

Temple Beth Sholom Presents:

Our Voices - A Monthly Newsletter

April 2021 – Nisan/Iyar 5781 | Issue 14 | 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 – rirving@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

4/11 | 10:00 a.m. – Brotherhood Speaker Series: Rabbi Peter Levi, Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League presents "Antisemitism and Extremism in Our Midst". See <https://tbsoc.com/> for registration and Zoom link.

4/14 | 7:00 p.m. – Sephardic Lecture Series with Rabbi Donnell: Part 1 "The Song of the Sephardim" A celebration of the music, history, and folklore of the Ladino culture. See <https://tbsoc.com/> for registration and Zoom link.

4/15 | 7:00 p.m. – Yom Ha'atzmaut: What do our poems say about our relationship to Israel? See <https://tbsoc.com/> for registration and Zoom link.

4/16 | 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – Shabbat Parade sponsored by the TBS Social Action Committee and in celebration of Monica and Irv Engel for their dedication to TBS and *tikkun olam*. See <https://tbsoc.com/> or the weekly Shavu'on to register for your free challah. "Beep, Honk, Wave!"

4/22 | 7:30 p.m. – Acrylic Paint Pouring with Kim Cantley: Create beautiful, abstract paintings while having lots of fun! Learn how to mix paint along with different techniques to produce unique effects. The cost is \$20 for materials which can be picked up at the TBS Shabbat Parade on April 16th. See <https://tbsoc.com/> for registration and Zoom link.

Worship at TBS

Journeying Through the Weeks

Cantor David Reinwald

Nearly the entire month of April will find us between holiday celebrations as we move through the month of Nisan, traditionally once the start of the Jewish calendar year. This is because spring was considered a time of rebirth, and fittingly, the calendar would also begin anew. Of course, we just saw this symbolized during our seder and on the seder plate.

So now we find ourselves amidst the weeks, the *shavuot*, that lead us to the holiday of the same name. It is a culmination holiday—we celebrate and count the 7 weeks to get to the Festival of Weeks. This counting is done daily and is known as the counting of the *omer* (literally: "wheat"), once represented by sheaves of wheat. (cont. on page 2)

The counting of the *omer* is also a spiritual progression during which one can focus on different thematic elements on a daily or weekly basis. In modern times, when sheaves of wheat aren't as readily available, you can get creative with how to mark this time. I have found great personal and creative inspiration by listening to a different album of music every day—my own way of marking the *omer*. Doing something like this creates a special and unique rhythm, adding something to each day that is a bit out of the ordinary, but derives pleasure and enlightenment. If you would like guidance on how to count the omer, I recommend <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/how-to-count-the-omer/> and the amusing, and yet still very helpful "Count the Homer" (yes, that Homer of Simpsons fame): <https://homercalendar.net/Welcome.html>.

President's Message

Tell Someone Why You Love Them

Mitch Cohen, TBS President

Ask any parent and they will undoubtedly answer "I love my kid(s)," just as I would. But throughout my parenthood journey, the list of reasons "why" continues to grow and change as they grow and change.



As I write this message, Passover is just over a week away. When our kids were young, we would have Seder at my parent's house using my Mom's children's Haggadah. It was a dramatic improvement over the Maxwell House version we slogged through during my youth. Years later, my wife, Kathy, improved our family Haggadah even more with colored stamps, sturdy cover, and newer content. Seder eventually moved to my brother's house until 2020 became the first year my brother conducted 2nd night Seder via Zoom. Since my parents and daughter (a lifeguard) are fully vaccinated, we can all be together for the 2021 first night Seder. Why will these nights look different? Because our kids are becoming adults.

They don't sound like kids! We are proud of the amazing people they continue to evolve into, during and after college. It wasn't always this smooth. Claire did not enjoy her first year at WSU for a laundry-list of reasons. She begged us not to make her go back. Kathy and I discussed her options and even checked-out other colleges toward the end of her freshman year. She reluctantly went back to Pullman for her sophomore year. New friends, sorority sisters, her job and schoolwork finally made something click and now she loves it there. We're glad she didn't quit as her love for her soon-to-be alma mater grows.



On the other hand, Jonah enjoyed college life so much that he spent 5 snow-boarding seasons earning his degree. He finally got a full-time job after we started ratcheting down his allowance. He now has his own credit card and bills that he pays every month; he continues to surprise us on his journey into adulthood. During a 401(k) conversation a few weeks ago, he used the term "prudent" which is a dramatic change for a kid that typically slept until noon.

So, my message for April is to love your kids, nieces, nephews, family members, friends, they all count! But instead of just saying, "I love you," tell them why. Why do you love them? Why are you proud of them? Why do they make you happy?

