Fear, Courage and Hope this Purim

It’s pouring outside as I write on this Tu Bshevat birthday of the trees. I see the green leaves, nourished by the rain. And I’m wondering if we will lose our electrical power. I’m thinking of friends in the mountains who have been evacuated, many of whom may still be working through PTSD from the fires. How can this beauty and heartbreak exist simultaneously?

How can we see new loved ones die from Covid-19, new strains and the hope of increased vaccinations all at the same time?

And while we sat watching the violent insurrection at the Capitol on January 6, we also witnessed the deepening of new coalitions and grass roots organizing to get out the vote this election season. How can all of this be happening at the same time?

One response I have heard is that it’s all crashing, the world is falling apart. But the stronger reaction I am noticing more and more, is that we are in the midst of a great opportunity for change. We are being called to reach out to each other, as so many of you did during the fires, and extend our hand to help.

continued on page 2
We are in a moment when we can really make deep changes in our response to climate change. Many of our members, including Bob and Michelle Kibrick, Rabbi Shifra and Sarah Tziporah, participated in the online Big Bold Jewish Climate Fest from January 27-31. I’m sure you will be hearing more about what they and others learned in the coming weeks.

As Purim approaches, I am thinking a lot about the paradox of what we are witnessing and how we can learn to respond. How we can hold all of it, the fear, anxiety, possibility, hope and courage? Esther is a wonderful example of this capacity. Before she steps forward to confront Haman and King Ahashveros, she is scared. When Mordechai asks her to take on this holy task, she expresses this fear. Mordechai asks her to really consider the moment and search within herself. He asks her to imagine that she was put in this place in the palace, for this particular reason. She can be the agent to save her people. So she asks the Jewish community to fast for her. She realizes that the Jewish people are on the cusp of utter destruction. Knowing she has their support she realizes that she can do what she is being called upon to accomplish. Her courage to confront Haman, a narcissistic and hateful person, who has gained the ear of her husband, the King, has the potential to reserve the fate of our people. She can’t look away; she has to step in and disrupt the evil decree.

This Purim, may we find the courage to confront the reality of climate change, systemic racism, our grief for all who have died from Covid and so much more. And may we join together in stepping forward as we build a brighter future.

In the Temple Family

Welcome to New Members

Please check your online directory for their information

Paul Kirk
Joshua Cohen
Donald Bear

May their memories be for a blessing

Robert Sawyer "Grandpa Bob", beloved grandfather of Andrew Ring, grandfather in-law of Mavis, great grandfather of Isaiah, Hadassah, Daeny and Rafaylie.

Melvin Alkon Engelman, beloved grandfather of Morgan O'Reilly, grandfather in law of Melody and great grandfather of Marli.

David Orzech, beloved father of Josh Orzech, father-in-law of Shoshanah, and grandfather of Arielle and Talia.

Dr. David Allenberg Katzenstein, beloved brother of Amy Katzenstein-Harrington, brother-in-law of David Harrington and uncle of Alysa and Erin-Kate Escobar.

Purim was the last holiday we celebrated together in our sanctuary before the Covid 19 pandemic. I’m looking forward to our online celebrations this Purim, and the outdoor family Purim celebration. And I pray that next Purim, we will all be together again in our sanctuary, with our graggers and hamantaschen, crazy costumes and lots of laughter.

Rabbi Paula

Click here to see photos.
Note from the Temple President

The greatest joy of my tour of service as Temple President is the privilege of spending time in the company of our Rabbis. Yes, for their wisdom, of course, but also to delight in their warm idiosyncrasies.

One of my favorites of the latter, is Rabbi Shifra’s wont to express her optimistic predictions with this summary: “... if not, I’ll eat my hat.” More than once, I wondered if we have a baker in our midst who could produce a confection in that shape, just in case. To date, no hat-cakes have needed crafting. Remarkable.

