



Valley Outreach Synagogue
& CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE

26668 Agoura Road

Calabasas, CA 91302

818-882-4867

The Outreach



Rabbi Sara Abrams

Rabbi Ron Li-Paz

April 2023— Volume 40, No. 4



From Rabbi Li-Paz

A couple weeks ago in preparation for Passover, I shared a sweet story with our JEWELS students. I knew they were being taught the meaning of the holiday and the appropriate prayers and blessings, but I thought it was also important to teach them an otherwise hidden value that might get lost in the conversation around the Exodus.

The story I shared, one I found in a beautiful book called, Three Times Chai, was of a beggar who showed up at the door of a very fancy home on the evening of Passover. He knocked several times and when the door was opened, he saw a gathering of finely dressed people around a lavish and beautiful dinner table. All were dressed in tuxedos and fancy gowns. The beggar told the host that the tradition of Passover was that “all who are hungry should come and eat,” and so, he came in the hope of being fed. The host responded that he would not give tzedakah, charity, on a holiday and he sent the poor man away. An hour or so later, an opulently dressed gentleman approached the same beautiful home. Dressed in a tuxedo, bow tie, top hat and carrying a silver tipped walking stick, he knocked at the door and was immediately welcomed to the gathering of finely dressed people celebrating the Passover seder. When the meal was served, the beggar poured a bottle of wine into his top hat and stuffed matzoh in both of the pockets of his overcoat. He took the haroset and spooned it into his suit pockets. The guests were stunned. The host, assuming it was a Passover tradition with which he was unfamiliar, maybe from a different Jewish community than his own, asked the well-dressed guests to explain his actions. “Well,” the man replied, “our traditional text states that ‘all who are hungry should come and eat’, and so I came to your door but when I arrived in my beggar's garb I was rejected. I returned so that my clothing could be fed because it was apparently much more important, worthy and welcome than I was.”

Let's consider the values of our wise tradition and the opportunities that Passover offers us to host and feed “Elijah”, regardless of his chosen garb.

Wishing all of you a sweet, beautiful, and kosher Passover!

Rabbi Abrams' Reflections



It's an earth song—
And I've been waiting long for an earth song.
It's a spring song,—
And I've been waiting long for a spring song.
Strong as the shoots of a new plant
Strong as the bursting of new buds
Strong as the coming of the first child from its mother's womb.
It's an earth song,
A body song,

A spring song,
I have been waiting long for this spring song.

Langston Hughes

What is your earth song this month? What is your spring song? The Jewish tradition sings the earth song and spring song at Passover where we historically spring forth into bodily and spiritual freedom. However, before springing forth into liberation, Judaism asks us to look into our collective and personal past to consider the places in our lives where we have been enslaved, as well as the places in our society where others are literally enslaved, whether through war, trafficking, addiction, systemic oppression or through the limitations of their own ego identities. Such insights, when we discover them, invite reflection, honest self-inquiry, and faith in our own abilities to chip away at our personal chains so that we, like the earth, can burst forth with new blossoms and possibility. It is part of why we read *The Song of Songs* at this time of year, the love song of the Bible. The song is an ode to new love:

Arise, my darling;
My fair one, come away!
For now the winter is past
The rains are over and gone.
The blossoms have appeared in the land,
the time of pruning has come . . . (1:10-11)

This is a time to wake up and greet life anew—wherever we are in the length of our years—and say yes to the blossoms that unfold so beautifully from our branches. This spring, this Passover, may we each experience a sense of newness and possibility. May our limitations of mind drop away to be filled with new freedom, new beauty, new life. May your Seders invite such growth and reflection and may you rejoice in the present moment! Chag Sameach!

Part of my role as associate rabbi and chaplain at VOS is to attend to your pastoral needs. If you are in need of spiritual counsel or pastoral presence at this time, please know that my door is open to you. And if you or someone you know in our community is in need of support, suffering with an illness or currently hospitalized or homebound, I am available for home or hospital visits. Please contact me at rabbisaraabrams@vosla.org.

President's Message



It was wonderful to see all the JEWELS families who turned out for our Purim Shabbat Service. It was also fun to see the JEWELS students participate in the service. Participation in VOS events strengthens our community.

Passover is coming very soon and bringing with it another opportunity to participate in a major event. VOS has arranged a beautiful Passover Seder to be held on the second night of Passover (April 6th). This Seder will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Agoura Hills. The doors open at 5:30 p.m., and the Seder will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. Registration is closed.

On Sunday, April 16th, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. VOS will have a special Holocaust event, “Remembering Yom HaShoah through the art of David Labkovski.” We will have a special internationally recognized guest speaker, Leora Raikin, who will take us on a journey through the art into the history of Vilna and Eastern Europe leading up to the Holocaust. This is a very special event that should not be missed.

On May 6, we will hold our annual Gala. This year will be a Hawaiian theme so break out your tropical shirts. This is a major fundraiser for VOS, and I want to thank you in advance for your participation and support of this event.

We also have many adult education events in April.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Bill LaVere

MITZVOT

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

Marlene Frierson
mmarni@juno.com

BUTTERFLY PROJECT

Julie Goren
jgoren9048@aol.com

CRAFTERS' CLUB

Knit and crochet for charity
Laurie Alban and Jean Cord
818-865-0673 818-340-3394

DONATION BOXES

Boxes near our Shalom Desk may be filled with food for SOVA and snacks/treats for Operation Interdependence

OPERATION INTERDEPENDENCE

Barbara Granowitz
4AVA4OI@gmail.com

PROJECT CARING

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

HARVEY MAGIDOW AND SUE MAGIDOW
805-750-0345

TRIBUTE CARDS

Beverly Nisenson
missesnisi@aol.com

Is VOS a part of your enduring Jewish legacy?

Designate tax beneficial funds from your estate plan for Valley Outreach Synagogue Charitable Fund. Managed by the Jewish Community Foundation



JEWELS NEWS

Who Doesn't Love A Good Story?

The holiday of Passover revolves around retelling the Exodus story from generation to generation in order to preserve the key narrative of the Jewish people - our ancestors' escape from slavery to freedom. What better way to fulfill this mitzvah than through the Passover Seder - a multi-sensory approach to engaging even the youngest among us by modeling core Jewish values including the pursuit of justice, welcoming the stranger, gathering as a community, and being grateful for our freedoms (dayenu!). While there are endless ways to infuse fun and relevance for kids, most importantly is to make the Exodus story come alive so that we, and eventually the next generation, will not only remember it but embrace it as part of our own personal Jewish journey.

