

the shofar

☆ SPRING 2023 ☆

Walking Each Other Home

As many of you know, Aryeh and I went to Maui every year for a retreat with the spiritual teacher, Ram Das. At these retreats, I was the community rabbi and I loved sharing Shabbat celebrations with some of the folks who were there. Ram Das spent many years working with the dying. He had a stroke in 1997, and from that time forward, he prepared for his own death, which happened in 2019. The title of his last book was *Walking Each Other Home: Conversations on Loving and Dying*.

Aryeh also spent many years preparing for his own death. Since his cardiac arrest in 2014, our family began to understand on an ever-deepening level the fragility of life, and the reality of mortality. When he was diagnosed with cancer in 2018 and we learned that there was no cure, these conversations about death were more frequent. Family time became incredibly precious.

And then Covid hit. I was working from home and in between Zoom meetings, Aryeh and I could touch base. We weren't going out much, except to take walks by the beach and explore other areas of the county together. We treasured our days together, knowing that the cancer would progress to a point where he would run out of treatment options.

This past year has been very difficult for Aryeh. He struggled with a wide range of side effects from the medication he took for a trial

protocol at UCSF. He and I spoke about how he would not be able to tolerate the level of challenges he faced. The family knew that this was his decision to make, and while it was incredibly painful, we had the opportunity to thank him for his courageous effort to stay alive, and to know when the suffering was too great to sustain.

Facing our own mortality and preparing for the death of a loved one is both painful and important. Aryeh taught us how to die with grace and dignity, while walking each other home.

As I continue to mourn the loss of my dear Aryeh, I want to thank all of you who have supported us over so many years. I especially want to thank Rabbi Shifra, for giving me the time to care for Aryeh, and to grieve. The rest of our staff and the board have also been incredibly generous and supportive.

Aryeh dedicated his life to others, and I know that his spirit will continue to live in the work of our congregation. His memory is for a blessing.

Rabbi Paula



Rabbi Paula & Aryeh Nanas

Rabbi Shifra

As a congregation, we support each other and go through life's ups and downs together. We have lost many beloved congregants recently, and we have also celebrated many simchas. Judaism gives us a framework to help us process these moments. It lifts these times up by pointing to the spiritual dimension in life. It reminds us to consciously share the events which change our lives with our community.

A congregant who I recently visited shared this story with me about her life: She was 6 when her parents divorced, and when she was 9 she moved to a Jewish home for children in San Francisco. She enjoyed growing up there, because they had lots of wonderful activities for the 10 boys and 10 girls who live there. A young man who had just come from Germany came to live in the home, having just survived the holocaust. Of course, he was different than the other kids in San Francisco, so he didn't have many friends at first. Although she was much younger than him, she befriended him. He had lost a sister in the holocaust who was her same age.

Eight years after they first met, he enlisted in the army. She was 17. He sent her an engagement ring in the mail from overseas.



Rabbi Shifra

continued on page 2



Rabbi Shifra *continued from page 1*

She wrote back that she would wait for him, and she did. They married when he returned. Even now, many years after his death, he kisses her in her dreams. She has faith that they will be reunited in death and looks forward to being with him again. This is a rare love story.

We don't take the love between any two people for granted. So many people are lonely and feel unloved. So when two people really love each other and are separated by death it is heartbreaking for all of us

Rabbi Shifra Weiss-Penzias

In the Temple Family

Welcome to New Members

New Members and Condolences 2.1.23 - 4.30.23

Please check your online directory for their information

Niki Sudduth & Dan Wolfers

Claire Shorenstein & Eric Fullenbaum

Bruce Thompson

Alisa Malki & Darren Key

Emily Sinclair



May their memories be for a blessing

Morris Goodman - Beloved father of Jay Goodman, father-in-law of Ann Goodman, and grandfather of Zach, Rina, and Maya

Anita Lande - Beloved wife of Ken Lande, mother of Renee Lande O'Malley and Laura Lande, mother-in-law of Rich O'Malley, grandmother of Joe and Michael O'Malley

Ed Sacks - Beloved husband of Norma Sacks, father of Lisa and Josh, grandfather of Talia, Lucy, Leah, and Justin

Aaron Gordon - Beloved husband of Lesley Gordon, father of Daniel, Shari, Christopher, and Jonathan.

Rock Shabbat

Friday, July 14

7:30pm

An experience
of music,
worship,
and spirituality

A perfect occasion

to share with friends,
newcomers, and guests



Congregational Meeting

Thursday, June 14th at 7pm on Zoom

Please join us as we all come together to celebrate the past year and learn what is ahead for our congregation. We will vote in the new slate of board members, review the congregational budget, watch cute videos of the children, remember those we've lost, and connect.

Don't miss this uplifting and important meeting!

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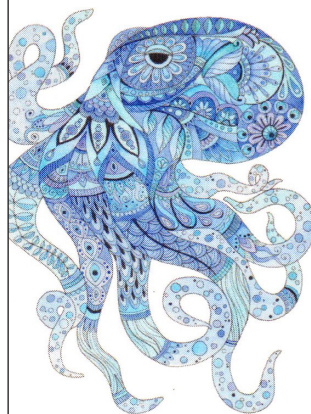
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Note from the Temple President

Temple Beth El is back in full swing, and it feels great! Have you had a chance to experience the feeling lately? I am thrilled with the wide range of worthwhile and exciting events that are being held at, or sponsored by, our Temple on a weekly basis! And most of these events are now being held in-person, or both in-person and on Zoom. Our shul is truly living up to its official legal name, the **Jewish Community Center** of Santa Cruz, Inc., commonly known as Temple Beth El (TBE).

