



CHANUKAH

CELEBRATE WITH US

Thursday, Dec. 7, 4:30pm—Downtown Santa Cruz COMMUNITY MENORAH LIGHTING

Join family and friends of all ages downtown Santa Cruz
Giant menorah, sing along and kid's crafts

Friday, Dec. 8, 5:45pm—Temple Beth El CHANUKAH EXTRAVAGANZA

Festive latke dinner followed by Rock of Ages Chanukah service
A musical, mystical, joyful, and soulful Jewish community experience

Sunday, Dec. 10, 1pm—Kaiser Permanente Arena SANTA CRUZ WARRIORS JEWISH HERITAGE GAME

TBE member Emunah Minami singing the National Anthem

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 4pm—Bookshop Santa Cruz CHILDREN'S CHANUKAH STORY HOUR

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 8pm—Zoom HEBREW HIGH MENORAH LIGHTING

Join Hebrew High on Zoom for songs and candle lighting

Thursday, Dec. 14, 1pm—Temple Beth El SENIOR CONNECTIONS BAKING CLASS

Make knishes with Certified Baking Master Stephany Buswell

WOMEN OF BETH EL GIFT SHOP

Enjoy holiday shopping at Temple Beth El 11/15 — 12/15
M–F 10am until 4pm, Sunday 10am to 2pm (closed Saturdays).
Shop online at www.thegiftshop.org.



PLEASE RSVP ONLINE
USING OUR ONLINE
CALENDAR AT
www.tbaptos.org/calendar
(find events by date)

SCAN TO RSVP
plus event updates



Temple Beth El Jewish Community Center

Passionate about peace and justice • Creative about prayer • Joyful about tradition

Temple Beth El is a
Reform congregation
serving the Jewish
community in the greater
Santa Cruz region.



Mah Hi Chanukah-What is Chanukah?

It's fair to say that as children, we were taught the serious nature of holidays like Yom Kippur, but how many of us learned about the historical implications of Chanukah? My memories are filled with the unmistakable and enticing smell of my grandmother's latkes, playing (sometimes arguing over) dreidel with my younger brothers, and opening presents.

But I don't remember learning about the history of the holiday. That came many years later when I majored in Judaic Studies in college and looked at the apocryphal *Books of The Maccabees*. Chanukah is not mentioned in the Bible, and it is barely found in the *Talmud*. There is a brief discussion that begins with the question: *Mai Chanukah-What is Chanukah?*

In the *Books of Maccabees*, which are not part of the *Jewish Bible*, we learn that Chanukah commemorates a civil war between Jews, between those who assimilated and adopted the ruling Greek ways and a priestly class that practiced the traditional forms of Judaism.

Chanukah is a celebration of the Maccabees' victory and yet, they still had to fight with some who did not support their rule.

The Rabbinic story about the miracle of the oil transformed Chanukah from a violent civil war into a spiritual story about the strength of the human spirit in overcoming adversity. The rabbis covered up the history of revolt and disagreement among Jews into a story about light that would not go out.



Rabbi Paula

At this time in our history, Chanukah has a deep message to offer us about Jewish unity. How do we remain a kehillah kedosha (a holy community), amid differing views about what is happening in our world? As we light our Hanukkiot (Chanukah menorahs) let's remember that each time we light the shammas, we share the spark with the other candles and they all stand in their own place, together.

Rabbi Paula

In the Temple Family

Welcome to New Members

Please check your online directory for their information

New Members and Condolences 5/5 - 9/20, 2023

Cynthia Lewis & Thomas Swiss

Lauren & Brannon Benjamin

Amy Lipson

Matt & Melissa Draper

Becka Ross & Nate Whizin

Jordan Turetsky & John Langrill

Jesse Koren & Sharla Jacobs

Megahn & Scott Albertson

Laura Dannehl-Schickman & Joe Schickman

Condolences

Miriam Rappaport - beloved wife of Martin Rappaport, z"l;

Rebecca Bennett - beloved daughter of Marcia Meyer

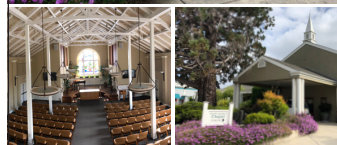
David Novik - beloved husband of Judi Novik



Honored to Serve our Community



At Benito & Azzaro, we believe that everyone has a story worth telling. That is why we focus on helping your family plan and conduct a beautiful farewell ceremony that reflects your values, unites your family & friends and celebrates the story of a life well lived.



Benito & Azzaro

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Note from the Temple President

Hello fellow congregants! We have reached the season of Chanukah, the holiday that reminds us to dedicate our lives to bring warmth and light to the cold and dark places of our world. At this distressing time of war in our beloved Israel and in *Gaza*, we all need that Chanukah light more than ever. I hope that you will all have wonderful, light-filled celebrations with your families, and that you will also consider participating in one or more of our *Temple Beth El* Chanukah events. Check out the Chanukah schedule in this issue of the *Shofar*. The Rock of Ages service is my personal favorite!

One of the ways that some of our members add a dollop of delight to our community at this time of year is by enhancing their annual membership donation with additional seasonal generosity — by including the Temple in their end-of-secular-year contributions. This year, we have a unique opportunity to use these funds for the “hallelujah” moment of reaching the goal (set a number of years ago) that finally will make our *Cemetery Fund* whole. This Fund was designed to provide perpetual maintenance at our two cemeteries. And, as you know, our cemeteries are truly essential to the generational “life” of our community. So I invite you to join the gelt party and add your “voice” to the hallelujah chorus (*TBE* version) by making a year-end donation this December!

By the way, most of us members like to renew our annual membership commitment over the summer or early fall, a time that is most helpful for budgetary planning. But if you prefer a different time of year, could you let the Temple office know? That way, we can spare you reminders before that season. On the other hand, if your renewal is simply on your to-do list, please accept this gentle nudge to send in your contribution. The Temple relies on your membership contribution

to pay our incredible staff, keep our doors open, and keep all of our wonderful programs alive and operating! And whenever we donate, it is always good to remember that the Temple is not some outside entity — instead, it is formed and sustained by us members. The Temple is Us!

As members, we are all responsible to do what we can to support and take care of our beloved synagogue and Jewish community center. If you have thoughts and ideas about how you can help, or how to make *TBE* meet your needs better, please feel free to contact me at judyclaireyokel@gmail.com or give me a call at (831) 588-5378.

I wish you and yours a happy Chanukah and I hope to see you at a Temple celebration during this warm and beautiful season of light!

