 am

Join us on Sunday mornings to enjoy a bagel and coffee and food for thought. Feel free to drop in whenever you are available, or come every week.

January Ethics Series

1/4: What are Jewish Ethics?

1/11: Is a Mitzvah a Good Deed or a Commandment?

1/25: Why am I a Reform Jew?

Hineini: Jewish Mindfulness

Tuesday, Jan. 6th, 6:00 pm

Judaism can inspire one to live a mindful life, but it takes practice. Be a part of acquiring the gifts and benefits of hineini as part of this group.

Happiness Project

Wednesday, Jan. 7th, 10:00 am

With age comes wisdom...and, a sense of renewed perspective on life. Join us on this journey to explore what it means to find happiness in all aspects of your life as you age.

Contemplative Service

Tuesday, Jan. 20th, 6:30 pm

Through music, prayer and contemplation, this service will allow us to become more open to the present and to listen to the spirit that dwells within us.

Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot

CSP One Month Scholar program at SHM



Dr. Hartley Lachter,

Associate Professor of Religion Studies at
Lehigh University (Bethlehem, PA)

"Jewish Mysticism Then and Now: Kabbalah as a Cultural Phenomenon from the Middle Ages to Madonna"

Saturday, Jan. 3rd, 8:30 am

We are pleased to host Dr. Harley Lachter as part of the 14th Annual One Month Community Scholar Program "Revolutions, Ruptures and Revisions: Transformation in Judaism".

Kabbalah has become a prominent feature of the American cultural landscape, especially through the interest it has attracted from some well-known celebrities. One of the criticisms directed against popular Kabbalah is that it misrepresents this tradition by disconnecting it from Judaism and repackaging it in terms of contemporary ideas and values. This talk will explore how such criticism fails to appreciate the ways that Kabbalah always has been a cultural phenomenon, be it the Middle Ages or the present. Despite the many differences between contemporary Kabbalah and its historical roots, both serve as fascinating examples of the unexpected history of the Jewish mystical tradition.



NaSHiM: SHM Women

Women & Wellness

The Childbearing Years: Their Physiological & Psychological Impact

Thursday, January 22nd, 6:30 pm

From preconception to postpartum and beyond, women's bodies, minds and spirits are forever transformed. Join other women for an evening of exploration, learning and connection.

Presented by Dr. Julie Rousseau, faculty member in the nursing program at UCI and Dr. Ellen Olshansky, professor and Founding Director of the Program in Nursing at UCI and member of the SHM Board of Trustees.



