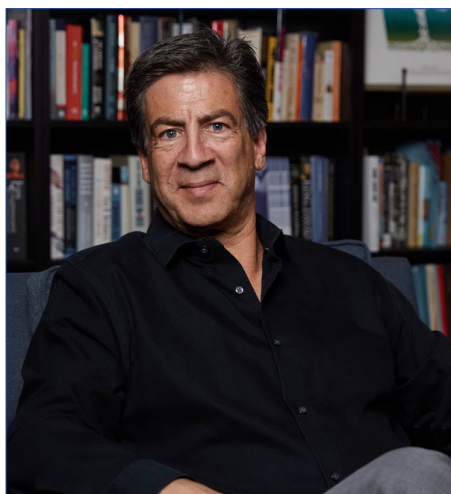


The Outreach

A Monthly Publication of Valley Outreach Synagogue and Center for Jewish Life



Rabbi Ron Li-Paz

Valley Outreach Synagogue (VOS) was founded in 1986, with a specific and unique mission among Los Angeles Jewish institutions. It was to open a wide and welcoming door to Jewish life.

Our founding spiritual leader, Rabbi Richard Schachet, of blessed memory, wanted to create a synagogue that would serve all who wished to participate, regardless of their Jewish knowledge and experience, their sexual orientation or their ability to afford, what he believed, was essential for good living and for a better society.

In 2017 VOS opened a beautiful Synagogue and Center for Jewish Life in Calabasas. Our center is home to services, classes, social gatherings, and it can be home to your next celebration or business event. **Welcome in!**



From Rabbi Li-Paz

2024: A Year of Challenges and Opportunities

As we step into 2024, a year marked by a general election and ongoing global and societal conflicts, I want to steer us toward guidance from our Jewish heritage.

REFLECTING ON HILLEL'S ENDURING WISDOM

Consider placing these words by Hillel from Pirke Avot in a visible spot in your home as a daily reminder:

"Do not separate yourself from the community."

"Do not believe in yourself until the day you die."

"Do not judge your fellow until you are in his place."

"Do not say something that should not be heard, as you do not know when it will be heard."

You might reflect on which of these teachings challenges you the most and how embracing them could reshape your relationships and inner well-being in the year ahead.

A TALMUDIC INSIGHT

From the Talmud, Taanit 23a, we learn:

"Do not judge your fellow until you have stood in his/her place."

This teaching urges us to examine the impact of our judgments on others and ourselves. How can we shift from judgment to empathy, recognizing our shared vulnerabilities and our shared values?

LESSONS FROM RABBI SACKS

The late Rabbi Jonathan Sacks wrote: *"The test of faith is whether I can make space for difference. Can I recognize God's image in someone who is not in my image, whose language, faith, ideals, are different from mine? If I cannot, then I have made God in my image instead of allowing him to remake me in his. The dignity of difference is the prophetic message for our time."*

This powerful message encourages us to see the divine in those different from us, challenging us to expand our understanding of faith and our own moral responsibility.

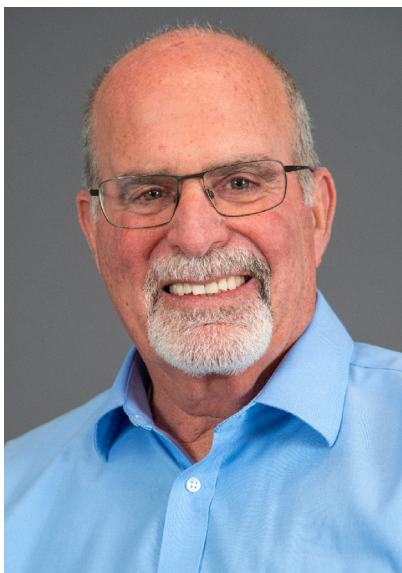
I hope these few quotations from Jewish sources guide you in the year ahead.



UPCOMING EVENT

A Special Shabbat Celebration

On Friday, January 12, at 7:30, we'll gather for a unique Shabbat celebration. Helen Rifkind and her Mussar students will share insights from their Jewish studies and its impact on their lives. Additionally, our beloved singer, Sara Mann, will debut her beautiful new song, "Daughters of Israel." The women of our VOS choir will join her. This evening promises to be enlightening and inspiring; we encourage everyone to attend.



Bill LaVere,
VOS President



VOS President's Message

Dear Members of our VOS Community,

As the New Year starts, I find myself filled with a profound sense of gratitude and reflection. Together, we have navigated through a year that presented both challenges and triumphs, and I am immensely proud of the strength and unity that defines our congregation.

In the face of uncertainty, our community stood resilient. We faced challenges with grace, supported one another with unwavering kindness, and found comfort in our shared faith. This last year has been a testament to the power of community, and I am humbled by the spirit of togetherness that defines us.

As we look back on the past year, let us also look forward with hope and optimism. The new year brings with it the promise of renewal and the opportunity for growth. May it be a time of joy, health, and prosperity for each and every one of you.

Our synagogue is not just a place of worship; it is a family. Together, we have created a sacred space where we celebrate our traditions, share in each other's joys, and offer support in times of need. I am grateful for the privilege of serving as your President and witnessing the love and compassion that emanates from this community. In the coming year, let us continue to nurture our bonds, deepen our connections, and strive for a world filled with understanding and acceptance.

May the coming year be filled with blessings for you and your loved ones. Shalom, peace, and happiness to all.

The Membership Team



Anne Sperling,
VP Membership

Shalom, and Happy New Year!

This year, say Hello with a smile and Yes to a VOS Membership for 2024–2025!

Your Membership Team has wonderful plans for members this year, and we hope you will all join in the fun and mitzvah as a community. Your action makes our plans happen.

