

the shofar

☆ High Holidays and Back to School - 2022 ☆

SCHMOOZE, EAT, SOAK UP THE SUN

CONGREGATIONAL
PICNIC
IN THE **PARK**

SUN 9/11 | FROM 11:30 AM



Temple School Opening Day & Temple Community Picnic

Sunday, September 11 at DeLaveaga Park 855 Branicforte Dr

10:00am Class in the Grass for K-6 grades

Brotherhood and Temple School are teaming up to host the Temple Community Picnic—open to all TBE members and to mark the first day of Temple School. Back-to-Temple-School activities begin with Temple School classes under the trees.

11:30am TBE community-wide picnic (lunch by Brotherhood!)

Brotherhood presents a yummy BBQ lunch including BBQ chicken, hot dogs, vegetarian alternatives, salad, chips, drinks and fruit.

12:30pm picnic games, organized by Brotherhood for everyone!

After lunch, enjoy traditional picnic games like tug-of-war, bocce ball, three-legged races, volleyball and other kid approved stuff. Of course everyone wins and everyone is invited.

*For more information about Temple School activities, contact **Chelsea Mandell** cmandell@tbeaptos.org. If you'd like to help Brotherhood host the picnic contact **Jay Lerman** at jay_lerman@yahoo.com or **Mike**, the games guy, at mike@reinlaw.net.*

**Friday
September 16**

at Seabright/Castle Beach

Located Across from
the Santa Cruz City
Museum of Natural History



Shabbat at the Beach

6:00pm BYO Picnic Dinner

7:00pm Service & Bonfire

A night to rekindle friendships, meet new friends and prepare for the High Holidays. Bring a picnic for dinner al fresco, a blanket and/or chairs. Then join in as we gather around the bonfire to pray, sing and enjoy the warmth of our community. A high-spirited evening for the whole family.

Temple Beth El is a Reform congregation serving the Jewish community in the greater Santa Cruz area.
Passionate about peace and justice - Creative about prayer - Joyful about tradition

Temple Beth El Jewish Community Center
3055 Porter Gulch Road, Aptos, CA 95003
831-479-3444 - www.tbeaptos.org



HIGH HOLIDAYS 2022*



5782/5783

*Subject to change

Elul Explorations with Sarah Tziporah on Zoom
September 13, 15, 20 and 22 at 7:30pm

Shabbat at the Beach, at Seabright Beach
Friday, September 16
6pm **BYO Dinner**
7pm **Service**

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, September 25

10-10:45am **Rosh Hashanah Young Family Service** on the Soquel side of building

7pm **Erev Rosh Hashanah Service** in the parking lot

First Day Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 26

10am **First Day Rosh Hashanah Service** in the parking lot

9:30am **Rosh Hashanah Children's Program** (1-6th grade) at *TBE*

10:15-11:15am **Rosh Hashanah Junior Congregation Family Service** on the Soquel side of building

• 10:10am **7th and 8th Graders co-lead**

5pm **Tashlich** at Ben Lomond Dam

7pm **Rock Hashanah** in the parking lot

Second Day Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday, September 27

6am **Rosh Hashanah Mikvah**, Privates Beach on the East Side

10am **Second Day Rosh Hashanah Service** in the Sanctuary

12pm **Second Day Rosh Hashanah Potluck Lunch** on the Social Hall Patio

5:30pm **Tashlichs** at Natural Bridges and Rio Del Mar Beach

Shabbat Shuvah Service,

Saturday, October 1

10am **Service**

12pm **Kiddush Lunch**

1pm **Workshop** with Rabbi Pam Wax on the Soquel side of building

Kol Nidre

Tuesday, October 4

7pm **Kol Nidre** in the parking lot

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, October 5

10am **Yom Kippur Service** in the parking lot

9:30am **Yom Kippur Children's Program** (1-6th grade) at *TBE*

10:15-11:30am **Yom Kippur Junior Congregation Family Service** on the Soquel side of building

• 10:10am **7th and 8th Graders co-lead**

Yizkor Service in the parking lot, after the end of the morning service

2pm **Meditation** on Zoom

4:30-5:45pm **Afternoon study** on the café patio

4:45-5:30pm **Prayers and Puppets Young Family Service** on the Soquel side of building

6:15-7pm **Nei'lah in** in the upper parking lot

Sukkot and Simchat Torah

Sunday, October 9-17

Sunday, October 9 at 12:30pm

Twice Blessed Sukkot event in the Sukkah

Monday, October 10 at 10am

Hallel Service in the Sukkah

Wednesday, October 12 at 6:30pm

Hebrew High program in the Sukkah

Friday, October 14 at 7:30pm

Erev Shabbat Service in the Sukkah

Saturday, October 15 at 10am

Shabbat Service in the Sukkah with Rabbi Lori

Sunday, October 16 **Simchat Torah**

9:45am **Temple School**

10:45am **Simchat Torah Community Celebration**

11:30am **Pizza**

Monday, October 17 at 10am **Yizkor Service** on Zoom



"If we don't do the work, then we become the work for other people."