In preparation for Passover last week, JEWELS students were fully immersed in the Exodus narrative. They experienced "slavery" by engaging in menial tasks and building Lego pyramids. They encountered each of the 10 plagues as Moses continuously pleaded with Pharaoh to "Let My People Go!" They witnessed the splitting of the Red Sea and marched from Egypt to the Promised Land, rejoicing in their newfound freedom. And lastly, they ate matzoh—the "bread of affliction" and a symbol of humility.

May you and your family, friends and the entire VOS community have a meaningful and memorable Seder.

Happy Passover

Carla



Carla Adivi | Director of Lifelong Learning
vosla.org
VOSJEWELSKraftSchool.com
 Facebook: VOS JEWELS | Instagram: vos_jewels
 P. 818-882-4867 x108

Great Volunteer Opportunity

I would love to teach anyone interested in learning how to produce the Outreach. Please contact *Johanna Spira* at 818-882-6866 if you'd like to try it. Constructing the newsletter is fun, creative, rewarding—and the software does most of the work.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

For our Tropical Night Gala, May 6, 2023

We need eight volunteers for the live auction to record the persons and purchases bought.

If you can help, please contact Barbara Huff.

**huff669@gmail.com
 818-441-3384**

RABBI-IN-RESIDENCE LECTURE SERIES



We hope you've been enjoying our inspiring and insightful talks at our Rabbi-In-Residence Lecture Series where we bring you meaningful and enlightening lectures from some of America's finest rabbis. This month we will be taking a break because of the Passover holiday, and we will be back on May 18th at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom with a special rabbi who comes to us from New Jersey. We are privileged to host Rabbi Debra Orenstein who will speak to us on Positively Jewish:

Torah Wisdom and Modern Science on Happiness.

Named "One of America's Most Inspiring Rabbis" by The Jewish Forward, we are excited for the opportunity to have Rabbi Orenstein join us. She brings the meaning and relevance of the Jewish tradition to the forefront as she speaks to us about what true happiness means. What can bring us happiness? What does Torah wisdom teach us about happiness? Rabbi Orenstein's passion is connecting Judaism and spirituality to our everyday lives and ultimate concerns.

The world today can seem so divided, but something that every person seeks, no matter where they are or how different they are, is happiness. Happiness has an incredible power to bring people together, to understand one another. The importance of connection that leads to happiness is apparent. Join us to learn about what modern science blended with the Torah approach has to say on happiness, and how we can bring it into our lives.

For twenty years, Rabbi Orenstein was an instructor at American Jewish University, where she taught in the rabbinical, graduate, undergraduate, conversion, Elderhostel, and continuing education programs. She was a senior fellow of the Wilstein Institute of Jewish Policy Studies and spiritual leader of Makom Ohr Shalom synagogue. In 2010, she returned to her home state of New Jersey and became spiritual leader of Congregation B'nai Israel in Emerson, while continuing her writing and public speaking.

Everyone is welcome to join and you're sure to find it informative and intriguing. Be sure not to miss this powerful and thought-provoking presentation. Mark your calendars for the third Thursday of every month when we will have different rabbis speak to us to share their wisdom, knowledge, and expertise.

We look forward to seeing you on May 18th for our next exciting lecture. We appreciate and need your continued support, so if you would like to sponsor a rabbi, please contact **Wendy Levenson** at 310-985-4285 or wendylev@sbcglobal.net.

Wendy Levenson

VP of Religious Practices

MEN'S CLUB



- 1) Our VOS Men's Club has monthly meetings. If you are over 55, join us at 5:45 p.m. for FREE DINNER and meeting at 6:30. Next meeting is on April 13.
- 2) Men's Club Board Recognition will feature a FAMILY BBQ on Sunday, June 11 at 3:00 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys 91405. This is for F.U.N. FAMILY BBQ. The cost will be \$25 PER FAMILY (up to 5 people). We will supply all the food and drink. In addition, this will be a recognition of the Men's Club Board: **Bob Brandt, George Quint, and Harvey Rose.** Everyone is invited. **The parking lot can hold over 160 cars—no charge for parking. This is a family event; therefore, the more, the merrier. Details to follow.**

3) VOS Men's Club ANNUAL DINNER will be held on Sunday, October 22 at 5:00 p.m. at Rosie's in Northridge. The buffet-style meal includes soft drinks, salad, and dessert. In addition, there will be an auction. This event is to support our Synagogue. Buy your tickets now—\$35.00 per person. **Contact Information:**
Bob Brandt: 818-535-0067

Harvey Rose

Board of Directors Meeting

April 11—7:00 p.m.



SISTERHOOD



Hi Ladies,

Broadway 1965 was a hit! What a Great Show! Hats off to all the wonderful performers! Thank you to all involved.

Thank you so much to all of you who joined our March meeting.

Passover is almost here. Lots of cooking to do for family and friends. I hope that you all enjoy the holiday, especially being with your families!

It was so very interesting to see how Max Factor was started and the famous actors who helped the firm become the real start of makeup for us all.

Unfortunately, our usual meeting date for April had to be changed. The date for April's meeting will now take place on April 13. More information, such as venue and time, to follow.

Any questions, please call or email.

Thank you.

Judy Handelman, President

818-594-0450 jbeth10@yahoo.com



VOS PLAYERS

THE BERLINGER PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM

BROADWAY 1965 REVUE

Congratulations and Thank You!

Our journey towards the three performances of Broadway 1965 began back in September, 2022. Over the months, between an initial conversation and the performances, an enormous and delightful family formed within our VOS community. Each week, the cast and creative team went through rehearsal challenges and sweet victories, and we came to learn more about ourselves and about each other. Ultimately, I am left with a deep sense of gratitude to all the people who invested time, energy, and courage in this VOS Players production.