JANUARY 2015 EVENT CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	2 7 pm - Family Shabbat Service with Youth Choir & Band	3 8:30 am - Torah Study with CSP speaker, Dr. Hartley Lachter 10 am - Bat Mitzvah of Sabrina Dresnick
4 8:30 am or 10:45 am - Religious School 8:30 am - Nosh & Drash: What are Jewish Ethics? 10:15 am - Youth Choir 10:45 am - Torah Time for Tots 12:30 pm - Youth Band	5 9:30 am - Mah Jongg 6:45 pm - Adult Choir	6 4:15 pm - Hebrew School 6 pm - Hineini (Jewish Mindfulness Group)	7 10 am - Happiness Program	8 6 pm - Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 pm - Temple Musicians 7:30 pm - Board of Trustees Meeting	9 10 am - Torah Time for TINY Tots 6:30 pm - Chardonnay Shabbat sponsored by the SHM Brotherhood 7:30 pm Jr. Congregation (Grades 3-7) & MiTY Overnight 7:30 pm - Shabbat Service with Chavurah Blessing	10 8:30 am - Torah Study 6 pm - SHMoFTY: Improv Comedy Night! 7 pm - Brit Tikvah Anniversary Pot-luck Dinner
11 8:30 am or 10:45 am - Religious School 8:30 am - Nosh & Drash: Is a Mitzvah a Good Deed or a Commandment? 10:15 to 10:45 am - Camp Fair 10:15 am - Youth Choir 12:30 pm - Youth Band	12 9:30 am - Mah Jongg 6:45 pm - Adult Choir	13 4:15 pm - Hebrew School 5 pm - 7th Grade BMC 5 pm - 8th-10th Grade Classes 6:30 pm - 11th & 12th Grade Class 7:30 pm - SHMoFTY Board Meeting 7:30 pm - Men's Spirituality Group	14 6:30 pm - Brit Tikvah: guest speaker, Dr. Joseph Donnelly "Across the Spectrum" 7 pm - Divorce is Survivable Seminar: Part One	15 6:30 pm - Temple Musicians 7 pm - Empty Nesters Program: Part Two "Relating to your college freshman"	16 10 am - Torah Time for TINY Tots 6:30 pm - Tot Shabbat Service 7:30 pm - Shabbat Service honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. with Temple Musicians & guest, Rabbi Stephanie Kolin	17 8:30 am - Torah Study 10 am - Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Magursky
18 No Religious School	19 MLK Day Office Closed 10 am - Bar Mitzvah of Henry Lawsky	20 4 pm - The Story of the Jews 4:15 pm - Hebrew School 6:30 pm - Contemplative Service 6:30 pm - Board of Education Meeting	21 6:30 pm - B'nai Mitzvah Workshop 7 pm - Women's Support Group	22 6:30 pm - NaSHiM: Women & Wellness "The Childbearing Years"	23 10 am - Torah Time for TINY Tots 7:30 pm - Shabbat Service with Adult Choir and Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Sally Priesand "Reflections on My Life as a Rabbi"	24 8:30 am - Torah Study with Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Sally Priesand 10 am - B'nai Mitzvah of Zachary & Sydney Cohen 6 pm - JiFITY: Groovy 70's Tie Dye Party!
25 8:30 am or 10:45 am - Religious School 8:30 am - Nosh & Drash with Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Sally Priesand "Why I am a Reform Jew" 10:15 am - Youth Choir 10:45 am - Torah Time for Tots 12:30 pm - Youth Band	26 9:30 am - Mah Jongg 6:45 pm - Adult Choir	27 4:15 pm - Hebrew School 5 pm - 7th Grade BMC 5 pm - 8th & 9th Grade Classes	28 7 pm - Women's Support Group	29 6:30 pm - Temple Musicians	30 10 am - Torah Time for TINY Tots 7:30 pm - Friday Night Live! Shabbat Service "Secret of Life"	31 8:30 am - Torah Study 10 am - Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Mouchawar 6 pm - Community Building Havdallah with Dan Utley, "Schmooze with Jews"

FORMER KNESSET MEMBER AT SHM



Rabbi Steinberg, in conjunction with AIPAC, invited Dr. Einat Wilf, to speak to a group of Orange County rabbis. Dr. Einat Wilf, former member of Knesset, is a Senior Fellow with the Jewish People Policy Institute and an Adjunct Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East

Policy, was Chair of the Education, Sports and Culture Committee, Chair of the Knesset Sub-Committee for Israel and the Jewish People, and Member of the influential Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in the 18th Knesset.

Previously, Dr. Wilf served as Foreign Policy Advisor to Vice Prime Minister Shimon Peres and a strategic consultant with McKinsey & Company.

Born and raised in Israel, Dr. Wilf served as an Intelligence Officer in the Israel Defense Forces.

Red Cross Blood Drive at SHM!



Sunday, March 1st

8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Join with your fellow members and others from the community to give the gift of life.

One pint of blood can save up to 3 lives...

SAVE THE DATE...JOIN THE FUN...

2015 PURIM EXTRAVAGANZA

& FAMILY CARNIVAL

Sunday, March 8th

10:00 am ~ Purim Shpiel

11:00 am ~ Carnival

FUN FOR ALL AGES

Game truck ~ Bungee Jump ~ In atables
Great Food ~ And Much More!!!





Divorce is Survivable Seminar

Facilitated by Eileen Lenson, MSW, ACSW and Board Certified Life Coach

Begins: Wed., January 14th, 7:00 pm

If you are considering a separation, or are in the midst of a divorce, this three-part information packed seminar will help you navigate through the hurt and unknowns. The discussion and handouts will help you move toward healing one of life's most difficult experiences. The seminar will be lead by

Eileen Lenson, an SHM congregant and member of the Board of Trustees.

