

# the Ma'alot

November 2016 • Tishrei~Cheshvan 5777



## NEW LOCATIONS, NEW ADVENTURES!



**Shabbat Services / Torah Study**  
Mormon Center, 23 Lake Road, Irvine



**Tuesday night Hebrew & High School**  
Back Bay Conference Center (above Irvine Lanes)  
3415 Michelson, Irvine



**Sunday Religious School**  
Tarbut V'Torah Lower School Campus  
5200 Bonita Canyon Rd, Irvine

## Join Us for These Events & Much More!



**2016 Scholar-in-Residence**  
**RABBI GERSHOM SIZOMU,**  
Leader of the Abayudaya Jews of Uganda  
Friday, November 4th–  
Sunday, November 6th

**Shabbat Service Honoring Those Who Protect Us**  
Friday, November 11th at 7:30 pm

**NaSHiM: Girls' Night Out at OC Mega Challah**  
**Bake at the Hotel Irvine**  
Thursday, November 10th at 7:00 pm

**SHM Fundraiser, "Don't Kiss Me!"**  
**at the Merage JCC Theater**  
Sunday, November 13th at 3:30 pm



**Mussar: Seeking Everyday Holiness**  
**for Beginners**  
First meeting: Wednesday, November 16th at 7:00 pm

**Friday Night Live! Shabbat Service,**  
**"It's Good to Give Thanks"**  
Friday, November 25th at 7:30 pm

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# the Ma'alot

**Rabbi Richard M. Steinberg**

THE RONA PERLEY MEMORIAL SENIOR RABBINIC CHAIR

**Rabbi Leah Lewis**

RABBI AND DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING

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COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR/GRAPHIC DESIGN

**Rabbi Bernie King, z"l**

FOUNDING RABBI

## SHABBAT SERVICES ~ NOVEMBER 2016

All Shabbat Services will be held at the Mormon Center, 23 Lake Drive, Irvine

### Friday, November 4th

- 7 pm: Family Shabbat Service with Youth Band and Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Gershom Sizomu

### Friday, November 25th

- 7:30 pm: Friday Night Live! Shabbat Service, "It's Good to Give Thanks"

### Friday, November 11th

- 7:30 pm: Shabbat Service Honoring Those Who Protect Us

### Friday, November 18th

- 6:30 pm: Tot Shabbat Service
- 7:30 pm: Shabbat Service with Temple Musicians



## **TEMPLE IS THE CENTRAL ADDRESS OF MATTEREDNESS** **GROUNDBREAKING SHABBAT SERVICE/CEREMONY** **SERMON DELIVERED ON SEPT. 30, 2016**



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



A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her religious school classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

In building our new campus—will we know what God looks like? Well, I am not sure—but we are creating a space where God will come to life in all that we do.

Someone mentioned to me the other day, "Building a campus like this must be the pinnacle of a rabbinic career." I thought about it for a second and simply replied—it is great fun, it is an amazing project—but the pinnacle of my career happens every time I see one Jewish family connect to another in community, one person making the world a bit better, one child embracing his faith, a

community unflinching in the Zionist dream of Israel being safe and secure, a person who travels through the vicissitudes of life with Jewish ritual assisting them along the way, the music and joy of Shabbat and holy celebrations—our new campus is a means to all those ends and so much more.

That is my deepest hope, that we have a campus that inspires, that creates, that develops little Jewish souls into thoughtful, faithful Jewish adults. My hope is that our campus be a place of assembly where all feel welcomed and loved. My desire is that our campus reflects the beauty of God's creation both in style and in physicality, but in only as much as our campus inspires the soul to do good.

Let's tell the honest truth about why synagogue building must exist at all... it's an ancient question—can't we just all go to the beach every week?

After God had made a covenant with the Israelite people in which God would be their God and the people would follow the

commandments. Were it that easy? The people kept on breaking the rules. Finally, God got wise and gave the people the 10 Commandments, but even that did not do the trick. God then realized the people needed a place to worship, to celebrate and to talk about their faith. So God says to Moses, "Vasu li mikdash, v'shachanti b'tochom"—"Build Me a sanctuary so that I may dwell within you." This is what we need to feel and understand the messages of our people, of our God.

I ask Bar/Bat Mitzvah students all the time—when do you feel most Jewish—answer—when I am at Temple.

We have a high calling. Temple is the answer to what I call "matteredness." You matter when you are here. Whether you are 8 or 80—whether you have a \$100 bank account or \$100,000 you matter. Whether you have special needs or no needs—you matter. Temple is the place of matteredness. We live in a world of madness, it seems, Temple is the poetry to the awful prose we are reading every day.

Continued on page 4

Our sanctuary will be marvelous and transformative—and it will serve as sanctuary to the soul even more. What we are doing is going to shape thousands of people well beyond our own lives.

Yes, we are one of the largest temples in the OC. Yes, our religious school is more than twice the size of the next synagogue in the OC, yes we have triple the number of programs of any other synagogue in OC—but to us, that doesn't matter unless each person matters and together, we matter as a community.

A story is told: In a mountain village in Europe many centuries ago, there was a nobleman who was concerned about the legacy he would leave to the people of his town. The man spent a great deal of time contemplating his dilemma, and at last, decided to build a synagogue. In the course of his planning, he decided that no one would see the plans for the building until it was finished. The construction took quite a long time—much longer than he anticipated.



remember so beautiful a synagogue anywhere in the world.

Then, noticing a seemingly obvious flaw in the design, one of the townspeople asked, "Where are the lamps? What will provide the lighting?"