Thus, without the requisite rabbinc insight, I will go out on my own eat-my-hat limb. I know that many of you have good questions about our Temple’s financial health, now a year into our challenged economy. My prediction: when our Treasurer, Cary Sunberg, and our Executive Director, Tanya Lorien, report numbers to you during our annual meeting this spring, they will be able to summarize that the Temple is in as good financial shape as we were before the pandemic – plus “new” bathrooms. Or I’ll eat my hat.

How was this accomplished? First and foremost, the credit goes to the generosity of you, our membership. Those who could, stepped up membership contributions to support those who needed to cut back. You supported the “Flush Fund,” while also responding to calls for fire relief donations and other charitable needs.

I want to salute our Finance Committee. While a few of us drop into their meetings because of our roles at TBE, you may not know that the core of this group consists of a few members who have served on Finance for years and years. In addition to our Treasurers and Rabbi Shifra, I hope you will join me in recognizing Laura Giges, Stephen Karon, and Scott Roseman, along with recent committee retiree, Steve Shapiro. I credit this group and Tanya Lorien with arranging our PPP (payroll protection) loan that enabled us to keep our staff employed and for their present attention to getting most, if not all, of this loan forgiven.

Our other unsung heroes serve on our Fund Development (Fundraising) Committee, so capably chaired until recently by Margaret Gordon, who continues to serve, and now by Amy Harrington. Did you know that Bonnie Holmer-Orange inspired our temple school students to participate in a Move-A-Thon that raised over $6,000 for our educational efforts? Rabbi Paula and Past-Presidents Gail Levine and Scott Roseman are long-serving members, as well.

So …………… THANK YOU, ONE AND ALL!!!!!!

With a hat firmly on my head and wishing you warmth and health during these winter months,

Josh Karter
Temple President
josh@tbeaptos.org
Dear TBE Community

I feel happy to share that our Simcha children are thriving at Simcha Preschool as they build friendships and play and learn together in their classroom communities.

Each class enjoyed celebrating Hanukkah in December by making personalized decorative menorahs for their homes. Each class has been focusing on Tu B’Shevat by reading books and learning about the miracle of trees and the amazing bounty they produce.

I feel thrilled to report that Simcha is full. We are joyfully looking towards reopening the Toddler class for 2 year-olds in September 2021 and already have an overflowing waitlist of interested families.

We feel thankful that the Simcha community has stayed as healthy as possible. We are also thankful to Rabbi Shifra, Cantor Alisa, and Rabbinic Intern Sarah-Tzipporah for our wonderful weekly outdoor and distanced Shabbat gatherings, attended by each class individually.

Wishing you all joy and health in 2021!

Lisa Mendez
Director, Simcha Preschool
Social Justice Committee

At our November meeting the Social Action Committee became the Social Justice Committee. In the discussion of this name change one person stressed that social action is what we do and social justice our goal. We aspire to anchor our actions in our Jewish values and social justice is firmly grounded in Jewish values, in tikkun olam.

Why do we do this work? Here are some responses: a) Because tikkun olam is an action we’re called to do; b) Because helping the stranger and helping the poor are the most common terms in the Torah; c) Because other people were there when my family needed help, I need to be there for others; and d) Because it’s important for TBE to have as many friends in the community as we can, for those times when we need their support.

All these are great reasons, but one of the best ones is: because it feels good to do so. People involved in our fall activities kept remarking: “in a world that feels overwhelming, this made me feel like I was making a difference.”

EVERY VOICE, EVERY VOTE

TBE volunteers worked hard on the 2020 elections! We never endorse candidates and work in a completely nonpartisan way. TBE members wrote over 60,000 postcards to voters in swing states reminding them of local voting rules and deadlines for the November election and the January runoff elections.

