

Temple Beth Sholom Presents:

Our Voices - A Monthly Newsletter

December 2020 – Kislev/Tevet 5781 | Issue 10 | A Jewish Center for Life, Learning, and Connections

Assistance and Events

General Assistance



Mitch Cohen, President – mitchell@familycohen.com

Cantor David Reinwald – dreinwald@tbsoc.com

Ruth Irving, Executive Director – riring@tbsoc.com

Services | Shabbat Evening Services will be offered online through Livestream and Facebook Live at 7:00 p.m.

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

12/2 | 7:00 p.m. – **Virtual Book Club** – led by Mandy Shamis and Soni Sanberg, discussing To the Edge of Sorrow by Aharon Appelfeld. See <https://tbsoc.com/> for registration.

12/4 | 3:00-5:00 p.m. – **Outdoor Hanukkah Boutique** – Brotherhood, Sisterhood, the Early Childhood Center, and the Membership Committee are setting up shop on the TBS lawn with handmade Hanukkah gifts and Judaica. Grab your masks and come shop 'til you drop! (Cash or checks only please. All proceeds go towards education and programming at TBS.)

12/4 | 4:00-5:30 p.m. – **Shabbat Parade with Hanukkah Swag** – Don't miss our final Shabbat Parade of the year!

12/4 | 6:00 p.m. – **Family Friendly Shabbat via Zoom** – Grab the kiddos and join Cantor Reinwald from the comfort of your own home for a special, family-friendly Shabbat service. See <https://tbsoc.com/> for Zoom Link

12/4 - 12/17 | **#HanukkahAtHome Photo Collaboration** – Our Sukkot photo album was a huge hit and we can't wait to see how you and your family celebrate Hanukkah at home. Upload pictures of your holiday celebrations and traditions to our shared Google photo album so we can celebrate together, apart. See <https://tbsoc.com/> for album link.

12/6 | 2:00 p.m. – **Virtual Bake Along** – Truffles are a favorite at the holidays. Lynne Kontur will share her baking expertise and guide us through the preparation of these tasty treats. Supply list and Zoom link provided upon registration.

12/10-12/17 | 5:00 p.m. each evening – **Annual Menorah Lighting Outdoors at TBS** – This year, for safety, we will come together to light the hanukiah each night at TBS.

12/13 | 10:30-11:30 a.m. – **Light Exploration with Religious School via Zoom** – Why is light such an important part of Hanukkah? Join the TBS Religious School to explore light and prisms. Kits and Zoom link will be delivered upon registration (free for RS students, \$7 for non-RS members).

12/18 | 7:00 p.m. – **Shabbat with Rabbi Donnell** – Rabbi Donnell joins Cantor Reinwald for Shabbat Evening Service.

12/25 | 9:00-11:00 a.m. – **TBS Brotherhood's 25th Annual Pancake Breakfast** – Grab your mask and head to TBS to pick up your To-Go pancake breakfast. Preorders only this year. \$5/meal. See <https://tbsoc.com/> for registration and information.

Worship at TBS

Karen Warren, Interim VP of Worship

Annual Menorah Lighting Outdoors at TBS – This year, for safety, we will come together to light the hanukkiyah each night at TBS rather than at the Orange Circle. Be sure to bring your mask and come celebrate together as we light up the night! Please note, while individual dates are being sponsored by different groups at the temple, all congregants are welcome on any evening. We will gather at **5:00 p.m.** each night.

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| (1) Thurs. 12/10 - Brotherhood | (5) Mon. 12/14 - Sisterhood |
| (2) Fri. 12/11 | (6) Tues. 12/15 |
| (3) Sat. 12/12 – Family Lighting and Havdalah with ECC/RS/FWYC | (7) Weds. 12/16 - Board of Directors |
| (4) Sun. 12/13 - BYO Menorah and Chairs and Tailgate with the Worship Committee | (8) Thurs. 12/17 |

President's Message

Mitch Cohen, TBS President

I always start these messages with the goal that my words will resonate with the reader in the manner I intended. But, as we know too well, sometimes the words we read via newspapers, social media, magazines, news, and the like are often misinterpreted. It is unrealistic for me to think that hours or days later, every TBS congregant will have an “ah-hah!” moment after reading this column. But in this last month of this calendar year, I would like to impart a simple message.

I would like us all to think about how 2020 is quickly, and thankfully, ending. Let's be thankful that this calendar year is almost over but understand that the pandemic is not. Let's continue to be cautious and vigilant with regard to COVID, and let's take every precaution we can to ensure a healthy future for ourselves, our family, and our friends.