Last year on Erev Rosh Hashanah, I spoke about how TBE truly provides a sense of community for me. In recent weeks, I've attended several TBE events that have contributed to that sense of community. On April 30, I joined about 25 TBE members and friends for the Brotherhood Wildflower Hike at the East Glenwood Open Space Preserve in Scotts Valley, led by TBE's own **Mimi Guiney**, a former State Parks Ranger. What a beautiful hike in nature, with the sun shining and early wildflowers blooming! And one of the best parts of this outing was the opportunity to talk and become better acquainted with some of my fellow TBE members. It was just lovely! Earlier in April, I attended the Brotherhood's (delicious) Bagel Brunch with UCSC Professor **Craig Reinerman**, who spoke on the important topic "The Gun Violence Epidemic: What Can We Do?" Professor Reinerman gave an extremely cogent and thought-provoking talk on this critical subject. And speaking of thought-provoking talks, on May 7 I attended the Jewish Community Education Forum's Presentation on "Ethnic Studies in K-12 Schools: What it Means for the Jewish Community," with excellent speaker, **Dr. Mike Harris**, a pediatrician and author who is one of the founders of San Francisco Voice for Israel and has been deeply involved in the issue of Ethnic Studies in California. This was a very well-attended event, and Dr. Harris's talk was informative and highly motivating—afterwards, many people stayed to talk animatedly about how this issue has played out in our state and locally, and how we can get more involved.

The purpose of that last paragraph was not simply to report my spring calendar to you! My point is, those were only three of the great many TBE events available to enable our community members to have fun, be together, and become informed about issues that are important to us as Jews. Not to mention the many opportunities for us to gather for prayer (especially my favorite, Rock Shabbat), for deep contemplation and soulful communication (such as Counting the Omer with **Rabbi Shifra**), for fun social interaction (such as

the Spring Social that was held on April 30 for members interested in joining a chavurah), for educating and celebrating our children (such as the end-of-year Temple School gathering and the Senior Send Off Shabbat), and, I could go on and on and on. . .

In addition to participating in these wonderful events, I have recently been working closely with Executive Director **David Ginsborg**, the Budget Committee and the Board of Directors on developing our TBE budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 which begins on July 1. I strongly encourage you to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting on June 14 at 7 pm on Zoom. You will see announcements of this meeting in the Temple Weekly that Melissa Sunberg sends out each week. Please join us to see and hear a review of our events and accomplishments for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, a presentation on the state of TBE finances, introductions of new staff and Board members, and things to look forward to in 2023-2024.

As members, we are all responsible to do what we can to support and take care of our beloved synagogue and Jewish community center. If you have thoughts and ideas about how you can help, or how to make TBE meet your needs better, please feel free to contact me at judyclaireyokel@gmail.com or give me a call at (831) 588-5378. I hope to see you on Zoom at the Congregational Meeting on June 14, and I wish you a truly delightful summer!

Judy Yokel

President, member of Board of Directors



Judy Yokel

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- cooking
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- Israeli dancing
- camping trip
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- Boardwalk day
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- Raging Waters

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<https://www.tbeaptos.org/camp-kayetz.html>

Questions?
Email: JMitchell@tbeaptos.org





Bar Mitzvah

Toby Jaffé became a Bar Mitzvah on May 20. As a seventh-grade honor roll student at Kirby Prep School, Toby loves reading, traveling, playing video games and spending time with his family. His hobbies include role playing games, building models, learning to play the piano, devouring history books and discussing current events. He is a devoted brother, loyal friend, and all around wonderful young man.



Gert Goldman

Temple Member **Gert Goldman** was honored with a surprise party and a proclamation from Supervisor Zack Friend, which established April 14 as “*Gert Goldman Day*.” Gert retired after 22 years of serving as a foster grandparent at Mar Vista Elementary School.



Life Long Learning Presents

Jewish Women Writing & Making History: **Eleanor Flexner & Bella Abzug**

With **Bettina Aptheker, Prof. Emerita, UCSC**, speaking in-person at TBE:

June 21, 1:30PM - schmooze/nosh
2PM - Talk and Q&A

Join us for a delightful afternoon talk by **Bettina Aptheker** at TBE as she speaks about the lives of two extraordinary Jewish feminists: **Eleanor Flexner** and **Bella Abzug**.

Eleanor Flexner was a major feminist historian of the mid-twentieth century who launched the field of study that became known as “*Women’s History*.” Her book, *Century of Struggle* was the first single-volume inclusive history of the woman suffrage movement.

Bella Savitsky Abzug, (Battling Bella) was a radical civil rights and feminist lawyer, a *US Congresswoman* for 6 years, and one of the most visible and dynamic leaders of the second wave of the *Women’s Liberation Movement*. She initiated the *National Women’s Political Caucus* and was at the forefront of the international *Eco-Feminism* movement.

