



# Temple Beth Sholom Presents *Dur Voices – A Monthly Newsletter*

March 2020 Adar/Nisan 5780 | Issue 1 | A Jewish Center for Life, Learning, and Connections

## Upcoming Events

March 1 | 9:45 a.m. Preschool Presentation, 10:00 a.m. Religious School Spiel and Purim Carnival

March 8 | 10:00 a.m. Brotherhood Speaker Series hosts Nick Gerda in the Board Room

March 18 | 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting

March 22 | 11:00 a.m. Chai Times Brunch at Karma Lounge

March 27 | 6:30p Shabbat Evening Service - Celebrating Hadassah

\*All Shabbat evening services are held at 6:30 p.m. with oneg following\*

\*For a Complete List of Events Please Visit <https://www.tbsoc.com/>\*

## Worship at TBS

Prayer is challenging! We worry about “doing it right” or knowing all the words. Add the complexity of the music and one might say, ‘prayer is not my thing.’ Like every muscle in our body, when we want to make it stronger, we must practice, and we must work that muscle. Prayer is a muscle. (cont. on page 2)

## President's Message

Every year at Passover we say, “Next year in Jerusalem” and then 10 years go by before we realize it. On February 18th, I left for Israel with my Dad, and a small contingent of new friends from North Orange County. (cont. on page 3)

## Brotherhood

Community - Fellowship - Action - Service

Brotherhood is an opportunity for men who share similar interests to meet and build friendships through a variety of social and educational events, Temple and community service. Our mission is to support our Temple Youth.

March is a busy month for Brotherhood. Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, the Brotherhood Speakers' Series is hosting Nick Gerda, the award-winning writer for the *Voice of OC* at 10:00 a.m. in the Boardroom. Nick covers Orange County's sprawling \$7 billion county government, reporting on issues like homelessness, public safety, mental health and the role of money in politics. His topic is "Homelessness in the OC: A Recent History and Where It's Heading." This is a free event. Coffee, bagels, and baked goods will be provided provided. (cont. on page 5)



"We plant seeds and observe as small roots stretch their stringy toes."

## Worship at TBS Cont.

Shabbat services are a great way to exercise your prayer muscle. Each service is the same yet with unique themes. From our Sisterhood who shared with us their thoughts and passion for all the strong women throughout history, to our youth who proudly come to the front to sing and dance, to a speaker who challenges us to learn something new. The foundation of the service is the same and when we practice the prayers and music, it starts to flow from our mouths to deep in our souls.

Give it time; don't be discouraged if after the first week you feel a bit lost. That's ok, you're in a safe place to explore and get to know your prayer muscle.

Come pray with us! Sing out and don't worry if you're hitting all the notes of words. Just showing up is a blessing! -Rabbi Heidi Cohen

## Preschool Happenings

I have always loved Tu'Bishvat. We encourage our preschool children to plant at this time of year. We plant seeds and observe as small roots stretch their stringy toes and bright shoots burst from the ground. We marvel as tight nodules unfurl green leaves and later bright blossoms. Our hope is that, with the right amount of nurturing and care, our plants will yield fruit.

There are many analogies between nature and children. Plants, like children, can be unpredictable. Some will flourish in harsh climates, while others may wither under the best of circumstances. We, as educators, provide the fertile soil and monitor each child to ensure that he or she thrives. Some children may need more water and others more sun. Either way, our goal is the same: to develop each child's unique potential to become confident, successful, and competent learners.

-Tamara Levin, Preschool Director



## Social Justice

*"Praised be you Sovereign of the Universe for giving us the opportunity to mend the world."*

Elements of the Social Justice program are fully underway. The planning committee and the Rabbi meet monthly and we wish to thank the entire congregation for its involvement so far. Our group is guided by the following Congregational goal:

**"TBS will partner with community agencies to involve our congregation in multigenerational direct service activities and opportunities for advocacy to improve the conditions of those experiencing homelessness in our local community."**

Our committee members have divided into 4 subcommittees: Education, Collection, Direct Service, and Advocacy. This year has been a great start, but we could still use your help! We are working to support Thomas House in Garden Grove, bringing back our Mitzvah of the Month program with a drive for children's clothing and toys, and collecting clothing for Working Wardrobe. If you cannot provide direct service, please consider a donation. For any information about how to participate in social justice, please leave a message in the TBS office. Finally, please check in with the TBS website for full details on all our important work.



This newsletter is made possible by the generous contributions of Patti Widdicomb, Susan Glass, Barbara Ulmer, the Escoe Family, the Borchard Family, and Rabbi Heidi Cohen.

## Religious School

Hopefully you had the chance to meet some of the students and teachers from Skyview School at our Chanukah Boutique last November! Honoring TBS's Brit Olam for Social Justice, we have partnered with the only school in Orange County designated to support children currently experiencing homelessness.

Our students and their families provide goods and good will to these wonderful students with four projects each month: birthday boxes, hygiene products, books, and lunches for the faculty and staff. Our students plan, prepare, and assemble these donations as they learn that children who are not as fortunate as they are can still thrive when given education and opportunity. We are hopeful that this is just the first year of a continued and lasting partnership with Skyview School.