Judy Yokel
President, member of Board of Directors
judyclaireyokel@gmail.com



Judy Yokel

Dr. Elise Atkins

Lifestyle Medicine & Weight Management

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coastalvitalitymd.com

2112-A Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz

 **coastal vitality** MD



TBE GIFT SHOP - HOLIDAY SHOPPING



TEMPLE BETH EL GIFT SHOP

3055 Porter Gulch Rd., Aptos

Dazzling display of gifts, menorahs, candles, decorations, gelt, etc.

*Some items limited quantities

EXTENDED GIFT SHOP HOURS

November 15 — December 15
Mon. through Fri — 10am to 4pm
Sunday 9:30am to noon

Closed Nov. 23-26

tbegiftshop.com



Bat Mitzvah

Emunah Posner

Minami is called to the Torah Saturday, November 18. Emunah is an 8th grader at *Mission Hill Middle School* who loves basketball, watching movies, hanging out with friends, and performing in any way. For Emunah's mitzvah project she took a leadership role at the *climate club* at her school, did bake sales, made posters, and helped to lead and organize climate marches, she and her friends even went to a rally in *Palo Alto*. Emunah is very excited to become a Jewish adult, and a part of her Jewish community.



Naíma Ilaríá Rubin,

daughter of Seth and Eréndira, will become a Bat Mitzvah in January. Naíma is in seventh grade and loves hanging out with her friends, listening to music, and playing piano and guitar. She also loves *Junior Guards* and water polo and had a memorable first year at the *Water Polo Junior Olympics* this summer with her team, the *Santa Cruz Water Polo Club*. Naíma's mitzvah project has been founding and fundraising for *Santa Cruz Aquatics for All*, a non-profit dedicated to providing equitable access to aquatic sports in *Santa Cruz for kids*, particularly kids from communities historically underrepresented in aquatic sports.



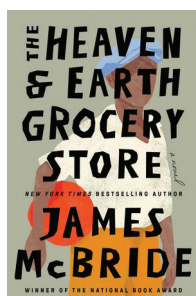
For the Library

Discover Our Rich Heritage in the Library

We invite you to explore the Temple's library collection, reflecting the legacy of the Jewish people, from our earliest texts to the latest expressions of our heritage through literature, history, philosophy, art, music and cooking. Highlights of recent additions include:

***The Heaven and Earth Grocery* by James McBride** – “Charming, smart, heart-blistering, and heart-healing.” — **Danez Smith, NYT Book Review**

***Palestine 1936: the Great Revolt and the Roots of the Middle East Conflict* by Oren Kessler** – “A gripping, profoundly human, yet even-handed narrative of the origins of the Middle East conflict, with enduring resonance and relevance for our time.”



The JPS TANAKH: Gender-sensitive Edition – “renews and revises... to reflect advances in scholarship and changes in English while maintaining utmost fidelity to the original Hebrew.”

***The Promise* by Bridget Hodder, et al.** – “A garden is a prayer. It is also a promise... Inspired by a true story.”

You can find these and other newer items on the blue book cart: the rest of the collection can be searched via the online catalog: <https://libib.com/u/tbeaptos> Or explore the shelves. Labeled and organized by subject: you may be surprised by what you find. TBE members can borrow books from the collection for 30 days using their email address via the self-check station. The collection is available whenever the Temple is open and our volunteer crew is available – book recommendations, research help, kibitzing – Tuesdays afternoons, 1-3.

SAVE THE DATE

Women of Beth El Sisterhood hosts

HOT SOUP, COOL BOOKS

**Sunday, January 21 — 12:30pm
in person at the Social Hall**

We'll provide the bubbling broths. You bring books you wish to pass to other readers. We'll shmooze and choose, slurp and swap; you get the idea.



Nachas (pride and joy)



With joy and love, **Seth and Chelsea Gold** welcomed their baby girl **Gabriella Mia Ganan Gold** on September 19, 2023. She arrived on 7:2AM at 7lbs, 11oz and 20 inches.



Simcha toddler makes good. Starting at *Simcha*, through *Temple School* and his Bar Mitzvah, **Nate Dennis-Benford** recently graduated from *UCSB* and is now attending *UVA Medical School* and received his white coat in August. WAY TO GO NATER!



Abby and Andrew McCarthy and Grandparents **Cathy Levy** and **David Imboden** welcomed a precious baby girl in September. Welcome **Lily Juliette McCarthy!** MAZAL TOV!



Sae Ackerstein has been a *Junior Lifeguard* every summer since the age 6; receiving honors as the 'Captain of the Year' in 2021 and *Rookie of the Year* in 2022. In addition, she has been competing in surf lifesaving since she was 14 years old. Specializing in the 'craft' events which

include the prone paddleboard race, surfski race, and iron (swim, surfski, paddle, run) Sae has won *Regionals* in the U-19 division three consecutive times in the paddleboard race, adding surfski and iron titles in 2023. After winning the paddleboard race at *Nationals* in 2022, she traveled to *Riccione, Italy* to compete at the *World Rescue Cup*, where she continued her win streak and brought home the gold medal. This summer she placed second in the paddleboard and iron at *Nationals*, and was selected for the *U19 USA National Team* competing at the *International Surf Rescue Challenge* in *Texas*, where Sae was named a team captain the *US* team placed second. Following *ISRC*, Sae was selected for the *US Weiland Shield* competition, an elite event convening the top 6 women from each participating country to race in *Victoria, Australia* this winter. MAZAL TOV SAE—WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!



Kaia Jade Yerushalmy was born on Sept. 21, 2023 at 11:01pm at the *Watsonville Community Hospital*. The ecstatic parents are **Leela Kalow** and **Dean Yerushalmy**. **Marlene Pitkow** and **Mark Kalow** are the proud grandparents.

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Laurie Getz and Lonnie Barish were married on Sunday, September 3, 2023 at the home of **Letty and Lane Bess** in the **Aptos hills**.



Mazel tov to **Leta Miller**, UCSC professor emeritus and temple board secretary for writing her eighth book which will be released in February! This book is titled: *Union Divided: Black Musicians' Fight for Labor Equality*. Leta has been researching and lecturing on this topic since 2016 (see

talk and signing at **Bookshop Santa Cruz** information in this *Shofar*).

The Yanowitz family is very pleased to share our abundance of good news and announce the marriage of **Jeremy Yanowitz** to **Erika Wilson**. Also, in June this year, Jordan received his *BS in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology* and his *MS in Biology* from UCLA. And, Ben has completed his dissertation to receive is *MA in history* from the *University of York (England)*. He has also returned to the *Santa Cruz* area and is teaching *Temple School* and *Hebrew School* and is the *Youth Group Advisor* for *TBE*.

