Temple Beth El Jewish Community Center, Aptos, California Vol. 49, No 5 January 2016 Tevet-Sh’vat 5776

Jewish Residential Camp Fair
Sunday, January 31
Presentation from 11:00–11:45 AM
Question and answer period from 11:45 AM–12:30 PM

Four different Jewish overnight camps will be presenting: URJ Camp Newman, Camp Tawonga, JCC Maccabi Sports Camp and Camp Ramah in northern California. Come find out about these wonderful options for Jewish residential camps and camperships. After the program camp representatives will answer questions.

The camp fair is open to the community and interested parents are encouraged to attend. 2nd–6th grade Temple School students will attend during temple school and will be dismissed at 11:45.

Tu B’Shevat Seder
Sunday, January 24
5:00–7:00 PM

In the Land of Israel, trees are starting to bud and the sap is rising. Tu B’Shevat is a time to remind us of the blessings of food and oxygen, beauty and protection we get from trees. Come to the TBE Tu B’Shevat Seder, in which we learn how our Jewish tradition inspires us as a people to be responsible for caring for the environment. We learn the coolest secrets of how the Mystical tradition of Judaism thought people were like different types of fruit. It is a time for us to really taste the fruits with new appreciation and count our many blessings together. All members and their families are invited to our TBE Tu B’Shevat Seder led by Rabbi Shifra and Peter Weiss-Penzias. Join us for delicious food, learning, music and fun.

Seder items, dessert and grape juice will be provided. For the potluck dinner, please bring something to share.

A-G: vegetarian appetizer and bottle of red wine
H-S: vegetarian main course and bottle of white wine
T-Z: vegetable or salad and bottle of red wine

RSVPs to Sarah Clarkson sclarkson@tbeaptos.org by January 17th are helpful for planning. We’re looking forward to the biggest and most joyous Tu B’Shevat celebration ever! Hope to see you there!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Shabbat Service
Friday, January 15
7:30 PM

Looking for Photographs
In preparation to honor Rabbi Rick, we are looking for photographs from his 40 years at Temple Beth El. If you have pictures of Rabbi Rick that you would be willing to share—from a bar or bat mitzvah, wedding, or other simcha—please send copies (we cannot return originals) to Adrienne Swedlove at the temple. They can be hard copies or digital files.

American Jewish World Service Presentation

The executive director of the American Jewish World Service (AJWS) in San Francisco, Alon Shalev, is coming to Temple Beth El. He will speak with the TBE congregation and Hebrew High, the Santa Cruz Jewish Community and the Out in Our Faith Community, on human rights and LGBTQI rights around the world. The AJWS services 19 countries.

Together with Rachel Simon, development director, the two will be at TBE on Wednesday evening January 20, from 7:30–9:00 PM.
THOUGHTS FROM RABBI PAULA

B’reshit 2:18: “It is not good that the human should be alone.”

I think it’s safe to say that all of us gathered in the sanctuary on November 22 for Justice Shabbat were moved to hear what one mother shared about her own story and her son’s story.

Dolores Canales is a mom. Due to a difficult childhood that led to her own addiction to illegal drugs, Dolores spent 20 years in prison. Her son, Johnny Martinez, a jailhouse lawyer, has been in the Security Housing Unit (SHU) solitary confinement for almost 15 years. When he and thousands of other people locked up in California prisons went on a hunger strike to end solitary confinement and abusive prison conditions, she said: “I’m just a mom who wanted her son to eat.” Dolores has emerged as a powerful public voice in the anti-solitary confinement movement in California and the United States. Dolores shared her son’s story and described her moment of revelation that happened after buying a dozen cage-free eggs. As she put it, do we care more about chickens than human beings?

At our November 17 meeting, the Temple Beth El board approved a proposal from the Social Action committee to become co-sponsors for Statewide Coordinated Actions To End Solitary Confinement (SCATESC) and the national collaboration Together to End Solitary (TES).

