

Temple Beth Sholom Presents

## Our Voices - A Monthly Newsletter

April 2020 Nisan/Iyar 5780 | Issue 2 | A Jewish Center for Life, Learning, and Connections



### How Can We Help?

General Assistance | Rabbi Heidi - [rabbicohen@tbsoc.com](mailto:rabbicohen@tbsoc.com); Cantor Reinwald - [dreinwald@tbsoc.com](mailto:dreinwald@tbsoc.com);

Ruth Irving - [rirving@tbsoc.com](mailto:rirving@tbsoc.com)

Chai Times | Susan Silberman - 714-618-8841 or [svs@silbermanlaw.com](mailto:svs@silbermanlaw.com)

Torah Study | Held each Saturday online through Zoom.

Services | Shabbat Evening Services will be offered online through livestream and Facebook Live.

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

### Worship at TBS

Are these the times that will try our souls? As I watch the news, see the empty shelves in stores, and hear the fear in people's voices, I reflect on my own soul and how I deal with the current health situation. Disneyland, sporting events, concerts, theaters, bars and restaurants have closed; public gatherings cause anxiety. Though we must be strong for others, how do we feed our own souls while we lead our loved ones through these times?

I spent five months dealing with a serious health issue and while at home, I became anxious and felt isolated from my spiritual community. But every Friday night Shabbat, I pulled out my iPad at 6:30 PM, I went to the TBSOC website Live Streaming, and for 90 minutes, I fed my lonely soul with prayer, spirituality, togetherness, and love. It was like a big hug, and the best medicine I could receive.

Though our temple home is dark, it will open again for us. For now, we welcome you to connect with us on Shabbat, for Torah Study, and scheduled Adult Education classes through the TBSOC Website Live Streaming, Facebook Live, or scheduled Video/Audio Zoom Meetings. Together we find connection, and through that connection, even digitally, we find strength and love. *-Scott Singer, VP of Worship*



"How do we feed our own souls?"

## President's Message

Temple Beth Sholom has so many moving parts, it's oftentimes difficult to recognize and appreciate everyone's hard work.

Thankfully, my flight from Israel landed early on 3/1 and I was able to race over to TBS in time for Purim. Robert Dean Nunez and Jack Millis did a wonderful job producing and directing "The Little Mermaideleh". Gayle Lipson and her team did amazing work preparing and setting-up the carnival, they even chased the clouds away! It was obvious that so many people put in countless hours behind the scenes. I was also lucky to find a seat in the 2nd row next to Sisterhood's Shayna of the year, Denise Silberman.

Now that we've set our clocks forward, I'm thinking about Camp Sholom and already missing Stacey Silberman and her 6 years of day camp leadership. Stacey is taking a well-deserved rest from summer camp, but still seems busier than ever!

Challenges are inherent with any community, especially one comprised with so much Jewish diversity. I appreciate everyone that chooses to positively step-up, in small and large ways, clergy, staff and volunteers to help make our community a center of Jewish Life, Learning, and Connections.

-Mitch Cohen, TBS President

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## Brotherhood | Community - Fellowship - Action - Service



As I sit in my home, sheltering in place, there is plenty of time for reflection. I have been reflecting on the month of April which is ordinarily a month of Spring, planting new vegetables or flowers, or in the case of Brotherhood, the April Speaker Series, packing then handing out Holocaust Yahrzeit candles, participating in the Brotherhood Shabbat service. Though these "normal" events have been cancelled, hope springs eternal and we keep planning. We are planning announcements for college scholarships, our future Speaker Series events, a Temple Gala, and a host of things to do as we start to return to normal.

Please remember that your TBS Brotherhood is always there to help anyone who needs it. Just reach out to us and we will do our best to lighten the load.

-Sylvan Schwartz, Brotherhood Director of Membership

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## TBS Word Puzzle

How many words can you make out of the letters in *Temple Beth Sholom*?

Submit your list of words to [rirving@tbsoc.com](mailto:rirving@tbsoc.com) by April 15th and 2 winners will be chosen. Participants from ages 0-10 can submit words of 2 letters or more. Participants from ages 10+ can submit words of 3 letters or more.