Part One: Understanding why divorce is so difficult

Part Two: Issues Relating to the children

Part Three: Life after the divorce

The series is free to all SHM members. \$20 per session for non-members

Empty Nester Group

Part Three: About the Parents

Facilitated by Eileen Lenson, MSW, ACSW and Board Certified Life Coach

Thursday, Jan. 15th, 7:00 pm

Eileen will address the concerns many parents have about relinquishing control of their daily parenting responsibilities and about coping successfully with the void left when their children move out of the family home.

Community Havdallah: Schmooze with Jews

with Dan Utley, Rabbinic Intern

Saturday, Jan. 31st, 6:00 pm

Come spend a fun evening with fellow adult SHM members with children no longer living at home (or children who have returned home). Commune with others who are experiencing the same joys and trials of this unique time in our lives.

Mark Your Calendar for February



Chai Society: Lunch & Speaker series with guest, Linda Algazi

Wednesday, February, 18th, 11:30 am

Lunch is only \$5.00 per person. RSVP online at www.shm-temple.org or call the temple office at 949-857-2226. If you have any questions, please feel free to call either of the Chai Society co-chairs: Barbara Kaitz, (714) 960-9403 or Sid Kuperberg, (714) 963-6161.

Living Room Learning

Thurs., February 12th, 10:00 am at the home of Eileen Lenson

These programs, designed for women, will cover timely issues, concerns and topics in a safe, intimate and warm environment. No fee however registration is requested so that we may know how many to expect. RSVP online at www.shmtemple.org or call the temple office at 949-857-2226.

Support Groups

Brit Tikvah: Across the Spectrum with guest, Joseph Donnelly, M.D.



Wednesday, January 14th 6:30 pm

Join Dr. Donnelly for an evening of discussion about the new diag-

nostics and the growing numbers of people living with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Dr. Donnelly is a pediatric neurologist who practiced for 25 years in Massachusetts at Baystate Medical Center. He joined UCI in 2002 and is Medical Director of The Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

Men's Spirituality Group

Facilitated by Rabbi Steinberg

Tues, Jan. 13th, 7:30 pm

Join Rabbi Steinberg for this exploration into universal issues that all men face. Young, old, or somewhere in between, we will discuss subjects such as relationships, business, sexuality and spirituality in a confidential setting. We will be able to share and talk about what it means to be a man as defined by Judaism, modernity and by one's self.

Women's Support Group

Facilitated by Eileen Lenson

Wed., Jan. 21st & 28th, 7:00 pm

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. (Contact the Temple office with interest in joining this group)

Tzedakah Donations

RABBI STEINBERG'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Mark Morros & Cari Cohn-Morros, thank you for the memorial service for Ros Morros

Sid & Judy Kuperberg in honor of Dick Gorelick on being selected as Mentsch of the Quarter

The Bann Family, thank you for your warm and compassionate funeral service for our father, Sid Bann

Bernice Malkin, thank you for the beautiful service for my dearly beloved Bill

George Schiffman, tzedakah donation

Judy & Sid Kuperberg in honor of Bob Kaitz's 85th Birthday

Louise Beckerman in memory of Ina Zeleznick's mother, Mimi Gorodess

Louise Beckerman in memory of Sheryl Strich's mother, Lilian Suslow

RABBI LEWIS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

Bernice Malkin, thank you for helping with the Shiva service

The McDonald Family, thank you for making Bailey's baby naming a special celebration

CANTOR SHIKLER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Hy Algazi in memory of Daniel Algazi

The Bann Family, thank you for your warm and compassionate funeral service for our father, Sid Bann