If you still need to become a member, the membership team is excited to connect with you and assist you in joining VOS.

Membership is prorated from the current month through June 2024, so join now. Becoming a member permits you to participate in our membership activities through the **VOS Friendship Connection**.

Learn how your friendship can positively impact the upcoming year. Call or email **Annie Sperling at 805.796.9255 or anniesperling279@gmail.com**.

Cheers to a Happy New Year 2024! Let's build our community together!

The Mitzvah Committee



Jay Stein,
VP Mitzvah

So we have reached the end of 2023. Quite a rollercoaster ride it was, right? The real question is what did we do to make this world and our lives better? Did we help others and did we help ourselves?

We are so blessed to have the most amazing Synagogue community. From our Rabbi, Rebbetzin and Cantor, to the brilliance of the teachers, a gifted Music Director, an amazing Board of Directors and President and a great congregation of amazing people. I implore you to get involved—it can be life changing.

The Mitzvah Committee is working on a Mitzvah Day of our own, hopefully in April. It will be a day to give of ourselves to our community. If anyone has ideas to share for Mitzvah Day, please let me know. You may reach me anytime at **818-419-0462 or jaysteineventfilms@gmail.com**.

Have a safe and beautiful new year. I hope, together, we can make it even better.

Renewal, Change & New Beginnings

VOS JEWELS
Eleanor & Herbert Kraft School for Jewish Education



Sharone Weizman, M.Ed., VOS JEWELS
Director of Lifelong Learning

Shalom Families,

In the spirit of new beginnings, the start of 2024 brings with it a sense of renewal and change. As we welcome our students back from winter break, we are reminded of the beauty of the season. In Los Angeles, we experience similar weather to our family and friends in Israel, with chilly cold and rains. This connection brings a feeling of unity and shared experiences, which brings us closer together even when we are miles apart.

Looking back at the events before winter break, our JEWELS families, alongside all the members of our community, came together to celebrate the beauty of Shabbat illuminated by the candle-lights of Chanukah. The warmth and light that filled our Sanctuary brought a sense of hope and joy to our community, especially in light of the challenges faced by our friends and family in Israel. As we continue to pray for our loved ones in Israel, we send them our wishes for light, strength and a brighter future.

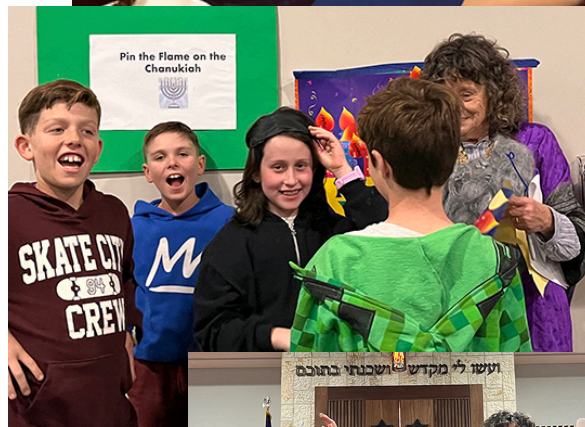
Our JEWELS families also came together for a unique Chanukah experience, taking a journey through history. They learned about King Antiochus and experienced the turbulence of Judea

under his rule, as well as the changes that occurred for the Jewish people under Antiochus Epiphanes. Our students and families gained a deeper understanding of the true story of Hanukkah and the struggle for religious freedom. They discovered the meaning of Antisemitism, explored Jewish identity and peoplehood, and learned about the symbols and rituals associated with Hanukkah. The evening ended with a delicious Greek dinner, connecting our community with the rich culture and traditions of the holiday.

This month, we are excited to come together as a community once again to celebrate Tu B'Shvat with a unique Tu B'Shvat Seder. During this special event, we will not only learn about the significance of Tu B'Shvat but also have the opportunity to taste the fruits and foods of Israel. We will journey through time, meeting great figures such as Moses and Theodore Herzl, and utilize all our senses to immerse ourselves in the magic of Tu B'Shvat and the abundance of new fruits from Israel.

As we hold Israel close in our thoughts and prayers, may this time of celebration bring our community a taste of renewal, change, and new beginnings as we enter the secular New Year of 2024. Let us continue to embrace the environment and all its beauty and glory, cherishing the connections that bind us together as a community and as a global Jewish family.

Wishing you all a joyful and meaningful start to the year.





Rabbi-in-Residence Lecture Series

Our Rabbi-in-Residence Lecture Series returns on **Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom** and we hope you'll join us. We have an exciting opening session and you won't want to miss it! Our series this year has a new line-up of inspiring and insightful rabbis from all over the country coming to VOS to speak to us and share their wisdom and insight. Be sure to mark your calendars for the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

For more information or to sponsor a rabbi for the new year, please contact **Wendy Levenson at (310) 985-4285 or wendylev@sbcglobal.net**. We look forward to seeing you on January 18!

VOS Arts & Culture Event

Our latest Arts & Culture event, *Sunday in the Afternoon with Groucho*, was a huge success and enjoyed by all. Over 200 people attended the event and we were treated to a wonderful afternoon full of laughter and discussion hosted by our Music Director, Gerald Sternbach. He led a conversation with his colleague and friend, Frank Ferrante, and he discussed their seven year collaboration in performance celebrating the quintessential Jewish American comedian, Groucho Marx. We all enjoyed hearing Frank's personal recollections and stories of Groucho and his family from behind the scenes. It was such a treat to watch the video clips of Frank performing as Groucho with Gerald at the piano.

Thank you to all who attended and a special thank you for your generous donations to our VOS Arts & Culture program. Be sure to keep your eye out for our special future events.

If you have any questions or would like to help plan our events, please contact **Wendy Levenson at (310) 985-4285 or wendylev@sbcglobal.net**.