We have made this decision in concert with The Religious Action Center (RAC) of the URJ which supports efforts to end solitary confinement. Studies have shown that the ongoing use of this practice challenges the United States’ commitment to both domestic human rights and international practices.

We learn in the opening chapters of the Torah that all human beings—and this includes prisoners—are created b’tzelem Elohim, in the image of God, and therefore must be treated with respect and dignity.

SCATESC was initiated on March 23, 2015 in response to proposals by people in solitary in California. TES is the national effort to end solitary. Actions and demonstrations are held on the 23rd of every month for the 23 and more hours a day that people are locked up in solitary cells, for years and decades. As part of COPA, our congregation has been part of these efforts but the vote by our board makes this support more explicit.

On February 7, from 3:00–4:30 PM we will be showing the film, Breaking Down the Box, a 40-minute documentary for communities of faith, to expose the torture of solitary confinement in the context of mass incarceration in the United States. As described by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, the film “explores the mental health, racial justice and human rights implications of the systemic use of solitary confinement in U.S. prisons. It is a call to action for communities of faith to engage in the growing nationwide movement for restorative alternatives to isolated confinement that prioritize rehabilitation, therapeutic interventions, and recovery.”

Please join us as we learn how to engage in this important human rights issue.

—Rabbi Paula Marcus

FEBRUARY 2016 SHOFAR DEADLINES

Copy is due January 4. Advertising deadline is January 7. Email copy or advertising questions to mstein@tbeaptos.org or call 831-460-1389.

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Meditation Shabbat
January 8
7:30 PM

May the Memory of our Loved One be a Blessing
A Bereavement Group for Women

In response to requests from a few TBE members, Rabbi Paula will be offering a six-week bereavement group for women whose partners have died. We will share support, stories, and ways of coping with grief and memories of loved ones.

This is the first time we will be co-sponsoring a group with a facilitator from Hospice of Santa Cruz. We have had requests for other bereavement groups and will be offering other opportunities in the near future.

Please contact Rabbi Paula at pmarcus@tbeaptos.org or call her at 479-3444 ext 205 if you are interested. We will meet on January 28, February 4, 11, 18 & 25 and March 3, from 7:00–9:00 PM. Please let Rabbi Paula know if you need help with transportation.

Our Women’s Rosh Chodesh Group will gather on Sunday, January 10, at 7:00 PM, for Rosh Chodesh Shevat. This is the month during which we celebrate Tu B’Shevat—The New Year of the Trees—a holiday that connects us to our agricultural roots. What will Jewish women be doing during Shevat? Join us and find out! Feel free to bring part of a tree to share. All women are welcome.

Rock Shabbat
January 22
7:30 PM

On November 5, 2015 at the URJ Biennial the delegate assembly passed the most far-reaching resolution in support of transgender rights saying that this reflects a continuation of a tradition of inclusion in the Jewish movement. This resolution calls for congregations and camps to have gender-neutral bathrooms and encourages gender-neutral language at Reform Jewish institutions. It also suggests training on gender issues for religious school staff and encourages advocating on behalf of the transgender community. Reform Judaism joins other religious bodies such as the Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association who approved resolutions affirming equality for transgender and non-gender-conforming people. When the resolution was unanimously passed I cheered, along with others sitting in the room. I am proud to be a member of a religious group that recognizes equality for some is not good enough and that equality for all is imperative in our congregations.

What are the implications for TBE? URJ provides a brochure and resources with information for congregations to use in reviewing their practices. Our board, rabbis, executive director and staff will continue to work on providing a safe and supportive space for all members. I see our embracing of transgender rights as one more step that is essential in offering a safe and welcoming space to our congregants and any guests walking through our doors.

In last month’s Shofar Adrienne Swedlove’s column spoke about the URJ’s focus on audacious hospitality. At the Biennial this phrase was publicly displayed and referred to over and over again. In sessions I attended, we were introduced to steps on how we become or improve on how we provide “audacious hospitality” in our congregations. A congregant of Temple Beth El, Texas, referred to audacious hospitality as more than being a lovely host. It is being an organization that “thinks outside the box” to allow people to participate and feel they are making a difference. I believe with the assistance of URJ resources and all of us working together we will become even more inclusive and welcoming in not only the year ahead, but in the many years to come. I look forward to all of us joining together to become that place that is audaciously hospitable to everyone.

