When we welcome new babies “into the tribe,” we announce their Hebrew name with a beautiful blessing. We wish for each new child a life filled with Torah, Chuppah, and Ma-asim Tovim: Learning, Love, and Good Deeds. I have been thinking a lot about this blessing during these challenging times. So many moments of pain and anger, connection and caring, tears and inspiration, fear and confusion….

It’s been a time filled with learning. Our staff has learned very quickly, to find ways to move our programs online. Rabbi Shifra has nurtured a community of exploration and insight with her nightly Omer counting group and now through Judaism for Rebels. Melissa Sunberg is now a Zoom specialist. Who knew?

And we are all learning some ugly truths about systemic racism and violence in our country.* Every day we find more and more stories of Black people murdered by police, and protesters beaten, and tear gassed. The number of Black people who have died from Covid 19 is staggering. We are on a steep learning curve.

And we have also seen incredible acts of love. Young people caring for elders during shelter in place. Families zooming together from all over the US and in some cases, other parts of world. We know it’s not the same as being face to face, but many have shared that they feel closer to friends and family who don’t live nearby. I’ve seen this in our weekly kaddish calls. Through observing a yahrzeit together, the shared love of a family member who has died, is bringing people together online.

Solidarity with Black Lives Matter and willingness to look at the daily micro-aggressions Black people experience is also an act of love. Our tradition teaches us “al ta’amod al dam reyecha-to not stand by the blood of our neighbor” and “v’ahav’tah reyecha camocha-to love our neighbor as ourselves.” When we see or hear something wrong, it is upon us to speak up. I encourage each of us to further our understanding of the struggle our friends and family members who are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) experience so that we can be better allies. This is an expression of love in action.

continued on page 2
Nurses and doctors, hospital staff, grocery workers, post-office employees and others perform good deeds every day. We are grateful to all of them for sustaining our communities. And it’s up to us to return these good deeds by ensuring they are cared for with equity of pay and medical services.

And it’s also up to us to ensure equal access to voting in all parts of the country. We have seen how voter suppression hurts our democratic values, which are national values, and Jewish values. Our congregation is joining with Reform synagogues all over the country in the “Every Voice, Every Vote” campaign. 

Ma’asim tovim-good deeds.

Just as we welcome new babies into our tradition with the blessing of Torah, Chuppah and Ma’asim Tovim, may we be role models for each other in fulfilling this blessing.

*Please find a list of resources to learn more about systemic racism on the TBE website

Rabbi Paula Marcus

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**Temple Beth El Sisterhood Gift Shop**

Shirley and Ruth, the TBE Gift Shop mavens, will cheerfully fill phone orders and provide curbside pickup at TBE.

Contact us to discuss your Judaica gift needs: Shabbat candles, ritual items including fabulous mezuzot and tallits, fine sterling jewelry, Israeli imports to beautify your home—all gently priced.

Ruth 831 476 1154 Shirley 831 685 2710
Ruthsol@UCSC.edu Shirley@Ginzburgs.com

Click [here](#) to see photos & info about the gift shop on the TBE website!

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**In the Temple Family**

Amy Barr, daughter of Chuck and Nancy and Ben Dance were married on April 5th in their backyard near Nashville with immediate family present.

---

**May their memories be for a blessing**

Karen Weill, beloved sister-in-law of Julie Lorraine, Barry Marks and Estalee Weill, and aunt of Ellison and Laurel

Nancy Majors Ostrander, beloved mother of Molly Jaffe and mother in law of Lee

Jerry Goldstein, beloved father of Jodi Goldstein, Peter Goldstein and Marni Zweig, father-in-law of Brian and grandfather of Gabriel, Nathan and Jillian

Marc Chizinsky, beloved brother of Ken Chizinsky and brother in law of Debra

Mildred Berg, mother of Richard Berg and mother in law of Made

Morris Comerchero, beloved grandfather of Doron Comerchero

Fern Press, beloved sister-in-law of Marilyn Rigler, and aunt of Sara, Joel and Mark

Dan Seftel, beloved father of Marc Seftel, father in law of Francoise and grandfather of Pauline and Zachary

Pearl Marchick Rosenthal, the beloved mother of Gwen Kaplan and mother in law of Doug
Note from the Temple President

Dear Community,

I thank you (truly) for the privilege of service as Temple President for the next two years. For me, it means opening the gate from the comfort of sweet rural (Bonny Doon) semi-seclusion into community. A good thing.