I want to share the list of participants and supporters so that all of them feel acknowledged, and all of us can recognize those who volunteered in some way in this amazing VOS family experience:

Sheri Albala, Mayer Alson, Barbara Barackman, Jackie Berg, Steve Berkowitz, Mickey Bilsky, Dorene Blair, Lewis Blair, Emmett Blatt, Laura Blatt, Karen Bradford, Larry Braun, Wendy Breslow, Brian Caplin, Roberta Caplin, Steve Clayton, Daphne Nieman Cohen, Phyllis Cohen, Jean Cord, Fabrizio Correa, Galia Dhari, Helene Dutra, Debbie Du Val, Terri Elkins, Judy Farber, Sam Finkelberg, Al Franco, Eileen Franco, Jeff Gaffin, Judy Gaffin, Teri Gamson, Joyce Glantz, David Glazer, Lyle Glazer, Carol Gold, Lila Jolie Gold, Alice Goldsobel, Donald Goldsobel, Steve Gorman, Barry Greene, David Handelman, Judy Handelman, Denise Horowitz, Leonard Horowitz, Nate Horowitz, Bob Jacobs, Ellie Jacobs, Karen Jacobs, Barbara Johnson Brown, Emily Kaplan, Suzanne Kassap, Doreen Kates, Arnold Kaufman, Morgan Lavin, Jenny Lerner, Albert Levine, Wendy Levenson, Norm Levy, Beth Lin, Dr. Jack Lin, Hannah Li-Paz, Jonah Li-Paz, Cantor Michael Li-Paz, Monica Li-Paz, Rabbi Ron Li-Paz, Eric Menyuk, Guste Paskauskaite, Martin Pasternack, Dianna Rice, Janice Rodnunsky, Harvey Rose, Peggy Rose, Randie Rosenberg, Ann Rowan, Josh Rudner, Larry Rudner, Julie Safran, Lisa Schultz, Mikki Schultz, Todd Schultz, Betsy Shore, Carol Smith, Stan Smith, Andrea Smollar, Lynn Solursh, Barbara Solomon, Gerald Sternbach, Michele Tannen, Fred Ulise, Lesley Vann, David Way, Marsha Wiedder, Lisa Wooding, Mike Wooding, Larry Zolkewitz, Sheila Zolkewitz, The members of the VOS Men's Club and Sisterhood, and Teddy, the dog. (If you stepped in to volunteer and I am not aware, I apologize for missing your name).

Some words from participants:

"I appreciated this wonderful opportunity so very much! It was a lot of fun, but the highlight was the camaraderie among us all. I am so glad to now be a member of VOS, and I look forward to seeing you all at more events."

"What an absolute pleasure it was to be with all of you. For us, it was our first time ever doing theater."

Continued n next page

VOS PLAYERS CONTINUED

“Thank you all for making my first experience a magnificent one! I don’t have words to express my admiration and gratitude for the support and encouragement from all. It was my absolute pleasure to work with you all and I look forward to next time!”

“We have been working and performing in many types of theatre projects for over 40 years. It is rare to find a group as supportive, congenial, and in Bron's words, as ‘sticky’ as the BROADWAY 1965 cast and crew. There just aren't enough superlatives.”

“Valley Outreach Synagogue is truly a wonderful and amazing community!”

“I joined for the music, I left with welcoming, loving new friends.”

“I have heard so many positive accolades about our show. We brought a lot of happiness to a lot of people: several people want to join our Temple and be part of our group. Being in this show has been the highlight of my life, memories that will never be forgotten.”

“I had no idea what I was missing!”

Look out for our next VOS Players, Berlinger Performing Arts Program production

With sincerest gratitude,



Bronwen Li-Paz

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES



I hope that you all have a wonderful Passover Seder with family and friends while sitting around the dinner table, as you eat, pray, drink wine, sing, discuss current social justice issues, and tell stories while reading the Haggadah.

I'm going to share my wonderful pineapple matzoh kugel with you again. Enjoy!



6 eggs, 2 matzoh sheets broken into small pieces, ¼ tsp salt, 4 tbsp. margarine, 1 cup sugar, 1 can crushed pineapple, drained (16 oz)

Preheat oven to 350. In large bowl beat eggs, add matzoh, salt, margarine, sugar, and drained pineapple.

Mix well.

Pour into a well-greased 8x8x2 pan. Bake for 40 – 45 minutes, or until firm. Cut into squares.

SAVE THE DATE – Tropical Nights, Dinner, Dancing, Auction – May 6, 2023, 6:00 p.m. at VOS, \$150/person

It's that time of year again when you can help support Valley Outreach Synagogue with its biggest fundraiser of the year. Dance to Dark Desert Highway, food catered by **Ruth Hurwitz**, photo souvenirs, Hawaiian casual attire, purchase great items at

the live and silent auctions opportunity drawing-win one of three mystery boxes.

Support the wonderful honorees: **Jackie Berg, Woman of the Year; Bill LaVere, Man of the Year; Wendy Levenson, Light of Israel; Adam and Jamey Sussman, Couple of the Year.**

You can support VOS by:

Purchasing tickets or a table for the event

Buy an ad for the Tribute Journal.

Be a Sponsor of the event.

Participate in the auction—we are currently looking for more items – restaurant gift cards, movie cards, tickets to sports events, or plays. Donate your vacation home for a weekend. Donate a round of golf at your golf course.

Here are a few of the wonderful items we have received: Rams tickets with preferred parking, Dodger tickets, a massage, many restaurants, singing lessons, gift baskets, emergency supply kit for a family of four, a weekend in Big Bear at a vacation house, a VIP tour of Paramount Studios, dinners with the **Rabbi Li-Paz**, and art by **Rachel Sylvers**.

DON'T MISS OUT – YOUR PARTICIPATION WILL BRING YOU GREAT MEMORIES!!!!!!

Denise Horowitz

VP Fundraising

MITZVAH AND BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATES



Hag Sameach. I hope this year at Passover you can gather with family and friends. It is always wonderful when we can take time out from our busy lives and have a special occasion to gather with others. Passover, of course, has special meanings that we will discuss throughout our Seder when we read through the Haggadah. Also, remember to set an extra place at your table and open your heart and doors to someone who needs a place to attend. Maybe Elijah???!!!!

I look forward to the coming months with so many events on our calendar. Be sure to sign up for the Gala in May. It is going to be a night to remember! I want to thank everyone who will help at the drive-through SOVA collection. It takes a village to have a successful event. What a mitzvah!

The Bereavement Committee continues to be active, and I am always looking for additional members to join our team. Contact me by email to start the discussion on how you can become a member of this very important group.

Some of you may know by now, however, I want to officially announce my stepping down from the Board of Directors effective in May. Since I joined the temple some 25 years ago, I have been very active on the task force and then the VOS Board of Directors. I like to believe I have made a difference and plan to work with my successor who will be named shortly. I want to thank everyone who has worked with me and supported me throughout the years. Bless you all.

