

Temple Beth Sholom Presents:

Our Voices - A Monthly Newsletter

November 2020 – Cheshvan/Kislev 5781 | Issue 9 | A Jewish Center for Life, Learning, and Connections

Assistance and Events

General Assistance

Mitch Cohen – mitchell@familycohen.com

Cantor Reinwald – dreinwald@tbsoc.com

Ruth Irving – rirving@tbsoc.com If you need confidential pandemic assistance, please contact Ruth Irving.



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

November 12 | 7:30 p.m. – Acrylic Paint Pouring Art Class via Zoom

November 13 | 4:00-5:30 p.m. – Join us for our FINAL drive-thru Shabbat parades (11/13 and 12/4). Our November 13th parade is sponsored by **Donna Fliegler** in celebration of her 90th birthday. Happy birthday, Donna!

November 15 | 2:00 p.m. – Sisterhood hosted Virtual Wellness Seminar

Worship at TBS

Karen Warren, Interim VP of Worship

“That there is no way to get from here to there except by holding hands, marching together.”

This quote was part of a reading in our Shabbat service last month. It immediately grabbed my attention and made me realize that we do not stand alone. We are all in this together, and we will get through this together.

With High Holy Days behind us, and the quarantine still in effect, we need to look ahead and decide how we are going to deal with this ongoing isolation and remain a vital religious community. While it can appear daunting, it can also be an exciting opportunity to take a critical look at what we are doing and try some new things. The exchange of ideas, beliefs, and enthusiasm can be both rewarding and inspiring, and lead to great new programs.

The TBS Worship Committee is dedicated to making our Shabbat services meaningful for all of us. We are presently exploring guest speakers and programming to enrich our Shabbat services. We have formed an advisory subcommittee to help us as we explore new ways to offer family programming. We will explore and examine not just content, but times, length and how we communicate.

Communication is a big thing. If we create an experience and no one knows about it or attends, we have failed. We need you to share your thoughts and experiences with us. Let us know how you would like to experience Shabbat. We can do this, together.

President's Message

Mitch Cohen, TBS President



Kathy and I will be married for 26 years on November 6th. And while it is a nice milestone, we have grown to appreciate the little bit of effort needed to maintain our strong relationship. We are accustomed to knowing what the other one likes and doesn't like. We also have silly little sayings and mannerisms, many borrowed from when Jonah and Claire were little. We often say, "It's okay, it will dry" or we answer the phone in Claire's disinterested "Hello."

Pre-COVID, we would always share a glance and a grin with each other when someone would announce their arrival at a gathering with, "What can I do to help?" While a nice gesture, it always struck me as someone feeling as though they offered to help but should have asked long before walking through the door.

As many couples celebrate their marriage milestones, we had big plans for #25, which we moved to the following summer and now we have postponed, probably just doing dinner for #26. Rather than complain, we chose to reflect and celebrate our appreciation and our good fortune, to be part of the TBSOC Jewish Community. Kathy and I have signed a letter of intent with the Jewish Community Foundation of Orange County to leave a donation to TBSOC in our will. Since fellow congregant Todd Litman is our Estate Planning Attorney, a simple email with a dollar amount is all that is needed to amend our will.

I'd like to encourage everyone in our TBSOC community to think long-term. Connections to our synagogue, established in 1943, were around long before many of us were born and will continue to thrive long after we have left this earth. Why not offer to help more than two weeks, 2 years, 20 years ahead of time? Don't wait until it's too late to ask, "What can I do to help?"

Brotherhood | Community – Fellowship – Action – Service

Sylvan Swartz, Brotherhood Director of Membership

TBS Brotherhood was highly active during the High Holy Days. We enjoyed participating in the HHD parade and are planning our activities for the coming year. Obviously, they will be somewhat different than in past years.

Our year's biggest fundraiser, the annual Pancake Breakfast, will most likely need to be postponed or cancelled. Having people going through an open buffet would not conform to current health standards. But we are working on modifications and other fundraisers to temporarily stand in its place. We are continuing to work with the Social Action committee by donating to Cherry Orchard to provide for dinner for all occupants. We are also donating to this newsletter to help keep it operating as well as it does. (A note from the Editor: A HUGE thank you to Brotherhood for your sponsorship! You are all such menschen!) We will be having more Zoom programs in coming months and hope to have a monthly Schmooze and Zoom call to just check in with one another.

If you are a man—or know of one—how about joining our ranks with a \$48.00 membership commitment? We would very much appreciate your support which allows us to continue funding programs for our youth as well as provide scholarships to those starting college next year. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact me at sylvanswartz@gmail.com.