Camp Kayetz Reunion + 2024 Save the dates

Attention all current/former Camp Kayetz mishpachach! Get ready to relive your favorite memories and make new ones at the upcoming **Camp Kayetz reunion and overnight on Thursday, December 28, 2023**. But wait, there's

s'more! Prospective campers are also invited to join in on the fun and experience a taste of Camp Kayetz. Gather around the campfire with your camp family and sing your hearts out to your favorite camp songs. Indulge in some delicious pizza, toast marshmallows, and play all your favorite camp



CAMP KAYETZ

Come for the Summer fun, stay for the friendships

JUNE 17-JULY 12, 2024

AT TEMPLE BETH EL, APTOS



SAVE THE DATES!

games. And for parents, enjoy a well-deserved night out while your kids have a blast. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reconnect with your camp roots and create lasting memories. Stay tuned for more details and opportunities to sponsor/ help with this event. See you there, campers!



Hello TBE Community!

Simcha has been shifting smoothly into the fall months. We had so much fun learning about and celebrating the High Holidays and look forward to Chanukah celebrations in December! Each child will have an opportunity to make a Chanukiah to take home to light with their families. It is always nice to see how each child decorates their Chanukiah in their unique way.

The toddler classroom is preparing to plant some winter vegetables such as radishes, peas, carrots, and kale. They enjoy snacking on these homegrown healthy treats as they grow! The preschool classroom has been exploring pumpkins and squash, and even made pumpkin pie and pumpkin bread from a pumpkin they carved up themselves. The pre-k classroom has been investigating what is inside of our bodies, and they have new guinea pig friend they adopted from the *Santa Cruz Animal Shelter* named Elvis!

We hope you are all staying healthy and safe! Simcha is looking forward to all the fun November and December will bring. If you are ever interested in volunteering your time to do an activity with the children such as cooking or music, please let me know.

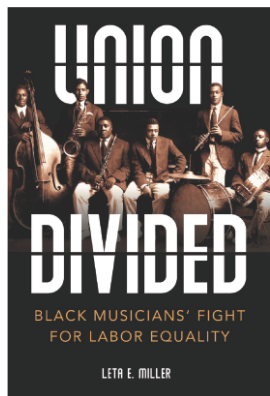
Best,

Caitlin Clancy
Simcha Director





BOOKSHOP  SANTA CRUZ



Book talk & signing at Bookshop Santa Cruz

LETA MILLER

UNION DIVIDED

BLACK MUSICIANS' FIGHT FOR LABOR EQUALITY

Broad in scope and rich in detail, *Union Divided* illuminates the complex working world of unionized Black musicians and the American Federation of Musician's journey to racial inclusion.

Tuesday, February 6th, at 7:00pm

BOOKSHOP SANTA CRUZ - 1520 PACIFIC AVE - 423-0900 - WWW.BOOKSHOPSANTACRUZ.COM

Do you need a ride to Temple?

If you need a ride to services or another program at Temple, please let us know.

Contact Melissa Sunberg by email at msunberg@tbeaptos.org as far ahead of time as possible. **Senior Connections** will do their best to connect individuals with other congregants available to provide rides. We ask for everyone's understanding as we can not accommodate every request. *Also, please let Melissa know if you are willing to provide rides.*



If you enjoy fiber arts such as knitting, crochet work, quilting, etc. please consider joining **Chix with Stix** once a month for camaraderie and sharing of projects. We meet in members' homes and enjoy snacks and schmoozing while working on our projects. *Meetings are usually in the evenings or occasionally on a Sunday morning.* **Call the temple office and leave your name and number for someone to contact you!**



EVAN J. BENEVENTO, CPA

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Contributions | August 5 — September 30, 2023

ANNUAL APPEAL

Melissa Skalsky in loving memory of Ed Skalsky, Barbara Skalsky, and Glen Skalsky
Karen Zelin & Bill Underwood in memory of Rebecca Bennett

BROTHERHOOD

Paul & Martha Jacobson
Rabbi Richard & Nancy Litvak in honor of Len Wolff's 80th birthday and all he has contributed to Temple Beth El
Steve & Corinne Miller in memory of a real mensch, Ed Sacks

BUILDING FUND DONATION

Vicki Hendin in loving memory of Alan Hendin
Shelley & David Sonnenberg in loving memory of Ruth Rosenheim Solomon

CARING COMMITTEE

Susan Levin

CEMETERY LONGTERM CARE FUND

Carolyn Hyatt in appreciation of Terry Spodick for all the work she does for the cemetery
Gilda Zelin in memory of Rebecca Bennett
Gilda Zelin in memory of my beloved husband Joel Zelin and my sister Regina Tanner

CEMETERY OPERATIONS

James Engelman & Claire Witherspoon
Risa Lower in loving memory of Samuel Miller
Miriam Rappaport in appreciation of Holly and the Chevra Kadisha Members

CHOIR FUND

Rabbi Richard & Nancy Litvak in loving memory of Anita Lande

GENERAL FUND

Murray & Sheila Baumgarten in memory of Miriam Rappaport
Leslie Calderoni in memory of Miriam Rappaport
Ella Carroll
Julia Cornblatt & Salvatore Tostado in memory of Rebecca Bennett
Jerry Dubin & Debbie Israel in memory of Ed Sacks

Laurie Getz & Lonnie Barish in loving memory of Betty Goldenkranz
Jerry & Lynn Hoffman in honor of Lenny Wolff's 80th Birthday
Jerry & Lynn Hoffman in memory of Josh Wolff, son of Geri & Lenny Wolff
Kim & Eric Horowitz in memory of Kathy Goldenkranz, never forgotten
Sue Jackson in memory of Josh Wolff
Linda Mandel
Janet Newman & John Gerhardt in memory of David Novik
Lee Oberg
Linda Roberts in loving memory of Miriam Rappaport
Meredith Rosenblum in loving memory of Ruth Solomon
Fern Selzer in memory of Anita Lande
Fern Selzer in memory of Aryeh Nanas
Norman & Nancijoy Weissman in loving memory of Miriam Rappaport
Marc & Nancy Yellin in honor of Temple Beth El

JANET ROTHCHILD ROCK SHABBAT FUND

Bettina Aptheker & Kate Miller
Rose Ashford & Felix Fields
Carolyn & Curt Coleman
Bob Katz & Leola Lapides
Benjamin & Victoria Ow in loving memory of Aryeh Nanas
George Ow & Gail Michaelis-Ow in loving memory of Jane Michaelis
George Ow & Gail Michaelis-Ow in loving memory of Janet Rothchild
Suzanne & David Silverglate
Debra & Tony Sloss
Melissa & Cary Sunberg
Shmuel Thaler & Kathy Cytron
Karen Zelin & Bill Underwood

