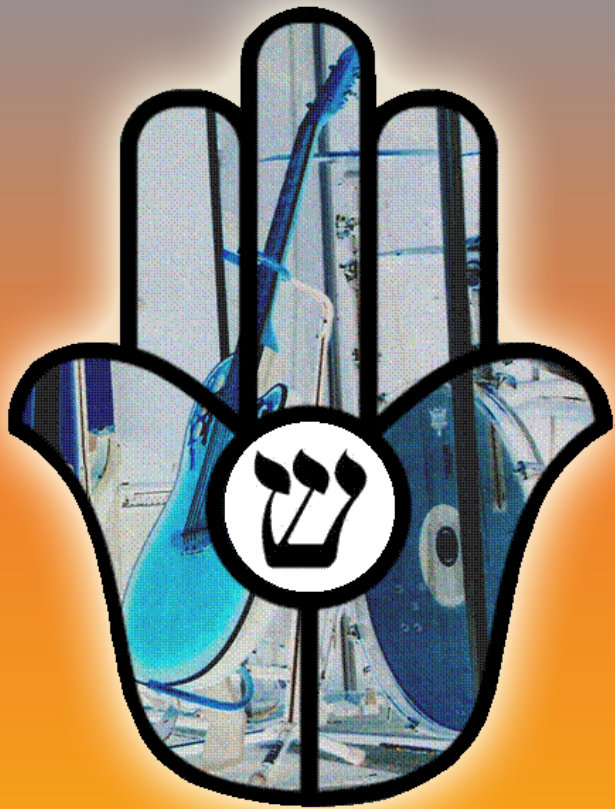




CHANUKAH

CELEBRATE WITH US



Friday, Dec. 16, 7pm — Temple Beth El Sanctuary

CHANUKAH ROCK OF AGES SERVICE

Partly mystical, mostly magical, always musical. Celebrate the miracle of Chanukah at this service for all ages.

Sunday, Dec. 18, 4:30pm — Downtown Town Clock

COMMUNITY MENORAH LIGHTING

Join families and friends of all ages at the Santa Cruz Town Clock. Large menorah, sing-along, and kids' crafts!

Friday, Dec. 23, 1pm — Temple Beth El Sanctuary

SENIORS HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Featuring Jewish educator and musician Mark Levy at Temple Beth El with Senior Connections.

Friday, Dec. 23, 7pm — Temple Beth El Sanctuary

CHANUKAH SHABBAT SERVICE

Led by Jewish educator and musician Mark Levy. Bring your menorah and candles!

WOMEN OF BETH EL GIFT SHOP

Enjoy holiday shopping at Temple Beth El December 4-26. M-F 10am until 4pm, Sundays 10am to 2pm (closed Saturdays). Shop online at www.tbegiftshop.org.



SCAN TO RSVP
plus event updates

PLEASE RSVP ONLINE

RSVP using our online calendar at www.tbaptos.org/calendar (find events by date). Masks and vaccination are required at all indoor events. Please dress warmly for outdoor events.



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.

Chanukah-A Celebration of Hope and Freedom

"Chanukah is about the freedom to be true to what we believe without denying the freedom of those who believe otherwise. It is about lighting our candle, while not being threatened by or threatening anyone else's candle"

– Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks tz"l

I love this inspiring teaching from **Rabbi Sacks** because he illuminates what I believe is both an ancient and modern message about the true nature of Chanukah, freedom, and hope.

When **King Antiochus** (who reigned from 175 to 164 BCE) tried to unite his sprawling empire by forcing everyone to adopt the same Hellenistic practices, his efforts to enforce religious uniformity led to the opposite results—repression, dissension, and turmoil. This sparked an open revolt by Jews, led by the



Maccabees, that shattered the king's plans. This rebellion was not just military, it was a revolt in favor of human freedom.

As we have seen the rise of anti-semitism and ultra-right-wing Christian nationalism in our country, the spirit of Chanukah, the call to defend the beauty and worth of all humanity and kindle the lights of human dignity is loud and clear. When we light our candles each night of Chanukah, they burn as individual flames, a reminder for us to respect the beauty and distinct nature of our diversity. And these individual flames, stand together, held together by one Hanukkiah-Chanukah menorah.

The Maccabean struggle to preserve freedom remains. As we prepare for Chanukah this year, may we rededicate our efforts to stand together proudly as Jews and as allies of all who have been threatened by intolerance and hate, so that each candle casts a strong and vibrant message of hope and freedom.