TBE participated in the URJ Every Voice, Every Vote: The Reform Movement’s Civic Engagement Campaign with the following actions and outcomes:

- TBE sponsored a forum on the 2020 CA ballot propositions that attracted 65 people. There was information on each proposition, presentations by TBE leaders on individual issues, and plenty of good questions.
- Our local efforts to be a 100% Voting Congregation paid off in new registrations, TBE members volunteering as poll workers, lots of messages, and ultimately a country turnout of over 86%. TBE turnout was over 95% for the 2nd straight election.
- Our members participated in national calls that ended up in a formulation of the RAC’s 2021 legislative package which can be found here. The Reform Jewish Movement Legislative and Policy Priorities for the 117th Congress cover many of the main issues we’ve been working on locally, from voting rights protection to health care expansion to affordable housing to racial justice to gun violence prevention to climate action. This will be our touchstone as we move forward nationally and in California in 2021.

TBE DIAPER DRIVE SUCCESS

All of us are aware that local food banks and distribution activity is way up as a result of COVID-19 economic and social pressure. Our community partners told us that baby supplies including diapers and wipes were a critical unmet need.

- We ran a diaper collection drive the weekend of December 19 and 20 and thanks to your generosity, collected 20,000 diapers and 20,000 wipes for local families. Thank you, thank you, thank you!
- The food banks and the farm worker camps received the supplies and helped with the distribution.

COPA

We continue to work within COPA (Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action) to advocate for our neighbors who are trying to build their voices and power in the community. This year we were successful in getting over 100 units of affordable housing approved, extended rental eviction protection, and extended the Earned Income Tax Credit as part of the statewide COVID-19 assistance. We are also working on the terms
of a local agreement with Kaiser Permanente regarding access to care and local job priorities for their future medical center in the Live Oak area.

We secured a $5,000 grant to strengthen our work with COPA on training new leaders through the food and supply banks in town with a focus on working with our immigrant neighbors.

For 2021, we are focusing efforts on realizing close to 600 affordable housing units in Santa Cruz, Live Oak, Capitola, and Watsonville.

**DEI (DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION) TASKFORCE**

The twelve people at the first meeting of the DEI task force represented different aspects of the congregation. The DEI is linked to the URJ’s Audacious Hospitality Initiative. We are working to expand our understanding of who is in our congregation and how we can welcome more members with diverse backgrounds and identities. We will be sharing this work more widely with our entire congregation. Please look for details over the next few months.

**GUIDED BY OUR JEWISH VALUES**

As we move forward, the Social Justice Committee will continue to focus like a laser in acting on our Jewish values. We will continue to work on climate change as a survival issue; on gun violence prevention as a means to keep people safe, not as a means of taking guns away from people; on fair and affordable housing, access to health care, and job creation as fairness and equity initiatives.

**NEXT STEPS**

The Social Justice Committee has a continuing focus on climate change and gun violence prevention. Susan Freeman and Wilma Gold are leading the DEI group; Rose Ashford and Andrew Goldenkranz are involved with COPA group; Bob and Michele Kibrick work on climate change; Wendy Strimling and Andrea Yanowitz focus on Gun Violence Prevention; Willow Katz works on the effort to end Solitary Confinement; and Andrew Goldenkranz serves on the National Commission on Social Action of the RAC.
Contributions | December 31, 2020 — January 20, 2021