LIBRARY FUND

Rabbi Richard & Nancy Litvak in loving memory of Miriam Rappaport
John & Merry Oppenheimer in loving memory of Rhoda Mayer

LIFELONG LEARNING DONATION

Shirley & Allen Ginzburg in memory of Miriam Rappaport

ONEG FUND

Vicki Hendin in memory of my husband, Alan Hendin
Risa Lower in memory of my brother, Mitchell, and grandfather Morton
Bonnie & Loren Morr in memory of Sura Lewis
John & Merry Oppenheimer in loving memory of Rhoda Mayer

RABBI LITVAK DISCRETIONARY FUND

Dennis & Cheryl Caspe in honor of Rabbi Rick
Family of Miriam Rappaport in honor of Rabbi Rick

RABBI PAULA MARCUS DISCRETIONARY FUND

Murray & Sheila Baumgarten in memory of Aryeh Nanas
Peg Shemaria in memory of Aryeh Nanas
Faith Joy Dantowitz in loving memory of Aryeh Nanas, may his memory always be for a blessing
Jeff & Deborah Roisman in memory of our dear friend Aryeh Nanas
Karl & Lisa Segnitz in honor of Rabbi Paula
Marilyn Rigler in appreciation of Rabbi Paula and the High Holiday services
Lovene Wood in honor of Rabbi Paula for remembering Vincent's yahrzeit

HIGH HOLIDAYS TZEKAKAH - In honor of the Abuydaya Community

Gabrielle Adelman
Rose Ashford & Felix Fields
James & Elise Atkins
Murray & Sheila Baumgarten
Rolan & Julia Blanton
Ruth & Keith Britany
Greg & Jennifer Brown
Holly Blue Hawkins
Martin Chemers & Barbara Goza Chemers
Elena Nini Cohen & Steve Ritz
Jane Cohen & Sara Swinehart
Morty Cohen & Barbara Almeter-Cohen
Jacqueline Davidow

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Sonia & Thomas Deetz
 Laurel Fox & Donald Potts
 Susan Freeman
 Fran (Francine) Frome
 Edward Garner & Lynn LeRose
 David Gazek & Shani Ginsburg
 Laura Giges & Jon Edelbaum
 Lisa Gilbert & Richard King
 Maria Gitin & Samuel Torres
 Daniel Gold & Patrick LeCuyer
 Sandra Goldstein
 Phyllis Greenleaf
 Amy & David Harrington
 Gloria Heistein
 Ethel Herring
 Desiree & Jesse Hunt
 Linda Imonode Skemer &
 Andrew Skemer
 Ronald & Linda Israel
 Sue Jackson
 Lee & Molly Jaffe
 Richard Josephson & Loretta Rao
 Larry & Fran Kaplan
 Paul & Susan Karz
 Robert & Michele Kibrick
 Judith Levin
 Fay Levinson & Joe Vela
 Aviva Longinotti
 Julie Lorraine & Barry Marks
 Risa Lower
 Robert Lyons
 Steve & Corinne Miller
 Bonnie & Loren Morr
 Ellen Ortiz
 George Ow & Gail Michaelis-Ow
 Ira & Kate Pohl
 Marilyn Rigler
 Sara Rigler
 Jeff & Deborah Roisman
 Scott Roseman & Jasmine Berke
 Diana Rothman
 Cindy Rubin & Brian Rosenthal
 Carolyn & Darryl Rudolph
 Cecily Ruttenberg
 Doreen Schack & Rick Zinman
 Barbara Schatan & Richard Linzer
 Edward & Lori Scher
 Jennie & Robert Schindler
 Howie Schneider & Diane Brayman
 Peg Shemaria

Carol Skolnick & Gregory Furtado
 Robyn Slater & Mark Rosenberg
 Debra & Tony Sloss
 Daniel & Cynthia Spilman
 Jillian Steinberger-Foster &
 Ken Foster
 Victoria & Michael Stone
 Elaine Strauss
 Wendy Strimling & Andrew Szasz
 Joan Tanzer & Gerald Frank
 Katrina Tattenham & Pascual Cruz
 Michael & Jacqueline Tuttle
 Sandra & John Warren
 Gregg Weissman
 Marni & Larry Williams
 Jonathan & Jill Winston
 Leonard & Geri Wolff
 Andrea & Andy Yanowitz
 Karen Zelin & Bill Underwood
 Martin Zimmerman & Karie Sutter

RABBI WEISS-PENZIAS DISCRETIONARY FUND

Marilyn Rigler in appreciation of
 Rabbi Shifra and the High Holiday
 services

SECURITY DONATION

Toby & Michael Alexander
 Jessica Guild & Julian Dahan
 Sonia Deetz
 Stephen & Susan Karon
 Alan Portnoy
 Carol Skolnick & Gregory Furtado
 Barbara Sprenger & Kenneth Meshke
 John & Sandra Warren
 Jennifer Wells Kaupp & Ray Kaupp
 Myra Finkelstein & Brad Keitt
 Jill Glassman & Creighton Mendivil
 Sandra Goldstein
 Nicole & Eli Karon
 Kerry Krouse
 Larry & Diane Levin
 Bonnie & Loren Morr
 Peter Rabinowitz
 Marc & Francoise Seftel
 Peg Shemaria
 Judi Sherman & Rachel Wells
 Lee Slaff
 Victoria & Michael Stone
 Joan Tanzer & Gerald Frank
 Rosemary Zumwalt

SENIOR CONNECTIONS FUND

Bonnie & Loren Morr
 Paul & Carol Berman
 Gloria Heistein in appreciation of
 Senior Connections
 Diane Meader in appreciation of
 Senior Connections
 Evelyn Epstein in honor of
 Senior Connections
 Judith & Ben Yokel in honor of
 Senior Connections
 Jane Cohen & Sara Swinehart
 Vicki Belkin-Kondo & Gerry Kondo
 Barbara Robinson in memory of
 Ken Robinson

SIMCHA DONATION

Lori & David Morello in honor of
 Rabbi Paula. Thank you for the
 Morello Wedding
 Allison Lasser & Mike Dougherty

SIMCHA NEWMAN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Edward Newman

SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

Fay Levinson & Joe Vela in honor of the
 70th wedding anniversary of Richard
 and Diane Klein. Sending much love
 and happiness to you both always
 Eve Eden in loving memory of
 Naomi S. Eden
 Morton Eden
 Deborah Segall
 Rabbi Richard & Nancy Litvak in loving
 memory of Josh Wolff