Bettina Aptheker is a Distinguished Professor Emerita of Feminist Studies at UCSC. Her most recently published book is called *Communists in Closets: Queering the History, 1930s-1990s*. She is a feminist scholar-activist who has been involved in social justice movements for more than 50 years. A dynamic speaker and storyteller with a good sense of humor, Bettina has been a member of Temple Beth El for many years.

Senior Connections

Senior Connections Encounters Rare Books and Documents at UCSC

On May 15 Senior Connections visited the Special Collections and Archives at McHenry Library at UCSC.

This visit offered *TBE Senior Connections* an in-person and hands-on encounter with unique and beautiful art books. We perused two gorgeous Haggadot as well as letters and documents including collections of Temple member and *UCSC Distinguished Professor Emerita Bettina Aptheker* and from the husband of former Supervisor and TBE member **Robley Levy** who, in the 1920s, was the first Jewish *New York Times* correspondent in Egypt.

Elizabeth Hernandez, the first Community Archivist, was enthusiastic in telling us about the *CART program (Community Archival and Research Training)*. This program can provide community groups like TBE with the know-how to develop their own community archives.

The “whipped cream” of the afternoon, literally, was a reception hosted by *Head of Library, Elizabeth Cowell* especially for our group.

Hats off to the *Head of Special Collections, Teresa Mora*, for her fascinating, enthusiastic, and cordial presentation.

Sheila Baumgarten



Dear Temple Community,

Hello, Temple Beth El Community! Simcha has been loving the beautiful weather!

Simcha has been enjoying the transition into Spring and all the changes to our environment this brings. Our Kinder and 3-year-old classrooms currently have milkweed plants with monarch caterpillars living on them that they look forward to watching transform into butterflies. Our 4-year-old classroom recently enjoyed a walking fieldtrip to visit our local firefighter station. The toddlers have been doing a lot of gardening, including planting flowers right in the Simcha front entrance walkway.

After such an incredible year of friendship, learning and investigating, we will be entering our graduation month where we will say goodbye to a handful of our students as they journey on to their next adventure. We will be hosting an end of year celebration to honor our students and families who brought so much Simcha (joy) to Simcha!

We still have some openings in our 4-year-old classroom, as well as our K/1 classroom. Please support our program by spreading the word of our incredible program amongst the community!

Thank you all,

Caitlin Clancy, *Simcha Director*



Welcome Roxy!

Roxy Tracy has joined us as our new *Congregational Learning Coordinator*. Roxy is a wonderful educator with twelve years of classroom experience

and a masters in education, who also enjoys administrative work. She is a great addition to our stellar TBE team. Roxy grew up in our congregation and is now a member of TBE along with her husband **Chris** and their two young children, **Kyle** and **Milo**. They are very excited about Roxy's new role at TBE, as are her proud parents **Eddie** and **Lori Scher**, her brother **Abe**, and his wife **Jess**.

Roxy brings a wealth of Jewish knowledge to this position -- and a beautiful singing voice. You've probably heard her chant Torah at one of our recent High Holiday services, or when she was younger. She is looking forward to working within a community she has loved and cherished for so long and is excited to continue the work of fostering a passion for Jewish learning in TBE's young members.

Families who want to reach Roxy about Temple School or anything education-related -- or just to say hi and welcome -- can reach her at tracy@tbeaptos.org.

Please join us in welcoming Roxy!

Blessing,
Rabbi Shifra



Contributions | February 1 — April 30, 2023

BROTHERHOOD DONATION

Molly and Lee Jaffe in memory of Aaron Gordon

Molly and Lee Jaffe in memory of Ed Sacks and all he did for this community

BUILDING FUND DONATION

David Green Baskin and

Cyn Baskin in memory of Eddie Sacks, a great person and a great friend to so many

Lori and Eddie Scher in memory of Faye Alexander

Marni and Larry Williams in honor of Dr. Ed Sacks

Nina Koocher and Bernard Elbaum

Vicki Hendin in memory of Ed Sacks

Vicki Hendin in memory of Faye Alexander

CAMP KAYETZ DONATION

Steven and Miriam Guiney in honor of the Confirmation Class

CHOIR FUND

Diane and Howard Grunes in memory of Ed Sacks

Bernard and Eleanor Hilberman in memory of Ed Sacks

Bernard and Eleanor Hilberman in memory of Anita Lande

Lester and Martha Miller in memory of Anita Lande and Ed Sacks. Two wonderful temple members and outstanding choir members

Ronna Schulkin in appreciation of Emily Sinclair

Ronna Schulkin in honor of Anita Lande

Ronna Schulkin in loving memory of Ed Sacks

Daniel Gold and Patrick LeCuyer in loving memory of David Gold

Fay Levinson and Joe Vela in memory of Anita Lande

Barbara Steinfeld in memory of Anita Lande

Jackie and Adam Broida in loving memory of Aunt Anita Lande

Shirley and Allen Ginzburg in memory of Ed Sacks

Dennis and Cheryl Caspe in memory of Anita Lande

Shirley and Allen Ginzburg in memory of Anita Lande

Robert and Michele Kibrick in memory of Ed Sacks

Harold and Francine Raphael in loving memory of Anita Lande

Nancy and Rich Morgenstern in loving memory of Anita Lande

Michael and Jacqueline Tuttle in loving memory of Anita Lande

Ken Lande in memory of Ed Sacks

Ken Lande in honor of Chavurah Mitzvah for their wonderful support during this difficult time