The proud nobleman pointed to brackets, which were strategically placed all along the walls throughout the synagogue. He then gave each family a lamp as he explained, "Whenever you come to the synagogue, I want you to bring your lamp, and light it. But, each time you are not here," he said, "a part of the synagogue will be dark. This lamp will remind you that whenever you are absent, some part

ahead, and even more, years, how bright or how dark it is inside of these walls depends solely on each one of us. Because each of us matters.

And so, our new campus is simply a reflection of the awesome nature of our congregation—filled with so many whose, as the Torah says, "hearts have so moved them to give," so that we can build a palace of God's message of making sure people understand their Divine worth.

We have raised almost 9.5 million dollars from our Temple families. This is incredible. As Beth and Rachel mentioned, we are not there yet, but we are doing pretty darn well.

I could not be more grateful to you all for having the foresight, the faith and the fortitude to journey with us to this point. So far, almost 65% of Temple families have given to our campaign and 27 families who aren't even members have given to our campaign.

Why—it feels good to be part of something special. It is part of creating a legacy as the man in the story intended to do, you too are doing it right now... creating a legacy.

Our job is to build our Judaism for the next generation as they will do for the generations that follow them. For those who have given, you are investing in the idea that every human being matters and that this synagogue will be the central address where we will make that idea known and felt and celebrated.

I wish I could mention and thank each of you by name tonight—but those who have given, you are wearing a sticker that acknowledges



But at long last, the project was completed. The townspeople were excited and curious about what they would find upon entering their new synagogue. When the people came for the first time they marveled at the synagogue's magnificence. No one could ever

of God's house will be dark. Your community is relying on you for light."

We come this day, really a holy day for our congregation, as our collective light shines brightly inward and outward, to make a difference. In the days, weeks, and months

your gift of tzedakah. From the single mom who called me and asked if we could charge her credit card \$10 a month because she wants her child to know that she not only supports this project, she believes it is critical to her family's well-being and future, to the late Dr. Kraut, who sat in my office with his wife, Jean, may she rest in peace too, and said, "Well, Rabbi, you have your first million dollars!"—I am deeply grateful beyond words. Both kinds of donations are what our synagogue is all about. It is the essence of our essence. All in.

Representing all of you, I would like to call upon four families, with whom, even with the best of intentions, this project would not be where it is today. Each of them has encouraged us, celebrated us and supported us so we could be here at this groundbreaking today. I say thank you to you and all who have given, for what we are doing is not just building a building, we are creating a place where God will dwell and inspire souls to do good—as you have done over and over again for this synagogue, and how much the more so today. With pleasure please welcome, Stephen and Madaline Gordon, Teri Alpert and Phil Waldman, Karen and Jon Jaffe and Howard and Charlotte Perley. I will ask you to hold our Torahs in a moment, as a sign of our immense appreciation—for the Torah needs an ark and the ark needs a Temple and through you and all others who wear that sticker tonight you have helped us build such a place. The Jewish people are better because of you...period. And while words are not adequate to thank you enough—thank you anyway and all who gave for your generosity, kindness and spirit.

I would also like to call upon our presidents and past presidents representing each and every volunteer who has made this project a reality and our temple a center for Orange County Judaism. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.





**Cantor Arie Shikler**

The Hollander Family Cantorial Chair

## COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

Thanksgiving, the secular American holiday is almost here. We gather with family and friends to have a festive meal and to appreciate all the good things that make our life what it is. Thanksgiving is not an original idea that started with the Pilgrims and the Native Americans. In fact it is a very old Jewish concept that dates back to Jacob.

About 3,795 years ago according to my calculation, Jacob had a dream on his way to Haran. He went back to Abraham's homeland to find a wife and while sleeping on the road, had a dream; the famous ladder to heaven and the angels going up and down on it. God appeared and identified Himself to Jacob making him a promise. The promise was the same one that God made to his grandfather Abraham, "The ground on which you are laying down, I will give to you and your offspring. Your descendants will be numerous like the grains of sand on the earth and you will expand west, east, north and south. All the people of the earth will be blessed by you

and I'll be with you and guard you wherever you'll be. I will return you to this land and not leave you until I did what I promised". (Genesis:7:13-15)

So Jacob wakes up and says to himself in a sudden heavy awareness, "There's God in this place and I wasn't aware of it!" Great fear falls on him and he realizes that this is a house of God and a gate to heaven. Early in the morning, he uses the stone that was his pillow as a marker, pours oil on it to make it a monument and calls the place Beit El (House of God). He vows that if God stays with him and guards him on his journey providing him with food and clothes he will be loyal to God. "And if I return to my father's house safely, this stone will be a House of God, and whatever You give me, I will give to You ten times more!"

This is the first official thanksgiving in the bible. What are we thankful for? When you start thinking about it you'll find so many reasons to be grateful it will amaze you. Our tradition teaches us to be appreciative from the moment we wake to when we lay down at night for sleep. The first morning blessing as you wake is: "Modeh Ani Lefanecha Melech Chai Vekayam Shehechezarta Bi Nishmati Bechemla, Raba Emunatecha." (I offer thanks to You, living and eternal King, for You have mercifully restored my soul within me. Your faithfulness is great.)

Our sages teach us that at night our soul leaves our body and returns to God and then back to our body before we wake up. This series of blessings and appreciation continues with the one where we thank God for giving the rooster the ability to distinguish between day and night, and that is before we open our eyes. Then, when we open them we say "po-k'ach ivrim" (giving sight to the blind) followed by "zokef k'fu-fim" (being able to stand up

straight) and "malbish arumim" (clothing the naked). Those are just a few of the daily miracles that we take for granted.

We tend to be thankful when we escape trouble, not usually when good things happen to or for us and our dear ones. We hear the garage door open late at night and wake up thankful that our driving child came home safe. Often recovering from illness or surgery wakes up the reflex to say thanks. Arriving safely at our destination by air, car, ship or train is another reason. There are thousands more come to think of it.

