

Temple Beth Sholom Presents:

Our Voices - A Monthly Newsletter

September 2021 – Elul 5781/Tishrei 5782 | Issue 17 | A Jewish Center for Life, Learning, and Connections

Important Contacts

Mike Winston, President – winston.mike@gmail.com

Ruth Irving, Executive Director – riving@tbsoc.com

Rabbi David Lipper – rabbilipper@tbsoc.com

Cantor David Reinwald – dreinwald@tbsoc.com

Services | Shabbat Evening Services will be streamed and offered outdoors at TBS at 6:00 p.m. through September

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

Join Us for High Holy Days, Live and In-Person!

Return and Renewal

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM HIGH HOLY DAYS 5782

Rosh Hashanah and Shabbat Shuvah + Tashlich

- 9/6 | 7:00 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Evening Service
- 9/7 | 9:00 a.m. Children's Service (ages 1-9)
- 9/7 | 10:30 a.m. Congregational Service
- 9/8 | 10:30 a.m. 2nd Day Rosh Hashanah Community Service
- 9/11 | 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Shuvah + Tashlich and 9/11 Commemoration at Corona Del Mar Beach

Sukkot and Simchat Torah

- 9/20 | 6:00 p.m. Erev Sukkot Program
- 9/24 | 6:00 p.m. Sukkot Shabbat and Bring Your Own Dinner
- 9/25 | 10:30 a.m. Congregation-wide Sukkah Building Contest + Havdalah (See Attached Flyer)
- 9/26 | 11:00 a.m. Simchat Torah Service and Celebration

Yom Kippur

- 9/15 | 7:00 p.m. Erev Yom Kipper Kol Nidre Service
- 9/16 | 9:00 a.m. Children's Service (ages 1-9)
- 9/16 | 10:30 a.m. Congregational Service
- 9/16 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Discussion Groups
- 9/16 | 3:30 p.m. Afternoon Service
- 9/16 | 4:30 p.m. Yizkor Service
- 9/16 | 5:30 p.m. N'ilah Service
- 9/16 | 6:00 p.m. Havdalah

High Holy Day Service details, more information, and links to register can be found at tbsoc.com/hhd

Worship at TBS

From the Rabbi's Study

Rabbi David Lipper

I am a voracious reader. I have books at home, in my car, in each briefcase, and of course lining my office. At any given moment, I am reading 3-4 books. When I was in second grade, my parents made an appointment with my teacher to express worry that I could not get my head out of comic books. She laughed and told them not to worry, that I would read other books someday. Words which came to haunt them later in life.

I have never had a library card because you have to return those books. I could never do that. I had every book purchased during college and rabbinic school. I even adopted books along the way that others were tired of. I admit that I have a problem. When Dora and I left Akron in 2009 and moved back to Houston I realized that I had amassed over 150 boxes of books in my library. It was time to cut back. For the past 10 years, I have been re-homing books to libraries and nursing homes. My little mitzvah.

But there are some books I can't let go of. They are timeless classics of Jewish thought that still inspire me to this day. One of these texts is called *The Kuzari*. It was written by Judah HaLevy in Arabic during the 12th Century and translated to Hebrew by Yehudah Ibn Tibon thirty years later. It is the story of the King of Khazars, King Bulan, who in the 8th century invited a Philosopher, a Priest, an Imam, and a Rabbi to explain and expound upon a dream that he had. In this dream, the King is startled by the repeated phrase: "Your intentions are good, but your deeds are lacking."

HaLevy writes the book because he is fascinated by the question. According to historical narrative, there was a mass conversion by people in the Khazar kingdom. King Ovadiyah, the next king, built synagogues and yeshivas and invited Jewish teachers to the area. These events were reported by another Spanish Jew, Chisdai ibn Shaprut, who heard about the Kingdom and sought to confirm it. But the dialogue is HaLevy's and the dream is essential to understanding this story.

The Holy Days are here. Our intentions are always good. We want to live better lives. We have all the best intentions to be more connected, more engaged, more involved with our families and our community. But sometimes we fall short. We suffer from follow through. We are easily distracted. This book always reminds me to take a step back, get my actions more focused, and achieve my intentions.