Ken Lande in honor of John and Sandy Warren for hosting the Meal of Consolation for us

Marilyn Rigler in loving memory of Anita Lande who was a bright and shiny star

Robert and Michele Kibrick in memory of Anita Lande

Rabbi Paula Marcus and Aryeh Nanas in memory of Anita Lande

Maria Gitin and Samuel Torres in honor of the beauty and perseverance of the choir throughout the pandemic

Bernard and Eleanor Hilberman in memory of Max Hilberman

Bernard and Eleanor Hilberman in memory of George Packer

FILM FESTIVAL

Marilyn Rigler in appreciation of Paul Drescher

Kevin Keelan in appreciation of The Film Festival

Elise and Jim Atkins in honor of Marilyn Rigler, for her many years running the Jewish Film Festival

Sheila and Murray Baumgarten

Michael and Terry Rein

Kelly Arbor

Larry and Diane Levin

Stephen and Susan Karon in honor of the untiring work of the Film Festival committee and Paul Drescher. They do a fine job!

Jane Cohen and Sara Swinehart in honor of Paul Drescher, for his continued and charming leadership of our local Jewish film club

GENERAL FUND

Rita and Marty Epstein in memory of Anita Lande

Maria Gitin and Samuel Torres thinking of you Aryeh Nanas and Family

Arlene and Harvey Feldmeier and Family in memory of our dear cousin Anita Lande - a ray of sunshine!

Laura Giges and Jon Edelbaum in memory of Ed Sacks, and his many contributions to our TBE community

Linda and Shel Eisenberg in memory of Anita Lande

Leta Miller in loving memory of Ed Sacks

Shirley Marcus in memory of Faye Alexander

Maria Gitin and Samuel Torres in honor of Wilma and Gus Gold for leading Kaddish Call on my sister's Yahrzeit

Harvey Halperin and Donna Barr in memory of Max and Lottie Halperin

Dennis and Cheryl Caspe in memory of Faye Alexander

Rebecca Weissman

David and Sara Benevento in loving memory of Mary Benevento, Dave's mother, Sara's mother-in-law, Grandma to Laura Adney and Evan Benevento, and Great-Grandma to Mason and Cooper Adney, and Mathias and Penelope Benevento

Renee Roberts in loving memory of Dave Roberts, husband of Renee and father of Nye and Sam

Lee and Molly Jaffe in honor of Melissa Sunberg for everything she does to keep us connected

Jane and William Tyler

Carrie Toder

Sherman Unell

Rachel Wedeen in loving memory of Faye Alexander

Casey Coonerty Protti and Michel Protti in loving memory of Faye Alexander

Marv Wexler

Arnold Levin in loving memory of Faye Alexander

JANET ROTHCHILD ROCK SHABBAT FUND

Genevieve and Eric Platt

George Ow and Gail Michaelis-Ow in loving memory of Gus Michaelis

George Ow and Gail Michaelis-Ow in memory of Ed Sacks

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LIBRARY FUND

Tina Greenberg, Richard Goldsmith and Family in loving memory of the beloved mother of Roz Shorenstein, Natalie Greenberg. May her memory be for a blessing

LIFELONG LEARNING

Susan and Marc Mangel in honor of Carol Shapiro, a woman of valor
James and Elise Atkins

ONEG FUND

Daniel and Sandy Chamberlain in memory of Connie Chamberlain
Rosemary Zumwalt
Carol Skolnick and Gregory Furtado in loving memory of my mother, Pearl Skolnick
Nita Lamendola in memory of Leonard Kaplan and Sharon Kaplan
Nita Lamendola in memory of Beatrice Fisher
Nancy Hoffman in memory of Samuel Hoffman
Elena Cohen and Steve Ritz in memory of Maynard M. Cohen
Shelley and David Sonnenberg
John and Merry Oppenheimer in loving memory of Miriam Oppenheimer
Elena Cohen and Steve Ritz in memory of Doris Vidaver Cohen

RABBI LITVAK DISCRETIONARY FUND

Michael and Rosalind Shorenstein in memory of Natalie Greenberg
Carolyn Hyatt in memory of Faye Alexander
Ken Lande in honor of Rabbi Rick for his wonderful support during this difficult time
Shirley Marcus in loving memory of Ben Laden and Fannie Laden
Martin Caspe in honor of Dennis Caspe on the occasion of his 80th birthday

RABBI PAULA MARCUS DISCRETIONARY FUND

Diana Rothmancin honor of Rabbi Paula
Hadara Stanton Hersh in memory of Dr. Rivka Greenberg
Trudi Stone wishing Mazel Tov to Joe Vela on his 80th birthday

Lisa Sacks in loving memory of Ed Sacks
Amy and David Harrington in memory of Ed Sacks
Bonnie and Loren Morr
Howie Schneider and Diane Brayman
Jennifer Wells Kaupp and Ray Kaupp in honor of Rabbi Paula Marcus and all she does for the temple
Wilma and Gus Gold in honor of Rabbi Paula Marcus