JANUARY EVENTS

January 4
Men's Club Meeting

January 4
Sisterhood Meeting

January 9
Board of Directors
Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
VOS Board Room

January 12
VOS Special Shabbat
Service at 7:30

January 18
Rabbi-In-Residence
Lecture

January 24/25
Tu B'Shvat

In addition to these events,
check out pages 10,11, & 16 for
more ways to get involved!



Wendy Levenson,
VP Religious
Practices

VOS Singles 55+

Our *Singles Chanukah Potluck Shabbat Dinner* at VOS on December 8 was a rousing success! We were filled to capacity and we had a wonderful evening

filled with conversation and fun. We lit the Chanukah menorah, we sang the Shabbat blessings, and enjoyed talking at dinner. After dinner, we went into the sanctuary for the Shabbat service.

We will be having more activities and outings in the near future so please join us. We're planning on going out to restaurants, movies, theater, parties, museums, hikes and Shabbat dinners. Come meet new people and create new, meaningful relationships.

For questions or to volunteer to help, please contact **Wendy Levenson at 310- 985-4285 or wendylev@sbcglobal.net**. We look forward to seeing you soon!



Save the Date
for the VOS Gala
WESTERN NIGHTS
05 • 04 • 2024

VOS Men's Club

The Men's Club meets on the **first Thursday of the month at 5:45 p.m. for a free dinner** followed by a **meeting at 6:30 p.m.** Our next meeting is **January 4, 2024.** Contact **Bob Brandt** for additional details at **818-535-0067.**

MEN'S CLUB PARTY & BBQ

The Men's Club Board will have a **Family BBQ on Sunday, March 31, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge at 14750 Sherman Way.** This is a family event, so the more, the merrier. 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 Norm Montrose. The parking lot holds over 160 cars and parking is free.

MEN'S CLUB PARTY & BBQ V.2

The Men's Club Board will have another **Family BBQ on Sunday, July 28, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge at 14750 Sherman Way.** This is a family event, so the more, the merrier. 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 Norm Montrose. The parking lot holds over 160 cars and parking is free.

MEN'S CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

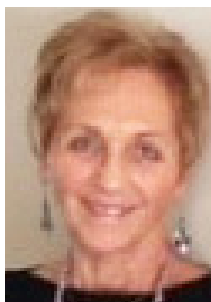
The Men's Club Annual Dinner will be held on **October 20, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at Rosie's in Northridge.** The cost is \$35 per person and includes a buffet style dinner with soft drinks, salad, and dessert. There will also be an auction. This event helps support our synagogue. Buy your tickets now! For information or to buy tickets contact **Bob Brandt at 818-535-0067 or Harvey D. Rose at 323-940-8881.**

CELEBRATE
Tu B'Shvat



1/24/2024

VOS Sisterhood



Barbara Barackman,
Sisterhood
President

Happy New Year!
Wow, where did this year go? I hope everyone had a Happy Chanukah and a healthy holiday season.

A lovely time was had at the Sisterhood luncheon on December 3, 2023 at BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse.

Everyone brought great gifts for the **Toys for Tots** drive, which were then taken to the local fire station. They thanked us so much for our donations.

There will not be a Sisterhood meeting in January. On **February 1, 2024, Lenny Horowitz will speak with us on safety and security via Zoom.** Details to follow.

We hope to have in-person meetings in March and/or April at VOS on the **first Thursday of each month at 11:00 a.m.** Details to follow.

We'd love to see more of you in attendance at our daytime meetings, so we may get to know you and create new bonds together.



Sisterhood luncheon and donations to Toys for Tots.

The Fundraising Team



Denise Horowitz,
VP Fundraising

*Celebrate endings,
for they precede
new beginnings!*

Last year we had a very successful Gala, Play Day and Holiday Boutique. A special thank you again to the VOS community for your support.

In-Kind donations for the Gala, such as tickets to events or athletic games, dinner certificates, rounds of golf at a country club, etc., are always needed and are being accepted now. Contact **Denise Horowitz, at denise.horowitz@icloud.com** regarding any donations, or if you are interested in being on the Gala committee. We also need large baskets for the Gala's silent auction. If you have any baskets to donate, please drop them off at the VOS office. Tell them they are for the Gala.

On **November 17, 2024**, we will have another **Play Day and Holiday Boutique.** There will be more new vendors this year, so come play any game that you like, enjoy a delicious lunch, and then go shopping – what more can you ask for in a fun-filled day!

I hope this new year will be a happy, healthy, and peaceful year for everyone.

On **May 4, 2024**, we will have a fun-filled **fundraising Gala – Western Nights.** We will be celebrating our new Honorees: **Susi Weissman, Woman of the Year; Ron Lieberman, Man of the Year; Melissa and Gregg Moscot, Couple of the year; and Anne Sperling, Light of Israel.** Save the date to join us in supporting our synagogue. Information packets regarding the Gala will be sent in the mail within the next month.



Bereavement Committee



Marlene Frierson,
Bereavement
Chairperson

Happy New Year.

I hope you were able to relax and spend time with family and friends over the holiday season.

The Jewish holiday of **Tu B'Shvat** is celebrated on the 15th day of the Hebrew month Shevat. It is also called Rosh HaShana La'llanot, literally "New Year of the Trees." In modern times, we celebrate by planting trees for many reasons, including ecological awareness. I encourage you to plant a tree or a plant in your garden or on your balcony! Also, through the Jewish Federation, you can plant a tree in Israel to celebrate all occasions throughout the year.

The Bereavement Committee is in transition. I am re-evaluating the need and purpose of this committee. I have chaired and worked with so many wonderful volunteers who have made a difference to so many families in need when they have lost a loved one. However, I cannot do it alone. I need your support and help.

