

Temple Beth Sholom Presents:

# Our Voices - A Monthly Newsletter

October 2021 – Tishrei/Cheshvan 5782 | Issue 20 | A Jewish Center for Life, Learning, and Connections

## Important Contacts

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**Services** | Shabbat Evening Services will be streamed and offered in-person at TBS at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted

**Torah Study** | Virtually held each Saturday. See <https://tbsoc.com/> for Zoom Link

## Join Us for Our Upcoming Events!

**10/3 - 10/7** | Focus Group Sessions – Please go to the TBS website for more information and to sign up

**10/8 @ 6:00 p.m.** | Family Shabbat Service – Join us at an earlier time for a family-friendly service

**10/15 @ 5:00 p.m.** | Tot Shabbat – A service geared toward and hosted by our preschoolers before our regular Shabbat Evening Service at 7:00pm.

**10/17 @ 10:00 a.m.** | Brotherhood Sunday Football Game – Brotherhood hosts the Rams/Giants game for Religious School dads (and all guys who want to join!) Bagels, coffee, and lots of goodies will be provided.

**10/26 @ 6:30 p.m.** | Women and Wine – The ECC PTA hosts their annual women and wine event where current (and former!) TBS mamas can gather kid-free for a night of fun.

**10/27 @ 7:00 p.m.** | Brotherhood Poker Night – Contact Sylvan Swartz at [sylvan@swartzcre.com](mailto:sylvan@swartzcre.com) for details and location

## Worship at TBS

From the Rabbi's Study

*Rabbi David Lipper*

I receive about 150 messages a day by email. They come from all over the world. From Israel, I receive daily news briefings; from New York I receive rabbinic news; from somewhere in New England, I receive stories of heroism; from members of our congregation, I receive jokes (oy, the jokes). But every now and then someone sends to me a piece that is worthy of sharing. I want to devote this month's article to this reading that I will call "An Interview with God."

I dreamed I had an interview with God. "Come in," God said. "So, you would like to interview Me?"

"If you have the time," I said.

God smiled and said, "My time is eternity and is enough to do everything; what questions do you have to ask me?"

I asked, "What surprises you most about mankind?"

God answered, "That they get bored of being children, are in a rush to grow up, and then long to be children again. That they lose their health to make money and then lose their money to restore their health. That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live neither for the present nor the future. That they live as if they will never die, and they die as if they had never lived."

God's hands took mine and we were silent for a while and then I asked, "As a parent, what are some of life's lessons you want your children to learn?"

God replied with a smile. "To learn that they cannot make anyone love them. What they can do is to let themselves be loved. To learn that what is most valuable is not what they have in their lives, but who they have in their lives. To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others. All will be judged individually on their own merits, not as a group on a comparison basis! To learn that a rich person is not the one who has the most but is one who needs the least. To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in persons we love, and that it takes many years to heal them. To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness. To learn that there are persons that love them dearly, but simply do not know how to express or show their feelings. To learn that money can buy everything but happiness. To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it totally different. To learn that a true friend is someone who knows everything about them and likes them anyway. To learn that it is not always enough that they be forgiven by others, but that they have to forgive themselves."

I sat there for a while enjoying the moment. I thanked God for the time and for all that God has done for me and my family, and God replied, "Anytime. I'm here 24 hours a day. All you have to do is ask for me, and I'll answer."

If we learned anything from the Holy Days this year, it is that God is present in our lives. All we have to do is open our hearts and let God in.

People may forget what you said. People may forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

## President's Message

*Mike Winston, TBS President*



As I reflect on the events of the past month, I continue to think of what amazing High Holy Days we had this year. With Rabbi Lipper and Cantor Reinwald leading us and a sanctuary full of friends and family, it was very special to come back to and to be a part of it all. For those of you who were virtual this year, I hope you were able to experience the same feeling and impact as I did. I pray that next year we will ALL be able to be together safely once again. Sitting under the Sukkah, having dinner with my family was another wonderful moment at TBS. A big thank you to everyone who had a hand in making these services and opportunities happen.

This month, I am most excited about the results from our Focus Groups. We have so many people signed up for our various sessions and the results are the basis for what we are going to do next. This is much more suspenseful than I thought it would be. I believe we sometimes tend to think others have the same wants and thoughts as our own, but we know that is not actually true. Therefore, I am very interested and eager to know what we are saying as a community overall. I hope you had a chance to make your voice heard.

As always, I will work to make myself available. If something is on your mind, please contact me and let's have a chat. L'Shalom.

