



TEMPLE TALK

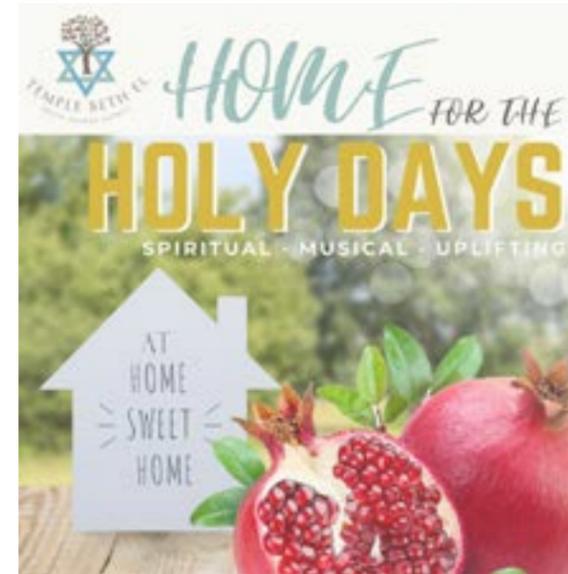
September 2020



The Samueli Center for Progressive Judaism

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A UNIQUE JEWISH COMMUNITY, DUALY AFFILIATED WITH THE
REFORM AND CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENTS



High Holy Days at Home

By Rabbi K'vod Wieder

One of the most apt characteristics of the Jewish people is resilience. No matter what challenges we face, in every historical period, we have committed to keeping our tradition alive because the values that are embedded in our rituals and practices, and the family and communal memories that they hold are precious to us. Even though the events of the Bible happened hundreds of years earlier, it is fair to say that Judaism as we know it was created in the 1st century. Up until that time, public worship happened in the Temple in Jerusalem through animal sacrifices. At some point, the sect of Judaism known as the Pharisees - later called the "rabbis" began to create rituals that Jews could do at home around their dining table.

When the second Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE, Judaism was able to survive because of these home rituals that people had been

doing. The sages built upon these traditions and even though a communal house of study/synagogue was born, Judaism remained a mostly family tradition.

Thousands of years later, we find a similar challenge to our Jewish lives due to COVID-19. We have not been able to gather at our synagogue center for worship and for community. And yet, we have continued to come together online in prayer and study. For many of us, we come to these High Holy Days skeptical. So much of our worship experience is connected to our beautiful sanctuary and so we anticipate a loss. And while that loss may be present, we have a two fold spiritual opportunity. First, we get to realize on deeper and deeper levels that Temple Beth El of South Orange County is not a building, but a community. The connections that we nurture with each other hold strong through it all. No pandemic can break the reality of caring relationships.

And second, history tells us that it is our experience of Judaism in our homes that keeps it alive and present for us. So as we get ready to greet the year 5781, I'd like to offer some tips and thoughts of how to make the holy days come alive in your home this year.

Teshuvah

Teshuvah means we return to the path God set for us when we were born, the path that our souls know as homeward bound, the path of goodness, of becoming a better person. As we prepare for the High Holy Days, it's important that we give attention to repairing our relationships with ourselves, other people, and God.

There are many different types of *teshuvah* as there are many different types of mistakes. Some are very grave and may have taken a person's entire life off course. Here we are speaking about the errors of everyday life that often cause us to feel badly about ourselves and impair our relationship with others and with God.

Everyone makes such mistakes. We all know when we stray, rationalize, bend the truth, avoid the effort, and ignore what is really important and meaningful in our lives. Often we know at the time that what we are doing is wrong, but we are caught up, and distracted, or we convince ourselves that somehow at the moment it is right.

Our tradition understands. Contrary to popular belief, guilt is not a Jewish idea because guilt is paralyzing and self-absorbing. The Jewish view is to use mistakes to grow forward.

Our tradition doesn't want us to be weighed down by negativity and self-loathing when we make mistakes. When we make the wrong choices in life, we need to see them as opportunities for growth, not chains and shackles to weigh us down forever. Maimonides, the great 13th century sage sets out the steps for teshuvah. When we make a mistake, we are to go through the process step-by-step. The result is forgiveness and growth.



Temple Beth El of South Orange County is a dynamic, growing and diverse community having multiple modes of Jewish expression. With about 600 households, and with the merger of Congregation Eilat (a Conservative affiliated congregation) into Temple Beth El, we are one of just a handful of congregations nationally that will be affiliated with both the Reform and Conservative movements. We genuinely embrace the pluralism of the greater Jewish community within our congregation so we can provide a Jewish home for those who identify with either of these movements and for those who are just looking to connect and express their Jewish selves.

Our mission: To establish and maintain a loving Jewish community of educated, involved, spiritual and empowered congregants who come together to celebrate and observe diverse progressive traditions in Jewish thought and belief.

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Teshuvah (continued)

Step 1: Stop

Stop whatever destructive action you are engaged in. If, for example, you are losing your temper with others, stop.

Step 2: Regret

You should indeed feel regret for your error. It's wrong to lose your temper as you are likely to hurt others in doing so. You should be sorry for the harm you caused.

Step 3: Verbalize

Explain your regret out loud to God. This doesn't have to be done at synagogue, and it doesn't have to be in Hebrew. Talk to God in at least an audible whisper, not just in your head; of course, God knows already, but you need to hear it. Express that you regret whatever you did wrong. If your actions harmed other people then you have to make amends. After losing your temper, you must go to your friend and ask his forgiveness.

Step 4: Make a Plan

How can you be sure that the mistake won't happen again? Make a practical plan of action. If you know that certain subjects are sources of conflict between you and your friend, perhaps make a pact to avoid those subjects for the sake of peace.

The completion of these steps is called teshuvah gamurah, or "complete return." It occurs when you find yourself in the same position as when you originally made the mistake and you do not repeat the mistake. *Teshuvah* is our method of getting back on track. Put the guilt, shame, embarrassment, and negativity behind you. Let them go, and return.

Preparing Your Space

When we go to synagogue for Shabbat or Holiday services, part of the potency of the experience is that the space is sacred, is holy. The word for "holy" in Hebrew is *kadosh* - and part of the meaning of *kadosh* - is to make something separate from everything else. Our synagogue space feels holy, not only because of the beautiful architecture, but also that it is a unique space that is different from other places in our lives. We are in our homes all the time, every day. We usually experience our homes as ordinary, not something "separate" or special.



In order to make our homes a *mikdash me'at* - a miniature sanctuary to experience our High Holy Day services, we need to elevate the space. One possibility is to reorient our furniture around out TV's, computers, or tablets, so that it feels different and special. Another possibility is to hang a piece of art or tapestry in the space you will worship that does not usually hang there. There might be Judaica stores online that have special hangings that could order before the holiday.

Equally as important as our physical spaces is the clothing that we choose to wear. Those of us who dress up for holiday services because it is what is expected by others may be tempted to dress how we would normally dress in our homes because we are not in the physical space with each other. I've seen people at online Shabbat services in their pajamas. While the choice for comfort is understandable, the risk is that casual dress will cause us to take our service experience casually, without the proper awe and attention that is needed for the holiday. Dressing in white, in clothing that feels special, can help us elevate our attention to help transform our home experience.



Rosh Hashanah

The Rabbinic Sages teach that in our tradition, there are four new years—one falls upon the first day of the spring month of Nisan (the month in which we celebrate Pesach); another, usually around February, that is the new year of the trees, TuB'Shvat; one falls in late summer signifying the annual renewal of tithing of cattle, on the first of Elul; and the fourth is Rosh Hashanah. Arriving in early autumn on the first day of the month of Tishrei, this is the most familiar of these new years. It is a holiday on which many find themselves in synagogue, spiritually awakening to the call of the shofar, taking stock of the past year, and readying themselves for the year ahead.