BATHROOM RENOVATION PROJECT
Judith Appleby and James Tracey
Bettina Apteher and Kate Miller
Karina Babbitt and Jeffrey Schnapper
Murray and Sheila Baumgarten
Ruth Carsch
Daniel and Sandy Chamberlain
Elena Nini Cohen and Steve Ritz
Steven and Ginger Cohen
Carolyn and Curt Coleman
Michelle Dennis
Ysraelya and Miles Dolinger
Marigold Fine and Jim Stanford
Korrine and Terry Fitz
Anahi Flores Morales and Jesse Mababot
Don Gartner and Donelle Ehritt
David Gazek and Shani Ginsburg
Laurie Getz
Allen and Shirley Ginzburg in memory of uncle Lou Sapiro
Maria Gitin
John Glass and Cassandra Sprenger
Alison Gold
Daniel Gold and Patrick LeCuyer
Andrew Goldenkranz
Lauren Goldstein
Teri Goldwasser and Steven Hildebrandt
Margaret Gordon
Diane and Howard Grunes
Gloria Heistein
Bernard and Eleanor Hilberman
Ronald and Linda Israel
Melinda and Dan Iuster
Jane and John Jordan
Doug and Gwen Kaplan in memory of Leonard Rosenthal
Paul and Susan Karz
Jennifer and Raymond Kaupp
Lori and Jim Kearney
Robert and Michele Kibrick
Karen Kohut
Patti Krieger
Nita Lamendola
John Leopold and Teresa Buika Leopold
Patricia Lerman
Judith Levin
Paia Levine
Tanya Lorien in memory of Dr. David Allenberg Katzenstein
Risa Lower
Paula Marcus and Aryeh Nanas
Aaron and Stephanie Morse
John and Merry Oppenheimer
Daniel Orange and Bonnie Holmer-Orange
Ellen Ortiz
Benjamin and Victoria Ow
Marlene Pitkow and Mark Kalow
Melody Randle and Susan Kerr
Marilyn Rigler
Sara Rigler in loving memory of my grandmother, Bertha Press, Michael Ganley and Roberta Barnett
Ivan Rosenblum and Mary Fran Archer
Shana Rosenfeld Phelan and Peter Phelan
Diana Rothman
Rebecca and Scott Rubin
Joel and Holly Rudnick
Deborah Ruiz and George Lerek
Ed and Norma Sacks
Ziesel Saunders and Penny Ayers
Mark and Laura Segelman
Peg Shemaria
Judi Sherman and Rachel Bickert
Melissa Skalsky in loving memory of Ed Skalsky
Carol Skolnick and Gregory Furtado
Lee Slaff
Shelley and David Sonnenberg
Joan Tanzer and Gerald Frank
Shmuel Thaler and Kathy Cytron
Marion Towar
Michael and Jacqueline Tuttle
Ania Van Alstine
Miriam and Shlomo Vilozy
Heidi Wining and Dave Liotta in loving memory of Ziva Mitnick
Jonathan and Jill Winston
Renee Winter and Paul Roth
Judith and Ben Yokel

BUILDING FUND
Sara R. Benevento in memory of Nehemiah Piller, Sara’s father, Dave’s father-in-law
Amy and David Harrington
Susan Levin wishing Mazel Tov to Alan Levin my cherished father and TBE pillar with my love, joy, and gratitude on your 90th birthday
Shelley and David Sonnenberg in honor of Dr. David Katzenstein brother of Mary Harrington
Priva and Michael Tarbet in loving memory of my father Jack Gelb

Renee Winter and Paul Roth in loving memory of Dr. David Allenberg Katzenstein, brother of Amy Harrington

CANTORIAL FUND
Eric Brown in honor of my dear friend
Alisa Fineman

CARING COMMITTEE
Lisa Meredith in honor of my mother, Betty Jean. May her memory be for a blessing

CEMETARY FUND
Barbara Beerstein and George Badger in loving memory of Ben Zion Beerstein, father of Barbara Beerstein, Fred Beerstein and Norma Schafer, grandfather of Rebecca Beerstein and Jacob Singleton, father in law of Denise Kamradt.
James Engelman and Claire Witherspoon in loving memory of Joseph Engelman
Diana Rothman in honor of my beloved father, Herbert Werner

CHOIR FUND
Rosemary Zumwalt thanking Rafael Ocasio and Martha Rees for translating the flyer

FILM FESTIVAL
Helen and David Resneck-Sannes in honor of Marilyn Rigler’s Birthday from the Mah Jong Group.

