Sunday March 13, 2022

Purim Spiel, Costume Parade and Carnival
Costumes Encouraged
Please bring edible goggers (for example: boxes of uncooked mac and cheese) for Second Harvest Food Bank

9:45am  Purim Spiel and Costume Parade for Grades K-6
Featuring Rabbi Paula as Haman, Rabbi Shifra as Achashverosh, Josh Karter as Mordechai, Sarah Clarkson as Esther, our temple school students singing live!
Please bring edible goggers

10:30am Purim Carnival begins for K-4 grade
Purim activity for 5-6 grade

11:15am Purim Carnival begins for 5-6 grade
Parents, please join your children at the Carnival. Please bring money to purchase tickets to play games. Credit cards are not accepted at the Carnival, advance purchase will be available, watch your email.

Wednesday March 16, 2022

7:00pm Community Megillah reading. Featuring special guests and temple school students’ videos
Please bring edible goggers (for example: boxes of uncooked mac and cheese). Registration required. All attendees must be vaccinated and boosted.
Masks required.
Let’s Make Some Noise

Flashback to two years ago, Purim in our sanctuary with Chadeish Yameinu. Our Mr. Rogers (may his memory be for a blessing) theme—I was dressed as Mr. Rogers, himself, chanting megillah verses to the tune of “It’s a beautiful day in the neighborhood, Rabbi Eli dressed as Ms. Rogers and Rabbi Lori playing the evil twin of Mr. Rogers...

And Rabbi Shifra was dressed in a huge Panda head— with a sign that read “Pandemic”, running around the sanctuary with a big wooden grogger. Little did we know that this would be our last large in-person, in the sanctuary event for such a long time. Pandemic for sure... at least many of us were already masked.

Purim is often thought of as the “upside down” Jewish holiday. In the original Purim story, a day dedicated to the destruction of the Jews became the day of their triumph. Together, Mordechai and Queen Esther stepped up to do what they could to preserve the lives of our people. Before Esther went to King Ahashveros and confront Haman’s evil plans, she asked the people to fast on her behalf. She went into a dangerous situation knowing that each member of the community was with her.

After almost two years of dealing with Covid, we have a better sense of what it means to be upside down. This echo of the words in the Megillah: “Venahafoch Hu”— “and it was turned upside down”, has become too real.

Just like Mordechai and Esther, we also have a clear example of all we have done to keep our community safe and strong. We celebrated the High Holidays outdoors, Zoomed Shabbat services and classes, and learned so much about how to stay connected in this upside-down world.

I think it’s fair to say that we are all looking forward to being back into the sanctuary together. As Purim approaches, let’s get our masks, groggers and hamantaschen ready so that we can make some noise. Please register to join us as we celebrate with Chadeish Yameinu on Wednesday, March 16 at 7:00 pm.

Rabbi Paula Marcus

In the Temple Family
Welcome to New Members
Please check your online directory for their information

New members Oct 21st – Feb 10th
Neil and Cynthia Alexander
Sarah Dubnner and Michael Hance
Julie Gilgoff and Samuel Hanig
Linda Imonode Skemer and Andrew Skemer
Lila and Gary Klapman
Danielle Krigel and Brian Wiese
Aaron Lipton and Sue Jung Lee
Mallory Pascal and Nathaniel Scarborough
Cabrilla and Adrian Reyes
Elaine Strauss
Billy Thomson
Lenore Wax

May their memories be for a blessing

Charles Pearce - Beloved father of Jen Kanter, father in-law of Howie Kanter, and grandfather of Alex and Ben Kanter.
Stanley M. Piller - Beloved brother of Sara Benevento, brother-in-law of David Benevento and uncle of Laura Adney and Evan Benevento.
Shane Fenton - Beloved husband of Laurel Marks Fenton, son-in-law of Barry Marks and Julie Lorraine, and brother-in-law of Ellison Marks.
Larry Dennis - Beloved husband of Vivien Dennis, father of Michelle and Nicole Dennis, grandfather of Nate and Jeremy. Also, grandfather to Elijah who the family hopes was waiting to greet him...
Claire Levine Kromper - Beloved sister of Gail Levine and sister-in-law of Emily Wughalter.
Robert Berke - Beloved father of Jasmine Berke and Steve Berke, father-in-law of Scott Roseman, grandfather of Naomi Dresser and her husband Ian, Ishtar Carter and her husband Oliver, Ryan and Kyle Roseman, Casey Campbell, and great grandfather of Baer, Roxanne, Harvey, Rylie, Farrah and Teigan.
Marvin M. Wedeen - Beloved father of Rachel Wedeen.
Bob Slater - Beloved father of Robyn Slater, father-in-law of Mark Rosenberg and grandfather of Matthew and Dylan.
David Kantor - Beloved twin brother of Doug Kantor, brother-in-law of Debby Ham and uncle of Toby and Pax.
Note from the Temple President

First and foremost, I want to share news of and gratitude for the success of the end-of-year appeal dedicated to staff raises. The amount raised was a quarter of the amount needed to protect our employees’ salaries against inflation. And the other three-quarters? Those funds were contributed by many congregants (roughly two-thirds of us) who were able to increase their membership commitments for 2021-2022 by 5% or more. Isn’t it nice to know that your generosity has good company?

As reported to the Board by our Executive Director, David Ginsborg, the staff truly felt appreciation from the congregation, not only by the effort to do the right thing in terms of compensation, but also from reading the notes accompanying many donations.