RABBI WEISS-PENZIAS DISCRETIONARY FUND

Diana Rose in honor of my grandson, Winston Hardesty
Marilyn Rigler in loving memory of my husband David
Linda Imonode Skemer and Andrew Skemer in honor of Rabbi Shifra, thanking her for all her help

SECURITY FUND

Joan Tanzer and Gerald Frank
Jessica Guild and Julian Dahan
Norma Sacks in honor of a dear friend, Susan Karon

SENIOR CONNECTIONS FUND

Fay Levinson and Joe Vela In loving memory of Ruth Schnitzer and Manuel R. Schnitzer
Stephanie Jacobs
Diane and Howard Grunes in honor of Marlene Grunes for her longtime leadership and commitment to Senior Connections
Jane Cohen and Sara Swinehart
Bonnie and Loren Morr

Risa Lower
Barbara Robinson in memory of Ed Sacks
Bonnie and Loren Morr
Alan and Judy Levin in memory of Faye Alexander
Marni and Larry Williams in memory of Faye Alexander
Daniel Gold and Patrick LeCuyer in loving memory of Bertha Gold
Daniel Gold and Patrick LeCuyer in memory of Faye Alexander
Lester and Martha Miller in memory of Faye Alexander
Shirley and Allen Ginzburg in memory of Natalie Greenberg and Faye Alexander
Priva and Michael Tarbet
Barbara Robinson in memory of Faye Alexander

SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

Diane and Howard Grunes in honor of Gert Goldman Day - April 14th
Diane and Howard Grunes in memory of Anita Lande
Harold and Francine Raphael in loving memory of Ed Sacks
Bernard and Eleanor Hilberman in memory of Faye Alexander

WOMEN OF TBE

Molly and Lee Jaffe in memory of Anita Lande

YOUNG FAMILIES

Gregg Weissman in loving memory of Bernie Marcus

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Thank you to our awesome April MAZON Volunteers:

Jackie Tuttle, Catherine & Bob Cooper, Gaby Litsky, Pat Lerman (2X), Lisa Segnitz, Rose Ashford, Victoria Finder, Kate Avraham, Rachelle Norris, Rachael Katz & Friends (5X) including Sigrid Snitzer & Family (2X); Penny Chesluk (2X), Ari Lessin (2X), Kim Horowitz, Michele & Bob Kibrick; Vicki, Miachael, Sophie & Jacob Stone (3X); Julie Lorraine & Ellison Marks, Ysrailya Dolinger, Priva Tarbet, Kathy Cytron, Rosemary Zumwalt, Leslie Smith, Hila & Jack Michailson--also in December & February!; Chloe Marin (2X), Dennis & Cheryl Caspe (2X), Lisa Gilbert, Larry Levin, Ruth Smith, Todd Bank, Susan & Paul Karz, Wilma Gold (3X!), Geri Wolff (2X), Shira Coleman Hagar (2X), and Mary Fran Archer & Ivan Rosenblum.

Thank you to the marvelous May MAZON Volunteers:

Melinda Iuster, Gloria Heistein, Martha Jacobson, Kate Avraham (2X), Leora Fromm, Hannah Stubblefield, Paul Drescher, Cecily Ruttenberg (2X), Rose Ashford, Rachael Katz & Friends (5X) including Sigrid Snitzer & Family (2X); Ari Lessin, Catherine & Bob Cooper, Gaby Litsky, Geri Wolff (3X), Wilma Gold (3X), Susan & Stephen Karon, Shira Hagar (2X), Todd Bank, Susan & Paul Karz, Mary Fran Archer & Ivan Rosenblum, Pat Lerman (4X!), Carolyn Coleman, and Meryl Selman (2X).

And todah rabah to our Temple School for providing a MAZON dessert in December!



John Lessin Friend 7th Grade



Dave Benevento



Asher Snitzer



Ariana



BROTHERHOOD!

MAZON | A Jewish Response To Hunger



BROTHERHOOD DOES MAZON Sunday, June 25

On Sunday June 25, Brotherhood will shop, bake, prepare, and deliver meals to 72 residents at *Housing Matters Homeless Shelter* in support of our Temple's wonderful MAZON Project.

Temple members have been providing meals every Sunday since 1988(!) to the homeless in our community. Brotherhood plans to make it a social event for our volunteers too – we'll gather to shop in the morning and cook afterwards! If interested in helping Brotherhood on June 25, or in donating to help pay for the food, please **contact chairperson Dan** at dan@iuster.com. You can always sign up on the Temple's website to help MAZON. Truly, it's a mitzvah!



BROTHERHOOD BASEBALL AND FIREWORKS Monday, July 3 at 6:30 pm - All TBE Invited

Come join Brotherhood at the **San Jose Giants' ballpark** this summer to see the **Giants** take on the **Modesto Nuts**, followed by fireworks! We've reserved picnic tables in a shaded section along the right field line just past first base. Tickets are \$30 each for this 6:30 pm Monday July 3 game and fireworks. Join our carpool to the game! Space is limited (really!), so **please RSVP to Jim** at jim@snikta.us ASAP.