TEMPLE SCHOOL GENERAL DONATION

Thomas Reisz & Cecile Cruz
 Jennifer Izant Gonzales & Javier Gonzales

TREE OF LIFE LEAF

Margaret Gordon in memory of
 Ruth Solomon
 John Solomon in honor of Ruth Solomon
 Risa Lower in memory of Ruth Solomon

YOUTH GROUP DONATION

Rachel Wells



MAZON®

A JEWISH RESPONSE TO HUNGER

In honor of our fundamental Jewish commitment to care for the poor and hungry, our congregation collectively provides weekly, Sunday dinner for our local, **Housing Matters Homeless Shelter**, via our



MAZON Project—*Temple Beth El's* longest running social action program (since 1988). For comprehensive instructions and to sign up, please use the **SignUpGenius** link listed under "MAZON" in the "Social Action" pull-down menu on the Temple Beth El website

Each volunteer provides a portion of the meal for 72 people—Four volunteers each provide an entrée to serve 18 people each; four volunteers each provide vegetables and rolls (or other starch) to serve 18 people each; and two volunteers provide dessert to serve 36 people each. Our volunteers deliver their meal contributions to the Homeless Shelter on their chosen Sunday, between 2 and 4pm to be served for dinner later that evening. Sign up on your own, or board members, chavurot, *Temple School* classes, and other groups can sign up to provide the entire Sunday meal.

Thank you very much to our compassionate congregants that have generously provided dinner to the Housing Matters Homeless Shelter every Sunday of the year, on behalf of *Temple Beth El*!

Thank-You's August-October 2023 Volunteers

Todah rabah to our awesome August MAZON:

Kathy Cytron, Cheryl & Dennis Caspe, Hila & Jack Michaelson, Sonia Deetz (3X!), Penny Chesluk, Meryl Selman (2X), Acacia Ptak, Cecily Ruttenberg, Hannah Stubblefield, Elinor Wapner; Rachael Katz, Snitzer-



Beck family, and friends (6X); Jackie Tuttle, Wilma Gold, Kate Avraham, Don Gartner, the Jewish Teenhood (4X), Jen Vered, Carolyn Coleman, Shira Coleman (2X), Todd Bank, Leora Fromm, Gaby Litsky, Ellison Marks (2X), Julie Lorraine (2X), Melinda Iuster, Susan & Paul Karz, Victoria Finder, and Elena Cohen.

Todah rabah to our sensational September MAZON:

Kathy Cytron, Cheryl & Dennis Caspe (2X), Hila & Jack Michaelson (2X), Catherine & Bob Cooper, Sandra & Laura Strum-Geist; Lin, Roger & Sarah Wapner (4X!); Susan & Stephen Karon (2X), Rose Ashford, Hannah Stubblefield; Rachael Katz, Snitzer-Beck family & Friends (6X!); Jackie Tuttle, Todd Bank, Susan & Paul Karz (2X), Kate Avraham (2X), Mary Fran Archer & Ivan Rosenblum, Jennifer Vered, Cecily Ruttenberg, and Kim Horowitz.

Todah rabah to our outstanding October MAZON:

Kim Horowitz, Penny Chesluk (3X); Gwen Kaplan, Lisa Gilbert, Paul Drescher, Gaby Litsky (2X), Chloe Marin (2X), Leora Fromm (2X), Melinda Iuster, Wilma Gold (2X), So (2X), Sonia Deetz (4X!), Kerith Koontz, Eve Eden, Cheryl & Dennis Caspe, Hila & Jack Michaelson, Susie & Carolyn, Kerith Koontz; Rachael Katz, Snitzer-Beck family & Friends (5X!); Catherine & Bob Cooper, Wilma Gold, Kathy Cytron, Vicki, Michael & Jacob Stone (3X), Gail Wylde, Laurie Getz & Lonnie Barish, Gregg Weissman, Todd Bank, Shoshana Coplan, Kate Avraham, Cecily Ruttenberg (2X), Geri Wolff (3X), Wilma Gold (4X), Sandra & Laura Strum-Geist, Shifra Weiss-Penzias, Gaby Litsky, Shira Coleman, Lin Wapner, Elena Cohen, Jennifer Kanter, Jen Vered (2X), Gloria Heistein, and Rose Ashford.



BROTHERHOOD!

COME HELP BROTHERHOOD MAKE LATKES!

10am Sunday, November 26
in the Temple Kitchen

All Brotherhood chefs and friends are invited to make hundreds of latkes for the Temple's upcoming Chanukah festivities. Fair warning: your clothes will smell like latkes by the time we're done! If you can join us, please let chief latke chef **Dan** Iuster know at dan@iuster.com.

BROTHERHOOD BRUNCH -

10am Sunday, December 17
in social hall - All TBE welcome

Title: *"The Universe of Galaxies, Images from James Webb Space Telescope, and STEAM Research Opportunities for Youth"*



Speaker: **Raja GuhaThakurta**, Distinguished Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics, UC Santa Cruz

Galactic cannibalism, dark matter, chemical enrichment, stars, supernovae, black holes -- what great topics to launch our first science

talk of the 2023-24 **Brotherhood Brunch** season! All this along with amazing images from the *James Webb Telescope*! Please join us for what will surely be an engaging and visually amazing presentation by award-winning astronomer and distinguished professor **Raja GuhaThakurta**. In addition to his astronomical research, Raja is also a founder of multiple educational initiatives, engaging both high school and college students. Beginning at 10:00 am, we'll host our always delicious lox and bagel brunch, take care of a little Brotherhood business, followed by our speaker's presentation starting at 11:00am, concluding by noon. **Charge is \$5 for Brotherhood members and \$10 for non-members. All TBE welcome!**

TIME TO JOIN/REJOIN BROTHERHOOD

It's that time of year to **renew your membership in Brotherhood**. We're on the same fiscal year as the Temple, July 1 through June 30. We keep busy with lots of social and educational activities and lend a helping hand to the Temple and to Jewish youth in our community. Nearly all of our events are open to our members, their families and friends and to the wider Jewish community. All men and women can join Brotherhood, whether or not members of TBE.

Annual dues begin at \$54. You can pay online through Temple Beth El's website (look for the Brotherhood page) or mail your check to the Temple made payable to "TBE Brotherhood." We look forward to another grand year with our members and friends!

