

the Ma'alot

June 2015 • SIVAN~TAMMUZ 5775

SHM



Join Us for These Events & Much More!

2015 Cantor's Concert

Concert in support of
Friday Night Live!

**SATURDAY,
JUNE 6, 2015
7:00 PM**

with Cantor Arië Shikler

MOTOWN

- **Special Showing of PUMP the Movie**
Tuesday, June 16th, 7:00 pm



**Shabbat Service with
Mentsch of the
Quarter, Jeff Brenner**
Friday, June 19th,
7:30 pm



- **Friday Night Live! Shabbat Service,
"Stand on the Shoulders"**
Friday, June 26th, 7:30 pm

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

the Ma'alot

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SHABBAT SERVICES ~ July 2015

Friday, June 5th

- 7:00 pm: Family Shabbat Service with Youth Friday Night Live!

Friday, June 26

- 7:30 pm: Friday Night Live! Shabbat Service, "Standing on the Shoulders"

Friday, June 12

- 7:30 pm: Shabbat Service with Adult Choir and Board of Trustees Installation

Friday, June 19

- 6:30 pm: Tot Shabbat Service
- 7:30 pm: Shabbat Service with Temple Musicians and Mentsch of the Quarter



THE POWER OF PRAYER?

Recently I received a call from a government official who was asked to offer a prayer at the National Day of Prayer breakfast (a private organization). This official, a thoughtful and very respectful person, wanted my take on such events, given that I am Jewish.

I thanked this person for their question and explained the following. I try to avoid these prayer breakfasts at all costs. I am always terribly uncomfortable as they tend to be Christian prayer events, not interfaith events. In other words, the prayers offered tend to be particularistic instead of universalistic in nature. While, of course, I affirm the right of every human being to pray (or not) as they so desire, I do not need to attend such events when they are billed as one thing, and turn out to be another. The truth is that these events are lovely and filled with brotherhood and sisterhood, but if there is ever a time I feel like a minority, it is in those moments.

Interestingly enough, last week I also received an invitation to give the invocation at the Irvine City Council later in the year. Again, I have mixed feelings about speaking in such a role at these governmental events. Irvine, in its wisdom, sends guidelines for such "prayers":

The City Council has determined that invocations that comply with the following guidelines are consistent with the Rubin decision (Rubin v. City of Burbank (2002) 101 Cal. App. 4th 1194.).

1. The tone, tenor and content of the invocation would not, to a reasonable person, be considered as advancing or disparaging a specific religion.
2. The invocation does not refer to terms associated with a specific religion, sect or deity such as "Jesus Christ," "Allah" or "Our Father in Heaven."

3. The invocation does not refer to a particular religious holiday, significant dates, holy day or religious event.
4. The person giving the invocation does not read or quote from any sectarian book, doctrine or material.

As I read these guidelines and then remembered my words to my friend, the government official, I realized that it is basically impossible to say anything of meaning, depth or interest if it is always universal in nature. In other words, our religions have something to offer society, so how do we offer such wisdom without making people feel uncomfortable, like I have in those other settings?

Try to write a meaningful prayer without the appearance of "advancing a specific religion," using God's name, while not referring to anything religious or reading from any religious text. It is a tall task. I so appreciate Irvine's caution and careful instructions so as not to offend anyone and at the same time, I went back and read all my other invocations I have given at government functions throughout the years and they are not that good. They don't say that much. And yet, who might I have offended had I quoted Talmud, Torah or Kabbalah? Maybe no one. Maybe I am just too sensitive? What is the correct balance for such things?

We are a nation founded on religious principles and with a vision of a Creator. We are a country that does have a separation of church and state, but mostly that means that the state cannot infringe on the church/synagogue, but that religion can do everything it desires to try to influence government. Even the Reform Movement has a political lobby in Washington DC. And a very influential one at that, known as the Religious Action Center (rac.org).



Rabbi Richard Steinberg
The Rona Perley Memorial
Senior Rabbinic Chair

Be that all as it may, what is the appropriate prayer for me to offer as a religious leader to a governmental body given the above guidelines? What would you say or offer?

I welcome your answers and offers...
rsteinberg@shmtemple.org

OUR CANTOR'S PERSPECTIVE



Cantor Arie Shikler
The Hollander Family
Cantorial Chair

June 6th is a special date for me. It was my late father's birthday and also happened to be "D" Day in WWII. On June 6, 1944, more than 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline, to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy. General Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "We will accept nothing less than full victory." More than 5,000 ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D-Day invasion. Thousands died or were wounded, but their sacrifice allowed more than 100,000 soldiers to begin the difficult and successful attack across Europe, to defeat Adolf Hitler's crack troops.

This week the world celebrates the seventy year anniversary of "D Day". It just so happens that my annual "Cantor's Concert" falls on the same day. Some say that there are no coincidences. I think sometimes things are just meant to be.

Jews know how to celebrate. We are very fortunate as a people to have survived so many atrocities and to have kept our tradition and identity proudly. Out of our losses in Europe and other places rose the modern State of Israel. That gave us a home and instantly all Jews everywhere had a place to reside or visit. No more defenseless, we are a strong successful country.

Jewish people worldwide continue their contributions for the human race to move forward. There are a high percentage of Jewish

men and women who have won the Nobel Prize and other highly ranked honors in relation to our population number in the world.

And life is good. We are free to pursue whatever we choose. We have religious freedom. So I would like to dedicate this upcoming concert to all the souls lost to our people, and those who fought for freedom and liberty seventy years ago. Their memory will rise in our song "Shir Ha-Ma'alot" (a song that ascends).