Rabbi Paula



Rabbi Paula

In the Temple Family Welcome to New Members

Please check your online directory for their information

Jennifer Morrison & Pam Conelly

Steve Wolfman & Julie Gorshe

Eve & Scott Schulman

Howard Furer

Leora Baumgarten & Charles Smith

Jody & Peter Biehl

Darren Gertler & Katie Kuszmar

Kim & Ari Novick

Amayah Carey

Jackie & Jim Hart



Condolences

Marlene Kushner - Beloved mother of Leah Kushner, mother-in-law of Pam Ernst, grandmother of Shoshana and Naomi, great-grandmother of Maya

Betty Goldenkranz - Beloved wife of Steve, mother of Andrew Goldenkranz, grandmother of Suzy and Max, great-grandmother of Seth and Chelsea

Meier (Mickey) Jacob Hapner - Beloved father of Rob Hapner, father-in-law of Sara, and grandfather of Ezra

Dorothea Bowling - Beloved aunt of Maria Gitin Torres

Patricia Kerr - Beloved mother of Susan Kerr and mother-in-law of Melody Randel

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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. 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. The Rock of Ages service is my personal favorite!

This time of year also reminds your *Temple Board* that it is important to review TBE's financial health at this halfway point in our fiscal year. As you know, we continue to experience a high inflation rate, such that the federal government has enacted an 8.7% cost of living adjustment for *Social Security* recipients for 2023 (ssa.gov/cola). As you can well imagine, inflation places an ongoing strain on our Temple budget. We are pleased that a great many of you responded positively to our request that you increase your annual synagogue contribution this year. At the same time, many of you were understandably not able to increase your annual contribution in these difficult financial times. If you have already renewed your annual contribution at whatever level you are able to give, I thank you on behalf of the Board. If you have not yet made your annual contribution, I ask that you please do so as soon as possible, so that the Temple can continue its operations and rich array of programs.

At this time, I would also like to ask that you consider including the Temple in your 2022 holiday season giving. Each December, the Board considers what level of salary increases we are able to provide for our devoted and talented staff. Again this year, we would

like to dedicate funds raised this holiday season for enhanced raises for our staff. Our current employees are incredibly skilled and dedicated to the Temple. Although they could earn more money elsewhere, they value the warm and haimish environment at TBE, and the way they work together to serve our congregants is a beautiful thing to behold. Thus, employee happiness and retention are at the very top of the *Board's* priorities. We are extremely lucky to have them, and we want to ensure that they continue to be compensated fairly during this time of damaging inflation. So, if you are able to make a holiday-season donation to help us to retain and honor our amazing staff, I urge you to do so as soon as you can.

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



Save the Date!

**Mitzvah Day
Sunday, January 15**

Help make a positive impact in Santa Cruz County by working together with other Temple members. Beach clean up, projects around the temple and more!

Shop Local for CHANUKAH 2022



tbe giftshop.com

All your holiday needs in one convenient place.

TEMPLE BETH EL GIFT SHOP - 3055 Porter Gulch Rd., Aptos

- You'll find chocolate gelt* and candles galore, dreidles, menorahs and much more.
- We've Israeli imports for you, (or to give 'em)
- Kid stuff to jewelry, it's all here—so don't miss 'em

*fair trade

First light December 18
Hours December 4-December 26
M—F 10am until 4pm
Sundays 10am until 2pm
Closed Saturdays
Plenty of free parking

Hello TBE Community!

Simcha has adjusted wonderfully to the weather change and the cold wetness that came with it. The children have been splashing in puddles, going on rain walks, and noticing the vibrant colors of the autumn leaves.



I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the *Early Childhood Educators of Reform Judaism* conference in *San Diego* recently. It was such an incredible experience to be surrounded by so many Jewish educators & directors and to engage in deep conversations about how we can better serve our community's families & their children. I was able to make connections with other directors from all over the country, including two from the *Bay Area* whose synagogues I plan to visit. Our keynote speaker, **Miriam Beloglovsky**, shared her knowledge on how to reimagine education in a meaningful way for our children, bringing it back to the basics of play. I cannot wait to bring this inspiration to Simcha's teachers for them to apply within their classrooms!

Caitlin Clancy
Simcha Director





CHECK OUT THE TEMPLE LIBRARY (pun intended)!

There is always something new – and something for almost everyone – being added to the collection. Some highlights of recent additions ...

