

Temple Beth Sholom Presents:

Our Voices – A Monthly Newsletter

July 2022 – Tammuz/Av 5782 | Issue 29 | A Jewish Center for Life, Learning, and Connections

Important Contacts

Rabbi Sharon Sobel – rabbisobel@tbsoc.com
Mike Winston, President – winston.mike@gmail.com
Ruth Irving, Executive Director – riving@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!

7/1 @ 6:00 p.m. | Welcome Shabbat and BBQ – Join us for Rabbi Sobel’s very first Shabbat service and a delicious dinner put on by brotherhood and sisterhood following the service.

7/12 @ 8:00 a.m. | Rabbi Sobel’s Monthly Meet & Greet Breakfast – Join Rabbi Sobel for a nosh and a chat so she can better get to know our congregation. Let’s build our future together! Register at <https://tbsoc.com/hello-rabbi/>

7/17 @ 10:00 a.m. | Brotherhood Speaker Series – Jeremy Sirota will wrap up this year’s speaker series with his talk, “A Music Man for the Digital Age.” Join for free using the Zoom link at <https://tbsoc.com/sons-daughters/>.

7/21 @ 12:00 p.m. | Rabbi Sobel’s Monthly Meet & Greet Lunch – Join Rabbi Sobel for a nosh and a chat so she can better get to know our congregation. Let’s build our future together! Register at <https://tbsoc.com/hello-rabbi/>

7/28 @ 6:30 p.m. | Brotherhood Poker Night – Held in the Social Hall the 4th Thursday of each month. Contact Lew Seigler (misterlew@gmail.com) with questions and to sign up.

Worship at TBS

Rabbi’s Corner

Rabbi Sharon Sobel

Dear Friends, “*Kol hatchalot kashot.*” All beginnings are difficult. (Mekhilta Yitro Bachodesh 2)

It is with great excitement, anticipation, and honor that I join Temple Beth Sholom as your Senior Rabbi. Thank you, Lori Griffin, Jeff Winston, and the Rabbinic Search Committee, TBS president Mike Winston and the Board, Linda Weissberg and the Transition Committee, David Feldberg, all the wonderful TBS staff – and to all of you who have worked so hard to make this moment come to fruition. I also want to thank all of you who have reached out to welcome me and start making me feel that this special community is “home.” I feel truly blessed to begin this new journey with you. With every new beginning there are mixed emotions, the anticipation of what is yet to unfold. We are excited about the new opportunities made possible through this fresh start and new relationship. (cont. on page 2)

Rabbi's Corner, cont.

At the same time, we may feel some trepidation as everything is so new and still so unfamiliar. The rabbis of old teach us that transitions are not easy. It's difficult saying goodbye to beloved and respected clergy. Addressing the challenges surrounding these transitions, or the history that led to the change, can be filled with sentiments that we're holding close to our hearts. How do we navigate this journey so that our *k'hilah k'doshah*—our sacred TBS community—emerges strengthened, unified, healthy, and ready for a successful, revitalized, and bright future?

Over the next few months, I—along with the Transition Committee and the Board—will be reaching out to get to know as many of you as possible, listen to you, and hear your thoughts and feelings about Temple Beth Sholom. I invite you to join us for my first Erev Shabbat service and BBQ on **Friday, July 1st**, join one of the events planned by the Transition Committee (see the TBS website), or sign up to join me for a breakfast or lunch during the next few months. During these monthly group breakfasts and lunches, I will share something of myself and learn from you what is most meaningful about your connection to Temple Beth Sholom. Over the year, together with the leadership, we'll begin to build a shared vision for moving forward. Registration for breakfasts and lunches is required, so please head to <https://tbsoc.com/hello-rabbi/> and see page 8 for a complete list of dates and times. Reminders will also be in the weekly Shavu'on or you can contact Mara or Jill in the office (714-628-4600, mlazenby@tbsoc.com, or jweinthal@tbsoc.com.)

I look forward to getting to know all of you and moving forward together! L'Shalom.

Executive Messages

Mike Winston, TBS President

This month, which marks the start of our fiscal year, brings new beginnings. We have Rabbi Sobel starting this month with us. She is bringing a new breath of fresh air into TBS that I am very excited about. We also have Ruth Irving back from maternity leave. She was greatly missed while she was enjoying the preciousness of her first son, Noah. Mark Thompson will also be rejoining us this year to help fill some of our musical needs. Mark was our cantorial soloist prior to Cantor Reinwald and has so much history and love for TBS.