FIRE RELIEF FUND
John and Merry Oppenheimer

GENERAL FUND
Lawrence Abitbol and Shannon Durham
Sherry Ascher in memory of Ralph Ascher
Murray and Sheila Baumgarten in memory of my step-father, William L. Lurie
Judie Block in loving memory of Edwin Joseph Block
Michael Cahn

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Contributions | December 31, 2020 — January 20, 2021 continued from page 7

Dennis and Cheryl Caspe in memory of Kate Levy our dear friend
Dennis and Cheryl Caspe in memory of Jeanette Carl, Cheryl’s mother
Matthew A Clausen
Matthew Dobbs
Myra Finkelstein and Brad Keitt
Laurel Fox and Donald Potts
Don Gartner and Donelle Ehritt in honor of Moe Karon, Mabel Karon, Asher Gartner and Juniper Gartner from their parents
Laura Giges and Jon Edelbaum in loving memory of my beloved Grandma Belle
Laura Giges and Jon Edelbaum in loving memory of my beloved father, Gerald Giges
Ann Clary Gordon in loving memory of my beloved husband, Jim Gordon
Rebecca Gottfried in memory of my father Hugh Gottfried
Ariel and Stephen Gray with much gratitude for Rabbi Paula and her leadership, and everything the TBE team has done this year to continue the spiritual and community connection at TBE
Roberta Jaffe in loving memory of Hope Mosheim Jaffe
Nita Lamendola wishing a speedy recovery for Melissa Sunberg
Jessica Lawrence in honor of Alex Lawrence
Risa Lower in honor of Richard Gary Halpern
Risa Lower in honor of Evelyn Berger Levin
Harnet Maglin in loving memory of Diana and Edward Maglin
Linda Mandel in memory of Jack Mandel and his parents
Harvey and Tricia Markovitz in memory of Doris Markovitz and Nancy Markovitz
Lenny Pagorelsky and Michaeline Kiss in honor of Rabbi Shifra and appreciation for her “Counting the Omer”
Gail Pellerin in loving memory of Tom Chaffin
Judy Plummer in honor of Korrine Fitz and her dedication to making the healing benefits of yoga accessible for all
Joel Rudnick in honor of Jackie Rudnick, Milton Rudnick, Esther Goldman, Elynore Falk
Michelle Simon in memory of Maxine Simon
Melissa and Cary Sunberg in memory of David Allenberg Katzenstein, beloved brother of Amy Katzenstein-Harrington, brother in law of David Harrington and uncle of Alysa and Erin-Kate Escobar
Robert and Peggy Waters in loving memory of Elaine Cooper
Rachel Wedeen in honor of Toby and Michael Alexander
Renee Winter and Paul Roth in loving memory of my mother Molly Silverstone
Richard Zelin in honor of Gilda Zelin’s birthday
HHD 2020 HIGH HOLIDAY
Donald Bear
HHD 2020 YIZKOR
Carl and Karla Sanders in honor of Jerry Sanders beloved brother
JANET ROTHCHILD ROCK SHABBAT
Rose Ashford and Felix Fields in loving memory of Robin Winburn
LIBRARY FUND
John and Merry Oppenheimer in loving memory of Stanley Mayer
LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAM
Robert and Michele Kibrick
ONEG FUND
David and Sara Benevento in memory of Lena Piller, Sara’s mom, Dave’s mother-in-law, Laura’s and Evan’s bubbie, and Mason and Mathias’ great-grandmother
Julia Comblatt in memory of my sister Joyce Cremona
Victoria Finder in honor of Leslie Finder Marigold Fine and Jim Stanford in loving memory of Katherine Gold
Lori and Jim Kearney in loving memory of my brother, Jack Shifrel
Lori and Jim Kearney in loving memory of my grandmother, Chana Shifrel
Robert and Michele Kibrick in loving memory of Arlene Kibrick
Alan and Judith Levin in memory of our family yahrzeits
Gaby Litsky in honor of Pearl Fishman, Aunt of Gaby Litsky, Grand Aunt of Jenny Litsky Smyth
Marcia Meyer in loving memory of my mother, Ruth Kahn
John and Merry Oppenheimer in loving memory of Stanley Mayer
Shelley and David Sonnenberg
Janet Wyner-Maze and Mervyn Maze in honor of Henry Wyner
PRAYER BOOK FUND
Rosemary Zumwalt in loving memory of Isaac Jack Levy
RABBI LITVAK DISCRETIONARY FUND
Lawrence Abitbol and Shannon Durham
RABBI PAULA MARCUS DISCRETIONARY FUND
Lawrence Abitbol and Shannon Durham
Julia Comblatt in memory of David Orzech
Gail Levine and Emily Wughalter in memory of Leah Wughalter
Fay Levinson and Joe Vela in memory of Victor Vela
Fay Levinson and Joe Vela in memory of Carmen Vela
Andrew Marcus in honor of Paula Marks thanking Rabbi Paula for inviting Jude to participate in virtual Torah study, a most welcome connection during this extended isolation
Marlene Pitkow and Mark Kalow in loving memory of of Amy Harrington’s brother, David Allenberg Katzenstein
Ivan Rosenblum and Mary Fran Archer in memory of my mother, Helen Rosenblum
SECURITY
Barbara Carey
Jessica Guild
Joan Tanzer and Gerald Frank