—Gail Levine

Transitions Update

Plans for the expansion of the Temple building with a new Litvak Wing have now been submitted to Santa Cruz County. While awaiting approval of the building permit, the expansion committee will consider whether to hire a general contractor for the project.

Regarding the transition of our clergy, Rabbi Paula Marcus, President Gail Levine, President-Elect Scott Roseman and Executive Director Adrienne Swedlove have been meeting to develop the clergy and organizational structure to take effect on July 1st. The group is examining the many aspects of this transition, including personnel responsibilities and available funding. Once a proposed structure is developed it will be brought before the board.

Program Council

In following up on the successful Program Council leadership retreat held in the fall, the council will be meeting with several members of the Temple Board of Directors to chart a course for the council’s future work. By bringing together five members of the board and four of the leaders of the Program Council in an ad hoc committee, it is hoped the two groups will align their goals for the development of future programs and engagement among our congregation. This committee will meet in late January to focus on how the board communicates and collaborates with the council—and all Temple committees—as well as the development of a method to distribute leadership broadly across the Temple community.

Board Report

At its November meeting, the Temple Board of Directors took a stand against solitary confinement of prisoners. The board unanimously approved a recommendation from our Social Action Committee to co-sponsor Statewide Coordinated Actions To End Solitary Confinement and the nationwide collaboration Together To End Solitary, which takes action on the 23rd of every month, for the 23+ hours people spend in their solitary cell every day. The Religious Action Center of the Reform Judaism reported that: “…studies have shown that solitary confinement is associated with a variety of physical and mental illnesses, increases recidivism, and fails to reduce prison violence... Jewish tradition holds that all human beings, including prisoners, are created b’tzelem Elohim, in the image of God, and therefore must be treated with respect and dignity. As Jews, we must demand an end to the practice of solitary confinement, which degrades human dignity.” Thank you to Temple members Willow Katz and Merle Lustig, who will represent the Temple in our sponsorship of these efforts.

The board also approved an expenditure of $15,000 from the Temple Cemetery Fund for restoration and maintenance of the Beit Olam Cemetery in Soquel. The Temple has temporarily suspended the sale of plots at the cemetery due to erosion and degradation of the property. The authorized repairs will make it possible to again sell plots, which will bring a profit to the Temple.
Youth

TEMPEL SCHOOL NEWS

We are now in the early stages of planning this year’s Tu B’Shevat field trip to Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park on January 24, from 9:45 to 11:45 AM. We encourage family members to attend.

Our “all school” holiday celebrations and field trips are labor intensive, but they help keep things dynamic, fun and exciting. We will be celebrating the “Jewish New Year for the Trees” by exploring the spiritual, symbolic, and ecological importance of trees. We will all meet at the State Parks Gift Shop at 9:45. Please allow extra time to be sure you arrive on time.

9:45. Please allow extra time to be sure you arrive on time.

We will be celebrating the “hotel” tree. It costs ten dollars per car to enter the park, which is a worthy cause, but you can avoid paying the fee by parking on Route 9 and biking or hiking the mile-long road to the gift shop. I encourage everyone to carpool, especially to this celebration of our rich and wonderful ecology.

If it is pouring rain, we will be moving the event to the Temple. If this happens, we will confirm by sending you an e-mail at 8:30 AM that day. In case of questionable weather please check your e-mail to find out where we will be.

We had such a terrific time celebrating Chanukah! The Jewish Drama Group and the Rock Shabbat Jr. Band were amazing and our celebrations and latke feasting were fabulous.

I am so appreciative when people give me feedback about school and seen, this academic year has been terrific so far. We greatly appreciate all of your support and any donations you might be willing to make to assist Temple School.