The McDonald Family, thank you for making our family celebration so meaningful

ALEX ZELEZNICK CHILDREN'S FUND

Beverly & Jake Jacobs in memory of Mimi Gorodess

CULTURAL ARTS/FNL FUND

Alfie & Sandy Schekman in honor of Dick Gorelick being Mentsch of the Quarter

Charlotte Pinsky in honor of Dick Gorelick being named Mentsch of the Quarter

Charlotte Pinsky in honor of Bob Kaitz's special Birthday

Bob & Nancy Wolf, wishing a speedy recovery to Beverly Jacobs

Nancy & Bob Wolf in memory of Mimi Gorodess

Alfie & Sandy Schekman in honor of Bob Kaitz's special birthday

Nancy & Bob Wolf, wishing a speedy recovery to Bill Platka

GENERAL FUND

Lynne Koffler in honor of Dick Gorelick being named Mentsch of the Quarter

Nathan Spiewak in honor of Bob Kaitz's special birthday

Rita & Bernie Ostravich in honor of Bob Kaitz's 85th Birthday

Rita & Bernie Ostravich in honor of Dick Gorelick being Mentsch of the Quarter

Elaine & Edward Stone in honor of the marriage of Charlotte & Howard Perley

Peter Rosenbloom in memory of Robert Rosenbloom

JESSICA HERRON ADOPT-A-FAMILY FUND

Robert Sapolsky, congratulations to Debra Borden on her birthday

Barbara King in memory of my beloved husband, Bernie

Marsha & Steve Bisheff in memory of Rabbi Bernie King

Bert White & Lori Schwartz in memory of Jessica Herron, our daughter's Vanderbilt classmate

Ben Hubbard in memory of Stephen Burgard

LIBRARY FUND

Larry Thompson Family in memory of Larry's grandmother, Ella Cohodas Weksler

Larry Thompson Family in memory of Larry's sister, Ruth Ella Ensworth

Larry Thompson Family in memory of Larry's mother, Libbie Leah Weksler Thompson

ONEG SHABBAT FUND

The Zeleznick Family in memory of our mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, Mimi Gorodess

YOUTH GROUP FUND

Debbie Spielman in memory of Gail Crafton

YAHREITZ FUND

Bill Platka in memory of Tillie Gardner

Al Weiss in memory of Sidney Zemel

Joan Weiss in memory of Cynthia Bentley

Loralee Sheridan in memory of my beloved husband, Robert Sheridan, MD

Funda Irvin in memory of Yiksel Saydam

Robert Sherman in memory of Beatrice Sherman

Nancy Daniel in memory of Lynn Taslitz

Pat Harris in memory of Audrey Goldbogen

Adrienne Witkin in memory of Mary Greenberg

Harriet Raff in memory of Barbara Flaster

Linda Davis in memory of Lewis Zellman

Don Abrams in memory of Bernard Abrams

Sharon Blindell in memory of Max Selcer

Esther Kettler in memory of Deborah

Weinstein

Esther Kettler in memory of Sarah Vogel

Marv Selcer in memory of Max Selcer

Herb Malmon in memory of Betty Malmon

Sylvia Schwartz in memory of Marti Ann Schwartz

Rick Alpert in memory of Marian Alpert

Ina Zeleznick in memory of Belle Star

Ina Zeleznick in memory of Anna Rossman

Dennis Fischel in memory of Jack Fischel

JoAnn Anthony in memory of David Anthony

JoAnn Anthony in memory of Ralph Meyer Anthony

Peter Cohen in memory of Joan Cohen

Adopt-a-Family for the Holidays

Sue & Mel Roth

Connie O'Connor

Susan Bender

Anne Armento

Henry Coopersmith

Debbie & Les Granow

John Tharp

Russell Pyne

Kristen Perlmutter & Family

Teresa & Robert Lindsay

Beth & Aaron Sher

Elaine & Harvey Fliasher

Carolyn Honig

Catherine DeCou

Wayne & Vikki Zuckerman and family

Jerry Silver

Gregg Gibbons

Jayne Ruane

Kim & John Burger

Jann & Rob Glasser

OUR TEMPLE ~ OUR TIME ~ ALL IN!



We've heard from our temple president in her address to the congregation on Yom Kippur, we see the beautiful model and renderings in our lobby, and we have hard-working committee members contributing to advance this exciting project.