Since Jewish holidays begin at sunset, most home rituals take place in the evening. The central home ritual for Rosh Hashanah is a festive holiday meal, during which families often use their nicest china and place settings. The following is a step-by-step guide for home observance of Rosh Hashanah. It includes information on traditional and symbolic foods to incorporate into your celebration of the holiday, prayers to add during meal times with your family, and some ideas for family activities during this festive time. . . Additional information for families with young children through 7th Grade can be found on the temple High Holy Day link.



Order of the Home Service/Ritual

1. Lighting Candles
2. Reciting Kiddush (sanctifying the day with a blessing over the wine)
3. Washing Hands
4. Chanting Hamotzi (a blessing over the bread)
5. Blessing and eating apples and honey
6. The Meal

1. Lighting Candles

The holiday celebration begins with the lighting of candles (*hadlakat nerot*), symbolizing the transition between profane and sacred time, much like the lighting of candles both at the beginning and end of Shabbat. Candles should be lit eighteen minutes before sunset on the first night of Rosh Hashanah. On the second night, candles should be lit one hour later than they were lit the previous night.

This blessing is the same as the blessing said over the candles on Friday night except for the last words. On Shabbat you include the words in the parentheses.

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו להדליק נר של שבת ושל יום טוב:

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav, v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel (Shabbat v') Yom Tov.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to kindle the (Shabbat light and the) Yom Tov light.

After lighting the candles, we say **Shehecheyanu** to thank God for enabling us to reach this season.

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו מלך העולם שהחיתנו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה:

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam shehecheyanu vekiymanu vehigi'anu lazman hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who has kept us alive and sustained us and brought us to this season.

2. Reciting Kiddush

We sanctify the holiday by reciting the special *kiddush* (blessing over wine) for Rosh Hashanah. It is a custom to ensure that all family members and guests are able to participate by holding and drinking from their own cup of wine or grape juice.

There are three parts to *the kiddush*. When Rosh Hashanah falls on Friday evening, we include the first paragraph, the *Vayechulu*, which comes from the Torah. The next part is the daily blessing over the wine or juice. The third piece, the *Kiddush* is the longer blessing sanctifying the festival (and Shabbat) and reminds us of creation and the Exodus from Egypt. As with all other festivals, it is traditional to recite the *shehecheyanu* prayer again after the *kiddush* and before drinking.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, borei p'ri hagafen.



Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who chose us from among all people, and exalted us above all (tongues) languages, and sanctified us with His commandments. And [You] gave us Adonoi, our God, in love (this Shabbos day, and) this day of Remembrance a day for (the day of remembrance of) sounding the shofar (with love) a day of holy assembly *Mitzrayim*. For us have You chosen us have You sanctified from among all peoples; and Your word is true and enduring forever Blessed are You Adonoy, King over all the earth Sanctifier (Of Shabbat and) of Yisrael and the Day of Remembrance.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְרִי הַגִּזְפוֹן:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בְּנוּ מִכָּל־עַם וְרוֹמַמְנוּ מִכָּל לְשׁוֹן, וְקִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו. וְתַמְּן לָנוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּאַהֲבָה. (אֵת יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיט הַזֶּה וְ) אֵת יוֹם הַזְכָּרוֹן הַזֶּה יוֹם (זְכוֹרוֹן) תְּרוּעָה (בְּאַהֲבָה) מִקְרָא קָדֵשׁ וְזָכַר לִיציאת מצרים. כִּי בְּנוּ בְּחַרְתָּ וְאוֹתָנוּ קִדְּשָׁתָּ מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים. וְדִבַּרְתָּ אִמְתּוֹ וְקִיָּם לְעַד: בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה מֶלֶךְ עַל כָּל הָאָרֶץ מִקְדָּשׁ (הַשְּׁבִיט וְ) יִשְׂרָאֵל וְיוֹם הַזְכָּרוֹן:

3. Washing Hands

The ritual washing of hands has nothing to do with physical cleanliness. While the hands are obviously to be clean of dirt before food is eaten, even hands that are physically clean should be ritually washed before sitting down to eat. This ritual, originating in Temple times, has continued on the grounds that the ideal of holiness demands a special ritualistic washing of the hands – this act is seen as the introduction of holiness into the everyday life of a Jew. It is just another way, like lighting candles and saying kiddush, that we separate special days like Shabbat and Rosh Hashanah, from the rest of the week.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצָנְנוּ עַל נְטִילַת יָדַיִם

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha-olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav vtzvivanu al n'tilat yadayim.

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has sanctified us with commandments and has commanded us to wash our hands.

4. Chanting HaMotzi

Before eating dinner we recite *HaMotzi*, the blessing over bread. Just like on Shabbat, we say this blessing over challah, however, because Rosh Hashanah celebrates the cyclical passage of time, it is customary to use a round, sweet loaf of challah. We drizzle honey over the bread to ensure that the coming year is a sweet one.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha-olam, Hamotzi lechem min ha-aretz

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth.

4. Blessing and Eating Apples and Honey

During Rosh Hashanah, it is traditional to eat apples dipped in honey, to symbolize our hopes for a "sweet" new year. The apple is dipped in honey, the blessing for eating tree fruits is recited, and then we ask God to "renew for us a good and sweet year."

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha-olam, Boreh pree ha-aytz.

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the tree.

Y'hi ratzon mil'fanecha, Adonai Eloheinu veilohei avoteinu, Shet'chadeish aleinu shanah tovah um'tukah. May it be Your will, our God and God of our ancestors to renew for us a good and sweet year.

6. The Meal

The Rosh Hashanah evening meal is often quite festive and we enjoy foods we might not have during "normal" dinners. The meal can encompass an ancient custom of eating symbolic foods, like a mini Seder. Besides apples and honey, there are other foods we may want to have at our holiday table. Other special foods (mentioned in the Talmud, Shulhan Arukh and other sources) include leeks or cabbage, beets, fenugreek or carrots, dates, gourds, pomegranates, fish, and the head of a fish. (Visit myjewishlearning.com to find out more!)

Tashlich

In Hebrew, *tashlich* means "casting off," a phrase we hear a lot around Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur—you know, as in "casting off your sins." In the Jewish tradition, we've taken to acting out this phrase somewhat literally. Because sins aren't tangible, though, we use small pieces of bread or small stones to represent our sins, and in the Rosh Hashanah ceremony known as Tashlich, we cast that sin-laden stone or bread into a body of flowing water, like an ocean, river or stream, to be carried away with the current. With each item we cast into the water, we remember and name, aloud or to ourselves, an aspect of our behavior we want to "cast away."

The practice was inspired by Micah 7:19, which reads, "God will take us back in love/God will cover up our iniquities/God will hurl all our sins into the depths of the sea." Find some time between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur to go to a natural body of water. In the past at Temple Beth El of South Orange County, we've gathered at the Dana Point Harbor and by a stream at Laguna Niguel Regional Park. Once you are there, you can do the following:

1. Gather together breadcrumbs or small stones.

The stones are a sephardic custom and I like them because they don't interfere with any of the water life.

2. Think about what sins you want to transform this year.

3. Recite a prayer.

Here is a simple one that I like:
 Here I am again
 ready to let go of my mistakes.
 Help me to release myself
 from all the ways I've missed the mark.
 Help me to stop carrying
 the karmic baggage of my poor choices.
 As I cast this bread upon the waters
 lift my troubles off my shoulders.
 Help me to know that last year is over,
 washed away like crumbs/stones in the current.
 Open my heart to blessing and gratitude.
 Renew my soul as the dew renews the grasses.
 And we say together:
 Amen.
 -Rabbi Rachel Barenblat



4. Throw each stone/crumb into the sea one at a time, thinking about each individual sin you want to let go.

We understand that traveling to a body of water may not be possible this year. Included in this kit is blank sheet of paper. Write or draw about your mistakes, write or draw your intentions for the coming year. Follow steps 2 and 3 and then as you remember these iniquities place the paper in a water source of any kind and watch them be "cast away."