—Blessings, Rabbi Shifra

做出从家庭到学校

我们将在1月29日，星期六，下午3:30，在新叶西区，1101 Fair Ave. 在圣克鲁斯。你想做一个简单又美味的法拉拉食谱吗？来厨房和孩子们一起做面团并制作美味的法拉拉吧！

拿起你的设备和工具。带上你的朋友。每个人都可以参加！通过Wilmagold@gmail.com或831-728-8778联络威尔玛。

TEMMPEL SCHOOL CALENDAR

December 23–January 9
Winter Break, no Temple School
Sunday, January 10
Jewish Parenting Class; TS K-6
Wednesday, January 13
Temple School 4-6, KEF; 7th grade & HH winter term begins
Sunday, January 17
No Temple School
Wednesday, January 20
TS 4-6, KEF; 7th grade & HH
Sunday, January 24
Tu B’Shevat Celebration
Wednesday, January 27
TS 4-6, KEF; 7th grade & HH
Sunday, January 31
3rd grade Parent Participation; Jewish Parenting Class; TS K-6

SRFY

SRFY had an amazing time at our fall kick-off event this month at the Monterey Bay Aquarium! We had an exclusive, behind the scenes tour, got to feed the stingrays and explore the aquarium without the crowds, and woke up surrounded by the fishes.

Coming up on January 8-10 we have our famous, annual snow trip, where we will ski, snowboard and/or sled for a weekend at Homewood. The cost is $400. Email Kate at SRFY@tbeaptos.org for more information or to sign-up. The price includes transportation, lodging, food, and either two days of lift tickets, or one day of lift tickets and one day of sledding.

Lastly, don’t forget that registration for NFTY’s West Coast Party is open. Keep your eyes open for an email with registration details.

Simcha Celebrated Chanukah

Chanukah was a festive time at Simcha. The children created their own menorahs to bring home. This year the teachers came up with new creative ideas including decorated driftwood menorahs (very Santa Cruz) for the Pre-K class, baked salt dough for the preschoolers and the well-known nuts and bolts menorahs in the two-year-old class. Delicious homemade latkes were also cooked and enjoyed. Chanukah was made complete with Rabbi Rick in his unforgettable menorah kippah, singing holiday songs with the children.

Make Challah

with the Young Families Project

We will gather on January 29, 3:30 PM, at New Leaf Westside, 1101 Fair Ave. in Santa Cruz. Want an easy & delicious challah recipe for Shabbat that you can make with your children? Join us in the kitchen at New Leaf to mix, knead and bake a beautiful challah together to take home for your Shabbat table. All equipment and supplies will be provided. Bring a friend. Everyone is welcome! RSVP to Wilma at wilmagold@gmail.com or 831-728-8778.
The comfort of knowing that the Temple Beth El Caring Committee is here for you when you need a helping hand is an invaluable benefit of being a member of our congregation. I wish to thank all the members who volunteer for this important mitzvah. Volunteers are available to assist members during challenging times. If you need a nourishing meal, assistance during an illness, or in the event of a death in the family, contact the Caring Committee. It’s as easy as calling one of the TBE clergy or Kate Connor at 689-9459.

THANK YOU to recent volunteers Amy Harrington, Catherine Cooper, Diane Levin, Beth Ahlgren, and Ruth Smith. If you would like to become a volunteer just give me a call.

—Kate Connor

December Mazon Contributors
THANK YOU to volunteers Margaret Brose, Lisa Segnit, Leora Fromm, Rachel Katz, Dennis & Cheryl Caspe, Shelly Nadelman-Douglass, Penny Chesluk , Zena Krakowsky, Judi Novik and Gaby Litsky.

Our temple depends on the generosity of members, especially those who remember TBE in their will or trust. Our Legacy Society is flourishing and already includes dozens of generous congregants. If you’ve included the temple in your estate plan, todah rabah! Please make sure to notify Executive Director Adrienne Swedlove at aswedlove@tbeaptos.org so that we can thank you properly for your far-sighted generosity. If you’re considering doing so and have concerns or questions, please feel free to contact any member of the Planned Giving Committee for a confidential, no-obligation consultation.