I hope you have a wonderful Passover with family and friends that you love.

Brotherhood | Community – Fellowship – Action – Service

Sylvan Swartz, Brotherhood Director of Membership

Several members of Brotherhood helped distribute Purim bags in March as did many other Temple members. These were very well received by those who could not stop by to pick theirs up at the Shabbat Parade.

The March Speaker Series featured Professor John Bradley Jackson speaking on the effect Covid 19 will most likely have on all our lives in the future. He is the Director of the Department of Entrepreneurship at California State University Fullerton. The next Speaker Series will be on **April 11th at 10:00 a.m.** featuring Rabbi Peter Levi, Executive Director of the Western Region of the Anti-Defamation League. He will be speaking on Antisemitism and Extremism. Both topics are very much in the news almost daily.

April is the month of *Yom HaShoah*, Holocaust Remembrance Day, and each year TBS Brotherhood distributes yellow yahrzeit candles to those who would like them. Unfortunately, it has become difficult to distribute them due to remarkably high postage rates and Covid-19 keeping all of us out of the temple. However, we have been trying to get them out and hopefully you already have yours. More information will be on the TBS website and in weekly emails on how to get your candle.



We are offering \$500 scholarships to TBS member's children who are graduating high school and going on to any form of college or trade school learning. We encourage applicants to contact Arnold Shugarman at ashugarman@sbcglobal.net for an application.

We hope all had or are having a very happy Pesach.

Remember, if you are a man or know of one, please consider Brotherhood membership and supporting our youth. Anyone wishing to get more involved can contact me at sylvan@swartzcre.com.



Sisterhood

Brenda Beck, Sisterhood President

Get Involved in Sisterhood 2021-2022

Right now, Sisterhood is looking towards the future and there are many opportunities to participate and be part of shaping the 2021-2022 Sisterhood year. You can help make a direct impact on programs and events for our congregation. By participating in Sisterhood, you can make and renew friendships, support your temple, enhance spiritual connections, and help chart a path for Sisterhood. You will be a part of and continue the legacy of more than 75 years of TBS Sisterhood.

There is a place for everyone in Sisterhood, regardless of the amount of time you can donate or the number of events you can attend, we have something that is simply perfect for you. Your first step towards a great year with Sisterhood is to reach out and say, "I'd like to be involved." Please contact Sisterhood President, Brenda Beck, at brenda@thebecks82.com or (714) 403-3237.

Our Youth

Early Childhood Center

Tamara Levin, Director of Early Childhood Education



Carrot colored bottle tops, golf balls, bowls, and a few ladles swirling in a water play table are all you need to make a delicious Matzah Ball Soup when you are in preschool. The children are gearing up for their Seders and loud cries of, 'No No No! I will not let them go!' emerge from the classrooms. What a joy to celebrate the freeing of our people as we are verging on seeing the light at the end of the COVID tunnel. We can feel the difference. The phone is ringing with more requests for tours and, as more of us get vaccinated, there is a sense freedom, a lessening of fear, as we find our way back to each other. Our registration for the 2021/22 school year and the summer camp is currently open.

This is the time to secure your space in our dynamic program by logging onto the preschool website and following the directions. Better yet, give us a call so that we can introduce you to our warm and nurturing environment.

Religious School

Johannah Sohn, Ed.D, Director of Youth Education

We have been having such a wonderful time in our Religious School classes! 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 to set up a time to join us.

Something to Kvell About – Recognizing our Teens and Young Adults

Monica Engel, Social Action Member



Meet Aimee Samantha Abrams-Widdicombe AKA Sam, who joined the TBS family at the age of 6 weeks in the TBS nursery. After temple Preschool Sam attended Tarbut V' Torah where she enjoyed her Hebrew and Judaic studies and spent her summers at Camp Sholom. Sam was also involved in ballet, tap dancing, gymnastics, and ice skating. At Foothill High School, she was on the Dance Team and played Lacrosse. Her first job was as a server for our very own Hollis O'Brien at Parties by Panache. Sam remains devoted to TBS and has fond memories of her Bat Mitzvah and Confirmation.

She was also a volunteer summer camp counselor at Camp Sholom from 7th to 12th grade.

