



Valley Outreach Synagogue  
& CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE

26668 Agoura Road

Calabasas, CA 91302

818-882-4867

# The Outreach



Rabbi Ron Li-Paz

August 2023— Volume 40, No. 8



# From Rabbi Li-Paz

## It's Impossible to Be a Jew... Alone.

Moving through the hot summer and toward the hopefully cooler months of autumn, my mind is on all that will happen in our lives in these coming seasons of our lives. While my thoughts, to-do lists and plans all center on events at the synagogue, I find myself coming to the same conclusion over and over again. I want to take this opportunity to share it with you.

It's impossible to be a Jew alone. That's why we invented the minyan, God's sacred presence conjured up when Jews come together in prayer. That's why it meant so much to you that so many people showed up for your daughter's Bat Mitzvah or your grandson's wedding, or that they went out of their way to pay a condolence call when you were sitting shiva. Judaism connects you to other people and that, according to what we know of God's wishes, is God's intention.

Now, if you buy into the idea that being a Jew is not a private matter but a matter of being a community, a people, there is something I want every one of you to do in the coming year. I want you to claim ownership of Valley Outreach Synagogue and Center for Jewish Life. It's your center for your Jewish life. I want you to see it as something that belongs to you, not something you belong to. A synagogue doesn't work, it can't give you what you need from it, if you see yourself as a customer: "Let's see what's happening at VOS and decide if it interests us." For your wellbeing more than ours, you have to see it as something that belongs to you. Find something we do that matters to you. If it doesn't currently exist, invent it. If it's not religious services, it could be one of our JEWELS childhood or adult classes. It could be the companionship and meaningful friendship of Sisterhood, Men's Club, Brotherhood or VOS Sisters. It could be partnering with teenagers, singing in our choir, acting in our next show, guiding the direction of our Religious School, or being part of the group that calls and visits the lonely and the shut-ins or delivers food to families sitting shiva. Do it for your sake, not for VOS's, because you understand that nobody can be a Jew alone.

Rabbi Ron Li-Paz

## President's Message



Dear Congregants,

As the month of August approaches, we are reminded that the High Holy Days are just around the corner. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur provide us with a unique opportunity to engage in

introspection, seek forgiveness, and renew our spiritual connection with both God and our fellow community members. It is a time for personal growth and communal unity.

In anticipation of this sacred season, we would like to share some important reminders and suggestions to help you prepare for the upcoming High Holy Days:

1. **Reflect on the Past Year:** Take some time to contemplate the events of the past year. Consider the choices you have made, the relationships you have nurtured, and the areas where you feel you could have done better. Reflection is the first step toward personal growth and renewal.
2. **Engage in Teshuvah (Repentance):** Teshuvah is a central theme of the High Holy Days. Reach out to those you may have wronged and seek forgiveness. Likewise, be open to granting forgiveness to those who seek it from you. Let us embrace a spirit of compassion and understanding as we strive to repair our relationships.
3. **Attend Services and Study:** Join us for our special High Holy Days services, which will be filled with prayer, reflection, and melodies that touch the heart and soul. Consider participating in study groups or Torah classes that focus on themes relevant to this season. Engaging in communal worship and study deepens our connection to our faith and our community.
4. **Engage in Acts of Tzedakah:** The High Holy Days also remind us of our responsibility to help those in need. Consider making a contribution to our Synagogue or engaging in volunteer activities that benefit the less fortunate. Acts of tzedakah not only fulfill a moral obligation but also bring us closer to the ideals of justice and compassion.
5. **Create a Personal Plan:** Set personal goals for the upcoming year and develop a plan to achieve them. Identify areas in your life where you would like to grow spiritually, emotionally, or intellectually. Consider discussing your aspirations with a mentor or a trusted friend who can provide guidance and support throughout the year.
6. **Involve Your Family:** Encourage your family members to actively participate in the preparations and observance of the High Holy Days. Discuss the significance of this time and engage in meaningful conversations about personal growth, forgiveness, and the values that guide our lives. This shared experience can strengthen family bonds and create lasting memories.
7. **Practice Self-Care:** Prioritize self-care during this busy time. Take moments for solitude and reflection, engage in activities that bring you joy, and ensure you are taking care of your physical and emotional well-being. By nurturing yourself, you will be better equipped to engage in the transformative process of the High Holy Days.

As we prepare for the High Holy Days, let us approach this season with open hearts and minds, ready to embrace the opportunities it presents for spiritual growth and renewal. May this time of reflection and repentance lead us toward a year filled with blessings, peace, and fulfillment.

With warm regards,



## Introducing Our New Director of Lifelong Learning, Sharone Weizman

As I wrap up my final month as the Director of Lifelong Learning for VOS JEWELS, I couldn't be more thrilled to introduce our new DLL, Sharone Weizman. Here are some highlights of Sharone's impressive bio:

*With over 20 years of experience as a Jewish educator in both formal and informal settings, Sharone brings a rich pedagogical background and a deep understanding of cognitive development for all ages. Her goal is to instill a passion for lifelong learning and a profound appreciation of Jewish heritage in today's world among children, teens, and adults. Emphasizing interactive experiences, Sharone employs active learning techniques and experiential education to create positive Jewish memories.*

*Sharone's academic achievements include a Master's in Education and a Bachelor's in Jewish Studies from the University of Judaism (AJU), where she graduated Summa Cum Laude. She also holds a Bachelor of Literature in Hebrew Letters from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies and is fluent in Hebrew.*

*Beyond her role as Director of Education in several synagogues, Sharone excels in curriculum development, family and adult education, and leading retreats, March of the Living trips, youth groups, and summer camps.*

*She resides in Lake Balboa with her husband, David Meyers, and 5 year old son, Ethan. In her leisure time, she enjoys quality moments with her family and friends, exploring the outdoors, traveling, trying new restaurants, and embarking on family adventures.*

*"L'hitraot B'Shalom" - Carla*

May we meet again in wholeness and peace



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



## Greetings from Sharone Weizman Your New Director of Lifelong Learning

I'm thrilled to be the new Director of Lifelong Learning at VOS and a part of this wonderful community. I look forward to meeting all of you and building meaningful partnerships with our congregants and students. It was a pleasure to meet many of you at the park on Friday, July 14, where we kicked off some enjoyable Shabbat activities for the kids.