# Brotherhood

## Community – Fellowship – Action – Service

*Sylvan Swartz, Brotherhood Director of Membership*

We have made it through Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and the very thoughtful and beautiful services brought to us by Rabbi Lipper and Cantor Reinwald. Cantor was never better, and Rabbi gave us some great thoughts to consider: a main idea was that of *Hineni*, “Here I Am.” Brotherhood and Sisterhood need all of us to step up and join. Your membership helps in so many ways. In joining Brotherhood, you are supporting the youth of TBS. Our funds go primarily to youth programming and scholarships as well as rides at the Purim carnival. This past year we also donated money for preschool furniture and improvements to the playground.

We all confessed our sins on Yom Kippur for the past year. You can eliminate one of those by joining the Brotherhood and participating in one of our many events such as getting together with some guys to enjoy a Monday Night Football game and maybe a beer, or a slice. We will also be starting the Brotherhood monthly Sunday bike ride and a monthly Brotherhood/Sisterhood Hike. We hope we can hold the pancake breakfast this year once again on December 25th and we hope it is well supported.

This year we are also hosting a morning football game on **Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at TBS at 10:00 a.m.** for those dads dropping off their kids at Religious School. We’ll enjoy the Rams/Giants game with bagels, pastries, and of course coffee.

If you want to say *Hineni* and join us, feel free to contact me at [sylvan@swartzcre.com](mailto:sylvan@swartzcre.com) for a membership form or reach out to any TBS staff member. This is a painless experience and inexpensive. Our Brotherhood wishes all of you a very happy, sweet, and healthy New Year.

# Sisterhood



We may be heading into fall, but purple is showing up everywhere at the temple...purple Sisterhood nametags! This year TBS Sisterhood is offering nametags to all of our members. They are of course Sisterhood Purple with white lettering, and they feature the Temple logo and the joyful and happy “Dancing Ladies” figures that have been used on Sisterhood’s printed materials. The name tags can be worn at Sisterhood and Temple events and the wearer will be identified as a Sisterhood member. The name tags are \$15. This will not only cover the cost of the name tag but allow for a donation to Sisterhood, to help Sisterhood continue supporting temple programs and our community.

If you are interested in purchasing a name tag, please contact Brenda Beck [brenda@thebecks82.com](mailto:brenda@thebecks82.com) or (714) 403-3237. If there is someone for whom the cost of the name tag is prohibitive, confidential arrangements can be made. We hope to see lots of purple name tags around the Temple at future events.

# Our Youth

## Early Childhood Center

*Tamara Levin, Director of Early Childhood Education*

The hollow sound of the shofar resonated through the preschool announcing the onset of the New Year. It is a year of new beginnings: new teachers, new friends, new classrooms, and new experiences. While we embrace the new, we continue to treasure our old traditions. Rabbi Lipper joined us to blow the shofar, and the children heard the calls of the ram's horn ushering in a new beginning.



Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah follow quickly on the heels of Rosh Hashanah and the children were immersed in their Jewish traditions. It is a sensory smorgasbord—the taste of fruit consumed in the sukkah, the smell of an etrog, the texture and shape of a lulav frond, the sound of singing voices, and the pleasure in creating and viewing collaborative class decorations in the temple sukkah.

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, the preschool will be celebrating a Tot Shabbat at 5:00 p.m. The TK class will host the Shabbat by providing a light dinner for the preschool. All the children will prepare a few songs to sing for the occasion.

## Religious School

*Johannah Sohn, Ed.D, Director of Youth Education*

What an amazing start to the TBS Religious School year we have had! Our students have been learning about the many holidays we celebrate at the beginning of 5782. Together we made sweet honey cookies to celebrate Rosh Hashanah, beautiful Sukkot decorations, and have learned many new songs with our very own Cantor Reinwald. Our students will begin their Hebrew studies this month as we dedicated September to learning about the *chagim* and reviewing the Hebrew we learned in the past. We are proud to share that we are approaching 40 students in our program and continue to grow! Please reach out to Johannah Sohn at [jsohn@tbsoc.com](mailto:jsohn@tbsoc.com) if you want to get involved.

## Something to Kvell About – Recognizing our Teens and Young Adults

*Monica Engel, Social Action Member*



Evie Hoddevik, a newer member of the community, became bat mitzvah on Saturday, August 14th. She began her Jewish education in preschool at the Long Beach JCC and was a part of different Jewish traditions when the family moved to Boston during her elementary school years. After moving back to Long Beach Evie joined Beth Sholom during the pandemic, so she's looking forward to continuing her journey in person sooner than later. Evie entered high school and is excited to be in the Visual Arts pathway at Wilson as a Distinguished Scholar. She is an animal lover with a soft spot for her kitties and an enthusiastic animation artist.