I don't know if there's better music to celebrate it than the music of Motown, short for Motor Town otherwise known as Detroit City. In the mid sixties, if you wanted to send a fan letter to your favorite singer at your favorite record company, you might as well have addressed the envelope simply to "Hitsville U.S.A" and it would be delivered to Motown Headquarters in Detroit.

According to Mark Etzkorn in The Motown Anthology, this music production giant was responsible for some of the most successful and most memorable pop music ever. Song after song by Smokey Robinson and The Miracles, The Marvelettes, Mary Wells, Martha and The Vandellas, The Temptations, The Supremes, The Four Tops, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, The Jackson 5 and Aretha Franklin, Al Green, The Isley Brothers and many others, shot up the charts.

The music was crafted impeccably, executed to perfection and left its mark on audiences around the world. I remember singing those songs as a teenager while learning to play guitar in Israel. We sang it and danced to it at parties and heard it often on the radio.

Unlike other songs from that era, the Motown hits don't sound dated today. They continue to inspire performers and delight audiences. The energy and emotional resonance of the songs make them as relevant today as tomorrow. This is why they continue to be popular on radio playlists, movie soundtracks and with various singers and bands.

As amazing as the music is, the company that made it is a wonder all by itself. An independent African American owned and operated company

featuring black performers broke the ice and sold millions of soul-pop records to a multiracial audience.

In the 1950's Berry Gordy Jr., a struggling songwriter, got a break with a song for Jackie Wilson called "Reet Petite" on the Brunswick label. He made \$1000 and a few songs later including "Lonely Teardrops" the first song of Gordy that reached number one on the R&B charts got the momentum going.

At this point in his life he sold compositions to other labels but was unhappy about the quality of many of the releases. He dreamed of running his own company and wanted to write, produce and market the songs himself. So in 1959, with money from recent songs and \$800 borrowed from his family, Berry Gordy launched his own music company.

He searched Detroit for talent and made an early and important connection with Smokey Robinson. The two of them were the heart and soul of the studio's early work.

They did everything themselves. Gordy was relentless and always motivated the staff to think big. Everybody pitched at all levels, sending out records, calling disc jockeys and so forth. Before long, the commitment paid off. Barrett Strong's song "Money (that's what I want)" was the first Motown hit in 1960. The music was a blend of R&B and pop that was perfect and magical.

They kept it simple and added gospel harmonies and call and response, strong bass line guitar licks and horns. The songs stirred your emotions and soul. The music has "hooks" in it and you get into it quickly. These unforgettable melodies and lyrics combined with the unique rhythm, hooks and backup vocals were and are magic.

They leave you wanting more.

Please join us Saturday night and immerse yourself in the music. Celebrate with us as we begin a new summer, full of promise, possibility and light.

Shalom.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE!



“Standing on the Shoulders”

Friday, June 26th
@ 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.

CONGREGATION SHIR HA-MA'ALOT

2015 Cantor's Concert

Concert in support of
Friday Night Live!

**SATURDAY,
JUNE 6, 2015
7:00 PM**

with Cantor Arië Shikler

MOTOWN Comes to SHM

Gold Patron \$360

Includes 1 Reserved Parking Space,
2 Reserved Seats & Patron Listing

Patron \$180

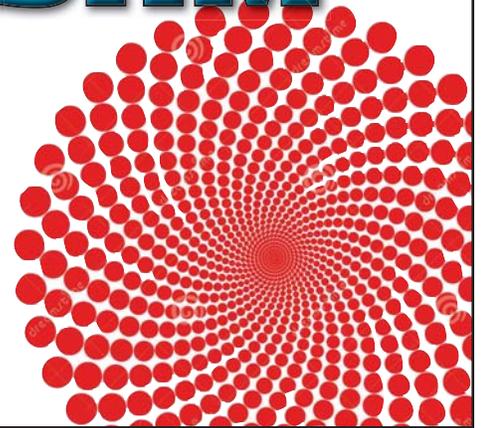
Includes 2 Reserved Seats &
Patron Listing

General Admission \$18 (\$20 at the door)

RSVP to the Temple office at
949-857-2226 or online at www.shmtemple
by Friday, May 22, 2015

CONGREGATION SHIR HA-MA'ALOT

3652 MICHELSON DRIVE • IRVINE 92612 • 949-857-2226



SPECIAL SHOWING ONLY AT SHM!

UNLOCK THE SECRET
THAT'S BEEN HERE ALL ALONG.



SEE “PUMP THE MOVIE” AT SHIR HA-MA'ALOT

**TUESDAY, JUNE 16TH
7:00 PM**

Yossie Hollander, SHM member, Israeli entrepreneur and co-founder of Fuel Freedom Foundation, and producer of the movie will lead a post event discussion.

Join us for an inspiring, eye-opening documentary that tells the story of America's addiction to oil and explains clearly and simply how we can end it—and finally win choice at the pump.

PUMP was produced by the Fuel Freedom Foundation, a nonpartisan group whose mission is to reduce oil consumption in the United States by allowing other transportation fuels like ethanol, methanol and natural gas to compete with gasoline at the pump.

No fee for SHM members.

OUR TEMPLE ~ OUR TIME ~ ALL IN!

We're almost there!

We need your help
to reach our goal of
\$10,000,000!

\$8,302,000 Be part of this very exciting phase
of the Building Project and make
your pledge today!

We are making a big push to
achieve our financial goal by
June 2015.