Hear the Shofar LIVE as we Feed the Hungry

Sunday, September 20 at 4pm

Drive through the temple parking lot on 2nd Day Rosh Hashanah



What does hearing the sound of the shofar feel like? It has a variety of different meanings, but when we hear kol shofar on Rosh Hashanah, it cries out to us, vibrating within ourselves, reminding us that God is with us and will stay with us during the new year. Hearing kol shofar also reminds us that we are God's partners in making next year a good year. Every year as we ask God for a good year for our community we bring food for the hungry. Because our services will be online this year, a special group of TBESOC volunteers is offering us the opportunity to hear the shofar being blown while we donate non-perishable food for those who need it. Join us from 4-5pm on Sunday, September 20, 2020 in our TBESOC parking lot to hear the shofar. (Drive-through food drop off will continue through 6pm.) To help ensure a healthy year for all of us, please observe social distancing. As you arrive with your bags filled with groceries, please stay in your car – we'll do all the work! You will be directed through the parking lot to hear the shofar. Kol shofar will be sounded every 15 minutes.

Please keep this list of the most critically needed items in mind when shopping:

- Canned Fruit (All Kinds)
- Hearty Soups (Progresso, Cambell's Chunky)
- Crackers (All Kinds)
- Chili (With or without beans)
- Canned Pasta (Like Chef Boyardee - all flavors)
- Pasta Sauce (Red and White)
- Oatmeal (Boxed Instant or Regular)
- Pasta - Macaroni, Penne, Fusili, Bowtie
- Cereal
- Beef Stew
- 2 lb Bags of Rice
- 2 lb Bags of Beans
- Canned Beans - (all kinds)
- Canned Chicken
- Protein & Breakfast Bars
- Jelly (For PB&J Sandwiches)



Yom Kippur

Transformation always requires vulnerability - the willingness to be real about our imperfection and our brokenness. This sense of vulnerability is heightened by an awareness of life's transience. There are two Yom Kippur customs that serve to remind us of the inevitability of death. The first is to light a memorial candle for parents who have died. The second is to wear a kittel, a white garment that can symbolize both purity and death, during the Yom Kippur services.

The spiritual work of teshuvah also demands a turning away from bodily pleasures, hence the following activities are prohibited by traditional Jewish law on Yom Kippur: eating and drinking, washing, anointing with perfumes or lotions, sexual intercourse, and wearing leather shoes. The reason for not wearing leather is that it represents material and financial comfort, which is contrary to the humility of spirit required for teshuvah.

Before Yom Kippur begins, every Jew is urged to undertake one other action that is not merely preparatory to teshuvah, but integral to the process: requesting forgiveness from human beings against whom one has committed transgressions. This is necessary in order to wipe the slate of interpersonal relationships clean before the start of the holiday, since only sins human beings and God are addressed during Yom Kippur itself.

A good place to request forgiveness from family members is at the seudah hamafseket, the concluding meal before the Yom Kippur fast. The meal should be substantial, following the talmudic dictum that it is a mitzvah to eat on Erev Yom Kippur, just as it is a mitzvah to fast on Yom Kippur itself. The meal begins with the traditional hamotzi blessing over a challah (ritual bread); because Yom Kippur has not actually started yet when the meal is eaten, there is no Kiddush—sanctification over wine—recited.

After the meal, candles are lit to usher in Yom Kippur. Then the Shehecheyanu blessing, thanking God for enabling us to reach this season, is recited and the fast begins. Many parents bless their children with the priestly blessing before leaving for the Kol Nidre service with which the holiday begins, and people wish each other "an easy fast."

To symbolically connect Yom Kippur to the holiday of Sukkot that begins five days later, it is traditional after the havdalah service at the end of Yom Kippur to go immediately and pound the first nail into the sukkah, the temporary shelter that serves as the central symbol of the latter



Memorial Candle Info

It is customary to light a candle in memory of loved ones. Light yours on Erev Yom Kippur, right before the holiday begins, and let it burn throughout the 25 hour period.



Blessing by Cantor Natalie Young

“Ayekah? Where are you? Hineini! Here I am!
We are wholly where our mind is.”

-The Ba'al Shem Tov-

Hineni. Here I Am.

This is the time of year when we would ordinarily be together.

When we would reflect on what has been and celebrate the sweetness of what is to come.

But this year, the Hebrew word “Hineni” takes on a new meaning.



It's not just a call for our prayers to be heard. This year we say “Here I am” as a commitment. We commit to being present for ourselves, for our loved ones, and for our greater community—even if we can't be present in person. There has never been a more important time to do so. So how do we do this when we feel the heaviness of the world around us, and struggle to recognize the life we have known for so long? We must first recognize and acknowledge that the world is changing. Only then can we open ourselves up to the silver-linings and opportunities that are born of these times. It takes a concerted effort to let go of the things that no longer serve us and to allow ourselves to explore things we have never known. Much like our ancestors who wandered in the wilderness when they left Egypt, we can learn so much about ourselves when we can be present in our own uncertainty. God is present in those spaces of unknowing and our liturgy reminds us that even in the darkness there is light. The growing pains we are each experiencing are shaping us and guiding us to potentially become more elevated versions of ourselves. They are shaking us from complacency and pushing us to be intentional about who we want to be and what we wish the world to become.



While the traditions and rituals that have been practiced for past generations don't always speak to us or reflect who we are at our core, Jewish tradition invites and encourages us to have a relationship with it. As we change, so too should our practices. What speaks to us one day may not be what speaks to us tomorrow. There are lessons and messages meant for us right now, in this moment. We must not push away our faith and traditions when we feel lost or personally challenged. On the contrary, this is when we must do the hard work of sorting through the noise and seemingly meaningless traditions to create and own our faith and connection to our spiritual community.

Ayeka? Where are you? How will you bring yourself wholly to this season of change?

Service Schedule

S'lichot

Saturday, September 12 at 8pm

Join us LIVE for havdalah online at 8pm with our TBESOC community, Cantor Young and Rabbi K'vod, followed by opportunities to worship with the broader community in both the Conservative and Reform modes of worship. Links available on the temple website.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 SELICHOT

8pm Selichot Service LIVE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 EREV ROSH HASHANAH

6pm **Reform & Conservative** LIVE welcome & intro with ALL clergy

6:20pm **Reform** evening service (pre-recorded)

Conservative LIVE evening service

Sermon Included in both **Reform & Conservative** services

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, ROSH HASHANAH DAY 1

9:00am Rosh Hashanah Service for Families with Young Children

9:30am **Conservative** LIVE Shacharit & Musaf Service

10am **Reform** Service opens LIVE (parts pre-recorded)

11:15am **Reform & Conservative** Options:

- Torah study LIVE
- Binding of Isaac Theatre Production (pre-recorded)
- Teshuvah Meditation (pre-recorded)

12:15pm **Reform & Conservative** LIVE Sermon with small group discussions

Prayer for the Universe (honoring essential workers) & LIVE Concluding prayers

1pm Apples & Honey Video Montage

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 ROSH HASHANAH DAY 2

9:30am **Conservative** LIVE Shacharit, Musaf, shofar blowing & Avinu Malkeynu

10am **Reform** Service opens LIVE with shofar blowing (parts pre-recorded)

11:15am **Reform & Conservative** Options:

- Torah study LIVE
- Binding of Isaac Theater Piece (pre-recorded)
- Teshuvah Meditation (pre-recorded)

12:15pm **Reform & Conservative** LIVE Sermon with small group discussions

Concluding prayers with ALL clergy

4pm **Reform & Conservative** LIVE shofar blowing at the temple. Bring your food donations!