I hope you and your family have a healthy, safe Hanukkah and I look forward to a brighter, less restrictive 2021.

Brotherhood | Community – Fellowship – Action – Service

Sylvan Swartz, Brotherhood Director of Membership

It occurs to me that this may be a good time for reflection. 2020 has been a year to remember for all of us and not always in a good way. On top of a pandemic which is still ravaging our country, we have all faced isolation of one type or another. We can't get together as a synagogue, meet with friends, or visit family. Services and get togethers are on Zoom, and many of us are experiencing “pandemic fatigue”.

Considering these current challenges, I would like us to remember what Brotherhood is. The definition of brotherhood is a relationship between brothers or close friends or is a feeling of kinship with other people. When two men have a close and loyal friendship, this is an example of a brotherhood. For the men of TBS, this definition is very meaningful. This definition encapsulates why men all over the world have formed and enjoyed Brotherhoods or Men's Clubs. Forming friendships, having fun, and doing some real good in this world. (cont. on pg. 3)

The TBS Brotherhood has a large variety of events each year. Hopefully, there is something for everyone, but you must step forward and offer to be part of us. You may really enjoy it. Let this be your personal invitation to be part of our Brotherhood. If you are a man, or know of one, or have one living with you, sign him up. He'll thank you. You can contact me at sylvan@swartzcre.com for a membership application or just send a check into the Temple or via ShulCloud in the amount of \$48.00 and you will have done your part in providing activities for the youth of our Temple, not the least of which is providing scholarships for college bound students from TBS.

I am pleased to announce that we will still be having our annual December 25th Pancake Breakfast. Of course, it is not actually per usual as it will be by pre-order only (\$5.00 per breakfast) and you will need to take it to-go on December 25th. We will also have raffles and some great prizes. Mark your calendars for **December 4th from 3:00-5:00 p.m.** as Brotherhood will have a booth at the Hanukkah Boutique to sell preorders and raffle tickets. Please support us. We can always use some guys to pitch in and help.

May you and your family stay healthy and happy in this holiday season.



Sisterhood

Brenda Beck, Sisterhood President

TBS Sisterhood Wins Kavod Award

Temple Beth Sholom Sisterhood was recently honored as a winner of the Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) Pacific District Kavod Award. The WRJ Pacific District Eleanor Kretzer Kavod Award recognizes and honors innovative programming, projects, and significant contributions to social action exemplifying the spirit of *tikkun olam*. This award is presented biennially at the Pacific District Convention to sisterhoods whose projects and programs best meet the rigorous selection criteria.

At the recent WRJ Pacific District Virtual Convention in October 2020, your Temple Beth Sholom Sisterhood was announced as the Kavod Award winner in the Programs for Community category for our program “Hanukkah with the Women of Congregation B’not Or.”

For the past several years, TBS Sisterhood has been providing Hanukkah gifts to Congregation B’not Or (Women of Light) at the California Institution for Women in Corona, CA. Packets of note cards were collected and delivered to the women of Congregation B’not Or. The women were especially appreciative to receive the note cards, since this gave them the opportunity to correspond with friends and family during the holiday season.

TBS Sisterhood is very honored to be recognized and acknowledges and thanks our wonderful Sisterhood women who have donated their time and effort to make this program a success.

Sisterhood Gift Shop

The TBS Sisterhood Gift Shop is now open, and appointments are available. All proceeds go to support Sisterhood programming and we have all your holiday and Judaica needs! Please contact Sarah Schweitz at (714) 538-6006 for appointments or with questions.

Our Youth

Early Childhood Center

Tamara Levin, Director of Early Childhood Education



I am sitting in my office on this gorgeous fall morning contemplating all that I have to be thankful for. The school is humming along, the teachers are excelling, and our children are experiencing a phenomenal educational and social experience. They have adapted to our safety protocols wonderfully, and I hear the sounds of happy voices floating through the air.

Chanukah is an exciting time of year for our preschool. Happy thoughts of the winter holidays abound and the children are absorbed with creating menorahs, spinning dreidels, and eating chocolate gelt. The preschool is planning a Chanukah event, starting on December 7-9, allowing a special guest to join their child to create a Chanukah project. This will be the first time since COVID-19 changed our world that parents will be participating in a preschool event with their child. The event will take place outdoors and each class will have an assigned day. All in the name of safety! We will also be participating in the Chanukah Boutique in collaboration with the Membership Committee, Sisterhood, and Brotherhood. To this end, the preschoolers have been making wrapping paper and note cards, and our parents are contributing to Chanukah baskets.