After graduating from Foothill, Sam majored in Economics at Scripps and spent her junior year at the London School of Economics. Sam went on to Duke University for law school where she was a Staff Editor and Editorial Board member at the Duke Law Journal and Executive VP of the Women Law Students Association. At graduation, Sam was awarded the Outstanding Client Service Award for her work as a student attorney in Duke Law's Community Enterprise clinic as well as the Pro Bono Recognition Award. Sam passed the rigorous California Bar exam on her first try and was sworn into the State Bar of California by the Honorable David Goldstein. She is currently an Associate Attorney in Palo Alto. Sam loves to travel, cook, and paint. Her favorite team is Duke Basketball, and her hero is Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg (of blessed memory). Sam wishes to recognize her father, Edward Abrams, M.D (of blessed memory), and her mother Patti Widdicombe, for their support, love, and encouragement on her journey to achieve her dreams.

If you know of a TBS youth who practices *tikkun olam*, community service, or is simply on an uplifting path, please contact Monica at sovtal1@gmail.com to highlight them in this section.

Committee Updates

Interim Rabbi Search Committee

Rachel Benson, IRSC Chair

As you know, the Interim Rabbi Search Committee (IRSC) was created last summer with the goal of identifying a rabbi who can serve our congregation for a period of roughly one year until a permanent “settled” rabbi can be found. Understandably, the process of finding a new rabbi needs to be pursued with a great deal of thought and due diligence. As such, our committee is carefully working through the process as outlined by the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR).

The COVID-19 pandemic has clearly impacted our ability to find an interim rabbi. The pool of candidates was almost non-existent, and we believe that many potential candidates are choosing not to look to make major life/location changes currently. We were able to field two candidates, one of whom was not a good fit for our congregation and the other who went through the entire interview process but ended up accepting a “settled” rabbi position elsewhere.

This past week we had a very productive conversation with the CCAR. They have a strategy to help us field more interim rabbi candidates over the next few months and are confident that we will find an interim rabbi to begin this summer (2021) and - most importantly - one that will be the right fit for our congregation. With the shutdowns of the pandemic easing and people becoming more comfortable, it will undoubtedly create a much better climate for finding an interim rabbi - setting us on the right path to find an amazing 'settled' rabbi who will be part of our TBS family for years to come! If you have any questions or would like additional details, please feel free to reach out to me directly at (714)-468-3685 or info@tustincounseling.com.

Membership Committee

Mary Gonzalez, Membership Committee Chair

Back by popular demand! Since the weather and Covid case rates have improved, we are glad to welcome back our Shabbat Parades. For now, we will be holding one Parade per month and we hope you will swing by TBS to join us for a friendly wave, a free challah, and some lively Shabbat music. Parades are held from 4:00-5:30 p.m. in the TBS parking lot and a registration link for challot will be emailed the week before. “Beep, Honk, Wave!” and mark your calendars for **April 16th and May 14th**.



Families with Young Children Committee

Arielle Ohls, FWYC Chair



We hope you all had a happy Pesach and thank you to those who came out to collect your special FWYC Passover kits at the March Shabbat Parade. We hope the kiddos enjoyed their coloring book Haggadot, plague masks (my personal favorite!), and treats. Please mark your calendars for our next FWYC event on **May 15th** as we host a special Shavuot Havdalah. With vaccines available and case counts down, we are looking forward to making this our first in-person event since October! More information will be emailed in the weekly Shavu'on and in next month's edition of *Our Voices*.

Social Action

Committee Update

Paula Pitluk, Social Action Chair

The March committee meeting had a full agenda and lively discussion as members considered how we have served the community thus far and what further steps we hope to take. (cont. on page 6)

On March 9th, congregants heard the second in our Speaker series with Carolyn Horstman representing the Illumination Foundation. The impetus for this organization was of two Orange County nurses who recognized the revolving door of homeless and impoverished individuals being released from hospital care with nowhere to go and no one to support them after their release. Illumination Foundation initially began by providing recuperative care, including interim housing, medical oversight, and intensive case management. The organization now includes numerous housing opportunities for low-income families as well as seniors who need a variety of support, including social connections. Support is available for families with children as well. Illumination Foundation's services in the past year also included recuperative care for over 4900 individuals in Orange County. Patients recently released from hospitals were assisted with interim housing, integrated medical oversight, and intensive case management while striving to break the cycle of homelessness.

Spearheaded by Marci Endless-Bruffey and Monica Engel, the committee is also taking steps to support young people at Orangewood through our Mitzvah of the Month (M.O.M) program. Recipients include those who have aged out of the county Foster Care system as well as those who have found themselves in difficult and troubling situations on the streets. Donations to Orangewood or M.O.M can support these young people with bus cards, tuition at community colleges, textbooks, food, and other necessities of life.