Cantor Natalie Young

Rabbi K'vod Wieder

Cantor Shula

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, EREV YOM KIPPUR

- 6:30pm **Conservative** LIVE Kol Nidre & 7:15pm Maariv service
- 7:30pm **Reform** Kol Nidre Service opens Live (parts pre-recorded)
- Sermon Included in both **Reform & Conservative** services

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, YOM KIPPUR DAY

- 9:00am Yom Kippur Service for Families with Young Children
 - 9:30am **Conservative** LIVE Shacharit and Musaf
 - 10am **Reform** Service opens LIVE (parts pre-recorded)
 - 11:15 **Reform & Conservative** Options
 - LIVE Torah study
 - Avodah Meditation (pre-recorded)
 - Music and Meditation (pre-recorded)
 - 12:15pm **Reform & Conservative** LIVE Sermon with small group discussions & LIVE Concluding prayers with all clergy
 - 1pm **Reform & Conservative** LIVE Yizkor (includes Digital Book of Remembrance)
- Afternoon Study Options**
- 2pm LIVE Learning with **Rabbi Peter Levi**
 - 3pm LIVE Reading of Jonah with **Rabbi David Young** -OR-
Pre-recorded Hebrew Chanting of the Book of Jonah with **Rabbi Sammy Seid**
 - 3:30pm LIVE Three 30 minute learning sessions on the Book of Jonah with **Steve Birch, Rabbi David Young, Cantor David Reinwald** -OR-
Mincha Amidah (pre-recorded)
- Neilah / Havdalah**
- 6pm **Reform** LIVE Neilah (ends at 6:30 pm)
 - Conservative** LIVE Neilah (ends at 7pm)



Programs for children will be available throughout the Holy Days online at _____

Set Up Your Account - Your New Access to Everything TBESOC

Please take a few minutes (really, just a few) and set up your new temple account.

We will ONLY be able to access High Holy Day services by being logged in to our new temple accounts.

Please make sure to update your password, set up your annual contribution payment method (credit card information did NOT transfer over) & use the portal to access and manage your information

register for events
Securely and Privately: view your transaction history, update payment methods ("credit card on file"), see the member directory (always up to date!), set up recurring contributions and tuition payments, make donations (including the information to send an acknowledgment card to the person you designate)

And, yes, there's an app for that coming soon!

If you already set up your account, you may have noticed an outstanding balance which is the same amount as your annual contribution for membership in 2019/20. With perpetual membership, unless you tell us otherwise, we maintain your commitment year to year. Please know that this is NOT due right now; instead, we anticipate the balance paid off by June 30, 2021 and you may update your account's billing information (credit card or e-check) with a payment schedule in your account. We so appreciate your support and thank you again for your contributions.



Thank You TO OUR DONORS

Our Thanks

To Our Sustainer Society

We gratefully acknowledge the following members who are able and choose to sustain our congregation financially with annual contributions that are equal to or above our average operational cost per member household (\$4500 per year). Gifts above the amount of our operational costs divided by our member households make it possible for us to provide the Temple's services and programs to EVERY ONE - regardless of their financial means. These contributions are an investment in maintaining a Temple Beth El of South Orange County culture that is inclusive, welcoming, and generous. Thank you,

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>Steven & Karen Anapoell</i> | <i>David & Cynthia Mirsky</i> |
| <i>Bart & Elizabeth Asner</i> | <i>Dr. Richard Moldawsky</i> |
| <i>Steve & Phyllis Blanc</i> | <i>Ronald & Molly Naglie</i> |
| <i>Irwin Bornstein & Ellen Gecht</i> | <i>Joel & Amy Packer</i> |
| <i>Dennis & Susan Brown</i> | <i>Michael & Kathy Pearlman</i> |
| <i>Marc & Barbara Chasman</i> | <i>Stephen & Barbara Queen</i> |
| <i>Stuart & Carole Fels</i> | <i>Dr. Irwin Rosenfeld</i> |
| <i>Alan & Lisa Fenning</i> | <i>Neil Rozen</i> |
| <i>Michael & Ellen Fine</i> | <i>Terry Rubin & Laurie-Ann Weis</i> |
| <i>Michael & Sharon Gerstein</i> | <i>Henry & Susan Samuelli</i> |
| <i>Marvin & Myra Gordon</i> | <i>Brad & Kathy Shapiro</i> |
| <i>Jason & Roberta Gregerman</i> | <i>David Dull & Susan Shieldkret</i> |
| <i>Steven & Sarah Jaeger</i> | <i>Debra & Debra Solomon</i> |
| <i>Kenneth & Mara James</i> | <i>Jose & Sarita Spiwak</i> |
| <i>Bonnie & Bonnie Kehe</i> | <i>Elliot & Debra Sternberg</i> |
| <i>Joe Baker & Elliott Kornhauser</i> | <i>Martin Voet & Matthea Cohen</i> |
| <i>Cathy & David Krinsky</i> | <i>Mark & Debra Whaley</i> |
| <i>Barry & Lynnda Levine</i> | <i>Evan Wohl & Heather Kartzinel</i> |
| <i>Larry & Tilly Levine</i> | <i>Brian & Suzanne Young</i> |
| <i>David & Alex Lubowe</i> | |

Your Contributions Make a

Huge Difference!

Board of Trustees Executive Committee

Merritt Weiss VP Marketing & Communications



- Married to Andy for 33 years, one son Royce -24
- BA Sociology UCLA 83', Master Social Work SDSU 85'
- Office Manager, Speaker, Writer, Advocate for youth with ASD
- Lives in Aliso Viejo
- Member of TBESOC since 2000
- BE Sisters President - 7 years, Women's Retreat chair -3 years, PTO President - 3 years
- Trustee at large -2 years, 1st VP Marketing & Communications - 2 years

Tamara Griffin VP Membership



- Member of TBESOC since 2013
- Married to Greg for 20 years, mother of Jane, 17 and Max, 15
- Live in Mission Viejo, moved to OC in 2013
- Member of TBESOC board for 3 years;
- 1 year trustee, 2 years as board secretary
- Represented TBESOC as Religious School lay leader for URJ's B'nai Mitzvah Revolution Innovator's Lab
- TBESOC Committees: Religious Education Task Force, Education Committee, Board Nominating Committee 2019
- Experience in teaching Jewish Ed to teens with LA Bureau of Jewish Education
- Experience in developing programming for Jewish teen retreats with LA BJE
- Professional experience in market research and advertising sales

Stuart Kriloff Treasurer



- Member of TBESOC since 2014
- Married to Ginny Sotolov for 20 years with 2 children, 2 stepchildren, and 6 grandchildren
- CPA with a Masters in Accounting Sciences with 7 years of service with Deloitte (formerly Touche Ross) including supervisor role
- 40 years experience as controller/ CFO in commercial real estate including responsibilities in accounting, finance, and corporate compliance

Amy Packer President



- Member of TBESOC since 1991 (28.5 years)
- Married almost 36 years to Joel; 4 children: Jeff (34), Brian (32), Amanda (28) and Lea (19)
- Lived in Laguna Niguel since 1988
- Board positions served: VP Governance, VP Education, and BE Sisters Co-President
- TBESOC Committees: Strategic Planning Council, Education, Social Action, Jewish Life and Rituals, Women's Retreat, Religious School PTO
- K-8 California Teaching Credential, former CPA
- BA Business Administration- Accounting and Management Information Systems

Helen Rasner VP Governance



- Founding member of TBESOC
- Board Member of original Board of Trustees
- Founding member of South Coast ORT
- Current Trustee at Large
- Founding member of Collaborative Divorce Solution – Orange County
- Managing Partner of Rasner & Rasner Attorneys at Law (now mostly retired)
- Live in Laguna Niguel since 1980

Samantha Cohen VP Education



- Member of TBESOC since 2016
- Married to Mark; 2 children, Mila (6 yo) and Ethan (4 yo)
- Born in South Africa and immigrated to California in 2001
- On TBESOC Board since 2019
- ECC PTO Co- President
- BS in Business Management
- CBEST Certified and has taught in the classroom
- Long history of education related positions
- Corporate experience in training and education
- Advisory Board for a non- profit childcare related organization

Bonnie Kehe VP Finance



- Member of TBESOC for 24 years
- Married to Scott for 33 years with two sons: Jason (30) & Jared (27)
- Live in Lake Forest
- BS – Economics
- 35+ year career in commercial banking
- Previously served on the TBESOC board for 6+ years as Treasurer, Vice President Finance and President. Also chaired a Rabbi Search Committee.

