

the shofar

☆ PURIM/PASSOVER 2023 ☆



Sunday, March 5, 2023

Children's Megilah Reading, Costume Parade and Carnival

Costumes Encouraged.

Please bring edible groggers (for example: boxes of uncooked mac and cheese) for *Second Harvest Food Bank*

9:45am

Children's Megilah Reading
and Costume Parade for
Grades K-6

10:30am

Purim Carnival begins for K-4
grade Purim activity for 5-6
grade

11:15am

Purim Carnival begins for 5-6
grade

**Day of event tickets are Cash
or Check only.** Credit cards are
not accepted at the Carnival.

Advanced tickets
and wristbands
available to
purchase now with
a Credit Card via
this QR code:



Monday, March 6, 2023

6:30pm

Community Megillah reading
at **Chadeish Yameinu** in their
new location at **1818 Felt St.
Santa Cruz**

*All attendees must be vaccinated
and boosted.*



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Shabbat/Shmitah/ Sabbatical

Holiness of Time

One of the greatest gifts we find in the Torah, is the idea that we make a distinction between six days of the week, during which we work, and the seventh day of Shabbat where we pause to nourish our souls and connect with the Divine. We learn from our holy texts that we emulate the Creator, who according to our sacred story, stopped creating on the seventh day.

This cyclical nature of our week is also reflected in the biblical teaching about the seventh year, the shmitah year, during which we let the land rest. Just as the Torah teaches us to work six days and rest on the seventh, the shmitah practice calls people to work the land six days and let it rest in the seventh. In the Shmita year, debts are forgiven, farmlands lie fallow, and food that is stored as well as harvested are given to those in need.

I love this idea, and I am so moved by the way it has influenced how we might think about time.

As you all know, Rabbi Shifra has taken two months of sabbatical time in January and February. As of the second week in March, I will be taking two months of sabbatical time.

I've been considering what this time might mean for me and of course, I look to the Torah for some answers. How might my sabbatical time reflect the values we find in the texts about Shabbat and shmitah?

In looking and these practices, I am coming to see my sabbatical as a time to replenish my spirit, rest my body and recalibrate. I am very proud of all we have done to hold our community together with care during the years of the pandemic.

Many of you know, how hard it is for me to truly take vacation time and a consistent day off. My family has asked me why I am returning emails when I have been on vacation. While this is quite common for us humans, I am hoping to learn that wellbeing is dependent upon what our ancestors knew about Shabbat and shmitah.

I know that our congregation is in good hands. Just as I have been available while Rabbi Shifra has been on sabbatical, she will be doing the same while I am on sabbatical. Rabbi Rick, Rabbi Lori Klein, Rabbi Debbie Israel, Sarah-Tziporah, and Chelsea Mandell have all provided amazing support and care during Rabbi Shifra's sabbatical and they will continue to help during my sabbatical. I can't thank them enough for their skill and care.

I know it's a bit early, but I wish you all a sweet and meaningful Pesach.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Rabbi Paula Marcus



Rabbi Paula

In the Temple Family

Welcome to New Members

Please check your online directory for their information

New Members and Condolences 11.1.22 - 1.31.23

Janie Stone
Chelsea and Seth Gold
Gail Pellerin
John and Jennifer Teton
Todd and Lori Young
Lori and David Morello
Sonia and Thomas Deetz



May their memories be for a blessing

Fredell (Fritzie) Eudyce Davis - Beloved mother of Judy Yokel, mother-in-law of Ben, grandmother of Benjamin

Tom Hawkins - Beloved brother of Holly Blue Hawkins

Myrna Schreyer - Beloved mother of Melody Randel

Sybil Sokol - Beloved mother of Ronni and Jeff Sokol

Gail Ostrow - Beloved sister of Wendy Ostrow, aunt of Shoshanah Orzech, Joshua Orzech, Talia, and Arielle

Hinda Gamse - Beloved mother of Phillipa Gamse and mother-in-law of Holly Blue Hawkins

Olive Pechner - Beloved mother of Cheryl Glover and David Pechner, mother-in-law of Jerry Glover and Terry Pechner, grandmother of Adam, Lauren, Joshua, and Hailey, great-grandmother of Logan and Zoey

Herb Snitzer - Beloved father of Sigrid Snitzer, father-in-law of Susan Beck, and grandfather of Asher and Ariana

Natalie Greenberg - Beloved mother of Rosalind Shorenstein and mother-in-law of Michael Shorenstein

Faye Alexander - Beloved mother of Michael, mother-in-law of Toby, grandmother of Jane and Jonathan



Note from the Temple President

As the end of our cold, stormy winter is only about a month away, we are beginning to feel spring in the air. That lovely season is in our sights as the sun shines and flowers begin to bud and bloom. This time of year brings the wonderful, festive holidays of Purim and Passover. (Pesach is my personal favorite!) I hope you will join us for the terrific events TBE has planned for these holidays, including our annual children's parade and carnival, the raucous and entertaining Megillah reading for adults in conjunction with Chadeish Yameinu, and our wonderful congregational seder on the second night of Passover. Please watch for emails from Melissa Sunberg for detailed information on these events.