When I think of my three dozen predecessors, including some absolutely remarkable recent past-presidents, I know I have big shoes to fill. In this regard, Amy Harrington certainly deserves one more round of thanks as she moves on to her role as “Immediate Past-President.” I have been awestruck by the extent to which she knows (and loves) just about everybody. What a remarkable woman, who has accomplished so much in her “tour of duty!”

I am aware that the coming year will be “rich” in unexpected challenges. Here is what I predict:

- As a spiritual community, we will emerge from the COVID chapter stronger than ever.
- We will celebrate the joy of being back together in our sanctuary and social hall, enriched by the new connections we have made remotely. We will benefit from our experience and move to a model where our in-person offerings will be much more available to those at a distance. “Hybrid” seems to be the operative word.
- We will find better and better means to support our families and our youth through this period.
- We will love the enhancement of our worship and teaching as we get to know our new Cantor, Alisa Fineman, and our rabbinic intern, Sarah Tziporah Moser.
- Together, we will find the means to weather current financial uncertainties. How? First, we have a Board and a Finance Committee that each have talented and dedicated members with excellent expertise, creative ideas, and a recent track record of considerable harmony. While some in our congregation will not be in a position to renew their membership as generously as in the past, others who are still financially secure will step up to uphold our community. (A precedent: as we transitioned to the model of members setting their own dues level, the Temple’s trust has been more than rewarded).

This vision can only be achieved through concrete short-term steps. So, what is on our (your) plate for this summer?

First, I suggest that we flip our pattern of summer “vacation” from temple activities to one of deepening our ties in July and August. Do make a point of checking out our many online activities. If you have not done so, I really hope that you join Rabbi Paula some Sunday afternoon just to schmooze, or check out Rabbi Shifra’s evening sessions, especially if you are feeling that a dollop of rebelliousness will be joyful during these days. This is a good time to join in Torah study, in our social action efforts, our senior connections, our Sisterhood and Brotherhood, and other ways we care for each other and for our world. See what inspires you from the list of possibilities that find their way to your in-box every day (thank you Melissa.)

We in temple leadership want to listen more this summer. If you are part of any group at the Temple, e.g. a havarah, neighborhood gathering, etc., we would love to be invited to your meeting for all or a small part of it. Just let me know: josh@tbeaptos.org.

Of course, we encourage you to join our clergy in worship and to let us know how we can make services more meaningful to you as we connect remotely.

Most important, this is a time where we must actively reach out to members who may be isolated. Since these folks may be reluctant to ask, please let us know of anyone you think may need some extra TLC.

Let us not socially distance as we physically distance.

Wishing you summertime joy,

Josh Karter
Temple School News

Many parents have told Sarah and me that they want Temple School to create as many safe ways for their kids to get together with their TBE friends as possible, as soon as possible.

Every morning I wake up and ask myself “How can I safely get these kids together? What will Temple School do in the fall? Is it going to be all online, all in-person, a combination? What is going to happen with everything that was scheduled? When are we all getting back to normal? What will the financial picture look like?” Lately I think I should have become a prophet instead of a rabbi.

There are a few things about all of this that I believe I have a grasp on, so I will share my thought process with you. Number one, I take the responsibility of keeping our children safe VERY seriously. This virus can be life-threatening, even for children. You may already know all of this, but just to spell it out, here is what I am considering.

I attended a two and a half hour lecture on Zoom about what is known medically about Covid 19. I can sum it up in two words; not enough. But here is a summary of what was presented.

Covid 19 is transmitted more easily from human to human contact than from touching objects. More from being indoors with someone than outdoors. If someone has the virus, they may be contagious and not know. Moisture droplets in the breath of someone who is contagious transmit the virus. Singing may exacerbate this. The more time spent with people who are contagious, the more likely one is to be exposed to enough of the virus to contract it. The safest way to get together with people is outdoors, staying 6 feet away. The safest way to get groups together indoors is with masks on, staying 6 feet away, washing hands, not touch the face, and keeping it brief.