Debra McKee VP Tikkun Olam



- Member of TBESOC since 1998
- Married to Michael for 29 years, one daughter – Megan (25)
- Ph.D. in Pediatric Clinical Psychology
- Co-owner with Mike of an architectural signage company
- Independent Educational Consultant – offering college planning services
- Founder & 1st President of the Orange County Advocacy Group of the National Council of Jewish Women
- Volunteer with CASA, Make-A-Wish and Operation Smile
- Currently Trustee at Large of

Evan Wohl VP Rituals



- Member of TBESOC since 2010; previously a member of Congregation Eilat
- Living in Laguna Niguel since 1997
- Married to Heather for 27 years, 2 children: Moshe (21) and Ari (17)
- Served on TBESOC board since 2014, currently serving as VP of Judaism in Action since 2016
- Previously served as President and Co-President of Congregation Eilat (2008 – 2010)
- BS Degree in Pharmacy; Registered Pharmacist in NJ
- Working the Pharma / Biotech industry for over 30 years

Robin Brandes-Gibbs Secretary



- Member of TBESOC for 28 years
- Married to Timothy with two children, Karen and Briana "Bree" who both had their naming ceremonies and Bat Mitzvahs at TBESOC. In their teens, Karen served on the Tzedakah Board, and Bree was a song leader.
- Karen recently graduated with a BFA in Digital Arts Design from Otis College of Art and Design
- Bree earned her Master's Degree in Marine Biology from the University of Miami.
- Robin has practiced law for 30 years, and is employed as Deputy General Counsel for the Orange County Superior Court.
- Bachelor's degree in General Literature from U.C. San Diego, graduated from U.C. Davis School of Law, and in 2018 earned a Graduate Certificate in Court Administration from Cal State Sacramento.
- Previously TBESOC Board Experience: Secretary and Trustee at Large



Jodi Halbreich
Trustee at Large

- Member TBESOC since 1997
- TBESOC Board positions : Trustee on Board 2000-2004 and 2018, VP Finance and Development 2019
- TBESOC Committees: Social Action, Havurat Tzedek
- BA from CSULB in Speech Communications
- Lived in Costa Mesa since 1982
- Real Estate Agent with First Team Real Estate/Christie's International since 2014

Neal Engler
Trustee at Large

- Member of TBESOC since moving to Aliso Viejo in 2003
- Born in Los Angeles (Fairfax area)
- Married to Lara Engler for 24 years in November
- 2 children: Joelle soon to Graduate Arizona State University with Honors, Ethan soon to graduate Aliso Niguel High School with Honors and has accepted his offer to UC Santa Barbara
- 2 years Lead Coordinator for the Sukkah for Sukkot
- Annual Volunteer at the BESTY Club night
- Member of the Men's Club and the new Chai Guys and played several years on the TBESOC softball team
- Active member Small Groups program
- 22 years as a Mortgage Professional (Engler Loans until 2011, Bank of America, New American Funding and currently Senior Loan Officer at Lendplus, based here in Aliso Viejo)
- Graduate of Cal State University Northridge

Debbie Solomon
BE Sisters President

- Member TBESOC since 2016, after moving to Laguna Hills from NJ
- Married to David for 30 years; children- Jennifer (26), Max (23)
- Involved with BE Sisters, currently VP of Membership
- Member of the Rabbi Search Committee
- Volunteer with Reading Partners program at Kinoshita Elementary in SJC, and JFFS Women's Philanthropy
- Masters in Social Work from Boston University, worked in social services and adoption.
- Moved to Agoura Hills, CA from Andover, MA, in 2000.
- Current wine professional with the following certifications: CSW and WSET 2 in Wine and Spirits

Jason Gregerman
Men's Club President

- Member of TBESOC since 2010
- Married to Roberta (23 yrs); 3 children: Jack (20), Oscar (18) and Eli (17)
- Live in Laguna Niguel since 2010
- Men's Club VP of Membership
- TBESOC Committees: Membership Committee, Marketing and Communication Committee
- Managing Director and Global Head of Infrastructure Services at State Street Corporation
- BS in Economics
- Executive MBA concentration in Technology

Jen Paletz
Trustee at Large

- Born and raised in Hollywood, Florida
- Married to husband Scott, mother of 2 boys (5 and 11)
- - Josh is currently a student at the ECC and participates in Shabbat Chai. Jake attends TBESOC Religious School
- Moved to CA in 1995 to attend the University of Southern California film/television school
- Worked in the entertainment industry (Nelvana Animation, New Line Cinema, The Oxygen Network, The Thomas Carter Company) in the areas of casting, development, publicity, production and post production
- 2017 Moved to Laguna Niguel and joined TBESOC

Steve Blanc
Trustee at Large

- Member since 1995
- Wife Phyllis with one son married with two kids so we have two grandchildren
- Currently consulting with companies on strategic sales and leadership issues
- Worked full time at Beckman Coulter for 34 years last 12 years running the sales team and General Management
- I am a Board Member for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and the Inland Empire
- I am an Ambassador for Second Harvest Food Bank
- I am a Success coach for Working Wardrobes
- Live in Mission Viejo

Kim Gubner
Trustee at Large

- Married 25 years ; 2 kids in college UCSB and Miami of Ohio
- Grew up in Denver but came to CA at 18 to study musical theater at USC.
- We moved from Calabasas to Laguna Niguel because my husband got a job at Pimco in NPB. We do not miss the valley except that my husband's family still lives there.
- Cantor Doug Cotler taught me how to sing on the bimah and lead Shabbat services.
- Joined TBESOC in 2011 after being scooped up by Bonni's audacious hospitality
- Sub in for Cantor Natalie whenever necessary
- Choir 9 years
- Hineinu team coordinator
- 7 years JLRC committee chairperson
- Childspree event coordinator
- 4 years on the board and currently Trustee at Large
- I help out where needed and love planning events to encourage our congregants to bond over new and fun activities.

Cat Mirsky
Trustee at Large

- Member since 2015, and went through TBESOC's adult b'nai mitzvah program.
- Married to Steve Mirsky with two kids (Micah, 5, Hazel, 3) and a third on the way!
- Has served as co-chair of the Women's Retreat for 3 years, and sits on the Membership Committee, as a Trustee-at-large on the Board, and on the Strategic Planning Committee.
- B.A. in Psychology and Social Behavior, and over 15 years experience in small business management.

Brad Shapero
Trustee at Large

- Member of TBESOC since circa 1992
- Previous board member
- Current Member at Large
- Father of four
- Private practice - Wellness doctor and Chiropractor
- Conservative Rituals Committee Chair
- Chair Chai Guys Committee
- Spirituality Committee member



Our Heartfelt Thanks and Appreciation to these members who step up to lead our congregation!

Audacious Bakers

Did you know that the Friday night dessert oneg (translated as “pleasure, joy, exquisite delight”) often includes baked goods made lovingly by temple members? These amazing congregants invite you to join their efforts and become an “Audacious Baker” even if you don’t bake! How?

1. Volunteer to come in on a Friday before 5pm to platter pastries. There are up to 20 specific Fridays per year that we need this help when we are able to meet in person, so be in touch for dates.
2. Stay after those select Friday night services to carefully put away the unused pastries in freezer-proof containers.
3. Bake pastries at home or in the upstairs kitchen at the synagogue.