As we gather over the next weeks to review our deeds over the past year, let's try and upgrade our intentions and live them into 5782 and beyond. May your intentions and your deeds in the coming year bring you blessings. L'Shanah Tovah.

President's Message

Mike Winston, TBS President

Shanah Tovah! I hope everyone is having a sweet New Year. I can't believe we are already entered the holidays. It feels like our year just started, yet we have already accomplished so much since the beginning of July. We welcomed Rabbi Lipper to our wonderful community. We held Shabbat services outside every Friday night. We had our first major fundraiser, TBS's 3rd annual Backyard Bash. The TBS board attended a board "retreat" at the beginning of August, where we spent a full day at TBS creating relationships with each other, learning, and planning for the year ahead.

As I am awaiting our High Holy Day services to commence, I cannot wait to be surrounded by our community, hearing the voices of TBS around me chanting our prayers, reading our passages, and seeing our Torah from the pews of our synagogue. Last month I had an early peek of what this will feel like as I was honored and proud to attend two of our B'nai Mitzvah this year, Evie Hoddevik and Adam Huczneker. These 2 young adults read from our Torah and accepted the responsibility of being Jewish in our community. It was beautiful and amazing. Thank you both for letting me be a part of these special days.

Our Early Childhood Center (ECC) has been giving tours of our facility and new student enrollment is rapidly growing. Tamara, Cindi, and all the ECC teachers are providing a great program to our community at large. Religious School also kicked off the 2021-2022 school year. It was so nice to hear our young children playing in the rotunda on Sundays. Johannah has a fun packed year planned for our kids. Mitzvah Meals is back and operational and we have our Adult Education committee already planning opportunities throughout the year. This is going to be a great year at TBS, I hope to see you there as well. L'Shalom.

Brotherhood | Community – Fellowship – Action – Service

Sylvan Swartz, Brotherhood Director of Membership

Your TBS Brotherhood has many new plans for the coming year. We ended the past year with awarding one college book scholarship and an installation of our new Board (which admittedly looks a little like the old Board).

We are planning on watching some NFL football games as a group on Sunday mornings as well as some Monday and Thursday night games. We are hoping to provide a place for guys dropping off their kids at religious school, to have some coffee, a bagel, and camaraderie. Brotherhood membership is not required to join us. We are also looking to get a hiking group going on a semi regular basis (open to men and women and even kids) and a biking group which will also be open to all genders and ages. We would love to hear from anyone interested in participating in any of these activities. Contact me at sylvan@swartzcre.com. L'Shanah Tovah to all. See you at TBS.

Sisterhood

Join In Sisterhood's Year of Fun and Friendship!



Our focus this year is CELEBRATION. We will be celebrating the pride we have in the many ways we help our Temple community. We'll celebrate our time together, doing things we love, and making new friends. Our Sisterhood has always been about Temple; our friendships from working together in Sisterhood activities both large and small.

We truly enjoyed activities from last year and will expand them this year. Cooking lessons, game nights, Mah Jongg, even Ladies Poker or Bunko, Sisters at Heart Dinners in local restaurants, and more. For additional information regarding Sisterhood membership, don't hesitate to contact Barbara Swartz at (949) 322-1940. L'Shanah Tovah!

Our Youth

Early Childhood Center

Tamara Levin, Director of Early Childhood Education



Camp is ending and our campers are preparing for their end-of-camp talent show. It is a fitting end to a busy summer filled with water balloon tag, chasing balls, splashing in wading pools, careening down huge, inflated waterslides, and endless team challenges. The children had a glorious time painting on paper as well as themselves! They dripped colors onto baking soda and marveled at the frothing rainbows that erupted when they added vinegar.

The Performing Arts Company sent Princess Belle who sang and danced with the children, and we joined Camp Sholom to share experiments with Mad Science and marvel at the magician's sleight of hand. Movie theater day was a great hit as children exchanged their tickets for freshly popped popcorn and special candy treats.