I promise that you will continue to see me at the many events and services. Lastly, my leaving the board is just moving into a new chapter of my life, and I assure everyone, all is well.

Hugs to you all and have a peaceful and wonderful Passover.

Marlene Frierson

VP Mitzvah

Bereavement Chairperson

mmarni@juno.com



****** CHAVURAH INTEREST FORM 2022-2023 ******

(If you are already a member of a chavurah, you do not need to fill out this form.)

Dear VOS Members:

As we begin a new year a Chavurah is a wonderful way for members to be involved in synagogue life. It is an opportunity for building treasured friendships with other VOS members.

To those who may have filled out a Chavurah form in the past and were not placed in a Chavurah, please completely fill in a new form, even if you have filled one out in the past. (Please understand that a new Chavurah is formed when there are enough people for a particular group.)

Return your form to: VALLEY OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE & CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE, 26668 Agoura Road, Calabasas, CA 91302

Date: _____ Please choose a category and age ranges. Check all that apply.

() COUPLE () YOUNG MARRIED () SINGLE () FAMILY (Parent(s) with children)

OF CHILDREN IN AGE RANGES: () Birth - 4, () 5 - 10, () 11 - 13, () 14 - 18

ADULT AGE RANGE: () 20 - 29 () 30 - 39 () 40 - 49 () 50 - 59 () 60 - 69

() 70 - 79 () 80 +

FULL NAME (s): _____
(Last Name) (Male) (Female)

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

CELL PHONE: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESSES: _____

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

- () I/We prefer a chavurah of people like myself/ourselves (age range/marital status).
() I/We prefer a mixed chavurah (age range/marital status).

DEGREE OF INTEREST IN ACTIVITIES	VERY MUCH	AVERAGE	WOULD CONSIDER	NONE
JEWISH STUDIES/CULTURAL	()	()	()	()
CELEBRATION OF HOLIDAYS	()	()	()	()
FAMILY ACTIVITIES	()	()	()	()
TEMPLE ACTIVITIES	()	()	()	()

WHAT I/WE EXPECT FROM BEING A MEMBER OF A CHAVURAH: _____

Please Note: The more flexible you are the easier it will be to place you in a chavurah.

Suggestions, questions, ideas? Call Anne Sperling (805) 796-9255 or anniesperling279@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please do not ask to be put into an existing chavurah without first checking with Anne.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Shalom!

Bravo, Bravo, what a fabulous way to spend the evening watching VOS members perform in the Broadway 1965 theatre night at VOS! As a result, our congregation grew with a handful of new members who joined the cast and performed, and everyone made new friends! There is much truth in the saying, "The family that plays together stays together!"

Friendship Connections:

We hope you are ready to join in for fun, great meals, and making new VOS friends!

Turn in a chavurah form, and you will receive a call for a Friendship Connection opportunity. You do not have to be sure that you want to join a chavurah; this is a discovery time, and you will make new Synagogue friends in the process. You need to be a VOS member to participate in this friendship activity. Please print the Chavurah form (included in this newsletter) and send the form to me at AnnieSperling279@gmail.com.

If you are not a member, you may fill out a chavurah form, and I can sign you up as a VOS member during our call. Dues are prorated to July 1st, when the VOS fiscal year begins.

See you soon!

Annie Sperling - VP Membership and Chavurah Coordinator



YOUR SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

The Sunshine Committee at VOS includes the following dedicated members who are available at a moment's notice to send get well cards, thinking of you cards, and sympathy cards to VOS members who have experienced a difficult time in their lives. The Sunshine Committee members also make phone calls to members who are isolated or in need of cheer, or who just need to know their VOS family is supporting them in their lives. Occasionally, a personal visit for members who are not mobile and who are feeling alone is just the thing to raise spirits.

The VOS Sunshine Committee is a wonderful group of members who give of themselves to help others in need.

Thank you so much for your dedication:

Harvey Magidow

Sue Magidow

Doreen Kates

Barbara Huff

Karen Jacobs

Denise Horowitz

Barbara Barackman

Rita Puritsky



WHAT DOES PASSOVER
MEAN TO YOU?

Robert Bermant

We have always had a Seder and now we are doing it in our kid's home with them and our grandkids.

OUR CONGREGANTS
RESPOND

Harriet Berman

Making a Seder is a lot of work and the work should be shared with family members because it is difficult as we age.

Marshall Berg

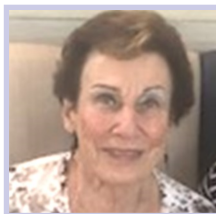
Spring and a time for re-birth and renewal.

Cathy Belsky

Tradition, family gatherings, and spirituality.

Misty Berrick

Passover is to educate future generations and hope that they will carry on the traditions.



*Compiled by
Mariana
Stark*

Mickey Bilsky

Passover makes me think of slavery of different kinds. People become slaves to their jobs or money instead of more meaningful things like dedication to family.



Look outside--the hills are showing off something we haven't seen in a long time: **GREEN!** It's a gorgeous, renewal time of year. I'm looking forward to going to a Seder this year. It will feel great to be among family and friends again.

Operation Interdependence sends goodie boxes to our troops (all seven branches). We desperately need short, sweet, and to-the-point notes to include in the baggies we pack and send. (By the way, they LOVE notes from kids). Please drop off your friendly notes at the Synagogue office or email me.

Does anybody know anyone connected to grocery, dollar stores, candy reps, or *any kind of food service at all*? Please let us know. Businesses, their workers and customers love donating to good causes...and Operation Interdependence is a **great** cause! We are proud to support our brave troops and appreciate your help.

Here's an excerpt from a thank you note we received:

I want to personally thank you for all the boxes you have sent our way. The soldiers here in Qatar always enjoy receiving these tastes of home. As much as the US military tries to make us comfortable in this environment, it's always nice to get little reminders of what we left behind... the notes, snacks, magazines, toiletries, and other things you take time to pack and mail to us are always enjoyed and help fill the void. Please pass along our sincere gratefulness, and thanks to your Operation Interdependence Team.

Lee Godby

MAJ, FA

In closing, I recently received an amazing, heartwarming call *and then a visit from **Rabbi Sara!*** It lifted me up emotionally. And thank you to **Barbara Huff** for her call and the wonderful conversation we had. Calls and visits like those keep me feeling close to our wonderful Synagogue that I've embraced and that has embraced me for so many years. I do hope to be able to get back to Synagogue one of these times.