**LET'S BUILD IT TOGETHER...
DONATE TODAY!**

Contact the office at 949-857-2226 or make
your pledge online at www.shmtemple.org

Stay up to date on the Building Campaign progress on
Facebook at www.facebook.com/shmtemple



FROM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON MAY 3, 2015



Beth Carroll
Temple President

Welcome to our 2015 Congregational Meeting. This morning we're here to share a few moments of reflection, to review the budget for next year and bring it to a vote, present the slate for the Board of Trustees for 2015-16 and bring it to a vote, give you a brief update on our Building Program, and provide you an update on our Capital Campaign.

Rabbi Steinberg shared some inspirational word about the Temple, lay leadership and our Congregation and started us off with an opening prayer.

BUDGET

Rabbi Sternberg presented the 2015-2016 Annual Temple Budget: The Temple budgets on a very conservative basis the estimates of income and expense. The Temple is estimating a \$30,000 surplus for the fiscal year ending 2015. Because of the conservative budgeting, we are again projecting a loss for next year - \$84,000. The religious school is projecting a reduction of about 6 students over the previous year, however the mix of students is expected to drive a slight increase in the fees. There were no objections to passing the budget as presented. The details are available in the Temple office for interested members.

BOARD SLATE

The process for becoming a Board member is as follows:

1. Make it known to a Board member, the clergy, staff, me that you are interested in serving on the Board. We are interested in developing leaders in the community, so even if you aren't currently actively involved, we can find ways to get you engaged.
2. The Nominating Committee, appointed by the President, meets and presents candidates to the President for the possible open positions on the Board. These

people are those who have expressed interest, have demonstrated leadership and commitment to the Temple or have demonstrated leadership and commitment to other community causes.

3. The President determines from the expiring positions how many are available in consultation with the Board members whose terms are expiring as well as any vacancies that may have arisen.
4. The President reviews the nominations and cross references them with gap areas on the Board. The President then invites individuals to join the Board for a full or partial term (depending on the vacancy they are filling).
5. Once the individuals accept, they are included in the annual slate.
6. There is an opportunity to petition for a position on the Board of Trustees that is laid out in our By-Laws. No one petitioned this year.
7. Since the Board is uncontested, we do not need a paper vote and can accept the slate by oral vote when the time comes.

I'd now like to present the Board Slate to the Congregation. This year, we have added a co-President, one new Executive Board Member, and six new Board members included in the slate who introduce to you now:

Rachel Harman-Friedman – Co-President: I am currently completing my fourth year as your president. With the extensive Building Program and Capital Campaign ongoing, it was important to have a partner to lead the congregation so we can divide responsibilities and continue to our Congregation's positive momentum. Rachel Harman-Friedman has agreed to step into the Co-President role with me and I am excited to have such a talented

leader at my side. Rachel has been a member for about 13 years and has been on the Board of Education for the last 6 years, holding the chair role for the last 4. She has been on the Board of Trustees for 3 years and the Executive Committee for the past 2. Rachel is also a pediatrician with Kaiser Permanente in Tustin and has two very active kids – Jacob and Liana. Rachel – Thank you for taking on this challenge with me!

Charlotte Razdminsky – Executive Board: I have asked Charlotte Radzminsky to join the Executive Board. She has been a member for 11 years along with her husband Ron and two daughters Elin and Lillie who are all active in Synagogue live. Rabbi Steinberg converted her to Judaism. Charlotte has been active in our Kehilah Kedusha programs, an annual volunteer for the Purim Carnival and summer events. Charlotte also works as a realtor for First Team. We look forward to her leadership on the Executive Board this term.

There are six individuals who have stepped up to join the Board of Trustees. We are excited about the fresh faces and new leaders who are slated to join the Board.

Mickey Gubman: Mickey has been a member of Shir Ha-Ma'alot for 19 years. Mickey is a Certified Business Coach, specializing in Latin America business. He has worked with an

Continued on page 10

Mazel Tov...

Nancy & Bob Wolf on celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary

Pearl Wasbin on the birth of her grandson, Oliver Victor Wasbin

Condolences to...

Roger Friedman on the death of his grandmother, Lorraine Shulman

Gregory Breuer on the death of his uncle, Willi Hartmayer

Mark Hassman on the death of his mother, Elaine Recht Adelberg

Shy Meirovitch on the death of his father, Natan Meirovitch

Ted O'Connor on the death of his father, Colonel TJ O'Connor

Martine Speckler on the death of her uncle, Flavien Chicheportiche



SHM ANNUAL YOUTH FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE!

FRIDAY, JUNE 5TH 7:00 PM

FEATURING YOUTH CHOIR & B'NAI HA-SHIRIM BAND



CONGREGATION
SHIR HA-MA'ALOT **SHM**

Rabbi Bernie King Mitzvah Projects ~ June B'nai Mitzvah Students



Jonah Brand

June 6, 2015

Son of Leilah Brand and Ron Brand

I attend: Orange County School of the Arts
I enjoy: Music, playing various instruments (including sax and clarinet), basketball, and spending time with friends

Mitzvah Project: Volunteered at animal shelters and played my sax at Heritage Pointe



Ilana Cohen

June 20, 2015

Daughter of Cheryl Lempert-Cohen & Matthew Cohen

I attend: Rancho Middle School
I enjoy: Theater, playing trumpet, drawing, reading, traveling

Mitzvah Project: Crocheted and donated hats, scarves, and headbands to cancer patients