—TBE Planned Giving Committee: Sheila Baumgarten, Bruce Cohen, Margaret Gordon, Amy Harrington
Programs are on the 2nd & 4th Monday of each month. 2:00‒3:30 PM in the TBE Library. (Come at 1:30 to nosh & schmooze.) Open to the public. Free.

Calendar Highlights

**Senior Connections**

**January 11**  
Film screening of *The Green Prince*  
The son of a founding leader in the Palestinian organization, Hamas, becomes a spy for the Israelis. This riveting documentary was shown by the Santa Cruz Jewish Film Festival last year at the Del Mar. If you missed it then, it is well worth your while to see it this time. (2014) 101 minutes

**January 25**  
Martha Mendoza  
Santa Cruz based Associated Press journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner Martha Mendoza will present “From Shoe Leather to High Tech: How Journalism Freed More Than 2000 Slaves in 2015.” We will hear how slaves in Southeast Asia catch and process seafood that ends up in the U.S. and how we’re using the most cutting-edge technology to catch them.

**OIOF Joins Diversity Center for Presentation**

Out in Our Faith (OIOF) will join with the Diversity Center’s LGBTQ+ Senior 60+ luncheon to be held on Saturday January 9, 12:30 PM, at Inner Light Ministry. Lunch will be followed by a clergy panel to include Rev. Russ Menk of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County, Rev. Tino Cordova of Watsonville First Christ Disciples Church, Rev. Dajaku Kinst of Ocean Gate Zen Center and Rabbi Richard Litvak of Temple Beth El. The program will begin at 1:45. All are welcome.

In an effort to keep the cost as low as possible we ask you to pay $7—but only if you’re able. Please RSVP. We want to have enough for everyone, so let us know you’re coming. Call the voice mail at (831) 425-5422 ext. or send an email to 60Plus@diversitycenter.org.
Brotherhood Brunch
10:00 AM on January 10

Speaker Andrew Goldenkranz, public educator and administrator, will talk about what causes vaccine denial and science denial. Remember that time when you caught polio? Probably not, because your parents got you vaccinated. A 2015 measles outbreak at Disneyland led to passage of new laws tightening vaccination requirements in California. What began as an ordinary public health effort became one of the most dramatic and contentious fights in the last decade complete with death threats, claims of Fascism, and recall attempts. How did this get so crazy and why is there still such resistance to vaccines? Please join the next Brotherhood brunch featuring Andrew Goldenkranz—TBE member and veteran public science educator—who specializes in understanding why certain scientific issues have become so volatile in the public arena. Andrew has worked at Princeton University, the CDC, and the American Museum of Natural History, as well as throughout California, training teachers in understanding the reasons for science denial, including vaccines, evolution and climate science.

Beginning at 10:00 AM we will nosh on a delicious all-you-can-eat bagel brunch, take care of a little Brotherhood business, followed by Andrew’s talk at 11:00, concluding around noon. Recommended donation is $3 for Brotherhood members, $5 for non-Brotherhood members.

Mah Jongg with Sisterhood
On Sunday, January 31, from 3:00–6:00 PM, join us for an afternoon of Mah Jongg. Please contact Susan McKay at susanrbm@outlook.com if you would like more information.

Save the Date

Rock Shabbat Service
Friday, February 5, 7:30 PM

Tot Rock Shabbat Vegetarian Family Potluck Dinner
Friday, February 19, 5:45 PM

Tot Rock Shabbat Service
Friday, February 19, 6:45 PM

Brotherhood Brunch
Sunday, February 21, 9:45 AM

Change Your Record
Change Your Life

Thanks to a new law approved in November 2014, called Proposition 47, you may be able to get non-violent felonies like drug possession or shoplifting removed from your record. This could mean:

- A better job
- A new place to live
- Opportunities for college loans, food assistance and more!