~Lama Rod Owens



Rabbi Paula

The month of Elul, a time for turning towards the High Holidays, begins in just a few weeks. We are invited to begin the process of *Cheshbon HaNefesh*, the accounting of our souls.

The word *cheshbon* in modern Hebrew can be translated as the bill, like what the server brings us after our meal, what we owe for what we've consumed. Nefesh can also be understood as a human. Where are we in the give and take, the holy work of being human? What is our outstanding balance?

It can be hard, and sometimes even painful, to look at what changes we want to make in our lives. The wisdom of Jewish tradition invites us to take the month of Elul, and then another ten days, to examine our lives, to investigate patterns in our behavior that could use some attention. Because Judaism teaches that each person is created *b'tzelem Elohim* (in the image of the Divine) we see the potential for goodness in everyone. We can bring more blessings to others. This period in our sacred calendar invites us to look within and fix what we can.

Some questions we might consider during this time include:

What impact do I have on others? Have I added value to the lives of those around me? Have I helped others learn?

Is there some hurt that I need to heal so that I can do the spiritual work of changing my behavior?

We can take responsibility, notice where and how we want to grow, and then do the spiritual work of owning our stuff and changing our responses to different situations and people in our lives. And let's remember to be gentle with ourselves as we engage in this important work.

Our rabbinic intern, **Sarah Tziporah**, will be offering **Elul Explorations writing workshops** on Zoom on **September 13, 15, 20 and 22 at 7:30pm.**

Rabbi Paula

In the Temple Family

Welcome to New Members

Please check your online directory for their information

Thomas Reisz and Cecile Cruz

Leah and Glen Miller

Rachel and Jason Aleksander

Amber and Andrew Burnham

Ari Friedlaender and Caroline Casey

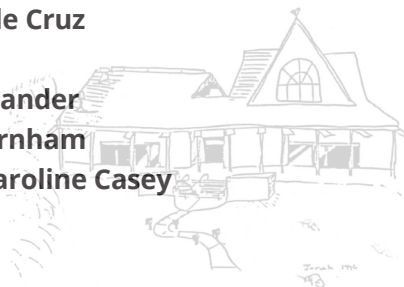
Kim and Eric Horowitz

Sibley and Nina Simon

Emily Steiner and Richard Newell

Joe Willis and Shayna Samuels

Alan Portnoy



Condolences

Stanley Joseph Lee - Beloved father of Becka Lee, father-in-law of Greg Bass, and grandfather of Charlotte and Teddy Bass.

Glenna Loe - Beloved grandmother of Becka Lee, grandmother-in-law of Greg Bass, great grandmother of Charlotte and Teddy Bass

Nancy Jaffe Myer - Beloved mother of Lee Jaffe, mother-in-law of Molly Jaffe

Harvey Segall - Beloved former temple member

Pearl Moskow - Beloved grandmother of Debra Feldstein, grandmother-in-law of Kenneth Chizinsky, great grandmother of Jonah and Arielle Chizinsky

Ina Feldman - Beloved mother of Bob Feldman, mother-in-law of Dawn Feldman, and grandmother of Daniel and Rachel Feldman

Your **JUDAICA GIFT SHOP** welcomes back *Temple School* parents [and everyone else].

Starting Sept 11, our hours are:

- Sunday mornings 9:30am – noon
- Wednesday afternoons 3pm – 5pm

or call us to set up a time to meet on YOUR schedule! **Shirley** 831-685-2710 - *no texts please* or **Ruth** 831-476-1154

See our new tallitot, mezuzot, shofars, New Years' greeting cards and interesting books. You will be dazzled by our selection of ritual items and beautiful Israeli imports. As always, we strive to keep our prices low. Support your favorite local business--US! **tbegiftshop.com**



Note from the Temple President

I am truly honored and excited to serve as *Temple Beth El's President* for the next two years. I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself a bit more to our congregation. I grew up in the San Fernando Valley, in a family that was initially not religious but culturally very Jewish. Even as a child, I always felt proud of being Jewish and that it was something really special to be a member of our tribe. I found great joy in celebrating holidays, in my grandmother's incredible matzo ball soup and other Jewish delicacies, and in my grandparents' Yiddishisms (they frequently expressed their affection by calling me a "shayna maydelah"). When I was 10, my mother married my stepfather, who came from an observant family. That led to our joining a synagogue, where I became a Bat Mitzvah, participated in the youth group, and acted and sang in many play productions at the temple. Through these experiences, I learned what a joy it is to be part of a Jewish community and to share our beautiful faith and heritage with other Jews.