I could not be more excited for this year to begin. We have so many amazing things planned, from Art Festivals to Purim Carnivals, Shabbat Services and many more. If you haven't made it back to TBS in a while, summer services are a great way to enjoy the wonderful California air outside with a beautiful view of our facility. I hope to see you there soon. L'Shalom.

Brotherhood

Community – Fellowship – Action – Service

Sylvan Swartz, Brotherhood Director of Membership

Your TBS Brotherhood was happy to be a sponsor of the incredible Gala we had honoring Cantor Reinwald. We had excellent attendance from among Temple members, Brotherhood, and Sisterhood members.

Once again, the Brotherhood is offering \$500 scholarships to students going on to college or some form of higher education in the fall. The catch is that the student must apply as we are not good guessers. Feel free to get more information in the weekly Shavu'on or contact Arnold Shugarman for applications. (cont. on page 3)

Brotherhood, cont.

This past year we Brotherhood members read to the youngest students in our Sunday Religious School. The program was a big hit with the kids and the guys doing the reading. Look for it to continue next school year.

The Brotherhood and Sisterhood sponsored hike at the beach was scheduled again on June 26th. The hike is led by Todd and Lisa Litman, and we are very grateful to them for taking on this program.

Our Brotherhood Speaker Series wraps up on **Sunday, July 17th at 10:00 a.m.** with Jeremy Sirota who has graciously agreed to reschedule after a technical glitch during his first talk. You won't want to miss his talk about music and the digital age. Join for free using the Zoom link at <https://tbsoc.com/sons-daughters/>.

Poker night, ordinarily held on the 4th Thursday of each month, is becoming a bigger and bigger hit for the men of TBS. Join us this month on **July 28th at 6:30 p.m.** in the TBS Social Hall. No experience needed and the stakes are manageable. The worst that could happen is that you may have to miss a lunch if you lose it all. Of course, that has yet to happen. In fact, we are getting requests for us to put on a poker tournament but to do that we need some volunteers to help. Lew Siegler is only one man and others need to step up to the bar to do this.

Look for other Brotherhood events this summer and join or rejoin for the new fiscal year. We are not a fundraising organization, but we do make possible many good things for our Temple youth. See you around TBS.

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



Jeremy Sirota, CEO, Merlin

"A Music Man for The Digital Age"

**RESCHEDULED* Sunday, July 17, 2022, via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. PDT*

Jeremy is the son of Ed and Ilene Sirota as well as CEO of Merlin, an independent 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



A lifetime of good friends; friends that morph into family... that is what the T.B.S. Sisterhood can give back to you, if you choose to join us. We participate in mitzvot TOGETHER while laughing and having fun. We have fun events that are meant as friendship builders. Sometimes we cook for an event, sometimes we order in, and sometimes we just go out! (We're flexible that way.)

Sisterhood just had their annual start of summer "Dessert Potluck." We enjoyed an early evening dessert party, and it was delicious! It's mostly just a get together to reconnect with old friends and make new ones; but during the evening, we share our hopes and thoughts for the coming new year for programming and "fun"draising. Hopefully you signed up for something that interests you: either for help with an event or participating in an event. In any case, a great time was had by all, and we thank the Wennebergs for lending us their backyard for our kickoff event. (cont. on page 4)

Sisterhood, cont.

As the summer moves on, we are thinking of the fall holidays. Anyone interested in helping with Apples and Honey, please call Barbara Swartz at 949-322-1940. We will also have our fall holiday boutique in November. If you want to participate in it or help with the planning, please call Cathy Markowitz at 714-296-3468.

Have a lovely July; enjoy the sunshine and the first blooms of summer. Be safe and know that your sisters in TBS are “Sisters of the Heart”!

Our Youth

Early Childhood Center

Tamara Levin, Director of Early Childhood Education



A few days ago, while standing in our infant yard, I glanced up at the roof of the shaded area. There, bursting above the roofline, was the magnificent yellow face of a massive sunflower framed by a plethora of green leaves. A brilliant piece of beauty soaring to the sky.

