

Temple Beth Sholom Presents:

Our Voices – A Monthly Newsletter

May 2022 – Nisan/Sivan 5782 | Issue 27 | 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 in-person at 6:00 p.m. outdoors unless otherwise noted

Torah Study | Saturdays in-person or virtual at 9:15 a.m.

Join Us for Our Upcoming Events!

5/1 @ 12:00 p.m. | A Taste of Israel – Join us for part 2 of our Arts Festival Series as we celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut and Israeli Independence. Members and their guests of all ages are invited to enjoy Israeli dance, arts, food, music, and gaga.

5/6 @ 6:00 p.m. | Family Shabbat – Join us for our monthly, family-friendly service. Family services are held the first Shabbat of the month at 6:00 p.m. outdoors

5/14 @ 4:00 p.m. | Family Movie Night: Superheroes and Princesses – The Membership and Families with Young Children Committees are hosting this fun-filled family event and Havdalah. Join us for face painting, superhero training, photos with our special guests, dinner, and a movie! Register online or call the office by May 11.

5/15 @ 10:00 a.m. | Brotherhood Speaker Series – Michael Swartz will be speaking, and his talk is called “A Legal Approach to Dealing with Prejudice.” Michael is the son of Sylvan and Barbara Swartz.

5/15 @ 2:00 p.m. | Sisterhood “Paint & Sip” – Join TBS Sisterhood for an afternoon of creativity and friendship as we paint, sip, and have a good time. An artist from Brush Strokes in Tustin will lead us in the creation of our own canvas.

5/26 @ 6:30 p.m. | Brotherhood Poker Night – Held in the Social Hall each month. Contact Lew Seigler (misterlew@gmail.com) with questions and to sign up.

Worship at TBS

From the Rabbi's Study

Rabbi David Lipper

The days from Pesach to Shavuot are special days. We are supposed to be preparing ourselves for the gift of Torah. While we celebrate our release from bondage at Pesach, we make the birth of freedom when we accept the 10 Commandments on Shavuot. The counting of the Omer is a verbal counting of each of the forty-nine days between the Jewish holidays of Passover and Shavuot as stated in the Hebrew Bible: Leviticus 23:15-16. This mitzvah derives from the Torah commandment to count forty-nine days beginning from the day on which the Omer, a sacrifice containing an omer-measure of barley, was offered in the Temple in Jerusalem, up until the day before an offering of wheat was brought to the Temple on Shavuot. The Counting of the Omer began on the second day of Passover. (cont. on page 2)

From the Rabbi's Study, cont.

The idea of counting each day represents spiritual preparation and anticipation for the giving of the Torah which was given by God on Mount Sinai at the beginning of the month of Sivan, around the same time as the holiday of Shavuot. The Sefer HaChinuch (published anonymously in 13th century Spain) states that the Hebrew people were only freed from Egypt at Passover to receive the Torah at Sinai, an event which is now celebrated on Shavuot, and to fulfill its laws. Thus, the Counting of the Omer demonstrates how much a Jewish person desires to accept the Torah in his/her own life.

Blessing

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֶר:

BA-RUCH A-TAH ADO-NAI E-LO-HE-NU ME-LECH HA-OLAM ASHER KID-E-SHA-NU BE-MITZ-VO-TAV VETZI-VA-NU
AL SEFI-RAT HA-OMER.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has sanctified us with commandments, and commanded us to count the days of the Omer.

Reading

Source of all, You call me to count the Omer in order to prepare for the receiving of Torah. This is a time of my spiritual cleansing so that I may stand ready to fulfill that which Torah commands me to do. Through my counting today, may the light of Torah shine through me into the darkness which fills our world. May I be cleansed and sanctified with the holiness which rains from above. May abundant bounty flow through me and into the world. May healing light radiate out from my connection to You and may it heal minds, bodies, and souls. And may the nations of the world come to know You, Adonai, my God, who calls to count and be accountable. Amen

Please see page 12 for a list of values, one for each of the 7 weeks of the counting. Each week, take the “Omer Challenge” and try to live the value for the week ahead. You can become a blessing if you lift yourself up and grow.