Speaking of terrific events, I have been so inspired by the recent social justice themed Shabbat services at TBE! On Martin Luther King Shabbat, we heard Rabbi Paula and Reverend Deborah Johnson of Inner Light Ministries speak movingly about the need for Jews and Christians to work together to combat antisemitism and racism. On Refugee Shabbat, we learned from our members Amy Harrington and Abbey Asher about the Santa Cruz Welcoming Network and met a Colombian family who shared their story of fleeing danger in their home country to settle in Santa Cruz with the compassionate assistance of that organization. Finally, on Reproductive Rights Shabbat, we heard from Santa Cruz reproductive health expert Dr. Jen Hastings, as we joined Jewish congregations across the nation to highlight the need to restore and protect reproductive rights that have been eroded in the wake of the Supreme Court overturning Roe v Wade. I am grateful to our clergy for their commitment to social justice and for these inspiring Shabbat services!

Shifting gears to another subject, some of you have asked me what is in the works when it comes to improving TBE's outdoor space, a topic about which many of you expressed your views in last year's survey. Most respondents expressed interest in the idea of creating an outdoor gathering space outside the social hall that could be used for services and a variety of activities and events. We are still studying this issue. The TBE Board has established an Outdoor Space Vision Work Group, chaired by our Vice President of Operations, Miles Dolinger. The task for this group is to develop a specific, realistic vision of what improvements

we could make to TBE's outdoor space. Potentially, the group could develop two or more options for the Board to consider. A critical factor that many of you identified is the issue of road noise from Soquel Drive. As a first step, the Outdoor Space Vision Work Group has determined that we need to engage an acoustic consultant to do an analysis of the potential to mitigate road noise with one or more sound walls and/or berms. The Board agreed that this is a necessary step, so Miles and his team are now working on making that happen. The outcome of that analysis will inform whatever design the Work Group may end up recommending. We will make sure to keep you posted on the progress of this effort!

As always, feel free to contact me at judyclaireyokel@gmail.com, or call me at (831) 588-5378 to share any thoughts, questions, or concerns you might have. I look forward to seeing you at our Purim and Passover festivities!



Judy Yokel

Judy Yokel

President, member of Board of Directors

judyclaireyokel@gmail.com

TEMPLE BETH EL GIFT SHOP

3055 Porter Gulch Rd., Aptos

Extended hours begin
Sunday, March 26

M-F 10am - 4pm

Sun. 9:30am - 1pm



Refresh your Passover table with a festive plate or matzah cover from the Gift Shop.

The latest shipment from Israel includes colorful hostess gifts and jewelry. Our toys and books will help your youngsters engage with the holiday and learn the customs. Don't miss them!

Devoted volunteers are on call to answer questions or meet you at your convenience.

Ruth: 831-476-1154 — Shirley: 831-685-2710

tbegiftshop.com



Dear Temple Community,

Simcha has been loving the beautiful weather! Our school community celebrated Tu B'Shevat 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 and the foods they provide us with and wishing the trees



a happy new year. We are now preparing for our next fun holiday-Purim! We love telling the story of how Queen Esther was so brave and saved the Jewish people and dressing up for our Purim Parade.



We have begun enrollment for the 2023/2024 school year and are expanding our Kinder class into a K/1 class! Our K/1 shares individualized academic curriculum meeting and challenging your child's learning where they are so that they become prepared for their future milestones in their academics, social-emotional skills, creativity, and learning growth. Age-appropriate racism, anti-bias, and racial literacy curriculum is shared, as well as Jewish values, culture, and rituals. *Please help spread the word and let us know if you'd like to come for a tour of our K/1 spaces.*



Simcha will be having a fundraiser at the 41st Pizza My Heart on Purim from 4pm – 9pm, Tuesday, March 7! Please support our school while eating an easy, delicious dinner! Is good on dine in, take out or delivery (*does not include online or 3rd party delivery orders*). Be sure to mention our name when you order!

Caitlin Clancy
Simcha Director

Library: New News

We continue to add recent books – as well as classics – to the collection. The latest acquisitions focus on 2023 *National Jewish Book Award* winners:

Michael W. *Twitty's Kosher soul*

Dani Shapiro's *Signal Fires*

Michael Frank's *One Hundred Saturdays*

Liana Finck's *Let There Be Light*

Erica Lyons *Alone Together on Dan Street*

These and other recent additions can be found on the blue cart. To see what else is on the shelves, take a look at our online catalog: <https://libib.com/u/tbeaptos>.

Temple members can borrow items from the collection for a month – renewable – using the self-check kiosk. While the collection is open and available to browse and borrow most times the Temple is open, **we invite you to drop by when the library crew are here, Tuesdays 1-3.** We're happy to offer reading recommendations, highlight items in the collection or just talk about books. We hope to see you soon.

Second Night Congregational Seder Thursday, April 6

Once again we will gather to celebrate our freedom with our beloved community and enjoy **Benjamin's** fabulous food.

Led by Rabbi Shifra and Peter Weiss-Penzias.

Please watch your email for more information & reservations.





In the spirit of Purim ...

... and missing our young adults away from home, let's send them traditional Mishloach Manot this Purim!!!

Join us if you would like on Thursday, March 2nd at 5:30pm at the Temple to package up a variety of yummy treats, schmooze with old friends and meet new ones as well, dare we say even brag a little about your child(dren)?

Please contact us with the name and address of your young adult by March 2nd for a March 7th delivery date. tbeadmin@tbeaptos.org

Chag Purim Sameach!



Shabbat Morning Service

Beginning in March we will be sharing in a Shabbat morning service on the **fourth Shabbat of each month!**

Chadeish Yameinu and Temple Beth El will meet in the TBE library, beginning March 25th for a "Short and Sweet" Shabbat service beginning at 10:00am

The service will include selections from the following parts of the service: Pseukei D'Zimra (*the verses of praise*)*, Shacharit-the morning service including the Shema and Amidah a D'var Torah, Kaddish and Kiddush with challah and wine or juice. These services will be led by **Rabbi Debbie Israel**.