As the Hebrew month of Elul approaches, it brings a sense of reflection and new beginnings. It marks the beginning of my role as your DLL, the start of new friendships and relationships, and my journey into this amazing community. It's also the beginning of the Jewish New Year and school year, a time of fresh starts and looking forward. Our VOS community and school are also embracing new beginnings, with exciting programs, family engagement activities, and some fantastic new teachers, including our new Teen & Intergenerational Specialist, Jacqui Kolker.

Working alongside Rabbi Li-Paz and the rest of the professional VOS staff is a joy, and I'm delighted to be part of this team. My journey as Director of Lifelong Learning has already begun, from our littlest and to JEWELS students to our teens and adults.

In the coming weeks, I hope to meet and learn from each of you. My door is always open, and I encourage all of us to take an active role in the many offerings we have for all ages this year. Thank you for welcoming me into this loving community. I already feel at home and believe that this "Shiduch" (match) was B'Sheret (made in heaven)!

*Sharone Weizman, Ma. Ed.*



Sharone Weizman | Director of Lifelong Learning  
vosla.org  
Facebook: VOS JEWELS  
Instagram: vos\_jewels  
P. 818-882-4867 x108





## **RABBI-IN-RESIDENCE LECTURE SERIES**



Our Rabbi-In-Residence Lecture Series continues this month and we are back with exciting and inspiring talks from some of America's finest rabbis! On

Thursday, August 24th at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom we are privileged to host Rabbi

Joshua Garroway from Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, who will speak to us on

Jewish Identity: From Ancient to Modern Times.

The question of "who is a Jew" can be complicated in today's world. Many people even describe themselves with terms like secular Jew, cultural Jew, Jewish, half-Jewish, Jewish adjacent, and more. The fuzzy boundaries around today's Jewish identity are hardly a new phenomenon, however, Ancient Jews dealt with nearly the same issues and concerns.

Come and learn why Jewish identity has been so uniquely complicated for more than two millennia, and how that might shape the way you understand your own Jewishness!

Rabbi Garroway is the Sol and Arlene Bronstein Professor of Judaeo-Christian Studies at HUC-JIR.

Raised in Rochester, New York, Rabbi Garroway earned his rabbinical ordination in 2003 and a PhD from Yale University in 2008. His scholarship has forged new directions in the study of Christian origins, particularly through his two books, *Paul's Gentile-Jews: Neither Jew nor Gentile, But Both*, and *The Beginning of the Gospel: Paul, Philippi, and the Origins of Christianity*. While his academic books and articles focus on the events of the first century, and specifically the life and writings of Paul, his teaching and popular writing deal with Jewish texts and history more broadly. He has lectured across the globe from California to New York, England, Italy, Slovakia and beyond. Rabbi Garroway teaches rabbinical students at the Hebrew Union College, and also undergraduate students at the University of Southern California through the Louchheim School of Judaic Studies.

Everyone is welcome to join us and you're sure to find it meaningful and enlightening. Mark your calendars for this empowering and thoughtful presentation. We look forward to seeing you for future Rabbi-In-Residence lectures when we bring you interesting rabbis to share their wisdom, knowledge and expertise.

We appreciate and need your continued support so if you would like to sponsor a rabbi, please contact Wendy Levenson at [wendylev@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wendylev@sbcglobal.net) or (310) 985-4285. We look forward to seeing you on the 24th!

Wendy Levenson

## **VOS ARTS AND CULTURE SPECIAL EVENT**

You're in for a special treat at our upcoming Arts and Culture event! Come to VOS on Sunday, August 20th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. for "Sunday in the Afternoon With Groucho, Gerald Sternbach, and Frank Ferrante!" Spend an afternoon full of laughter and discussion hosted by Valley Outreach Synagogue's very own musical director, Gerald Sternbach. He will be having a conversation with his colleague and friend, Frank Ferrante, to discuss their seven year collaboration in performance celebrating the quintessential Jewish-American comedian, Groucho Marx. Enjoy hearing personal recollections, stories and music from behind the scenes and watch video clips of Frank as Groucho. Everyone is welcome so bring your family and friends. There is no charge for this event. (suggested donation is \$10.00). We look forward to seeing you on August 20th! Please contact Wendy Levenson at [wendylev@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wendylev@sbcglobal.net) or (310) 985-4285 if you have any questions.

## **VOS SINGLES 55+**

We are launching a new singles group at VOS for 55+ singles who would like to meet and have fun together! Join us for outings and activities, restaurants, movies, theater, parties, hikes, Shabbat dinners and more! This is your chance to meet new people and create meaningful relationships. Our first event will be a Potluck Shabbat Dinner at VOS on Friday, September 8th at 6:00 p.m. Watch for the flyer to sign up. There is no charge for this event and it is open to everyone so bring your friends. If you would like to stay after the dinner for the Shabbat service, you are welcome to join us! If you have any questions or you would like to help, please contact Wendy Levenson at [wendylev@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wendylev@sbcglobal.net) or (310) 985-4285. We look forward to seeing you on September 8th!



This year August 2<sup>nd</sup> coincides with Tu B' Av (15 Av 5783). I see this holiday as a very welcome respite, a transition from Tisha B' Av which was last week on July 26<sup>th</sup> and 1 Elul. Tisha B'Av, the saddest day in the Jewish Calendar

is associated with many tragedies in our history. Most notable are the destruction of the first and second temples. On 1 Elu Friday, September 1st, we enter a period of accounting and preparation for the High Holy Days. However, during this time of serious soul work, we have the minor and joyous festival, Tu B' Av. In Israel, young women dress in white and go to dance in the fields, young men following them. One opinion equates this date with G-d's forgiveness for the sin of the spies. Tu B' Av can be celebrated by having a good time; picnicking, noticing the full spectrum of color in nature, rediscovering love between G-d and humans as well as love between people. I am reminded of the lyric "what the world needs now is love". It is so true.