BEACH BBQ HOSTED BY BROTHERHOOD! Saturday, July 15 5 to 8PM at Seabright Beach- All TBE Invited

Come gather with your Temple friends at **Brotherhood's annual Beach BBQ!** All TBE members are invited to this FREE Brotherhood-hosted event from 5 to 8PM Saturday July 15 at Seabright Beach—across from the whale at the *Museum of Natural History*, 1305 E. Cliff Drive. Brotherhood chefs will be grilling beef, turkey, and vegie hot dogs. TBE members are invited to bring their families, but no guests please. **Please bring a side dish (if last name is A - M) or dessert (if last name is N - Z) to share, your own drinks, chairs, blankets, and beach toys.** Cost: it's FREE (thanks to generous donations from Brotherhood members). We're hoping you'll have such a good time you'll consider signing up as a member or supporter of Brotherhood. **Just a reminder that glass and alcohol aren't allowed on beaches.** We expect a crowd, so **kindly RSVP by July 12** to **Brotherhood secretary Mike** at mike@reinlaw.net. **Any questions, contact chairperson Bob** at rfeldfam@aol.com. We can't wait to get together again!



JOIN BROTHERHOOD!

We support youth activities in our community and serve up lots of social and educational activities for our members and their friends and families. You can pay your 2023-24 membership dues online through the Temple's website or mail your check to the Temple made payable to "TBE Brotherhood". Annual dues start at \$54. All men and women can join Brotherhood, whether or not members of TBE. We look forward to another grand year with our members and supporters!

BROTHERHOOD!

The **Brotherhood Executive Committee** voted to allocate \$1500 towards temple youth activities for fiscal year 2023. In addition to hosting the Temple School Picnic in September (and many other events), we look forward to working with the Executive Director and the Temple board on other opportunities to support Temple youth in fiscal year 2024.

Camp Kayetz -- \$500 for camperships

Purim Carnival -- \$250

Beit Mitzvah Retreat -- \$250

Gifts for Beit Mitzvah students -- \$250

SRFY activities -- \$250

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Women of Beth El

The Women of Beth El proudly announce a gift of nearly \$16,000 to the Temple's 2023-24 budget.

Thanks to your enthusiastic response to our annual plea for **Sisterhood** dues, and your ongoing patronage of the **TBE Gift Shop**, we have the resources to support our traditional projects.

Among our many varied allotments this coming year:

- Congregational High Holiday food [apples and honey, challah and juice]
- Youth programs
- Gifts for Beit Mitzvahs and the Confirmation Class
- The Beit Mitzvah retreat
- Replacement kitchen supplies
- Oneg Aide
- The Purim Carnival

In addition are grants for defraying costs for some **Temple School** students, and youngsters attending our summer program, **Camp Kayetz**. We give generously, also, to the unrestricted general fund which maintains our beautiful building and sustains our wonderful employees.

We hope YOU are as pleased as we are!

**Shirley Ginzburg, Ruth Solomon, Beverly Meschi,
Jen Kanter, Gail Levine**



A Celebration of Song

Sunday, June 11 at 3pm

A Benefit Concert with
Choir Director **Emily Sinclair**



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Home of Peace

Over the past thirty years it has been my great privilege to be involved with our cemeteries. During this time, I have come to know many congregants intimately and made many wonderful friends. As our congregation grew and aged, **Home of Peace** expanded, and **Beit Olam** in *Soquel* was established to be able to serve not only our congregation, but also the greater Jewish and non-Jewish community. Many dedicated volunteers including **Alan Levin, Arnold & Estelle Levine**, myself, **Steve Greenburg, Gus Gold, Jerry Goldstein, Mark Birns, Wally Brondstatter**, and **Ken Wagman** worked countless hours to make sure the cemeteries were well run and served our community. Currently a cemetery committee and a cemeterian, **Holly Blue Hawkins**, oversee the cemeteries. We depend on volunteers. More help is needed to expand projects that would make these spaces better. Would you like to become involved in this essential part of our community?

Both our cemeteries are historical burial grounds. They are urban oases providing a tranquil setting for humans and a protected habitat for wildlife. In keeping with our Temple's environmental values, we are striving for good stewardship of this land by moving to a nature-scape that is consistent with the seasons and intended to rebuild the soil thus encouraging healthy conditions for wildlife as well as humans. No chemical fertilizers or

pesticides are used. During the drought the watering of lawns was stopped to be more in harmony with nature's cycles and a water-wise approach to grounds maintenance was adopted. Thus, you may notice grasses and weeds which are essential for birds and other wildlife. We do seasonal weed abatement of the tall grasses when they dry and could become a possible fire hazard, but in the meantime, we are trying to adapt to a more natural setting. As time passes, we hope to plant more native plants which are drought tolerant.

Home of Peace recently had the front landscaped and a security fence installed when a generous donation was made. Both Cemeteries need more improvements. These cost money in addition to the regular maintenance costs which increase with inflation. *Donations of any size are always most welcome!* Each year we allocate funds to a dedicated reserve fund to insure the upkeep of the cemeteries in the future. **Beginning August 1** there will be an increase for the price of plots which is necessary to meet our obligations. If you wish to secure a plot at the existing prices, **please contact the temple office as it will be necessary to purchase your plot before August 1.**

Terry Spodick

Home of Peace CLEAN UP DAY

Sunday August 20, from 10AM to 1PM • There are jobs for all ages and physical ability levels.