The spectacular turnout for Mitzvah Day, coupled with all that in-person comradery, whetted our appetites for more of the same. Back in December, we began a carefully designed process of re-opening our sanctuary and social hall for gatherings, and the Brotherhood led the way with a successful brunch in the social hall. I was sad that Omicron nixed the plan in its earliest stage. But let us hope that spring will soon be in the air – both physically and metaphorically. If so, I find myself especially looking forward to the benefit concert that Ivan Rosenblum so graciously pledged us (and that prompted our contributions) two years ago! Ivan’s patience – along with his repeated efforts to renew the commitment of fellow musicians – has been remarkable. And, yes, we have plans to celebrate Purim with Chadeish Yameinu on the evening of March 16 both in the sanctuary(!) and on Zoom.

These days, I am not the first to remember the story of the shtetl family who kvetched about their cramped quarters until their Rabbi had them move their barnyard animals inside one by one over time; finally, after rabbinic permission to evict the critters, the family realized how spacious their old home was. How refreshingly wonderful will the old “normal” of our congregational life feel once again. I catch myself trusting that this moment is on our near horizon.

In the meantime, I encourage everyone to open up one of those “Temple Weekly” emails and scroll from top to bottom. Thanks to our Rabbis, our staff, and many congregant volunteers, the variety and vibrancy of what is offered to members is remarkable. And thanks to in-person Campfire Shabbats, Rock Shabbats, Simcha, Temple School, B’nai Mitzvah, and more, we have opportunities to be in each other’s physical presence to begin to re-experience our past and future.

Josh Karter
President, Temple Beth El Board of Directors
josh@tbeaptos.org

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or call Ruth (831 476 1154) or Shirley (831 685 2710)
and they will be glad to help!

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info@tbeaptos.org  -  www.tbeaptos.org  -  Winter 2022  -  The Shofar
Dear Temple Community,

So far 2022 has been full of sunshine, laughter, and curiosities! Simcha has been loving the beautiful weather. Our mostly outdoor program celebrated Tu BiShvat by going on nature walks to visit the various trees on our campus, talking with the children about what the trees provide us (oxygen, fruit, wood, homes for animals, a natural climbing structure...), singing songs about trees, the foods they provide us, and wishing the trees a happy new year.

The classrooms have begun “Bike Riding Fridays”, where they close off the upper parking lot to cars so that the children may use the whole space to exercise their bike riding skills! Each classroom has been getting the chance to use the space, as well as the many different wheeled vessels we have here at Simcha. It is such a fun collaborative way to help develop those gross motor skills!

Hello Temple Community,

Transitioning from a Teacher to the Director of Simcha has been moving along so quickly, I cannot believe it has already been 7 months! Taking on this new role amidst a pandemic has in no way been easy, but the team of amazing teachers I work with and the support I receive from the Temple staff has been wonderfully appreciated.

I want to share a bit more about myself and my journey that brought me to Simcha.

I was born and raised in Ithaca N.Y. I have always loved working with children. My first paying job was as a camp counselor working with children of all ages. I did this every summer for 5 years. After graduating high school, I took a couple years to decide what path I wanted to embark on next. In 2006 I decided to move across the country to Santa Cruz to attend Cabrillo College. I had learned about their amazing Early Childhood Education courses, and their affordable tuition once you become a local resident. (Fun Fact: Teacher Nathan was my neighbor when I first moved to Santa Cruz!)

The Cabrillo ECE classes solidified my love of working with young children, and I continued to be one of their paid interns at their campus children's lab. I finished Cabrillo with a degree in Early Childhood Education, and over 50

As we continue facing the challenges that come with the ever-evolving Coronavirus, the children and families have shown so much patience, understanding and resilience towards keeping our community safe. Each week, we have been asking that all children be tested before attending school to avoid any classroom closures. We are so grateful to the Temple and community members who have graciously volunteered their time to make weekly testing possible! I also want to thank all the incredibly generous Temple Members who have donated testing kits, allowing us to continue to test our staff and children each week.

Caitlin Clancy
Simcha Director
Join Us as We Celebrate the Confirmation of our Children

Friday, March 25, 7:30pm on Zoom

Please join us for a special Zoom Shabbat service in celebration of the Confirmation Class.

Confirmation is the commitment from our students of their intention to live their lives as Jews and as part of the Jewish community. It is also the community’s commitment to our students to always be there to support their Jewish lives. Our 10th graders will lead a special service. They will give speeches about what their Jewish identity means to them. It is always a very moving and fun service. Please join us to celebrate this momentous occasion in the lives of our youth. Everyone is invited on Zoom!

Arielle Orzech.......................... Shoshanah and Joshua Orzech
Billy Thomson.......................... Nickie and John Thomson
Charlotte Bass ......................... Becka Lee and Greg Bass
David Kashnow .......................... Shoshanah and Joshua Kashnow
Kathleen Allari .......................... Kelly and Tim Allari
Rebekkah Perkins ...................... Erik and Pamela Perkins
Tamarah Posner Minami ...... Micah Posner and Akiko Minami

HAPPY PASSOVER

Save the Dates!

All of these events are planned to be in person, assuming the best

Saturday, March 12, 7pm
New Member Havdalah
For members who have joined in the last two years. Come and schmooze with Rabbi Paula

Friday, March 18, 7:30pm
Campfire Shabbat
Come and sing around the fire

Saturday, April 16
Congregational Seder
Yes, it is back...our 2nd night Congregational Seder featuring amazing food prepared by Benjamin. We are planning to do it all or mostly outside in the afternoon. Stay tuned for more details.