One of the great joys of working in an early childhood setting is the opportunity to experience the world as our children do. For them, discovering new wonders is a daily event and the learning experience is constant. Camp is fun and they are blissfully unaware that they are honing their social, emotional, physical, language, and cognitive skills as they play.

We are looking forward to a wonderful start to the upcoming school year. We are optimistic that we will be able to successfully execute our community building programming, including in-person events. I would also like to thank the sisterhood and brotherhood for their very generous donations to the preschool. We appreciate it very much!

Religious School

Johannah Sohn, Ed.D, Director of Youth Education

The religious school is meeting IN PERSON! I am so excited to see all our amazing students at Temple Beth Sholom. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to meet our students in real life; there are so many of you I only know through Zoom. We have some new members in the school this year, please make sure to say "hello!" Our year will begin with hands-on study of the many exciting holidays we have coming up. Activities like baking round challot for Rosh Hashanah, target practice to make sure we don't "miss the mark" on Yom Kippur and creating unique decorations for the synagogue sukkah for Sukkot. This year is going to be so much fun, and meaningful too. If you haven't signed up to join us yet, you aren't too late!

Calling all teens! We would love to see you at TBS also. There are so many amazing plans in the works for this year, like celebrating shabbat with teens around southern California and solving a murder mystery. Please reach out to Johannah Sohn at jsohn@tbsoc.com if you want to get involved.

Something to Kvell About – Recognizing our Teens and Young Adults

Monica Engel, Social Action Member



Does anyone remember a little 2-year-old named Max Boone who attended preschool at TBS? Well surprise, little Max just graduated from Yorba Linda High School. He has been accepted at two major colleges but selected Oregon so he could be close to home. In the meantime, he's working at Raising Canes Chicken and loves having his own money. He is not only smart, but he also has a talent for music. Max did take a few lessons in guitar when he was younger, but it was during Covid that he learned how to mix music and started writing his own songs. The home confinement allowed him the time to learn new songs from YouTube and compose some of his own.



Max was a frequent volunteer at Mitzvah Meals. He loved to slice and dice, learn how to cook, and enjoyed the hustle and bustle of the MM kitchen. He and mom, Shani, also made sandwiches and brought them to the needy in Civic Center. Max also served at Sunday Nights Together and his Bar Mitzvah project was helping the homeless in Santa Ana. Besides attending college, Max is patiently waiting to be eligible for a Birthright trip to Israel. It will be interesting to follow Max's road to adulthood. He has the potential to be successful at whatever road he chooses.

Committee Updates

Membership

Mary Gonzalez, VP of Membership



The Membership Committee, together with the Families with Young Children Committee, is hosting our second annual (first time in-person!) sukkah building contest. We are so fortunate to have a campus with beautiful lawns and lots of space to celebrate this holiday. Grab your friends and some supplies and come build your sukkah with us on **Saturday, September 25th at 3:00 p.m.** Any size sukkot are welcome and if you're not up to building, don't worry! We will need helpers, judges, and cheerleaders. After the contest we will enjoy Havdalah

with Rabbi Lipper and a picnic dinner. We will provide crafts to decorate the sukkot (but not materials to build) and you're welcome to drop off building materials earlier in the day if needed. Please contact Arielle Ohls at 562-316-7030 or Mary Gonzalez at 714-292-4957 with questions.



Education

Steffanie Belasco, VP of Education

Our Adult Education Chairperson, Angela Holmes is inspiring this committee to think out of the box for new programming. Rabbi Lipper's classes begin in October, and I encourage you to make room in your calendar to attend! Plans for a film series will begin in November with details in the Shav'uon. We are sure to bring out the Siskel and Ebert in you as we dissect the films. When you are at TBS, take some time to look through our library and choose a cookbook to be inspired by, sacred texts to feed your soul, and an array of fiction and non-fiction books with Jewish themes. We encourage you to borrow at your leisure but PLEASE return them books when you are finished. (cont. on page 6)

Our religious school is growing this year thanks to our creative and dedicated director, Johannah Sohn. If your kids, grandkids, or friends' kids aren't signed up, give Johannah a call. The registration forms are on the TBS Website for your convenience.