Worship Committee Update

Karen Warren, VP of Worship

It's spring! Time to get outside. Explore. Experience. “Come and renew, replenish, nourish your hearts, spirits, and souls.” Those words were part of worship's August 2021 *Our Voices* message, which still rings true—maybe even more so—today. The Worship Committee, along with all the TBS committees have been working on plans based on responses from the October focus groups. We've taken your comments to heart and are working hard to create the “community” you've asked for.

Now what we need is YOU! Come and join us for services. All Shabbat services are now at 6:00 and outside. Please dress accordingly. If it's too hot, or by some miracle it's raining, we will move service indoors. Part of creating a strong sense of community is providing an Oneg which is a chance for you to linger, visit with old and new friends, and of course nosh a bit. We have a small but mighty group of volunteers that have been making that a reality. So, join us for Shabbat services. Sign up for the Gala. Check out all the programs being offered. Be an active part of your community. If you would like to help with Onegs or join the Worship Committee, please reach out to me at warrenk123@gmail.com.

Executive Messages

Mike Winston, TBS President

What an exciting month it has been at TBS! I am so happy that Rabbi Sharon L. Sobel will be joining our temple this coming July. We have already started planning for a smooth and steady transition. She is thrilled and can't wait to get to know each of us better. When I sat down to write this month's article, I wanted to mention that this was our "new beginning." The more I thought about it though, it isn't a beginning, but rather a continuation of our growth.

Our "new beginning" really started a year ago when Rabbi Lipper joined our congregation. As an interim rabbi, he is here to help us heal, to provide a separation from the past, and to get us ready for the next stage in TBS's future. He was the fresh face we needed; his stories made us laugh and smile, and his teachings gave us much to ponder. He helped repair TBS and continues to focus us on building a future. I personally owe Rabbi Lipper a debt of gratitude and I thank him from the bottom of my heart for his friendship, his caring, and his leadership.

With our foundation stabilized, I know that Rabbi Sobel will do more than just help us take the next step, she'll help us take the next leap. She undoubtedly will create a warm, loving, open environment at TBS. Keep an eye out for details on welcoming her into our community. She will be leading our first Shabbat service on **July 1st**. Please mark your calendars and join us as we welcome Rabbi Sobel into our community. L'Shalom.

Brotherhood

Community – Fellowship – Action – Service

Sylvan Swartz, Brotherhood Director of Membership

It has been a great experience seeing all the new faces showing up for various events at TBS as well as so many of the long-term members. The same has been true for the TBS Brotherhood.

We had another hike on April 3rd which had a great turnout. Unfortunately, one avid hiker showed up without registering and missed the group. Our next hike will be on **Sunday June 26th at 9:00 a.m.** at Crystal Cove in Newport Beach with lunch to follow. Please be sure to register at <https://tbsoc.com/hike/> so our expert hiking leaders, Lisa and Todd Litman, know to look out for you. The next hike looks to be easier, on the beach, on flat ground. These hikes are structured so that hikers of every experience level can attend at least one during the year.

Our Speaker Series was on April 10th but somehow Shulcloud sent out 2 different links and we could not get the 2 groups joined. Jeremy Sirota, son of Ilene and Ed Sirota, was the guest speaker and he kindly agreed to reschedule his talk. Jeremy is engaging and very accomplished in technology, law, and the music business. I know everyone will love seeing and hearing him. On **May 15th at 10:00 a.m.** our next featured adult child will be Michael Swartz—who happens to have grown up in my and Barbara's home. He is a partner on the Executive Committee and head of Pro Bono work for the New York law firm, Schulte Roth & Zabel. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Committee for Civil Rights under the Law, founded by President John F. Kennedy to fight for civil rights on a pro bono basis. Currently, Michael is co-lead counsel in a legal action to help provide healing and justice to the survivors and descendants of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre.

The Brotherhood Poker nights, ordinarily held on the 4th Thursday night of each month, has been growing under the leadership of Lew Siegler. Join us this month on **May 26th at 6:30 p.m.** in the TBS Social Hall. We hold a very friendly, non-threatening poker game with both experienced and novice players. (cont. on page 4)

Brotherhood, cont.

I strongly encourage all men to join us for a fun 3 hours with the guys. Look for announcements and contact Lew Siegler (misterlew@gmail.com) to let him know you are coming. It is getting to the point that we need to know how many tables to set up—which is a good thing!