We had so much fun at Campfire Shabbat on February 4th that we have scheduled another one for March 18th.
Contributions | October 22, 2021 — February 10, 2022

ANNUAL APPEAL
David Gazek and Shani Ginsburg
Rosemary Zumwalt
Nina Koocher and Bernard Elbaum
Sara Rigler in honor of Marilyn Rigler’s 96th Birthday!
Judi Sherman and Rachel Bickert
Anita and Ken Lande in memory of all those whose yahrzeits were this year and those who died this year
Rebecca and Scott Rubin
Ellen Ortiz
Michael Cahn in loving memory of Joel Cahn
Renee Winter and Paul Roth in honor of my dear friends and Bat Mitzvah “sistas” Jenny Kaupp and Peg Shemaria
Carol Maler in loving memory of my husband, Allan Maler
Susan Levin in honor of the TBE clergy, staff, board, choir, and volunteers who worked so hard to make the High Holiday services accessible and meaningful under ongoing challenging circumstances
Stephen and Susan Karon In honor of Josh Karter
Shalom Dreampeace Compost
Elena Nini Cohen and Steve Ritz
Gloria Heistein
Laurel Fox and Donald Potts
Stephanie Jacobs
Marian Zeidler
Lovene Wood
Judith Westenhouse and Jack Crick
Daniel Orange and Bonnie Holmer-Orange
Steven and Betty Goldenkranz
Murray and Sheila Baumgarten
Judith Appleby and James Tracey
Amy and David Harrington
Robert and Michele Kibrick
Michelle Dennis in honor of the TBE Staff!
We are truly blessed to have your time, talents, and dedication!
Ysraelya and Miles Dolinger
Sharon Hoffman
Victor Melamed
Laura Giges and Jon Edelbaum
Leta Miller
Alison Gold
Risa Lower in memory of my mother, Elaine Berger
Diana Rose in memory of my mom, Anita Kessler
Michelle Simon
Judy and Ben Yokel in honor of the outstanding and dedicated TBE staff
Karen Kohut
James Engelman and Claire Witherspoon in loving memory of Joseph Engelman

BATHROOM RENOVATION PROJECT
Rabbi Richard Litvak Discretionary Fund
BUILDING FUND DONATION
Judy Plummer in loving memory of Melvin Mirsky
CARING COMMITTEE DONATION
Patti Krieger
Lovene Wood in loving memory of my beloved Nanny, Adah Jackson
CEMETERY FUND
Alan and Judy Levin in memory of TBE Matriarch Estelle Levine
Raymond and Christine Phillips in memory of Rubin Phillips
Diana Rothman in memory of my late husband Don Rothman
Toby and Michael Alexander in memory of Lillian and William Levin
GARDEN AND PARK FUND
Andy Martin and Aimee Raphael - Martin in memory of Claire Levine Kromper, Gail Levine’s sister
Lovene Wood in memory of my great friend Noreen Harbord
GENERAL FUND
Carolyn and Curt Coleman in memory of Robert Berke, Jasmine’s father
David Gazek and Shani Ginsburg in memory of Marvin Wedeen, Rachel Wedeen’s beloved and remarkable father
Jason Lash in memory of Yonetta Rosensweig
Maria Gitin and Samuel Torres in memory of Gail Levine’s sister Claire
David Gazek and Shani Ginsburg in memory of Larry Dennis, Michelle Dennis’ father
Naomi Igra and Matthew Clausen
Lee Oberg
Anina Van Alstine
Murray and Sheila Baumgarten
Edward and Sheila Baumgarten
Risa Lower in memory of the birth of our newest grandson Milo Lennon Tracy
Sandra Goldstein thank you to the Temple staff for the tireless commitment to our community
Carol Skolnick and Gregory Furtado thank you to Rabbi Debbie Israel, for being part of my mitzvah
Carol Skolnick and Gregory Furtado in honor of my beloved fiancé Gregory Furtado. Mazel tov and welcome home
Leta Miller in memory of Alan K. Miller
Margaret Gordon in loving memory of Jim Gordon
Doug and Gwen Kaplan in memory of Leonard “Zede” Rosenthal
Barbara Beerstein and George Badger in loving memory of Benzion Beerstein from the Beerstein, Badger, Schafer, Kamradt and Singleton clans
Bonnie Boren and Philip Weil in memory of Shane Fenton, beloved husband of Laurel Marks Fenton, son-in-law of Barry Marks and Julie Lorraine
Linda Mandel in loving memory of Jack Mandel
Harriet Maglin
James and Elise Atkins in loving memory of Doris Brown, mother of Elise Atkins
Margaret Gordon
Risa Lower in memory of Richard G. Halpern who made me a better person and will always be in my heart
Jack Hain and Linda Donovan in memory of my father Herbert Hain
Arnold Leff
Laura Giges and Jon Edelbaum in loving memory of my beloved father
Gerald Giges
Laura Giges and Jon Edelbaum in memory of my beloved Grandma Belle
Emily Klein and David Jacobs
Cassandra Sprenger and John Glass
Barbara Sprenger and Kenneth Meshke in honor of the temple community
Sylvia Prysant in memory of Morrie Karz
Sharon McCorkell in memory of Connie Caldwell
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Contributions | October 22, 2021 — February 10, 2022 continued from page 6

Alan and Judy Levin in memory of Stanley Levin, Yetta Haber Levin Bach, and Saah and Elia Papo
David and Muriel Rosenthal in memory of Marion Rosenthal
Robert and Peggy Waters in loving memory of my mom, Elaine Cooper
Neil and Cynthia Alexander in honor of Margaret Gordon
John Leopold and Teresa Buika Leopold in loving memory of Chris Goldstein
Carol Skolnick and Gregory Furtado in memory of Charles Pearce, beloved father of Jen Kanter
Carlos Vasconcelos and Caroline Engel in memory of Christiane Engel
Anita Holzberg in loving memory of Irving Holzberg
Linda McConnell in memory of Chris Goldstein