Evie is also an avid rower and is part of the team with Long Beach Junior Crew. Although her project must wait a few months longer, she plans to organize her fellow rowers to head out each month in their crew boats to gather the trash that accumulates in the Long Beach waterways. Known as 'the back channels', these waterways serve as scenery for walkers, bikers, boaters, and rowers alike and Evie has always hated the pollution and the effect it has on the wildlife (and the smell!). (cont. on page 5)

Evie's bat mitzvah is the beginning of her choice to continue her Jewish life and education. She got into such a groove with her Hebrew that she will continue with her tutor so that she can become conversational before her first trip to Israel. She is looking forward to the future and grateful for the support of the Temple Beth Sholom community.

## Committee Updates

### Settled Rabbi Search Committee

*Lori Griffin, SRSC Chair*

Focus groups are being held to gather information for our strategic planning process and for our settled rabbi search. This is an exciting opportunity to connect with all our congregants to help decide how we can best meet your needs and prepare for the future. We're asking every congregant to participate in these discussions. We'll have sign-up sheets at services and encourage you to sign-up and join the discussions on **October 3, 5, 6, and 7**. You can also register online at [tbsoc.com](http://tbsoc.com) or call the office. You have the option to register for either an in-person or Zoom session. Be a part of the TBS community and help shape our future at TBS!

### Membership/FWYC

*Mary Gonzalez, VP of Membership*

Thank you to those who came out and celebrated Sukkot with us! (Pictures are on page 8) Please be on the lookout for our next event. If you would like to get involved in some of our "fun-raisers" please reach out Arielle Ohls at 562-316-7030 or Mary Gonzalez at 714-292-4957. We meet once per month and are looking for fresh ideas!

### Education

*Steffanie Belasco, VP of Education*

Rabbi Hillel says, "Do not say 'When I am free, I will study', for perhaps you will not become free." – Pirkei Avot 2:6

Rabbi Lipper will be teaching his first series of classes entitled: [Judaism 101: The 10 Most Important Ideas Judaism Brings to the World](#). We encourage you to commit to learning new aspects of Judaism that are meaningful to you. There is no charge for members and a \$36.00 charge for non-members will be collected. Rabbi Lipper has asked the question, will you be here? We look for your answer, *Hineni*, "Here I Am". This year, even if your schedule is already busy, experiment with making room for classes or other activities you've been meaning to try here at Temple Beth Sholom.

Our religious school is growing, and the excitement is over the top. Our K-2<sup>nd</sup> graders are learning new Hebrew words each week with interactive learning. Do you know the word for honey in Hebrew? Our youngest of learners know that it is *d'vash*, and that it begins with *dalet*. They learned this while making a related craft. The 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders are reviewing the alphabet and Hebrew vocabulary. Our teens helping on Sunday provide our kids "cool" role models at TBS.

Our youngest learners in preschool were so excited about making decorations for our Sukkah. The changes that we see in the fall in nature will inspire curiosity in our young learners that will carry through October. The Reggio Emilia curriculum helps our kids to find answers to the things that they are interested in as their teachers take their lead to solve authentic problems and develop critical thinking skills. Cantor Reinwald joins the classrooms to provide engaging music on Shabbat. Tamara Levin, our director, inspires her staff by providing ongoing training in creating lifelong learners.

Temple Beth Sholom provides rich educational programs. I encourage you to try something new this year. Watch for monthly activities and classes in the online publication, the *Shavu'on*, and on our temple calendar.

# Thank You to Our Sponsors!

This newsletter is made possible entirely from donations and sponsorships. If you would like to contribute toward its continued development and distribution, please contact Ruth Aptaker ([ruth.aptaker@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.aptaker@gmail.com)) or the TBS office.



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We are also grateful for the generous donations of Patti Widdicombe, the Weissberg Family, the Cohen Family, the Engel Family, Sandy Fainbar, and our TBS Brotherhood.

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## Social Action

### Education - Direct Service – Advocacy - Collections

*Paula Pitluk, Social Action Chair*

The TBS Social Action Committee continues its work to support those in need in our local community as well as those beyond. I invite you to join us. We meet on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. to study, discuss, and determine how we can improve the lives of those in our local and global community. Currently, our focus is the return to our kitchen for Mitzvah Meals prep, the sorting of items for the High Holy Days Food Drive, and the distribution of items. Those who led the charge are too many to name but include Monica, Cheryl, Hollis, Cindy G., Marci, Steffanie, and Debbie R. Thanks to all who supported this effort!

Our Mitzvah of the Month for October is warm clothing. Donations can be left in the TBS living room. In addition, we are still trying to fill several WELCOME HOME BASKETS through the United Way program of assisting families as they move into their first stable home. We are committed to repairing the world. Thank you for being a generous and giving community. If you are interested in joining us in our work, please contact Paula Pitluk at [pkpteach@gmail.com](mailto:pkpteach@gmail.com).

