

Temple Beth Sholom Presents:

# Our Voices - A Monthly Newsletter

February 2021 – Sh'vat/Adar 5781 | Issue 12 | A Jewish Center for Life, Learning, and Connections

## Assistance and Events

### General Assistance



Mitch Cohen, President – [mitchell@familycohen.com](mailto:mitchell@familycohen.com)

Cantor David Reinwald – [dreinwald@tbsoc.com](mailto:dreinwald@tbsoc.com)

Ruth Irving, Executive Director – [riring@tbsoc.com](mailto: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

**2/4 | 7:00 p.m.** – L’Dor V’Dor Society Zoom presentation with Todd M. Litman, Attorney (and TBS member) and Michele Shugarman, Chairperson of L’Dor V’Dor. Learn about how to withdraw from your IRA tax free, how to prepare for the possible 2021 tax changes, how to make sure your heirs receive assets from your estate in the most efficient way possible, and how to help Temple Beth Sholom. See <https://tbsoc.com/> for registration.

**2/10 | 7:30 p.m.** – Jewish Drama: Cantor Reinwald is excited to bring back his Jewish Drama program, reading and discussing plays with Jewish content. Join us for the second session to discuss New Jerusalem: The Interrogation of Baruch de Spinoza at Talmud Torah Congregation: Amsterdam, July 27, 1656 by David Ives. See <https://tbsoc.com/> for registration.

**2/14 | 10:00 a.m.** – Brotherhood Speaker Series presents Benyamin Cohen, author of My Jesus Year: A Rabbi’s Son Wanders the Bible Belt in Search of His Own Faith via Zoom.

**2/17 | Noon** – Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Donnell: Part 3 of “Sexy Scriptures” via Zoom.

**2/26 | 4:30 p.m.** – Kindergarten through 7th graders are invited as TBS joins Temple Beth El for a fun, interactive performance by The Bible Players. The Bible Players use theater and improv to infuse comedy and laughs into tales from the Torah and beyond. See <https://tbsoc.com/> for details.

**2/26 | 4:00-5:30 p.m.** – Special Shabbat Parade, Purim Giveaway, and Dinners To-Go: Let’s kickoff our Purim celebration with a Shabbat parade! Back by popular demand, the Worship, Membership and FWYC committee will be giving away free challot and goodies to start the weekend’s festivities. Register at <https://tbsoc.com/>. You can also order dinner to go from Denise Stephens of Cooking it Personally.

**2/27 | 7:30 p.m.** – Adult Purim Celebration: “Geeks Who Drink” via Zoom.

**2/28 | Times TBD** – Family Fun Day: Our festivities continue with a day of virtual, family-friendly activities including the Purim story told through LEGOs!

# Worship at TBS

*Karen Warren, VP of Worship*

TBS and the Worship Committee would like to invite you to our adult Purim celebration, “Geeks Who Drink”, so come join the fun from the comfort of home! We will gather on Saturday, February 27th – online via Zoom. The evening will begin with the Megillah reading at 7:30 p.m., then, back by popular demand, we have “Geeks Who Drink” leading us in an adult trivia game at 8:00 p.m. The evening is timed so that you can get the kids to bed or entertained with a movie and the parents can tune in for the reading and game. Reservations for the event will be on the TBS website, with more information in the weekly Shavu’on email. This year, the cost is \$18 per TBS household. We will also have a 50/50 raffle with tickets at 10 for \$10 or 20 for \$18. We hope to see you there!

## President’s Message

*Mitch Cohen, TBS President*



It is mid-January 2021 and, like many of you, I’m thinking about family and friends, their health, and COVID. Kathy and I are staying at home as much as possible but making time to hike a local trail with our masks on. Since neither of us are healthcare professionals, I didn’t think there was much more we could do to suppress the spread of the pandemic.

But recently, our membership committee decided to make outreach calls, wishing congregants a happy new year and checking-in to make sure everyone was ok. Friends that I spoke with appreciated the gesture. It made me feel good, talking to fellow congregants and letting them know that I care, and the TBS community cares. In return, they expressed their appreciation and asked about me and my family. I learned that we could slow the spread by simply letting people know we care.

One of the congregants that I spoke with is a healthcare worker. She described the number of new COVID cases impacting her hospital and the frustration we all feel when we are near people that aren’t taking the necessary precautions. I always knew that our healthcare professionals were important, but learned first-hand, how much they care. They are doing their best, despite the challenges.