**ROCK SHABBAT FUND**
George Ow and Gail Michaelis-Ow in memory of Jasmine Berke’s father
Julie Lorraine and Barry Marks in loving memory of Shane Fenton
Paul and Susan Karz in honor of Chavurah Mashuginah
Jack Hain and Linda Donovan
Vicki Belkin-Kondo and Gerry Kondo in loving memory of Mo and Bernice Belkin for keeping Jewish life vibrant for me, my children and grandchildren
Scott Roseman and Jasmine Berke
Julie Lorraine and Barry Marks in honor of Rabbi Paula, Rabbi Shifra and the Rock Shabbat Musicians
Bill Sillavo
Jennifer Wells Kaupp and Raymond Kaupp
Rose Ashford and Felix Fields in loving memory of Robin Winburn
Meryl Selman and Dave Ptak
Judith Wyant

**MILLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**
Rabbi Richard and Nancy Litvak in loving memory of Seymour Statman, devoted father Leah Statman, loving sister
Renee Winter and Paul Roth in memory of Stanley M. Piller brother of Sara Benevento

**ONEG FUND**
Dennis and Cheryl Caspe in memory of Katy Levy
Barbara Schatan and Richard Linzer in memory of Clara Frazer
Elena Nini Cohen and Steve Ritz in memory of Doris Vidaver Cohen
Rachelle Epstein-Norris and Nathan Norris in loving memory of Morris Epstein
Shoshannah and Joshua Orzech in memory of Paul Orzech
Gloria Heistin

**RABBI LITVAK DISCRETIONARY FUND**
Alan and Judy Levin in honor of Linda and Ron Israel’s 50th wedding anniversary
Shirley Marcus in memory of Ben Laden and Howard Marcus
Marq and Elizabeth Lipton in honor of Rabbi Litvak
Miriam Rappaport in memory of my beloved husband Martin
Lovene Wood in memory of Laurie and Jerry Goldstein

**RABBI PAULA MARCUS DISCRETIONARY FUND**
Debra and Tony Sloss in honor of Rabbi Paula
Edward Garner and Lynn LeRose in memory of Jasmine Berke’s beloved father Robert Berke
Jonathan Seidel thanking you for “A Book of Life”
Robyn Slater and Mark Rosenberg in memory of Larry Dennis, father of Michelle Dennis
Santa Cruz County United for Safe and Inclusive Communities (SCCUSIC) in honor of Rabbi Paula’s deep contribution to the success of United Against Hate Week 2021
Nita Lamendola Mazel Tov for the birth of grandson Winston to proud bubbe Diana Rose
Rosemary Zumwalt in memory of Rabbi Shifra
Debra Feldstein and Kenneth Chizinsky in honor of Arielle’s Bat Mitzvah
Rosemary Zumwalt in memory of Rabbi Shifra
Andrew Marcus in honor of Rabbi Marcus’ wonderful rabbinate

Andrew Marcus in honor of Mama B.
Patti Krieger
Marcia Meyer in memory of my mother, Ruth Kahn
Richard Bernstein thank you for helping keep our community safe
Carol Skolnick and Gregory Furtado thanking you for my bat mitzvah
Susan Freeman and Noreen Winkler in loving memory of my father, Gene Shapiro
Nita Lamendola in memory of my brother-in-law David Pesochin
Sandra Goldstein In honor of Rabbi Paula for her wonderful service for Chris Goldstein

**RABBI WEISS-PENZIAS DISCRETIONARY FUND**
Debra and Tony Sloss In honor of Rabbi Shifra
Fran (Francine) Frome
Rosemary Zumwalt in memory of Isaac Jack Levy
Carol Skolnick and Gregory Furtado thanking you for my bat mitzvah
Jennifer Wells Kaupp and Raymond Kaupp

**SECURITY DONATION**
Joan Tanzer and Gerald Frank
Jessica Guild and Julian Dahan
Wendy Cohen

**SENIOR CONNECTIONS FUND**
Fay Levinson and Joe Vela in memory of Manuel R. Schnitzer, beloved father
Fay Levinson and Joe Vela in memory of Ruth Schnitzer, beloved mother
Gail Levine and Emily Wughalter in honor of Marlene Pitkow’s leadership in organizing our Senior Connections Program
Peg Shemaria in loving memory of Gail Levine’s sister Claire
Ronna Schulkin
Laurel and Daniel deGrassi
Michael and Jacqueline Tuttle in memory of Claire, Gail Levine’s sister
Lisa Meredith in honor of Lenore Hindin
Patti Krieger

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Contributions | October 22, 2021 — February 10, 2022 continued from page 7

Paul and Susan Karz in loving memory of our beloved brothers, Paul Garelick and Allen Karz
Loene Wood — Melissa Sunberg for her dedicated work in these difficult times
Paul and Martha Jacobson
Lee Slaff in memory of David Katzenstein

SIMCHA DONATION
Barbara Schatan and Richard Linzer in memory of Sandra Linzer
Marilyn Turner in memory of Mr. Lawrence Selman

SISTERHOOD DONATION
Shaina and Stephen Hall
Amy and David Harrington
Lee and Molly Jaffe in honor of the birth of Shirley and Allen Ginzburg’s grandson Connor

SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND
Nicole Dennis in memory of Elijah, gone for 5 years and much too soon. We love and miss you our angel bear
Margaret Gordon in memory of Rachel Wedeen’s father
Andy Martin and Aimee Raphael - Martin in memory of Larry Dennis, father of Nicole and Michelle Dennis; grandfather of Nate and Jeremy Dennis
The Motleys in loving memory of Chris Goldstein with gratitude and love for how he enriched and inspired each of our lives with his quiet excesses and enduring hope

Julie Lorraine and Barry Marks in memory of Chris Goldstein
Renee Winter and Paul Roth in loving memory of Molly Silverstone, mother
Joan Levine in memory of Chris Goldstein
Ethel Herring — Chris Goldstein
Phyllis Greenleaf in memory of Bertha Berman Taube and Louise N. Taube
Edward Garner and Lynn LeRose in memory of Chris Goldstein
John Leopold and Teresa Buika Leopold in loving memory of Chris Goldstein
Claire Goldstein in loving memory of Christopher Goldstein

TEMPLE SCHOOL GENERAL DONATION
Diana Rose in honor of the birth of a grandson, Winston Utah Hardesty, son of Lana and Nick Hardesty. Baruch HaShem

TEMPLE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP
Renee Lion and Greg Lendahl in memory of Charles Pearce

TZEDEKAH FOR SISTER CONGREGATION ADAIN LO
Edward Garner and Lynn LeRose

YOUTH GROUP DONATION
David Gazek and Shani Ginsburg in memory of Charles Pearce, father of Jen Kanter, father-in-law of Howie, grandfather of Alex and Ben

Happy New Year means that summer & Camp Kayetz is coming sooner than you think!!