As we begin a new year, we all can self-evaluate our commitment to do mitzvot. Consider giving some of your time to the Bereavement Committee and help me keep this very special committee going for a long time into the future. Don't hesitate to email me at Mmarni@juno.com with your contact information. We understand if you cannot commit to helping everytime. I will be happy to discuss what we do and how you can contribute.



Sunshine Committee

Sue and Harvey Magidow, Co-Chairs
VOS Sunshine Committee

We have all felt alone and often isolated from the world, when we are ill or when suffering a loss in our lives. As a VOS family member, the Sunshine Committee makes a promise to you that you will not be alone or forgotten.

The Sunshine Committee volunteers regularly send "Thinking of You", "Get Well" and "Sympathy" cards to members during difficult times. The committee makes phone calls, a house call, or a visit to a recovery facility to check in and make sure all is well.

At the direction of our clergy, committee volunteers are standing by to ensure that no VOS member is isolated or alone during stressful periods in their lives.



Condolences

Ron Sherman,
*an IDF soldier and cousin of
David (Linda) Weinberg*

Daphne Velasquez,
*niece of
Richard (Shawn) Sperber*

Dyana Cohen Schoenstadt,
*sister of
Barbara Solomon*

Dr. Myron (Mike) Bromberg,
*husband of Donna,
beloved member of our
synagogue community*

Year-End Pledges

Thank you to the following people who pledged donations to VOS.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pamla Abramson Joel & Judy Adelman Bob & Janis Andres Judy & Greg Benedict Billie & Alan Bennett Jackie Berg Stanley Broffman Angela Di Mascio & Golda Brill Cheryl & Jeff Cohen Ralph Deutsch & Helene Dutra Beth Falikoff Philip & Sandra Firestone Nancie Fogelman Abraham & Eileen Franco Al & Eileen Franco Faye & Jim Friedman Bruce Fuhrer Ralph & Bette Garren Ian & Laurie Goldey Norman & Dina Gonor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marsha Berch Gruen Todd & Nicole Haines David & Judy Handelman Todd & Denise Helfstein William & Catherine Josephson Barry Keller Jason Kohler & Tahlia Spector Ed & Sharon Kohn Hallie Kraft Jackie Kreitzman & Brian Senit George Lauer Karen Lavin Wendy Levenson Ron & Corinne Lieberman Sol & Marilyn Levine Peter & Eileen Malis Norma Miles Alex & Eleanor Mizrahi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norman & JoAnn Montrose Rita Mount Arlene Pater Jack Press George & Janine Quint Kenneth & Donna Rehman Dianna Rice Phillip & Sharon Sacks Benjamin & Erica Salisbury Gary Schechter Steven Silver & Mary Reisman Evelyn Slepicoff Barbara & Al Swedelson Lee & Barbara Van Sluyters Lisa Warner Gloria Weinstein Seth & Jamie Wellisch Eleanor Zalin Allen & Marcia Zatzkin
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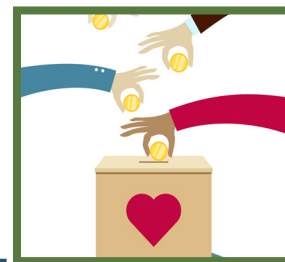


December Yahrzeit Donations

Anne Altman (2 donations)
 Judy Solish
 Frank Bass
 Judy (Greg) Benedict
 Stan Blander
 Carol Bloom (3 donations)
 Linda Blovett (3 donations)
 Ron (Susan) Braunstein
 Brian (Roberta) Caplin
 Larry Chernoff
 Ms. Sheri Dubin-Albala
 Larry (Wendy) Einbund
 Sandra (Sandra) Firestone
 Lynda Fox
 Faye (Jim) Friedman
 Leslie (Toby) Glatt
 Diane (Jerry) Goldstein
 Grace Gross
 Barbara Guerin
 Gary Gutwirth
 Beth (Brad Tanenbaum) Haiken
 Carol Hananel (2 donations)
 David (Judy) Handelman
 Bunni Hoffman (2 donations)
 Leonard (Denise) Horowitz
 Denise (Leonard) Horowitz
 Robin Jacobs
 Ethel Kaplan
 Joseph Kessler
 Barbara Klubeck (2 donations)
 Arnold (Harriet) Kornfield
 Bonita (Richard Anderson) Kraft
 Linda (Bill) LaVere (2 donations)
 Fern Lippert
 Linda (Ernest) Lister
 Michael Magasinn
 Geraldine Moscovitz
 Beverly (Stan) Nisenson
 Martin (Loyce) Nussbaum (2 donations)
 Jacqueline Rondinelli
 Laurie (Larry) Rudner
 Larry (Laurie) Rudner
 Gary Schechter
 Elaine (Richard) Snyder
 Joan Spitz (2 donations)
 Stanley (Suzi) Taub
 Fred (Ileene) Weiss, *in memory of Alex Weiss*
 Sue (Steeve) Wetterhahn
 Eleanor Zalin

Tributes & Mitzvah Donations

A Tribute or Mitzvah Donation can be made at any time in honor or in memory of someone. Go to the "Giving" menu on www.vosla.org or contact the VOS Office at 818-882-4867 for more information.