The Brotherhood is still involved with reading to the kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students in the Religious School on various Sundays. This is another must do for men of TBS. You will have a great time. Also, Holocaust remembrance candles were again set out at the Temple for all to take and light on the night of April 27th. That was followed by Brotherhood Shabbat on April 29th. Both were successful events; I hope you were able to participate.

If you are a man, or if you live with a man, or know a man, sign up for Brotherhood or sign him up for Brotherhood. I promise it will feel good and although money is not our prime goal—camaraderie is—the money we raise goes mainly to TBS youth programs. Until next time.

Brotherhood Speaker Series - The Sons and Daughters of TBS: Celebrating Our Blessings!



“A Legal Approach to Dealing with Prejudice”

Michael Swartz, Schulte, Roth and Zabel Litigation Group

Sunday, May 15, 2022, via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. PDT

Michael Swartz is co-chair of the litigation group of Schulte Roth & Zabel, an AM Law 100 firm, and a member of SRZ’s Executive Committee in New York. Michael has been recognized for his work in securities litigation, and in *Benchmark Litigation: The Definitive Guide to America’s Leading Litigation Firms and Attorneys*, *The Legal 500 US* and *New York Super Lawyers* in business litigation. Currently, he is co-lead counsel in a legal action to help provide healing and justice to the survivors and descendants of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. Michael is the son of Sylvan and Barbara Swartz.



“How the Pandemic Accelerated Innovation in Healthcare”

Rachel Weissberg, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Sirius

Sunday, June 12, 2022, via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. PDT

Rachel Weissberg has spent the last 20+ years in Healthcare Technology serving various leadership roles. Rachel currently serves as the Director of Strategic Initiatives for Healthcare at Sirius a CDW Company, which helps healthcare organizations improve quality of care, control costs, and ensure compliance. Rachel is the daughter of Dan and Linda Weissberg and the sister of Jason Weissberg.



Jeremy Sirota, CEO, Merlin

“A Music Man for The Digital Age”

RESCHEDULED - Date / Time TBD

Jeremy is the son of Ed and Ilene Sirota and is a husband and father, as well as CEO of Merlin, the independent’s digital music licensing partner based in New York and London. He currently resides in New York City but was born in Los Angeles and raised in Orange County, where he attended Hebrew School and Sunday School at Temple Beth Sholom. He was deeply inspired by his Rabbi who oversaw his Bar Mitzvah.

Sisterhood



Join TBS Sisterhood for an afternoon of creativity and friendship as we host Paint and Sip on **Sunday, May 15, at 2:00 p.m.** in the TBS Multipurpose Room. An artist from Brush Strokes in Tustin will lead us from start to finish in the creation of our own canvas. Don't worry, no artistic talent necessary! We will have step by step instructions. Then, we will each bring home our finished masterpiece, along with good memories of an afternoon of Sisterhood fun and bonding.

This event is open to your friends and family. The cost for all materials, party refreshments, and beverages is only \$39 per person. Your pre-paid check guarantees your reservation, so come paint with us. Checks made out to TBS Sisterhood must be received at TBS by May 10th. For questions, call Donna Wolffe at (714) 349-9140.

Also, the month of May kicks off our TBS Sisterhood Membership Drive for 2022-2023. This past year has been a busy one for Sisterhood filled with many activities and fun events: a dessert potluck for our members; providing apples & honey and Break-the-Fast for our congregation during High Holy Days; a festive Sisterhood dinner at Moreno's Mexican Restaurant; our Bunco & Brunch Membership Event; participating in Hanukkah and Purim festivities; the always popular Sisterhood Shabbat; and most recently our very successful Period Products donation drive, which enabled us to contribute over 150 Period Products Kits to two local shelters in our community. And we've got more planned for next year. Watch for your TBS Sisterhood membership flyer and be sure to join so you don't miss out!

Our Youth

Early Childhood Center

Tamara Levin, Director of Early Childhood Education



On Wednesday, April 13th, the preschool celebrated Passover by having two Seders. Our TK class held their Seder in the MPR garden. Chavva Olander, the director of TBS religious school, joined Iona Pally, Goldie Kaitz, and the children in Room 7 to help celebrate this event. The children had a wonderful time singing Passover songs and retelling the story of Moses and the Jewish slaves in Egypt. The younger classes held their Seder in the TBS living room. The children watched in wonder as water turned into blood (the magic of food coloring) and participated in the story by answering questions. It is truly amazing how many of them knew the answers. The food, thank you parents for rising to the occasion, was delicious. Rabbi Lipper made chocolate covered matzah which was very well received.