I first came to Santa Cruz as a *UCSC* freshman in 1974. After receiving my B.A., I left in 1978 to pursue a Ph.D. in social psychology at *Princeton University* in New Jersey. After completing my Ph.D. I taught at the *University of Denver* for five years, and then had the opportunity to return to Santa Cruz to teach psychology at *UCSC*. I taught there for a few years and then decided to make a career change to become an administrator in social services for the County of Santa Cruz. I worked for the County for more than 20 years, spending the last 10 of those years as the *Director of Family and Children's Services*, the division of the *Human Services Department* that addresses child abuse and neglect, which are issues close to my heart. After a rewarding career, I retired from the County in 2016.

My husband **Ben** and I first joined *TBE* in 2000, when we were expecting our son **Benjamin**, who later went through *TBE's* wonderful *Temple School* program and became a Bar Mitzvah in 2013. My demanding career kept me from being as involved in the Temple as I would have liked. However, when I retired in 2016, I decided it was time to re-immers myself in our beautiful Jewish community. I have a passion for music, and I find that it has a transcendent quality that allows me to connect to something greater than myself, and especially to our Jewish people and culture. So, I joined the choir, which gives me an opportunity to express that passion. I also started, and continue to co-lead, the

TBE Women's Song Circle, which gathers monthly to sing folk songs and popular songs and to share sisterhood among women who love to sing and play instruments.

I have also developed a passion for participating in *TBE's* governance and administration. I joined the *Board of Directors* at the beginning of 2019, and for the last two years it has been my privilege to serve as *Executive Vice President* during **Josh Karter's** presidency. I truly enjoy working closely with our *Rabbis*, *Executive Director*, *Board members* and congregants to ensure that our synagogue is a vibrant and well-run organization. And now, it is my privilege to be your new President. This role will give me the opportunity to support and help our congregation in many different ways. As you know, two areas that we are currently focusing on are *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)* and ideas for improving our outdoor space (we recently sent out an outdoor-space survey for you to complete; please respond to this survey if you haven't yet). We continue to face the challenges presented by the Covid pandemic, and I will work to help us meet these challenges while serving the needs of our community as best we can. I truly value our Temple's social justice work and hope to find ways to support our social justice efforts as President. And, over the next two years, I will avail myself of opportunities to listen to you, our members, regarding how you would like to see our Temple develop and grow. If you would like to talk about the Temple, please feel free to email me at judyclaireyokel@gmail.com, or give me a call. I would love to talk with you and hear your ideas. And I hope to see you soon at High Holiday services or one of our other Temple events. **Shalom aleichem!**



Judy Yokel

Judy Yokel

President, member of Board of Directors

judyclaireyokel@gmail.com



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Rob Gaukel
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Rob@newhousepm.com

B'nai Mitzvah



Devin Raymon Bernard Protti

DEVIN RAYMOND BERNARD PROTTI, son of **Casey Coonerty Protti** and **Michel Protti** and younger brother to **Claire**, became a Bar Mitzvah on August 20, 2022. Devin is an eighth grader at *Mission Hill Middle School*. He plays basketball every free minute of the day, including on his school's team, *Boys & Girls Club* team and his *AAU HDMD*

competitive team. He also enjoys playing percussion in the *Mission Hill* band, traveling around the world with his family, flag football and fantasy football, creating for his *YouTube* channel, collecting sports cards and spending time with his beloved dog. For his mitzvah project, Devin volunteered as a coach at the *Boys and Girls Club Buddy Basketball Program*.



Honoring Estelle & Arnie Levine



Estelle and **Arnold Levine** took care of the *Home of Peace* cemetery on Meder Street for 28 years. They oversaw the upkeep of the grounds, sold plots, kept the cemetery accounts, marked the graves and counseled people on end-of-life rituals. On June 13 at the unveiling of Estelle's monument, a plaque was also unveiled to the surprise of their daughter, **Joy Levine Spodick** and their son, **Mitch Levine**. The Levine's also were both actively involved in all aspects of temple life for many decades serving in many leadership roles. Arnie was the lay rabbi performing services including Bar and Bat Mitzvot and funerals. Our *Temple Beth El* community is grateful for all that Arnie and Estelle did to create the thriving Jewish community we now have. May their memory always be for a blessing.

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Dearest Temple Community,

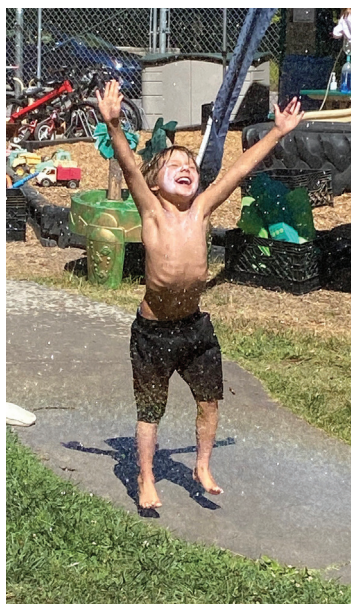
Simcha has been enjoying summer to the fullest! We feel so blessed to have such a spacious, beautiful outdoor environment to spend our days in during these spectacular summer months. Some days it can be quite hot, so the children have been loving the sprinkler and water play activities!