The dates are:

March 25

April 22

May 27 (will include Shavuot liturgy)

June 24

*Pesukei d'Zimra — literally "*verses of praise*" — is the first section of daily morning prayer services. Composed of recitations from the end of the Book of Psalms and other poetic verses, it is commonly understood to be an introductory section to the shacharit prayers.



JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

Did your grandparents have a "blue box" to collect coins for JNF? Nearly 50 years before Israel became a State, the **Jewish National Fund** promoted tree planting, water reclamation, and restoration of fire ravaged hillsides in the Holy Land.

We connect with JNF and their many environmental projects at JNF.org, but there is a special charm to having a small physical reminder in your home. Let your children add coins before Shabbat...and recall the dedication of your parents and grandparents at the same time!

If YOUR metal or cardboard "pushke" is full, CALL **Bernard Hilberman 831-476-4740**. He is our TBE representative.

NOW OPEN IN WATSONVILLE!



SANTA CRUZ
1266 Soquel Ave.
831-423-8632

WATSONVILLE
906 E. Lake Avenue (Hwy 152)
831-726-0240

www.staffoflifemarket.com



Contributions | November 1, 2022 — January 31, 2023

ANNUAL APPEAL

Janet Gellman and Nancy de la Pena
 Lenore Hindin
 Carl and Karla Sanders
 Wendy Strimling and Andrew Szasz
 Diana Rothman
 Marilyn Rigler
 Lenny Pagorelsky and Michaeline Kiss
 Diane Meader
 Tom Manheim and Nancy Shanfeld
 Josh Karter
 Ethel Herring
 Laurel Fox and Donald Potts
 Geoffrey and Bernice Bernstein
 Toby and Michael Alexander
 Nancy Hoffman
 Gloria Heistein in loving memory
 of Sylvia Palmer, my dear mother
 Mark and Jane Silberstein in honor of
 Rabbi Paula and Rabbi Shifra
 Darren Gertler and Katie Kuszmar
 Elena Nini Cohen and Steve Ritz in honor
 of TBE's wonderful staff
 Jennifer Wells Kaupp and
 Raymond Kaupp
 Julia Cornblatt and Salvatore Tostado
 Marianne and Fred Mejia in loving
 memory of Jack Baskin
 Susan Freeman in honor of
 Marilyn Valencia and Chris Irvine for
 generously making a workspace for
 the TBE DEI Data Team
 Sandra Cohen
 Edward Lischin
 Judith Levin
 Leta Miller
 Amy and David Harrington in honor of
 our President Judy Yokel for doing
 a fabulous job in her 1st year as
 President
 Judi Sherman and Rachel Bickert
 Gail Levine and Emily Wughalter in honor
 of our extraordinary Rabbis
 Laura Giges and Jon Edelbaum
 Myra Finkelstein and Brad Keitt in honor
 of TBE staff
 Murray and Sheila Baumgarten
 Judith and Ben Yokel in loving memory
 of Fritzie Davis
 Shelley and David Sonnenberg
 Rosemary Zumwalt

David Gazeck and Shani Ginsburg in
 honor of our leadership team and our
 incredible staff

BUILDING FUND

Paul Morris

CARING COMMITTEE

Patti Krieger
 Karen Zelin and Bill Underwood in
 honor of our most amazing Chavurah:
 Shmuel and Kathy Cytron-Thaler,
 Pedro and Stephanie Castro, Teresa
 and John Leopold, Melissa and
 Cary Sunberg, Tony and Debra Sloss,
 Suzanne and David Silverglate,
 for all the love and kindness

CEMETERY LONGTERM CARE FUND

Gilda Zelin in honor of the
 Wednesday Writers
 Patti Krieger

CEMETERY OPERATIONS

Edward Garner and Lynn LeRose in
 memory of Hinda Gamse, beloved
 mother of Phillipa Gamse
 Lori Klein and Irene Reti in honor of
 Hinda Gamse
 Shirley and Allen Ginzburg in memory
 of Hinda Gamse, Phillipa's mother
 and Holly's mother in law
 Irene Reti and Lori Klein in memory of
 Hinda Gamse
 David and Sara Benevento in loving
 memory of Sara's brother,
 Stanley M. Piller
 Jane Cohen in memory of Tom Hawkins,
 brother of Holly Blue Hawkins
 Diana Rothman
 Michael and Jacqueline Tuttle in memory
 of Tom Hawkins, Holly's brother

CHOIR FUND

Michael and Jacqueline Tuttle in memory
 of Fritzie Davis, Judy Yokel's mom

GENERAL FUND

Elaine Baskin
 Naomi Bayer
 Louis and Claire Scalzo in honor of
 Melissa Sunberg
 David and Sara Benevento in loving
 memory of Paul Benevento, beloved
 father of David Benevento, Father-in-
 law of Sara Benevento, Grandfather of
 Laura Adney and Evan Benevento
 Aviva Longinotti

David and Sara Benevento in loving
 memory of Nehemiah Piller, known as
 "Hemi" to his friends and family,
 beloved father of Sara Benevento
 Joan Levine in memory of Hinda Gamse,
 mother of Phillipa Gamse
 David Ginsborg and Elisa Koff-Ginsborg
 Naomi Igra and Matthew Clausen
 Kim and Eric Horowitz in honor of the
 birth of a grandson,
 Winston Medeiros, to Sophie Sherer
 and Matt Medeiros
 Lee Oberg
 Nita Lamendola in loving memory of
 my cousin Jimmy Carr
 Cindy Rubin and Brian Rosenthal in
 honor of Erin Rosenthal
 Risa Lower in honor of love
 John and Merry Oppenheimer
 Amy and David Harrington in memory
 of Fritzie Davis