With all this in mind, we are beginning to plan a few outdoor events (check the website and weekly e-mail for details.) We are hoping to have a hybrid of in-person and online Temple School in the fall, and plan to announce the details in mid-August. In the meantime, I have been spending lots of time with students online, and enjoying that connection tremendously.

I long to see everyone together again. I can barely wait. But waiting is better than doing something dangerous that we may later regret, so we are taking baby steps. Getting plenty of advice. And looking for the safe, creative and fun ways to show TBE kids that their community is still here for them.

Blessings, Rabbi Shifra Weiss-Penzias

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In July and August our meetings will be:

**Rosh Hodesh Av**
**Wednesday July 22, 6:45 PM by Zoom**
In Av, we celebrate Tu b’Av, the Grape Harvest. The Season of the Flower fades.

**Rosh Hodesh Elul**
**Thursday August 20, 6:45 PM by Zoom**
In Elul, we begin to prepare for the new year. This is the Time of the Fruit.

Contact Melissa for the Zoom link
For more info [https://groups.io/g/RoshHodesh](https://groups.io/g/RoshHodesh)
Subscribe to our email list
[RoshHodesh+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:RoshHodesh+subscribe@groups.io)
NOW ENROLLING for 2020/2021: Toddler, Preschool, & PreK

Ask us about our new TK/K class!

Come visit our thriving, play-based program that infuses inclusive, anti-bias, & Jewish values into a child-inspired curriculum.

Voted “Best of Santa Cruz” in childcare for 5 years running!

Simcha Preschool
Where Learning And Fun Come Together!

3055 Porter Gulch Road · Aptos, CA 95003 · (831) 479-3449 · www.tbeaptos.org

Director: Lisa Mendez, lmendez@tbeaptos.org

Facility Number: 440710119
Dear TBE Community,

I hope this message from Simcha Preschool finds you safe and healthy, during these unique and uncertain times. While our March closure took us (and everyone) by surprise, we are thankful to be moving towards an August reopening and to welcoming children, families, and teachers back to our wonderful play-based program that infuses Jewish values into the curriculum.

We celebrated our 2020 Simcha PreK Graduates on 6/27/2020 with a fun parking lot (social distancing) graduation event. Our graduates walked beneath a free-standing chuppah in a meaningful walk as they transitioned from PreK to TK or Kindergarten.

We are excited to announce that Simcha Preschool will be reopening to children and families on August 17, 2020. Our Preschool, PreK, and new Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten (TK/K) will be shifting to a fun outdoor experience for much of the day to be in the sunshine and fresh air. We have limited spots available in these three classrooms so contact me with your interest at lmendez@tbeaptos.org or 831-479-3449. Our toddler classroom will not reopen, at this time.

We are elated to be welcoming back five Simcha teachers, as well as Michelle, our office administrator.

Preschool: Teachers Grace and Selah
PreK: Teachers Caitlin and Nathan
TK/K: Teacher Jan

Thank you to Founders Wilma and Gus Gold for helping us schlep and deliver a classroom full of furniture for the TK/K. Thank you to Architect Teall Messer, who crafted the plans and facilitated the conversation with the county, to add sinks and a dishwasher to our new TK/K. Your help and guidance has been supportive and invaluable.

Best,
Lisa Mendez, Director

HAVEN’T SIGNED UP FOR PJ LIBRARY?
• (FREE Jewish books for children ages 6 months to 8.5 year old’s)
• Books delivered directly to your home.
www.pjlibrary.org

HAVEN’T SIGNED UP FOR PJ OUR WAY?
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• Books delivered directly to your home.
www.pjourway.org

WANT TO ORDER A $10 FAMILY MITZVAH KIT
click here
https://www.tbeaptos.org/form/family-mitzvah-kit.html

READING-IN-PLACE:
Library resources in a time of Corona

To help our community find and enjoy books and reading resources while physical collections are beyond reach, we’re publishing a continuing guide to author talks, book groups and literary events, as well as sources for books and reading lists, available online. Check out https://www.tbeaptos.org/library/corona to see what’s coming.
From the Executive Director