It's amazing how, with a little care, our garden flourishes. Last August, with no one to tend the garden, it bore brown stalks and limp weeds. The soil was dry and cracked and cried out for a splash of water. I set the challenge for each class. Cultivate and cherish one flowerbed. Let the children witness the miracle of transforming nothing into something with care and effort.

The soil was turned by small hands sporting compact shovels and rakes. Holes were dug and seeds planted. Every morning, the classes marched out to the garden to water their beds. They charted the growth; stems emerging and leaves unfurling. Soon they began to harvest tomatoes, squash, zucchini, sweet peppers, and corn. These were consumed with relish during snack time. One class decided to plant sunflowers because they happened to like them. I did not think anything of it until a few days ago when I glanced up towards the sky and saw the dazzling petaled face peering down at me.

It takes interest, care, and effort to create something worthwhile. Cultivating our garden is a wonderful way to teach our children what effort can accomplish. When our parsley plants failed to flourish, the children brainstormed ways to ensure that the next batch would. What could they do differently? What did those frail little plants need that we failed to provide? Things do not always turn out the way we want them to, but we learn from our mistakes and move on. It is very likely that this August, our garden will once again wither into brown shreds. The glorious sunflower will succumb to gravity and plummet to the earth. On its way down, it will scatter seeds that will lie quietly waiting for our little caregivers to return.

Something to Kvell About – Recognizing our Teens and Young Adults

Monica Engel, Social Action Member



If we all follow the road to tikkun olam as Asher McDonnell has, the world would be an incredible place. For his Bar Mitzvah project, Asher raised funds for the purchase of First Aid kit items to donate to Pathways of Hope, a charity that donates necessities to homeless and low-income people. Asher was conscious of Covid safety. His dad is a Health Care Provider which informed Asher's concerns and fostered his strong connection to health and safety. He assembled 20 large first aid

kits and on June 2nd he delivered the “fruits of his labor” to Pathways of Hope. (cont. on page 5)

Something to Kvell About, cont.

Temple Beth Sholom's preschool was Asher's first school when the family moved to Orange County. He attended Religious School and currently participates in the McDonnell family's chavurah. In the fall he will be an 8th grader at Orchard Hills Middle School. In his free time, he plays golf, draws, collects comic books, and plays Nintendo. However, what he really enjoys doing is repairing things around the house and creating projects. He also remains very aware of keeping family and friends safe from Covid. He is the epitome of a mensch!

Committee Updates

Education

Steffanie Belasco, VP of Education

Welcome, Rabbi Sobel, to Temple Beth Sholom. We look forward to the next few years and creating meaningful programs with you that foster an environment of lifelong learners of all ages and interests.

Thanks to Angela Holmes and Chavva Olander, we received two grants for the coming fiscal year from the Jewish Federation of Orange County. A \$5,000 grant for the TBS Holiday Arts Fairs (Tu BiShvat and Pesach) were awarded from the Albert Weissman and Rhoda Yvette Weissman Endowment Fund. In addition, we were awarded a \$5,000 grant for a Teen Learning Program which is funded by Bert & Babette Wilmers Special Endowment Fund, Julius Lorch Memorial Special Endowment Fund. Thank you both for all your hard work in applying for these funds! But securing the funds is just the beginning. The education committee will need volunteers to bring the program to life. If you are interested in helping, please contact me.

Camp Sholom Katan began last month, and our youngest members seem to be having a ball. Shabbat is becoming a tradition with many of our families as they socialize and snack together on campus on Friday afternoons. Take the time to introduce yourselves to some of the parents if you arrive early on Shabbat, as you will most likely see the families kibitzing on the lawn.

Applications for a new Director of Youth Education are being reviewed as they are submitted to the temple, and we plan to have the position filled before the opening day of religious school on September 11, 2022. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at steffanietalk@aol.com.

If you are interested in being part of the Adult Education committee, please contact Angela Holmes. They are beginning to plan events and classes and would love your input. We look forward to seeing you at many of our programs and learning opportunities in this next year. Thank you to the many volunteers who made Hannukah, Purim, and Yom Ha'atzmaut so successful. Our knowledge was expanded in Rabbi Lipper's classes, our author series, and our movie discussions.

Membership/FWYC

Mary Gonzalez, VP of Membership

The Membership and Families with Young Children Committees have their sights set on summer! Be on the lookout for more information on the annual **Backyard Bash in August**, the **New Member Shabbat Service on August 5th**, and the **Chavurot Shabbat Service on September 9th**. 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 the first Tuesday of each month and are looking for fresh ideas!