The children have been really into a variety of other sensory activities as well, including hand/body painting, mud play and sand play.

The hardest part of the summer is having to say goodbye to several of the children who we have watched grow from young children as they graduate from our oldest group. We know they will be successful on their next schooling adventure and wish them the best as they continue on their journey!

With this goodbye comes the welcoming of many new families for our 2022/2023 school year! We are so excited to begin making new connections and building our newest community together. **We have a few openings left for ages 3-5**, so if you know of any families with young children looking for a warm, creative and thriving school please send them our way!

Caitlin Clancy
Simcha Director





TBE Library

The TBE Library continues to offer the best of new books and classic works about Judaism and the Jewish experience, both nonfiction and fiction. Examples of recent additions to our shelves are: **Lisa Brahin's** *Tears Over Russia* about her family's flight from *Ukraine*, **Gary Shteygard's** pandemic novel, *Our Country Friends*, and two recent works of suspense, *A Long Night in Paris* by **Dov Alfon** and *Norwegian By Night* by **Derek Miller**. To see what's on offer, browse the blue cart in the library or check out the online catalog at <https://www.libib.com/u/tbeaptos>

And, for those who enjoy the rich array of literary events offered online, we've relaunched our *Readers' Resources* calendar. <https://www.tbeaptos.org/library/online>. Keep checking back to see ongoing updates.

ADVERTISE IN the shofar

Temple members
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each other. Let
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a year.

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Temple Beth El



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TO VIEW

Temple Beth El CALENDAR

Go to [tbeaptos.org/calendar](https://www.tbeaptos.org/calendar)



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Contributions | May 7 — August 5, 2022

BUILDING FUND DONATION

Vicki Hendin in memory of my beloved husband, Alan Hendin
 Vicki Hendin in memory of Nancy Jaffe Myer, mother of Lee Jaffe and mother-in-law of Molly Jaffe
 Vicki Hendin in honor of the birth of Sheila & Murray Baumgarten's great grandson, Tavi Glenn Sheltzer-Smith

CAMP KAYETZ

Elizabeth S. Abrams & Joseph Loffredo in honor of Mimi Guiney
 James & Elise Atkins in honor of Mimi Guiney
 Stephanie Barnes-Castro & Pedro Castro in honor of Mimi
 Judi Sherman & Rachel Bickert in honor of Mimi Guiney for years of Camp Kayetz fun!
 Rachelle Epstein-Norris & Nathan Norris in honor of Mimi Guiney!
 We love you Mimi!!!
 Rick Hochler & Melissa Ross in honor of Mimi Guiney, and the many years of service she has given to the youth at *TBE* through her energetic, loving and creative directorship of Camp Kayetz
 Cathy Levy Imboden & David Imboden in honor of Mimi Guiney
 Paul & Martha Jacobson in honor of our friend Mimi Guiney
 Paia Levine in honor of Mimi, for all her years at camp!
 Renee Lion & Greg Lendahl in honor of Mimi Guiney's retirement from camp
 Adam & Katrina Lippman in honor of Mimi Guiney
 Andy Martin & Aimee Raphael-Martin in honor of Mimi Guiney for her years of directing Camp Kayetz
 Carol & Stephen Shapiro in honor of Mimi Guiney (With hugs, for your long years of dedication to Camp Kayetz)
 Adrienne Muscat Swedlove in honor of Mimi Guiney's retirement as Director of Camp Kayetz
 Andrea & Andy Yanowitz in honor of Mimi Guiney's final year at Camp Kayetz and all the great work she has done helping us raise our kids

CARING COMMITTEE

Peg Shemaria in loving memory of Jennie Schindler's mother with love
 Karen Zelin & Bill Underwood in honor of Carolyn & Curt Coleman

CEMETERY OPERATIONS

Edward Garner & Lynn LeRose in loving memory of Tinkerbelle Hawkins - "She has gone home among the Fairy Folk"
 David & Joy Spodick in memory of Arnold and Estelle Levine

CHOIR FUND

Jane Cohen in honor of Judy Yokel's Presidency
 Shirley & Allen Ginzburg in honor of Melissa and Cary Sunberg's new granddaughter Talia
 Bernard & Eleanor Hilberman in honor of Emily Sinclair

GENERAL FUND

Murray & Sheila Baumgarten in memory of Leon W. Korr and Florence Korr Lurie, loving parents of Sheila
 Gerald Brown in loving memory of Doris Brown (mom of Elise Atkins)
 Steven Ritz & Elena Nini Cohen in honor of Edith Ritz
 Nita Lamendola in honor of the birth of Melissa & Cary Sunberg's granddaughter, Talia Rebecca
 Nita Lamendola in memory of my father Syd Fisher
 Bob and Carol Tessler wishing Mazel Tov to Pax Kantor and his family
 Karen Zelin & Bill Underwood in memory of Joel Zelin

JANET ROTHCHILD ROCK SHABBAT FUND

Carolyn & Curt Coleman in honor of Gail Michaelis-Ow's 70th birthday!