Rachel Weinberg

June 13, 2015

Daughter of Eva & David Weinberg

I attend: Tarbut V'Torah

I enjoy: Reading, piano, swimming

Mitzvah Project: Helped out at Human Options



Ethan Wayne

June 27, 2015

Son of Daniel & Alison Wayne

I attend: Tarbut V'Torah

I enjoy: Music (trumpet, piano and ukulele) and photography

Mitzvah Project: Passed on my love of music by working with the TVT Lower School students and aiding the Director of Music Programs

JUNE 2015 EVENT CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:30 am - Mah Jongg 6:45 pm - Adult Choir	2 6 pm - Executive Committee Meeting 7:30 pm - Board of Trustees Meeting	3	4 6:30 pm - Temple Musicians	5 10 am - Torah Time for TINY Tots 7:00 pm - Family Shabbat Service with Youth Friday Night Live! & SHMoFTY Board Installation	6 8:30 am - Torah Study 10 am - Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Brand 7 pm - Cantor's Concert "Motown comes to SHM"
7	8 9:30 am - Mah Jongg 6:45 pm - Adult Choir	9 6:30 pm - Brit Tikvah: Pediatric Speech & Language Therapy with guest, Andrea Pincus	10	11 6:30 pm - Temple Musicians	12 10 am - Torah Time for TINY Tots 7:30 pm - Shabbat Service with Adult Choir & Board of Trustees Installation	13 8:30 am - Torah Study 10 am - Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Weinberg
14	15 9:30 am - Mah Jongg 6:45 pm - Adult Choir	16 6:30 pm - Board of Education Meeting 7 pm - Exclusive Showing of "PUMP the Movie" with Q&A discussion led by Yossie Hollander	17	18	19 10 am - Torah Time for TINY Tots 6:30 pm - Tot Shabbat, "The Magic of Shabbat: featuring real live magic!" 7:30 pm - Shabbat Service with Temple Musicians and Mentsch of the Quarter	20 8:30 am - Torah Study 10 am - Bat Mitzvah of Ilana Cohen
21	22 9:30 am - Mah Jongg 6:45 pm - Adult Choir	23	24	25	26 10 am - Torah Time for TINY Tots 7:30 pm - Friday Night Live! Shabbat Service, "Standing on the Shoulders"	27 8:30 am - Torah Study 10 am - Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Wayne
28	29 9:30 am - Mah Jongg 6:45 pm - Adult Choir	30				

organization called Stand Down that helps former military personnel out of tough times. He is looking forward being active in the congregation as we evolve in this coming generation. Mickey has been married to his wife Wendy for 38 years and has a son and daughter.

Linda Greene: Linda has been a member of SHM for about 12 years. She is a retired speech therapist who currently volunteers with Reading Partners through the Federation. She also helps weekly in a kindergarten class at Adam's Elementary School in Costa Mesa. Here at Temple, Linda makes sure that all our events have yummy and abundant desserts as she chairs our baking committee – she's always looking for bakers so contact Linda if you love to bake. She's excited to join the Board as we move forward in our new Building Program having participated in the Capital Campaign from the inception. A fun fact about Linda – she and her husband Gary have four tortoises and they extoll the virtues of such a low maintenance pet!

Ellen Winters Miller: Ellen's parents were founding members of their congregation in Highland Park, IL that inspired her to her long time Temple membership – she's been a member of Congregation SHM for over 23 years. She is one of the founding members of the Ovarian Cancer Orange County Alliance that focuses on educating people about Ovarian Cancer. She's active in adult education and Torah Study and has stood in for our Cantor when he is away. Ellen is a licensed Marriage, Family and Child therapist who specializes in the field of fertility. She and her husband Bruce have four grown sons. A fun fact about Ellen is that she spent her 20's acting and singing and had a nightclub/singing act in Venice, California.

Rob Fleishman: Rob joined the Temple 6 years ago along with his wife Jodi and children Bradley and Andrea. They are a very active Temple family participating in Tikkun Olam projects and events as well as the Religious School. Rob's a senior district sales manager

for VALIC Financial Advisors, a unit of AIG. A fun fact about Rob and Jodi is that they met 19 years ago at a Young Jewish Professionals party in Columbus OH, having both relocated to OH from different parts of California – and were married a year later and quickly moved back to California. I guess they had to go really far for their serendipitous meeting!

Raschel Greenberg: Raschel has been a member for 7 years. She is active in Temple life and responsible for the Chesed Committee's Correspondence – sending out personalized get well and sympathy cards to congregants. She also volunteers for Boy Scouts and is a volunteer editor for the Boys and Girls Club of Tustin. She took a hiatus of serving on boards and committees while her son was small and dipping her toe back into the water on our Temple Board. We're so fortunate to have her join us – fun fact: Raschel loves to laugh and thinks Rabbi Steinberg is especially funny!

Teri Bassman: Teri and her family have been members of the Temple for the past 12 years. She is a full time mom for over 11 years with their three daughters Allie, Anna and Lauren, is an active member of our community – with the Women's Seder and Board of Ed and volunteers at her daughter's school. She is the marketing arm of a company that makes it easy for families to add more whole foods into their daily eating plans. Teri is also the "wing woman" to Ken Bassman our Capital Campaign co-chair and provides her professional insight into the campaign process. A fun fact about Teri is that she became a Bat Mitzvah a year ago, delighting her parents by reading the Torah with them in attendance, a priceless experience.

The full Board slate for 2015-16 was passed by the Congregation.