Tot Shabbat will return this year with early services planned for our youngest congregants and their families. Our ECE preschool program led by our director, Tamara Levin, and her loving and creative staff opens with classes almost at capacity.

We need your input if there is a subject, a speaker, or educational activity that you would like to see at TBS. Your input and ideas are important to have meaningful and relevant learning opportunities. We are looking forward to seeing you this year.

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.

Social Action

Education - Direct Service – Advocacy - Collections

Monica Engel, Social Action Member

Hip-hip-hooray, September 19th Mitzvah Meals will be on its way! We are delighted to report that the Mitzvah Meal kitchen will be open for its TENTH year serving hundreds of homeless healthy, tasty meals. Due to Covid there will be certain restrictions; only 5 vaccinated volunteers in the kitchen will be preparing a nourishing lunch for Southwest Community Center. Mary's Kitchen will be providing the perishable food, we have gift cards from several markets and our generous congregants can donate nonperishables such as pasta, rice, canned goods, and homemade goodies.

Mitzvah Meals is a perfect program to teach our youth the Mitzvah of *tikkun olam*. Introduce them to our pantry where they can visualize the items necessary to support cooking for the needy; include them when you shop for items to fill the pantry, bake cookies or other goodies and have them help with delivery, etc. (cont. on page 7)



We're also grateful to all our generous congregants and friends who donated to our Back-to-School Drive. The photo is a lovely testament to the abundance of backpacks, lunch boxes, loose leaf books and paper, pens, pencils, notebooks etc. we received. The children at Orangewood will have everything they need to help them succeed in school. 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.

High Holy Day Food Drive

Social Action Committee

The annual High Holy Days Food Drive is a significant tradition at TBS. It is likely that, at no time in recent years, have we so visibly seen hunger and food insecurity in Orange County. Below is a shopping list that can get you started on supporting families and individuals in Orange County, who are in need. We ask all of you to pick up a bag at the grocery store or in the TBS office and begin filling it with items listed below. Better yet, purchase a reusable bag for recipients to use and re-use. Then, be sure to bring your donations to services or the temple office.

Suggested items: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Pasta/spaghetti, packaged macaroni and cheese, marinara sauce (canned), canned soup, ramen noodles, cereal (family-sized or individual), canned fruits and vegetables, family-size and individual: crackers, granola and breakfast bars, juice boxes; also milk and water boxes with attached straws; also, small snack-sized items including cheese and crackers, small packages of hand wipes and sanitizer, small packs of tissues (i.e. Kleenex). Thanks for your generosity and support.

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 PM. 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.

Adult Education

Angela Holmes, Adult Ed Chair

[Rabbi Lipper Adult Education Presentations 2021-2022](#)

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

Dates: Sundays on October 3, 11, 18, 25 and November 1, 15, 22

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Location: TBD

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: TBD

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: TBD

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.

Reading with Our Children

Listening to God: Inspirational Stories for my Grandchildren by Rabbi Shlomo Riskin

Jackie and Jesse and Joni and Rae: A Rosh Hashanah Story by Chris Barash – This story emphasizes the beauty of Autumn as well as the feeling of togetherness. (ages 3-8)

Yom Kippur Children's Machzor by Noam Zimmerman – This is a Yom Kippur book for children written by a 12-year-old author.

Once Upon an Apple Cake: A Rosh Hashanah Story by Elana Rubenstein

Gabriel's Horn by Eric A. Kimmel (ages 4-9) – This book can be used to discuss the concept of *tikkun olam* repairing the world.

Chapman University – Scheduled Events for Fall 2021

September 21 – Dr. Wendy Lower speaking about her book *The Ravine: A Family, A Photograph, A Holocaust Massacre Revealed*

October 12 – Author Michael Dobbs, *The Unwanted America, Auschwitz and a Village Caught Between*.

November 9 – Dr. Glenn Kurtz will speak at the annual Interfaith Service of Remembrance for Kristallnacht. His topic will be about his efforts to preserve grave sites and further Holocaust education and remembrance in Poland.