It feels like a lifetime since my last Shofar Article. I hope this issue of our newly redesigned Shofar finds you well and abreast of all the fantastic remote programming TBE has been offering. Although glad we have been able to make/keep us connected, we miss you in person at TBE. We miss everyone popping in and out and the hustle and bustle of life inside our building. We miss people coming and going on whatever their TBE business is, or just dropping in for no reason at all; and – of course – we miss the children’s voices drifting down from Simcha. However, in spite the fact that the building remains closed, it is a quiet din of daily activity.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Chris Irvine, who has been hired this June as our Building and Custodial Lead. Besides a great background in both figuring out mechanical issues (having worked in the industrial vacuum system repair industry) to catering – a perfect mix for TBE – he brings a positive “just do it” attitude. And – very important at this time – he is flexible and has come on part-time – which we hope to be able to expand as the year unfolds financially and in regard to the health crisis.

Meet our new staff member Chris Irvine

Chris is becoming very familiar with Simcha; he is working with Lisa and the changes needed as we drive towards reopening the preschool. Chris is also becoming acquainted with every nook and cranny of the building while working with the Fire Marshall on our annual compliance needs – as well as coming up to speed on what is needed for quarterly inspections, which Chris will be able to do for us moving forward after September. In addition to these things, he is working on those myriad little things in the building that always need attention.

He is fitting well into the team. Bringing Chris on has been a great step in helping the Temple Beth El team get done the numerous things we are working on to prepare for being back together again.

Be well, Be Safe, Respectfully,

Tanya Lorien, Executive Director

The Family Mitzvah Kit, a project of PJ Library in Santa Cruz in partnership with Doing Good Together™, contains eight hands-on Mitzvah activities that nurture kindness and make difference in the lives of others while safely distancing at home.

Click HERE to order your $10 Family Mitzvah Kit.

This is a pilot program that will only be offered through July 6th.

ORDER YOUR KIT TODAY!
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<th>SUNDAY</th>
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<td>1 Women's Writing Group 9:15am Chair Yoga with Suzi 10:30am Summer Prayers and Blessings 7:00pm</td>
<td>2 Chair Yoga with Suzi 9:30am Pilates Strength Training 10:00am Lunch and Learn 12:00pm Fund Development Meet 1:30pm</td>
<td>3 Temple Office closed Kaddish Call 5:45pm Erev Shabbat Service 7:30pm</td>
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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.
CONTRIBUTIONS | March 1 — June 17, 2020

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Victor Melamed

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Laura Geist

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Rebecca Gottfried

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Toby and Michael Alexander in loving memory of Daniel Seftel

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Barbara and Eli Eisenpress in memory of Lois Imboden, may her memory be a blessing.
Allen and Shirley Ginzburg in memory of Jerry Goldstein
Karen and Mel Holmes in loving memory of Jerod (Jerry) Goldstein, a very dear friend.
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Anita and Ken Lande in loving memory of Jerry Goldstein - A good friend
Leonard and Geri Wolff in memory of Jerry Goldstein

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Judith and Alan Levin in memory of Dr. Daniel Seftel
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Allen and Shirley Ginzburg in memory of Dan Seftel
Sandra Cohen
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Howard Stolz
Gilda Zelin in memory of Ida Cymrot, my mother
Judith Casserd

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Anita and Ken Lande in loving memory of Julia - Heine beloved mother of Anita Lande, mother-in-law of Ken Lande, grandmother of Laura Lande, Renee Lande O’Malley, and great-grandmother of Joseph and Michael Marilyn Rigler in memory of my loving husband David Rigler

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Amy and David Harrington in honor of Marilyn Rigler for all her work on the Film Festival
Thomas Fox and Elaine Benoit Fox
Sandra Cohen in honor of the SC Jewish Film Festival Committee

GARDEN AND PARK FUND
Rabbi Richard and Nancy Litvak in memory of Daniel Seftel

GENERAL FUND
Ivan Rosenblum and Mary Fran Archer in memory of the yahrzeit of Jack Rosenblum, June 12th, father of Ivan Rosenblum and grandfather of Toby Peeples
Lynn Wagner
Leonard Jay Jacobson in memory of Gary Yanowsky’s loved one
Dennis and Cheryl Caspe in memory of Dan Seftel
Daniel and Judy Phillips in memory of Dorothy Phillips - mother of Daniel and Raymond
Bernadette Bacich
Nina Koocher and Bernard Elbaum in loving memory of Charlotte Koocher