During our Board installation at Services on June 12, we will thank our outgoing members, but I want to acknowledge all their contributions over the years. Many thanks to our past co-president Wendi Fast who is stepping down from the Board after

many years of leadership. We also thank Lori Reznick, Abby Rozenberg, Kim Burger, Debra Borden and Joe Sloate for your commitment to making SHM a special place through all the generous time and energy you devote to our Temple.

I am privileged to be asked to return as co-President of Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot for a fifth year in this important position. I look forward to sharing the responsibility of the senior lay leadership of the Temple with Rachel.

I cannot say enough about how much the opportunity to serve the Temple means to me and how the partnership with Rabbi Steinberg is an enriching experience. Working with Rabbi Steinberg to steer this ship I have gained insight into the many facets of his talents: he is an inspiring spiritual leader who makes Judaism approachable to so many, his creativity in creating programs and engaging our members puts SHM in an enviable role in the Reform Jewish world. Rabbi Steinberg's leadership of the staff, of our Temple, among other Rabbis, and in our community is another admirable facet of our Rabbi. We are so fortunate to have this intelligent, compassionate and thoughtful man to listen to us and provide comfort when we are down and to be our biggest cheerleader in all the Temple and its members do! Thank you Rabbi.

Behind the scenes, the leadership of Beth Shikler as our Executive Director keeps the business of Temple running smoothly. Beth is at the hub of almost everything that happens here at Temple – making sure events run smoothly, that we have everything we thought we needed and many things we never thought of, keeping the bills paid, lights on, lawn mowed and staff focused. She is a leader at a strategic level and a task master on the details – we are so fortunate to have Beth running things.

We are gifted with wonderful clergy and staff team as well as a very active Board. All committed to the Temple and our Congregation. My role as President would not

Thank You...

Our Spring Fling fundraiser was a huge success! Thank you to all our congregants that played a part in making this evening so memorable:

Kara Jacobs	Beverly Jacobs
Arlene Taslitz	Bruce Miller
Lynne & Steve Koffler	Ellen Winters Miller
SHM Gift Store	Lynda Wisecup
Sakina Zerrel	Tova Cohen
Dori Levenson	Cheryl Duzman
Lori Schwartz	Sandy Flessig
Bert White	Cameron Allen
Lloyd Sellinger	



Mentsch of the Quarter



Jeff Brenner

Friday, June 19th, 7:30 pm

Please join us at this special Shabbat Service as we celebrate our newest Mentsch of the Quarter, Jeff Brenner. Jeff's involvement with the Family promise homeless shelter program here at SHM, is indicative of his engagement around temple, all the time. Always the first to volunteer, Jeff goes above and beyond what is expected. Whether it is recruiting volunteers, ensuring that we have enough supplies, or listening to people's stories, Jeff always makes sure that our guests are comfortable and well taken care of. He does it quietly and with conviction, as is his approach to temple life as a whole. Jeff is a devoted father of two boys, engaged in their lives and activities, showing them through his actions what a mensch is made of. And that is why we are thrilled that he has accepted the nomination for this great honor.

be possible without the support of my family since they are also swept up in the momentum of my many activities as President. Thank you Jim, Max, Sara and the kids for all your support.

Rachel and I will be providing a detailed update on the "state of the Temple" and highlighting our congregational accomplishments at High Holy Days in September. In the spirit of transparency and collaboration that I hope will be my legacy when I eventually retire from a leadership role here at Temple, I'd like to bring a few other people forward for some important updates.

Sharon Blindell, who is also a past-president, is now our Building Program Chair Person. She has brought all her organizational abilities, her business savviness, her contacts in the construction industry and her insatiable thirst for details and information to this position. She is here today to provide us a brief update on the program.

From Sharon Blindell's presentation: I'm going to give you a brief overview of what

has been happening with the Building Project over the past several months. If you're not on our Board of Trustees or Building Committee, you may not be fully aware of all the work that has been done behind the scenes since we unveiled the conceptual model at Yom Kippur last Fall. As you can imagine, there is an immense amount of pre-construction obligations to complete before any actual construction can begin. Now I'll quickly run through what has been accomplished so far and what lies ahead.

Back in August of 2014, Lehrer Architects of LA was retained to design our new SHM campus. Lehrer is renowned in the industry for their innovative designs, and their experience creating spiritual communities and organizational facilities is impressive. They have renovated many synagogues and community centers, including Temple Bat Yahm, Stephen S. Wise, and the Westside JCC. We are confident we are in good hands!

Meanwhile, as Rabbi Steinberg and our Campaign Committee worked diligently on the Capital Fundraising – Lehrer was off and

running to prepare our MasterPlan. This began in earnest with a series of programming meetings where Michael Lehrer and Roberto Sheinberg collected as much data as possible to learn the needs and wants of our congregation. Interviews with clergy, staff and congregants helped guide the architects in determining how to best design our campus.

While the architects began the process of crafting our MasterPlan, several subconsultants were hired to provide the necessary information to build our new facility. In December of 2014, GeoCon performed a site survey where a giant drill rig was used to bore various holes throughout the property to run environmental soils tests. By the end of January 2015, we had received a comprehensive report from GeoCon showing that there were no issues of concern. The current overflow parking area was still under review in regards to any potential methane exposure. We also received in January an updated Title Report, which showed any

Continued on page 12

encumbrances relating to the property, and a current ALTA Survey. ALTA stands for American Land Title Association, and this report is provided as an actual property map and specifically includes boundary lines, rights of way, building and improvement locations as well as any utility easements. Both of these reports are critical tools in progressing towards the final MasterPlan and application for a Conditional Use Permit from the City. Sapetto Real Estate Solutions is a consulting firm working in conjunction with Lehrer to help us secure this CUP.