SAVE THE DATES
JUNE 20TH - JULY 15TH...
for a fun-filled, friend-filled, best-time-ever sort of experience! And wow, do we have some surprises in the works for you.

Last summer we filled every spot (and then some!), so get those campers registered quickly.

Camp Kayetz is open to kids aged 6 (or post-K) through 15. We’re in camp from 9am to 3pm, Monday through Friday, except July 4th, of course. Can’t wait to see you!

For questions, please e-mail Camp Kayetz director, Mimi Guiney, at miriambg@sbcglobal.net. Registration packets are available to download and print at the TBE website, https://www.tbeaptos.org/camp-kayetz.html

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Honored to Serve our Community

At Benito & Azzaro we believe that everyone has a story worth telling. That is why we focus on helping your family plan and conduct a beautiful farewell ceremony that reflects your values, unites your family & friends and celebrates the story of a life well lived.
— IT TAKES A VILLAGE to fight the injustice of hunger—
TBE's MAZON Project—collectively putting our
Jewish values into action!

Q: Why is sharing our bread with the hungry one of the highest acts of Judaism?
A: It is among the most fundamental, unifying, and uplifting aspects of humanity.

Has your household contributed to our MAZON (sustenance) Project?

In mid-2021, Temple Beth El ambitiously expanded its MAZON Sunday dinner capacity from feeding 40 people/week to 72 people/week, and optimistically launched our 100% MAZON Participation Campaign. Our Campaign encourages every household in our membership to help fight the injustice of hunger by contributing to at least one MAZON meal at our local homeless shelter, at least once per year.

This is a true opportunity for all TBE members to put our Jewish values into action. To collectively feed 72 people every Sunday of the year, our MAZON Project relies on the entire TBE Membership to provide 10 meal contributions per week (4 entrees plus 4 vegetable dishes and 2 desserts. Thus...we are entrusting 520 of our 540 member households to participate once per year, in order to collectively perform this important mitzvah.

Practicing what we preach—Try it. You’ll like it!

To sign up for TBE's MAZON Project, just look for the link located under “Social Action,” on the TBE website. For first timers (mazel tov!), the MAZON website provides detailed instructions on how to sign up in advance and contribute a dish for Sunday dinner at our local Housing Matters Shelters, any week of the year.

Thank you to our Marvelous MAZON Volunteers!

• December 2021: Kristin Pfotenhauer & Friends (10X!), Rachael Katz & Friends (6X!), Leila Veitch, Rose Ashford, Susan & Paul Karz, Cheryl & Dennis Caspe, Roni Habib, Mary Fran Archer, Wilma Gold, Shira Coleman (2X), Geri Wolff (2X), Jackie Tuttle, Penny Chesluk, Larry Levin, Dolinger Family (2X), Lisa Segnitz (2X), Elena Cohen (2X), Gerald Frank, Meryl Selman, and Fay Levinson.

• January 2022: Rose Ashford (2X), Mary Fran Archer, Margaret Gordon, Marianne Cohn, Kate Avraham (2X), Susan & Paul Karz (2X), Laura Segelman (2X), Gaby Litsky, Isaac Hildebrand (2X), Jill Tardiff, Rachael Katz & Friends (8X!), Meryl Selman, Catherine & Bob Cooper, Kathy Cytron, Leah Sugarman (2X), Jen, Shai & Amir Vered (4X!), Penny Chesluk, Leora Fromm, Jackie Tuttle, Jennie Schindler, Leslie Smith, Roni Habib, Melinda Luster, Susan & Stephen Karon, Melissa Sunberg, Lisa Gilbert, Leila Veitch (2X), Susie P. & Carolyn R., TBE Hebrew High, Jacob & Victoria Stone (2X), Elinor Wapner, and Vicki Belkin-Kondo.

Jacob Stone cooked beef stew, green beans, & corn bread for the MAZON Project—providing weekly Sunday dinners for our local Homeless Shelter for over 33 years.

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The Social Justice Committee is pleased to announce that Temple Beth El is in the process of forming its own Dayenu Circle. Dayenu Circles are local chapters of Dayenu (dayenu.org), a national Jewish organization focused on mobilizing Jews in the fight against climate change. Dayenu Circles are a way to make powerful, positive change with a Jewish voice. By working together as a group, we can take decisive actions to confront the climate crisis while sustaining ourselves and each other as we act.

Within our Dayenu Circle, we plan to set up action teams in the following areas: personal and consumer sustainability, greening the Temple facility, legislative and policy action at local, state, and national levels, youth engagement, and sustainable investing. We also look forward to collaborating with other Bay Area Dayenu Circles and hope to share events and activities. The official launch of the TBE Dayenu Circle will happen sometime in the spring.

If you would like to join or would like more information, please contact Bob and Michele Kibrick at kibrick@cruzio.com or Cindy Rubin at cindy_rubin@comcast.net.