New Kabbalah for Women by **Perle Besserman** – call # 283 BES

The Missing Jew: poems 1976-2022 by **Rodger Kamenetz** – # Lit Kamenetz

America's Jewish Women: a history from colonial times to today by **Pamela Nadell** – 304.1 NAD

One Hundred Saturdays: Stella Levi and the search for a lost world by **Michael Frank** – 959.1 FRA

The Man Who Wanted to Know Everything: a novel by **D.A. Mishani** – Mystery Mishani

Maimonides and the Book That Changed Judaism: secrets of "The Guide for the Perplexed" by **Micah Goodman** – New 259.2 GOO

Twelve Tribes: promise and peril in the new Israel by **Ethan Michaeli** – New 953 MIC

May Their Memory Be A Blessing: a history and walking tour of Home of Peace Jewish cemetery, Santa Cruz, California by **George Fogelson** – 979.43 FOG

Come by to find your next engaging read, browse the shelves or the online catalog at <https://libib.com/u/tbeaptos>. And don't forget to visit our "Readers' Resources Online" calendar of upcoming book events at <https://www.tbeaptos.org/library/online>

THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

The TBE Cemetery Committee is looking for a volunteer to lead and manage the effort to add a new divider wall, do some landscaping and otherwise beautify the Beit Olam area at our *Soquel Cemetery*, and to help manage *Soquel Cemetery* maintenance in general. Regarding the wall/landscaping project, we have some basic ideas and some money, but we need someone to select and hire a landscape architect, work up proposals, get construction estimates, etc. Simple project management, construction and/or landscaping/gardening experience preferred. If you are interested, please contact: **Miles J. Dolinger**, TBE Board of Directors, V.P. of Operations, miles@dolingerlaw.com.



HOP service day | Headstone cleaning in preparation for Veteran's Day



Scouts at Home of Peace | Scouts BSA Troop 614 performing a flag ceremony in recognition of veterans buried at Home of Peace on Veteran's Day



Contributions | August 6 — October 31, 2022

ALAN MILLER MEMORIAL TEMPLE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

Lovene Wood in honor of my beloved son Vincent John

BROTHERHOOD

John and Merry Oppenheimer in memory of Ina Feldman

John and Merry Oppenheimer in memory of Betty Goldenkranz

BUILDING FUND

Shelley and David Sonnenberg

Vicki Hendin in memory of my beloved husband, Alan Hendin

Shlomo and Miriam Vilozny

Ysraelya and Miles Dolinger

CAMP KAYETZ

Steven and Miriam Guiney in loving memory of Jacob and Ruth Guthartz

Paul and Martha Jacobson in memory of Betty Goldenkranz

CARING COMMITTEE

Heena Reiter wishing a speedy recovery for Anita Lande

CEMETERY OPERATIONS

Stephen and Susan Karon in honor of Stephanie and Aaron Morse

Terry and Jerry Spodick

Pat Ryland

Priva and Michael Tarbet

GENERAL FUND

Renee Winter and Paul Roth in honor of the marriage of the son of Bob Katz and Leola Lapides

Nita Lamendola in honor and recognition of my wonderful temple Rabbis, coworkers, and community

Nita Lamendola in memory of all my dearly beloved who have passed away

Lee Oberg

Harvey Halperin and Donna Barr in memory of Robert G. Barr

Edward and Lori Scher in memory of Betty Goldenkranz

Janet Bronitsky in memory of Francine Shafon

Reed Alper in honor of Judy Yokel and the Women's Song Circle

David Gazek and Shani Ginsburg in memory of Harvey Segall

Melissa and Cary Sunberg in honor of Rabbi Paula for officiating at the naming of our granddaughter, Talia Rebecca Polhamus

HIGH HOLIDAY DONATION

Elise Levinson and John Kotecki

Sarah Skikne and Ian Slattery

Joel and Holly Rudnick

Marvin T. and Iris Bornstein in honor of Veitch family

Jay and Fran Gale

Jay and Bernette Lerman in memory of Betty Goldenkranz and condolences to the family

Gabriel Elkaim and Joanna Meadvin

Jay and Fran Gale

Matthew Bloom

Lauren Schnaps and Robert Neve

Debra and Tony Sloss

Stephen and Carol Shapiro

Karolin Schwartz

Michael and Terry Rein

Debra Reiff and Richard Eisendorf

Julie Lorraine and Barry Marks

Paia Levine

Lori and Jim Kearney

Stephanie Jacobs

Lenore Hindin

Margaret Gordon

David Gazek and Shani Ginsburg

Amanda and Aaron Berger

Murray and Sheila Baumgarten

Anina Van Alstine

Sharon McCorkell

Chloe Marin and Joshua Edwards

Joshua and Sarah Mitnick

Marcia Meyer

Dan Pulcrano

JANET ROTHCHILD ROCK SHABBAT FUND

Risa Lower in honor of Samuel Miller, beloved grandfather

Bob Katz and Leola Lapides

Amy and David Harrington

George Ow and Gail Michaelis-Ow

in loving memory of Emily Ow

George Ow and Gail Michaelis-Ow

in loving memory of George Ow. Sr.