This opportunity to change your record will end soon. To find out if you qualify go to http://myprop47.org/ OR plan to attend the My Prop 47 Clinic on Thursday, January 28, 2016 at Temple Beth El. The event will run from 2:00–7:00 PM.

Here you will meet face-to-face with members of the public defender’s office as well as service agency providers who can help to guide you through the paper work and answer any questions.

Please plan to attend and tell your neighbors and friends about this unique opportunity.

For more information, contact Kathy Ruiz Goldenkranz, COPA leader at Temple Beth El, at (831) 588-4608.

New Member Dinner

On November 13, members new to TBE joined with the Membership Committee and many from the Board of Directors for a festive welcome. The room was filled with beautiful autumn flowers, candle light after the Shabbat blessing, the lovely sounds of young children and lively conversations. The buffet table was a veritable feast of beautifully cooked chickens and inventive salads, grains and pastas. Wine and grape juice complemented the meal. After the welcoming from Rabbis Rick and Paula, the attendees enjoyed a Rock Shabbat with new music, lively songs (one from our students), and a parade of gorgeous photos. This was followed by an Oneg in the social hall where new relationships were further forged.

The evening was just the beginning of helping new members feel welcome. The Membership Committee will be putting a colored sticker on name tags so you will be able to identify them and give a special hello.

Library Donations

We appreciate all the forms of support—verbal, fiscal and material—that have been coming our way since we have undertaken revamping the Temple library. Our efforts go faster and further with the help of the community. With a small enterprise such as ours, our ability to grow depends a lot on your generosity.

Donations of books can help build our collection, but only when managed carefully. Unsolicited donations of books left in the library can be more of a problem than a help, often including books we cannot use and taking up much-needed space. We ask, therefore, that you contact us in advance in order to arrange an orderly donation.

We do, of course, welcome donations toward the Temple’s Library Fund … anytime, in any amount, without prior arrangement. Please see our support page at https://sites.google.com/site/tbeaptoslib/home/support for more information on ways to contribute to building a better Temple library.
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Cultural Awareness Performances — March 24-25
38th annual Romayana! — June 10-12

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Happy is the man ... his delights is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. *(Psalms 1:1-3)*

### January 2016

**Temple Beth El Jewish Community Center** • **Tevet–Sh’vat 5776**

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- **3**: No Temple School
- **4**: Shofar Deadline
- **5**: Meditation 7:00pm
- **6**: Healing Circle 12:30pm
- **7**: Torah Study, Rabbi Paula 12:00pm
- **8**: Meditation Shabbat Service 7:30pm
- **9**: Shabbat Morning Service (Vaera) 10:00am
- **10**: Brotherhood Brunch 9:45am
- **11**: Sisterhood Board Meeting 12:00pm
- **12**: Meditation 7:00pm
- **13**: Simcha Preschool Fundraiser at Pizza My Heart 4:00–8:00pm
- **14**: Torah Study, Rabbi Paula 12:00pm
- **15**: Martin Luther King, Jr. Shabbat Service with the Choir 7:30pm
- **16**: Shabbat Morning Service (Bo) 10:00am
- **17**: No Temple School
- **18**: MLK Birthday Holiday
- **19**: General Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- **20**: Healing Circle 12:30pm
- **21**: Torah Study, Rabbi Paula 12:00pm
- **22**: Rock Shabbat Service 7:30pm
- **23**: Shabbat Morning Service (Beshalach) 10:00am
- **24**: Temple School Tu B'Shevat Celebration 9:45am
- **25**: Senior Connections 1:30pm
- **26**: Meditation 7:00pm
- **27**: Temple School 4:00pm
- **28**: Challah Making for Young Families 2:00pm
- **29**: Temple School 4:00pm
- **30**: Shabbat Morning Service (Yitro) 10:00am
- **31**: Temple School 9:45am

**Sponsor an issue of the Shofar**

Contact Marcia Stein at 831-460-1389 or mstein@tbeaptos.org

All events are subject to change. Please check the Temple website, www.tbeaptos.org or call the office at 831-479-3444 to verify information.