JANET ROTHCHILD ROCK SHABBAT FUND

Carolyn and Curt Coleman in honor of
 George Ow's birthday!
 George Ow and Gail Michaelis-Ow in
 loving memory of Stephanie Morse's
 father
 Carolyn and Curt Coleman in memory of
 Susan Kerr's mother and
 Melody Randel's mother
 Rose Ashford and Felix Fields in loving
 memory of Bennet J. Woll and
 Robin Winburn-Woll
 George Ow and Gail Michaelis-Ow in
 loving memory of Branwyn Wagman's
 stepmother Felicita Ima Stewart

LIBRARY FUND

Margaret Gordon in memory of
 Myrna Schreyer

LIFELONG LEARNING

Patti Krieger
 Robert and Michele Kibrick

ONEG FUND

Judie Block in honor of Edwin J. Block
 Marianne and Fred Mejia in loving
 memory of Jack Baskin
 Marigold Fine and Jim Stanford in loving
 memory of Katherine Gold
 Susan Freeman in loving memory of
 my father, Gene Shapiro

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Laura Giges and Jon Edelbaum in loving memory of my beloved father, Gerald Giges

Nita Lamendola in memory of David Pesochin

Rose Ashford and Felix Fields

Risa Lower in honor of Evelyn Levin

RABBI LITVAK DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Mathew Family in honor of Miss Riley Quinn Lipton on the occasion of her naming ceremony

Marq and Elizabeth Lipton in honor of the naming of our granddaughter Riva

Ari Messer in honor of Rabbi Litvak for officiating at our wedding in September, as well as the pre-marital counseling and guidance

RABBI PAULA MARCUS DISCRETIONARY FUND

Susan and Barry Giles in honor of Rabbi Paula Marcus

Lenore Hindin

Elsa Wolthausen in honor of Rabbi Paula Marcus

Scott Roseman and Jasmine Berke

Helen Shapiro and Jonathan Fox in honor of Rabbi Paula Marcus

Phyllis Greenleaf in honor of Rabbi Paula Marcus

George Ow and Gail Michaelis-Ow in honor of Rabbi Paula

Nancy Blair wishing a speedy recovery for Myra

Cindy Rubin and Brian Rosenthal in honor of Gershom Gorenberg presentation at TBE

Andrew Marcus in loving memory of Lillian and Albert Purvin

Geoffrey and Bernice Bernstein

Karen Zelin and Bill Underwood in honor of Norma Caylin and Terry Grove

David and Amy Harrington

Leah Kushner and Pam Ernst in loving memory of Tony Phillips, husband of Leona Philips

Leah Kushner and Pam Ernst in loving memory of Marlene Kushner, mother of Leah Kushner, mother-in-law of Pam Ernst, grandmother of Shoshana and Naomi Kushner and great, grandmother of Maya Kushner

Colby Katz in honor of Rabbi Paula

Diana Rothman

George Ow and Gail Michaelis-Ow Jane Cohen in memory of the beloved mother of Judy Yokel, Fritzie Davis.

Sending sympathy and hugs. So sorry for your loss

Judith and Ben Yokel in honor of Rabbi Paula for officiating at the funeral of our beloved mother and mother-in-law, Fritzie Davis

Judi Sherman and Rachel Bickert

Rosemary Zumwalt

RABBI WEISS-PENZIAS DISCRETIONARY FUND

Esther Nathanson in honor of

Rabbi Shifra Weiss-Penzias

Marilyn Rigler in memory of my mother, Bertha Press

SECURITY FUND

Jessica Guild and Julian Dahan

Ed and Norma Sacks

Joan Tanzer and Gerald Frank

SENIOR CONNECTIONS FUND

Margie Kern-Marshall

Bonnie and Loren Morr

Bonnie and Loren Morr in loving memory of mom, a comedian in her own right

Patti Krieger

Risa Lower in honor of Senior Connections

Rosemary Zumwalt

Paul Drescher

Bonnie and Loren Morr in memory of my mom and dad

Marlene Pitkow and Mark Kalow in honor of Gilda Zelin on her milestone birthday

Karen Zelin and Bill Underwood in honor and celebration of Gilda Zelin's 95th Birthday, with love from Richard and Debbie Zelin, Kenny and Missy Zelin, Karen Zelin and Bill Underwood

Gloria Heistein

Risa Lower

Murray and Sheila Baumgarten

Risa Lower in honor of the efforts of Bonnie Morr and the Senior Connections Committee

Barbara Robinson in memory of Jeff Woodman's father

Risa Lower in honor of Richard Halpern

Miriam Stomblor

SIMCHA DONATION

Sylvia Prysant

Patty Bernstein

Julia Cornblatt and Salvadore Tostado in memory of Carl Benjamin Hiller, Joyce Rubin's brother

SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

Patti Krieger

Abbey Asher in honor of Erik Schapiro

Marlene Pitkow and Mark Kalow in honor of Marilyn Rigler, an exemplary human being

Karen Zelin and Bill Underwood in honor of Judy and Dan Phillips

Carol Bell in memory of Joseph Beckerman and Addie Jane Jelen

TEMPLE SCHOOL GENERAL

Michael and Jacqueline Tuttle in honor of Sharla Gold

TZEDEKAH FOR ADAIN LO

Priva and Michael Tarbet

Terry and Jerry Spodick in honor of Marilyn Rigler's Birthday

Bettina Aptheker and Kate Miller

Melinda and Dan Luster

Joan Tanzer and Gerald Frank

Renee Roberts

James and Elise Atkins

Scott Roseman and Jasmine Berke

Denise and Lawrence Miller

Terry and Jerry Spodick on behalf of Renee, thank you for leading our writing group and inspiring us!