With thanks,

Barbara Granowitz and the OI Team

email: 4ava4oi@gmail.com



Building New Friendship Connections - Chavurahs!

We Have Begun!

In this phase, there is no commitment to a group. We are getting to know you, and you have the opportunity to know others by joining in and sharing a meal and breaking bread together. These connections could be compared to dating in a matchmaking scenario.

Everyone that turns in a form will receive a call for a get-together-date opportunity. You do not have to be sure that you want to join a chavurah, this is a discovery time, and in the process, you will make new Synagogue friends.

You need to be a VOS member to participate in this friendship activity.

Please download the Chavurah form and send the form to **AnnieSperling279@gmail.com** or call 805-796-9255.

If you are not a member, you can fill out a Chavurah form, and Annie can sign you up as a VOS member during the call. The dues are prorated to July 1st, when the VOS fiscal year begins.

Let's Get Started!
We look forward to meeting you!

Download the Chavurah form:
<https://www.vosla.org/join-a-chavurah.html>

VOS & JFS SOVA Food Drive Thru

Sunday, April 2nd
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM
26668 Agoura Road
Back Entrance

Jewish Family Service LA Community Food & Resource Program depends on your donations to provide healthy groceries and toiletries to Angelenos facing food insecurity. Donations directly benefit the thousands of people who visit our pantries – people of all backgrounds and identities. Please be as generous as you can – the need is great.

OUR MOST CRITICAL NEEDS:

Peanut Butter
Rice
Canned Tuna/Fish
Canned Meats
(beef stew, chili w/meat, chicken etc.)
Canned or Dry Soup
Whole Grain Cereal

We also welcome other non-perishable foods, personal hygiene items and children's books including:

Dry Beans
 Dry Pasta
 Dry Milk
 100% Juice
 Oatmeal
 Tomato Sauce
 Canned Beans
 Canned Vegetables
 Canned Fruit
 Canned Pasta
 Cooking Oil
 Kosher Foods
 Diapers/Wipes
 Soap
 Shampoo/Conditioner
 Razors
 Deodorant
 Lotion
 Toothpaste
 Toothbrushes

Please avoid glass jars, opened or perishable foods.

For more information, please visit
www.jfsla.org/SOVA or call Marlene Frierson
 at (818) 606-4028.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE LA

SOVA Community Food & Resource Program



Torah Inspired Learning

with Rabbi Li-Paz



Join Rabbi Li-Paz and your friends to read The Contemporary Torah, A Gender-Sensitive Adaptation of the JPS Translation, to explore its beauty and relevance to your life.

No prior knowledge of Hebrew or Torah is necessary. We'll continue our journey through Exodus.

Thursdays – 4/13, 4/27, 5/11 & 5/25

VOS Lobby

9:30 a.m. – Check-in & informal schmooze

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. – Class session

\$5 donation

Bring an item for our potluck breakfast.



Save The Date

Remembering Yom Hashoah through the art of David Labkovski

Holocaust Remembrance Day

Sunday, April 16, 2023

2:00-4:00 p.m.

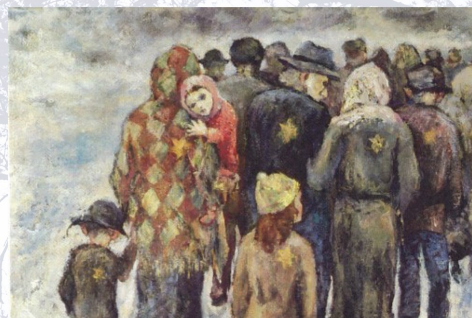
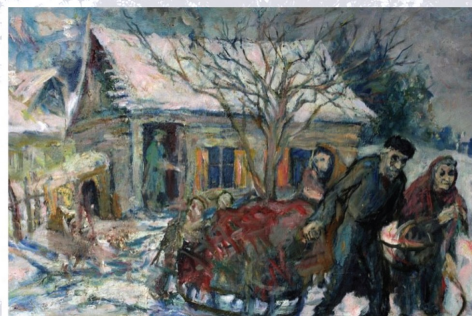
at Valley Outreach Synagogue

26668 Agoura Road, Calabasas, CA 91302

Come and learn about international artist David Labkovski, and take a journey into his life through his art into the history of Vilna and Eastern Europe leading up to the Holocaust.

Presented by Leora Raikin

Leora is an international speaker who captivates audiences throughout the world. As an educator, artist, author, and the founder of the David Labkovski Project whose mission is to advance knowledge of the Holocaust through the art of David Labkovski (1906-1991) sharing lessons of life, tolerance, acceptance and the importance of bearing witness to history.



Register at <https://www.vosla.org/form/Where-History>
All donations go to future Holocaust Education Events

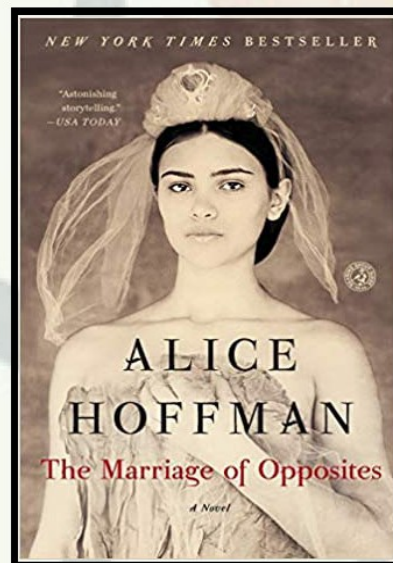


VOS People of the Book Club

A PARTICIPANT-LED GROUP

THE MARRAGE OF OPPOSITES

by Alice Hoffman



Set on the tropical island of St. Thomas, this book is about the extraordinary woman who gave birth to the Impressionist painter, Camille Pissarro. Rachel grows up in a small community of Jews who escaped the Inquisition but she does not live by the rules. Read this unforgettable and remarkable story of Rachel, her two husbands and her son, Camille Pissarro.

Tuesdays, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

April 18, May 2, May 16 & June 6

VOS members Free | Non-members \$25

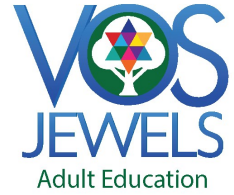
The Book Club will meet on Zoom.

Register below for details and to receive the Zoom link.

<https://www.vosla.org/form/people-of-the-book-club-Opposites>

Please come to the first meeting on April 18 having read to the end of Chapter 3 (which is through page 93).