*-Jodi Kaufman, Director of Congregational Learning*

## President's Message Cont.

This will be my 4th trip. Each of my previous trips have made a deep impact on my life. My NFTY trip in 1985 when I was 16 was everything you can imagine a teenager would do when away for 6 weeks. In '91-'92, my 5 months on Kibbutz Hatzor and 3 months of basic training in the Israeli Army at 23, taught me a lot about working together, facing and conquering physical and mental challenges, and making life-long friends. My 2010 family trip brought tears of joy to my eyes as my wife, a Jew by choice, read from Torah at Robinson's arch and my 13-year-old Bar Mitzvah son comforted me during the twinning ceremony at Yad Vashem. This short trip will be tough to characterize ahead of time. I'm looking forward to spending time with my Dad, seeing old friends that live in Israel, and looking for a reason to make "Next year in Jerusalem" a reality. *-Mitch Cohen, TBS President*

## Voices of TBS

Fridays have always held a certain appeal for me. Even if I have to work on Saturday, there is still just something about Fridays—like an emotional punctuation mark. A buoyant feeling of completion coupled with the opportunity to rest and renew. And then there is Shabbat—a chance to pause, reflect, and experience gratitude.

I am drawn to the temple for Shabbat services, retracing the steps of my ancestors and so many generations of Jews around the world. I listen to the ancient melodies, chant the words of prayer, and see the unfamiliar but somehow soothing shapes of Hebrew letters. I find myself wrapped in childhood memories and the smell of challahs baking in my Grandmothers kitchen. I am transported to a place of solace and comfort, where the minutia of my life falls away and my spirit has the space to emerge and expand.

-Rise Kirbo, TBS Member



If you would like to make a submission for the “Voices of TBS” section, or for more information, please contact Ruth Aptaker ([ruth.apmaker@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.apmaker@gmail.com))

“And then there is Shabbat – a chance to pause, reflect, and experience gratitude.”

## Mitzvah Meals



Mitzvah Meals is in its ninth year! I may have “ignited” the program but Hollis O’Brien was the “flame” that organized our kitchen. Hollis and I made a great team but

when I needed to move on to another project, Cheryl Escoc took over.

Hollis, Cheryl, and many volunteers have been with Mitzvah Meals since its inception, however, we can always use your help. The Mitzvah meals kitchen is a great place to make new friends, teach your children (ages 12+) about the gratification of fulfilling tikkun olam, and pick up a few cooking tips.

We are the only synagogue in Orange County providing nourishing, tasty meals to the underserved. I am proud to be a member of Mitzvah Meals and TBS!

-Monica Engel

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## Sisterhood

The year 2020 got off to a great start for TBS Sisterhood! Sisterhood Shabbat was held on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the service was “Voting for Change: The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Women’s Suffrage Movement.” This event was the result of the hard work and creativity of many people including Michele Shugarman, Lori Glasky, Soni Sanberg, Michelle Singleton, and Amy Greyson.

On Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> the Maxine Horwitz Cultural Event Series presented Beth Schafer in Concert. Beth filled the sanctuary with song to the enjoyment and delight of everyone in attendance.

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, Sisterhood hosted its “Sisters by Heart” Dinner which is a chance for Sisterhood members to enjoy an evening of fun and friendship.

Mazel Tov to Denise Silberman who was named the 2020 SHAYNAH at the Sisterhood Shabbat service. SHAYNAH stands for “Sisterhood Has All Your Needs at Heart” and is awarded to a Sisterhood member who embodies the meaning of SHAYNAH. Mazel Tov to Fran Sherman WRJ Pacific District Past President, who received her Pearl Lifeline at the URJ Biennial in Chicago.

Watch your e-mail for notices and check out the Sisterhood website to see all our upcoming events.

*-Brenda Beck, TBS Sisterhood President*

## Chai Times

Chai Times was formed 10 years ago by Cookie Stern (z’l) and Chelle Friedman (z’l) as a Chavurah for senior singles. At that time, there were only 12 members, but membership rapidly increased. Due to the popularity of events, senior couples were added to our member list.

Our popular “Ethnic Dinner Series” continues with brunch at the Karma Lounge on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 a.m. and dinner at Cha Cha’s Latin Kitchen on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. We will also support the annual Creative Seder at the CA Institute for Women in Corona on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. (Contact Steve Sherman for more info.)

Although most TBS seniors are on our mailing list, please contact Donna Fliegler at (714) 997-1986 if you would like more information on membership or events. We always reserve two tables at Temple dinners, and we’d love for you to join us!

*-Donna Fliegler, Chai Times Member*

## Brotherhood Cont.

Temple Beth Sholom is also hosting the Men of Reform Judaism – West’s 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Man of the Year Dinner on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the TBS Social Hall. Come celebrate TBS Brotherhood’s Man of the Year, Sylvan Swartz. (See TBS website for full event details.)

Brotherhood was a proud sponsor of broomball at the OCTY Shul-In on Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. And don’t forget to look for us behind the grill at the Purim Carnival on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

*-Arnold Shugarman, TBS Brotherhood President*