Brotherhood hosted the COMMUNITY PICNIC IN THE PARK Sun., Sept. 10

Before we let this year's **Temple Community Picnic** fade from memory, we wanted to recognize a few folks who really made a difference:

It sure looked like **Rabbi Shifra**, *Congregational Learning Coordinator* **Roxy Tracy** and the spirited group of teachers, aides and students had a superb outdoor Temple School session. Thank you all for getting Temple School off to another successful year.

A **big THANK YOU** to many Brotherhood volunteers: **Bob Feldman, Glenn Millhauser and Steve Greenburg**



continued on page 13

spent much of Saturday shopping and schlepping and much of Sunday grilling, prepping and serving. Whew! Honorary Brotherhood member **Rachelle Millhauser** worked Sunday alongside hubby **Glenn** as they celebrated their 34th anniversary (glad we could help you celebrate, Millhausers!)

The outdoor kitchen was brilliantly run by Chief Chef **Andrew Goldenkranz**, who never ceases to amaze us with his organizational and culinary talents. We were lucky to have always-reliable **John Oppenheimer** and Burning Man refugee **George Badger** and Temple ED **David Ginsborg** providing much-needed help too. Gee, we finally understand how much work **Jay Lerman** used to put into this event!

We must make special mention of **Jerry Dubin**, who performed as magician "*The Great Dubini*." The kids LOVED Jerry's magic show; it was obvious that Jerry put a



watch our teens do all the heavy lifting. Once again, the cookie walk was the most popular game (and seemed to have a lot of teens "taste-testing" the cookies to assure quality!).

It was such a fun congregational event. The food was fantastic but the company and feeling of community were even better!

lot of time and effort into his show, set and attire. Now, we have a new generation of magicians in the making!

Also, we want to thank the teens who helped prepare the yummy BBQ lunch and run the field games after lunch. Field games guy **Mike Rein** was able to relax and

High Holiday Thank Yous

What a remarkable High Holidays we had this year. It felt so wonderful to be back in our beloved sanctuary home. You know, before I worked at *TBE* I used to go to High Holidays without much consideration for the extensive effort behind the scenes. Now I am surprised when so many people express appreciation for the dedication and hard work of the staff. It is heartening to see that so many of you recognize what is involved. I am so grateful to the many volunteers who helped make it happen, we truly could not do it without you.

The first and most important thank you has to go to **Andy Yanowitz**. Andy has been our High Holiday sound man for years, and now that we are streaming everything his job has gotten so much more complicated and essential. Andy gives an incredible amount of time, energy and love to our temple, not to mention donating tons of equipment. He is so highly skilled at what he does that he elevates everything around him.

This year **Carol Skonick**, **Judith Levin**, **Sandy Cohen**, **Tori Ow**, **Wendy Strimling**, **John Lubell**, **Michelle Dennis** and **Jessica Olamit** made phone calls to wish fellow congregants Shana Tova.

Marion Towar was amazing as always, taking the lead on apples and honey, the challah and juice after neilah and the Rock Hashana oneg. She was helped out by **Jacqueline Davidow**, **Carol Skolnick**, **Bonnie Morr**, **Sandra Goldstein**, **Susan Freeman**, **Vicki Belkin-Kondo**, **Gloria Heistein**, **Paul Drescher**, **Margaret Brose**, **Shoshana Orzech**, **Gail Michaelis-Ow**, **Margaret Gordon**, **Fran Frome**, **Mike Rein**, and **Judith Levin**.

Jacqueline Davidow, **Bonnie Morr**, **Susan Karz**, **Denise Miller**, **Judie Block** and **Marion Towar** organized name tags before and after the holidays.

Paul Drescher was our *Shabbat at the Beach* hero, bringing wood and making the fire. **Antonie Del Bonta** helped with making the s'mores, and **Bonnie Morr** saved our spot.

Dan Ackerstein and **Josh Karter** were vital in helping with our High Holiday set up when **Chris Irvine**, our building supervisor, got sick. **Stephen Gray**, **Aaron Szasz** and **Justin Szasz** helped move a million chairs. **Crystal Flores** and **Amy Cruz**, Ana's daughter and niece helped with registration when I got sick! **Sofia Solaris** helped with the sound for Rock Hashanah.

Keg Wagman, **Jim Atkins**, **Mike Rein**, **Steve Greenburg**, **Peg Shemaria**, **Gail Levine**, **Arnold Kragen**, **Larry Levin**, **Dennis Caspe**, **John Oppenheimer**, **Carolyn Rosevelt**, **Bob Feldman**, **Judie Block**, **Jessica Olamit**, **Risa Lower**, **Marty Zimmerman**, **Jaqueline Davidow** and **Marc Yellin** all served as ushers and helped everyone feel comfortable and safe.

Brotherhood was wonderful as always in building and taking down our cozy Sukkah. Thanks especially to fearless leader **Peter Weiss-Penzias** and **George Badger**, **John Oppenheimer**, **Mike Rein**, **David Gazeck**, **Terry Fitz**, **Jim Atkins**, **Lonnie Barish** and **Isaac Koontz**.

Members of the *Women's Writing Group* helped with decorating the Sukkah with **Jennie Schindler** taking the lead. Thanks to **Melinda Iuster**, **Marion Towar**, **Terry Spodick**, **Maureen Nemeth**, and **Jenny Kaupp**.

I am truly so appreciative of all of you. Thanks also to all of the unnamed who stepped in at just the right moment to answer a question, provide moral support and welcome a newcomer. I am sure that I have missed some folks, please forgive me.

Melissa Sunberg

Membership Experience and Program Manager



Another High Holiday Success:

Between Tashlich and all the main High Holiday Services, well over 500 participated in different ways this year. Approximately 253 families attended one of the Rosh Hashanah programs and 31% attended more than one program. 45% percent of families attending Rosh Hashanah Junior Service also attended more than one program.

Another High Holiday Success: The goal of our facility team is to make transparent all the arrangements and set ups for these important holidays so that attendees can fully participate and engage.

As many of you know, just three days before the High Holidays **Chris**—and then the day before, **Melissa**—tested positive for Covid. Both were unable to work for Rosh Hashanah. This tested my approach to management of “finding your partner.” In the end all the work that had been invested into being set up and ready by Melissa, Chris and the entire team was instrumental for what was perceived as a very smooth event.

Not surprisingly, 57% of the 213 families attended more than one of the Yom Kippur services; 50% of those families attending Yom Kippur Junior Service also attended more than one program. Just over half of those families who attended either Rosh Hashanah Morning service (Saturday) did not attend another Rosh Hashanah program. Similarly, approximately half of those who attended Kol Nidre (Sunday) did not attend programs on Yom Kippur.