The *Shehecheyanu* prayer that we chant on the eve of holidays and happy occasions, the *Hagomel* prayer we say after surviving danger, and so many opportunities to say thanks. Judaism is so wise that way!

So count your blessings before you go to sleep and wake up in awe to the new day, every day! May it bring you blessings, light, new possibilities and positive energy! After all, our name, Jews is derived from the name Judah or Yehudah that our matriarch Leah gave her son upon his birth. It means "thank You" and we are Yehudim. Descendants of Yehudah. Happy Thanksgiving Y'all!

# 2016 SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE



## RABBI GERSHOM SIZOMU

Leader of the Abayudaya Jews of Uganda

November 4–6, 2016

Rabbi Gershom Sizomu, leader of the Abayudaya Jews of Uganda, is the first black rabbi from sub-Saharan Africa to be ordained at an American rabbinic school.

The Abayudaya are a growing community of over 2,000 Jews among their Christian and Muslim neighbors in scattered villages in the rolling, green hills of Eastern Uganda.

Today, Rabbi Sizomu, a charismatic leader and accomplished musician, continues to help his community remain healthy and strong, both physically and spiritually.



**Friday, November 4th**

**7:00 pm: Family Shabbat Service at the Mormon Center (23 Lake Road, Irvine)**

**“Being an African Jew” with special music from Uganda**

**Saturday, November 5th**

**8:30 am: Torah Study at the Mormon Center (23 Lake Road, Irvine)**

**Sunday, November 6th**

**9:30 am at TVT Lower Campus (5200 Bonita Canyon Road, Irvine)**

**Lecture sharing Rabbi Sizomu’s life story and his vision for Judaism and Africa**

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

## Special SHM Fundraiser



*Written & Produced by* **HOPE SHERWOOD & JON WHITE**

*Music & Lyrics by* **JON WHITE**

In 1973, the daughter of a Hebrew teacher from Long Island falls for a non-Jewish guy from rural New York. The complications encountered on their way to the altar will tickle and touch you.

**Sunday, November 13, 2016**

**3:30 pm**

**Merage JCC Theater**

*Champagne & Cake reception follows*

**\$18** in advance



**\$20** at the door

Tickets online at [www.shmtemple.org](http://www.shmtemple.org) or call Shir Ha-Ma'alot

## WE WILL WANDER

SPEECH GIVEN YOM KIPPUR MORNING 10-12-16

“Are you an army brat?” That’s what people ask me when they learn about my wandering past. I lived in 12 places before I graduated high school—3 schools in 5th Grade, 3 schools for High School—24 different homes through today – that’s a lot of packing and unpacking! We were truly Wandering Jews. Quick story; when we lived in Wichita, KS—my folks were visiting a local nursery looking for plants and came upon a beautiful Wandering Jew plant—you may know this plant, it’s a vine with green and purple foliage. The tag was small so the nursery had abbreviated “W Jew”—only in Wichita!

My mom blames this wandering on my dad. He’d get bored and look for another job. My dad claims he had to move because my mother volunteered so much we had to move so she could clear her plate and catch her breath (and start over) . . . (Don’t get any ideas, Jim!). Like every tale told by Jewish parents, there is some truth in each story. We were wanderers by nature, in our own diaspora—W Jews.

Diaspora—a time where a group of people live outside the area where they or their ancestors lived for a long time. In Jewish history, the Diaspora began in 597 BCE when Nebuchadnezzar deported the Judeans . Some went to Babylon or other parts of the Mid East, some fled to Egypt and some managed to stay in Judaea. Then in 538 BCE, Cyrus the Persian allowed the Judeans to return, though most chose to stay in Babylon. Throughout this wandering, most Jews retained their cultural identity and social customs, maintained the religion and the tenets put forth in the Torah. By 70 AD, the Romans actively drove Jews from Judaea, when the Second Temple was destroyed. By 73 AD, Jews had dispersed all over Africa, Asia and Europe.

This refresher on Jewish history presents a parallel for us today. Shir Ha-Ma’alot is about to embark on our own Diaspora—we will wander. These High Holy Days are the last that we will celebrate in this sanctuary. When our Shofar blows tonight, we are not only marking the end of Yom Kippur, we are also marking a new beginning for our congregational family. The beginning of construction work on our new campus! Very soon, drive by and see a construction fence around our current building with backhoes beginning to dig, materiel arriving—steel, concrete blocks, stone, conduit—all the makings of a new and updated home for our congregational family.

Planning, designing, fundraising, negotiating, and more planning have become intertwined with our Temple operation. When we run a program, we think “how will this program be conducted in our new campus?” When we hold a service outside, we think “where will we gather in our new facility?” When we gather our religious school in assembly, we wonder “will we use the atrium, the multi-purpose room or the broad stairs to the second floor?”—so many choices.

Sundays when we see the Brotherhood with bagels on portable tables and coffee at our familiar patio bar, we smile. We know “we’ll have a permanent café in our updated facility.” When we host a wedding and the bride sneaks from the ladies room around into the social hall so she’s not seen, we sigh—we’ll have a special bride’s room (that doubles as a Quiet Room for services) for our wedding parties. Today, we see our choir smushed into a corner and the musicians squeezed onto the Bima and we grin when we imagine them on our spacious Bima with a new sound system that lets us all hear the beauty of the music no matter where we sit. Today, the seats in the back don’t have a good view of what’s going



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

on in the front—some are even blocked by a column, but in our new facility we know we’ll have modern video equipment and no obstructions—no seat will be a “bad seat”.