George Ow and Gail Michaelis-Ow in

loving memory of Janet Rothchild

George Ow and Gail Michaelis-Ow in loving memory of Jane Michaelis

Meryl Selman and Dave Ptak

Leonard and Geri Wolff

Margaret Gordon

Wilma and Gus Gold

Jennifer Wells Kaupp and

Raymond Kaupp

LIBRARY FUND

Lee and Molly Jaffe

Eric Mendelson and Janine Hall

ONEG FUND

Judi Sherman and Rachel Bickert

in loving memory of our parents and grandparents, Bea and Sam Sherman

Susan and Gary Taplin in loving memory of Aaron Simon Belkin

Bonnie and Loren Morr in loving memory of my father Albert Avraham Stadler

Risa Lower in honor of Elaine C. Berger

Gilbert and Elfi Starr in honor

of Gilbert and Elfi Starr's 60 years of marriage

Howard and Jennifer Kanter in honor of Elsa Rae Pearce

Lowell and Iris Jacobson

Sandra Goldstein in loving memory of Stephanie Holman Easley, sister of Sandra Goldstein

Laurel and Daniel deGrassi

Harold and Francine Raphael in loving memory of Sade Tannenbaum

Gilda Zelin in memory of Joel Zelin and Regina Tanner

Risa Lower in honor of my brother, Mitchell Berger

RABBI LITVAK DISCRETIONARY FUND

Casey Coonerty Protti and Michel Protti in honor of Devin Protti's Bar Mitzvah

Lawrence Abitbol and Shannon Durham

RABBI PAULA MARCUS DISCRETIONARY FUND

Judi Sherman and Rachel Bickert in honor of Rabbi Paula for officiating at Rachel and Evan's wedding

continued on page 9



Edward Garner and Lynn LeRose
in memory of Betty Goldenkranz,
beloved mother of
Andrew Goldenkranz

Marlene Pitkow and Mark Kalow
in honor of Rabbi Paula Marcus
for her beautiful and inspiring
officiating at Leela's and Dean's
wedding

Lane and Leticia Bess

Deborah Ruiz and George Lerek

Robert and Dawn Feldman
in memory of Ina Y. Feldman

Andrew Marcus in honor of
Rabbi Marcus and her holy
rabbinate

Casey Coonerty Protti and
Michel Protti in honor of
Devin Protti's Bar Mitzvah

Lawrence Abitbol and
Shannon Durham

Greg Bass and Becka Lee

Gary and Linda Friedlaender
in honor of Rabbi Paula and
Dr. Linda Shaw

Risa Lower in honor of all Rabbi
Paula does to make the world
better

Valerie Girsh-Morgan and Robert
Morgan Thank you Rabbi Paula
for all your good work

Laurie Getz and Lonnie Barish
Rabbi Paula - for the ketubah
burning party

Drew Barkley in loving memory of
Ina Feldman

RABBI WEISS-PENZIAS DISCRETIONARY FUND

Risa Lower in honor of
Rabbi Shifra

Valerie Girsh-Morgan and
Robert Morgan

Greg Bass and Becka Lee
Mohamed Bennouf in loving
memory of Catherine Laird

SECURITY DONATION

Joan Tanzer and Gerald Frank
Julian Dahan and Jessica Guild
Rosemary Zumwalt

Joel and Holly Rudnick

Jennifer Wells Kaupp and Raymond Kaupp

Barbara Sprenger and Kenneth Meshke

Leslie Smith and Shoshana Coplan

Lee Slaff

Carol Skolnick and Greg Furtado

Judi Sherman and Rachel Bickert

Edward and Lori Scher

Cabrilla and Adrian Reyes

Alan Portnoy

Denise and Lawrence Miller

Larry and Diane Levin

Laurel Fox and Donald Potts

Sarah Dubner and Michael Hance

Michael Cahn

Bettina Aptheker and Kate Miller

Marc and Nancy Yellin

Chloe Marin and Joshua Edwards

Anita and Ken Lande

Sheryl Kern-Jones

Adam and Katrina Lippman

James and Elise Atkins

SENIOR CONNECTIONS FUND

Aviva Longinotti

Murray and Sheila Baumgarten

Bonnie and Loren Morr

Michael and Jacqueline Tuttle in memory
of Betty Goldenkranz

Gloria Heistein

Bonnie and Loren Morr in loving memory
of my mother Tillie Stadler who was a
Sisterhood member for all of her adult
life!