Sharing Information about the Campaign:

In embarking on such an ambitious project, the campaign team hopes to stay true to one of our congregation's core values: inclusion. We want our congregants to be aware of the campaign's goals, engaged as we meet milestones, and invested in making it all happen. Accordingly, our Communication Committee will help our community stay abreast of the exciting developments on this dynamic and far-reaching endeavor via information sheets, FAQ's and a number of other channels, from Facebook posts to newsletter articles, and even a dedicated page on the temple website.

What Are We Striving to Build?

As our congregation grows, Shir Ha-Ma'alot promises to remain a warm, welcoming environment. The plans for our reshaped physical space will take place over time, with the overarching goal of rebuilding our home into the energy efficient, modern, flexible, inviting holy space that will serve our needs well into the future. The design will leverage our beautiful surroundings, integrate indoor and outdoor space, and add a number of features to enhance flexibility and utility, including:

- Multi-purpose classrooms that can shift from housing small study groups to accommodating larger meetings
- A sanctuary with a bigger choir loft, a better sound system, along with a smaller chapel that would enable us to have multiple services on Saturday mornings
- A dedicated Youth Lounge
- Improved kitchen, bathrooms and administrative spaces to allow for current and future needs, including capacity for events or receptions
- Parking solutions that address our needs and meet regulatory requirements

Campaign Commitments

While we all may like the sound of these improvements, our Temple leaders have vowed NOT to move forward without pledges to cover building plans. Under their wise stewardship, the construction will advance in stages, and only within the scope of the funds actually collected—no debt. The initial push is an "All In" effort from now through June, 2015, with the hope that 100% of the congregation will participate as we move toward our \$10 million goal. At that time the committee will re-assess, evaluating the scope of the project we can afford.

To learn more about the campaign or make a pledge, please visit:

<http://shmcapitalcampaign.wordpress.com/>

Or find us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/shmtemple>

SAVE THE DATE!

Empty Nester Mixer

Saturday, February 7th

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm



Shir Pleasure Gift Shop

Located in the Temple lobby

35% OFF All Chanukah Items

Dreidles, Menorahs, Toys, Tableware, Mugs, Puzzles & more

Everything On Sale!!!

Gift Shop Hours:

Sun: 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tues: 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Wed: 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Thurs: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

One hour before Friday services

Contact Arlene Taslitz at 949-837-9456
for appointments any other time

Visa & MC accepted
Gift certificates available

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**DATED MATERIAL—
 Please Deliver Before January 1, 2015**

**Make your Tzedakah
 Donation Online!**
**It's quick & easy to make
 your donation on the
 Temple website.**
Go to: www.shmtemple.org

Other Donation Opportunities

- Memorial Board \$360 per name
- Tree of Life \$180 per name
- Prayerbook Fund \$35 per book

**Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot
 has many Sanctuary and Facility
 Giving and Naming Opportuni-
 ties. Please contact the Temple
 office for further information.**

Tzedakah Contributions

Please enclose contribution and mail with this form to the Temple office.
 (Minimum \$10.00 per name or occasion)

Donation Given by:	Acknowledgment sent to:
Name _____	Name _____
Address _____	Address _____
City/Zip: _____	City/Zip: _____

Amount of Donation \$ _____ Check Credit Card on file

Visa/MC _____ Exp. _____

- In Honor of _____
- In Memory of _____
- Special Occasion _____
- Other _____

Please Apply My Contribution to the Following Special Fund(s):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alex Zeleznick Children's Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Steinberg's Disc. Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cantor Shikler's Disc. Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Lewis' Disc. Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Arts/FNL Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Rita Teller Camp Scholarship Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elana Frenkel Memorial School & Youth | <input type="checkbox"/> Ritual (Jerry Jacobs) Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florence Ruth King Chesed Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events Fund (Aaron & Brock Silverstein) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Stained Glass Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jessica Herron Adopt-a-Family Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Todd Evan Ross School Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Yahrzeit Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oneg Shabbat Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Group Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Book Fund | |

**Please note: If we receive your donation by the 15th of the month prior to a
 newsletter it will appear in that issue. After the 15th will be in the next issue.
 (Example: 12-15 will be in February issue).**