We’ve almost packed the entire building—the library is packed, school supplies we don’t need this year are all boxed up, and office supplies are ready to be moved into a temporary location where you’ll find our clergy and staff during the week. **WE ARE READY TO GO!!**

I have not wandered nearly as much as Beth over my lifetime. My family had one big journey, from Skokie, Illinois to Fullerton, California. Though we never left the country, the culture shock was there just the same. In Skokie, everyone was Jewish—at least it felt that way. Our schools were closed for the Jewish Holidays, my music teacher had a mezuzah on her door, and our activities revolved around our synagogue or our local JCC. My parents’ commitment to being active members of our Jewish community in Skokie was a constant as we moved to California. In fact, they traveled here to find a synagogue first, then decided where to buy their house!

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## Welcome New Members

**Phillip & Robin Lugar**  
**Roger & Jeanne Magowitz**  
**David & Tracy Northup**  
**Michael & Sarah Herman**  
**Jason & Teigan Stones**  
**Ben & Alisa Wilson**  
**Gaby & Joy Timsit**  
**Harvey & Nancy Lobel**  
**Shelly Moriyama**  
**Grant & Linda Beresford**  
**Thomas & Tiffany Valentine**

## Mazel Tov to...

Lindsey Herron, daughter of Jay Herron & Dana Klein on her engagement to Yoni Goldberg, son of Arie & Ilana Goldberg. Both families are members of our congregation.

Funda & Michael Irvin on the birth of their granddaughter, Kaya Elizabeth

Leora & Adam Robles on the birth of their son, Levi Glenn

Gina & Michael Hacken on the birth of their daughter, Grace Lillianne

## Condolences to...

Patricia Harris on the death of her husband, Michael

Juliana Hart on the death of her aunt, Ruth Silver

Dianne Golden on the death of her great aunt, Joan Huniu

Ivy Le on the death of her father, Reverend Ngoc Sach Thanh Le

Eve Ross on the death of her father, Mike Nycz

Howard Perley on the death of his brother, Dr. Michael Perley

Rhonda Shellow on the death of her mother, Ruth Mehlman

Rachelle Rice on the death of her mother, Bertha Rice

Lisa Kassel on the death of her uncle, Lawrence Korb

Jenni Frank on the death of her father, Marv Rosenhaft

## Jessica Herron Caring & Sharing is Happening!

For Thanksgiving, because of space limitations during this year of construction, we are not able to accommodate donations of food. Contributions to the Jessica Herron Fund at the temple are encouraged. Any amount is appreciated. A donation of \$80 will feed a family in need for a week.

If you are interested in participating in any of all of this season's Jessica Herron Caring & Sharing drives, please let us know. Please note the following contact information and deadlines to get involved:

- Thanksgiving: Contact Dana Klein (nevatolate@aol.com) by Tuesday, November 15th
- Christmas: Contact Barbara King (frombking@cox.net) by Tuesday, December 6th
- Chanukah: Contact Dana Klein (nevatolate@aol.com) by Tuesday, December 13th

## Shabbat Service Honoring Those Who Protect Us

**Friday, November 11th at 7:30 pm**  
(at Mormon Center, 23 Lake Road)

We will honor those of all ages who have served their country as men and women in uniform. Worship with us as we give a blessing to these brave souls. If you are a veteran, please contact us at the Temple office at 949-857-2226.



# NOVEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> (Back Bay Conference Center above the Irvine Lanes) 4:15 pm - Hebrew School 6 pm - Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 pm - Brit Tikvah 7:30 pm - Board of Trustees Meeting	<b>2</b> 6:45 pm - Adult Choir 7 pm - Mussar: Seeking Everyday Holiness for Beginners	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> (Friday night services are now at 23 Lake Road, Irvine) 7 pm - Family Shabbat Service with Youth Band & Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Gershom Sizomu	<b>5</b> 8:30 am - Torah Study with Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Gershom Sizomu 6 pm - JIFTY Event  <b>7th Grade Retreat</b>
<b>6</b> (Religious School is at TVT Lower Campus) 8 am - Early Hebrew Chavurah 9:15 am - Judaica Classes 9:30 am - Sunday Speaker Series with Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Gershom Sizomu 11:30 am - Youth Band  <b>7th Grade Retreat</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> (Back Bay Conference Center above the Irvine Lanes) 4:15 pm - Hebrew School 5 pm - 8th-10th Grade 6:30 pm - 11 & 12th Grade 7:30 pm - SHMoFTY Board Meeting 7:30 pm - Men's Spirituality Group	<b>9</b> 6:45 pm - Adult Choir	<b>10</b> 6 pm - NaSHiM at OC Mega Challah Bake at Irvine Hotel 6:30 pm - Temple Musicians	<b>11</b> (Friday night services are now at 23 Lake Road, Irvine) 7:30 pm - Family Shabbat Service, "Honoring Those Who Protect Us"	<b>12</b> 8:30 am - Torah Study 10 am - Bat Mitzvah of Lauren Bassman
<b>13</b> <b>No Religious School</b> 7 pm - SHM Fundraiser at Merage JCC Theater, "Don't Kiss Me"	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> (Back Bay Conference Center above the Irvine Lanes) 4:15 pm - Hebrew School 6:30 pm - Board of Education Meeting	<b>16</b> 6:45 pm - Adult Choir 7 pm - Mussar: Seeking Everyday Holiness for Beginners	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm - Temple Musicians	<b>18</b> (Friday night services are now at 23 Lake Road, Irvine) 6:30 pm - Tot Shabbat Service 7:30 pm - Shabbat Service with Temple Musicians	<b>19</b> 8:30 am - Torah Study 10 am - Bat Mitzvah of Olivia Averill  <b>SHMoFTY at NFTY Social Justice Kallah</b>
<b>20</b> (Religious School is at TVT Lower Campus) 8 am - Early Hebrew Chavurah 9:15 am - Judaica Classes 9:30 am - Sunday Speaker Series with Rabbi Arnold Rachlis 11:30 am - Youth Band  <b>SHMoFTY at NFTY Social Justice Kallah</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>No Hebrew School</b>	<b>23</b> 6:45 pm - Adult Choir	<b>24</b> <b>Thanksgiving Office Closed</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Office Closed</b> (Friday night services are now at 23 Lake Road, Irvine) 7:30 pm - Friday Night Live! Shabbat Service, "It's Good to Give Thanks"	<b>26</b> No Torah Study this week 10 am - Bar Mitzvah of Aiden Brutman
<b>27</b> <b>No Religious School</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> (Back Bay Conference Center above the Irvine Lanes) 4:15 pm - Hebrew School 5 pm - 8th & 9th Grade	<b>30</b> 6:45 pm - Adult Choir 7 pm - Mussar: Seeking Everyday Holiness for Beginners			