The children also enjoyed a visit from Rabbi Sender who brought the matzah factory to our school. The children watched as the wheat was ground into flour and then used to make matzah. The children, donning chef hats, made their own matzah which they later enjoyed for snack in their classrooms.

Our summer camp program promises a spectacular time for our students. If anyone would like to participate, call our ECC office at 714-628-4540.



Religious School

Chavva Olander, Director of Youth Education

Shalom! There has been an abundance of activity in our Religious School this April! At the beginning of the month, parents and children gathered for Family Shabbat at our first outdoor service of the year. As the service fell on April Fools' Day, there was no shortage of laughter.

On Sunday, April 3rd, Religious School families joined the congregation as we were treated to an exceptional concert by The Visitors, the musicians from the Broadway tour of *The Band's Visit*. They introduced students and families to several unique instruments and played an uplifting medley of Middle Eastern music.



In class, students spent the first part of the month learning about the history, traditions, and themes in the Passover holiday. They put their learning into practice during our all-school Chocolate Seder on April 10th. Along with parents and teens, Religious School students helped lead an informative and delicious seder in which all the ritual items were represented by their chocolate counterparts. It was a fun time for all who attended and a great start to the Passover holiday. Looking ahead, our "A Taste of

Israel" Yom Ha'atzma'ut arts festival will be held on **May 1st at 12:00 p.m.** There will be a myriad of art projects and educational activities for children and adults of all ages, as well as a delicious lunch. I hope to see everyone at this exciting event!

Something to Kvell About – Recognizing our Teens and Young Adults

Monica Engel, Social Action Member



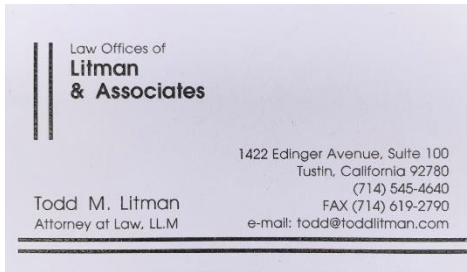
Once upon a time, Rachael Pollak at the age of 7, tagged along with her parents, Jeff and Melanie and sister, Shayna as they joined Temple Beth Sholom in 2011. At that time, she was busy playing soccer, attending art classes, and collecting Barbie dolls. Fast forward to her Bat Mitzvah in 2016 where her unique theme was Star Wars and was Confirmed via Zoom in 2020 with Hannah Kotkin. Her fascination with Star Wars developed into a love of movies. Her ambition at that time was to someday write and correct scripts.

Rachael attended religious school during the school year and attended Camp Sholom every summer. Her leadership role with Orange County Temple Youth throughout high school led to her role as President. Rachael was an honor student at El Rancho Middle School and will graduate with honors from Canyon High School this June. As a Girl Scout since 3rd grade, she responded to the rise in antisemitism. During the Pandemic, she developed her Gold Award Project to expand Holocaust Education in the Orange Unified School District with a model that will give other schools in the district the tools to adopt the program. She anticipates completing her Gold Award Project this Spring.

Several colleges have accepted Rachael, but she has decided to become a Triton at UC San Diego this Fall. A major motive to select UCSD was the hospitable environment for Jewish students such as a Hillel program, Jewish sororities/fraternities, Jewish social events, and additional support systems that other universities don't offer. With her dream of one day writing a legendary Hanukkah movie, Rachael is looking forward to her writing classes.

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.



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.

Committee Updates

Settled Rabbi Search Committee

Lori Griffin, SRSC Chair

Chairing the Settled Rabbi Committee over the past eight months has been gratifying, enriching, and full of hard work. I most definitely would not have been able to sustain the pace nor tackle the objectives without my most wonderful committee members. I would like to personally thank the following people: Brenda Beck, Dave Feldberg, Mary Gonzalez, Denise Holt, Marc Lebanoff, Ari Ohls, Scott Resnick, Norm Rosen, Mike Rubin, Alan Shebroe, Linda Weissberg, Brad Wenneberg and Jeff Winston. These thirteen members worked so well together, respected each other's opinions, and lifted each other up. I will always be grateful to all them! The committee will continue to keep the congregation updated with any new information. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at lori@globaltrim.com.