Please bring:

- Gloves, gardening gloves, and or rubber or latex gloves for cleaning headstones.
- Empty gallon containers or buckets to carry water. We only have one water outlet at the front of the cemetery.
- Clean empty spray bottles.
- A medium soft scrub brush if you already have one. Hard bristle brushes or scrubbing pads will damage the stones, especially the old ones.
- If you can please bring weeding tools, clippers, rakes, shovels, broom, and dustpan.
- We also need wheelbarrows and trash bags.

This should be a nice warm day, but it can be cool in the shade so please dress in layers and wear sun protection. Please bring your own drinking water. Snacks will not be provided so please plan accordingly. This should be a fun mitzvah and a needed one to show our respect to the ones who helped build our thriving Jewish community.

Please RSVP only if you can come to
Terry Spodick penlady@baymoon.com



Plot Prices 2023-2024

Soquel/Beit Olam

Temple Beth El

Home of Peace

Cemetery Plot Prices			
Full Body Plot			CREMATION PLOT
HOME OF PEACE	8/1/2023- 6/30/2024	*Price for right of additional Interment	8/1/2023- 6/30/2024
TBE Financial Supporter+: Pre-Need	\$6,200	\$570	\$3,400
TBE Financial Supporter+: At Need	\$6,600	\$450	\$3,600
Non-TBE: Pre-Need	\$15,400	\$3,600	\$5,900
Non-TBE: At-Need	\$16,300	\$4,100	\$6,100
Full Body Plot			CREMATION PLOT
BEIT OLAM	8/1/2023- 6/30/2024	*Price for right of additional Interment	8/1/2023- 6/30/2024
TBE Financial Supporter+: Pre-Need	\$4,800	\$800	\$2,800
TBE Financial Supporter+: At Need	\$5,300	\$800	\$3,100
Affiliated: Pre-Need	\$6,100	\$1,100	\$3,600
Affiliated: At-Need	\$6,500	\$1,300	\$3,900
Non Affiliated: Pre-Need	\$7,400	\$1,500	\$4,400
Non Affiliated: At-Need	\$7,800	\$1,500	\$4,700
SOQUEL			8/1/2023- 6/30/2024
Premium Section	\$6,700	\$2,600	\$4,700
Heritage Section	\$4,300	\$1,800	NA
Urn Garden Ground			\$2,800

***Price for right of additional Interment** is to match the price of two cremation plots in order to conserve land as well as discourage bargain shopping.

** We charge a marker/ monument fee which will be credited back if installed within one years (Minus any expense).

Qualifications for TBE Financial Supporter Pricing:

⁺ A **TBE Financial Supporter** has been an "Annual Voluntary Synagogue Contributor" for at least 5 years. For more information about our Annual Voluntary Synagogue Contributor policy please call TBE.

Affiliated Pricing: Purchaser provides proof of being a dues paying member of another temple for at least 5 years.

Non-TBE is for a person who already has family buried at HOP, but is not members of TBE

Cemetery Committee Recommendation to Board 5-11-23



Dayenu Circle

TBE Dayenu Circle Advocates for Climate Action

The **Temple Beth El Dayenu Circle** is addressing the issues of climate justice, equity, and care for Mother Earth. Judaism teaches us that we have a sacred responsibility to future generations to deliver a clean, healthy, and livable planet. In collaboration with the **national Dayenu organization** (dayenu.org) and the **California Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism** (<https://rac.org/take-action/rac-your-state/rac-ca>), we are supporting a variety of *California* climate action bills by tracking the progress of legislation, writing our elected representatives, coordinating our efforts with other reform congregations and meeting with elected officials as opportunities arise.

Please join us in this effort by contacting *State Senator John Laird* and your *assembly member* (**Gail Pellerin, Rob Rivas, or Dawn Addis**) to show your support of the following legislation (you can find your representative and a link to their website: <https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>):

- **SB 252 (Gonzalez) — Fossil Fuel Divestment Act:** Prohibits the boards of the Public Employees' Retirement System and the State Teachers' Retirement System from making a new investment or renewing an existing investment in a fossil fuel company. It also requires these boards to liquidate existing investments in fossil fuel companies on or before July 1, 2031.
- **SB 253 (Wiener) — The Carbon Accountability Act:** Requires corporate disclosure of greenhouse gas emissions.
- **SB 261 (Stern) — The Climate Risk Disclosure Act:** Requires bank disclosure of material climate-related financial risk.
- **SB 12 (Stern, Allen, Wiener) -- Accelerating CA's Emissions Reductions:** Requires the California Air Resources Board to ensure that statewide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to at least 55% below the 1990 level by 2030.
- **SB 49 (Becker) — Solar on Highways:** Requires the California Department of Transportation to develop a plan to lease unused land on highways for renewable energy generation, storage, and transmission.