Sisterhood

Brenda Beck, Sisterhood President

Virtual Wellness Seminar



On **Sunday, November 15 at 2:00 p.m.** TBS Sisterhood will be hosting a virtual Women's Wellness Seminar presented by Dr. Diana Nguyen. Dr. Nguyen has a private practice in Irvine, and she is also a staff member at a local urgent care facility. She specializes in women's wellness and will be sharing strategies to improve our physical, emotional, and mental wellness as we deal with the stresses of our daily lives. Whether you are a recent college graduate, a mom dealing with virtual schooling, an empty nester or you are on your own, you will take away something of value from this interesting and informative presentation. Dr. Nguyen will also provide some insight and information regarding COVID-19 and dispel the inaccuracies you may have heard. At the end there will be an interactive

Q&A session during which Dr. Nguyen will answer your questions. Please watch your e-mail for this event flyer from Sisterhood with instructions on how to RSVP. We hope you can join us for this seminar and learn some tips to improve your current quality of life.

[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.

TBS and Our Youth

Early Childhood Center

Tamara Levin, Director of Early Childhood Education



Thanksgiving and Chanukah are two celebrations that often occur within weeks of each other. As an ex-resident of Massachusetts, I tend to associate both celebrations with gorgeous colors, chilly weather, and busy children working on a multitude of crafts. The anticipation of the Thanksgiving feast and the 8 nights of Chanukah are traditions we cherish and speak of community, family, thankfulness, and most of all love. Even our younger preschoolers spend time reflecting upon and verbalizing what is important to them. They learn through literature and discussion to think beyond the Chanukah gifts and pumpkin pie. By creating gifts for their families, they learn that giving is even more rewarding than receiving. The children discuss what they are thankful for and are encouraged to think about the role that their families, friends, and communities play in their lives. The lighting of the Menorah teaches them that life has moments of sorrow and joy. The children build individual menorahs to take home. We encourage them to verbalize, upon lighting each new candle, something difficult that they dealt with and to acknowledge any help that they received. What a wonderful way to demonstrate that working together we can better manage setbacks and adversity.

Committee Updates

Interim Rabbi Search Committee (IRSC)

Rachel Benson, IRSC Chair

The Interim Rabbi Search Committee is happy to report that we have been taking steps to find a part-time rabbi (or potentially two part-time rabbis) to assist our congregation from now until July 2021, when we hope to have a one-year interim rabbi in place. To this end, we have finalized job descriptions covering both in-person and virtual duties. Our committee has begun reaching out to various rabbis in the community to gauge their interest in this part-time opportunity.

TBS Membership Committee - Don't Miss Our FINAL Shabbat Parades!

Mary Gonzalez, VP of Membership



We loved seeing all the amazing sukkot contest entries and passing out the DIY kits at our October 2nd parade! Congrats to our winners and thank you to all who participated in #GetYourSukkahOn. We also hope you enjoyed the “You Had Us at Challot” canvas tote bag distributed at the October 30th parade which was sponsored by Jack and Angela Holmes.

We hope you will join our final Shabbat Parades on **November 13th and December 4th** from 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. The November 13th parade is made possible by **Donna Fiegler** in recognition and celebration of her 90th birthday. Happy birthday, Donna! The December 4th parade is made possible by **Patti Widdicombe** in loving memory of her brother, who would have celebrated his 70th birthday on December 4th. The TBS Membership Committee will be passing out more special SWAG to thank all those who participated in these fun events. If you would like to help or sponsor the final parades, please email ruth.aptaker@gmail.com, or call the temple office at 714-628-4600. “Beep, Honk, and Wave!”

Voices of TBS

Update: Solely Sunshine

Ruth Aptaker, Director of Communications and Our Voices Editor



In Issue 3 of this newsletter, we were introduced to Natalie Salvatierra, a 16 year-old TBS member, who created Solely Sunshine, an organization that collects and send out uplifting letters for those who suffer from mental health conditions. In May, Natalie wrote: “While stuck at home, I began to get sad about not seeing my friends and possibly even getting sick, which made me think about how the health crisis is affecting others. After some research, I learned that people with OCD and other mental health conditions are struggling with increased anxiety due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to help those people...” And boy did she ever!

Since then, Natalie and the volunteers at her organization have gathered over 1000 letters and sent them to mental health facilities around the world. They have expanded from a small post on Instagram into a full service website and are partnering with the Assistance League of Tustin, various teen-led nonprofits, and a Rotary Club in Vancouver. Natalie has earned the Gold Star award from the Girl Scouts and the “Pint-Sized Hero Award” from Baskin Robbins which included free

ice cream for a year and \$5,000 to a charity of her choice. She has also published a children's picture book "Do Not Worry, Little Donkey" about dealing with anxiety.