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

Let's begin with some free association. See if you can finish the sentence: *Mirror, mirror on the ... Who is the fairest of them ...?*

It turns out that Snow White's evil queen was not the first person who liked to stare in the mirror, and she certainly wasn't the last! I was recently in a house—a big, really fancy house—and the owner bragged about his favorite decoration. It was, of all things, a giant mirror! The man who owned the house told me that people lamented that although the mirror was indeed beautiful, it was damaged. "I don't see the mirror as damaged at all," he told me, "This mirror has been passed through my family, and the "damages" were what made it so special." This man, my friend, then proceeded to tell me the story of his prized mirror...

My great, great, great grandfather, Abraham, was poor. He owned a small business, a shop, and a small home. But neither his home nor his shop had much in it. Abraham did not care about the lack of material possessions because both his home and his shop were filled with people. Abraham was known for being kind and giving. Even when there was nothing to give, he found a way to give... Advice, wisdom, love, care. He never felt like he was missing anything.

## MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL

YOM KIPPUR FAMILY SERVICE 5777

SERMON GIVEN 10-12-16

One day when he was standing at the entrance of his store, he saw a traveler walking by. He looked tired and thirsty. Without hesitating, Abraham asked the traveler to come in. Now, business in Abraham's store hadn't been so good, so there may have not been any items to give, but he knew that there was shade and a place to sit and rest. He welcomed the visitor with open arms. Though Abraham never would have known it, it just so happened that this visitor was a famous rabbi who was known for giving blessings, and for them actually coming to be! Before leaving, the man blessed Abraham for a life in which he would never be in need. He would have everything he needed to be happy.

Not long after the rabbi left town, Abraham—without any explanation—began to be very busy in his store. Customers were everywhere and coming to him for everything. Business was booming! Suddenly, Abraham was busy running a successful business. He spent time ordering and selling and making tons of money. He was so busy, in fact, that he didn't have time to talk to people, or to listen to them.

Nobody was surprised when Abraham built a new house—a big and beautiful one. When it came time to decorate that house, there were just two things that he really wanted. The fanciest curtains, made of pure silk, hung over his windows. And he bought a gigantic mirror, framed in pure gold, and he hung it on the wall so that everyone who came in the house could look right at it—and so that every time he walked in or out, he could take a nice look at his glamorous self in that glamorous mirror.

So while Abraham was enjoying his new house and his new curtains and his new mirror, it just so happened that that rabbi was trying to help another person who was in need of wise advice, love and some money. The rabbi, having not seen Abraham since his instant success, knew of just the person to help him out... it was Abraham, who had been so kind and so generous to him during his own time of need. The rabbi sent a messenger to Abraham to find out how he could help.

Without hesitating, Abraham gave the messenger the money for the man, but he told him that he did not have time to give any of his advice, or any of his love. Disappointed, the messenger went back to tell the rabbi who knew right away that this was not how Abraham—the Abraham who had helped him with love and wisdom—would act. The rabbi knew that this was a conversation he needed to have himself.

He went to Abraham's house and knocked on the door.

"Come in," Abraham said with joy in his voice, "How can I help you?"

With a knowing smile, the rabbi responded, "This is a beautiful home, my friend, and that is a beautiful mirror you've got. Come, step back, take a look in it and tell me what you see."

"I see myself. I see my beautiful furniture and decorations and my beautiful house," Abraham beamed with pride.

The rabbi walked over to the living room window behind him. "Now come, open your curtains and look out this window of yours. What do you see?"

Curious about the rabbi's simple questions, Abraham answered. "I see trees and kids walking with parents. And there, I see a poor woman walking with a basket. She has it open so that people will fill her basket with food and with money. Why are you asking me these questions, anyway?"

"It is strange, isn't it?" Abraham's friend, the rabbi, responded, "A window and a mirror are made out of the same material—glass. But a mirror has a silver lining on the back which reflects the light. When you look into a mirror, you can't see through it, you see only yourself. When you look through a window, though, you can see the world and the people who fill it. You can see all that is good, and you can see all that needs work so that you can know to help."

At that point, Abraham realized what he had done. Since he became rich and busy, he paid attention only to himself. He ignored the people around him, and he ignored his community. He was ashamed. Without hesitating, Abraham pulled the mirror off of the wall, took a knife and, in the corner, he scraped the back of that mirror until just a section of the silver lining was gone. He could see through it enough to pay attention to the people around him.

"My great, great, great grandfather Abraham called all of the people he knew together—in his house—and he vowed to keep his eyes and his heart open at all times," My friend told me. "That mirror was not damaged. Just the opposite—it was whole and it was beautiful. And it continues to be so today."