Shirley and Allen Ginzburg in memory of
Harvey Segall

SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

SharonRose Crowley thinking of you
my beloved 2 year old grandson,
Jake Pearlman!

Carolyn and Curt Coleman in memory of
Betty Goldenkranz, wife of Steven,
mother of Andrew, grandmother of
Suzie and Max

Denise Marco in loving memory of
Betty Goldenkranz

TEMPLE SCHOOL DONATION

Fay Levinson and Joe Vela

Susan Beck and Sigrid Snitzer

TEMPLE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

Casey Coonerty Protti and Michel Protti
in honor of Cantor Nina

TO VIEW

Temple Beth El
CALENDAR

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MAZON

I'll be honest. I have wanted to participate in the **MAZON Project** ever since I moved to Santa Cruz from Georgia in May 2019, and joined Temple Beth El. So, what was stopping me? Every time I read the instructions on the "Welcome to the MAZON Project" on the TBE website, I would get to the explanation that it is like cooking for 18-20 hungry teenagers and I would think, "I don't even cook for myself and besides, I'm a vegetarian." Lurking in my mind was the question, "Who would want to eat what I cook anyway?" But Jewish guilt has gotten to me – and even more, Jewish values. We, after all, invite everyone who is hungry to come and eat with us at the Passover Seder. And as the TBE MAZON website says, "One of the highest religious acts of Judaism is to share your bread with the hungry." By the way, MAZON means "food" or "sustenance" in Hebrew. MAZON is a national organization "fighting to end hunger among people of all faiths and backgrounds in the *United States and Israel*" (<https://mazon.org/who-we-are/>). In *Santa Cruz*, MAZON has partnered with **Housing Matters** and has been guided by the commitment of **Robin Belkin** and others in our TBE family.

I'm going to sign up to be a volunteer for the MAZON Project and contribute a home-cooked dish to the homeless among us. I will take you step-by-step through the process so if you are one of the 390 families that doesn't participate in MAZON, you can join me and the 150 other families that participate. Currently we have a 27.78% MAZON participation rate and our TBE goal is 100% participation. So, we need to increase by 390 the number of families signing up to contribute to the Sunday meal for MAZON each year. If TBE has a 100% participation rate, 52 weeks/year, times 10 contributors to each Sunday meal, that's 520 annual contributors—almost exactly the number of TBE member households.

Okay, so I just signed up for my first MAZON volunteer contribution. I followed the TBE MAZON coordinator Robin Belkin's guidance. Make your first signup simple—either vegetables or dessert (e.g., cookies).

Here are the steps:

1. Go to the TBE website, and search for MAZON under "Social Action": <https://www.tbeaptos.org/mazon-project.html>.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094aa4ac23a02-please>
2. The calendar signup will show the Sunday date and available slots (entree, vegetable & starch, or dessert) that are available each Sunday of the year. Remember, if you're a newbie, like me, start with something simple and then resolve to progress to the entrée, if you wish.
3. Create a one-time MAZON login ID & password to use each time you sign up.
4. Sign up. I signed up for vegetable and rolls for 20 people on November 20. Likely, I'll go to a farmer's market to buy lovely, fresh vegetables. And I make a mean sourdough bread so likely I'll make several loaves.

Let's resolve to increase the number of participants to MAZON! If each of us reaches out and engages another TBE volunteer, in no time we will increase the participation percentage of TBE. Watch out, if you're my friend, I'll be calling you. Remember: each one, reaches one and lands another volunteer for MAZON.

In conclusion, Robin Belkin who has been MAZON project coordinator for 10 years is more than happy to provide ideas for making your MAZON contributions doable, easy, and nutritious. You can reach her at (831) 251-7115 or at Robin@myveryowncoach.com. While much less experienced than Robin, I am also more than willing to talk with you. You can reach me at (706) 867-5359 or rzumwalt@agnesscott.edu. Please, also feel free to pass along ideas to us for increasing the volunteer base for the MAZON Project.