In February our Communications Committee, led by Debra Goldman, prepared a comprehensive brochure of FAQs (frequently asked questions) and distributed it to the entire congregation. Hopefully you all have referred to it for valuable answers to the most commonly asked questions about both the building project as well as the fundraising campaign. If you are interested in reviewing this document, it can be found in the lobby by the model as well as on our temple website.

We also learned some fantastic news in February regarding the methane field located under the overflow parking. GeoCon confirmed that the landfill has a methane collection system in place that sufficiently restricts the migration of methane outside the landfill boundaries. What does this mean to us? It means we have much more freedom with how we utilize that area. Previously we had been told that there could be no construction, paving or even landscaping on that area – thus the cement pavers. Although we have no intention of erecting buildings on that land, the ability to utilize it as a significant green space and/or additional parking will make a huge difference to the overall campus design.

At the end of February, Lehrer provided us a completed program chart, which basically shows each area of programming – spiritual, education, administrative, etc. and describes the needs for that particular area. This document is what guides the architects in

their ultimate design. With the program chart, Lehrer created an overall site plan and a variety of floor plan layouts for Rabbi Steinberg and the senior staff to review. Once the appropriate layout is determined, this information will be used to submit to The City of Irvine for our Conditional Use Permit. The Conditional Use Permit is basically approval from the City to move ahead with our plans. It typically takes the City one month of review from the time of submittal. The City will then provide comments and most likely certain requirements. We will then respond with any necessary revisions and additional information as requested and resubmit. This entire process often takes 4-6 months until approval is ultimately granted.

Also at the end of February we hosted a Building Committee Meeting. A select group of congregants with experience in the field of construction, design, project management, finance and such were updated on the status of the project and provided us their valuable feedback. As the project moves forward, this committee will be assigned specific tasks as necessary. We are so grateful to have such diverse and talented members volunteering to contribute their skills and expertise!

In March we learned that the CCRs, or Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions, between SHM and The Irvine Co require that The Irvine Co must review and approve all plans. We are currently in contact with them and they are very amenable to our expansion plan. In the interest of expediting our approvals, we will be submitting our plans to The Irvine Co simultaneously with the CUP application to The City of Irvine.

Throughout March, we have been in constant communication with Lehrer as they continue revising our MasterPlan to fit the needs of our congregation. For example, adjusting the location and layout of the sanctuary, moving office space and increasing storage. Maintaining our “warmth factor” in the configuration of the entire campus is our top priority!

Currently Sapetto Real Estate is working towards getting our CUP application ready for submittal as soon as the final plans are received from Lehrer. This includes an Architectural Site Plan and Massing Elevation. We have been told as recently as last week that this process should occur any day now.

Also ongoing are discussions with the golf course in an attempt to negotiate the use of additional land along the periphery of our property. Our request is under review by the owners of the company. Whether purchased or leased, this green space would be a valuable enhancement to our campus.

Next on the agenda, Lehrer will be utilizing an in-house Cost Estimator to provide us with a VERY rough cost estimate. It will be broken down into several components in order to assess the potential cost of each portion of the project. For example, the remodel of the current building, the construction of the new bar building along Michelson, the construction of the chapel, and so on. This cost estimate will be used as a tool to help us determine how to proceed with the funds raised thus far.

As you have heard, we have set a fundraising goal of June 2015. On June 14th we will convene with a small executive committee to analyze the steps that will be taken towards beginning this incredible project! We hope to have reached our financial goal of \$10M (or more!) by then so that we can proceed with as much of the building project as possible! However, phasing over time is also an option. As you have heard so many times, we will NOT build any more than the funds pledged will allow. Once the executive group determines a recommendation, a Congregational Meeting will be scheduled immediately to obtain the approval of our Members, as stated in the temple bylaws.

And that is where we stand to date... These are exciting times and we are so thrilled to be making our dreams come true! Thank you all for your support in getting SHM to this milestone moment!

Ken Bassman, the co-chair of the Capital Campaign shared some thoughts: Now is the time to determine what support you will be able to put behind the Capital Campaign. We are taking stock in June and determining what the money we have raised thus far will be able to cover. As of today, we have raised \$8,250,000 against our \$10,000,000 goal. The generous gifts from some of our congregants have gotten us closer to our monetary goal. All of the gifts from our congregation are important and meaningful. We want everyone to have an opportunity to participate in this once in a generation experience. So please take stock and help us meet the goal of "All In!" by June 2015.

Rachel Harman-Friedman, my now partner in crime, is in the final stages of preparing for her daughter Liana celebration of her Bat Mitzvah...mazal tov! I asked her to share a few thoughts on taking on the co-presidency with me. Rachel shared her thoughts on becoming a co-president and looking forward the partnership with me, Rabbi Steinberg, the rest of the clergy, lay leadership and Congregation. With so much going on in our Temple, these are great times to be a part of the action!

Thank you for coming to the Annual Meeting and for your support of Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot and our programs. We appreciate your membership, financial commitment for the coming year and generosity in so many ways. Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot strives to be the very best place for Jewish families. Our goal is to continue to engage the finest people for our leadership, educators and staff. We also want to continue to be here for you as we continue along the path of a "lifetime of belonging."

Shalom.