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Diane Grunes in honor of Rabbi Paula and Staff during the “new normal”
Murray and Sheila Baumgarten in loving memory of Max Baumgarten, Murray Baumgarten’s father
Rebecca and Scott Rubin dedicated to my father’s Yahrzeit
Michael and Priscilla Mann
Daryl Dichek in honor of Rabbi Litvak and Rabbi Marcus
Carole and Wayne Lainof in memory of our dear friend Jerry Goldstein. He was a brilliant and gentle soul who will be forever missed
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Claire and Louis Scalzo
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Nita Lamendola in memory of my cousin Heather Slayan
Carolyn Hyatt in memory of Arny’s Yahrzeit
Carolyn Hyatt in memory of Jerry and Laurie Goldstein – they are missed.
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Laurie Getz
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Wendy Ostrow and Dan Arias
Gail Levine and Emily Wughalter in memory of Nancy Majors Ostrander
Ronald and Linda Israel in memory of Jerry Goldstein
Anita and Ken Lande in loving memory of Paul Lewis - beloved brother-in-law of Ken and Anita Lande
The Kabat Family in loving memory of Jerry Goldstein
Laura Hosid in memory of Jerry Goldstein
Jane Cohen in honor of the online Seder cast and crew!!!
Barbara Carey Passover Donations
Paul and Martha Passover Donations
Carol Maler
Carol Skolnick in memory of my mother and father, Pearl and Harry Skolnick

Brenda Tuttle in memory of Jovie Struman
Karen and Alex Corscadden in honor of Gail Michaelis-Ow
Marcia Meyer in honor of the B’nai Mitzvot of Sara Rigler, Susan Freeman, and Tegan Speiser

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Amy and David Harrington
Margaret Brose White

JANET ROTHCHILD ROCK SHABBAT
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Dennis and Cheryl Caspe in honor of Gail Ow, Woman of Valor
Scott and Kerry Edelstein
Jennifer and Raymond Kaupp
Jennifer and Raymond Kaupp

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Vicki Hendin in memory of Nancy Ostrander, Molly Jaffe’s mom
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ONEG FUND
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Sandra Goldstein
Miryam Weber
Joan Levine in loving memory of my father, Daniel Israel Levine
Julian Dahan in memory of Talya Press
Risa Lower in loving memory of Herman Berger
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Karina Babbitt and Jeffrey Schnapper in memory of Jana Gottlieb

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Marc and Francoise Seftel in memory of Daniel Seftel, our father and grand-father
Wendy Simon In appreciation of Rabbi Rick and Holly Blue for the beautiful service for Jerry Goldstein From Wendy Simon and the Goldstein Family
Casey Potti
Laura Autio and Kevin Krohn
Larry and Fran Kaplan in memory of of Mortimer Kaplan and Grace Lowenhart
Laura Autio and Kevin Krohn in honor of he passing of Gladys “Gigi” Gilbert

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Lee and Molly Jaffe in memory of Nancy Majors Ostrander, Molly Jaffe’s mother, with thanks to Rabbi Paula.
Diana Rose
Carrie Toder in loving memory of our mother Arline Toder
Robin Belkin in loving memory of my Father, Morris Belkin and my Sister-In-Law, Gwynn Simon

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Imogene Speiser in honor of Rabbi Paula
Sandra Linzer and George Botwinick in memory of my father, Abraham Robinson
Diane Grunes in memory of Mildred Berg, mother of Richard and Made Berg
Diane Grunes in memory of Amy Pine
Marc and Francoise Seftel in memory of Daniel Seftel, our father and grandfather
Susan Freeman and Noreen Winkler in loving memory of my beloved activist grandmother, Mary Rachel Freeman
Shana Rosenfeld Phelan and Peter Phelan in loving memory of Nancy Rosenfeld
Shana Rosenfeld Phelan and Peter Phelan
Margaret Brose White in honor of Dr. Linda Shaw and her participation in the bris of my grandson, Simon Omari White
Phyllis Cytron
Casey Protit
Daniel Gold and Patrick LeCuyer in loving memory of David Gold, father of Daniel Gold
Nita Lamendola in memory of my mother Beatrice Fisher
Judy Fishman in honor of Sandy Kaplan
Anonymous Donor
Diana Rothman in honor of Susan Freeman Becoming Bat Mitzvah