Terry and Jerry Spodick in honor of your special birthday

Victoria and Michael Stone in loving memory of Celia Vityagaylovskaya, Tanya Krasnova and Emmanuel Sandler Margaret Gordon

Eve Eden in honor of Naomi S. Eden

David Gazek and Shani Ginsburg

Michael and Jacqueline Tuttle in honor of Rabbi Rick's work with our sister congregation

WOMEN OF VALOR CANDY COONERTY FUND

David and Sara Benevento in loving memory of Sara's mother, Dave's mother-in-law, Evan and Laura's Bubbie Lee Piller



ONE OF THE HIGHEST ACTS OF JUDAISM IS TO SHARE YOUR BREAD WITH THE HUNGRY

Thank you to all our magnificent MAZON Volunteers!

Temple Beth El's 100% MAZON Participation

Campaign goal is for every TBE household to help fight the injustice of hunger by participating in our **MAZON Project** at least once per year. Please both learn about MAZON and sign up via our website under, "Social Justice" or via this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094aa4ac23a02-please>. Comprehensive instructions are provided on the website for contributing food to our weekly Sunday dinners at our local homeless shelter any Sunday throughout the year. Let's all collectively put our Jewish values into action—it's a mitzvah!

Todah Rabah to our magnificent MAZON volunteers that provided food to our local, *Housing Matters Shelters* recently (with sincere apologies to those whose contributions inadvertently are not listed!).



AUGUST:

Leslie Smith, Leah Sugarman (3X), Katie Bishop, Catherine and Bob Cooper, Paul Drescher, Larry Kaplan (2X), Mary Fran Archer, Rachael Katz and Sigrid Snitzer and Friends (5X), Gail Wylde (5X), Jill Tardif, Todd Bank, Penny Chesluk (2X), Vicki Belkin-Kondo, Shira Coleman (3X), Kate Avraham, Gaby Litsky, Juliet Goldstein, Chloe Marin (2), Elena Cohen, Kathy Cytron, Meryl Selman, Melissa Sunberg, Stephen Karon, and Jackie Tuttle.

SEPTEMBER:

Penny Chesluk, Leah Sugarman (3X), Jennie Sheridan Schindler(3X), Martha Jacobson (2X), Rose Ashford (2X), Catherine and Bob Cooper, Todd Bank, Susan and Paul Karz, Rachael Katz and Sigrid Snitzer and Friends (5X), Martha Jacobson, Melissa Sunberg, Eve Eden, Susie Polnaszek, Lin Wapner, Fay Levinson and Joe Vela, Wilma Gold (4X), Gaby Litsky, Susan Hammer, Kate Avraham, Kathy Cytron (2X), Jackie Tuttle (2X), Susan and Stephen Karon, Elena Cohen, Pal Drescher, and Hannah Stubblefield).

OCTOBER:

Penny Chesluk, Kate Avraham (2X), Melinda and Dan Iuster (2X), Kathy Cytron, Gwen Kaplan, Chloe Marin (2X), Todd Bank, Martha Jacobson (5X), Rachael Katz and Sigrid Snitzer and Friends (5X), Gail Wylde (4X), Leslie Smith (2X), Susan and Paul Karz, Catherine Cooper, Beth Plevy Wyland, Cecily Rutenberg, Hannah Stubblefield, Jennie Sheridan Schindler (2X), Melissa Sunberg, Jacqueline Tuttle, Jennifer Kanter, Roni Habib, Mary Fran Archer and Ivan Rosenblum, Susan and Stephen Karon, Gaby Litsky, Shira Coleman (2X), Wilma Gold (2X), Geri Wolff (2), and Rose Ashford.

NOVEMBER:

Leah Sugarman (4X), Hannah Stubblefield, Vicki and Michael Stone (2X), Gerald Frank, Leah Sugarman, Kim Horowitz, Ellison Marks, Kathy Cytron (2X), Rachael Katz and Sigrid Snitzer and friends (5X), Rosemary Zumwalt (2X), Elena Cohen, Todd Bank, Nina Koocher, Jacqueline Tuttle, Carol Skolnick (2X), Martha Jacobson (2X), Catherine and Bob Cooper, Jennie Sheridan Schindler (2X), Penny Chesluk, Chery Caspe, Kate Avraham, Sonia Deetz, Beth Plevy Wyland, Mary Fran Archer and Ivan Rosenblum, Susan and Paul Karz, Melissa Sunberg and Melinda Iuster.

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DECEMBER:

Leah Sugarman (3X), Hannah Stubblefield (3X), Rose Ashford, Leora Fromm (3X), Rachael Katz and Friends (5X) including Sigrid Snitzer, Asher and Ariana Snitzer-Beck; Leslie Smith, Penny Chesluk, Jill Tardif, Judi Sherman (2X), Rachel Wells Bickert, Martha Jacobson, Todd Bank, Catherine and Bob Cooper, Jen Vered (2X), Julie Lorraine and Ellison Marks, Jackie Tuttle, Cheryl and Dennis Caspe, Nina Koocher, Susan and Steve Karon, and Rabbi Shifra Weiss-Penzias.