As in the past we asked for feedback on high holidays. Sixty-four congregants participated; 53% were anonymous. The survey was underrepresented by the number of attendees who registered on the day of; 86% of survey participants registered in advance. Each of the major holiday services had a strong survey representation related to the overall attendance (the entire data set is available upon request).

The survey also included 20 members, 31% of total survey respondents, who attended at least one program on-line. Nearly every survey participant, 83%, indicated that they regularly attend services indicating the survey was likely overrepresented by members who are likely more engaged. Just over half of respondents participated in Rosh Hashanah and/or Kol Nidre services.



The overall response was overwhelmingly positive with families expressing their love for our Rabbis including our Rabbinic intern. People also enjoyed the inclusion of young people in the services. The new TV and outdoor evening lighting were very popular and there were almost no complaints about parking. As always Andy Yanowitz’ extraordinary effort providing high quality sound and visuals (for those online and in the social hall/ outside) was again greatly appreciated. For each service Andy typically spends 8-10 hours of time preparing or taking down his equipment on top of attending services. Other Temples would need to spend a very high price to attain the breadth and quality of AV support and I am especially grateful. I urge everyone to send Andy a note for his very generous contribution of time and personal equipment.

In addition to asking about HHD services I took the opportunity to ask members for feedback about our other TBE services and programing. One major take away was that very few respondents expressed concerns with Covid or other safety issues; security measures and outdoor seating likely contributed to these responses. Not surprisingly, many respondents like services on the west side.

Finally, we are working our way through following up with individuals’ members who made suggestions or requested more information.

A wrap up report from **David Ginsborg**



Do What You Have to Do and Then Keep Your Mouth Shut



A talk by **Dr. Linas Venclauskas**
via Zoom from *Kaunas, Lithuania*

Sunday, December 3 at 11am

Please join us for an engaging talk on the heroic efforts by two men to save Jewish lives in *Lithuania* during the Holocaust. Watch your email for the registration link or go to December 3rd on our website calendar.

In the summer of 1940, two diplomats, *Japanese Vice Consul Chiune Sugihara* and *Dutch Honorary Consul Jan Zwartendijk*, worked together to save as many as 6,000 Polish Jewish refugees by issuing over 2,000 visas.

Dr. Linas Venclauskas will speak to us live from *Kaunas, Lithuania*, about this humanitarian effort.

Dr. Venclauskas is a historian best known for his work regarding antisemitism in *Lithuania*. He has published numerous scholarly articles and, in 2022, he published a book on *Lithuanian* antisemitic discourse from the 1850's to 1940.

As a professor at *VMU* from 2004 to the present, he has conducted research on Jewish history, *Lithuanian* antisemitism, and Jewish refugees. Since 2003, he has collaborated with the *Sugihara House Museum* in numerous capacities including as a board member and curator. He also is a professional tour guide for the *Kovno Jewish ghetto* in *Kaunas*.



Scan this QR code to purchase tickets through **November 22** which will allow you to sit with TBE members at the game.



Scan this code to purchase tickets **AFTER November 22** with no guarantee of being able to sit with TBE members at the game.



Temple Beth El partners with the Santa Cruz Warriors to present:

JEWISH HERITAGE CELEBRATION GAME!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

1:00PM (DOORS OPEN AT 12:00PM)

KAISER PERMANENETE ARENA

The Santa Cruz Warriors (the G League affiliate of the Golden State Warriors) take on the **Salt Lake City Stars**. What a way to celebrate Chanukah!

All purchasers of Jewish Heritage Celebration tickets get a special edition Jewish Heritage Santa Cruz Warriors scarf (in Hebrew).

Plus, the first 1,000 fans through the door receive a Santa Cruz Warriors blanket. Cost: \$25 per ticket.

The game features our own **Emunah Posner Minami** singing the National Anthem and **Rabbi Shifra** presenting the game ball to the refs to start the game. *If TBE members buy enough tickets, our kids will be invited to give high-fives to the players at the start of the game and/or the second half!*

The game will celebrate and highlight Jewish culture in the Santa Cruz area. We've invited folks from Jewish communities all over the Bay Area.

But if you want to sit with your fellow members of Temple Beth El, you'll need to purchase Jewish Heritage Celebration Game tickets by November 22 from this special link: <https://fevo.me/jhgtbe>

*For Jewish Heritage Celebration Game tickets purchased after November 22 (with no guarantee of being seated with other TBE members), use this link: <https://fevo.me/jhcg>. For more information about the **Santa Cruz Warriors** and the KP Arena, check the team's website: santacruz.gleague.nba.com. Any questions, contact **Michael Rein** at mike@reinlaw.net, or TBE member engagement manager **Melissa Sunberg** at msunberg@tbeaptos.org.*





Our *Dayenu Circle* Lobbies for Climate Action

During this year's *California* legislative session, our **Dayenu Circle** was busy lobbying our elected representatives to take actions to address climate change. We met with our state legislators, **Senator John Laird** and **Assemblymember Gail Pellerin**, to urge them to support bills covering a range of subjects:

- renewable energy projects along highway corridors
- requiring major corporations to disclose their greenhouse gas emissions
- requiring major financial institutions to evaluate and disclose their climate-related financial risks
- referendum reform
- electric vehicle (EV) battery reuse and recycling
- bidirectional EV charging
- fossil fuel divestment by *California* public pension funds

Bills addressing the first four topics were signed into law in October and the last three will carry forward into the 2024 legislative session.

At the local level, we wrote a draft resolution calling for the *California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS)* to divest from fossil fuels and instead invest in renewable energy projects. We met with *Santa Cruz Mayor Fred Kelley*, presented him with the resolution, and urged him to bring it before the City Council. A final version of the resolution, with input from several council members and city staff, was adopted by the City Council at its meeting on October 24.

If you would like to participate in upcoming lobbying efforts, please consider joining our **Dayenu Circle**, which **meets on Zoom the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.** For more information about our Dayenu Circle, please email co-chairs **Michele Kibrick** kibrick@cruzio.com or **Cindy Rubin** cindy_rubin@comcast.net.

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Rabbi Shifra



Rabbi Shifra

How do we bring Chanukah light at times of darkness? By cooking, singing, making Chanukah art, and getting together. We are planning a multitude of family Chanukah events and community activities which you can read about on the front page of this *Shofar*.

Chanukah inspires us to miraculously find light in times of great darkness, and to notice how far reaching our little lights can shine. By decorating our houses and lighting our menorah and placing it in the window for all to see we illuminate the presence of miracles in our lives and proclaim our conviction that spirit can triumph over might. Our stubborn insistence on this conviction has gotten the Jewish people through some pretty difficult times.