BAGELS & Banter



Join Rabbi Ron Li-Paz for a monthly discussion and a nosh.

April 19 | May 17

9:30 a.m. – Schmooze

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. – Discussion

\$5 donation

Bagels & Banter is a joint group with both men and women.



Walk^{to}_{end} Genocide



Together
We can choose. We can act.
We can transform the world.
JEWISH WORLD WATCH

The Walk is an opportunity to stand up with those who face oppression worldwide. By participating, you join a community of compassionate and socially conscious activists who are committed to raising awareness and helping end the cycle of violence and persecution faced by so many communities around the globe.



What to expect

- Hundreds of fellow activists supporting human rights and diaspora members
- 1.8 mile route around Pan Pacific Park, The Grove & Farmer's Market

Honoring



Brad Sherman
Congressman



Katy Yaroslavsky
L.A. City Councilmember

April 30, 2023

Television City

7800 Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles.

Register today:

jww.org/walk23



Follow us



/jewishworldwatch



@jworldwatch



@jworldwatch

SAVE THE DATE

Tropical Nights

DINNER | DANCING | AUCTION

Saturday, May 6th, 2023

JOIN US AS WE HONOR

JACKIE BERG

Woman of the Year

WENDY LEVENSON

Light of Israel

BILL LAVERE

Man of the Year

**ADAM AND JAMEY
SUSSMAN**

Couple of the Year



26668 Agoura Rd
Calabasas, CA 91302
(818) 882-4867
info@vosla.org

SUPPORT VOS AND THE HONOREES
BY PURCHASING A SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE

Tropical Nights

DINNER | DANCING | AUCTION
Saturday, May 6, 2023

(King)

King Kamehameha

Catering Sponsor

\$5,000

- 10 tickets to the event with a reserved table
- Full Page Ad in the Tribute Journal
- Verbal acknowledgement prior to the Honoree Ceremony
- 6 months advertising in the Outreach
- Recognition in all publicity
- Reserved section seating for your family at High Holiday services

(Queen)

Queen Liliuokalani

Entertainment Sponsor

\$3,500

- 8 tickets to the event with a reserved table
- Full Page Ad in the Tribute Journal
- Verbal acknowledgement prior to the Honoree Ceremony
- 3 months advertising in the Outreach
- Recognition in all publicity

(Prince Lot)

Prince Lotkapuaina

Bar Sponsor

\$1,800

- 6 tickets to the event
- Full Page Ad in the Tribute Journal
- 3 months advertising in the Outreach

(Prince Kin)

Prince Kina'u

Photographer Sponsor

\$1,000

- 2 tickets to the event
- Full Page Ad in the Tribute Journal
- 3 months advertising in the Outreach

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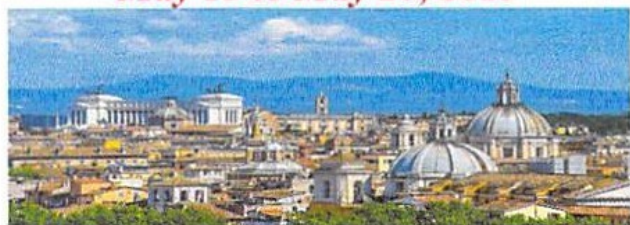
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or email to Karen1@vosla.org



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"VOS Women's Trip to Jewish Italy With Rabbi Sara"

May 15 to May 28, 2023



Day 1 – May 15 - Departure from US to Rome Italy
LAX to Rome Italy

Day 2 – May 16 -Arrival Rome – Orientation – Welcome Dinner-Arrival Rome airport (FCO) and transfer Hotel Empire Palace. Dinner at a local restaurant tonight.

Day 3 – May 17 - Full day tour of Rome Ancient Rome - Morning 3-hour tour of ancient Rome. Afternoon visit to Coliseum for guided tour.

Day 4 - May 18 - Vatican City – Afternoon Trastevere Food Tour –Morning Vatican City for a guided tour. Vatican Museums, visit St. Peter's Basilica ,Sistine Chapel TRASTEVERE Evening Food Stroll 3-hours. Enjoy tastings of foods that the locals enjoy. Later sit down for a pasta meal along with gelato and wine!

Friday Day 5 – May 19 – Half day Jewish Ghetto Tour – Half day Tour - Dinner

Transfer to the Jewish Ghetto for a 4-hour tour with guide. Visit the Jewish Museum, Main Synagogue, Ghetto area, Spanish Synagogues. Dinner at a local restaurant.

Saturday Day 6- May 20 - Day of Leisure

Today enjoy Rome on your own.

Sunday Day 7 –May 21- Rome to Tuscany –

Cooking Class Transfer to Tuscan area city of Figline which is 35 minutes outside of Florence in the heart of Tuscany .Accommodations at a 14-century villa hotel The Villa Casa Grande. Enjoy a Tuscan Cooking Class with an authentic Tuscan chef at the villa.

Day 8 – May 22- Florence – Walking Tour Dinner Florence full day activities include guided walking tour of Florence city center and the Accademia Gallery, Jewish Museum and Synagogue. Dinner at the villa

Day 9 May 23 – Free Day in Tuscany Dinner – Free day later dinner at a local restaurant close to the villa.

Day 10 – May 24 - San Gimignano - Wine tasting and Lunch –Guided walking tour of San Gimignano visit to a winery wine tasting and lunch at a local farm.

Day 11 – May 25- Tuscany to Mestre - Private Tour Dinner- Transfer to Venice area. Accommodations in Mestre: Hotel Leonardo Royal . Private tour to Murano Dinner in Mestre at local restaurant.

Day 12 – May 26- Venice- Venice city guided walking tour. Visit the Jewish Ghetto, Jewish Museum & Synagogue.

Day 13- May 27 - Free Day – Gondola Ride Farewell dinner in Mestre-Free day in Venice afternoon gondola ride through the canals of Venice. Return to Mestre for a Farewell Dinner.

PERILLOTOURS INTEGRITY IN TOURISM **USTOA**
United States Tour Operators Association

Day 14 – May 28 Venice airport to Home-Private group transfer from the hotel in Mestre to the Venice airport for your flight back home.