The most impactful call I had was with a congregant that spent seven days in the hospital. I learned that he received platelets and quickly started feeling better. Ironically, I donated platelets on January 12th, 2021, the day before we spoke. I’m embarrassed to admit that my previous platelet donation was on March 31st, 2020. I know that blood, plasma, and platelets are always in demand, but here I was, talking to someone that had recently returned home from the hospital after receiving platelets from an anonymous donor.

It really struck me. We can always create excuses as to why we can’t help a situation. “I’m not a health-care professional.” “I wouldn’t know what to say.” “I don’t like needles.” “I can’t sit in a chair for 15 minutes, let alone two hours.” But the reality is that there is always something we can do. And the amazing result is that it makes us feel good too.

# Brotherhood | Community – Fellowship – Action – Service

*Sylvan Swartz, Brotherhood Director of Membership*

January 2021 started off with bang, both figuratively and literally in our country. NFL football playoffs started, college football playoffs ended, one of the most consequential senatorial races ever was held, and a new President was inaugurated in our country's Capitol.

With all that the TBS Brotherhood kept chugging along. We celebrated a successful non-breakfast pancake breakfast on December 25th with Dr. Norm Rosen, the grand prize winner of the 50-inch Samsung TV at our auction. We wish to thank everyone for making this a successful auction, for the first time held on Zoom and without breakfast.

Through the generosity of TBS members and supporters we are once again able to offer up to 4 \$500 book scholarships to TBS youth starting colleges of any type including vocational schools in 2021. For information and/or applications please send an email to [brotherhood@tbsoc.com](mailto:brotherhood@tbsoc.com) or mail a request to: TBS Brotherhood, 2625 N. Tustin Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705.

February marks the start of the TBS Brotherhood Speaker Series. Our first will be on Sunday, February 14th at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Our Speaker will be Benyamin Cohen, currently News Director of The Forward, the most iconic brand in American Jewish journalism. He will be speaking on his book "My Jesus Year" which tells about his experience as a Rabbi's son that spent a year wandering the Bible Belt in search of his own faith. You can see the flyer on TBS Brotherhood Facebook page, the TBS website, or by sending a request to [sylvan@swartzcre.com](mailto:sylvan@swartzcre.com). Please note that you must register for this event to be able to participate. This event is open to everyone: men, women, and children, and there is never a charge for our Speaker Series events.

Please join the Brotherhood to help support this and many other events that primarily benefit Temple youth. You can always contact me at [sylvan@swartzcre.com](mailto:sylvan@swartzcre.com) if you are not sure how to join.



## Sisterhood

*Brenda Beck, Sisterhood President*

Keep in touch with friends and family with TBS Sisterhood Tribute Cards. Let Sisterhood take the work out of sending greeting cards to friends and family with our Tribute Card Service. We will write a personal note on your behalf (or you can provide the wording) for any occasion and drop it in the mail. Your \$5 contribution includes the card and postage and saves you time. All proceeds from the sale of Tribute Cards are donated to the Women of Reform Judaism YES Fund (Youth, Education and Special Projects) which provides financial assistance to Reform/Progressive rabbinical and cantorial students, our youth, and organizations throughout the Reform/Progressive Movement. To send a Tribute Card, please contact our Sisterhood Tribute Scribe Cathy Markowitz at [markocathy@gmail.com](mailto:markocathy@gmail.com).

## Our Youth



### Early Childhood Center

*Tamara Levin, Director of Early Childhood Education*

This will be the 26<sup>th</sup> Purim that I celebrate in an early childhood setting. Every year the children dress up and, with great excitement, parade around the building. (cont. on page 4)

They belt out songs celebrating the virtues of Queen Esther and Mordechai, bake and eat Hamantaschen, reenact the story using puppets and various props, shake groggers, and boo at the five lettered name of HAMAN.

This year our songs will be somewhat muffled by our masks, but our spirits will remain intact. We will video our parade—as parents will not be able to join us in person—and modify our Purim carnival to accommodate our preschoolers one classroom at a time. Little fingers will pinch three corners and dollop favorite fillings in the middle of misshaped triangles, and classrooms will transform into Shushan complete with thrones. We are resilient and our children will continue to celebrate the joy of defeating the five letters of evil ... COVID.

## Religious School

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

We have been having such a wonderful time in our Religious School classes! Together with the ECC, RS students are invited to come together at **10:30 a.m. on February 28<sup>th</sup>** to hear the Purim story told through LEGOs. Have your own LEGO nearby and be ready to create Shushan and the characters of the story! Perhaps you or someone you know would like to join us for a Sunday morning class and experience our unique approach to Jewish education? Email Johannah Sohn, [jsohn@tbsoc.com](mailto:jsohn@tbsoc.com) to set up a time to join us.