Point of Contact Sherri Krause, shkrause29@cox.net



Hinenu Caring Committee: Schmooze Crew

The Schmooze crew is a group of dedicated Hinenu volunteers who chat or “schmooze” with TBESOC congregants who are recovering from lengthy illnesses through friendly phone calls or in-person visits when it is safe. During the pandemic, no in person visits will take place; therefore, more friendly voices are needed to make phone calls!
 What we do:
 • Ongoing visits or phone calls for congregants who are housebound or in nursing facilities
 A visit may include:
 • Chatting with congregant about subjects/topics of their choosing
 • Playing cards or games with the congregants
 • Reminiscing with congregants over their favorite photographs, scrapbooks or memorabilia



Hinenu Caring Committee

The Hinenu Caring Committee creates a true sense of community by helping to care for one another in times of need.

How do we accomplish this? During the pandemic, all support is virtual. As soon as we can safely do so, we will return to our former “normal” which includes:

- Home Visits for those congregants who are sick or struggling with illness
- Hospital Visits as requested
- Calling and supporting the sick
- Pick Up/Deliver Kosher Meals from our temple freezer to congregants
- Assist with Shiva Set-up/Clean-up and optional coffee service, if needed
- Help with Meals of Consolation and optional coffee/tea service, if needed
- Cooking with Kavanah to stock our temple freezer with Kosher Meals for delivery to congregants in need following a surgery or illness
- Complete a Minyan by requesting volunteers
- Schmooze Crew calls and friendly visits to support the homebound
- Chevra Kadisha (upon completion of training)

For more information about how you can be involved, please call Cindy Leish at (949) 436-2463 or Patty Rosenbaum at (949) 413-3474. We would love to have you join us and our dedicated volunteers in this sacred mitzvah.

Committee co-chairs:
Patty Rosenbaum, pattyrosenbaum7@gmail.com
Cindy Leish, personal.leish@gmail.com



Bereavement Committee

The Bereavement Committee provides support to those in their time of need, including access to ongoing support groups in the local vicinity, whether spiritual or secular based. In partnership with Vitas Healthcare, a local hospice organization, we offer an 8 week bereavement support group series, 2 - 3 times each year. The series is open to the public and free of charge. They also provide a resource booklet for our Temple community for other possible bereavement needs. The committee also partners with O’Connor Mortuary to offer presentations by Dr. Bill Hoy from Baylor University. Dr. Hoy delivers adult workshops focusing on various aspects of the bereavement process. These workshops are also offered free of charge, although registration is required through O’Connor Mortuary in Laguna Hills.

Committee chair: Phyllis Blanc, phyllis.j.blanc@gmail.com

Havurat Tzedek

Havurat Tzedek is a group inspired by Jewish values, and dedicated to raising awareness and engaging in charitable and service work. Some of the projects that Havurat Tzedek has participated in include:

- Supporting annual events such as our Interfaith Thanksgiving project
- Raising awareness and educating each other and the congregation on service project opportunities
- Various one-time projects such as making blankets for babies in need, sponsoring a booth at the Purim carnival at which our younger members made dolls for children having surgery in developing countries, raising money to buy solar ovens for refugee camps
- Visits to local nursing homes for Shabbat or a Jewish holiday to bring a smile to those residents who do not have many or any visitors

Our Feed the Hungry campaign, a year-round food drive and toiletry campaign, benefits families in need in our immediate area through Jewish Federation & Family Services, Orange County. Please drop off a canned item and/or travel-size shampoo, soap, toothpaste, etc. (downstairs in the labeled bin) whenever you are in the synagogue for school, a meeting, services, a social event, etc.

Committee Chairs:
Lili Landman, lblandman@msn.com
Kathy Shapiro, Shaprus@gmail.com



Childspree

TBESOC members do not stand idly by, even in the midst of a pandemic. In its 5th year, Childspree is an event in which adult and teen Shopping Buddies and donors raise money to take 50 Orange County foster children on a Zoom-based shopping trip on Macys.com. The event was literally reinvented and boiled down to its very core, but COVID-based restrictions did not derail the program. Email Kim Gubner kgubner007@gmail.com to get involved in Childspree 2021!

Chair: Kim Gubner, Kgubner@gmail.com



Jewish Justice Advocates

Educate, Advocate and Engage in social justice in accordance with Jewish values! Jewish Justice Advocates puts on educational programs, advocates, and engages in social action to try to eradicate the root causes of social injustice. JJA has chosen to focus on the following Issues this year:

- *Immigration
- *Homelessness
- *Preventing gun violence
- *Criminal justice reform
- *Civic engagement
- *Equal rights
- *The environment

We also partner with and support Havurat Tzedek, TBESOC’s charitable service committee. Watch for upcoming social justice opportunities!

Points of contact: Barby Schwid bschwid@gmail.com, Carol Singer normcarol@cox.net

Cooking with Kavanah

Cooking with Kavanah is a group of temple volunteers who come together quarterly at the temple to cook meals for our congregants who need a little taste of home cooking. We stock the freezer with meals and they are delivered as and when needed by our amazing volunteers.

Lead: Sarah Wood, sarahwood.uk@gmail.com



Conservative Rituals Committee (CRC)

The CRC plans, facilitates and coordinates Conservative worship, works closely with the Rabbi and Cantor; and facilitates activities related to Shabbat services and other Jewish holidays. This committee continuously evaluates the effectiveness of the worship programs we offer and works with clergy to facilitate Conservative worship.

Committee chair:
Brad Shapero, drshapero@premierhealthcaresc.com



Cooking for Connection

Did you know that when we are able to meet in person, every Shabbat morning after the Conservative worship service, we continue the special time with our community by sharing lunch together? Sometimes Torah discussions can be heard along with lots of laughter as friends relax and celebrate what good things happened during their week. We always end in songs of praise as we thank The Holy One for the meal (Birkat Hamazon or colloquially known as "benching" in Yiddish). These meals are lovingly prepared weekly by our Chop & Chat Crew in the downstairs kosher dairy kitchen. We invite you to join us when we are able to continue meeting up, mostly on Friday afternoons (but sometimes Thursday or Friday mornings) to cook hot dishes and prep for Saturday morning.

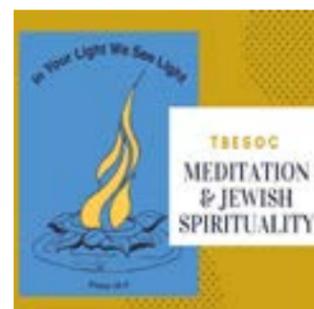
Point of Contact Sandy Rothberg, sandy@rothberg.org

Jewish Life and Ritual Committee (JLRC)

The scope of the JLRC is:

- "Audacious Hospitality" – all ritual events are designed to allow participants feel welcome regardless of difference, and to build relationships with each other.
- Spirituality – all ritual events strive to help connect participants with meaning, purpose, and connection to something greater than themselves.
- Tradition – all ritual events are guided by the wisdom of our Jewish sages, even as they are interpreted by us today. This element is distinguished from the value of "familiarity" which ensures that participants do what they are accustomed to.
- Accessibility – all ritual events are designed for all congregants to participate, regardless of Jewish knowledge or Hebrew skills.
- Participation – all ritual events allow and encourage participation, whether encouraging congregation to sing, allow people to lead portions of the service and ritual, or create space for people to share their thoughts and experiences.

Committee chair: Mark Adler, mvguy2000@yahoo.com



Meditation & Jewish Spirituality:

Create Temple Beth El of South Orange County programs and community connections through meditation, contemplative prayer, and wisdom/teachings from the Jewish mystical tradition, and to deepen our relationships with God and one another.