As we light the menorah and the year draws to an end, I would like to say THANK YOU to all of you that make our Temple Beth Sholom community the wonderful place it is. On behalf of the ECC, I wish you a warm, wonderful, and safe holiday.

Religious School

Johannah Sohn, Ed.D, Director of Youth Education

The Religious School has hit our stride! We are having wonderful sessions on Tuesday afternoons and Sunday mornings over Zoom. Our students on Tuesdays are learning Hebrew with our amazing teachers through playing games, singing songs, and learning prayers. Sunday mornings are lots of fun as we come together and do art projects, hear stories, sing with the Cantor, and so much more. We have space for students to join us in all grade levels - come join our fun Zoom time!

Something to Kvell About – Recognizing our Teens

Monica Engel, Social Action Member

Our Voices newsletter has kept us up to date regarding the individuals and groups that make TBS the welcoming and outstanding synagogue it is, i.e. our President's message, Sisterhood and Brotherhood, Worship, ECC and Religious School, and Social Action. This month we are introducing a new section dedicated to our teens who have accomplished some remarkable projects. Together, we can celebrate and support these amazing young men and women.

"B.C." (Before COVID) we wrote an article about how **Aidan Arnold** and his basketball team, the SOCAL Elites, sliced and diced veggies and made peanut butter sandwiches in the Mitzvah Meals kitchen. They enjoyed it so much they want to volunteer again when they are able.

You might also remember **A.J. Weber** who collected back-to-school items for foster children as his Bar Mitzvah community service. AJ was a foster child and hopes others will be adopted into a warm, loving family as he was.





Natalie Salvatierra was highlighted in the Voices of OC section of the LA Times. Natalie organized a very professional project to earn her Girl Scout gold pin. She is promoting the idea of reaching out to those with mental disabilities by sending uplifting letters and pictures to patients in the U.S. and overseas via her website solelysunshine.com. Over one thousand greetings have been sent out and 3 major organizations have joined her group.

Brody Harris has joined with Team Up/Pitch In for his Bar Mitzvah Project. Brody loves baseball and wants to pass on his passion with the help of this organization. They will distribute Brody's collection of new and gently used equipment to his less fortunate peers.



Our "Get Out the Vote" guy, **Asher Bromfin**, created a YouTube tutorial to teach other teens how to research and contact their Congressional Representatives. He also met with Representative Katie Porter when she visited TBS at one of our Shabbat Parades and she was so impressed, she sent his video to all her constituents. We may see this knowledgeable, recent Bar Mitzvah as a future political leader!

The children living in Orangewood call it their home. They have been abused and rescued from terrible situations. The games and toys that **Julianna Thomason** donated for her Bat Mitzvah community service project are a wonderful diversion that can help in their healing process.

If you know of a TBS youth who practices *tikkun olam*, community service, or is simply on an uplifting path, please contact Monica at sovta11@gmail.com to highlight them in this section.

Committee Updates

TBS Membership Committee - Don't Miss Our Final Shabbat Parade and Our Outdoor Hanukkah Boutique!

Mary Gonzalez, VP of Membership



We hope you will join our final Shabbat Parade and Hanukkah Boutique on **December 4th** from 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. The parade is made possible by **Patti Widdicombe** in loving memory of her brother, who would have celebrated his 70th birthday on December 4th, by the **Waterman Family**, in celebration of Hanukkah, and the **Sitty Family** in celebration of the birth of their daughter, Evie. The TBS Families with Young Children Committee will also be passing out special Hanukkah SWAG with the challot. Thank you to all those who have come out to “Beep, Honk, and Wave” over the last several months. We have treasured the ability to connect and will keep you posted on new, COVID friendly events

for the 2021 calendar. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have ideas!

Families with Young Children Committee (FWYC)

Arielle Ohls, FWYC Chair

The Families with Young Children Committee has enjoyed all the positive feedback on our family-friendly activities thus far, and we are hoping to continue that momentum as we enter the Hanukkah season. To kick things off, we are hosting another photo collaboration, **#HannukahAtHome**, during which we invite you to post pictures of your holiday celebrations and traditions to a shared Google photo album. On December 4th we will be saying goodbye to our Shabbat Parades for the time being, but we are going out in style by providing fun Hanukkah SWAG with the challot. Also, on December 4th, we

will be working with Sisterhood, Brotherhood, and the ECC to host the Outdoor Hanukkah Boutique, where you can shop for gifts for the whole family. That evening, there will be a family-friendly Shabbat service (via Zoom) at 6:00 p.m. To round out the festivities, FWYC has partnered with the Worship Committee for two nights of our annual menorah lighting so come join us at the Family Night Lighting and Havdalah on Saturday the 12th and on Sunday the 13th for our tailgate-style BYO menorah Hanukkah Hurrah!