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**SENIOR CONNECTIONS FUND**

Diana Bluer in honor of Mark Levy
Daniel Gold and Patrick LeCuyer in loving memory of Bertha Gold, Dan’s mother
Gail Levine and Emily Wughalter in memory of Leah Wughalter
Steve and Corinne Miller thanks to Marlene Pitkow for her tireless and creative leadership of the Senior Connections program
Alvin and June Pitkow in honor of Senior Connections
Sara Walsh in honor of my beloved mother Ruth Mandel Werner
Karen Zelin in honor of Gilda Zelin’s birthday, creativity and mightiness
Gloria Zuflacht in honor of my daughter Marlene Pitkow and all the wonderful work she does for Senior Connections

**SISTERHOOD GENERAL**

Richard Zelin in honor of Gilda Zelin’s birthday

**SOCIAL ACTION FUND**

Nicole Dennis in memory of Elijah Klein Dennis-Benford whose bright and exceptional light dimmed far too soon. We miss Elijah’s physical presence every day
John and Merry Oppenheimer in loving memory of Stanley Mayer
Sashka Rothchild and Mark Kozlowski in honor of Gail and George Ow and a safe and equitable 2021 for all
Rosemary Zumwalt

**YEAR END APPEAL 2020**

Judie Block in loving memory of Marge and Ed Block
Marigold Fine and Jim Stanford in loving memory of Max and Kay Gold
Gloria Heistein in loving memory of Sylvia and Mark Palmer
Paul and Susan Karz in loving memory of Paul’s dad, Robert
Arnold Kragen and Marcia Smith
Edward Newman
Daniel Orange and Bonnie Holmer-Orange in loving memory of Ziva

Marilyn Rigler in honor of my 95th birthday
Carolyn Rosevelt and Susie Polnaszek
Joel Rudnick
Ronna Schulkin in honor of Michael Schulkin and Merry Jane Schulkin
Stephanie Jacobs SEJ Media Solutions
Priva and Michael Tarbet in honor of Jack Gelb

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**CELEBRATE PURIM!**

**Thursday, February 25th, at 6:30 PM**

*TBE & Chadeish Yameinu come together again to Celebrate Purim*

[Why is this Purim different from all other Purims? Wanna take a guess?]

Please join us for a different sort of Purim.

6:30 gather with your favorite libation and SHOW OFF your Purim costume.