Membership/FWYC

Mary Gonzalez, VP of Membership



Family Movie Night is back! Our last Family Movie Night (pajama party themed) was February of 2020. The Membership and FWYC committees are so glad we are finally able to gather again for this exciting event which is sure to be a huge hit with the kids. Please mark your calendars and join us on **Saturday, May 14th at 4:00 p.m.** This year, our theme is Superheroes and Princesses. Spiderman and a Disney princess will be greeting the kids and posing for pictures. We will also have face painting, dancing, popcorn and pizza, then

Havdalah with Rabbi Lipper and a movie for the whole family.

If you would like to get involved in our "fun-raisers" please reach out Arielle Ohls at 562-316-7030 or Mary Gonzalez at 714-292-4957. We meet once per month and are looking for fresh ideas!

Chavurot

Shani Boone, Chavurot Chair, Membership Committee Member, and TBS Secretary

Our new Chavurot are up and running and it's been great seeing the energy that the new groups are showing! Joining a Chavurot is not a one-time event; they are ever changing. If you are interested in joining, we are happy to help you connect to an existing group with similar interests. If you have questions, please contact Shani at 714-343-1135 (text is ok) or shaniboone2@sbcglobal.net.

Education

Steffanie Belasco, VP of Education

Our "A Taste of Israel" Yom Ha'atzmaut arts festival will be held on **May 1st from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.** We will have Israeli dance instruction for all ages, delicious Israeli food, games, music, and art and crafts. Please mark your calendars, plan on wearing blue and white, and invite a friend to join you. We are, as always, looking for volunteers. Events like Hannukah and Purim were incredibly successful thanks to all the hard work and dedication from our volunteers! Please contact Chava Olander at colander@tbsoc.com or Steffanie Belasco (steffanietalk@aol.com) to volunteer.

Fundraising

Melanie Pollak, Director of Fundraising

Want to help lead TBS into the future while helping to create fun and exciting events? Join the TBS Fundraising Committee! The Fundraising Committee meets once a month to plan fundraising campaigns, explore participatory revenue streams, and develop events to help the temple meet its financial goals. If you have a fundraising, sales, marketing, or development background and/or happen to be a creative person with great ideas, we need you! Please contact Melanie Pollak at (714) 204-6183 / melaniepollak@gmail.com.

Social Action

Education - Direct Service – Advocacy - Collections

Social Action Committee

Social action continues its work in the community. Thanks to Bonnie for coordinating the outstanding United to End Homelessness presentation. There was even more to learn than at our presentation of several years ago. Thanks to Steffanie for the Adult Ed Compassionate Caring presentation by Linda Abbit. It was highly informative for all who attended. 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 / 714-225-2058. We meet the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Mitzvah of the Month

Monica Engel, Social Action Member

Our MOTM for April was a colorful addition to the living room table. The generous donations provided informative and entertaining books that will satisfy kidlets and adults. This month, while our weather is still unpredictable, we will be collecting clothing suitable for warm weather for Orangewood toddlers and adults. If you are unable to shop, please send a donation check to TBS, with MOTM in the memo line. Monica, our "Shopper Personified" will get "bang for your bucks." Donations can also be left in the TBS living room.

Mitzvah Meals is Reorganizing!

Mitzvah Meals Team

Mitzvah Meals is taking a break to reinvent and refresh this legacy program. We want to thank all those who have volunteered their time and donated to this amazing weekly mitzvah over the years. If you are interested in becoming a part of the new and improved Mitzvah Meals, please keep an eye out for correspondence and contact info in upcoming newsletters.

Jewish Collaborative of Orange County to Resettle Refugees

Barbara Rosen, Welcome Circle Volunteer



Perhaps you have read about 3 refugee families who arrived in the OC a few weeks ago to be resettled by HIAS (the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society). One family is being sponsored by University Synagogue, another by Shir Ha-Ma'alot, and a third family has been resettled in Fullerton. The latter group is being settled by a group of volunteers

from various synagogues, one of whom is Barbara Rosen, formerly a TBS member. It would be a real mitzvah to have TBS involved in helping to settle this family.