Rosemary Lévy Zumwalt

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.



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An Asylum Seeker's Story

*The Santa Cruz Welcoming Network provides comfort and support for people who seek asylum and refuge. Our volunteers connect personally and accompany them as they navigate challenges such as Immigration Court, shelter, health care, and work. We find resources that support their goals and healing from trauma. We are committed to the truth that every human being is worthy of a safe place to live and thrive. Here is the story of one of our Asylum seekers as told to **Sylvia Patience** of The Welcoming Network.*

In the past year, *Temple Beth El* members have I grew up in poverty in *San Salvador, El Salvador*. My father abandoned us when I was born and our life was difficult. At age eight I began working, cleaning houses. When I was nine or ten, I stopped going to school. There was no money for uniforms, shoes, or notebooks. When I was thirteen a woman my mother cleaned house for gave me a job in her sewing factory. I worked there for twenty years, until everything went wrong in 2018.

I met my husband when we were ten. When he was sixteen and I was fifteen, we became novios, sweethearts. I was eighteen when we married. We bought our own house on payments. The house was a mansion to me. It was small but made of bricks, with a real roof. We had electricity and drinkable water, a kitchen and bathroom, and a real floor. We'd been told we couldn't have children. My husband's son by a different woman came to live with us when he was four. Then we had two sons of our own. Three boys!

One night in August, 2016, three or four pandilleros, gangsters, members of *MS 13*, came to our house. They wanted to use the house. In fear of our lives, we left. We rented a place, but we had to keep paying our mortgage. Finally, we moved back to our house. After two or three months, those guys came back. They said they needed my husband to transport drugs. He refused. "If you don't, there will be consequences," they said. In spite of the threat, he didn't go. That was Monday.

On Tuesday, August 15th, 2018, we all came home in the evening to find the gangsters waiting at the entrance to our street. They made us get out of the car and shot my husband fourteen or fifteen times, while looking at me and my boys, who were eight and eleven. I didn't remember anything for a while. My mind shut down, like a dream, a nightmare. My sons and I sat on the sidewalk in shock.

The boys had a hard time accepting that their father was dead, even though they saw him killed. After the funeral I went back to the house and the pandilleros arrived. They told me to leave. I couldn't work for fear of the gangs. We moved from place to place. My oldest son and I both got very sick and needed surgery. We were in constant fear. The police called me in to report on my husband's murder, but they wouldn't give us any protection.

In October 2020 I borrowed money for a coyote, to take us to the U.S. After we left, the gangs killed my husband's older son, who was staying with his grandmother. The trip was long and difficult. My oldest son and I were recovering from surgery, and I had an infection. The first time we crossed the *Rio Grande*, we were caught and sent back to *Mexico*. The second time, we were caught by different officials. "These aren't your sons. You're trafficking minors," they said. This was October 13, 2020. I didn't want to get in their car without my boys, but they forced me in and took me to the bridge where I had to walk back to the Mexican side with a broken heart. I felt dead in life.

When I tried to cross the border again, I was caught by Mexican immigration officials and police who kidnapped me and other migrants. I was held for over a month, tortured, sexually trafficked and abused, until an uncle paid the \$10,000. One woman was shot in front of us because she didn't get the money. My sons were sent to a shelter, then to foster care. They became very depressed.

I tried to cross the border seven times altogether, climbing the nine-foot wall five times. Finally, with a lawyer's help, I was allowed into the United States in February 2021, and my children were returned to me. We're waiting to be granted asylum.

The Welcoming Network is striving to help families such as the one above. We would greatly appreciate the following items from Temple members:

- Free or affordable temporary/permanent housing-- contact **Abbey Asher** at aasher@ucsc.edu
- Gift cards to food stores, **Target**, drug stores or gas stations— send to Welcoming Network 311 Darwin St., SC, CA. 95062
- Cash donations to the **WN** to help us with rent support, utilities, out-of-pocket medical expenses, and other expenses—go to the website <https://www.santacruzwelcomingnetwork.com/>



Will you match these generous donations to our Cemeteries?



Recently two members of Temple Beth El stepped up to make very generous donations to our cemeteries. **Morty Cohen** donated \$10,000 to make improvements to *Home of Peace* including extending the existing fence and beautifying the entrance. We anticipate completion of this work in the first quarter of 2023. Another member, who asked to remain anonymous, donated \$5000 to *Soquel Cemetery* to a special restricted fund set aside for the creation of a more formal traditional barrier in keeping with Jewish tradition. This barrier may ultimately be comprised of landscaping, wrought iron fencing and possibly even a columbarium.