Dan & Carla Adivi
 Linda Blovett,
Sponsor, Shabbat Oneg

Susan Carlisle,
*Donation to the VOS Players
 & Healing Workshop*

Susan Carlisle,
Healing Workshop

Susan Carlisle,
Security support

Ralph Deutsch & Helene Dutra,
*Groucho donation
 – Arts & Culture*

Debbie Du Val,
*Groucho donation
 – Arts & Culture*

Jeffrey & Elaine Edell,
Yom Kippur pledge

Sunny Franklin,
Yom Kippur pledge

David & Lyle Glazer,
Sponsor, Shabbat Oneg

Doris & Sam Goldberg,
*In appreciation for
 November 10th musical service*

Fran Hart,
*In honor of the Rand's
 80th birthdays*

Doreen Kates,
*Groucho donation
 – Arts & Culture*

Karyn King,
*Donation for security and in honor
 of Michael Li-Paz and Gil Li-Paz, my
 favorite pilots who brought me to
 VOS. Forever grateful for the light
 they've brought to my life.*

Bonita Kraft & Richard Anderson,
*Eleanor & Herb Kraft
 School JEWELS donation*

Vicki Kraft,
*Eleanor & Herb Kraft
 School JEWELS donation*

Norman Levy & Phyllis Cohen,
*Groucho donation
 – Arts & Culture*

Fern Lippert,
Security support

Fern Lippert,
*Groucho donation
 – Arts & Culture
 Michael Magasinn*

Judy Palnick & Robert Cohen,
Sponsor, Shabbat Oneg

Steven & Sherri Raft

Elise Wilson,
*In memory of my dear old dad,
 Hyman Perlstein. I am
 heartbroken.*

Chip Rudolph,
*Groucho donation
 – Arts & Culture*

Martin & Julianne Safran,
Sponsorship of the Music Program

Jeff Pillet-Shore,
In honor of Sam Finkelberg

Larry & Violet Schlesinger, *Groucho
 donation
 – Arts & Culture*

Michael & Geri Schwartz

Fred & Evelyn Ulise,
*Groucho donation
 – Arts & Culture*

VOS Sisterhood,
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

VOS Sisterhood,
In memory of Susan Allenworth

Wahler Family,
Sponsor, Shabbat Oneg

Thank You!

January Simchas – Mazel Tov!

Your joy is our joy!

Send an email to info@vosla.org to share a simcha with our community.

January Birthdays

1/1 Arthur Grossman	1/6 Lea Templer	1/14 David Josephson	1/25 Steven Garelick
1/2 Robert Brandt	1/7 Teri Gamson	1/14 Erick Wilner	1/25 Francine Hart
1/2 Helene Dutra	1/7 Anakin Teti	1/15 Joshua Bernfeld	1/25 Zachary Schneiderman
1/2 Sol Levine	1/8 Laurie Gelardi	1/15 Bailey Rogers	1/25 Tyler Sperber
1/2 Rita Puritsky	1/8 Jeffrey Haines	1/16 Lewis Blair	1/26 Ariel Bloxberg
1/2 Joan Spitz	1/8 Stephanie Hoffman	1/16 Jayne Friedman	1/26 Ileene Weiss
1/3 Stanley Leiken	1/8 Madeline Pelc	1/16 William Gootnick	1/28 Makena Metz
1/3 Pierre Rodnunsky	1/8 Brian Senit	1/16 Harriet Kornfield	1/28 Michael Sachs
1/3 Jacqueline Rondinelli	1/8 Max Simon	1/16 Janine Quint	1/29 Diane Goldstein
1/4 Ethel Edell	1/9 Brooklyn Miller	1/17 Thomas Metz	1/29 Craig Kovler
1/4 Spencer Einbund	1/9 Teegan Weiss	1/18 Michelle Hinshon	1/30 Sandra Firestone
1/4 Irwin Frank	1/10 Michele Birger	1/18 Nathan Horowitz	1/30 Beth Haiken
1/4 Craig Housenick	1/10 Clive Hurwitz	1/19 Natalie Edell	1/30 Shelby Silverman
1/5 Sarah Cohen	1/10 Michele Johnsen	1/19 Janice Rodnunsky	1/30 Sydney Silverman
1/5 Joseph Kessler	1/10 A.J. Magasinn	1/20 Noa Gauthier	1/30 Emilee Teichner
1/6 Brenda Friedman	1/11 Adam Belsky	1/20 Leah Gelick	1/31 David Wazana
1/6 Jordan Richman	1/13 Jeff Whittington	1/22 Linda Landau	1/31 Nathan Wazana
1/6 Melissa Rogers	1/14 Jackie Gaer	1/25 Samantha Brown	

Milestone Birthdays

1/1 Arthur Grossman
1/2 Rita Puritsky
1/2 Joan Spitz
1/3 Stanley Leiken
1/5 Sarah Cohen
1/8 Laurie Gelardi
1/8 Jeffrey Haines
1/8 Max Simon
1/10 Michele Johnsen
1/14 Jackie Gaer
1/14 Erick Wilner
1/16 Lewis Blair
1/17 Thomas Metz
1/26 Ariel Bloxberg
1/29 Craig Kovler

Anniversaries

1/21 Steve & Rachel Sylvers
1/29 Alan & JoAnn Rand
1/18 James & Robin Felton
1/14 Alan & Nora Fels
1/21 Lisa & Richard Klein
1/22 Zachary & Dahlia Schneiderman
1/24 Rod & Nancy Canter
1/30 Will & Barbara Turk