Chavurot

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

In February, several new Chavurot were formed and began meeting monthly. If your group has not yet met, please let me know. Sometimes groupings don't work out, and that is ok! We will continue to create new groups and put new members in touch with existing groups. Sometimes there is magic, and sometimes it takes a little adjusting. Let me know if you need my help. Joining a Chavurot is not a one-time event; they are ever changing. If you have questions, please call or text Shani at 714-343-1135 or shaniboone2@sbcglobal.net.

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.

Social Action

Education - Direct Service – Advocacy - Collections

Social Action Committee

Social Action has joined forces with and will be supporting Orange County United Way along with our ongoing relationship with two Orangewood facilities. Our Social Action committee is counting on the support of our congregants to help this group in their mission by providing something useful as we do for our other recipients. 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 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.

Mitzvah of the Month

Monica Engel, Social Action Member

The colorful Mitzvah of the Month table in the living room fills the heart. It's a sign of caring about young ones and teens. The life jackets, masks, floaties, bathing suits, and other water safety items are symbols of knowing we support having fun but safely.

Our MOTM for July will be toiletries. Please donate new, full-sized items (not travel size items or samples). The kids and young adults at both Orangewood facilities need toothpaste and mouth wash, shampoo, shaving cream and razor blades, band aids, make up remover, and tissues. Your generosity is always appreciated by the recipients and reflects the efforts, caring, and generosity of TBS members to uplift the needy. If you are unable to shop, please send a donation check to TBS, with MOTM in the memo line and Monica will work her magic.

SoCal Ride for Parkinsons

Mitch Cohen, Rider for the TBS Team



Parkinson's disease (PD) occurs when brain cells that make dopamine, a chemical that coordinates movement, stop working or die. Because PD can cause tremors, slowness, stiffness, walking and balance problems. It is called a "movement disorder." There is no known cure and estimates suggest that Parkinson's affects nearly 1 million people in the United States and more than 6 million people worldwide.

In 1991, at the age of 29, actor Michael J. Fox disclosed that he had PD and launched his charity in 2000. The Michael J. Fox Foundation (MJFF) for Parkinson's Research is focused on building improved knowledge about the lived experience of Parkinson's disease, finding an objective test for Parkinson's, engaging patients in research and supporting the development of new treatments and a cure.

As road bicycle enthusiasts, Mitch Cohen, Amy Feldberg, and Jason Weissberg, decided to make an impact. They formed a team to support each other and complete the SoCal Ride for Parkinson's on Saturday, June 4th, 2022. Throughout the training and fundraising prior to the ride, they learned that many in our TBSOC community have and continue to be affected by this debilitating disease.

With the help and generous support from family, friends, and the TBS community, they raised \$1,500. Donors supported them with amounts ranging from \$15 to \$500. On the day of the ride, route options were 8 miles, 30 miles, and 62 miles, also known as a "metric century." Riding together, the team from TBSOC was the first to complete the 62 miles and support the efforts of MJFF. Thank you TBSOC!

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>.

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. 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

Angela Holmes, Adult Ed Chair

Next year's programs have been or are being calendared by all the groups at TBS who plan events, including Adult Education. The Adult Education committee began planning in June, and we hope to see everyone next year at the classes, movie chats, book reviews, and other events being planned. Have a wonderful summer and we hope to see you at TBS for the outdoor Shabbats and other fun activities.

Don't Miss Out!

Rabbi Sharon Sobel's Monthly Meet & Greet

Our new Rabbi, Rabbi Sharon Sobel, will host several Meet & Greet with our members to get to know our congregation personally. Please consider coming to one of these events to have a chance to welcome Rabbi Sobel into our community, get to know her, and talk about our future together. Please register for any of the following events on our website at <https://tbsoc.com/hello-rabbi/>

Breakfasts – Join Us at TBS at 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday, July 12
Tuesday, August 9
Tuesday, September 13
Tuesday, October 11 (in the Sukkah)
Tuesday, November 1
Tuesday, December 6

Lunches – Join Us at TBS at Noon

Thursday, July 21
Thursday, August 18
Thursday, September 29
Thursday, October 20
Thursday, November 17
Thursday, December 15 (with latkes and sufganiyot)