Now take a look around this sanctuary. It is filled with people who are here to help and, sometimes, who need help. Yom Kippur reminds us that we need to keep our eyes open to the people around us—our parents, our brothers and sisters, our friends, our teachers, our coaches...and even to pay attention to those who we don't really know—people who aren't so much like us. They too have a lot to offer. See what they need—see how they feel—see what you can do, and then do it. If we all remember to look around sometimes, our view in this new year will be crystal clear.

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



### Lauren Bassman

November 12, 2016

Daughter of Teri & Ken Bassman

I attend: Corona del Mar Middle School

I enjoy: Basketball, riding horses, spending time with family and friends

Mitzvah Project: Raised money for Girl Rising, an organization that educates girls in third world countries



### Olivia Averill

November 19, 2016

Daughter of Steve & Belinda Averill

I attend: Vista Verde Middle School

I enjoy: Competitive swimming, playing soccer, surfing, baking, the beach, and spending time with my family and pets

Mitzvah Project: Held a food and clothing drive to support Families Forward



### Aiden Brutman

November 26, 2016

Son of Karen & Alan Brutman

I attend: Ensign Intermediate School

I enjoy: Playing lacrosse, the beach, family time, boats, and drones

Mitzvah Project: Collected new and used lacrosse equipment to send to Nairobi, Africa for children to learn how to play lacrosse

## YOUTH GROUPS @ SHM

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

### SHMoFTY 9th–12th Grade Youth Group NFTY SoCal's Social Justice Kallah

Friday to Sunday, November 18th–20th

Join SHMoFTY and teens from all over Southern California for NFTY SoCal's Social Justice Kallah. This weekend long event will be full of community service, new friends, and tons of fun! Please register online @ [southerncalifornia.nfty.org/](http://southerncalifornia.nfty.org/)

### MiTY 6th–8th Grade Youth Group Craft Day!

Sunday, November 20th from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Join your MiTY friends for an afternoon of projects and art! We'll make some cool crafts that you can take home with you. Please register online at [www.shmtemple.org](http://www.shmtemple.org)

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



Inaugural SHM  
Women's Retreat  
*"Jewish Woman,  
Modern Woman"*

Friday, Jan. 13th to  
Sunday, Jan. 15th  
Bruin Woods Retreat Center  
Lake Arrowhead, CA

To be a woman in the modern era is a matter of finding balance and our personal paths. To be a Jewish woman in the modern era is to find that balance on the foundation of a rich tradition and heritage in which the role of the woman is complex and multifaceted.

**Join NaSHiM (SHM Women)  
for a weekend of exploration  
and fun, food, and friends!**

**Cost: \$425 per person (for NaSHiM members),  
double occupancy in a two bedroom, two bath suite.  
If you are not a NaSHiM member, please add \$36 for dues.**

**Price includes all meals, programs, and semi-private lodging.  
Space is limited, RSVP online at [www.shmtemple.org](http://www.shmtemple.org)  
or call the temple at 949-857-2226 by December 9th**



# *It's Good to Give Thanks*

**Friday, November 25th  
at 7:30 pm**

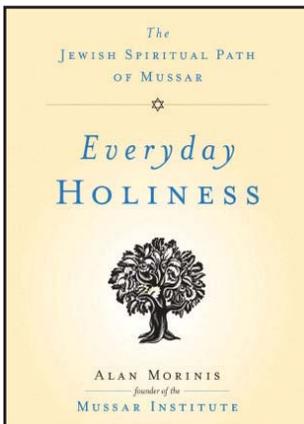
**(at Mormon Center, 23 Lake Drive, Irvine)**

Music is a powerful tool for evoking the inner space within which trans-formative 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.

## Include Mussar in your daily life...

Join a group today and begin on the pathway to leading a more meaningful, spiritually fulfilled life



## Seeking Everyday Holiness for Beginners

Facilitated by Karen Busch

**Wednesdays at 7:00 pm**

**November 16 & 30**

**December 14**

**January 4 & 18**

**February 1 & 15**

**March 1**

Mussar means "instruction." It is a treasury of Jewish teachings and practices that have evolved over the past thousand years. At the center of the program is the inspiring material in "Everyday Holiness" written by Alan Morinis. Working with this text, participants become exposed to the core teachings of the Mussar tradition and its relevance to every day life.

If you are ready to engage in the deeply personal work of Mussar, register to be part of this ongoing group. Contact the temple office at 949-857-2226 or register online at [www.shmtemple.org](http://www.shmtemple.org). Registration fee (includes book & Mussar Institute fee) is \$100 per person. Questions? Contact Rabbi Lewis at [Llewis@shmtemple.org](mailto:Llewis@shmtemple.org)

## Torah Study

with Rabbi Steinberg and Rabbi Lewis  
**Saturdays at 8:30 am**

(at the Mormon Center, 23 Lake Rd)

**Meets: 11/5, 11/12, 11/19**

**No Torah Study 11/26**

Each week our Torah portion invites us to search our souls for meaning, memories, mitzvah, and lessons on how to be a mensch. We read the Torah over and over again each year as we gain more insight into its depth. Study the weekly Torah portion with the Rabbis and gain inspiration that will nourish your soul.

## Brit Tikvah: Support Group for Parents of Children with Special Needs

**Tuesday, November 1st  
at 6:30 pm**

(Daily Grill, 2636 Dupont Drive at Jamboree, Irvine)

This ongoing program provides a safe place to discuss the joys and difficulties families face, and how to ensure your child feels safe, affirmed, and loved in a Jewish environment.