JANUARY:

Chavurah By The Sea including Suzanne and David Silverglate, Shmuel and Kathy Cytron-Thaler (2X), Pedro and Stephanie, Barnes Castro, Tony and Debra Sloss, John and Teresa Buika Leopold, Melissa and Cary Sunberg, Bill and Karen Underwood Zelin; Gaby Litsky, Paul Drescher, Catherine and Bob Cooper, Juliana White, Jackie Tuttle, Rosemary Zumwalt, Chloe Marin (2X), Kate Avraham, Amy Harrington, Rose Ashford, Rachael Katz and Friends (5X) including Sigrid Snitzer, Asher and Ariana Snitzer-Beck, Penny Chesluk, Melissa Sunberg, Todd Bank, Vicki Belkin Kondo, Kerith Koontz, Sonia Deetz (2X), Karie Sutter, Martha Jacobson (2X), Hannah Stubblefield (2X), Susan and Steve Karon, Susan and Paul Karz, Naomi Bayer, Toby Alexander, Mimi Guiney (2X) and Jen Vered (2X).

FEBRUARY:

Penny Chesluk, Sonia Deetz, Victoria Finder, Nina Koocher, Margaret Brose, Ruth Britany, Jenny and Ray Kaupp, Lisa Segnitz, Leora Fromm, Rachael Katz and Friends (5X) including Sigrid, Asher and Ariela Snitzer-Beck, Todd Bank, Sara Hapner, Rosemary Zumwalt (2X), Gary Bloom, Leslie Smith, Mary Fran Archer and Ivan Rosenbloom, Wilma Gold (2X), Jackie Tuttle, Catherine and Bob Cooper, Geri Wolff (2X), Elena Cohen, Carolyn Coleman, Gerald Frank, Hannah Stubblefield (3X), Naomi Bayer, Ari Lessin, Gaby Litsky, Cheryl and Dennis Caspe (2X).

MARCH:

Jane Cohen, Judie Block, Todd Bank, Sara and Dave Benevento, Margaret Brose, Chavurah Mitzvah (Levinson) (6X), Rachael Katz and Friends (5X) including Sigrid Snitzer, Asher and Ariana Snitzer-Beck; Leora Fromm (2X), Wendy Strimling, Jackie Tuttle, Judi Sherman, Rachel Wells, Nina Koocher, Kathy Cytron, Cheryl and Dennis Caspe (2X), Penny Chesluk, Julia Elman, Marion Towar, Ken Wagman and The Brothers Men's Team (10X).



Partners are the lifeblood of Temple Beth El —My Philosophy of Co-Leading TBE

Do you have a partner at TBE (Temple Beth El)?

Partners are critical for TBE to thrive and prosper. The concept of having a partner, or helper, is an essential element of my Judaism as well as my approach to management. Just as I am a partner to my best friend and spouse **Elisa Koff-Ginsborg**, so too am I a helper to G-d.

What does this have to do with managing and leading TBE? In very practical terms every member of our team is strongly encouraged to ask: **Who is your partner?** In fact, staff is sick of me asking this question!

Partners take many shapes. When we are working on activities, I want our staff to be working in partnership with TBE members. Because security is a priority we must have TBE partners, so we now have a security committee. If we want to improve our gardens, are interested in learning about Israel or antisemitism, if we want to create more chavurot....neither members nor staff can go it alone.

This philosophy also has other meaning for my team. I challenge them to find a mentor to help them grow professionally, an endeavor TBE generously supports through our participation not only in the *URJ* and *National Association of Temple Administrators* (for me) but also for other staff participation in *Early Childhood Educators of Reform Judaism* and the *International Facility Management Association*. I have also worked hard to have staff create partners who learn their essential duties and can back them up to create organizational depth.

I encourage every member to build upon the positive partners they have had whether it is with G-d, a spouse, work colleague, sibling or friend to find their partner at TBE; and if you need help please see **Melissa Sunberg**. And let's not forget as we head toward the season of Passover, that partners extend beyond TBE to allies and even the stranger. Together, when partners come together they are creating *kehillah kedoshah*, a sacred community. Our entire community is stronger when we are in partnership!

David Ginsborg

Executive Director

Temple Beth El's Dayenu Circle

Climate Change is here now. With the CZU wildfires and the recent storms, we're already seeing signs of it in Santa Cruz County. At Temple Beth El, we're getting together to educate ourselves and take action. We've formed our own *Dayenu Circle*, which is affiliated with the Dayenu (dayenu.org), a national Jewish organization focused on mobilizing Jews in the fight against climate change. Our Dayenu Circle is a way for us to make powerful, positive change with a Jewish voice. By working together as a group as well as collaborating with other Dayenu Circles, faith groups and environmental organizations, we can take decisive actions to confront the climate crisis while sustaining ourselves and each other as we act.

The TBE Dayenu Circle meets the last Wednesday of the month from 7-8 pm on Zoom. Our current initiatives include sustainable investing, reducing food waste, legislative advocacy, greening the temple, engaging youth, and taking personal actions to lower our individual carbon footprints. We are also participating in *Dayenu's All Our Might* campaign, whose goal is to enlist the Jewish community in reducing investments in fossil fuels and promoting investments in renewable energy to create a just, livable future.

Check out our Dayenu Circle and be a part of TBE's climate action efforts. Join us and contribute to the initiative that matches your interest and passion.

For more information, contact **Cindy Rubin** at cindy_rubin@icloud.com or **Michele Kibrick** at kibrick@cruzio.com.