LIBRARY FUND

Murray & Sheila Baumgarten in memory of Nancy Jaffe-Myer, mother of Lee Jaffe and mother-in-law of Molly Ostrander Jaffe
 Marlene Pitkow & Mark Kalow in memory of Nancy Jaffe Myer, beloved mother of Lee and mother-in-law of Molly Jaffe
 Peg Shemaria in memory of Nancy Jaffe

LIFELONG LEARNING DONATION

Lee and Molly Jaffe in honor of Sheila & Murray Baumgarten on the birth of their great grandson

ONEG FUND

Joseph Cutter & Chris Matchett in loving memory of Jeffrey Baldwin Cutter
 Risa Lower in honor of my grandmother, Deborah Miller
 John & Merry Oppenheimer in loving memory of Donald Oppenheimer
 Carol Skolnick & Gregory Furtado in loving memory of my father, Harry Skolnick
 Susan & Gary Taplin in memory of our beloved sister-in-law, Gwynn Simon

RABBI LITVAK DISCRETIONARY FUND

Paul & Carol Berman in memory of Billie Harris
 Paul & Carol Berman in memory of Marvin Brenner

RABBI PAULA MARCUS DISCRETIONARY FUND

Bettina Aptheker & Kate Miller in memory of my mother, Fay P. Aptheker
 Ari & Kathleen Avraham in memory of Bhasa & with gratitude to Rabbi Paula
 Michelle Dennis in honor of Josh Karter, in appreciation of his wisdom and leadership
 David Gazek & Shani Ginsburg in honor of Josh Karter
 Amy & David Harrington in honor of Josh Karter
 Billie Harris Family in memory of Billie Harris
 Lee and Molly Jaffe in memory of Nancy Jaffe Myer
 Larry & Fran Kaplan in memory of Ann Kaplan
 Risa Lower in honor of Morton Casway
 Leta Miller in honor of Josh Karter
 Congregation Netivot Shalom thanking you Rabbi Paula Marcus for officiating at the funeral of Rivka Greenberg
 Benjamin & Victoria Ow in honor of Josh Karter

continued on page 9



Contributions - continued

May 7 — August 5, 2022

Ira & Kate Pohl in honor of the marriage of Laura Pohl and Daniel Lanier

Laura Pohl

Peg Shemaria in honor of and with gratitude to Rabbi Paula and Andrew Goldenkranz for supporting LGBTQI youth

David & Joy Spodick in honor of Estelle's unveiling

Olivia Stagnaro in honor of Josh Karter

Jennifer & Michael Suhd-Brondstatter in loving memory of Elijah Levi Suhd-Brondstatter

Joan Tanzer & Gerald Frank in honor of Josh Karter

Miriam & Shlomo Villozny in memory of Joyce Forney Kling

Judith & Ben Yokel in honor of Josh Karter, our wonderful outgoing Temple President

SECURITY DONATION

Toby & Michael Alexander
Jessica Guild & Julian Dahan
Joan Tanzer & Gerald Frank
Shirley & Allen Ginzburg in honor of 20-22 board members and new board members

Doug & Gwen Kaplan in memory of Pearl Rosenthal aka Buba
Sara Walsh in honor of Ruth and Herbert Werner

SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

Aviva Longinotti
Judi Sherman & Rachel Bickert in loving memory of our Uncle Ed Sherman

TEMPLE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

Lori & Jim Kearney in loving memory of Millie Bloom Koval

YOUTH TO ISRAEL FUND

Bernard & Eleanor Hilberman in memory of Marvin Brenner

MAZON

One of the highest religious acts of Judaism is to share your bread with the hungry!

How do we actually incorporate this Jewish value into our lives?

Temple Beth El's 100% MAZON Participation Campaign goal is for every TBE household to help fight the injustice of hunger by participating in our **MAZON Project** at least once each year. Please learn about MAZON and sign up via our website under, "Social Justice" or via this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094aa4ac23a02-please>. Comprehensive instructions are provided on the website for contributing food to our weekly Sunday dinners at our local homeless shelter any Sunday throughout the year. Let's all collectively put our Jewish values into action--it's a mitzvah!

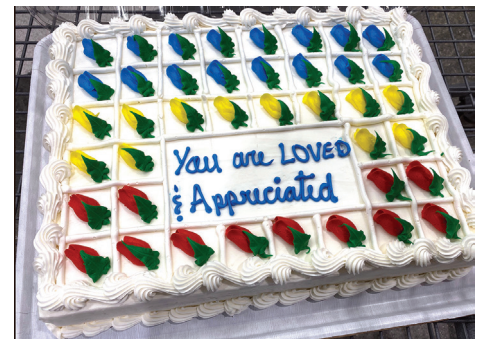
The Days of Awe are an important time for Jews to engage in self-reflection and perform the holy work of seeking forgiveness and teshuvah or repentance. As we deny ourselves food and water during the Day of Atonement to bring ourselves closer to God, we also bring food to feed the hungry. We hope that our acts of tzedakah will at once help us achieve teshuvah and provide for the millions of people around the world who suffer from hunger every day. (www.rac.org/holidayguides)