Bar & Bat Mitzvah

Ethan Kadner
Viv Whittington

Milestone Anniversaries

1/14 Alan & Nora Fels
1/21 Lisa & Richard Klein

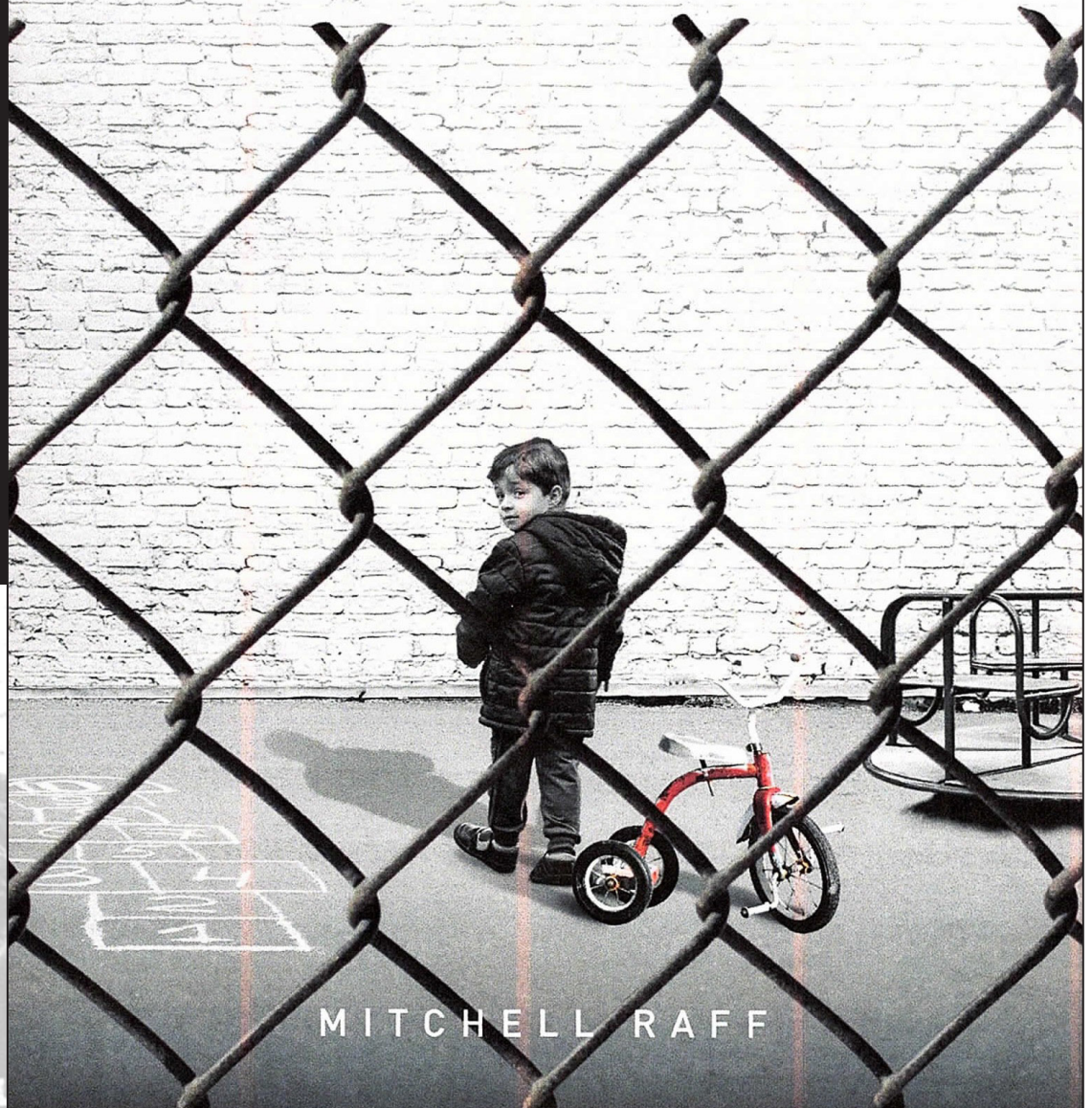
LITTLE BOY, I KNOW YOUR NAME

During my adult life on countless occasions, a friend, acquaintance or stranger would ask about my life. When speaking of my childhood, I learned to be careful in how I answered this question knowing that often it would lead to more uncomfortable questions. Nonetheless, I would respond. Eventually and without fail, my friend or acquaintance would say, "You have a very interesting life story. You should write a book." So I did.

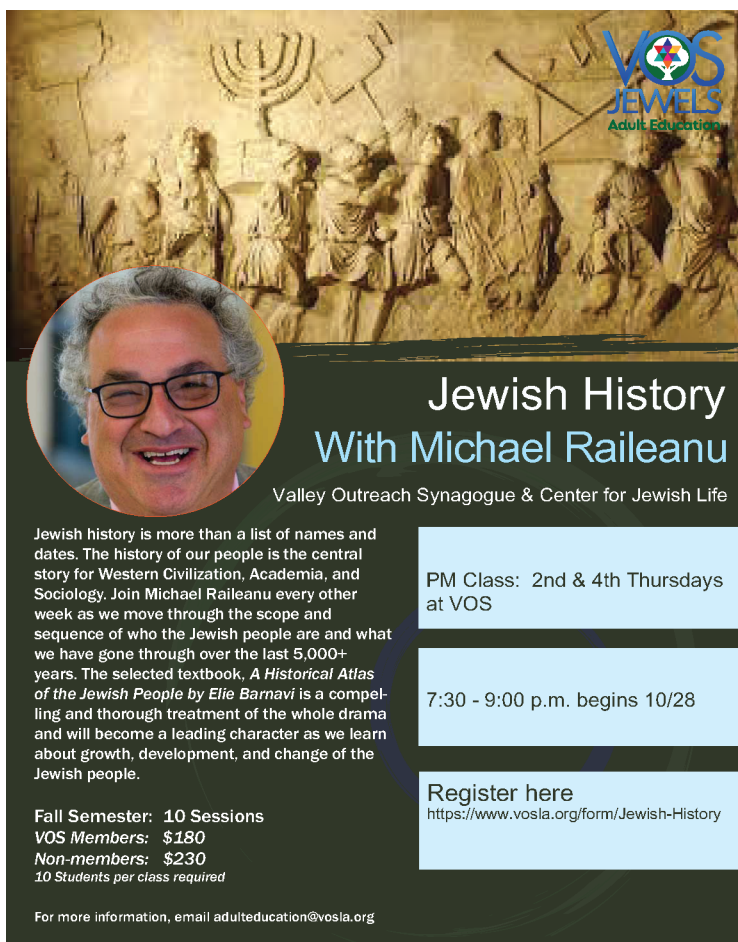
- Mitchell Raff

LITTLE BOY, *I Know Your Name*

A SECOND-GENERATION MEMOIR
FROM INHERITED HOLOCAUST TRAUMA



To find out more about the author, visit www.mitchellraff.com



VOS JEWELS
Adult Education

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

For more information, email adulteducation@vosla.org

PM Class: 2nd & 4th Thursdays at VOS

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. begins 10/28

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

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 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.