Also Included in Land Package:

English speaking tour manager
1 Group Transfer on Arrival and Departure
4star hotel in Rome (Hotel Empire or similar)
4star hotel in Tuscany (Hotel Villa Casagrande)
4star hotel in Mestre (Hotel Leonardo or similar)
First Class train tickets to and from Venice
Tour to Murano
Mandatory city tax at the hotels
Porterage in/out hotels
Total of 6 dinners -1 Venetian lunch
1 wine tasting and lunch at a local farm
Wine tasting at the Villa (Including Visit of the Noble Floor)
Tuscan Cooking class at the Villa (Prepared Dinner Included)
Trastevere Food tour- (All mentioned meals include drinks)
35minute gondola ride in Venice
Roundtrip watertaxi Venice area – Venice – Venice area

Not Included in Land Package

Air To and From Italy from LAX - To book air call

855-784-7687 – Perillo Tours

Travel Insurance – 7.2% of total trip cost
Anything not mentioned in itinerary or inclusions

Please note that this tour involves a lot of walking, and you must be able to walk 2 to 3 miles a day and some of it will be on cobblestone.



Land Price per Person \$4,410

Based on 10 to 14 people in double occupancy

Single Rate \$4,980

Land Price per Person \$4,190

Based on 15 to 24 people in double occupancy

Single Rate \$4,760

Book land package on line or call 855-784-7687

<https://www.perilogroups.com/tours/voswomenstrip>

Airfare on Air Canada from LAX

Depart

AC # 788 15 May Depart LAX 11:55A arrive YYZ 731P

AC # 890 15 May Depart YYZ 8:50P arrive FCO 1115A 16MAY

Return

AC # 819 28 May Depart VCE 1:00p YUL 355P

AC # 781 28 May Depart YUL 6:50p LAX 949P

Airfare Price per Person \$1500



Inquiring Minds Want to Know



What do you want to learn next year?

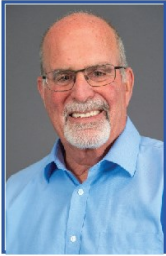
A survey from Adult Education at VOS will be coming to your e-mail soon.

Please reply to the survey so that we can provide programming that is meaningful to you.



Welcome to Our VOS Board of Directors

2022–2024



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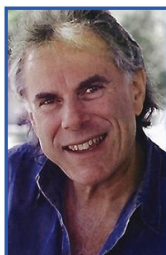
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Recording Secretary	Doreen Kates	818-398-1202	dekates@sbcglobal.net

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High Holy Days	Stewart Epstein	818-886-2380
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FAX: 818- 882-4868

Website: www.vosla.org

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Arlene Mayo

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818-882-4867

Director of VOS Education

Carla Adivi

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818-882-4867

Rabbis Emeriti

Jerry Fisher (z”l)

Richard Schachet (z”l)

Founding Musical Director

Jack Bielan

felixxsong@yahoo.com

818-456-4298

Outreach Editor: Johanna Spira

818-882-6866

Email: johspira@att.net

SHABBAT SERVICES
(2022—2023) 7:30 P.M.

SIMPLY SHABBAT SERVICE
DATES (2022-2023)

April 14, 2023 - Jerusalem of Gold

April 28, 2023

May 12, 2023 - Kol Isha - The Voices of Women
 A VOS Sisterhood Shabbat

May 26, 2023

June 9, 2023 - Shabbat Under the Stars

June 23, 2023

July 14, 2023 - Shabbat under the Stars —
 Coming to America

July 28, 2023

August 11, 2023 - To Life! To Love!

August 25, 2023

September 8, 2023 - Elul: Preparing Our Hearts
 and Souls for the High Holidays

World's Worst Problems

Last month we asked what you thought the world's greatest problems were. Here's what some experts say (in no particular order):

wars and military conflicts, the conflict in Ukraine and its impact on refugee statistics, water pollution, human rights violations, gender equality, hunger and access to food, accessibility to weapons, risks from artificial intelligence, climate change

CONTRIBUTIONS AND YAHRZEIT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
BELOW REFLECT THE PREVIOUS MONTH'S DONATIONS

MITZVOT

Dan and Carla Adivi

Lewis and Dorene Blair, donated to VOS Players

Wendy Breslow, donated to Better Together

The Bryar Family, in memory of Larry Jacobs.

Samuel Finkelberg and Betsy Shore, donated to VOS Players

Genesis Goma, donated to VOS Players

David and Judy Handelman, donated to VOS Players

Denise and Lenny Horowitz, in honor of Harvey Magidow's 80th birthday

Michelle Johnson, donated to VOS Players

Diane Lafleur, in honor of Harvey Magidow's 80th birthday.

Jack and Beth Lin

Michael and Rhonda Magasinn

Eileen and Peter Malis, in honor of the wonderful Purim program, the children were great and the goodie bags were so sweet and generous.

Barbara Mathis, donated to VOS Players

North Ranch Pizza, donated to VOS Players

Arlene Pater, in honor of Harvey Magidow's 80th birthday.

Ann Radow, donated to VOS Players

Steven and Sherri Raft

Michael and Fern Reisner, in honor of Al Franco special birthday and Refuah Shelema to Judy and David for a complete and speedy recovery

Michael and Geri Schwartz

Elise Wilson, very grateful for the classes you provide.



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Gertrude Miller, Robert Romanow,
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Sonya Franklin, in memory of Malvin
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Harvey (Helen) Schiff, in memory of Alyce Weitz

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Robert (Susi) Weissman, in memory of Ray Solitare

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Eleanor Zalin, in memory of William Sadofsky

Marcia (Allen) Zatkin, in memory of Harold Manoff

Betty (Robert) Zonshine, in memory of Paula Winreb



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Eleanor Zalin, to the Pike Family in memory of Maggie



CONDOLENCES

Mark Blackman, cousin of Lori (Neil) Shocket

Martin Cooperstein, father of Lisa Rodnunsky

Larry Chambers, husband of
Adele Chambers

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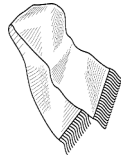


SIMCHAS AND MAZEL TOV TO:

Bat Mitzvah



Joshua Solis



Milestone Birthdays

Stanley Broffman

Jeff Edelstein

Abraham Franco

Doreen Kates

Sharon Kohn

Lewis Landau

George Quint

Jerry Tenenbaum

Fred Weiss



Wedding

Joseph Woolf and Liz Cruz

Lindsey Convoy and

Jason Rosenkranz



Milestone Anniversaries

Barbara and Lee Van Sluyters

Victor and Jennifer Tabbush

Paul and Vicki Grossman



Your joy is our joy!