Brit Tikvah Support Group

Pediatric Speech & Language Therapy: Because Children Should be Seen and Heard

Come learn about typical speech and language development of children ages 0-5 and strategies for parents.



with guest speaker,
Andrea Pincus, M.A., CCC-SLP

**Tuesday, June 9th
at 6:30 pm**

Andrea Pincus is a California licensed Speech-Language Pathologist and is certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Associate (ASHA). Andrea has experience working with children of all ages with a variety of communication disorders, including: articulation/phonological disorders, receptive/expressive language disorders, childhood apraxia of speech (CAS), and autism spectrum disorders. Her areas of expertise are in early intervention and in diagnosing/treating childhood apraxia of speech.

There is no fee for this event, however a reservation is appreciated so that we know how many to expect. RSVP online at www.shmtemple.org or contact Kat Key: kat@shmtemple.org or 949-857-2226.

Register today! Classes are filling up quickly!



**SHIR HA-MA'ALOT
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
5776/2015-2016**

ALL NEW PROGRAM!

Register online at shmtemple.org





Making Meaning from the Internship

by Dan Utley, Rabbinic Intern

I feel truly blessed, because out the 50 Reform congregations in Southern California, I have served as Rabbinic Intern at Shir Ha-Ma'alot—one of the most warm, welcoming, and inclusive Jewish communities in our movement. While studying to become a rabbi at Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in Los Angeles I have led a monthly pulpit in Idaho, served as rabbinic intern in the Bay Area, and as an education intern here in Irvine before this year. All of these experiences have taught me a great deal about teaching Judaism, leading Jewish communities, and reaching out to congregants of multiple ages. Yet throughout the 5 years of my studies, the only place where I have felt truly at home, has been here in Irvine.

The journey through Rabbinical school is not a brief one. Countless hours spent in classrooms or libraries while exploring the texts, history, and practices of our tradition have helped me become deeply connected to our religion. In my second year of school, the Mandel Foundation began supporting HUC-JIR in order to help students better develop their abilities to be visionary leaders in the Jewish community. In order to accomplish this growth, small groups of students led by a professor would meet monthly, investigating key issues in modern Judaism. Topics included our belief in God, the role of Israel in Reform Judaism, our vision for the place that Jewish texts and values will play in our future rabbinate, and our position on intermarriage—just to name a few. These sessions were a way to have deep conversation about our personal path in Judaism, allowing us to expand upon the learning in our courses in more meaningful ways.

I mention this detail of rabbinical school with you because these discussions, while deep and important in shaping my Jewish beliefs as a rabbi, are left incomplete without a community in which to share them. Perhaps what has struck me most at Shir Ha-Ma'alot is the eagerness of

the youth to regularly engage in serious Jewish meaning-making. In this synagogue, students are not afraid to tackle the big issues such as, theology, Israel, Jewish pride, personal prayer, the Shoah, or the difficulties of our world. Our youth, in age appropriate ways, continually express a yearning to explore Judaism and their own Jewishness without hesitation. They study religion, but most importantly they study what it means to be a people—a community.

In the Torah we read the story of the Akedah, the binding of Isaac, where Abraham follows God's command to take his son up the mountain for sacrifice. While this unforgettable saga is usually explained as being written about Abraham's steadfast devotion to God, I believe there is also message about teaching children. In the story Isaac remains silent and never questions his father, but it is hard to imagine he was unaware of the direction of his father's actions. I believe that Isaac's conspicuous silence in the Akedah is a reminder for us to encourage the opposite from our youth.

I have learned that at Shir Ha-Ma'a lot, youth are far from silent. They dive in, they explore, they embody the meaning of La'asok b'divrei Torah, to immerse in the words of Torah. The combination of warmth, welcoming, and inclusivity makes it possible to accomplish the mission of making meaning within these walls. I come away from my time here knowing closely a community where the Jewish minds of the next generation are in excellent hands. And from this excellent example of community at work, I have learned a great deal. Each of you with whom I have worked and prayed through teaching, leading services, volunteering for Family Promise, or studying Torah has shaped who I will become as rabbi in the future. Thank you for sharing your home with me and allowing me to learn from your wisdom.

Tzedakah Donations

RABBI STEINBERG'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Laurie & Dan Berman, thank you for guiding Aaron on his journey and helping him discover who he is.

Jill Berg, thank you for being such a source of comfort. It was a beautiful service.

Pearl Wasbin, thank you for bringing such wonderful speakers for us

Linda Weiss & Fred Dickenson in honor of Joan Weiss' birthday

Joan Weiss, thank you for your wonderful participation in Albert's funeral service

Jonathan Anshell, thank you for the beautiful introduction at the AFHU dinner and for making time to be there.

Lori & Michael Reznick in memory of Albert Weiss

Sid & Judy Kuperberg in loving memory of Albert Weiss

Charlotte Pinsky, thank you for your thoughtfulness during my recent illness

Bob & Barbara Kaitz in memory of Albert Weiss

Martin & Julie Hart in memory of our friend, Albert Weiss

RABBI LEWIS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

Joan Weiss, thank you for your wonderful participation in Albert's funeral service

Jann Glasser in memory of my beloved mother, Irene Reitter

Ina Zelezick, thank you

CANTOR SHIKLER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Joan Weiss, thank you for your wonderful participation in Albert's funeral service

Betty & Dick Gorelick, wishing a speedy recovery to Charlotte Pinsky

Charlotte Pinsky, I appreciate your support during my recent surgery

Gladys Wilson in memory of Albert Weiss

Phil Waldman in memory of Herbert H. Waldman

Sharon & Darin Blindell, mazel tov on the wedding of your daughter, Alex

Sharlene Konowitch in honor of your daughter, Alex's wedding

ALEX ZELEZNICK CHILDREN'S FUND

Lori Schwartz & Bert White in memory of Albert Weiss

Lori Schwartz & Bert White in memory of Deborah Sugar, mother of Jill Berg

CULTURAL ARTS/FNL FUND

Board of Trustees in honor of Cantor Shikler's birthday

Bill & Nancy Platka in honor of Alexandra & Joseph's wedding. Best wishes for a wonderful life together.