As both cemeteries are not endowed, much of the upkeep is performed by members and others from the community. The Temple is responsible for upkeep and ongoing maintenance which is vital for helping these beautiful and rustic spaces remain truly an asset for the broader Jewish community.

By stepping up you are helping to honor our ancestors. We provide a place of solemnity and tranquility where

visitors can pay respects to their loved ones. We ensure that everyone in the Jewish community will have a place to rest in peace and dignity. The care and dignity of our deceased, *kavod hamet*, is a central value in Jewish tradition. This mitzvah is so important that in each new Jewish community, including *Santa Cruz*, the first institution created was our cemeteries which were created following the civil war. Both cemeteries are facing escalating operating costs, significant repairs, and declining income. Your support will help Temple Beth El address these challenges. All funds will be set aside in either a restricted fund or if designated, for ongoing landscaping.

Deborah A. Malkin

Attorney at Law



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Temple Security Security Update

At the April 26 *Board of Directors* meeting the Board approved retaining a professional and experienced consultant, **AEGIS Security**, to perform a comprehensive, formal security assessment.

The Temple has made enormous progress since June on security, i.e.

- Created Security Committee
- Hosted Security Awareness training
- Completed major security camera upgrade
- Installed kitchen/social hall gate
- Served as training facility for Sheriff's office
- Restarted hiring of security personnel for *Temple School*, Shabbat, and other services
- 15 staff members and lead volunteers completed the Stop the Bleed class
- Raised \$10,000
- Awarded \$150,000 in 2022 Federal Grant Funds applied for earlier this year

With the assistance of a newly created *Security Committee*, **Marilyn Valencia**, TBE's Office and Security Coordinator, and the Executive Director, we began the process of trying to determine deficiencies in security. It was quickly determined that TBE needed a professional security assessment to exhaustively review all policies, practices, and facilities to ascertain gaps and make recommendations to improve safety and security. With the assistance of **Rabbi Rick**, TBE raised \$12,000 to offset the cost the assessment which included an exhaustive, 3 days on site review performed by **AEGIS Security**.

Following up from the assessment, the committee has been reviewing their

recommendations. Supplementing this effort, the committee both sought out information and/or received input from the local Sheriff's department. Quick inexpensive/free, very basic training was prioritized and commenced this past spring. The committee also helped prioritize the voluminous number of **AEGIS** recommendations so that TBE could apply for federal and state grants to address the most important and time sensitive measures most critical to slow the intrusion of threats and improve safety and security. In doing so, we are addressing in a systematic manner the greatest needs. In September, we were notified that we had been awarded \$150,000 towards addressing some of these priorities and supplementing the 2020 grant. In October, we applied for a similar security grant funded by California and are awaiting.

We have been steadily completing the projects listed below and funded by the 2020 grant.

- Hiring of Security Personnel for *Temple School*, special holiday services and Shabbats
- Security Camera upgrade
- Parking lot gate
- Grated screen door to rear kitchen/social hall
- Bollards and Boulders (progress in process)



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Leanne Salandro Associate Director

For the past 25 years, Leanne has worked extensively in all aspects of medium size marketing and business development. She sought a career change to better align her passions with her experience and TBE is the lucky beneficiary. As **Leanne** recently summed up: "This is a welcome career shift for me and I'm happy to apply my years of private sector, business experience — working with start-ups, marketing agencies, and other businesses — in an entirely different sphere. In a nutshell, you do good things for people. I hope to make that easier and more effective so we can collectively do more good things for more people."



Leanne Salandro



Whether you spell it Chanukah or Hanukkah or any of the other ways it can be spelled, Chanukah means "rededication" referring to the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after it was messed with by Antiochus and the Assyrians. Our congregation will in some ways be rededicating our sanctuary too because after such a long time of being unable to fill our beautiful sanctuary with our whole community, reJEWvination is going to feel wonderful.



Rabbi Shifra

How do we bring Chanukah light at times of darkness? By cooking, singing and making Chanukah art, and getting together. We are planning a multitude of fantastic celebrations 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.

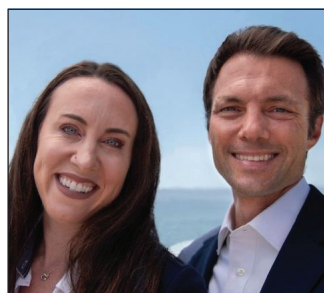
We hope that your family will be inspired by Chanukah at TBE, and may the light of Chanukah illuminate our lives, and may we in turn, spread light.