Committee Chair:
Ellen Prince, ellenprinc@aol.com
Dennis O'Reilly dennis.e.oreilly@gmail.com or



Small Groups

The Power of Commitment for Transforming Ourselves and Community
November 2020 - January 2021

- Session #1: Committing to Ourselves
- Session #2: Committing to Our Family and Friends
- Session #3: Committing to Our Synagogue Community
- Session #4: Committing to Engaging in the Wide World

Our congregation has assured that building meaningful relationships among congregants is a top priority for our community. This year, we will create opportunities through Small Groups for our congregants to connect with others in welcoming and social environments. Initially, a small group meets 4 different times around a compelling topic over a two month period. More information available on our **website**.
<https://tbesoc.shulcloud.com/small-groups.html>

Ongoing, open-to-join small groups

TBESOC Hiking Group

Are you passionate about hiking? Have you considered going on a hike, but don't have anybody to go with or are hesitant to take that first step? We have a group for you! Explore the beautiful outdoors and connect with the wider Jewish community on our periodic beginner to low-intermediate level hikes around Orange County. Guided by Mansour Kohanteb, an experienced hiker, the Hiking Group is an ongoing, drop-in opportunity for all ages—and no prior experience is necessary. The trails vary in location, elevation and difficulty so you can pick and choose which hike to join.



Point of Contact Mansour Kohanteb at mansourteb@gmail.com



Chai Guys

During the current pandemic conditions we have stayed connected! We remain a dynamic social group for active men looking to get together periodically for various activities to socialize. We are transitioning to become a subgroup of the TBESOC Men's Club. The activities will continue, such as movie night, archery, taking a tour of a local micro brewery, and much more. Recently we have had some zoom catch up hours to stay connected.

Typically, we meet the third Thursday of the month.

Lead: Brad Shapero at info@PremierHealthCareSC.com

Torah Study

Weekly, a group of congregants joins together to dive into learning from the weekly Torah portion. Participants rotate the responsibility of preparing and facilitating the discussion. Usually, the Torah Study ends with a brief worship service.



Chair: Luke Wood jewish@3Dsolarsystem.com



Volunteer Choir

Sing unto God a new song! -Psalm 96:1

If you have the skill and desire, we invite you to join our choir. Build relationships with other members as we prepare music together for Shabbat and special opportunities.

Point of Contact: Cantor Natalie Young

Women's Retreat Committee:

May 14-16 2021
Plans and coordinates the annual TBESOC Women's retreat held each year in the spring.

Point of Contact: Cat Mirsky, TBEWomensretreat@gmail.com



Gift Shop

Join us in running our gift shop.
Committee chair: Lin Goldman, kydteach@aol.com



BE Sisters

Simply, we are the women of TBESOC, but we are so much more than that. We are mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends. Anyone can join! Membership is open to both Temple Beth El members and non-members. So bring a friend!

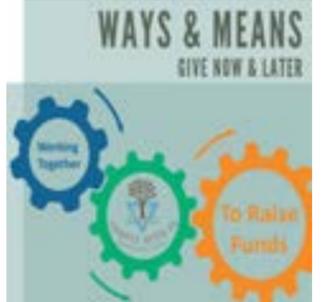
Our mission is "Friendship, Sharing, Learning and Caring." We offer opportunities year round to support the interests and hearts of our congregation and community. We meet. We eat. We learn. We laugh. We care. We share. We grow as individuals and friends.

President: Debra Solomon, besisters@gmail.com or 818-292-6863

Ways & Means

We raise money for TBESOC! To keep us operating requires cash, and our annual membership contributions cover less than half of our annual operating budget. Ways and Means identifies ways we can shore up those funds to keep us afloat and charting our course to a long future of serving the needs of our Jewish community right here in South Orange County. Join our efforts to identify and implement FUNd raising opportunities!

Chair: Position open
Works with the VP Finance & Development, Bonnie Kehe bekehe@gmail.com



The Men's Club

The Men's Club is an auxiliary group for any men in our community who want to partake in planning and, or participating in social activities. Over the coming months we will be working with our membership to establish programming that speaks to them and drives greater involvement and membership participation.

President: Jason Gregerman, Joejr1997@yahoo.com or 617-755-7959



Gala

Annually we create a unique event and this year will NOT be an exception! We celebrate our 40th year of temple community in 2021, and if you'd like to help plan the event, obtain auction items, coordinate the tributes/sponsorships/ads or help in any way, please be in touch with us!

Chairs: Bev Kritzstein bkritzstein@cox.net or Susan Samuelli susu50@aol.com



Membership/Outreach Committee

Join us as we work on ways to increase connection, improve engagement and build community among members.

Point of contact: VP Membership, Tamara Griffin tbesocmembership@gmail.com

Life & Legacy

To ensure that all we have built since 1981 remains here in perpetuity, we are ensuring our Jewish tomorrow with commitments today. We seek commitments from individuals to leave a gift to TBESOC after their life so that while we give now, we can also give later to the TBESOC Endowment. Please contact the chair for a confidential discussion on how you can establish your legacy plan, or to help garner additional Legacy commitments.

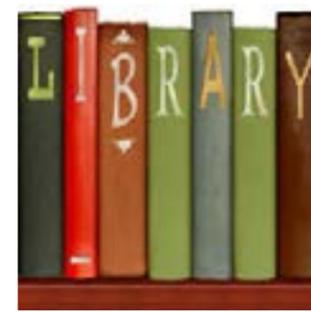
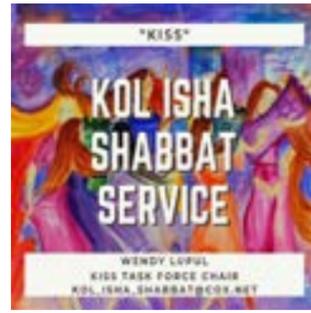
Chair: William Spector, wjspector@gmail.com



KISS

Kol Isha Shabbat Service is an annual Shabbat morning worship service. Men, women and children are invited to this popular, engaging, all women-led service that is followed by a sumptuous Kiddush Luncheon with entertainment. Save the dates: January 30, 2021 and January 15, 2022.

Chair: Wendy Lupul wendylupul@cox.net



Library Committee

The Library Committee helps with signing books in and out and assist with organizing and publicizing various library events held throughout the year. Join us in our efforts!

Point of contact: Sharon Wolfson, shwolfson@sbcglobal.net

Religious School Committee

The mission of the TBESOC Religious School Committee is to support the goals of the TBESOC Religious School, to promote school programming and to further communication between the Religious School and families. We are committed to continuing outreach and engagement with the religious school community as we continue to build our TBESOC community through a meaningful religious school experience.



Point of contact: Melissa Roye melmo3@yahoo.com and Julie Fingersh julesif@yahoo.com



Early Childhood Center Parent Teacher Organization (ECC PTO)

The TBESOC ECC Parent Teacher Organization exists to enhance children's educational experience and support the ECC community. We cooperate with and assist the ECC Director and Staff in providing enriching and developmentally appropriate Judaic and educational experiences for our children. We also act as a conduit to help promote better communication and understanding between all stakeholders. We invite parents of our ECC students to join the PTO as we build deep and meaningful connections with each other and the community at large.

Point of contact: VP Education, Samantha Cohen samandicohen@gmail.com

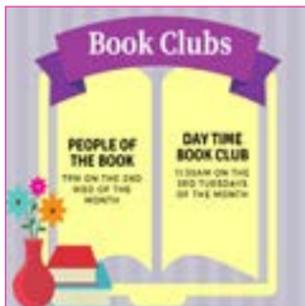
Israel Matters Committee

This committee strives to deepen the bond between the State of Israel and Temple Beth El of South Orange County by creating and implementing education and advocacy programs targeted to increase the congregation's knowledge and experience of Israeli life and culture and to facilitate support of Israel."