Bill & Nancy Platka in honor of Arie's Big Birthday

Cindi & Barry Gross & Family in honor of Cantor Shikler's 70th Birthday

Lynne & Steve Koffler in honor of the wedding of Alex Baumann & Joe Franzl

GENERAL FUND

Rosalie Sogolow in memory of Albert Weiss

Wendy & Bruce Gary in memory of Deborah Sugar, mother of Jill Berg

Wendy & Bruce Gary in memory of Albert Weiss

John Peck in memory of Albert Weiss

Harriet Raff in memory of Albert Weiss

Norman & Susan Stewart in memory of Albert Weiss

Lynne & Steve Koffler, congratulations to Bob & Nancy Wolf on their 70th wedding anniversary

Charles Catlett in memory of Albert Weiss

Michael Sanfield in memory of Albert Weiss

Pat Glickman in memory of Albert Weiss, he was an extra special man

Charlotte Pinsky in memory of Anita Lloyd Peacher, mother of Diane Stern

Charlotte Pinsky in memory of Albert Weiss

Sharon & Darin Blindell, in loving memory of Al Weiss

Wendi & Barry Fast in memory of Albert Weiss

Pearl Wasbin in honor of the birth of Oliver Victor Wasbin

JESSICA HERRON ADOPT-A-FAMILY FUND

Mark & Cynthia Spero in memory of Dr. Louis Lunsky, uncle of Mark Spero

LIBRARY FUND

The Larry Thompson Family in memory of Larry's grandfather, Samuel Weksler

ONEG SHABBAT FUND

Lori & Michael Reznick, congratulations to Bob & Nancy Wolf on their 70th wedding anniversary

YAHARZEIT FUND

Barbara Elter in memory of Jerome Bronfman

Barbara Elter in memory of Robert Bronfman

Ron Elter in memory of Simon Elter

Wendy Gary in memory of Marilyn Hirsch

Bruce Gary in memory of Lila Gary

Bill Platka in memory of Eleanore Platka

Sid Kuperberg in memory of my mother, Julia Kuperberg

Martine Speckler in memory of Georges Bitoun

Tova Cohen in memory of Max Cohen

Heath Liner in memory of Maureen Liner

Bob Kaitz in memory of Beatrice Kaitz

Bob Kaitz in memory of Lea Kates Karp

Barbara Kaitz in memory of Louis Feingold

Barbara Kaitz in memory of Samuel Kaitz

Sharlene Konowitch in memory of Gilbert Konowitch

Gladys Wilson in memory of my father, Louis Goldberg

Gladys Wilson in memory of my mother, Clara Wilson

Pearl Wasbin in memory of Albert Weiss

Bob & Nancy Wolf in memory of our dear friend, Albert Weiss

Joanne Grossman in memory of Morrison Grossman

Esther Kalin in memory of Gregorio Leibovich

Diane Hoffman in memory of D. Robert Baker

Lynne & Steve Koffler in memory of Albert Weiss

Adrienne Witkin in memory of Erica Goldsmid

Jennifer Lewis in memory of Gertrude Morris

Miriam Birnkrant in memory of Irving Grant

Ina Zeleznick in memory of Marvin Starr

Ina Zeleznick in memory of Lowell Zeleznick

Patti Kramer in memory of Stanley Wolfe

Ed Kramer in memory of Allan Kramer

Roz Sherman in memory of Frank Zapolsky

Jerri Loeb in memory of Sol Loeb

Jerri Loeb in memory of Louis Silver

Jodie Levine in memory of Bernie Skolnik

Brent Wiending in memory of Morise Weindling

Sandra Perlmutter in memory of Benjamin Ganderson

Susan Miller in memory of Esther Miller

Mike Harris in memory of Michael P. Harris

Larry & Bonnie Bann in memory of Aaron Bann

Bob Sterman in memory of Rose Sterman

Joan Weiss in memory of Canissa Sanders

Pat Harris in memory of Al Sturtz

Robbie Smith in memory of Jerome "Jerry" Newman

Coming this Summer...

SHM has a fun-filled summer planned with special services and events for the entire family. Many more to come...

Family Shabbat Service "Sunset Shabbat"

Friday, July 3rd, 7:00 pm

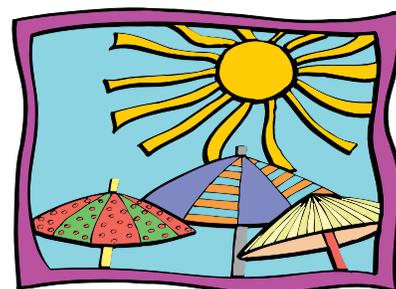


Tot Shabbat Service "Superheroes"

Friday, July 17th, 6:30 pm

Friday Night Live! Shabbat Service "Sunshine on My Shoulders"

Friday, July 31st, 7:30 pm



Family Shabbat at the Beach

Friday, August 7th,
6:00 pm: Bring Your Dinner
6:45 pm: Service



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SHIR HA-MA'ALOT
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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 Opportunities. 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 \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card on file
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa/MC _____	Exp. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> In Honor of _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> In Memory of _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Occasion _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

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

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| <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: 5-15 will be in July issue).