## Sisterhood

Purim carnival festivities were in full swing on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. As in past years, Sisterhood members were there serving lunch to the happy carnival goers. The lunch line was set up in the Social Hall, the result of a sprinkling of raindrops, and with Brotherhood busy grilling hot dogs and hamburgers, Sisterhood moved quickly to make sure everyone received their lunch and were able to return to the carnival games outside.

Meanwhile, the Sisterhood Gift shop was doing a brisk business selling items designed to add to the festive atmosphere including groggers, colorful beads, sunglasses and headbands and wind-up walking Hamantaschen!



A big thank you to all the Sisterhood members who gave their time to help make this a success and to Brotherhood for being great grillers! Please watch your e-mail for the latest updates regarding Sisterhood events and meeting schedules. *-Brenda Beck, TBS Sisterhood President*

## Mitzvah Meals

Coronavirus will not stop Mitzvah Meals. Now, more than ever, Tikkun Olam should be in the forefront of our minds. TBS is closed for obvious reasons, but our dedicated volunteers will be back as soon as possible to prepare meals for the people who need it most: the poor and homeless. TBS remains the only synagogue in Orange County offering this life-saving service. It's gratifying to have groups like congregant/coach Brian Arnold's basketball team SoCal Elites.

We've also been joined by Joyce Alderoty, a member of Temple Bat Yam. When her son, Alex, was Bar Mitzvah, his community project was Mitzvah Meals. Mazel Tov Alex and Joyce. Your involvement in Mitzvah Meals is an example of another thing that Mitzvah Meals offers: The satisfaction and fulfillment of helping others.

*-Irv Engel, TBS Member*

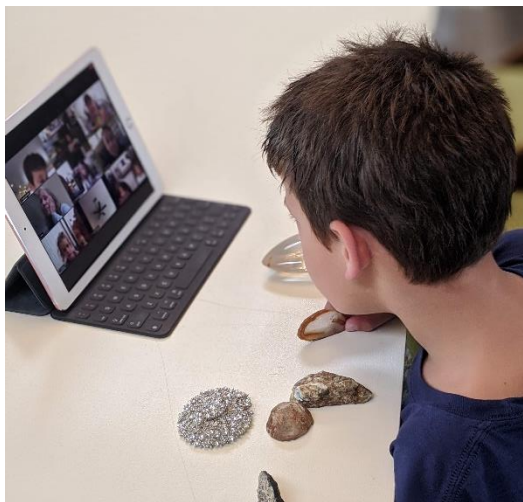
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*This newsletter is also made possible by the generous contributions of Patti Widdicomb, Susan Glass, Barbara Ulmer, the Escoe Family, the Borchart Family, Rabbi Heidi Cohen, and Leonard & Susan Silberman*

## Preschool Happenings



Last week we held a preschool staff meeting via Zoom. It was wonderful seeing each other's smiling faces even though we were together at the preschool just days ago. The atmosphere was one of camaraderie and solidarity with an unwavering determination to see these challenging times through.

To date most states have closed their schools along with nearly 100 countries across the world. While this is an invaluable opportunity for family unity and spending time with our children, it is also exceptionally stressful. Temple Beth Sholom ECC remains committed to staying in touch and providing support to our families.

The teachers have begun to meet every morning with their students for 20-30 minutes via Zoom from Monday-Thursday. On Fridays, Rabbi Heidi will be hosting our preschool Shabbat on Zoom at 11:00 am. Our

page on the TBS website will house newsletters that include topics the children are exploring, related activities, and relevant links. What a unique opportunity to implement a home-preschool partnership!

-Tamara Levin, Preschool Director

## Religious School



What a wonderful day the Purim Carnival was! So many kids and parents and grandparents playing together. The weather toyed with us, but it didn't keep us from celebrating together. Many thanks to Gayle Lipson and her amazing committee for all their hard work and dedication to our youth.