VOS JEWELS
Adult Education

BAGELS & Banter

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

Wednesday, December 6 | 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 JEWELS
Adult Education

Women's Rosh Hodesh Group

Celebrating the New Moon Each Month

7:00–8:30 p.m. at VOS



Rosh Hodesh, the holiday given to women as a reward for not participating in the incident of the Golden Calf, provides a unique space for women to claim Jewish ritual as their own.

Our group will bond with one another through the ancient tradition of celebrating the New Moon, through ritual and in the context of the Jewish calendar. Each month we will explore a variety of topics including biblical characters, blessings, rituals, holidays, artistic expression, meditation, and food.

For more information contact Susi Weissman at 818-429-1220 or AdultEducation@vosla.org
<https://www.vosla.org/form/rosh-hodesh-2023-2024.html>

2023 Dates
10/23 11/27

2024 Dates
1/22 2/26 3/25 4/29 5/20

**\$80 for members
\$100 for non-members**

Safety & Security at VOS



VOS has formed a new **Security Task Force** in an effort to keep our community safe and informed. At times, you may be asked a few security questions by our task force members. We ask that all of our members and guests fully cooperate with this effort.

On Saturday **January 21, 2024 from 9:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m.**, the American Red Cross will be at VOS to teach CPR/First Aid. See flyer on page 12 for more details.

For information or further questions about the Security Task Force, please contact Karen Block at kblockcpa@gmail.com.

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 – 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.



NEW! VOS BOOK CLUB Looking for some new books to read?

Join the VOS Book Club for reading suggestions and thought provoking discussions.

Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 11:00 a.m. either on Zoom or in a member's home.

OUR SELECTION FOR DECEMBER
Big Lies in a Small Town
by Diane Chamberlain

For more information contact
Barbara Van Sluyters at 818-522-1577

Our past book selections:

OCTOBER: *Beautiful Country* by Qian Julie Wang

NOVEMBER: *Koshersoul* by Michael Twitty



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? **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, 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 in which we think you'd be interested.

Join us all for 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.

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

In Joy,
Your Membership Team

Prayers for Healing



- A. Rachel Aflalo, Mayer Alson, Marsha Wiedder-Alson, Eliahu Assouline
- B. Ross Bauer, Janice Bell, Alison Callan Bellorini, Alex Berson, Randy J. Bertisch, Robyn Besem, Jack Bielan, Linda Blovett, Michael Bloxberg, Joel Brooks, Michael Burns
- C. Marcelo Cabrera, Jacqueline Callan, Virginia Cantor, Jackie Carnell, Dottie Carson, Erica Casas, Shelley Cataldo, Dojie Cayse, Ethan Childs, Napali Cohen, Betty Collins, Alfred Cutuli
- D. Jerry Davis, Claudia DeVere, Sevag Donoyan, Stacey Dorenfeld, Ken Downey, Larry Dubin, Jill Due, Warren Due
- 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
- G. Sherman Gamson, Sherrie Garelick, Cecily Garnhardt, Cameron Gary, Eileen Geisser, Steve Gilbert, Jeri Glassman, Mitch Gold, Lynn Goldberg, Matthew Goldman, Lynne Wachspress Goldsmith, Barbara Guerin, D.J. Gruman, Mandy Guntman, Marcia Guntman
- H. Cami Haemmerle, Emma Hagio, Will Hair, David Handelman, Ron Handelman, Julie Hans, Michael Harris, Pat Hartmann, Noga Hellner, Sharon Helton, Barbara Hersch, Deanna Hill, Jacob Hoag, Yuan-Yang Hu, Cadyn Maci Huff
- I. Tom Iverson
- 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 Kritzer, Jules Kurtz, Frances Kuznets
- L. Barry Lampke, David Lampke, Barry Latman, Dara Lavalle, 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
- N. Ruth Newman, Corry Notkin, Cheryl Novak
- O. Lee Osterloh, Mark Osterloh
- P. Carole Parker, Elyse Parks, Arlene Pater, Domonic Perrotta, Sue Potter, Paul Proman, Rita Puritsky
- Q. Helga Quinonez
- R. Johnny Rabinovitz, Shula Rabinovitz, Joe Rabin, Sandra Regan, Donald Reggie, Ariella Reisner, Fern Reisner, Michael Reisner, Dorothy Reiter, Renee Resnick, Yvonne Napier Ricketts, Lisa Rodnunsky, Stella Rogers, Barbara Rollins, Mickey Rosen, Eric Rosenfeld, Ryan Rosenfeld, Betsy Ross, Joshua Ross, Keri L. Ross, Lore Ross, Marilyn Ross, Stacey Ross, Joe Roth, Michael Rothman, Carl Rothschild, Cynthia Rothschild, Robert Rubin, Chip Rudolph
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- Z. Larry Zolkewitz, Sheila Zolkewitz, Bob Zonshine