RABBI WEISS-PENZIAS DISCRETIONARY FUND
Debra and Joel Jacobs in honor of Rabbi Shifra Weiss-Penzias
Sandra Linzer and George Botwinick in memory of my father, Abraham Robinson
Susan Freeman and Noreen Winkler in memory of my beloved grandmother, Minnie Hirsch Shapiro
Lenore Hindin in memory of my son, Michael Shikora
Shana Rosenfeld Phelan and Peter Phelan in loving memory of Jules Rosenfeld
Rose Ashford and Felix Fields
Casey Protit
Karina Babbitt and Jeffrey Schnapper
Marilyn Rigler in honor of Sara Rigler and all the other women who participated in the adult B’nai Bat Mitzvah ceremony
Diana Rothman in honor of Tegan Speiser’s becoming Bat Mitzvah

SECURITY DONATION
Joan Tanzer and Gerald Frank
Barbara Carey
Jessica Guild
Barbara Carey
Julian Dahan and Jessica Guild
Cindy Rubin and Brian Rosenthal

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George Newell

TEMPLE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP DONATION
Renee Winter and Paul Roth in honor of the birth of Simon Omari White

WOMEN OF VALOR CANDY COONERTY FUND
Allen and Shirley Ginzburg

Neal Coonerty
Ceil Cirillo
Judith and Alan Levin in honor of Gail M. Ow receiving the Woman of Valor award
Diana Rothman in honor of Gail Michaelis Ow
Ceil Cirillo in honor of Gail Ow

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Edward and Lori Scher
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Social Action Committee News
“Every Voice, Every Vote”

It’s our obligation to speak for the community: “Bekhol kol taluy hakol—everything depends on each voice”. Voting is a necessary part of how we speak up for our values.

“If kids could vote, there’d be more playgrounds”. This line from Truffaut’s Au Revoir Les Enfants has stuck with me since I first heard it as a teenager. Our community and larger society is shaped not just by voting, but by who actually votes.

Did you know that in Hebrew, the words “voice” and “vote” translate as the same word—kol, or (plural) kalot?. If we truly believe that all voices are important in building our community, then we have to ensure that all voices can be heard and expressed. It’s our obligation to speak for the community: “Bekhol kol taluy hakol—everything depends on each voice”. Voting is a necessary part of how we speak up for our values.

In 2018, TBE participated enthusiastically in a national effort called 100% Voting Congregations. We raised our turnout from 76% in 2014 to 96% in 2018, helping to mobilize more than 150,000 votes nationally.

Sadly, we’re seeing unprecedented attempts around the country to prevent or deter people from voting. These efforts to suppress the vote focus on low income communities of color and are designed to reduce the rights and opportunities of marginalized people, maintaining older, often racist power structures. While in California we have a voting structure that makes it easy to vote – extensive voting by mail and same day registration are just two examples –voter suppression efforts in other states skew the voting population in dangerous ways.

That’s why TBE is partnering with other local faith institutions and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism in a call to action called Every Voice, Every Vote. As a faith institution, we have to remain completely nonpartisan and will not endorse candidates. But we will participate to educate our members and neighbors about important issues that are relevant to our Jewish values.

This effort combines three core actions:

1. Continuing to mobilize our own voters and partnering with allied local organizations to increase turnout;

2. Partnering with Reclaim our Vote [https://actionnetwork.org/forms/reclaim-our-vote-signup] to specifically target infrequent voters in swing states that are vulnerable to voter suppression, including Arizona, Texas, Georgia, and North Carolina.

3. Special efforts to energize and empower young people, starting with our own families.

Because of COVID, the 2020 election will look very different, with more extensive use of technology. We’ll be

• postcarding
• texting
• emailing
• phone banking
• sponsoring voter parties

We know that many of you are already involved in outside efforts along these lines, and that’s great. If so, we simply ask you to keep track of the number of voter contacts you make, so we can report out our community’s efforts.

Every voice, every vote. You can be the difference this November.

For more information, contact Judi Sherman.

Andrew Goldenkranz