## Something to Kvell About – Recognizing our Teens

*Monica Engel, Social Action Member*



Are we looking at a future Cantor, Rabbi, musician, athlete, or veterinarian? Adam Gonzalez is passionate and professional in his many interests. He is grateful to Cantor Reinwald for teaching him Hebrew. If you heard him read on High Holy Days, he was not only perfect but poised and comfortable on the bima. Adam has been playing piano since he was 5 years old and enjoys classical and modern music. Then there's the athlete Adam. He is Team Captain for his high school basketball team and maintains a 3.5 average, which is a required rule for all athletes at his school. In addition to all his passions, Adam also loves animals, especially his dog, Barkley. It will be interesting to see which path(s) he follows.

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](mailto:sovta11@gmail.com) to highlight them in this section.

# Committee Updates

## Purim Celebration – February 26-28

*Ruth Aptaker, Director of Communications*

As with all events and celebrations during the pandemic, this year's Purim Celebration is going to look a little different. But Worship, Membership, Brotherhood, Sisterhood, and the TBS staff are still putting together a fun-filled weekend! So, mark your calendars, grab your groggers, and keep an eye out in the weekly Shavu'on for registration links and more info on our *mishloach manot* program.

## Interim Rabbi Search Committee

*Rachel Benson, IRSC Chair*

While we have no “new” news to report, we want the congregation to know that we are continuing to work diligently through the process of reviewing resumes, interviewing candidates, and ultimately finding our Temple an Interim Rabbi to start in July, 2021.

## Membership Committee

Mary Gonzalez, VP of Membership



Back by popular demand! On Friday, **February 26<sup>th</sup>**, the Membership and Families with Young Children (FWYC) committees will be giving away free challot, goodies, and family friendly crafts at a special Purim themed Shabbat Parade to start the weekend's festivities. Register at <https://tbsoc.com/> to drive thru, pick up your goodie bags, and get a friendly (distant) wave from the Membership and FWYC committees.

While you are at TBS, stop by the TBS kitchen and pick up your Purim inspired Shabbat dinner to-go from Denise Stephens of Cooking it Personally. You can enjoy delicious apricot chicken over buttery egg noodles, poppy seed asparagus, a roll, and dessert. All meals are fully cooked and ready to be warmed. The cost per dinner is \$17.00 with \$3.00 per meal donated back to the temple youth fund. To place an order contact Denise directly by Monday, February 22, at 909.568.5835 or email her at [dstephens58@hotmail.com](mailto:dstephens58@hotmail.com). You will receive a confirmation of your order within 24 hours. Pick up is at the temple's kitchen back door on February 26, between 3:30 and 4:30.

## Social Action

### Committee Update

Paula Pitluk, Social Action Chair

The TBS Social Action Committee ended 2020 with several projects designed to support individuals in the community who have faced challenging times. We are ready to begin additional projects in 2021 that address the four underlying principles of Social Action: Direct Services, Collections, Education, and Advocacy.

Earlier this year, Karen Kimoto of Orange County Rescue Mission joined us for a conversation that enlightened those in attendance with information about the background of and programs that support the residents and students at OCRM.

Social Action's Educational programming continues March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. with a representative from Illumination Foundation. Illumination Foundation has innovated a unique program of recuperative care designed to care for homeless individuals and often their families after release from ERs and hospitals, providing them with counseling, shelter, and mental health services, and putting them on the road to self-sufficiency. Please join us for this informative program. More information will be available via the Shavu'on and the temple website and will include a zoom link. (cont. on page 6)

If you are interested in joining us in our work, consider attending the first Social Action meeting of the year on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Contact Paula Pitluk at [pkpteach@gmail.com](mailto:pkpteach@gmail.com) for the zoom link.



### Mitzvah of the Month

Monica Engel, Social Action Member

"Baby, it's cold outside" so please donate warm clothing for the men, women, and children at Orange County Rescue Mission. Many stores are having sales on winter clothing, but donations of gently used items are also welcomed. It is our aim to help the homeless maintain their dignity. Please do not donate any shabby items. If possible, jackets and shirts should be on hangers. Weather permitting, a table and clothing rack will be outside the entrance to the TBS living room. The clothing rack will be available to hang items along with a table to place neatly folded items. If you need any help delivering your donation to TBS please call Monica at 949 458-8732, Marci at 714 289-8835, or Steffanie at 714 420-5320.

## 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.

## 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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## 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: Eliyahu Hanavi Synagogue - Alexandria, Egypt

Built in 1354, this Temple was bombed by the French during an invasion of Egypt in 1798. It was rebuilt in 1850. In 2018 it was placed on a list of *monuments at risk*. In 2017 the Egyptian government announced a project to restore the synagogue. It was rededicated in January 2020 with only 3 Jews in attendance at the ceremony. (Affiliation: Orthodox Judaism, Rite: Sephardic) Take a virtual tour on YouTube.