It has not escaped my attention that there is great strife in the world, fires, wars, political protests in Israel, harsh weather events etc. The effect of these world crises on my own psyche as well as handling my personal mishigas are where and what I've been learning in our **VOS Adult Ed classes** help me to understand and process myriad issues. In **Mussar** class, I've learned to work on my middot/personality traits and behaviors to help tame my yetzer hara/ego and employ my yetzer ha tov/my higher self. **Torah Inspired Learning** with Rabbi Li-Paz helps me understand our religion, the basis of our beliefs and behaviors. I'm looking forward to learning **Jewish History** this year with Michael Raileanu. If we, humanity, could only learn to not repeat our mistakes from the past, perhaps we could achieve tikkum olam, repair the world.

**Rosh Hodesh** is an opportunity to bond and celebrate the new moon while connecting spiritually with other women. **People of the Book Club** is a wonderful way to share the experience of reading and discussing a good book.

Susi Weissman



Susi Weissman | Chair  
VOS Adult Education Task Force  
[www.vosla.org](http://www.vosla.org)  
P. 818-882-4867



## Board of Directors Meeting

**August 15 - 7:00 p.m.**



## **FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES**



Membership is such an important part of keeping VOS afloat. It's the beginning of a new year, and time to rejoin. Please make sure that you

send in your membership packet as soon as possible. At the same time, you can register to join Sisterhood and Men's Club. You can also sign up to join a Chavurah. We look forward to you seeing you at the many different classes that VOS provides along with Shabbat Services.

We are in need of large baskets for the silent auction for next year's Gala, "Western Nights", which will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup> at VOS. If you have any baskets to donate, please drop them off at VOS.

As I mentioned in my articles last month High Holy Days are just around the corner. It's that time of year to remember a loved one. Plaques and Yahrzeit Walls are widely utilized in the Jewish tradition to commemorate the passing of a relative or loved one. We have a beautiful Yahrzeit Wall in the lobby of Valley Outreach Synagogue.

Please consider purchasing a new memorial plaque which is available for \$200. A new or existing plaque can be personalized with a biography and up to six photos for an additional \$180.

For more information on obtaining a plaque, please contact Karen Lavin at (818)882-4867 or email [karenl@vosla.org](mailto:karenl@vosla.org).

On Yom Kippur we remember them – this is your time to memorialize them.

Forever in our hearts,

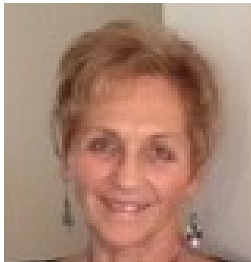
Denise Horowitz

VP of Fundraising





## **SISTERHOOD**



Happy summer everyone,  
And summer it is – with triple digit heat!! We all moaned and groaned about the cold, rainy weather – now we need moan no more!!

Our Sisterhood got off to a great start in July by delivering the Jared Boxes to Olive View Hospital. The (3) Barbara's - Huff, Swedelson & Barackman and Donna Sheanin were on the delivery team. The nurses met us outside with their carts to load approximately 45 Jared Boxes. Thanks to all of you who took the time to create and deliver. And a special thank you to Barbara Swedelson for all her efforts to get this done along with Barbara Huff (see photo).

On August 3rd, we will be seeing the Hollywood Blacklist exhibit at Skirball. You should have received a flyer and hopefully will be able to join us for lunch and the tour.

Our next meeting will be September 7<sup>th</sup> at VOS. We will be packing supplies for our troops for OI and hope you will all join us. Details to follow.

Enjoy & keep cool!!

Barbara Barackman, President

[bb.elvis68@gmail.com](mailto:bb.elvis68@gmail.com) 818-497-4969



### **Accomplishments of Sisterhood**

#### **Sisterhood meetings:**

5 on Zoom, 2 in person at VOS, 2 luncheons (our treasury supplemented cost difference)  
The Board met monthly, sometimes twice a month to plan for Sisterhood meetings, events, luncheons.

#### **Guest speakers:**

Fran Lapinski from the League of Women's Voters,  
Kitty Glass of Jewish Federation on Domestic Violence  
Rabbi Ron Li-Paz

#### **Philanthropy: Operation Interdependence**

Donated \$250 to Puerto Rico flood disaster in October  
Donated \$250 to Ukraine victims  
Filled packets with accompanying notes for Operation Interdependence (October meeting)  
Members brought toys for Toys for Tots to our December Holiday luncheon  
Members brought Jared boxes at today's luncheon for children in Olive View Hospital

**KARE4U:** Provided meals for Sisterhood members who were ill or post-surgery

**B'nai Mitzvah Youths:** Each given a certificate of trees planted in Israel on their behalf

#### **Supporting VOS:**

\$1500 toward the barrier fence in front of our synagogue  
\$200 toward Broadway1965! to help with budget shortfall  
\$250 for a special basket to be auctioned at the GALA  
\$250 for Sisterhood ad in GALA journal  
\$900 for rental space at VOS services in the park

#### **Marcia Gould Educational Endowment Fund:**

Sisterhood initiated fund to enable needy families to enroll their children in JEWELS  
We donate \$500 annually (as long as our treasury is able)  
Used at the discretion of VOS Education Director (currently Carla Adivi)

**Outside Event:** Max Factor Museum Tour & lunch get together in March

#### **Elections - '23-'24 Sisterhood Board:**

President: Barbara Barackman  
Past President: Judy Handelman  
Treasurer: Hallie Kraft  
Secretary: Donna Sheanin  
Events Planner: Barbara Huff  
Member-at-Large: Rita Puritsky



## **MEN'S CLUB**

Our V.O.S. Men's Club has monthly meetings.