### Calling All Cooks!

*Steffanie Belasco, Social Action Member*

Temple Beth Sholom is proud to offer this mitzvah opportunity the first Sunday of every month through December. We invite you to try your favorite nutritious recipe that you will be cooking for 15 moms in the crisis program at Casa Teresa in Orange. The menu should consist of a minimum of 1/4 pound of protein per person (15), a vegetable, a starch, and a fruit and or dessert. Casa Teresa requests that dinner be dropped off by 5:00 p.m. if it is ready to serve and by 4:00 p.m. if it needs to be reheated. Please call Steffanie Belasco at (714) 420-5320 or Monica Engel at (949) 458-8732 to sign up and for more information. Thank you in advance to all our volunteers.

## Mitzvah Meals is Back!

*Mitzvah Meals Team*

Mitzvah Meals is back in the TBS kitchen! This will be MM 2.0, as we will be starting over with a new format. Mitzvah Meals consists of a group of volunteers who come together every Sunday to prepare meals for those in need. There are various spots to fill each week. At this time, we ask that all volunteers are vaccinated and are willing to wear a mask. If you have time and would like to volunteer, please contact Cheryl Escoc at [caescoc43@gmail.com](mailto:caescoc43@gmail.com).

If you are unable to volunteer in person you can still help in other ways. Baking cookies or brownies can be done at home and brought to the temple on Sunday mornings. Donating grocery gift cards or specific foods to help fill the pantry is greatly needed. We will be making sandwiches for 80 people, and we will be preparing a hot meal for 80 people that will need to be packaged in containers. Donations such as juice drinks, packaged cookies, protein bars, chips, and fruit are some of the items needed each week, so we welcome your help.

Thank you in advance for your help to keep the program running. We look forward to a great 5782!

## Adult Education

*Angela Holmes, Adult Ed Chair*

**Rabbi Lipper Adult Education Presentations 2021-2022 (visit the TBS website or call the office to register)**

*Judaism 101: The 10 Most Important Ideas Judaism Brings to the World*

Dates: Sundays on October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and November 14, 21

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Location: TBS Chapel

We will explore 10 essential teachings of Judaism and how they have impacted our understanding of Judaism of the values by which we live. We will look at the themes of creation, revelation, redemption, God, Torah, and community as well as seek to understand the issues of life and death and the afterlife. Join Rabbi Lipper for this interesting conversation.

*Sacred Texts of Jewish Time*

Dates: Mondays on December 6, 13, 20 and January 10, 24

Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Location: TBS Chapel

Each Holy moment in the Jewish year is marked with a special text that expands the meaning of the Holy Day. The three festivals (Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot), Purim, Tisha B'av and Chanukah all have unique texts that speak to the essence of each day. We will explore excerpts of each text in seeking to discover the deeper meaning of each sacred moment.

*Searching the Prophets for Values*

Dates: Mondays on March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 4, 11

Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Location: TBS Chapel

From the essence of Torah, the prophets sought to elevate the Divine covenant beyond the virtual praxis of the Priestly class. The Prophets were those who sought to speak truth to power and to help the Jewish community elevate their lives in connection to the Holy and Blessed One. From Joshua to Ezekiel, each Prophet carved out their message of hope for the future.

## Chapman University – Scheduled Events for Fall 2021

As we all know, we are very fortunate to have the programs by Chapman University very close to TBS. Many in our community keep track of their offerings from the Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education, but for those who haven't had the time, we would like to share what they have on the calendar for Fall 2021.

### October 2021

Michael Dobbs will present a powerful story of Jews living in the Black Forest village of Kippenheim who wanted to escape Nazi persecution and find refuge in the US. His book is *The Unwanted: America, Auschwitz, and a Village Caught In Between* (2019).

Dr. Rebecca Erbelding, historian, archivist, and curator at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. She will discuss her research that explored the "motives, pressures and fears that shaped Americans" response to Nazism, war, and genocide. She is the author of *Rescue Board: The Untold Story of America's efforts to Save the Jews of Europe*.

### November 2021

Dr. Glenn Kurtz, second Presidential Fellow will be talk about the challenges faced by people in the Polish town of Nasielsk. This town is the birthplace of the author's grandfather and setting for his book *Three Minutes in Poland*.

For more information regarding these lectures or receive updates about the activities of the Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education, please go to the University website or call 714-997-6815. (Note: at the time of this publication, dates, time, and location were not available.) For those attending events at Chapman University, please follow the safety policies on the University website.

## From #GetYourSukkahOn