Thank you very much to all our magnificent MAZON volunteers that provided food to our local, Housing Matters Shelters recently:

MAY: Leah Sugarman (4X); Vicki, Michael & Jacob Stone (3X); Rachel Katz & Friends (5X), Gaby Litsky, Kathy Cytron, Rose Ashford, Vicki Belkin Kondo, Todd Bank, Martha Jacobson (2X), Deborah Jacobson, Jackie Tuttle, Jennie Schindler, Penny Chesluk (2X), Ysraelya Dolinger, Geri & Len Wolff, Wilma Gold, Leora Fromm (2X), Kate Avraham, Elena Cohen, Jen Vered (5X), Susan Karz, Mark & Cecily Ingel-Ruttenberg (2), Kathy Cytron and Melissa Sunberg.

JUNE: Leah Sugarman (3X), Martha Jacobson, Mary Fran Archer, Larry Kaplan, Catherine & Bob Cooper, Wilma Gold (2X), Penny Chesluk, Rachel Katz & Friends (5X), Jennifer Vered (2X), Gaby Litsky, Todd Bank, Kim Horowitz, Elinor Wapner, Jennifer Kanter, Karie Sutter (2X), Judi Sherman, Paul Drescher, Melissa Sunberg, Shmuel Thaler & Kathy Cytron; Dan Iuster and the spectacular TBE Brotherhood (10X).

JULY: Rose Ashford, Leah Sugarman (3X), Larry Levin, Chloe Marin (2X), Jackie Tuttle (2X), Susan & Stephen Karon, Elena Cohen, Paul Drescher, Rachael Katz & Friends (6X), Mary Fran Archer, Dennis & Cheryl Caspe (3X), Deborah Jacobson (2X), Todd Bank, Cindy Rubin, Gaby Litsky, Penny Chesluk, Melinda Iuster, Kathy Cytron, Renee Lion, Mark Ingel in Memory of Chris Goldstein (2X), Kate & Avi Avraham, Jennie Sheridan Schindler, Lisa Gilbert, Jennifer Vered (2X), Catherine & Bob Cooper (2X), Susan & Paul Karz, Melissa Sunberg, Rose Ashford, Wilma Gold (2X), Martha Jacobson (2X), and Kim Horowitz.





News from RAC-CA's Climate Tzedek Campaign

How has climate change impacted you or your family and friends and how does this influence what is at stake for you personally in the 2022 election or in your own future? RAC-CA's *Climate Tzedek Campaign* is encouraging people to share their stories and experiences of climate change at an upcoming *Climate Tzedek Training for Congregational Leaders* on **Wednesday, September 7**, from **4:00-5:30 pm** (on Zoom). At the training, you will learn to lead congregational conversations and other activities that will build relationships and shared commitment to act on the *Climate Tzedek Campaign*. All are welcome to join the **September 7** training. To register, go to rac.org/CA22Train2.

RAC-CA, the *California Religious Action Center*, is the California-based affiliate of the *Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism*, the social justice arm of the *Union of Reform Judaism* and *Center Conference of American Rabbis*. RAC-CA's *Climate Tzedek Campaign* aims to build a statewide movement in partnership with others to protect our democracy and our climate. In addition to the September 7 training, RAC-CA held a *Climate Tzedek* training on July 14 and a legislative action event on August 4 to learn about and lobby for three state legislative bills addressing climate change. (By the time this issue of the *Shofar* is published, we will know if they passed.) RAC-CA is also collaborating with the national *RAC's Every Voice, Every Vote Campaign*.

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On Becoming a Community of Belonging: Where We Are with the DEI Survey & Listening Meeting Data

from the *TBE Diversity, Equity and
Inclusion Data Analysis Team*

In the past year, *Temple Beth El* members have participated in a different kind of storytelling, sharing our experiences, insights, useful criticisms, and suggestions for how we can strengthen our Jewish community. The *DEI Data Analysis Committee* has read and re-read every one of the comments from the congregational *DEI* survey and a series of in-person and virtual Listening Meetings with great care and appreciation. They provide a vivid picture of how to move forward as a community in which every member feels at home, valued and engaged.

Thanks to all who shared your stories, wisdom and suggestions! And thank you to members of the *DEI Working Group* who facilitated and took notes at the *Listening Meetings* and to *TBE* members and *UCSC* sociologists, **Rebecca London** and **Miriam Greenberg**, for professional expertise and insight in helping us design our approach to the data analysis.

Analyzing qualitative data is much like listening to a complex story and trying to discern the meaning in the words people have written or spoken. It takes time to draw those meanings out, to understand them in relation to the "big picture" of who our community is at this moment, and who we want to be in the future.