The Men's Club is dedicated to the camaraderie of great men, the support of our Synagogue, and the exchange of life experience and (occasionally) good jokes! Men's Club meets on the first Thursday of the month at 5:45 p.m. for FREE DINNER and meet at 6:30. Next meeting is August 3, 2023. Contact Bob Brandt for additional details: 818-535-0067

The Men's Club Board will have another FAMILY BBQ. This is for F.U.N FAMILY BBQ. We will supply the food and drink. In addition, this will be a recognition of Norm Montrose. There is no charge for parking. This is a family event, the more the merrier! Sunday, August 27 at 3:00 p.m.

The Masonic Lodge - 14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys

\$25.00 per family (up to 5 people)

Men's Club of V.O.S. ANNUAL DINNER 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 -

Sunday, October 22, 2023

\$35.00 per person

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: Rosie's, Northridge.

Contact Information: Bob Brandt 818-535-0067

Harvey Rose  
323-940-8881



## **MITZVAH AND BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATES**



### How Did I Get Here

Have you ever had a moment, in life, when you ask yourself, "How did I get here"? For me that happens a lot with VOS.

My name is Jay Stein and I'm the new Vice-President of Mitzvah.

VOS has the most amazing clergy, leadership, congregation and amazing volunteers, something I recommend highly. Being a volunteer not only benefits your congregation and your community but indeed, yourself as well.

It will be the direction of our Mitzvah Committee to be of service not only outside community but to our congregants as well: Those who may feel isolated or don't know who to reach out to. We are blessed with such a deeply genuine and committed group that truly wants to be of service to you.

What I hope you'll see in the coming months is a team blending of various VOS committees to better serve our wonderful congregation. In addition to Tikkun Olam, "Repairing the World", let's together repair ourselves and each other.

I look forward to the exciting future of VOS, but to meeting you as well.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Shalom, dear members!

Thank you for your incredible support! We are thrilled to announce that July has seen a record number of membership renewals. We cannot express enough how grateful we are for your generosity and dedication to our synagogue. Your contributions are instrumental in building and sustaining our Jewish Life Center and its outreach mission. Together, we are creating a thriving Jewish community that enriches lives every day. Your mitzvah truly makes a positive difference!

We are excited to introduce the VOS Friendship Connection program, designed to help you connect with other VOS members. Please refer to the Outreach flyer for more information on how you can participate.

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members and those returning after a year or more. The membership team and clergy will be hosting a new member welcome reception brunch on Sunday, October 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Save the date and join us for this wonderful event!

As we enter August, the final month of summer, the membership team and I wish you a fabulous month ahead. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming Shabbat Services where we can greet each other with joy and hugs.

In gratitude and joy,

Anne

VP Membership



## VOS Members Join *The Friendship Connection*



Shabbat Dinners

Chavurah

Friendship Activities

Are you looking to meet new people and make lasting connections within our synagogue community? Look no further than The Friendship Connection!

By filling out a simple form, you can let us know that you're interested in attending Shabbat Dinners, joining fun outings to the theater, hiking, brunch, and more! Maybe you're even ready to join a Chavurah!

The best part? There's no commitment to a set time or day. Simply participate in the Friendship Connection, and we'll give you a call whenever we have a happening that we think you'll be interested in.

Join us for all the good vibes and get to know your neighbors in the process! Experience Jewish living at its finest with the Friendship Connection at VOS.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to expand your social circle and create meaningful relationships. Sign up today and let the connections begin!

For more information and to sign up, contact Annie Sperling at 805.796.9255 or [anniesperling279@gmail.com](mailto:anniesperling279@gmail.com).

We can't wait to welcome you to the Friendship Connection at VOS!

In Joy,

Your Membership team.

## **YOUR SUNSHINE COMMITTEE**

The VOS Sunshine Committee is a wonderful group of VOS members who volunteer to contact VOS members in their time of need.

The Sunshine Committee members insure that our VOS family members are contacted by phone for well-being checks and encouragement.

Typically, the committee members send get-well cards, sympathy cards, and thinking of you cards to VOS members. In addition, phone calls are made and an occasional visit, if appropriate.

Our Sunshine Committee members give of themselves to help others in need.

Thank you Sunshine Committee!

Sue and Harvey Magidow

Sunshine Committee Co-Chairs



## **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



## **Thank You to Our Excellent Proofreaders**

**Alice Goldsobel**

**Jan Roth**

**Laurie Rudner**

**Ava Silverberg**

**Evy Ulise**





As I write so very often, Operation Interdependence here in L.A. is packing as many boxes as we literally can afford to do. Unfortunately, we are averaging only 10 per month. When we don't

get donations of goods or money (which lately has been never), we are self-funding to purchase the goodies. And even when we get goodies and candy donated, each box is still over \$18 to ship. Ouch. So just shipping alone is close to \$200/month, and that's cold, hard cash. No discounts from the USPS even for sending to our military.

We know that things have slowed down everywhere over the past three years. But we owe it to our troops *who can't and don't slow down*. They must keep working hard to protect us. These men and women deserve our support, folks. Receiving the C-rats and other goodies we send really does help make their deployment a little easier. It also reminds them of home and family – where honestly they really would rather be.

So, what's next? Of course it would help to receive a big check from anyone. It would be great **but we can't and don't expect it**. But what if just 100 VOS families could each donate \$10 a month? Or \$5 a month? Or even \$2.50 a month? How about writing a short but friendly note for us to include in our goodie bags? Yes, even that helps.

Thank you. Stay cool.

Barbara Granowitz and the rest of our small group

[4Ava4OI@gmail.com](mailto:4Ava4OI@gmail.com)



#### **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 747-777-0532

#### **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](mailto:4AVA4OI@gmail.com)

#### **SUNSHINE COMMITTEE**

HARVEY MAGIDOW AND SUE MAGIDOW  
805-750-0345

#### **TRIBUTE CARDS**

Beverly Nisenson  
missesnisi@aol.com



*VOS SISTERHOOD*  
*Tour of Skirball Hollywood Blacklist Exhibit*

We welcome all Sisterhood members and guests to join us

DATE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2023  
TIME: 11:15 am No-Host lunch at Zeidler Outdoor Café  
1:00 pm – Docent-led Tour  
PLACE: Skirball Cultural Center  
2701 No. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90049  
COST: \$ 5.00 Donation to Sisterhood

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO **VOS** with **SISTERHOOD** in **MEMO LINE**. Your check is your reservation!