## Mussar: Seeking Everyday Holiness for Beginners

Facilitated by Karen Busch

**Wednesdays at 7:00 pm**

**November 16 & 30**

Mussar means "instruction." At the center of the program is the inspiring material in "Everyday Holiness" written by Alan Morinis. Working with this text, participants become exposed to the core teachings of the Mussar tradition and its relevance to every day life.

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# NaSHiM Girls Night Out...



**10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**  
**7:00PM**  
 REGISTRATION OPEN FROM 5:30PM  
 COCKTAIL HOUR: FOOD, BEVERAGES AND COCKTAILS  
 AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

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 949.385.1551

All donations are tax deductible

## Mazel Tov!

### Milestone Anniversary for Shir Ha-Ma'alot Staff...

A hearty mazel tov to this valuable and essential temple staff member as she celebrates:



### 10 Years of Service

**Lindsey Morlan,**  
 Office Manager and  
 Assistant to Rabbi Steinberg  
 & Cantor Shikler

We can't thank you enough for the many outstanding years of support and love you have put into our Temple, our SHM community, and our staff. We couldn't do this without you!

Are you or someone you love going away to college this year?

Do you know about the Shir Ha-Ma'alot College Outreach Program?

We want to keep in touch with our college-age family members. If you are interested, please provide us with current college addresses and email addresses so we can maintain the connection during the upcoming academic year. Students will receive email messages, special greetings in the mail, "care" packages, and who knows what else...

Please Add to/or Update the College Roster to include:

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Freshman  Sophomore  Junior  Senior

College/University: \_\_\_\_\_

College Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this completed form to:

Debbie Spielman  
 20825 Shadow Rock Lane  
 Trabuco Canyon, Ca 92679



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**Deborah Ahdoot, Esq., LL.M.**

(949) 851-9001

Fax: (949) 833-3445



**Deborah Ahdoot**

Graduate of Boston University  
 specialization in tax law.

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Business and corporate Law

Real Estate Law

Trusts and Estates

Litigation

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Honestly, Jewish life was a little more of an effort here in California, having to explain why I was missing school for holidays, having my mom come in the class and talk about Chanukah, answering questions about “what is Jewish?” These were all new experiences to us. Luckily, the synagogue held our hands through it all—we were welcomed promptly by the “Welcome Vagon Chavurah”, a group of families with similar aged kids, all transplanted from somewhere else. Our parents are all still dear friends. The JCC did not have a pool or sports teams at that time, but our synagogue youth group provided friends and connections to keep us “Jewish”. Here in California, you have to actually think about it, you have to make the effort to be Jewish. As an adult, I am blessed to have found this congregation where I and my kids have a Jewish community to call our own.

Our own Diaspora is beginning.

We will wander—we’ll hold our services at the Mormon Center on Lake Street in Irvine—every Friday night we’ll gather together in worship. Rabbi Steinberg’s mantra lately is “have Torah will travel.” It isn’t about where we are, it is about who we are—we are Shir Ha-Ma’alot and G\_D will hear our prayers from wherever we gather. Our community will be further enriched this year with our amazing programs centered around the theme “The Blessing of Religion—Celebrating Faith”. Our Sunday adult learning will delve into different branches of Judaism as well as studying Islam, Sikhism, Mormonism, Universalism and Coptic Orthodoxy with a series of community religious leaders.

We will wander—our Religious School will convene on the campus of Tarbut v’Torah in Irvine. We’ve already had our first month of religious school and the families are adjusting to the new routine wonderfully. Our teaching staff excels at imbuing our children with a wonder for Judaism—the program and curriculum we introduced last year has given our kids concentrated time to learn about our holidays and traditions, as well as Jewish ways

of looking at nature, music, and art. As we stretch our wings in the spacious TVT facility, we think about the programs we will be holding in our campus.

We will wander—we’ll hold family gatherings in parks and people’s homes and local restaurants, we’ll celebrate Sukkot at Mason Regional Park together this Sunday, we’ll get crazy on Purim at Boomers, and we’ll hold meetings at local offices, graciously lent to us by generous congregants.

We will wander—It is our tradition to visit our Jewish heritage throughout the world, including regular returns to Israel and other wonderful locations where our ancestors have settled. Our congregants visited Spain in February of this year for a whirlwind education on the rich Jewish history on the Iberian Peninsula. In May 2018, we are traveling to Germany and Italy on our Congregation journey to continue the exploration of the Jewish experience and the roots of the Reform movement.

We will wander and then return. We’ll come back to 3652 Michelson and unpack our boxes, bring in our Torah scrolls and install them in our new ark, we’ll set up our music stands on our spacious Bima and sing, pray, live, love and laugh together—here in our congregational home again.

As we close our services and the shofar calls, we will all proclaim: Next Year in Jerusalem, and, G\_D willing, next year in our new campus. Rachel and I wish you a serene fast, full of peaceful reflection and meditation. Yom Tov and Happy New Year to you all.

## NEW LOCATIONS, NEW ADVENTURES!



**Shabbat Services / Torah Study**  
Mormon Center, 23 Lake Road, Irvine



**Tuesday night Hebrew & High School**  
Back Bay Conference Center (above Irvine Lanes)  
3415 Michelson, Irvine



**Sunday Religious School**  
Tarbut V'Torah Lower School Campus  
5200 Bonita Canyon Rd, Irvine



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# TZEDAKAH DONATIONS

## RABBI STEINBERG'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Dianne & Doug Golden, thank you for bringing such meaning to Jake & Alyssa's B'nai Mitzvah. May you go from strength to strength.

Hy & Linda Algazi in memory of our beloved brother-in-law, Ronald Koblin. We love and miss you a great deal.

Hara Waldman with appreciation for all of your support and teaching during this past year.

Paula & Matt Greenberger in honor of Lauren's Bat Mitzvah. Thank you for guiding Lauren and allowing her to make her Bat Mitzvah her own.