Please contact the committee chair for more information or any questions. We welcome your interest in our committee!

Committee chair: Charlene Zuckerman, czuckerman55@gmail.com



Daytime Book Club:

Our Daytime Book Club provides you with the opportunity to read one of the Jewish-themed books selected (list is available in the library) each month and enjoy an exchange of ideas.

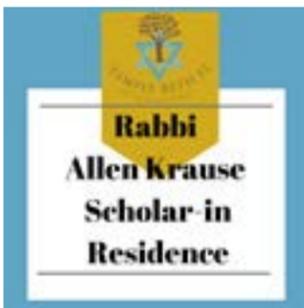
Dates: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 11:30am -1pm

Point of contact: Sharon Wolfson, shwolfson@sbcglobal.net

Rabbi Allen Krause Scholar-in-Residence

Every other year, help plan, raise funds, and implement the Rabbi Allen Krause Scholar-in-Residence weekend.

Chair: Position open



Legacy Society

Continue the legacy of Temple Beth El of South Orange County for future generations with a gift in your will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy. Support the community here that is important in each of our lives!

Our temple community was created by visionary individuals—many of whom came before us—and the legacy of their values is palpable as soon as prospective, new and long-time members arrive on our campus. Our faith, culture and traditions are only possible because from generation to generation—*l'dor v'dor*—people like you and me invested in



ensuring Jewish tomorrows. One way we can live this value is by making arrangements to leave tzedakah after our lifetime. No matter what our income level is, no matter how large or small our assets, we are empowered to lead by example after our lives by earmarking any portion of our life insurance, retirement account, house sale proceeds, etc. to Temple Beth El of South Orange County. In addition to all of the family that we want to leave our remaining assets to, we have the opportunity to make sure our values of Jewish traditions, community and peoplehood live on after we are gone. And by doing it in the memory of loved ones, they also continue to live on after we've gone. Join these members of our Legacy Society—temple members and Jewish community supporters who have committed to making sure our beloved TBESOC is here for future generations, at absolutely no cost to you as long as you live.



For a confidential discussion on how you can establish your legacy plan, please contact William Spector at wjspector@gmail.com

Join Our Legacy Society

- Anonymous
- Bart & Elizabeth Asner*
- Nadine Asner*
- Phyllis & Steve Blanc*
- Marc and Barbara Chasman*
- Firuzeh & Jeff Claar
- Shiffy & Avi Crane*
- Shirley (z"l) & Lew Einbund*
- The Farber Family*
- Pamela & Rob Fecher*
- Julie & Adam Fingersh*
- Karen Forrest*
- Robin Brandes-Gibbs & Tim Gibbs*
- Anita Gold*
- Susan & Michael Goldfader*
- Myra & Marv Gordon*
- Jeff Greer & Keary Gregg*
- Jodi Halbreich
- Mimi Harris*
- Steve Heit
- Mara & Kenneth James*
- Shula Kalir-Merton*
- Marla and Joe Kaufman*
- Scott & Bonnie Kehe
- Joan Kirschenbaum*
- Harvey Kramer*
- Sherri Hofmann Krause*
- Mary (z"l) & Al (z"l) Leavitt*
- Mollie & Stephen (z"l) Lazarus*
- Dr. & Mrs. Stanton Leemon*
- Stan and Wendy Levin*
- Honey Rhonda Locke*
- Cindy & David Mirsky*
- Jane & Pete Moss
- Amy & Joel Packer*
- June & George (z"l) Pollak*
- Bonni Pomush & Patti Holliday*
- Donna Raskin*
- Patricia Holzman Rosenbaum
- Cindy & Gil Ross*
- Sheri & Jack Saladow
- Alice Schultz*
- Polly Sloan*
- Kymberly & William Spector*
- Claire (z"l) & Arnie Stein
- Rosemary & Howard Stevens*
- Leslie & Jake Tatel*
- Hannah and Ari Vinocor*
- Lois Weiss*
- Ina(z"l) & George Welland
- Rabbi K'vod Wieder & Ilana Rogel-Wieder
- Lois & Doug Wilson*
- Charlene and Kenneth*

*Formalized/Confirmed





Build Your Own Sukkah

Resources compiled by Steve Birch

“You shall live in booths seven days, all citizens in Israel shall live in booths, in order that future generations may know that I made the Israelite people live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I am the Lord your G-d.” (Lev 23:42-3)

Sukkot reminds us of our shared history by physically dwelling in these small fragile structures. And spiritually it reminds of G-ds Divine protection as we’ve entered a new year following the High Holy Days. The sukkah is designed in such a way as inspire trust, or bitachon as the trait in referred to in Hebrew. It is an impermanent structure, its “roof” is required to be largely open. We can decorate it with things that remind of harvests and also of the four species that make up the lulav and Etrog that we can shake in the sukkah. We can eat and sleep in the sukkah, great for kids, and there is a blessing for dwelling in the sukkah: Baruch attah Adonai elohainu melech ha’olam aher kidshanu b’mitsvotav v’tzivanu lay’shev ba’sukkah, Blessed are you, Lord our G-d, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us with his commandments and commanded us to dwell in the Sukkah.

Below are a number of resources to help with building a sukkah. In addition to the resources farther down we have a Temple member who owns company that carries the kinds of materials that can be used to make a sukkah and has experience in building sukkot out of these materials. The company is Butler Box and Stake. The web site is butlerboxandstake.com and they can help you select the appropriate materials in the appropriate size to build your sukkah. This sukkah is made of reed walls, stakes to secure the structure and give it shape and a means to support the sekhakh, the natural material (Palm leaves etc.) for the roof leaving more room for sun than shade. Furniture and decorations are added as needed and can be part of your family tradition.

Below are additional sites that may be helpful for building your sukkah.
<https://www.instructables.com/id/Sukkah-PVC-Freestanding/>
<https://www.simplifiedbuilding.com/projects/how-to-build-your-own-diy-sukkah>
http://www.neohasid.org/sukkot/a_simple_sukkah/
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2MrWmAEEAow>

Sukkah building can be a great family project and learning experience, particularly during this pandemic.

Celebrate Sukkot!

Friday October 2nd

Zoom from your sukkah for Shabbat with the TBESOC community

5pm Happy Sukkot Extravaganza Hour!

- Show off your sukkah
- Share a dish with a fruit/veg you’d hang in your sukkah
- Enjoy dinner together as a virtual community
- Shake your lulav/etrog
- Learn about sukkot
- Share our joy & blessings (using the strips of paper from the High Holy Day Kit to share!)

6pm abridged Shabbat service from our sukkot

Pictures of YOU are requested! By September 30, share pictures of you with your blessing strips (from the High Holy Day kits). Send them to Cantor Young to be included in the service on October 2.

Lulav/etrog sets are available to purchase for \$50/set.

To order: email Myka Thompson by **Thursday, September 24** (mthompson@tbesoc.org)

To receive: pick up **Wednesday or Thursday, September 30 or October 1** at TBESOC



Saturday, October 3

9am Torah Study

9am Schmooze, 9:15am Zhabbat Service

Sunday, October 4

9:30am Sukkot service

BE Sisters: 2pm Social for Sukkot

Shemini Atzeret

Friday, October 9

6pm Shabbat Service including Shemini Atzeret observance



TEMPLE BETH EL
OF SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY

The Samuelli Center for Progressive Judaism

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| | | |
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| Executive Director Bonni Pomush | ext 213 | bpomush@tbesoc.org |
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“LARGE ENOUGH TO SERVE YOU; SMALL ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU.”

AMY PACKER, PRESIDENT
 K’VOD WIEDER, RABBI NATALIE YOUNG, CANTOR
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Early Childhood Center Registration OPEN

Flexible program options
9am-5:30pm
for children ages 2-6

Contact Wendy Yesharim
for info & tours
wyescharim@tbesoc.org or
949-354-4497



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