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) or the TBS office.



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1027 N. Harbor Blvd.,
Fullerton, CA 92832
FAX (714) 871-6793

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

Social Action

Committee Update

Paula Pitluk, Social Action Chair

Our Social Action Committee has been hard at work this fall as we reach out both to our temple community and beyond.

For the last several years, through our Brit with the Religious Action Committee of the URJ, we have provided a monthly meal as well as interaction with families (pre-COVID) to the residents of Cherry Orchard in Anaheim. Cherry Orchard provides transitional housing to 44 families with access to community resources that support these families in building connections that move them toward successful, independent living. Our commitment to Cherry Orchard ends in December. Thanks to all who have participated in the work and a special thanks to Cindy and Harvey Grossberg who provided the pumpkins for a pumpkin carving event.

After much discussion and consideration, the committee has decided to focus our attention and work this year on a closer neighbor, Casa Teresa. For many years, Casa Teresa has received Sunday dinners through our Mitzvah Meals program. Casa Teresa houses unwed expectant mothers as well as single mothers and their children in need of support. The facilities include an apartment building with small units as well as a house with dorm – style rooms. Residents must be drug free and enrolled in an education program: community college, trade school, etc. They can remain at Casa until their children turn two. Our project for the holidays to provide gifts to the residents of Casa Teresa has been a great success thanks to the amazing generosity of TBS congregants, ECC families, and friends from the greater community.

An additional focus of the Social Action Committee this year is to educate our temple community about the causes of and solutions to homelessness in our community through a Speaker Series. The first event occurred on November 17th with a

conversation with Karen Kimoto, Volunteer Coordinator of Orange County Rescue Mission. OCRM has been served through Mitzvah Meals for many years.

We are planning our next Speaker Series installment with the Illumination Foundation. Illumination Foundation's services for the homeless include recuperative care for over 4900 individuals in OC. Patients are helped with interim housing, integrated medical oversight, and intensive case management while striving to end the cycle of homelessness. Speaker coming in March 2021! The committee will also keep you posted about volunteer opportunities.

Calling All Cooks!

Steffanie Belasco, Social Action Member

What better way to spend meaningful time at home than to cook a nourishing meal for 20 lovely moms and moms-to-be at Casa Teresa?

Temple Beth Sholom is proud to offer this mitzvah opportunity the first Sunday of every month from January to June. We invite you to cook your family favorite or a new recipe you have been anxious to try. Food items will be available from Mary's Kitchen for **FREE** if you need. Call Gloria at (714) 633-0444 to reserve ingredients. Available supplies include beef, lamb, chicken or ground beef, fresh vegetables, potatoes, and fruit. Gloria will package items and have it waiting for you at Mary's Kitchen (517 W. Struck Ave., Orange). TBS also has pasta, rice, and other canned goods in the Mitzvah Meal pantry if you need. Of course, nourishing is the key word for these moms and their babies. The menu should consist of a minimum of ¼ pound of protein per person (20), a vegetable, a starch, and a fruit/dessert. Casa Teresa requests food 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 (949) 458-8732 to sign up and for more information.

Adult Education

Angela Holmes, Adult Ed Chair

[Windows in the Sanctuary - Looking Through the Windows of the Past and Future](#)

Through the generosity of Linda and Dan Weissberg, Steve Klein and Richard Parrish were commissioned to create Jewish archeological images in the glass windows of the TBS sanctuary. Historic synagogues were chosen to trace the Diaspora from the destruction of the second temple in Jerusalem to the present in America. The journey goes from Galilee to Africa, to Europe and America. Each month, a short history of one synagogue will be highlighted in this newsletter with information on sources that can help you to connect virtually with that Temple.

This Month's Window: [Kefar Baram or Kafr Bir'im \(200CE\)](#) – Located in upper Galilee, south of Lebanon, study how the original two synagogues survived through history. Control of the town passed from Palestinians, to the Ottoman Empire, to the British and today, under Israel. Resources: Jewish Virtual Library, Encyclopedia Judaica, Wikipedia.