The family consists of a wonderful couple and their adorable 3-year-old son. They have arrived with nothing and all their expenses for at least the first 6 month will have to be paid by the generosity of donors. Thanks to some of these donors, the "welcome circle" has already furnished their new apartment. They continue to have many needs, however, and there is a tax-deductible fund established to help with things such as rent, food, transportation, clothing, laundry, etc. until they can find employment. The father is a mechanical engineer and is currently looking for work. If you are aware of any opportunities in this field, or have any other questions about this, please email Barbara Rosen at barbarajrosen@me.com. There is also a need for a recent model cell phone which can be reprogrammed for them. As you might know, HIAS was founded to help settle Jewish refugees in the 1800's. Today their motto is "We help them not because they are Jewish but because we are."

Please help today. This is a true mitzvah. A PayPal link can be found in the weekly Shavu'on, or you can mail checks to Jewish Collaborative of OC at 2913 El Camino Real #701, Tustin, CA 92782. Checks should be made payable to JCoOC with "Welcome Circle" in the memo line. Donations are tax deductible with JCoOC Tax ID: 36-4844121.

Do You Have an Hour a Month to Bring Happiness to Seniors?

Alan Shebroe, Worship Volunteer

Approximately 20 years ago, Alan Friedman z"l and Sarah Schweitz began a program on behalf of TBS wherein volunteers would lead Shabbat services for Bubbe & Zayde's Place, a live-in Jewish retirement home roughly 4 minutes from TBS. It is owned and operated by Bonnie Curkin and her son-in-law, Shimon Cagan. They are wonderful people and are so grateful for all we have done as a community over the past 20 years, and we continue to do so each week! Their website can be found at <https://bubbeandzaydesplace.com>.

When Alan became ill, he asked me to take his place for the first Friday of the month, and when he passed, I took on the general maintenance of the program. I have been taking care of it ever since and Sarah continues lead on week 2 of every month. Today, we have three pairs of volunteers who continue to perform this mitzvah. But we need at least TWO MORE individuals—one pair—with an hour a week to spare for the third Friday of each month. The commitment would be for as many months as you can offer, one hour per month. (cont. on page 10)

Do You Have an Hour a Month to Bring Happiness to Seniors, cont.

In the beginning, Alan wrote a scaled down prayerbook, a version of which we still use today. Each set of readers does a different version of the service, depending on their ability and preference. There is no set format. Some do it entirely in English, others mix the Hebrew and English.

If you are interested in joining this legacy TBS mitzvah program, please contact me at alan53@earthlink.net / 626.664.8384 so I can answer any questions and discuss the possibility of doing this tremendous mitzvah for the seniors of our community. On behalf of Bonnie, Shimon, Sarah, and myself, thank you for your consideration.

Adult Education

Celebrating Mother's Day (The Jewish Way)

Angela Holmes, Adult Ed Chair

Mother's Day is not specifically a Jewish holiday. We reflect on Motherhood through the life of Rachel, the wife of Jacob, who after decades of infertility bore a child and died in childbirth. The life of Rachel is noted on the 11th day of the Hebrew month of Cheshvan (in Oct/Nov). The general message is that we all suffer in motherhood at one time or another.

So, how can we combine our Jewish observance of Rachel and the US holiday? Consider avoiding the commercialism of Mother's Day and spend the day remembering the inspiration of the maternal "best" of the person who is considered "mother" to you. Consider reflecting on the significant memories of the woman in your life that guided you or is guiding you through life, acknowledging the complex power of motherhood. Also, from the perspective of self-reflection as a mother, here are some questions we can ask ourselves.

- o What is or has been the reward of motherhood?
- o What sacrifice have you made as a mother that turned into a blessing?
- o What is the greatest lesson you have taught your child or grandchild?
- o What have my children taught me?
- o What is your fondest memory as a mother?

Readings:

- o *Every Mother is a Daughter* by Peri and Sheila Kloss
- o *Jewish Mothers: Strength, Wisdom, Compassion* by Lloyd Wolf and Paula Wolfson
- o *White Walls: A Memoir About Motherhood, Daughterhood, and the Mess in Between* by Judy Batalion
- o *You Never Call! You Never Write! : A History of the Jewish Mother* by Joyce Antler
- o *I Am My Mother's Daughter: Wisdom on Life, Loss and Love* by Dara Kurtz
- o *Jewish Cooking Bootcamp: The Modern Girl's Guide to Cooking Like Your Jewish Grandmother* by Roz Marks
- o *A Heart Just Like My Mother's* by Lela Nargi (ages 3 -8)
- o *A Queen in Jerusalem* by Tami Sher-Tov (children's book)