7:00 we’ll watch “For Your Consideration” the completely true story of the making of the classic film “Home for Purim,” starring Eugene Levy, Christopher Guest, Harry Shearer, Jane Lynch and the incomparable Catherine O’Hara

Join by Zoom link:

https://zoom.us/j/91584509724?pwd=dTYxRVJhVDNLM3VhSXE5RzJBb0FwZz09
From the Executive Director

I recently had the opportunity to participate in an online conference for the National Association of Temple Administrators (NATA). It was quite fantastic! On one hand, it lacked the number of hours I would generally spend with my colleagues discussing temple business over every meal for a week in addition to attending educational seminars – but it made up for it in both more robust and accessible programs.

NATA conferences are unique. They are unlike conferences in private industry - where if you glean one pearl of applicable wisdom in three days you consider it a success. NATA conferences are created by temple administrators and directors based on their current professional experience in the field and packed with applicable, timely and pertinent information. It is literally enough to make your head swim!

This year the NATA conference – like everything - had to pivot due to Covid. And, may I say, my colleagues did a fantastic job. Just as live theater on stage is different than TV (even TV produced on a stage) so is a virtual conference different than a live conference. However, humans being creatures of habit, often have difficulty seeing the new for what it is and what it can be, instead focusing so often on what we are losing. I am pleased to say we strove to focus on things like: twice as many temple executives were able to attend and learn; any session missed – to attend another – could be watched later; and more.

One of the sessions I attended was called Human Centric Design. Yes, at TBE we are always thinking how can we improve and provide better experiences. But the concept behind Human Design is a bit like the tail wagging the dog. It looks not at problem solving head on, but rather seeking out the ‘wants’ from the consumer side and finding their intersection with solutions from the provider side. The dues model at TBE is an example of this. TBE/Temple’s (the provider) needs $X to function. In the historic model of assigned dues, the provider looked at this issue from one side and made the determination. And if people could not pay, they applied for reduction. However, in speaking to the member/consumer, each said of course we want to support the temple. Trust us. Let us know what is needed and we will provide to the best of our ability. TBE did; and TBE thrived. It is both a powerful and empowered approach.

One method to find a path to this sort of creative solution is to ask the open and probative question “Why?” iteratively five times to get to the core desire of the consumer.

And – perhaps - this is what the planning team did to formulate the wholly innovative schedule that the conference followed – starting with, “Why do people prefer conferences on consecutive days?” Surely the answer would end up being related to cost and time efficiencies regarding travel expenses and time away from standard daily tasks. However, a Zoom conference does not have such issues.

So, our creative planners had the conference span two weeks – and why not? There were no hotels, travel, meals, etc. for which to pay. Furthermore, by spreading it out on a Wednesday Friday one week and a Tuesday Thursday the next – they could still have some sharing of Shabbat as well as attendees staying connected and involved in their regular Temple business. Genius.

I love that even in the planning, my NATA colleagues were able to assimilate and use the knowledge around them. The things I learn at each conference I happily bring back with me to expand our horizons and – if nothing else – remember to always ask the question “Why?”

Tanya Lorien
Executive Director
Dan Seftel’s Legacy

Most Temple Beth El members will remember Dan Seftel, of blessed memory, and his many lasting contributions to our congregation, including dedicated service on the TBE Board of Directors, yeoman service on the Building & Grounds Committee and, most memorably, shofar blowing at the High Holidays, a meaningful family tradition he has passed on to his son Marc. What you may not know is that, in his passing, Dan also made a beautiful bequest to the Jewish community he loved through joyful participation in our Legacy Giving program. We think that Dan, a notably practical man, would have derived satisfaction and a good laugh from the purpose to which we are putting half of his generous bequest: as seed money to jumpstart our much needed project to refurbish the temple’s aging bathrooms. In the future, when our physical temple can be open again, we will all benefit from a very tangible reminder of Dan and his legacy.