MAIL TO: **BARBARA HUFF**  
**30422 Passageway Place**  
**Agoura Hills, CA 91301**

Barbara's Phone # 818-441-3384

Deadline: Kindly send with check no later than July 27, 2023 so we may confirm the size of our group to the Cultural Center.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph # \_\_\_\_\_

Joining us for lunch? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ or No \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you!*



# 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.

Thursday – 8/10

VOS Lobby

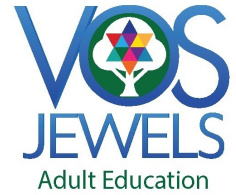
9:30 a.m. – Check-in & informal schmooze

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. – Class session

\$5 donation

Bring an item for our potluck breakfast.





# BAGELS & Banter

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

Wednesday, August 16

9:30 a.m. – Schmooze

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. – Discussion

\$5 donation

VOS Lobby

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



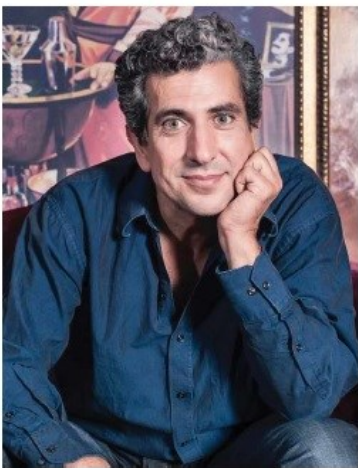


# VOS ARTS & CULTURE EVENT

## *Sunday in the Afternoon with Groucho, Gerald Sternbach and Frank Ferrante!*

**Sunday, August 20 | 4:00 p.m.**

You're in for a special treat at our upcoming Arts and Culture event! Come to VOS on Sunday, August 20th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. for "Sunday in the Afternoon With Groucho, Gerald Sternbach, and Frank Ferrante!" Spend an afternoon full of laughter and discussion hosted by Valley Outreach Synagogue's very own musical director, Gerald Sternbach - who will have a conversation with his colleague and friend, Frank Ferrante - to discuss their seven year collaboration in performance celebrating the quintessential Jewish-American comedian, Groucho Marx. Enjoy hearing personal recollections, stories and music from behind the scenes and watch video clips of Frank as Groucho. Everyone is welcome so bring your family and friends. There is no charge for this event. Suggested donation is \$10.00. We look forward to seeing you on August 20th!



For questions or more information, contact Wendy Levenson at  
[wendylev@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wendylev@sbcglobal.net) or (310) 985-4285.  
<https://www.vosla.org/form/Groucho>



# VOS RABBI-IN-RESIDENCE LECTURE SERIES

*Some of America's Finest Rabbis are Coming to Vos!*



Thursday, August 24 | 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

## **Jewish Identity: From Ancient to Modern Times**

**Featuring Rabbi Joshua Garroway  
of Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion**

The question of "who is a Jew" can be complicated in today's world. Many people even describe themselves with terms like secular Jew, cultural Jew, Jew-ish, half-Jewish, Jewish adjacent, and more. The fuzzy boundaries around today's Jewish identity are hardly a new phenomenon, however Ancient Jews dealt with nearly the same issues and concerns. Come and learn why Jewish identity has been so uniquely complicated for more than two millennia, and how that might shape the way you understand your own Jewishness!

Rabbi Garroway has lectured across the globe, from California to New York, England, Italy, Slovakia and beyond. He teaches rabbinical students at the Hebrew Union College, and also undergraduate students at the University of Southern California through the Louchheim School of Judaic Studies. Rabbi Garroway will share his wisdom and insight with us and we look forward to seeing you for this inspiring and enlightening presentation.

**For more information or to sponsor a rabbi, contact Wendy Levenson at [wendylev@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wendylev@sbcglobal.net) or 310-985-4285.**

To register go to <https://www.vosla.org/form/rabbi-in-residence-Jewish-Identity>

The lectures are on Zoom. You will receive the Zoom link upon registration.



## **VOS SINGLES EVENT 55+ Potluck Shabbat Dinner**

**Friday, September 8 6:00 p.m. at VOS**

We are launching a new singles group at VOS for 55+ singles who would like to meet and have fun together! Join us for outings and activities, restaurants, movies, theater, parties, hikes, Shabbat dinners and more! This is your chance to meet new people and create meaningful relationships.

Our first event will be a Potluck Shabbat Dinner at VOS on Friday, September 8th at 6:00 p.m. There is no charge for this event and it is open to everyone so bring your friends. If you would like to stay after the dinner for the Shabbat service, you are welcome to join us!

If you have any questions or you would like to help, please contact Wendy Levenson at [wendylev@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wendylev@sbcglobal.net) or (310) 985-4285.

We look forward to seeing you on September 8th!

To register, go to: <https://www.vosla.org/form/Singles-Potluck>



# 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.

Thursday – 9/28, 10/12, 10/26\*, 11/9, 12/14, 1/11\*, 1/25, 2/8, 2/22, 3/14, 3/28, 4/11, 4/25, 5/9 & 5/23

\*Substitute

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.