The five members of the *DEI Data Analysis Committee* – **Sheila Baumgarten**, **Susan Freeman**, **Wilma Gold**, **Gloria Heistein** and **Jackie Tuttle** – have dedicated the past few months to deeply analyzing the survey and *Listening Meeting* data. We want to give you an update of where we are now and where we will soon be going. After months of sifting through the data and narrowing things down, here's a bit of what we've discovered:

- The data falls into four main categories of concern. Each category addresses a large number of issues and needs voiced by *TBE* members:

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- Welcoming, Belonging, and Participation (how we welcome, engage & support members and all people who interact with our community).
- Access to the *TBE* Community (including geographic distance, transportation, access for members with physical disabilities, other health and well-being concerns and Covid and virtual (Zoom) access to services, events, meetings).
- Diversity (including inclusion of people of all ages, interfaith families, people of color and multicultural Jews, LGBTQ+ members, young adults without children, young families, political diversity and diversity in Jewish religious practice).
- Program (including scheduling issues, program focus and content that reflects the full range of members, Temple school, chavurot, affinity and interest groups and internal and external outreach).

The timeline for completing the data analysis and drafting a report on our findings extends into September. We aim to have the report ready to send to the *TBE* Board and clergy by October, and we hope to present our work to the Board at its October meeting.

We thank everyone at *TBE* for your patience and understanding as this long process has unfolded. We are very close to the finish line, and we can't wait to share our findings with you all!

TBE Outdoor Spaces Survey

The motivation for thinking about the enhancement of outdoor spaces on our Temple grounds is at least threefold: a sense that many of our members find services more spiritual and gatherings more enjoyable when outdoors, memories of the joys of the Jewish camp experience, and, yes, better flexibility to respond to future times when outside may be healthier than inside.

This spring, several Board members and I facilitated five walks around our Temple grounds to explore possibilities to develop outdoor space(s) for worship, education, life cycle celebrations, recreation, and other uses. I certainly want to thank the several dozen members who strolled and imagined with us.

The discussions during and after the walks were certainly rich in design ideas, but we were careful to focus on the larger questions of use (to paraphrase *Field of Dreams*, "if we build it, will we come?"), values (such as equality of access), and issues/concerns (e.g., street noise, visual privacy from the outside world, shade, potential for income generation, etc.) Much of the survey formalizes these questions for your input.

The two areas of our grounds that sparked the most interest were the spaces outside the Social Hall (gracious flow from interior spaces and kitchen) and on the other side of the building (less noise, more seclusion and beauty).

We imagined how visual privacy from Soquel Drive might be created by a wall, permaculture berm, or with a narrow strip of housing or other construction. Other hikers saw our property along Apple Lane as another possible area for seniors/staff/other housing. Mark Ingel sparked one group's imagination via a tour of our Temple Garden (also along Apple Lane), and this is a nice opportunity to thank Mark and others for their years of labor of love.

Finally, it is important to note that concerns about security were prominent throughout the discussions. If we acknowledge that the most secure environment is indoors with care to lock access from outside, developing space for gatherings outside will require careful planning in this area. Fortunately, as first steps, the Temple has just completed a thorough security assessment by an outside firm and has applied for significant security grants, which are now pending. Sincere thanks to our members who stepped up to serve on our Security Committee.

These excursions were meant to tee off a longer inclusive process. Our membership survey is the next of more steps. Please take the survey which was emailed to you. My guess is that the survey will take about fifteen minutes or so to complete. Your time spent on this will be of true service to *TBE*.

Warm (short of hot) wishes for pleasant remaining days of summer,

Josh Karter
Immediate Past President



Time to Join/Rejoin the BROTHERHOOD!

We support youth activities in our community and serve up lots of social and educational activities for our members and their friends and families

Brotherhood's fiscal year is the same as the Temple's (7/1 - 6/30). Annual dues start at \$54.

You can pay online through the Temple's website or mail your check to the Temple made payable to "TBE Brotherhood". All men and women can join Brotherhood, whether or not members of TBE. We look forward to another grand year with our members and supporters!



The Women's Reentry Project

The Women's Reentry Project is an ongoing success. We received generous donations of gift cards, toiletries, clothes and money from members of *Peace United*, *Temple Beth El*, *Chadeish Yameinu* and *Prophets of Hope* supporters. With the amazing assistance of **Jane Heyse** and **Calia Kammer** we were able to provide 25 bags for the women. The bags included toiletries, sweatpants, bra, undies, socks, t-shirt and hoodie or jacket. Although we still have supplies, the jail has limited space for storage. We will provide more bags as needed. We will continue to fundraise and accept donations for this project.

Reverend Beverly recently met a woman who had received one of the bags. She was so grateful to have new clean clothes when she left jail.

Rabbi Paula Marcus



TO VIEW
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tbeaptos.org/calendar

Innovation at Temple School

Temple School fosters a love of Jewish learning in a joyful, engaging and supportive community.