[Highlighting a Resource](#)

[The Shabbat Project](#) – <https://www.theshabbatproject.org>

Founded by Rabbi Dr. Warren Goldstein in 2013, this group is guided by a quote from Achad Ha'am, "More than the Jews kept Shabbat, the Shabbat kept the Jews." This movement was established to increase the knowledge of and the joy of Shabbat. Check out the ideas and activities to renew the celebration of Shabbat.

In Print for the Holidays

The Art of Hanukkah by Nancy M. Berman. All the elements of the celebration of Hannukah around the world and throughout the centuries in art and Judaica.

The Art of Blessing the Day by Marge Percy. New poems that celebrate the Jewish experience.

A Different Light: The Big Book of Hannukah by Noam Zion. A family Celebration book whether you are Orthodox, Reform or Conservative, this anthology provides a collection of essays, photos, and historical information about Chanukah.

Artful Jewish Designs by The Creative Haven Series. Escape into the world of inspiration with Jewish symbolism and artistic fulfillment; relax and reduce stress...adults like to color too!

Adults Reading to Children...the Hanukkah Edition

Connection Suggestion: Call a grandchild, nephew, niece, friend and read them a Hanukkah themed book via zoom, skype or the old fashion sound-of-your-voice way, the phone. Call (or any other mode of contact) a grandchild, nephew, niece, and share a Hanukkah memory with them.

Beautiful Yetta's Hannukah Kitten by Daniel Pinkwater (ages 4-7)

A Hannukah with Mazel by Joel Edward Stern (ages 3-8)

Jeremy's Dreidel by Ellie Gellman (ages 5-9)

Queen of the Hannukah Dosas by Pamela Ehrenberg (Indian themed ages 4-7)

Nonna's Hannukah Surprise by Karen Fisman (Italian themed ages 3-8)

Hanukkah Haiku by Harriet Ziefert (ages 4-8)

December Adult Ed Calendar

12/2 | To The Edge of Sorrow with Mandy Shamis and Soni Sanberg (see weekly Shavu'on for sign-up details)

12/14 | Why Songs Matter – Julian Fleisher (92nd Street Y)

12/16 | Rachel Brosnahan, aka the Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, in Conversation (92nd Street Y)

12/23 | The Story of the Jews of Orange County 1857 – 2010 (see TBS website calendar or Shavu'on for sign-up details)

Reminder: 92nd Street Y offers a huge variety of resources for a range of ages and many are free at <https://www.92y.org/>.

Also, Orange County Community Scholar Program at <https://occsnp.net/> has great monthly offerings. TBS is a member!

We Continue to Send Gratitude

We continue to extend our heartfelt thanks to those who donated during the High Holy Days. Your gifts to Temple Beth Sholom enable the congregation to be whole and support our entire community.

Steve Acterman · Jeff & Amy Altshuler · Brenda & Gregory Beck · Elayne & Steven Belasco · James & Rachel Benson · Shani Boone · Scott & Patricia Brooks · Hershel & Grace Cherson · Mitchell & Kathy Cohen · David & Marilyn Eisenman · Irv & Monica Engel · Bernard & Paulette Fainsztein · Leonard & Nancy Fox · Evelyn & Andrew Gold · Barry & Lori Goldberg · Leonard Goodman · David & Sandi Gottlieb · Adam & Aimee Gromfin · Harvey & Cindy Grossberg · Richard & Sherry Herstone · Bill & Dawn Kay · Fred & Heidi King · Rhoda Klevatt · Bill & Lynne Kontur · Nancy/Aliyah Lande · Todd & Lisa Litman · Harry & Eileen Ludwig · Louis & Joyce Mogabgab · Albert & Sara Naudin · Arielle & Sean Ohls · Joy Palmer · Paula Pitluk · Jeff & Melanie Pollak · Murray & Sharon Reinwald · Bonnie Robinson · Norman & Barbara Rosen · Daniel & Jerry Rothblum · Michael Rubin · Stephen & Heather Salvatierra · Soni Sanberg · Peter & Phyllis Schneider · Zef & Annbeth Shanfield · Lewis Siegler · Robert & Renee Siembieda · Doris Spector · Sylvan & Barbara Swartz · Stephan & Harriet Traktman · Pam Uber · Bill & Marla Vaughter · Andrew & Sydell Walencewicz · Karen & Robert Warren · Beth & Fred Waterman · Casey & Blaire Wayland · Keith & Andrea Weber · Gary & Vicktoria Weessies · Daniel & Linda Weissberg · Brad & Bonnie Wenneberg · Ladainian Whates · Mike Whitney · Jeffrey & Caron Winston · Michael & Michelle Winston · Donna Wolffe