## RABBI LEWIS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

Dianne & Doug Golden, thank you for being a special part of Jake and Alyssa's B'nai Mitzvah

Hara Waldman with appreciation for all your support and teaching during this past year.

Paula & Matt Greenberger in honor of Lauren's Bat Mitzvah. Thank you for guiding Lauren through her services.

Hy Algazi in memory of my wonderful father and my hero, Daniel Algazi. Thank you Rabbi Lewis for the wonderful sermon on Rosh Hashanah.

## CANTOR SHIKLER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Dianne & Doug Golden, thank you for bringing the universal language of music to speak to everyone's soul at Jake and Alyssa's B'nai Mitzvah

Hara Waldman with appreciation for all of your support and beautiful music during this past year.

Paula & Matt Greenberger in honor of Lauren's Bat Mitzvah. Thank you for working with Lauren and encouraging her to play the guitar at services.

Sharon & Darin Blindell, congratulations to Arie & Beth Shikler on the marriage of Gidon and Andrea.

## CULTURAL ARTS/FNL FUND

Hara Waldman & Hal Stern, Michael and Sarah Stern, Mazel tov to Arie & Beth Shikler on the marriage of Gidon to Andrea

Lynne & Steve Koffler in honor of the marriage of Gidon & Andrea Shikler

Bob & Nancy Wolf in memory of Michael Harris, our dear chavurah friend

## FLORENCE RUTH KING CHESED FUND

Barbara King in loving memory of my beloved parents, Florence & Sam Plotkin

Barbara King in memory of my beloved husband, Rabbi Bernard Paul Sandusky King

## GENERAL FUND

Morrine & Fred Rutberg in honor of Donna Weinstein on your special birthday

## JESSICA HERRON SHARING & CARING FUND

Barbara King in loving memory of Jessica Herron

## LIBRARY FUND

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

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

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

## PRAYER BOOK FUND

Kara Jacobs, congratulations to Lori Schwartz for winning the Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award

## RITUAL (JERRY JACOBS) FUND

Lois Jacobs, congratulations to Donna Weinstein, happy big birthday

Lois Jacobs in memory of Dick Gorelick, in memory of a wonderful guy

Lois Jacobs, Happy Birthday to Linda Algazi

Lois Jacobs in memory of Virgil Troyer

## YOUTH GROUP FUND

Paula & Matt Greenberger, thank you to Mazal Kessel Yudinsky for helping Lauren learn her Torah and Haftorah portions

## YAHARZEIT FUND

Bob Sterman in memory of George Sterman

Henny Sterman in memory of David Eilfort

Stacey Calderon in memory of Gerald Mintz

Hy Algazi in memory of Katy Algazi

Dave Schapiro in memory of my father, Harry Schapiro

Jodi Baum in memory of Joyce Lane

Denise Schapiro in memory of my mother, Beryl Sperling

Connie O'Connor in memory of Jack Brody

Lori Reznick in memory of Leonard Kramer

Lori Reznick in memory of Morgan Kramer

Adrienne Witkin in memory of

Mary Greenberg

Barbara Kaitz in memory of Jacob Feingold

Barbara Kaitz in memory of Bernard Ritea

Sandra Perlmutter in memory of Florence Ganderson

Sheldon Greenfield in memory of Robert Greenfield

Esther Kettler in memory of Sarah Vogel

Anne Gollay in memory of Patrick Burgess  
Nancy Platka in memory of David Woolner  
Sheldon Greenfield in memory of Faye Greenfield

Nancy Daniel in memory of Lynn Taslitz  
Fred Schnoll in memory of Milton Schnoll  
Herb Malmon in memory of Betty Malmon

## Sponsor a Student

SHM Brotherhood

## COMING IN DECEMBER

**Teen Shabbat (Grades 8-12)  
at Rabbi Steinberg's house  
Friday, December 9th  
at 7:00 pm**

**All-School Family Chanukah  
Celebration at Mason Park  
Sunday, December 18th  
at 9:30 am**

**Shabbat Service with guest,  
Father Quan Tran  
Friday, December 16th  
at 7:30 pm**

**College Homecoming  
Shabbat Service  
Friday, December 23rd  
at 6:00 pm (special start time)**

**Chanukah Family Service  
Friday, December 30th  
at 6:00 pm (special start time)**



**SHM** CONGREGATION  
**SHIR HA-MA'ALOT**  
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## Other Donation Opportunities

- Memorial Board \$360 per name
- Tree of Life \$180 per name
- Prayer book 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:

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Acknowledgment sent to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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### Please apply my contribution to the following special fund(s):

- Alex Zeleznick Children's Fund
- Campership Fund
- Cantor Shikler's Disc. Fund
- Cultural Arts/Friday Night Live! Fund
- Elana Frenkel Memorial School & Youth Fund
- Florence Ruth King Chesed Fund
- General Fund
- Jessica Herron Adopt-a-Family Fund
- Library Fund
- Oneg Shabbat Fund
- Prayer Book Fund
- Rabbi Lewis' Disc. Fund
- Rabbi Steinberg's Disc. Fund
- Ritual (Jerry Jacobs) Fund
- Special Events Fund (Aaron & Brock Silverstein)
- Todd Evan Ross School Fund
- Yahrzeit Fund
- Youth Group Fund

## A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words...

We tell Shir Ha-Ma'alot's story through words and pictures each year in our Event Catalog, website and monthly newsletter.

I collect photos from events throughout the year to use for a variety of printed and online pieces. Quite a few of them are from our Facebook page but many come from you via email. Please feel free to send me any of your favorite SHM photos:

lcline@shmtemple.org  
 Lynda Cline, communications