Rabbi Shifra Weiss-Penzia

AIR QUALITY INDEX

TBE now is a
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Go to the live map at
<https://www2.purpleair.com/>



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Onward

David Ginsborg, *Executive Director*

While I am still counting my time in months, the warm reception I have received from members and staff makes me feel as if I have been at Temple Beth El (TBE) for years. I remain in awe of our amazing members. Repeatedly, I continue to see Temple members come together to find sacredness and community service in our spaces and amongst each other; uplifted, inspired, and yes, challenged by our Rabbis to discover and do Judaism.

In this issue of the Shofar is a report on Security as an example of the progress we have made in protecting our members, children, guests, and staff. What started from a Security Committee created earlier this year has blossomed into the completion of several important projects, along with delivering a comprehensive and sobering assessment of what additional steps are needed to improve safety. Thankfully, our efforts this year have resulted in the Temple being awarded \$150,000 for additional security upgrades.

Similarly, recognition that the administrative team was understaffed relative to the services we support—ownership of two cemeteries (most Temples do not own a cemetery let alone two of them), a growing preschool, a thriving temple school—was met with a can-do attitude by Temple leaders. Just six months after identifying the need, TBE is fortunate to welcome **Leanne Salandro** into a newly created *Associate Director* position. In just her first month, October, she completed a grant that, if successful, could result in more than \$100,000 to support further security enhancements at TBE. I encourage you to read more about Leanne and this new position in this issue of the Shofar. Identifying new streams of revenue will be critical during these turbulent economic times. The Temple has not been insulated from rising inflation (our healthcare costs will increase by nearly 7% starting in January). Thankfully, we have experienced a strong response to our request to past voluntary, annual synagogue contributors (aka members). As of this writing, 7% more members have donated than this time last year. Unfortunately, members have been impacted like all of us by the stock market and inflation with many congregants unable to increase their gift.

Leanne's arrival comes at a pivotal moment as in the last few months we have moved from mostly outdoor and



online programs to a mixture of opportunities to come together to pray, learn, and be of service. Regular Friday night services are now held in person and indoors in the TBE sanctuary facilitated by proactive changes made to our Covid policies. These revised policies have been updated in a profoundly spiritual and Jewish way, continuing to strike a balance between coming together and the need to protect our most vulnerable. During the day, it is becoming more common to see multiple Temple committees meeting throughout our campus. Community-building activities are renewed with a group of members coming together to form the *TBE Jewish Community Education Forum*. This forum plans to provide learning opportunities and facilitate understanding and engagement among our members interested in discussing Israel as well combating growing Antisemitism. Other opportunities for coming together such as *Mitzvah Day* and a renewed focus on the gardens are on the horizon.

Finally, *Simcha* is nearly at enrollment capacity. Some new families have commented that they were drawn to the school not only for its stellar reputation as the best

Executive Director continued on page 14

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Executive Director continued from page 13

program with the best teachers, but also because of our strong health policies. Similarly, both our cemeteries continues to provide sacred spaces fulfilling our ancient obligation. This fall we had a significant service day at Home of Peace where members came together to help improve our non-endowed cemetery. This was followed by the completion of a project by several local BSA troops and packs to recognize veterans. The energy and excitement to maintain these sacred places has been met warmly with generous support and I encourage members to match these anonymous donors.

In closing, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the enormous success of our High Holiday. Over a 24-hour period-between Erev Rosh Hashanah and 2nd day services—more than 500 members of our extended Jewish community participated in one or more of our multiple youth and adult services.

The positive response to our feedback survey was both gratifying and very informative with members making helpful suggestions for changes in programs. Here are just a few of the comments:

"Erev Rosh Hashana reignited my passion for Jewish ritual."

"I loved every moment of this service. I went alone, sat by a friendly couple, and felt a welcoming presence of the Divine the whole evening."

I participated in the ocean mikvah and was blown away by the event and by Chelsea's support of us all in this beautiful process."

As always if you have questions, suggestions or want to be part of some exciting new opportunity please reach out to **Melissa, Leanne** or any member of our team.... and my door is always open!

David Ginsborg
Executive Director



Our Rock Shabbat Band getting into the spirit of the High Holidays

Once again we created a beautiful sacred outdoor space for prayer on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur





High Holidays at Temple Beth El

Spiritually uplifting



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