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From Rabbi Shifra

Last year we had our first outdoor Purim carnival, and it turned out to be even more fun outside. As I write, we are preparing another wild Purim celebration, and if the weather is nice, we will be outside again. The TBE Purim Megillah Reading and Carnival, with the youth group running the games and volunteers selling tickets and food and giving out prizes is always such a blast, and you are not going to want to miss it.



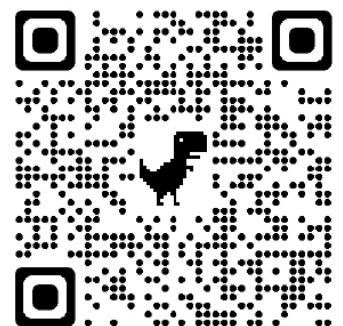
Rabbi Shifra

A million thanks to **Jen Kanter**, **Lisa Miller**, and **Judi** and **David Novick** and all of our volunteers and staff, who put so much love and hard work into making this happen every year. It is such a fun and meaningful ways for students and their families to build community. So come in costume, prepared to let off some steam – Heaven knows we need to! This is actually the point of Purim.

We tell the story of the Jewish people being saved from extermination by the courage of a young Jewish woman called Esther, to let off steam by making fun of our situation. And what a situation we have to work with for our jokes right now! It is a tradition on Purim to eat hamantaschen, to send gifts of food to friends and family, and to give food to those in need. At our congregation, it has become our custom for everyone to bring edible groggers (*mac n' cheese boxes to donate to the food bank.*) **You can buy your tickets in advance (using the QR code) or bring cash or checks day of.** If it is raining please bring a mask just in case we need to be indoors. I can't wait to see you and to be silly together, Chag Purim Sameach!

Blessings,

Rabbi Shifra Weiss Penzias





A Message from Leanne Salandro, Associate Director

I wish we lived in a world where money was no object and we all had those flying hover cars we were promised in 21st century. Yet here we are and neither of those are our reality. Last year in the fall, I gladly accepted the position I now hold at Temple Beth El (TBE). I was so pleased to say, "yes," ready to join you all in doing good things and pushing forward to do bigger and better things. In a surprise turn of events, I now am sadly saying, "no." I've been recruited by a former employer who has expanded my previous role and makes it possible for me to work exclusively from home which makes my family (including two young boys) very happy. I needed to make a financial and logistical decision and that unfortunately equaled my resignation at TBE. It will perhaps sound fluffy and flowery but know that TBE is a genuinely special place and I've been blessed to experience it. You're a wonderful group of people, supported by an equally wonderful group of people—the TBE staff. You already know the treasure you have in **David Ginsborg** but I want you all to know from a firsthand source that David is a great boss and leader. His passion for the work here is both inspiring and contagious. I wish I could've stayed the course with you all. Learning about Judaism—your history, culture, and beliefs—has been such an enjoyable process, a perk really, and I thank each of you who took the time to teach me and share.

Thank you for both the opportunity and the experience.
Leanne



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Temple Beth El

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Onward

David Ginsborg, Executive Director

Finances

As we are now more than halfway through the fiscal year, I want to provide a brief report on our finances.

As of February, 536 families have chosen to belong and make a generous annual contribution to TBE. We anticipate that with a few new families joining by the end of the fiscal year, we will reach the prior year level of 546 families. Unfortunately, due to fear of inflation and turbulence in the economy the average contribution has declined, and we remain 8% below our budgeted contribution levels. In addition, the response to the Year End Appeal was down; 36 families have donated a total of \$6,200 with just three families giving over \$500.

Fortunately, our overall financial picture is satisfactory. As of December 31, the Temple received \$1,510,264 in donations, tuition etc., above the budget of \$1,482,923. At the same time, we have expended \$1,068,442; this is \$63,295 below the budgeted \$1,131,737. Nevertheless, some of this is attributable to timing of income and expenses, etc. and we will still have a planned operating deficit at year end. However, I have built upon last year's commitment to moving funds to the *Building Restricted Fund* so that we have capital set aside for major projects such as replacing our 40-year-old roof. Annually the *Board* and I have worked to reduce the deficit each year.

Special Thank you to Rabbi Rick

Rabbi Rick has made a generous gift of \$1000 which purchased an online siddur of *Mishkan T'filah Visual T'filah*; a service offered by CCAR. With the discontinuing of the flipbook, TBE needed to find an alternative to provide the written text on your screen. This gift will be something we can use over and over for Friday night services. Plus, it will allow us to do so in a manner that comports to TBE values honoring the work of authors (e.g. copyright). *Shabbat Evening Visual T'filah™* comprises the full Friday evening liturgy along with the Shabbat Torah service.



Training and Professional Development

Over the holidays we launched Temple-wide training to ensure all employees are compliant with state law and trained in how to spot and report sexual harassment

as well as how best to protect our children. There is a range of training and hours required based upon duties, proximity, and level of involvement with children. It is our intention that this is only the beginning of training offerings for staff, far beyond state mandated courses.



David Ginsborg

Professional Development

In February I will be attending the biennial *National Association of Temple Administrators Institute*. Over nearly a week the Institute offers the six courses and examinations required for *Senior Member* status within *NATA* as well as the Judaic coursework and exams. In addition, our *Pre-School Director* participated in and attended an in-person *Early Childhood Educators of Reform Judaism Association* conference; the first time in several years we have participated in this important learning opportunity. Our Facility Manager has joined the *International Facility Managers Association* and now has the benefit of a mentor to help provide guidance on best practices. Our teachers have completed multiple days of in-service learning and our accounts manager is taking evening accounting courses at *Cabrillo College*. Later this spring two of our *Simcha Preschool Teachers* will be attending a training conference for early educators. Our entire team appreciates the Temple's support for these important learning opportunities.