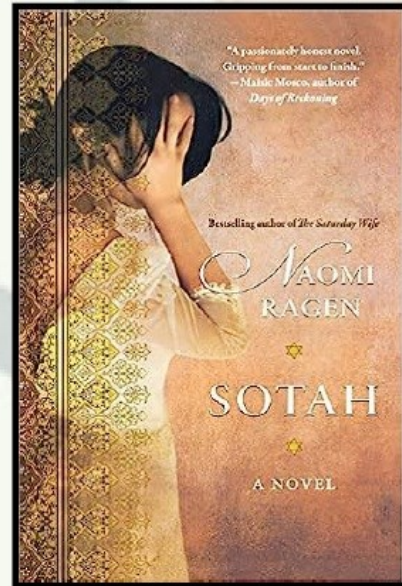


# VOS People of the Book Club

A PARTICIPANT-LED GROUP

## SOTAH

by Naomi Ragen



Beautiful Dina Reich, a young woman in Jerusalem's ultra-Orthodox haredi enclave, is accused of the community's unforgivable sin of adultery. Raised to be an obedient daughter and dutiful wife, Dina yearns for romance and excitement. She becomes obsessed with a married man, with terrible consequences. Set against the backdrop of Jerusalem's ancient rituals, *Sotah* is a contemporary and unforgettable story of the struggle to reconcile tradition with freedom.

Tuesdays, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

October 3, October 17, November 7 & November 21

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-Sotah>

Please come to the first meeting on October 3 having read to the end of Chapter 11 (through page 127).





# Jewish History With Michael Raileanu

Valley Outreach Synagogue & Center for Jewish Life

Jewish history is more than a list of names and dates. The history of our people is the central story for Western Civilization, Academia, and Sociology. Join Michael Raileanu every other week as we move through the scope and sequence of who the Jewish people are and what we have gone through over the last 5,000+ years. The selected textbook, *A Historical Atlas of the Jewish People* by Elie Barnavi is a compelling and thorough treatment of the whole drama and will become a leading character as we learn about growth, development, and change of the Jewish people.

**Fall Semester: 10 Sessions**

**VOS Members: \$180**

**Non-members: \$230**

*10 Students per class required*

AM Class: 1st & 3rd Thursdays  
PM Class: 2nd & 4th Thursdays  
at VOS

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. begins 10/5  
7:30 - 9:00 p.m. begins 10/12

**Register here**

<https://www.vosla.org/form/Jewish-History>

For more information, email [adulthoodeducation@vosla.org](mailto:adulthoodeducation@vosla.org)



# New! Beginning Mussar Classes

with Helen Rifkind

## CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT FOR THE JEWISH SOUL

Mussar is a path of character development, soul growth and holiness through a Jewish lens of wisdom. It is the process by which Middot (character traits) are integrated into our everyday lives so that we live by the central command of the Torah: To love your neighbor as yourself. Practically, delving into each trait through group discussion, partner study and individual self-reflection will help students internalize and become conscious that this soulful journey is an "inside job."

### Classes Start Soon!

#### FIRST SEMESTER

1st Year Mussar: *Wednesdays*  
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

October 11, 25, November 8, 22, 29,  
December 13, January 10, 24 & 31

*Second Semester will be held February through May 2024*

**\$190 for VOS members | \$235 for non-members of  
VOS Center for Jewish Life**

**Register at [www.vosla.org](http://www.vosla.org) or call 818-882-4867.**

**A minimum of 10 registered students are required to hold a class.**



*Helen Rifkind has been an avid learner and proponent of adult Jewish education for many years. An attorney by trade, she has utilized her analytic skills beyond law. For over a decade, Helen has been engaged in Mussar learning and practice, believing in the importance of intellectual and character growth. Having mastered the curriculum, Helen is now a skilled Mussar educator.*



# BAGELS & Banter



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

Wednesday, October 18 | November 1 | December 20 |  
January 17 | February 14 | March 20 | April 17 | May 15 |

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.





# VOS SOVA FOOD DRIVE THRU

**September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**  
**26668 Agoura Road Calabasas, CA 91302**  
**Back Entrance**

Jewish Family Service LA SOVA depends on your donations to meet the ongoing hunger crisis in our community. 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.*

## JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE LA

SOVA Community Food &  
Resource Program

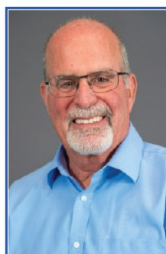
For more information, please visit [www.jfsla.org/](http://www.jfsla.org/)  
[SOVA](#) or call Jay Stein at (818) 419-0462.





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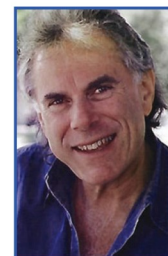
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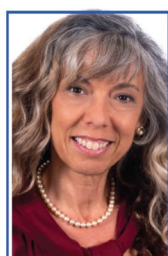
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<b>High Holy Days</b>	<b>Stewart Epstein</b>	<b>818-886-2380</b>
<b>Holocaust</b>	<b>Judy Benedict</b>	<b>Judymasonnp@yahoo.com</b>
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<b>Oneg</b>	<b>Debbie Du Val</b>	<b>818-384-5125</b>
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<b>Outreach Newsletter</b>	<b>Arlene Mayo</b>	<b>818-882-4867</b>
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<b>Sunshine</b>	<b>Harvey and Sue Magidow</b>	<b>805-750-0345</b>
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<b>Volunteer Coordinator</b>	<b>Judy Benedict</b>	<b>Judymasonnp@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Yahrzeit Board</b>	<b>Karen Lavin</b>	<b>818-882-4867</b>

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Valley Outreach Synagogue

26668 Agoura Road

Calabasas, CA 91302

818-882-4VOS (882-4867)

FAX: 818- 882-4868

Website: [www.vosla.org](http://www.vosla.org)

Office Administrator

Arlene Mayo

[officeadmin@vosla.org](mailto:officeadmin@vosla.org)

818-882-4VOS (882-4867)

Spiritual Leader

Rabbi Ron Li-Paz

[Rabbili-paz@vosla.org](mailto:Rabbili-paz@vosla.org)

818-879-8087 or (818) 882-4867

Musical Director

Gerald (Jerry) Sternbach

[musicdirector@vosla.org](mailto:musicdirector@vosla.org)