Please email info@VOSLA.org if you

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4/2 Tobie Finkelstein, Justine Jacobs,
Ethan Kelman, Marissa Kelman,
Amamda Levinson, Marlene Miller

4/3 Rod Canter, Dianna Rice,
Archer Swaigenbaum, Rebecca Sylvers

4/4 Jessica Epstein, Judy Handelman,
William LaVere, Jerry Tenenbaum,
Aaron Wazana

4/5 Laurie Alban, Jeff Edelstein

4/6 Lewis Landau, Zac Miller,
Florence Porter, Judy Sagerman

4/7 Joel Macht, Lisa Rodnunsky,
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4/10 Mackenna Newhouse, David Way

4/11 Martin Jaeger, Jordan Pimstone

4/13 Robin Sebso, Greyson Wohlstatte

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4/17 William Housenick, Doreen Kates

4/18 Jerry Primack

4/19 Abraham Franco, Lori Teti

4/20 Jason Altshuler, Jackie Berg,
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4/22 Holly Chernoff, Michelle Gold,
Joshua Solis, Laura Sylvers

4/23 Herbert Aist

4/25 Steve Gorman, Thomas Nial

4/26 Rebecca Stein

4/27 Dana Gelick, Sara LaVere,
Jordan Rogers

4/28 Alison Brown, Barbara Guerin,
Charlotte Johnson

4/30 Bob Charles, Fred Weiss



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PRAYERS FOR HEALING

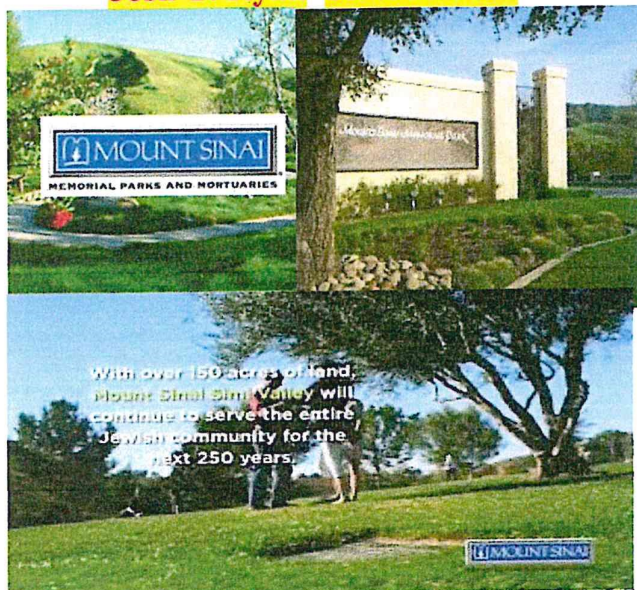


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- B Barbara Barackman, Gerry Barrat, Ross Bauer, Janice Bell, Alison Callan Bellorini, Judy Benedict, Sandi Berman, Alex Berson, Randy J. Bertisch, Robyn Besem, Jack Bielan, Linda Blovett, Michael Bloxberg, Joel Brooks, Sally Burns
- C Marcelo Cabrera, Jacqueline Callan, Virginia Cantor, Jackie Carnell, Dottie Carson, Erica Casas, Dojie Cayse, Ethan Childs, Napali Cohen, Betty Collins, Alfred Cutuli
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- S Alexia Sablow, Dee Saye, Richard Saye, Elaine Sayer, Alicia Seaton, Elizabeth Seltzer, Cindy Shapiro, Aida Shrem, Marco Shrem, Arlene Singer, Jack Smith, Marty Smith, Lynne Solursh, Corey Spero, Johanna Spira, Jeannette St. Marie, Jay Stein, Lorrie Stelzer, Makay Stenberg, Stevie Stock, Harry Sussman
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- V Elizabeth Vona, Lesley Vann
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- Y Hannah Yarnold, Michael Yoffe, Eileen West Youngerman
- Z Sheila Zolkewitz, Bob Zonshine

Plan Ahead:

**Take Care of Your Arrangements
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“Premier Pre-Need Program”
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**Contact our property representative:
Josh T. Ryan 805.306.6411**



Advanced Planning, The Time is Now:

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Ask for Josh T. Ryan and the **Premier Pre Need Program** as part of your advance planning needs & VOS monetarily benefits every time a purchase is made. To get your *confidential conversation and/or tour* started about advance pre-planning call Josh T. Ryan & say **Valley Outreach Synagogue**

- Property Specialist: Josh T. Ryan
805.306.6411 or
jtryan@mountsinaiiparks.org
- Valley Outreach Synagogue
26668 Agoura Rd.
Calabasas, CA 91302
Bob Zonshine
(818) 438-6894

Cremation properties and Caves of Abraham excluded;
Mt. Sinai has a firm price policy; Mt. Sinai Simi Valley,
6150 Mount Sinai Drive, 93063 805-306- 6411

Thank you to those contributing and sharing thoughts & quotes.

Starting the discussion:

“I don’t want to think about it.”

“Let’s talk about it later” ... *(but the time never comes)*

“Let’s be obvious, it’s not a fun subject...”

“We don’t need to think about this now at our age.”

Reflecting:

“I think he was sorry he didn’t have it planned at the time because he couldn’t think about it when it happened. and when it happened he let someone else do the deciding.”

“I didn’t know the answers”

“It was one of the toughest things to go through...”

“I never realized all the decisions.”

Why you made the arrangements now:

“I don’t want them to go through what I had to experience”

“Why? Because it takes the burden off my kids when they will have so much to deal with ... that’s why.”

“Because it is my responsibility to shield my family from having to make intense financial and difficult decisions at a vulnerable challenging time.”

“I know I need to do this to take care of my family: spiritually, financially and emotionally.”

“They have enough to worry about. I know it’s the best gift I could give to my family.”

“I know my family will appreciate it in the long run.”

“I don’t want to be buried in my gym clothes.”

“I like knowing now where my family will be visiting me.”

We ALL know someone who wasn’t prepared, who didn’t know what to do.

Having discussions, making arrangements, can alleviate a significant amount of pressure in an already most stressful time for your loved ones no matter what age. Hopefully this helps you start the discussion needed because starting the discussion is sometimes one of the hardest steps. I know it was for me

**Being responsible, starting the discussion
Is not always easy**

VOS Events and Rental Information

Mazel Tov!

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Next **STEP**: Email Claudine at Events@vosla.org
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Please mention VOS when you visit and order from these wonderful businesses in our community.



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