- **SB 233 (Skinner) — Bidirectional EV Batteries:** Requires all new electric vehicles and electric supply equipment sold in California to have bidirectional charging capability by 2027. Bidirectional charging makes it possible for electric vehicles to be a source of power —to use the stored energy to back up the power grid, homes, and businesses.
- **SB 615 (Allen) — Electric Vehicle Battery Reuse and Recycling:** Requires all electric vehicle traction batteries sold with motor vehicles in CA to be recovered and reused, repurposed, remanufactured or recycled at the end of their useful life in the motor vehicle.

If you want to find out more about the **TBE Dayenu Circle**, contact **Cindy Rubin** at cindy_rubin@comcast.net, or **Michele Kibrick** at kibrick@cruzio.com.

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Onward

David Ginsborg, Executive Director

The last several months have been very exciting. Unlike so many faith organizations our community is returning strong. During the last year the number of families that have voluntarily chosen to make an annual contribution is approaching pre-pandemic levels. All of us have sought out opportunities to come together. Beyond *Choir* and *Rock Shabbat* services, a jam-packed *Purim Carnival*, and celebrations for *Israel's 75th Anniversary* we had not one but two Passover seders that combined drew over 200 including nearly 50 young children.

I have tremendous appreciation for our members who have stepped forward to lead programs and even Friday night services. Our *Brotherhood* has returned with brunches and hikes and *Senior Connections* has hosted numerous speakers. The newly created *Jewish Education Forum* launched with over 60 attendees at their first gathering; our children have filled the sanctuary with giggles and *Women's Song Circle* continues to make music. At the same time *Temple school* enrollment has continued to grow and *Camp Kayetz* has nearly 70 campers and counselors. **Rabbi Shifra** has been amazing, pulling double duty while **Rabbi Paula** was on sabbatical and then leave to be fully present with **Aryeh** prior to his passing in May. She has never missed a beat and even kept 50 nights of Counting the Omer going.

Our community has made it possible for those who have lost loved ones to honor their memories and uphold the sacred obligation to join together for kaddish in community. Recently we have hosted funerals with over 300 congregants and community members, truly a mitzvah. Members—all of us—are making this possible.

Simultaneously, *Beit Mitzvah* evening parties are returning, and others are renting our newly painted Social Hall. We are now hosting *Music Together®*, an early childhood music enrichment program for tots along with others like the *Pajaro Valley Quilters Assoc*. We are always looking for other groups wanting to use our facilities for birthday parties and meetings or to rent our commercial kitchen.

We are so fortunate to have a place and staff where we can gather and help members live Judaism in a spirit that fulfills Temple Beth El's mission: "Passionate about Peace and Justice, Creative about Prayer, Joyful about Tradition."

As with past generations, we today have a sacred obligation to make sure that there remains a vibrant Jewish community in Santa Cruz. During Covid, TBE expenses rose steeply with inflation and beyond. Just this year, our largest obligation, **TBE insurance, rose 20%. Healthcare and utilities have also risen.** We have attempted to provide salary increases to retain our amazing teachers and wonderful but small staff and

Rabbis. Your support has also enabled us to make religious education an affordable option for young struggling families. For example, this year there will be no increase in tuition. Your annual gift has made that possible as TBE heavily subsidized youth education consistent with our values to teach and grow the next generation. We have offset operating increases by steadily raising tuition at Simcha and Kayetz along with rental fees. It has not been enough, and Temple Beth El has budgeted operating deficits for the past four years totaling \$358,000. Thankfully, actual expenses have been lower, for example this year's deficit was \$135,000 and is on track to be closer to \$105,000, either way it is still a deficit and federal Covid aid is being drained quickly.

As we emerge from Covid, your help is needed. Members' annual contributions are our single largest source of income. Unfortunately, many of our members struggled financially and conserved during the past three years. **For example, in 2020, 168 of our 546 families cumulatively donated \$276,000, this past year those same families cumulatively donated \$226,000, an 18% decline in giving. Obviously, this is unsustainable.**

This year we are asking members to consider the importance of ensuring there is a vibrant Jewish community in Santa Cruz now and for the next generation. We ask those whose incomes have stabilized or increased for your assistance so that we can keep up with inflation. For those who have done well we ask for you to give a little more to help our struggling families.

In my home congregation in *Silicon Valley* (yes, I have a life outside TBE), they ask members to give 1.65% of their income; that is not our way here. Temple Beth El has a truly inclusive policy of voluntary giving and I can see the difference.

As we approach the annual season when we request your generosity, we ask you to consider the challenges facing Temple Beth El and for your financial support. There are a few simple things you can do. Look at your gifts over the past three years to help provide a guide for this year and consider that inflation has risen conservatively more than 15% during the past three years. Also, don't pay with a credit card, and instead use an electronic or paper check to help us stop wasting members donations on paying the 3% credit card fees. Even better, commit to contribute monthly much like you might for entertainment channels and gym membership and so many other things these days. Whatever you decide, whatever you can afford, keep coming together! Onward.



David Ginsborg

**Temple Beth El
Jewish Community Center**
3055 Porter Gulch Road
Aptos, CA 95003

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Are you interested in being matched with a new member?

You would make contact to welcome them to TBE, see if they have any questions and perhaps arrange a time to meet them at a temple event.

Contact Melissa
msunberg@tbeaptos.org
to volunteer for this
mitzvah



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