818-882-4867

Director of VOS Education

Sharone Weizman

[Sharonew@vosla.org](mailto:Sharonew@vosla.org)

818-882-4867

Rabbis Emeriti

Jerry Fisher (z”l)

Richard Schachet (z”l)

Founding Musical Director

Jack Bielan

[felixxsong@yahoo.com](mailto:felixxsong@yahoo.com)

818-456-4298

Outreach Editor

Arlene Mayo

Email: [info@vosla.org](mailto:info@vosla.org)

818-882-4867

**SHABBAT SERVICES**

**DATES 2023**

**SIMPLY SHABBAT SERVICE**

**DATES 2023**

**VOS 6:30 p.m.**

August 11, 2023 - To Life! To Love!: 7:30 p.m. VOS

September 8, 2023 - Elul: Preparing Our Hearts  
and Souls for the High Holidays: 7:30 p.m. VOS

August 25, 2023





# **CONTRIBUTIONS AND YAHRZEIT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

## **BELOW REFLECT THE PREVIOUS MONTH'S DONATIONS**

### **MITZVOT**

**Dan and Carla Adivi**

**Eddie and Jane Lorin**

**Michael Magasinn**

**Steven and Sherri Raft**

**JoAnn and Alan Rand**, wishing Wendy Breslow a speedy recovery

**Michael and Geri Schwartz**

**Sandy and Joan Weitzbuch**, in honor of Artie Berrick's 80th. Wishes for many healthy, happy and wonderful years to come.



### **YAHRZEITS**

**Sheri Albala**, in memory of Steven Albala, Reva Sander

**Barbara Barackman**, in memory of Rita Rosenberg

**Marsha Berch Gruen**, in memory of Harold Aisley

**William (Wendy) Bernfeld**, in memory of Melba Bernfeld, Joseph Bernfeld

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**Eileen Geisser**, in memory of Louis Le Vine

**Donald (Alice) Goldsobel**, in memory of Max Goldsobel

**Alice (Donald) Goldsobel**, in memory of Marilyn Newman

## **CONTRIBUTIONS AND YAHRZEIT CONTRIBUTIONS BELOW** **REFLECT THE PREVIOUS MONTH'S DONATIONS**

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**Bronwen (Rabbi Ron) Li-Paz**, in memory of Peter Smith

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**Eleanor Zalin**, in memory of Norman Sadofsky



## **SIMCHAS AND MAZEL TOV TO:**

### **Milestone Anniversaries**

Dan and Carla Adivi  
Zev and Elaine Edelstein  
Richard and Charlotte  
Johnson  
Jack and Beth Lin  
Peter and Eileen Malis  
Alan and Lea Templer



### **Milestone Birthdays**

Mila August  
Susan Miller  
Lisa Berman  
Mickey Bilsky  
Kim Mittelman  
Joel Adelman  
Fern Lippert  
Sharon Fine  
Philip Firestone  
Violet Schlesinger



### **Wedding**

Alexis Stevens and Eddie Lopez



*Your joy is our joy!*

*Please email [info@VOSLA.org](mailto:info@VOSLA.org) if you have a simcha to share with our community.*

### **Bat Mitzvah**



Elli Astrahan  
Brooke Salisbury





## **BIRTHDAYS**

8/1 Steve Berkowitz, Phillip Cataldo,  
Ryan Tepper

8/2 Scott Miller

8/3 Lisa August, Samantha Litman Strout

8/4 Mickey Bilsky, Herb Finkelstein,  
Phoebe Serota, Talia Serota

8/5 Elan Adivi, Roger Bloxberg, Caleb Klasky

8/6 Judith Altman

8/7 Heywood Friedman, Neal Marder,  
Morrie Reiff

8/8 Dorene Blair, Farley Manill,  
Kim Mittelman

8/9 Desmond Dragin, Chip Rudolph,  
Chad Weber

8/10 Joni Reiff

8/11 Benjamin Simon, Barbara Van Sluyters

8/12 Katie Rand, Marilyn Siedelman

8/13 Mila August, Billie Bennett, Lisa Berman,  
Susan Miller

8/14 Anne Altman, Joshua Goldberg,  
Alex Mittelman

8/15 Vicki Grossman,  
Barbara Johnson Brown, Philip Firestone

8/16 Ethan Kadner, Lauren Levinson,  
Fern Lippert, Leah Yoffe

8/17 Marlene Cooper-Williams

8/18 Gerri Gross, Rosalyn Tenenbaum

8/19 Carole Leboff, Barbara Solomon

8/20 Linda LaVere, Larry Rudner

8/22 Susan Allensworth, Rachel Simon

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David Teichner

8/24 Michael Josephson, Alan Kimmel,  
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8/25 Mark Dragin, Esther Levenson

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8/27 Joel Adelman, Melissa Cataldo