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If you offer your compassion to the hungry
And satisfy the famished creature
Then shall your light shine in darkness
And your gloom shall be like noontime.

- Isaiah 58:10
Sustaining the Mishkan*: Mobilizing our hearts and minds for the purpose of love and justice

Temple Beth El’s new DEI Initiative invites everyone in the congregation to add your voice and share your concerns to help make our community a vibrant sanctuary for all of us.

In 1963, the great Jewish scholar and human rights champion, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, asked, “How many disasters do we have to go through in order to realize that all of humanity has a stake in the liberty of one person? Whenever one person is offended, we are all hurt. What begins as inequality of some inevitably ends as inequality of all... Let us dodge no issues. What we need is a total mobilization of heart, intelligence, and wealth for the purpose of love and justice.”

As we experience the rise of anti-Semitism across our country and the world, we share a heightened sense of care for the safety and well-being of all Jewish people. At the same time, we turn toward our own Jewish community here at Temple Beth El and ask one another how we can ensure that each of us feel safe, valued, and included? How can we heal and strengthen ourselves to feel united and courageous as a congregation in the face of any challenge?

These questions drive the Temple Beth El DEI Working Group (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion), a committee of 13 veteran and recent TBE members, meeting regularly since January 2021. The group is co-facilitated by Rabbi Paula, Wilma Gold, and Susan Freeman.

Wanting to make sure that concerns from all parts of our temple community are authentically voiced, we have invited members reflecting a broad cross-section of the congregation to join the DEI Working Group. The folks who stepped up are passionately dedicated to the work, but our group’s limited diversity raises our attention to who is missing from our congregational conversation and increases our commitment to having everyone’s voices be heard in our synagogue’s decision-making.

The mission of the DEI Working Group is founded on the belief that we will be a stronger, more vibrant, whole, and holy congregation when we recognize and fully celebrate the diversity of the Santa Cruz Jewish community, turning to our Jewish values to help bring our community together.

When we speak of diversity, our perspective is wide, reflecting the breadth and complexity of our TBE community. We are a congregation of Jews of different...
ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic backgrounds. We are interfaith families. We are teens and youth, and young adults who are single, in couples or with young children. We are LGBTQ+ members. We are seniors and middle-aged folks. We speak languages other than English or Hebrew. We are members with disabilities or health considerations that impact our participation. We have differing stances on Israel and politics. And we are also very diverse in our spiritual identities, beliefs, and practices. Our diversity can be a source of richness, if we can see and honor it for the gift it is.

To get a clearer picture who is or isn’t represented, the DEI Working Group launched a process to gather and assess information about our community as the first phase of our long-range DEI project. The DEI survey was the first step, distributed to the congregation at Rosh Hashana and at the end of 2021. The survey asked members to share

• concerns related to inclusion and barriers to participation in TBE programs, activities, and groups
• the TBE programs and activities members currently participate in and which new, DEI-focused programs they would like the temple to develop
• contributions each person can make to strengthen inclusive, equitable relationships and activity in the TBE community
• demographic information to help us better understand who we are

We now have over 180 surveys, thanks to all of you who sent in your responses, sharing from the heart. A committee of the Working Group is manually analyzing the survey data. It’s a slow process, but we’re learning a lot. We’ll complete our analysis and write a report by June when we will present our findings to the Board, clergy, and congregation.

The surveys provide valuable insight into our community. Here is some of what we’ve learned:

• The majority of members responding to the survey are ages 66-76+, with a significant response from those 46-65. More than 90% of all responding identify as female.
• The pandemic has had an impact on our community, but the positive take-away is the benefit from our online programing, and many want it to continue in some form.
• 82% of members responding to the survey currently participate in DEI-related programs offered by TBE while 24% would like to see more DEI programing.
• A significant number of members suggest a need for education and dialogue among the congregation to ensure that individuals and families who aren’t reflected in the majority TBE population are recognized, acknowledged, and included.

In Torah, in the Book of Numbers, Moses calls the Israelites together in the wilderness to take a census before they begin construction of the Mishkan, the great sanctuary in which G-d will always be present with the people. It was a first step in urging the Israelites to take action as a community in order to construct their home with G-d and their identity as a Jewish people.

We are now “taking the census” at Temple Beth El, and in the spirit of the Mishkan, we invite each member to equitably contribute to the ongoing creation of our vibrant, caring community through the “total mobilization of heart and intelligence” that Reb Heschel encouraged.

The DEI Survey was the first step. We will continue to engage with the congregation this Spring through a series of Listening Meetings, bringing members together to extend the dialogue the survey began. Please watch for information about these opportunities later this Spring.

DEI is about how we all see and think about each other, and ultimately, how we collaborate to build trust and make space for one another. The DEI Working Group invites you to join with us on this sacred journey. Your contributions are so important to the beloved community we’re constructing together!
Our sponsors were:
Pacific Coffee Roasting Company
Staff of Life
Branding Out

We gathered at TBE where people signed waivers, picked up t-shirts, and made 100 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the River Street Shelter. Families also drew pictures and wrote notes of positivity to go with the sandwiches. The sandwiches were delivered in the afternoon together with a part of the Mazon Meal which Hebrew High had prepared earlier in the Mazon Cooking Class the previous Wednesday evening. Thank you to Rabbi Paula, Rabbi Shifra, and Peter for playing music and leading our pep rally!

Projects were:
Beach Cleanup at Rio Del Mar: Thanks to Mike Rein for rewriting our TBE Mitzvah Day waiver and being the captain of this project. There were 15 people who went to clean up the beach. Thanks to the Santa Cruz Parks Department families were permitted to enter the Seacliff State Park Beach without having to pay the parking fee.
Soquel Cemetery: Thanks to Chris Irvine, Gus Gold, Holly Blue Hawkins, and Josh Karter who helped organize the 50 volunteers who showed up and helped clean up at this location.