VOS Board of Directors Contact Information

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VOS JEWELS Director of Lifelong Learning	Sharone Weizman	818-882-4867	sharonew@vosla.org
Recording Secretary	Randie Rosenberg	818-667-4201	poochlurvrr@aol.com

VOS Clergy & Staff Contact Information

Spiritual Leader, Rabbi Ron Li-Paz Rabbili-paz@vosla.org 818-879-8087 or 818-882-4867

Rabbis Emeriti, Jerry Fisher (z"l) and Richard Schachet (z"l)

Office Administrator, Arlene Mayo..... officeadmin@vosla.org 818-882-4VOS (4867)

Musical Director, Gerald (Jerry) Sternbach..... musicdirector@vosla.org 818-882-4867

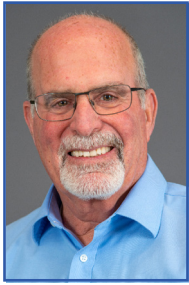
VOS JEWELS

Director of Life Long Learning, Sharone Weizman..... Sharonew@vosla.org 818-882-4867

Founding Musical Director, Jack Bielan..... felixxsong@yahoo.com 818-456-4298

The Outreach Coordinator, Arlene Mayo info@vosla.org 818-882-4867

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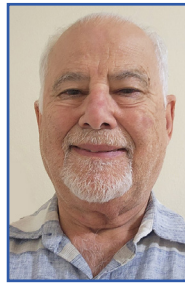
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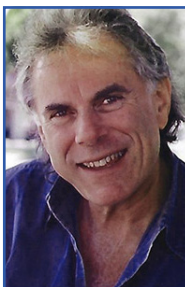
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**JEWELS Director of
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Sharone Weizman

Committee Chair Contact Information

Bereavement	Marlene Frierson	818-718-9428
Butterfly Project	Julie Goren	818-489-6686
By-Laws	Mickey Bilsky	818-384-1107
Chairman of Ushers	Lenny Horowitz	213-200-1324
Chavurot	Anne Sperling	805-796-9255
Crafters' Club	Jean Cord	818-340-3394
Education	Sharone Weizman	818-870-0459
Events Sales Coordinator	Claudine Pelc	818-635-7917
High Holy Days	Stan Taub	818-998-7224
High Holy Days	Stewart Epstein	818-886-2380
Holocaust	Judy Benedict	Judymasonnp@yahoo.com
Men's Club	Bob Brandt	818-535-0067
Mt. Sinai	Josh Ryan	818-458-0932
Oneg	Wendy Levenson	310-985-4285
Oneg	Simone Brandt	818-891-6476
Oneg	Debbie Du Val	818-384-5125
Operation Interdependence	Barbara Granowitz	818-912-6063
Outreach Newsletter	Arlene Mayo	818-882-4867
Security	Jackie Berg	818-383-0494
Singles	Wendy Levenson	310-985-4285
Sisterhood	Barbara Barackman, bb.elvis68@gmail.com	818-497-4969
Sunshine	Harvey and Sue Magidow	805-750-0345
Tribute Cards	Beverly Nisenson	818-360-2597
Tot Shabbat	Judy Gaffin	Judy@vosla.org
Volunteer Coordinator	Judy Benedict	Judymasonnp@yahoo.com
Yahrzeit Board	Karen Lavin	818-882-4867

We Need You!



Enrich your life while having fun, making new friends and supporting our VOS committees.

Volunteer today!

For more information on what interests you or how to become involved, contact **Judy Benedict**, our new volunteer coordinator, at **Judybvosla@gmail.com**.



Valley Outreach Synagogue
& CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE

26668 Agoura Road
Calabasas, CA 91302
818.882.4VOS(4867)
www.vosla.org

VOS PLAYERS
Berlinger Performing Arts Program

Presents

VOS USO

March 2, 7:00 p.m.
March 3, 12:00 noon & 4:00 p.m.

Limited VIP Seating: \$54 Adult | Limited Premier Seating: \$36
General Seating \$20 (Adult) | \$18 Children (12 and under)



DIRECTED BY:
BRONWEN LI-PAZ,
HANNAH LI-PAZ & DAVID WAY

CHOREOGRAPHED BY:
BRONWEN & HANNAH LI-PAZ

WRITTEN BY:
ERIC MENYUK

MUSICAL DIRECTOR:
GERALD STERNBACH

VALLEY OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE
& CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE
26668 AGOURA ROAD, CALABASAS

Tickets go on sale January 12 at
www.voslatv.com/VOSUSO

The Year Ahead at the VOS Center for Jewish Life

Simply Shabbat
VoS Players Theater
Concerts
Mussar
Adult Volunteer Trip
Scholars in Residence
Holiday Boutique
Adult Bat Mitzvah
High Holy Days

Sisterhood
Musical Shabbat
VoS Travel
Holiday Celebrations
Conversation Groups
JEWELS (Children's Education)
Adult Education
Brotherhood
Better Together Teens & Seniors
Bagels & Banter
Torah Study with the Rabbi

Choir
Youth Retreat
Volunteerism
Men's Club
Honoree Gala
Summer Shabbats Under the Stars
Interfaith Dialogue
VoS Sisters
Family Celebrations

And the launch of
The VOS Center for
Mental Well-Being

How will you grow with us this year?

Acknowledgments

Valley Outreach Synagogue would like to thank Fazio Cleaners, Brent's Delicatessen & 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.*



FAZIO CLEANERS
www.faziocleaners.com

The Commons of Calabasas
4732 Commons Way
Calabasas, CA 91302
818-223-8006

The Promenade at Westlake Village
140 Promenade Way - E
Westlake Village, CA 91362
805-370-0088



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Westlake Village, CA 91361
805-557-1882

Northridge
19565 Parthenia Street
Northridge, CA 91324
818-886-5679



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