-Jodi Kaufman, Director of Congregational Learning

It is times like this that we are shown that learning happens everywhere and always. As you are sitting at home, think of the Jewish values passed down from generation to generation. I strongly encourage you to take time to tell stories, stories from your childhood and life experiences. I took my kids to see my father (very healthy and so are we) on Monday and he was in his happy place showing pictures and telling stories. My father showed a picture of an addition to their home that he and his stepfather built in Oklahoma back in the 50's. It was beautiful, amazing really. My father reminded my son that his stepfather only completed the third grade. This reminds us that there is so much to learn from each other. Take this time to create wonderful stories to be told in the future. Facetime, Google Meet, and other video chat platforms keep your children connected with family. Now is the time to connect, whether virtually or in person. Teach your children, connect them with grandparents safely. Teach, learn, experience together.

-Matthew Griffin, VP of Education

## Voices of TBS

### Pandemic

by Lynn Ungar 3/11/20  
Submitted by Monica Engel

What if you thought of it  
as the Jews consider the  
Sabbath—  
the most sacred of times?  
Cease from travel.  
Cease from buying and selling.  
Give up, just for now,  
on trying to make the world  
different than it is.  
Sing. Pray. Touch only those

to whom you commit your life.

Center down.  
And when your body has become  
still,  
reach out with your heart.

Know that we are connected  
in ways that are terrifying and  
beautiful.

(You could hardly deny it now.)

Know that our lives  
are in one another's hands.  
(Surely, that has come clear.)  
Do not reach out your hands.  
Reach out your heart.

Reach out your words.  
Reach out all the tendrils

of compassion that move,  
invisibly,  
where we cannot touch.  
Promise this world your love--  
for better or for worse,  
in sickness and in health,  
so long as we all shall live.



If you would like to make a submission for the "Voices of TBS" section, or for more information, please contact Ruth Aptaker (ruth.aptaker@gmail.com)

## Social Justice

The Social Justice committee has continued its work with several projects and events during the few months.

Member Monica Engle spear-headed donations of men's and women's work-appropriate clothing to be donated to Working Wardrobe, an organization that not only provides professional clothing to individuals who are re-entering the work place but also offers support and training during this transition time in the lives of many Orange County residents. Despite the recent fire at the organization's headquarters, their work continues, and donations are appreciated. Clothing should be in good shape and ready to wear. A hanging rack for donated items is in the temple living room ready for when we can gather.

A weekly dinner continues to take place at Grandma's House in Anaheim. Each week, a group of temple members serves a dinner to residents of this transitional living environment that provides housing and support to families.

The month of February brought several educational events centered about Social Action to Temple Beth Sholom. On February 18, TBS opened its doors to the community and hosted an Advocacy 101 Training. This training was a follow-up to the earlier Homelessness 101 program held at TBS. Tim Shaw, staff member at United to End Homelessness, was our trainer and focused on how individuals can advocate for permanent supportive housing that will transition homeless individuals and families into housing with the counseling and support needed to maintain a stable home situation. Approximately 100 individuals, both temple members and other interested community members learned how to advocate by building relationships with government officials in their own communities as well as attending city council and local commission meetings.

Congregant Alison Levy joined the March 10<sup>th</sup> weekly Lunch and Learn session to share the work she does through her employer, Community Development Partners. The company focuses on the construction and management of

permanent supportive housing, Permanent Supportive Housing is designed to move individuals and families off the streets and into housing situations with the support needed for success. The recently built Aqua in Santa Ana includes 56 permanent housing units with support staff on site. *-Paula K. Pitluk, Social Justice Member*

## Temple Beth Sholom Word Search

K X M W S L W L V R T E H D T  
 C U R F Y E Z R V M O S L M O  
 K O R F X A L O Y W I T E B R  
 E W M Z H R C O N W B Z N A A  
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 G U C T K N I A A R E F O R M  
 C J E F H G I H B X R D E S I  
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MEZUZAH

TEMPLE

COMMUNITY

RABBI

TORAH

JEWISH

REFORM

LEARNING

SHOLOM