8/28 Cathy Bilovsky, Joshua Whittington

8/29 Jason Blatt, Julie England,  
Joshua Serota

8/30 Evan Jaeger

8/31 Eli Mankoff, Peggy Rose,  
Rachel Sylvers





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Stewart and Susie Epstein

Faye and Jim Friedman

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Gil and Enola Lipaz

Harvey and Sue Magidow

Peter and Eileen Malis

Jody and Brent Polacheck

Larry and Violet Schlesinger

Neil and Lori Shocket

Richard and Anne Sperling

Alan and Lea Templer

Laurie and Sean Wahler

Loren and Michelle Witkin





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- A Rachel Aflalo, Mayer Alson, Marsha Wiedder-Alson, Eliahu Assouline
- B Barbara Barackman, Ross Bauer, Janice Bell, Alison Callan Bellorini, Alex Berson, Randy J. Bertisch, Robyn Besem, Jack Bielan, Linda Blovett, Michael Bloxberg, Joel Brooks, Sally Burns
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- E Jessica Engel, Joan Etzenhouser
- F Marsha Feldman, Erica Blaire Feldscher, Brian Fenit, Laura Finkelstein, Tobie Finkelstein, Ricki Fisher, Eileen Franco, Evelyn Frenkel, Clifford Fried, Sheila Fried
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- J Karen Jacobs, Janna Jayson, Charlotte Johnson, Elizabeth Johnson, Rebecca Joseph
- K Nina Kaminkow, Mina Kanick, Emily Kaplan, Ethel Kaplan, Hope Ellen Kaplan, Karen Kaplan, Rachel Kaplan, Nancy Karlin, Sharon Karp, Mike Katz, Bob Kay, Joan Kay, Joan Klein, Lisa Klein, Eli Kogan, Harriet Kornfield, Hallie Kraft, Roslyn Kramer, Jackie Kreitzman, Edward Kritzler, Jules Kurtz, Frances Kuznets
- L Barry Lampke, David Lampke, Barry Latman, Dara Lavalley, Bill Lees, Maxine Lehman, Eddie Levin, Louise Levine, Seymour Levine, Steve Levine, Lynda Levy, Richard Leyner, Shannon Loan, Toni Loan, Stacy Long, Brooke Galimidi Lopez, Mary Lyle, Tayler Lyle, Richard Liang
- M Lisa Magidow, Eileen Malis, Bernice Marks, Beverly Mandelblatt, Sandy Martin, Maia Materman, Scott Matis, Janet McKnight, Brett McLoughlin, Betty Melton, Stacey Meltzer, Eileen Meskin, Marlene Michaels, Norma Miles, Shalom Elite bas Miryam, Iris Simone Mizrahi, Nelson Moreno, Karen Morin, Cynthia Moss, Kelly Mulligan
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- P Carole Parker, Elyse Parks, Arlene Pater, Domonic Perrotta, Sue Potter, Paul Proman, Rita Puritsky
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- S Alexia Sablow, Dee Saye, Richard Saye, Alicia Seaton, Elizabeth Seltzer, Cindy Shapiro, Aida Shrem, Marco Shrem, Arlene Singer, Jack Smith, Marty Smith, Lynne Solursh, Jeannette St. Marie, Lorrie Stelzer, Makay Stenberg, Stevie Stock
- T Escher Tallman, Shirley Taub, Stacey Taub, Stan Taub, Suzi Taub, Alvin Tenenbaum, Gloria Thall, Mark Thall, Daryl Thompson, Cynthia Tiber, Cole Titus, Patrick Toomey, Evelyn Tom
- V Elizabeth Vona, Lesley Vann
- W Suzanne Wachman, Elizabeth Anne Warren, Jake Daniel Webb, Diane (LaFluer) Weidman, Allan Weiss, John Weiss, Shirley Wenner, Sid Wilner, Craig Winton
- Y Hannah Yarnold, Michael Yoffe, Eileen West Youngerman
- Z Sheila Zolkewitz, Bob Zonshine

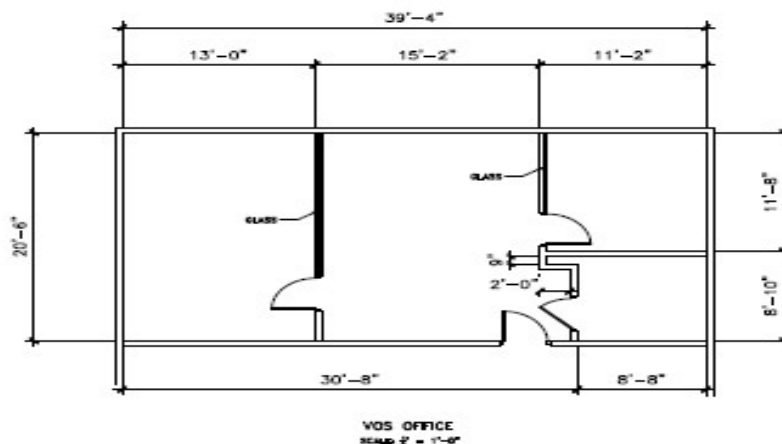


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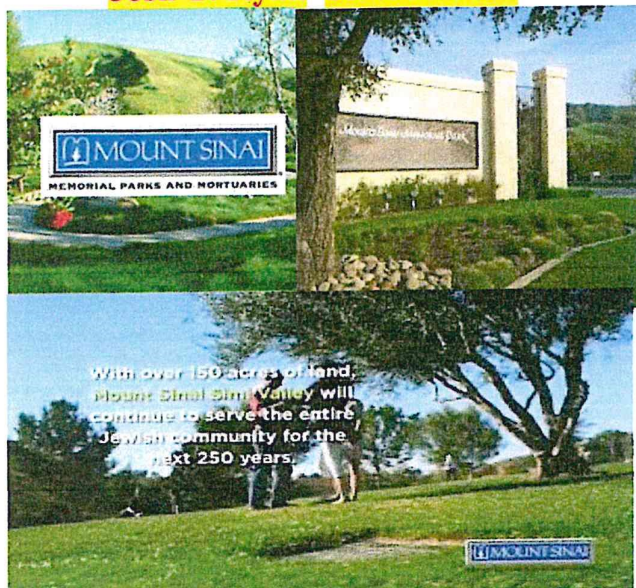
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# Plan Ahead:

**Take Care of Your Arrangements  
Valley Outreach Synagogue  
“Premier Pre-Need Program”  
at Mount Sinai Memorial Parks.  
(Simi Valley & Hollywood Hills)**

**Contact our property representative:  
Josh T. Ryan 805.306.6411**



## Advanced Planning, The Time is Now:

**Starting the discussion is not always easy**

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](mailto: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!*

Do you have your date for your child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah?

Maybe you are planning a Wedding or a Special Event....

Next **STEP**: Email Claudine at [Events@vosla.org](mailto:Events@vosla.org)  
to **Book** your **Service** and **Party** at VOS

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**Valley Outreach Synagogue would like to thank Fazio Cleaners, Brent's Delicatessen and Restaurant, and Doris the Florist of Oaks Florist for their continuing generosity.**

**Please mention VOS when you visit and order from these wonderful businesses in our community.**



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