Reels and Repartee: Adult Education Film Series

Adult Education Committee



Thanks to all who joined us for our stimulating movie and discussion groups so far! We are planning another for June 4th during the Shavuot celebrations during which we will be discussing *A Serious Man* in a program led by Rabbi Lipper. In the film, Physics professor Larry Gopnik (Michael Stuhlbarg) can't believe his life: His wife is leaving him for his best friend, his unemployed brother won't move off the couch, someone is threatening his career, his kids are a mystery, and his neighbor is tormenting him by sunbathing nude. Struggling to make sense of it all, Larry consults three different rabbis and their answers lead him on a twisted journey of faith, family, delinquent behavior, and mortality. Watch for information in the weekly Shavu'on and in next month's edition of this newsletter.

Don't Miss Out!



The SoCal Ride for Parkinson's is **Saturday, June 4th** and TBS is creating a team to ride a metric century: 62 miles! Thank you to Mitch Cohen and Amy Feldberg who have spearheaded this great event and will be "going the distance." Along with the 62-mile cycling route, there is also a 30-mile cycling route, an 8-mile family cycling route, and a 3K or 5K family walk. Join us! And if you are able, please support us by donating through our pledge page. Our goal is to raise \$360.

SoCal Ride for Parkinson's (Homepage): <https://socalride.net/>

Donation Page: <https://www.pledgereg.com/3982/mitchellcohen>

Register to Ride/Walk: <https://www.bikereg.com/so-cal-ride-parkinsons>

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It's almost here! **Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>** will be a wonderful evening of live entertainment, delicious food, elegant cocktails, exciting live and silent auctions, and a wine pull in celebration of Cantor David Reinwald's 12 years of song and spiritual leadership. Tickets are available now! Silent auction goes on sale **Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**, and underwriting opportunities are still available, all at <https://tbsoc.com/>. All proceeds from the auction benefit the programs and services TBS provides to our congregation.

## Sefirat Ha-Omer

## ספירת העומר

... Counting the Omer through Jewish Values

### Week One: Kavod—Respect

### כבוד

*Judaism teaches us to treat ourselves with respect; even the stranger is to be treated with respect. Kavod is a feeling of regard for the rights, dignity, wishes, feelings and abilities of others. Practice respecting others opinions and accepting differences.*

### Week Two: Shalom Bayit—Peace in the Home

### שלום בית

*Everyone needs to feel safe, comfortable, welcome, and respected at home. And sometimes our homes extend beyond the place where we lay our head at night. Make your home, office and our synagogue a place where all are welcomed and embraced. Break down any barriers you may have put up and open the door to your heart.*

### Week Three: B'Tzelem Elohim: In God's Image

### בצלם אלהים

*We are all created in God's image. This is a simple and profound idea that should guide our interactions with all those we meet: at home, at work, or at play. If we see each person as created in the image of God, we can see humanity and dignity in all people.*

### Week Four: Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh B'Zeh: Communal Responsibility

### כל ישראל ערבים

### זה בזה

*This value calls on each of us to inspire others around us to take pride in our community. We are all a part of the outreach and engagement of others to ensure the future of the Jewish community.*

### Week Five: Sh'mirat HaLashon-Guarding ones use of language

### שמירת הלשון

*The Talmud warns us to be careful of how we use our language. Once words escape our lips, they are impossible to recover. Gossip, talking about others, spreading falsehoods, and defaming others is a real problem in our world. Words can hurt or heal depending on how we use them.*

### Week Six: V'ahavta L'reiecha Kamocha—Love your neighbor.

### ואהבת לרעך כמוך

*Rabbi Hillel stated that this was a foundational belief in the Torah. We must love and accept our whole selves and, in doing so, extend that love to all those around us. Who is your neighbor? The person standing next to you.*

### Week Seven: Al Tifrosh Min HaTzibur-Do not Separate from the Community

### על תפרוש

### מן הציבור

*Find the person sitting alone in the sanctuary or wandering in the Oneg. Reach out to the lonely and isolated. Visit a person who is homebound. Offer a ride to someone so they can come to Temple. Be the change you want to see in the world.*

*Adapted from keshetonline.org*