Open for Business

We still sometimes get the question; "Is the Temple open for business?" The answer is an emphatic yes! Actually, we never fully closed. And yes, a lot more programming is back indoors. Most Friday night service for the past several months have offered a fully hybrid experience. For those uncomfortable with being inside or not vaccinated we have acquired our first big screen TV and added an enhanced outdoor sound system (Thanks Ray!). Some activities remain outside....by choice and this summer we will continue that practice.

We have also had multiple Temple lunch and dinner functions and we are receiving renewed interest in renting our social hall. On the next page is the excerpt from a beautiful note received from **Naomi Bayer** concerning a last-minute rental of the hall.

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continued from page 12

"Dear friends, We cannot tell you how wonderful and meaningful it was to hold Rudy Brown's B'nai Mitzvah at Temple Beth El when our original venue cancelled just three days before due to the storms. I am so proud to be part of a community that says, YES, we can help! The B'nai Mitzvah was amazing and all of you and the staff at the event were incredible. The word 'Perfect' comes to mind and we were able to keep our family, friends and community members safe."

Security

With the approval of the second *Federal Security Grant* (\$150k), staff are now managing two *Federal Security Grants* which demand extensive time managing bills and reimbursement. The new grant requires significant upfront compliance paperwork before we seek *RFP* for any of the approved projects. Now that this funding is in place for the current and following fiscal year, we have proceeded to retain security personnel for all on-site Temple school classes (Both Wednesday and Sunday) and TBE religious services on Friday night. In addition, we have installed boulders to reduce the likelihood of vehicular intrusion from Soquel Ave.

Painting of the Social Hall and Sanctuary

During the holidays we completed painting of the Social Hall and Sanctuary.

The Board approved \$6930 for painting and the final

cost included some additional areas we had not originally included in the project scope. The final project, which was expanded to update light lens covers, baseboards, removal of the small door and box behind the bimah totaled \$9,700. All increases were reviewed by Miles and members of the B&G Committee and were funded by the Building Fund. Here are a few photos but if you have not seen it in person, I encourage you stop by.

Social Hall Patio Extension

We have now completed the Social Hall Patio Extension. Built upon the inspirational suggestion of Rabbi Shifra, the entire project was funded by the L'Dor V'Dor Fund for a total cost of \$17,000. The project included extending the patio to convert the bark area in a usable space for Temple School, Bayit Mitzvah, Sukkot and other functions. It also included supplementing the sound system, purchasing a big screen TV (on wheels) and new, lightweight chairs.



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Wi-Fi

Earlier this month we finally expanded electrical and router infrastructure to enable Wi-Fi throughout the entire campus. This will significantly improve our teacher's ability, especially at Simcha, to provide online outdoor programming.

Solar panels

With the cleaning of the solar panels earlier this year, which had not occurred since installation many years ago, we have experienced a 27% increase in solar production (kWh) between June and August year over year. Solar panel cleaning is now part of a regularly scheduled and budgeted maintenance calendar.

Cemeteries

Thankfully, a generous donation was made in order to complete a much-needed makeover to the front of our *Home of Peace Cemetery*. This includes new fencing that extends and replaces the barbed wire. Designed by Terry Spodick, the new area features a dry river creek and low maintenance foliage.

Prior to Veteran's Day and working with the *Cemetery Committee*, our team helped with a major cleaning, also

at *Home of Peace* which culminated with the raising of the Flags at both cemeteries. For several year the flag poles were not usable and required servicing. In addition, several BSA Troops and Packs completed a major service project to identify graves with Veterans, place holders and then insert flags.



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Strolling in Home of Peace

Grief and gratitude are two sides of the same coin. A cemetery is not only a place to bury the dead or somewhere to feel sad. Here in *Santa Cruz* we are blessed with two park-like settings to experience the seasons and be reminded in comforting ways of the cycles of life. These are places of remembrance and direct experience that life is ever-changing, to be savored moment-by-moment. Strolling in *Home of Peace*, I not only recall burials, but also choir rehearsals, Passover seders, a conversation with a scientist on the nature of fire, a quiet moment with a frail elder at his last Purim, and lively drumming circles. All of this adds to the rich texture of memory.

Our TBE community is blessed to have two historic cemeteries! Home of Peace, on *Meder Street*, is among the oldest Jewish cemeteries in California, literally a monument to local Jewish history. The *Soquel Cemetery*, on *Old Soquel-San Jose Road*, has been an active burial ground since the Gold Rush. Beit Olam, the Jewish section of the *Soquel Cemetery*, was first dedicated in 2001. In 2016 TBE purchased the entire 4.7-acre cemetery, where we now provide natural burial options

to the entire community, in addition to serving all Jews, regardless of congregational affiliation.

It is fascinating to ramble through these two settings, reading inscriptions, deciphering the hidden messages in artwork or Hebrew acronyms, and to imagine what the early days must have been like, when mourners accompanied their dead by horse-drawn carriages and dressed in the attire of early California settlers. But don't forget to look up, at the stately trees, some of which are even older than the cemeteries. You might see a hawk's nest, a great blue heron strolling among the monuments, a couple of crows muttering together, or even spot a hive of honeybees busying themselves high in a secret entrance to an old tree.

Our cemeteries are places where life happens. TBE's dedication to greener alternatives is already beginning to show as we provide eco-friendly burial alternatives. Come stroll the grounds and see for yourself!

Holly Blue Hawkins
Cemeterian



Meder Street



Our cemetery clean up crew on Mitzvah Day!

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