Simcha Painting of the shed: Thanks to Josh Karter who started the group out and Shannon Kochanek who took the photos and to Rabbi Shifra who ran out and purchased another gallon of paint since they ran out! There were 15 volunteers at this site. Paul Drescher also helped to sand and stain some outdoor tables in the playground.

TBE Community Garden:
5 volunteers helped to weed up in the garden.

**Special thank you to Eloy**
who set up and cleaned up all our tables and chairs for this event.
AND THANKS TO ALL OF OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!

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Thank You!

Volunteers Test Simcha Children, Staff and Temple Staff for Covid

THANKS so much to our amazing volunteers who tested all of our Simcha students and temple and Simcha staff to make sure we all stayed safe.

Sandra Goldstein    Roberta Gelin
Nancy Yellin         Kathy Cytron
Shani Ginsburg

and thanks also to staff members who helped out, Marilyn, Caitlin, and Michelle.

THANKS so much to those of you who donated Covid tests for our Simcha children and staff.

Sheila Baumgarten    Jessica Breheny
Ellen Primack        Rabbi Rick
Jill Glassman        Gerry Frank
Andrew Goldenkranz

TBE Membership/Engagement Committee

The Membership/Engagement Committee is looking for people who have fresh ideas on how we can stay connected in these sometimes disjointed times. We have been continuing our work building and strengthening the TBE community putting together outdoor walks/tours, virtual neighborhood gatherings, virtual trivia nights and game nights. We even have our meetings virtually (they are usually under an hour and in the evening). If you are interested in joining in on the planning fun, please email Denise Miller at denisej199@gmail.com, or Andrea Yanowitz at andrea@yanomedia.com.
WHEN IS A TENT NOT A TENT?

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT

A BUILDING IS NOT A TENT. The “tent” is a good metaphor to use to describe our community – open, flexible, comfortable, natural, mobile, simple, low maintenance, etc. I can almost feel the warm breeze on my face – and I love that. But from where I sit as V. P. of Operations, “tent” is not a very good metaphor for describing a large, 33-year old institutional building. No, not at all. From where I sit, our facility is all nuts and bolts, pipes, wires, toilets, tiles and mechanical equipment -- all things that get weathered and wear out and require expertise and money to repair.

B&G COMMITTEE. Our TBE community “tent” relies on our physical space to exist. That is where the TBE Building & Grounds Committee (B&G) comes in. B&G meets monthly to discuss and problem-solve building and grounds-related issues, make recommendations to the Board, and help manage projects. The current B&G members are these fine folks, whose time and effort are much appreciated:

Non-Staff and Non-Board: Risa Lower, Gus Gold, Shelly Sonnenberg, Dave Kliger, Rich Hochler, Bob Kibrick.

Staff and Board: David Ginsborg, Rabbi Shifra Weiss-Penzias, Miles Dolinger, Josh Karter, Shani Ginsburg.

COMPLETED PROJECTS: Over the last year, we have completed the lovely restroom renovations (special thanks to Rich Hochler and Shelley Sonnenberg for their time, commitment and expertise to that project); we installed security gates at the parking lot entry and behind the kitchen; we repaired termite damage in some sanctuary roof beams; we repaired a water damaged section of floor in the café; we installed a new, energy efficient electric “heat pump” unit in the main administrative office area; we repaired the HVAC blower in the sanctuary; and we bought a new commercial refrigerator for the kitchen (thank you, Brotherhood and Women of TBE!)

FUTURE PROJECTS: Major projects being discussed for this next 12 months or so include: replacing our 30-40 year-old old phone system with modern equipment; repairing the wood fencing and gates around the Simcha yard next to the building; repairing and resealing the parking lot; removing and trimming dangerous trees; repairing damaged and uplifted sections of concrete walkways; and upgrading our security camera system. There is always a lot to do.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR MORE B&G VOLUNTEERS. We are recruiting additional committed volunteers to serve on the B&G Committee who are able to do actual work in addition to attending meetings. That work includes, by way of example, researching products and vendors, getting proposals and/or meeting with contractors, working on grants, and co-managing projects. We would also like to find a volunteer who is open to the possibility of eventually leading the committee itself once they get up to speed. Please contact me, David Ginsborg or one of the Rabbis if you are willing and interested. It is good management and leadership experience, and it is good service. Younger temple members are especially encouraged.

THE RESERVE STUDY. As our facility is now squarely middle aged, it is getting increasingly expensive to maintain and repair, and both our building and our grounds are and will continue to need necessary, deferred maintenance, repairs and replacements. But how much will that cost? In order to get a handle on these short, middle, and long-term costs, we hired a facilities consultant to prepare a “reserve study”, which included an analysis and budget for repair and maintenance costs over a 30-year period in order to help us budget and raise money for a building and grounds “reserve fund”. The numbers are high, but unsurprising, and the good news is that we now have solid cost estimates on which to base this aspect of our financial planning and budgeting. The Board’s next big challenge is to figure out the best way to raise more money to pay for these costs and/or the best way to make disciplined, annual, systemic contributions to a building and grounds reserve fund as part of every budget. Stay tuned for more communications about this in the spring.

We have a great facility. Large, functional, and comfortable, it gives us the space and privacy we need to worship, educate kids and adults, and put on a variety of community activities and events. We are all looking forward to returning to relative normalcy post-Covid, so we can have more events and see each other in person at the Temple. I can’t wait to see you there.

By Miles J. Dolinger
TBE Board of Directors
V. P. of Operations
Chair, Buildings & Grounds Committee
Chair, Cemetery Committee
From Rabbi Shifra

Two years ago for Purim I put on a panda costume with the label “Pand-emic” hanging around my neck. One week later, everything shut down. Since that time, little by little, we are figuring out how to get together safely, creating every possible opportunity to bring our wonderful Jewish community together outdoors. The silver lining to this is that people seem to be happier outdoors, and we are lucky enough to live in Santa Cruz County.