### Romantic Jewish Films

*Crossing Delancy* – Amazon | A grandmother finds a matchmaker for a successful single woman.

*Keeping the Faith* – Amazon | Ben Stiller is a 'hot' Rabbi in a love triangle.

*The Wedding Plan* – Amazon | The groom dumps the bride, but she decides to keep the date.

*Don't Let the Night End* – Amazon | An Israeli dancer leaves Tel Aviv, goes to Brooklyn, and sits for a man's cat.

*The Matchmaker* – Amazon | A young boy works for a matchmaker in 1968, Haifa.

### February is Jewish Disabilities Month

**Pescale Bercovitch** – Motto: "The word *self-pity* is not in my vocabulary!" On her way to Aliyah, this non-disabled athlete discovered she had to rebuild her career after an amputation. As a successful other-abled athlete in many other sports, she added journalism, film making and motivational speaker to her resume.

**Yehonatan Cohen** – Motto: "We part of this society. Just keep going and keep fighting." Born with cerebral palsy, he cannot move his hands and needs help reading. He struggles but achieved his place in the Israeli Education Corp and a position of senior officer in the Spokesperson Unit.

**Noam Gershong** – Motto: "I never thought I would have the chance to represent the country and bring it such honor." After a long recovery from a helicopter accident that left him in a wheelchair, he became an award-winning international tennis player. He works at a host for at risk youth and teaches math to children.

**Nalaga Deaf Theatre** - This blind acting ensemble performs from a theatre in Jaffa, Israel. The performers come from different countries and are all middle age. They say they all have one thing in common: "We all have the desire to be out, seen, heard and make art. Our work brings a higher understanding of one another's struggles, joys, darkness, and silence."

### Adults Reading to/with Children: the Purim Edition

[Purim is Coming](#) by Tracy Newman, ages 4-5

[The Queen Who Saved Her People](#) by Balsey & Richard, ages 8-11

[Purim Hero](#) by Kushner & Byrne, ages 4-9

[Not for All the Hamantaschen in Town](#) by Milhandler & Chernyak, ages 4-9

Note: These stories can be read to younger children, depending on their attention span. As you read, have them look at the picture and if they are able, turn the pages for you.

# Adult Ed. Cont.

92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y

These caught our eye this month! Each one is \$20. Register at <https://www.92y.org/>. Remember to adjust listed times to Pacific time.

**“The Presidents Kitchen Cabinet” 2/12** - Adrian Miller tells the stories of the African American chefs who have fed the first families and influenced food culture in America.

**“The Ticking Clock: Behind the Scenes at 60 Minutes” 2/16** - Ira Rose and Byron Retts shares the background production of 60 minutes. He shares interview secrets and more.

**“Automobiles and the History of American Power” 2/17** - The automobile and how it factored into America’s story on the world stage.

## Lunch & Learn Series: “Sexy Scriptures”- How the Bible Deals with Sex and Mixed Dancing

If our Hebrew Bible deals with real people in a real world, then it stands to reason that our familiar biblical personalities led real lives. Unlike the stories that you learned in Religious School, our scriptures contain many tales that are rated “R” — definitely not for children! In this four-session series we will take a look (sometimes blushing, sometimes laughing) at some of the more “interesting” texts from our biblical tradition. So, bring out your lunch, turn on the computer and enjoy some fun learning with Rabbi Donnell.

**Session #3** | February 17, 2021 (Noon)

“The Real Dope on Esther” - This is not the PG version of the well-known Purim story!

**Session #4** | March 17, 2021 (Noon)

“Samson and Delilah Get Kinky” - Delilah did much more than give Samson a haircut! How much more????

## Previews

We are happy to announce 3 topics that Rabbi Donnell will present in April, May, and June. Look for times and dates soon. The titles are:

**April** – “The Song of the Sephardim” A celebration of the music, history, and folklore of the Ladino culture.

**May** – “Dona Gracia Mendes- The Queen of the Jews” A converso, Sephardic woman inherits her husband’s wealth created an empire during the Ottoman Empire.

**June** – “The Jewish Conquistador” The story of Louis de Carvajal and his family in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and the role of the Inquisition.

## Reminders

92<sup>nd</sup> 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://occsp.net/> has great monthly offerings. TBS is a member! Please keep current with the TBS calendar and Shavu’on to see all the offerings from Adult Ed, Brotherhood, Sisterhood, and Social Action.