We hope that your family will be inspired by Chanukah at *TBE*, and may the light of Chanukah illuminate our lives, and may we in turn, spread light.

Rabbi Shifra Weiss Penzias

Onward, a report from your *Executive Director*

Membership

While we have not closed out the annual membership drive, the results for this year are below expectations, which puts our projected budget at risk. The good news is that, as of October 31st, 79% of total families have renewed their membership and we have received 80% of the budgeted income. This is good progress, but we need those who have not yet renewed to please do so asap.

Due to a three-week delay in launching our renewed membership drive, our year-to-date numbers are down. However, my team and I are working closely with the voluntary membership committee to develop strategies to encourage renewal. In addition to multiple emails to those who have not yet renewed, we recently mailed a post card with a gentle reminder.

There are some other bright spots in our membership numbers. The number of individuals who have given over 10% more than last year has jumped from 80 to 110 members. Additionally, over 100 families have switched to a monthly recurring contribution model. This is a positive trend, as recurring contributions make it easier for members to support our organization and help us to better predict our future income.

I urge all our members to renew their membership today, and I encourage those who can give more to consider doing so. Your support is essential to our continued success.

Facility and Operations

While Temple operations can often be a dry topic, I wanted to let you know that your team is continuing to raise the bar.

Rachel Polhamus, our *Operations and Development Manager*, recently completed a comprehensive payroll review in order to ensure that all employees of *Temple Beth El* are paid correctly and in compliance with state and federal provisions.

On November 1st we launched the new employee handbook which united the out-of-date *Simcha* personnel policies and the *Temple Employee Handbook* into one document with modern, easier to understand



language in compliance with state and federal laws. The new handbook, along with other changes, was developed with a focus on retaining our most valuable asset—our employees.

Your Safety Matters

Not surprisingly, *TBE* remains at a heightened level of security. We have a Sheriff's vehicle parked in or near our parking lot and in addition, they regularly patrol our lot and have had an officer available on site.

Since the *Tishrei* pogrom (October 7, 2023) on our community and the subsequent war I am now regularly briefed, in writing, by the *Department of Homeland Security*.

Every effort is being made to protect against threats. The Rabbi and the President are kept apprised of the most recent information and make time sensitive changes as needed.

Preparing for Temple School

With all Temple School classes returning to indoor programming, our facility team was busy in August and September preparing classrooms. The biggest change was converting what had temporarily been *Simcha's* K-1 classroom back to a usable space for *Temple School*. Kudos to **Jan**, **Caitlin**, and **Chris** for all their hard work.

Barrels of much needed food for Second Harvest

This year *TBE* doubled the number of barrels ordered to 8 and we filled them all! Our teens helped us consolidate into three bins eliminating all the bags, and yes, we saved the bags for next year!



David Ginsborg



Coffee Crisis?

While not perhaps a crisis for some, those who love having a cappuccino or hot chocolate in our café have probably noticed it remains out of order. We apologize for the delay.

Unfortunately, the highly specialized and difficult to maintain machine broke down and the repair costs are high. As a result, we are weighing the cost of replacement vs. repair. Either way we remain committed to a solution that is consistent with the member who almost single-handedly funded the *Litvak* wing which includes the café.

we have set aside for unanticipated repairs, we plan to limp along until next fiscal year when I will include in the proposed *FY 24-25* budget. Rest assured we plan to replace, but to save costs we are putting off until we can budget for this expense; so, please be gentle. Thanks.

Preparing for winter



In addition to cleaning gutters and flushing drains, the *TBE* facility team has been working to complete major projects. For example, for many years children and staff have endured an area behind the building closest to the downstairs classrooms that would seasonally flood. Upon discovering that the problem was structural we have now taken significant steps to address the issue by adding a drain basin, piping, and a French drain. Combined these changes will help to avert flooding. Next on deck is the installation of better drainage in the *Simcha Playground*. We are also investigating options to improve drainage in the front corner of the Temple walkway.

David Ginsborg
Executive Director

Moveable walls

Be gentle with our moveable walls! What many might refer to as partitions are well past their life span (over 20 years old) and will cost over \$5,000 to replace. As this would be a major unplanned expense that would consume a significant portion of what



Before



After



One More Thank You

Thanks so much to **Rabbi Rick Litvak**, **Scott Roseman**, and **Judy Yokel** for their generous contributions to facilitate the professional growth of our staff enabling them to participate in **URJ 150, the Union for Reform Judaism's** gathering in *Washington, DC*. Thanks also to the **Woman of Valor Committee** for providing funds to allow women board members to attend this event.



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Israel: Show our support & honor the hostages

As **Rabbi Paula** noted in one of her recent emails "Our hearts are heavy with concern for all those who are suffering due to this war." Not surprisingly, many have asked how we can support the people who are living through this nightmare; how we can make sure the hostages are not forgotten.

Wear a blue ribbon to remember the hostages -

Temple Beth El is joining reform congregations around the world who are sharing their solidarity by wearing a blue ribbon. As noted by the **URJ #BlueRibbonsforIsrael** is a unity campaign in support of the safe return of the hostages taken by **Hamas** terrorists in *Israel*. It symbolizes solidarity with the hostages, their families, and all who care about their safety. Wearing a ribbon publicly unites you with people of all religions, races, nationalities, ethnicities, ages, and generations and demonstrates for the people of *Israel* that they are not alone and that good people across the globe are with them and their families during this dark time. To pick up your blue ribbon, please stop by the Temple and make a donation if you would like.

Tzedakah - *TBE* has created a diverse list of ways to give financial support to those who are suffering on the ground due to the war. This list includes Israeli non-governmental organizations from humanitarian aid to medical aid, search and rescue, and soldier and civilian support for those who are suffering in the Holy Land. It is by no means comprehensive. To review the entire list, go to <https://www.tbaptos.org/israel.html>

A Prayer for Peace - Finally, I ask everyone to say a prayer for peace in the Holy Land and a swift return of the hostages. Uppermost in my mind is a close family friend whom we have known since she was born and is especially close to my son. He even spent a few extra days in *Israel* after his Birthright trip to visit with her. Although she had recently completed her military duty, because of the war her entire platoon was called up to the south. Please extend a prayer for those protecting our right to self-determination as well as all of those in harm's way throughout the holiday.



#BlueRibbonsforIsrael

A global unity symbol in solidarity with
hostages and their families



David Ginsborg, *Executive Director*