This year we are preparing another wild Purim celebration, morphing what we have done before into something new. The TBE Purim Megillah Reading and Carnival is coming back, with the youth group running the games and volunteers selling tickets and food and giving out prizes. Temple school students have been preparing skits and songs to perform live and on video, hamantaschen are baking and mishloach manot bags are being decorated. There is even a rumor that we may be lucky enough again to see King Achashverosh in his bathrobe.

A few things will be different, 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. So come in costume, bring your grogger, and let’s be silly together. I can’t wait to see you!

Rabbi Shifra Weiss-Penzias

Onward: A Report from the Executive Director

Being Prepared

As Executive Director I take very seriously the health and safety of our members, children, guests and employees. “Be prepared” has been my motto, it is something that has been ingrained in me since my earliest days on my path to Eagle Scout. When I lived at the Berkeley Bayit while at Cal, I came to appreciate the sacred obligation to be prepared for Shabbat or Passover.

Whether it is responding to the latest variant of Covid or readying for the unthinkable at TBE,
A bad storm. We have upgraded our masks and made them available not only to all employees but also to members of TBE and the community; we have required all employees to be fully vaccinated and up to date on their boosters; we have moved all our programs and schools outside; the list goes on and on. The biggest challenge since the full onset of Omicron was setting up a weekly testing regimen for all preschoolers and employees. What we have managed to accomplish with testing has been truly magnificent. Numerous other daycare programs have been shut down due to Covid. Our testing regiment has kept out asymptomatic children with Covid and minimized the impact on TBE. I greatly appreciate the help and support provided by our Preschool Director and teachers. I also want to thank an amazing group of temple members who have volunteered. Equally amazing, due to Caitlin’s resourcefulness and assistance from really generous members of the congregation, we have received approximately 100 tests a week at no cost. Protection comes in many forms including getting the best public health and scientific advice. We have been very fortunate to have the services of Dr. David Epstein, a professor of infectious disease at Stanford University. To further supplement our ongoing evaluations, I have recruited from my previous job Dr. Marty Fenstersheib, who was the former director of the largest Public Health Department in Northern California and is effectively a regional version of Dr Fauci!

Our process for evaluating when we need to add or take off another layer starts with their medical advice which is then reviewed by the senior management team weekly and deeply informed by our Rabbis and our values. Rest assured we’ll be moving very deliberately and taking into account measures to provide a high level of safety for employees, the children and members we serve and the community we live in. Our goal is to follow the science whether it be the physical impact of Covid or the mental health impacts.

In closing, we do all of this for one reason; so that all of us can return safely to TBE to focus on coming together to worship, learn, and be of service to each other and to our entire community.

David Ginsborg (He/Him)  
Executive Director  
dginsborg@tbeaptos.org

COVID

TBE has similarly taken a strong, be prepared approach, to warding off Covid, even the highly contagious Omicron. Our approach has been like layering up for...
Judaism Outdoors

Making paper mache masks

Building the Second Temple out of sand

FUNDRAISER FOR MARLA STONE LYONS (Star La’Moan)

VENUE: Gold/Wolf Ranch, Watsonville
Shuttle Pickup:
Park at Calabasas Elementary School,
202 Calabasas Rd. Watsonville

DATE: Sunday March 27th, 2022
TIME: 1-4:30pm
COST: $25+ suggested DONATION tickets available in advance or at the door

Join us for an enjoyable afternoon of great music, food, drinks, and positive vibes at a venue in Watsonville. There is a shuttle going to the venue from the Calabasas Elementary School parking lot.

This is a life-affirming fundraising event to benefit Marla Starla and help her get back on her feet after more than a year of cancer treatment that derailed her health and career and uprooted her from her Santa Cruz home.

In the summer of 2020, Marla was diagnosed with an invasive cancer requiring surgery and ongoing chemotherapy. This has curtailed her careers as an educator and performer and has uprooted her from her Santa Cruz community and housing.

Your admission ticket includes served hors d’oeuvres, wine, soft drinks and a rip-roaring good time. Performers will include Star La’Moan and The Kitchenettes (Everything AND the kitchen sink!), John Michael, Restless Souls, Bob O’Neill and many more talented musical friends. There will be raffles to win art, jewelry, local food and restaurant packages and much more!

Please bring a mask, eating utensils, plate and drink container. Also folding lawn chairs for the performance area. A negative covid test within 72 hours of the event or proof of vaccination are required.
Brotherhood Goes to the Santa Cruz Warriors!

Sunday, March 20 at 6pm

Brotherhood goes back to the gym – well, sort of. It’s actually Kaiser Permanente Arena in Santa Cruz for a game at 6pm, Sunday, March 20 between our Santa Cruz Warriors & Salt Lake City Stars

The Warriors have reserved group seats for Brotherhood in Section C near mid-court, straight up from the Warriors bench. The tickets are $22 each, with no tax or fees, and we’ll each receive a free Warriors baseball-style hat too! For more info: https://santacruz.gleague.nba.com

All TBE invited! Please buy seats directly through the Warriors group sales guru, Jacob Trujillo, and pick them up at Will Call. Here’s his contact info:

Jacob Trujillo
831.713.4403 (office)
408.768.5957 (cell)
JTrujillo@santacruzbasketball.com

We will run out of tickets, so don’t wait to order! Currently, proof of a full vaccination or a recent negative Covid test must be shown at the door, but those requirements may change by game time. Here’s the latest requirements at KP Arena: https://santacruz.gleague.nba.com/fan-safety/. Can’t wait to see you at the game!