Temple School is not some stuffy, boring religious school where children are expected to believe without questioning. We are always changing, offering more options to encourage curiosity for and love of Jewish learning and meaningful connection to Judaism. In addition to our **Yom Rishon Sunday program for K through 6th grade**, we offer **4th through 6th graders Shalom Learning online Hebrew tutorial, Judaism Outdoors on Tuesdays** and **KEF on Wednesdays. 7th through 10th graders** come on **Wednesday evenings**, and **8th through 12 graders are encouraged to serve as JEI (Jewish Educational Interns).**

I can't wait for you to meet our new *Director of Learning Innovation*, **Chelsea "Chel" Mandell** (they/them). In addition to handling communications for Temple School and running *Camp Kayetz* and *SRFY Youth Group*, Chel will be leading teen seminars, offering new curriculum and opportunities for creative expression, and co-leading our *Jewish Educational Interns* program for teens. Chel will be at the forefront of our efforts to take advantage of the fantastic outdoor spaces here in Santa



Cruz County, exploring the myriad of ways that a love of Judaism can be developed outdoors.

Temple School runs on the philosophy that kids form their Jewish identity through positive and interesting Jewish experiences and connection to other Jewish kids and role models. We encourage students to express their preferences and provide them with choices to enable kids to find their personal Jewish path. Our goal is that our students will fall in love with their Jewish heritage. If you know someone who would like to register, or haven't registered yet yourself, registration forms are available on the homepage of our website <http://www.tbeaptos.org>, and you can read all about our program under *LEARN*.

Our *Class in the Grass* and *Opening Day Picnic* on **September 11th at 10AM at DeLaveaga Park** is open to everyone, and potential students are welcome to attend any day of temple school to experience it themselves. I look forward to a great year with you and your children!

Blessings,

Rabbi Shifra Weiss-Penzias



Rabbi Shifra

Onward: Year One!

With my youngest child, **Eleanora** finalizing plans to start their freshman year at *UC San Diego*, and the arrival of High Holidays shortly thereafter, I am acutely reminded of the spiraling nature of time. After one year as your *Executive Director*, I am starting to revisit many of the milestones from my first year (e.g. voluntary contribution membership drive, High Holidays, etc.) but in doing so I look forward to new growth and new experiences with each passing month and beyond.

Before we move ahead I want to provide a very brief and very incomplete look back at my past first year. These are the projects that all of us helped to complete. My involvement was greater on some projects and less on others. To name everyone who contributed

would double the size of this article! Suffice to say there should never be any doubt that there has been an extraordinary amount of time and dedication by volunteers as well as an amazing staff to bring these projects to fruition. This list is far from comprehensive and barely mentions any of our programming successes, the work of our many committees, leadership by our *President, President-elect, Committee Chairs* and *Board of Directors*:

- ✓ Two new refrigerators installed
- ✓ Exceeded membership target
- ✓ High Holidays moved to *UCSC* and upper parking lot
- ✓ Temple school registration and participation increase to over 100 children, a nearly 25% increase over the prior year
- ✓ *Camp Kayetz* registration close to pre-pandemic levels

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Executive Director's report continued from page 13

- ✓ Mid-year revised budget adopted
- ✓ Sukkah repair
- ✓ Restricted funds overhaul
- ✓ Dangerous shed removed at Soquel cemetery
- ✓ Security committee creation
- ✓ Professional security assessment completed
- ✓ Multiple rounds of pandemic federal funds received (Employee Retention Credits/Payroll Protection Program)
- ✓ No decline in membership
- ✓ Significant fence repairs at Simcha
- ✓ Sidewalk grinding/replacement completed to mitigate trip hazards
- ✓ Completion of facility reserves study
- ✓ Federal security grant application completed for all 3 properties (synagogue and two cemeteries).
- ✓ Replaced paper forms and migrated to electronic forms for registering children for temple school, Simcha and Camp Kayetz
- ✓ Implemented new bank fraud detection methodology
- ✓ Migrated payment processor

- ✓ Replaced 30 year legacy PBX phone system with voice over IP
- ✓ Addressed numerous deferred maintenance projects (e.g., solar panels, social hall floor, sanctuary lights, etc.)
- ✓ Passed 22-23 budget which included a number of new, long sought-after goals: (e.g., transferring \$90,000 to building restricted fund, sabbaticals for Rabbis, dedicated cemetery landscaping funds
- ✓ Hiring of two top non-clergy positions
- ✓ Adopted and implemented COVID-19 policies in line with the Jewish value of Pikuach Nefesh, the preservation of human life
- ✓ Deepened relationship with Sheriff's office including providing facilities as training site for 15 officers increasing their knowledge of our layout

I am very excited for the year ahead. I look forward to another year of working with our fantastic clergy, amazing educators, extraordinarily dedicated staff and certainly with even more Temple members in the pursuit of your many passions and interests that make up the rich tapestry of our very special Jewish community by the beach, city, and mountains.

David Ginsborg
Executive Director

Outdoor Erev Shabbat Service



Blessing of the animals





San Lorenzo Valley neighborhood gathering



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