As you can see, including the temple in your estate plan, even if in a modest and symbolic way, can have a big impact on our congregation and especially our aging building, which has many urgent needs. We on the Fund Development Committee urge you to consider this important mitzvah. Just as you set aside a small portion of your income to enrich the temple in your lifetime, so we hope you will consider upon your passing, thus passing on to your children your values and dedication to our Jewish community. Your gift can be in the form of a simple bequest - see the temple website at www.tbeaptos.org/leave-a-legacy for appropriate language - or as a percentage of a tax-deferred asset, such as a retirement account. If you are potentially interested in including the temple in your estate plan or have any questions about the different ways in which you can do so, please feel free to contact me at mgordon@ucsc.edu or 831-566-9134. We would love to welcome you to join your generous friends in the TBE Legacy Society.

With thanks to our congregation for its continuing commitment to tzedakah, and with grateful thoughts of Dan Seftel’s lasting legacy,

Margaret Gordon
Fund Development Committee

From Rabbi Shifra

It was just a year ago that I put on a panda costume with the label “Pand-emic” hanging around my neck. Little did I know that this would be one of our very last events at TBE for a very long time.

As I write, we are preparing another wild Purim celebration, but this one will be quite different than ever before. The TBE Purim Megillah Reading and Carnival, with the youth group running the games and volunteers selling tickets and food and giving out prizes is always such a blast, and of course, we will be missing much of that this year. But the most important part of Purim, and indeed everything we do at Temple School, is facilitating fun and meaningful ways that students and their families can build community. So come prepared to let off some steam, heaven knows we need to. This is actually the point of Purim – we tell the story of the Jewish people being saved from extermination by the courage of a young Jewish woman called Esther, to let off steam by making fun of our situation. And what a situation we have to work with for our jokes right now! So come in costume, bring your grogger, and let’s be silly together. I can’t wait to see you.

Family Purim Celebration
Sunday, February 28th at 1:30pm, Outdoors at TBE
Come in Costume! • Bring your grogger so we can make some noise! • Listen to the Megillah
Take home a hamantashen
Masks required and please stay 6 feet apart as we celebrate together apart.

Rabbi Shifra
We are especially grateful to our foundational donors:
Michael and Toby Alexander
Allen and Shirley Ginzburg
Rebecca Gottfried
Amy and David Harrington
Nancy Hoffman
Ronald and Linda Israel
Jane and John Jordan
Stephen and Susan Karon
Jennifer and Raymond Kaupp
Robert and Michele Kibrick
Alan and Judith Levin
Daniel Orange and Bonnie Holmer-Orange
George Ow and Gail Michaelis-Ow
Rabbi Paula Marcus Discretionary Fund
Rabbi Richard Litvak Discretionary Fund
Rabbi Shifra Weiss-Penzias Discretionary Fund
Daniel Seftel (of blessed memory)
Heidi Winig and Dave Liotta
Marian Zeidler

Judith Appleby and James Tracey
Bettina Aptheker and Kate Miller
Karim Babbitt and Jeffrey Schnapper
Murray and Sheila Baumgarten
Ruth Carsch
Daniel and Sandy Chamberlain
Chavurah Mitzvah
Elena Nini Cohen and Steve Ritz
Sandra Cohen
Steven and Ginger Cohen
Carolyn and Curt Coleman
Michelle Dennis
Ysraelya and Miles Dolinger
Marigold Fine and Jim Stanford
Korrine and Terry Fitz
Anahi Flores Morales and Jesse Mabablot
Don Gartner and Donelle Ehritt
David Gazek and Shani Ginsburg
Janet Gellman and Nancy de la Pena
Laurie Getz
Maria Gitin
John Glass and Cassandra Sprenger
Alison Gold
Daniel Gold and Patrick LeCuyer
Andrew Goldenkranz
Lauren Goldstein
Teri Goldwasser and Steven Hildebrand
Margaret Gordon
Diask and Howard Grunes
Gloria Heinstein
Bernard and Eleanor Hilberman
Lenore Hindin
Melinda and Dan luster
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