Please join us in supporting the amazing work Natalie is doing! If you would like to donate towards postage or send some "sunshine" to a person impacted with mental health conditions, please visit <https://www.solelysunshine.com/>. Natalie, we are so proud of you and all that you are doing to spread joy and kindness in the world.

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

Our Voices needs your help! 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.



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

Social Action

Monica Engel, Social Action Member

WE DID IT!!! Our Annual Food Drive was a success. Despite our limitations with COVID, our members came through with generous donations. At the Shabbat Parades, the tables and carts were loaded from members picking up their challahs. We were able to donate several bags of non-perishable food to each of the following "pantries":

Cambridge Elementary School in Orange has a population of 500 students in grades Kindergarten through sixth. Many of the students come from low income families. Eighty-one percent of the students receive free or reduced cost lunches. Currently, there is a monthly distribution of fresh produce from Second Harvest. The addition of non-perishables from TBS will go far in nourishing the Cambridge Elementary community.

Families Forward has been helping local families since 1984. Their main facility is currently closed, but open for drive-thru Monday to Thursday. They have housing units across Orange County and the food pantry provides for nearly 7,000 underserved.

Santiago Canyon College campus is currently closed. However, they have a drive-thru every Thursday at their pantry to serve many of their 10,519 undergraduate students; 27% are full time.

I am so proud of our TBS community! Thank you to all who supported this year's Food Drive.

Together We Recognize and Send Our 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. Together we can transform lives and inspire each other to the fulfillment of *Tikun Olam* – repairing our world. Your support helps us develop new programs while supporting our congregational mission to be a center of Jewish life, learning, and connections.

HHD Appeal

Anonymous
Steve Acterman
Brenda & Gregory Beck
Shani Boone
Scott & Patricia Brooks
Mitchell & Kathy Cohen
David & Marilyn Eisenman
Leonard & Nancy Fox
Leonard Goodman
Adam & Aimee Gromfin
Harvey & Cindy Grossberg
Anita Karp
Rhoda Klevatt
William & Lynne Kontur
Nancy and Aliyah Lande
Todd & Lisa Litman
Harry & Eileen Ludwig
Albert & Sara Naudin
Arielle & Sean Ohls
Joy Palmer
Jeff & Melanie Pollak
Murray & Sharon Reinwald
Bonnie Robinson
Daniel & Jerry Rothblum
Stephen & Heather Salvatierra
Robert & Renee Siembieda
Sylvan & Barbara Swartz
Beth & Fred Waterman
Keith & Andrea Weber
Daniel & Linda Weissberg
Brad & Bonnie Wenneberg
Maureen Winick
Jeff & Caron Winston

HHD Worship

Jeff & Amy Altshuler
Ron & Jane Ashpes
Richard Barasch
Samuel Biscay
Ray Brooks
Joe Chanin
Hershel & Grace Cherson
Sheri Clements
Ellen Diamond
Gaby Donnell
Bernard & Paulette Fainsztein
David & Amy Feldberg
Leonard & Nancy Fox
Sanford & Caryn Glasky
Evelyn & Andrew Gold
Marc Goodman
David & Sandi Gottlieb
Harvey & Cindy Grossberg
Patricia Herman Warshaw
Bernard Katz
Bill & Dawn Kay
Nancy/Aliyah Lande
Odelia Marich
Louis & Joyce Mogabgab
Jeff & Melanie Pollak
Joel Postel
Carol Reinwald
Murray & Sharon Reinwald
Bonnie Robinson
Mark Schneider
Ray Schneider
Deborah Shuman
Robert & Renee Siembieda
Doris Spector
Beth & Fred Waterman
Gary & Vicktoria Weessies,
Barbara Wellington

Michael & Michelle Winston
Ellen Wohl
Donna Wolffe

HHD AV/Tech

Leonard & Nancy Fox
Harvey & Cindy Grossberg
Jeff & Karen Merkow
Bonnie Robinson
Stephen & Heather Salvatierra
Robert & Renee Siembieda
Bill & Marla Vaughter
Keith & Andrea Weber
Daniel & Linda Weissberg
Maeve Shapiro

HHD Music Fund

Jeff & Amy Altshuler
Robert & Doris Bachman
Ira & Marilyn Barnett
Eugene & Louise Brown
Steven & Lisa Cohen
Harvey & Cindy Grossberg
Jeff & Karen Merkow
Bonnie Robinson
Sharan Sacks
Zef & Annbeth Shanfield
Robert & Renee Siembieda
Beth & Fred Waterman
Keith & Andrea Weber

(Donations received as of October 24th)