Orange County United Way has created a giving opportunity that is perfect for all ages. As part of their mission, United Way recognizes that access to stable, permanent housing is the foundation for a successful future, including academic achievement, a healthier lifestyle, and a steadier income. WELCOME HOME BASKETS provide home essentials for families in need as they get back on their feet during the current pandemic. Details are on the Orange County United Way, including items for each basket. There is also a link to Amazon at [unitedway.org](https://www.unitedway.org) or call 949-660-7600. This is a perfect giving opportunity for a family, or a group of friends.

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 or feel free to join us at our first Monday of the month meetings 7:00 p.m.

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 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 (517 W. Struck Ave., Orange) for **FREE** if you need. Call Gloria at (714) 633-0444 to reserve ingredients. 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.

Mitzvah of the Month (M.O.M)

Monica Engel, Social Action Member

We did it again! Our drive for March was underwear and socks for Orangewood and Casa Theresa. We purchased diapers and bras and underwear for the Moms-to-be at Casa. The infants to 13-year-olds at Orangewood will also enjoy those items plus pajamas and shirts for the girls and wild undershorts, socks, and white T-shirts for the boys; apparently that's the latest fashion for them. The group of sex trafficking victims will also receive some of the same. We hope having these new items will lift their spirits. **Our April Mitzvah of the Month is books for ALL ages.** Please drop off gently used or new books to the TBS Living Room this month. Reading material is one of the most useful and pleasurable gifts you can provide.

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

Adult Education

Angela Holmes, Adult Ed Chair

Windows in the Sanctuary - Looking Through the Windows of the Past and Future

Each month, a short history of one synagogue will be highlighted in this newsletter with a “window” to information on sources that can help you to connect virtually with that Temple.



This Month's Window: Plum Street Temple (Isaac M. Wise Temple)

This Temple is all about the influence of architecture. Prior to the Civil War, the Isaac Wise Temple was becoming a center of Jewish life in Cincinnati, Ohio. The completion of the Temple was delayed by the Civil War and was completed in 1866. The architecture tells a story of Jewish history by reflecting Byzantine-Moorish style that first emerged in Germany. Plum Street also represents the architecture of German Temples destroyed by Hitler. A Temple in New York is the only other Temple that reflects the same architectural Jewish design in the United States. This Temple mirrors many cultures through the designs of Gothic revival, Islamic architecture, Spanish and Moorish themes. Take a tour of this Temple through YouTube or live stream a service at <https://www.wisetemple.org/>

April 9 – Yom HaShoah: Reading Focus

Survivors of the Holocaust: True Stories of Six Extraordinary Children by Kath Shakelton (ages 10-14)

Survivors: True Stories of Children in the Holocaust by Allan Zuller and Mara Bovson (ages 9-12)

Four Perfect Pebbles by Lila Perl (ages 12+)

Chance: Escape from the Holocaust by Uri Shielevitz (ages 8-14)

Hold on to Your Music by Nona Golabeck and Lee Cohen (ages 4-8)

April 13 – Rosh Chodesh: On a happier note...

During this time of continued strain in our lives, this minor holiday lets us turn to ways we can add moments of happiness. The beginning of the Hebrew calendar is established in the book of Exodus (12:1-20) as the Israelites are leaving Egypt. Later, in Numbers (10:10) on Rosh Chodesh, the people are commanded to be joyous and be reminded of G-d's divinity. In contemporary practice, Rosh Chodesh celebrations begin Saturday before a new month with birkat ha-chodesh. This prayer expresses our hope for the month to come. Some readings are:

Celebrating the New Moon: A Rosh Chodesh Anthology by Susan Berrin

The Biblical New Moon: A Guide for Celebrating by Kisha Gallagher

The Rosh Chodesh Table: Foods at the New Moon by Judith Y. Solomon

New Month, New Moon by Allison Ofanansky (ages 3-8)

Sephardic Lecture Series

Mark your calendars for this 3-month lecture series by Rabbi Donnell held at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates. Zoom information located at <https://tbsoc.com/> or in the weekly Shavu'on email.

April 14 – “The Song of the Sephardim” A celebration of the music, history, and folklore of the Ladino culture.

May 12 – “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 (day TBD) – “The Jewish Conquistador” The story of Louis de Carvajal and his family in the 16th century and the role of the Inquisition.

Featured Media Resource: 70 Faces Media

The name of this group is taken from the ancient rabbinic teaching that there are seventy faces to the Torah—that the creation of knowledge and narrative is the product of diverse insights, perspectives, and personalities. It is a non-profit digital media company that “aspires to connect as many people as possible to all sides of the unfolding Jewish story.” Explore the following brands that 70 Faces Media coordinates. Each brand will be featured in future newsletters:

Alma | Jewniverse | JTA | The New York Jewish Week | Kveller | My Jewish Learning | The Nosh