

Temple Beth Sholom Presents:

Our Voices – A Monthly Newsletter

December 2022 – Kislev/Teves 5783 | Issue 34 | 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 7:00 p.m. indoors unless otherwise noted

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

A Glance at the Month Ahead

12/1 @ 8:00 p.m. | The Upcoming Israeli Elections: Part 2 – “What to Make of the Israeli Elections?” An analysis and discussion with Rabbi Josh Weinberg. See <https://tbsoc.com/israeli-elections-discussion/> for registration and Zoom info.

12/2 @ 6:00 p.m. | Family Shabbat – This family friendly service is held the first Friday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

12/4 @ 12:00 p.m. | “Let’s Gelt Together” – Join us for our second annual Chanukah festival. Hummus Way Restaurant will provide a delicious lunch. Activities are scheduled for all ages including a dreidel competition and candle making.

12/6 @ 8:00 a.m. | Rabbi Sobel’s Meet and Greet Breakfast – Please register at <https://tbsoc.com/hello-rabbi/>.

12/7 @ 6:00 p.m. | “Planning for Incapacity” – The Adult Education committee proudly presents their Speaker Series installment with Todd Litman. The evening will address the legal issues of what is needed when a loved one can no longer make decisions for themselves. Join us in the Board Room.

12/13 @ 7:00 p.m. | “Reels and Repartee” – Adult Ed film discussions return. Steffanie and Steve Belasco will lead us in a discussion of the film, *Image of Victory*. Contact the TBS office for the Zoom link.

12/15 @ 12:00 p.m. | Rabbi Sobel’s Meet and Greet Lunch – Please register at <https://tbsoc.com/hello-rabbi/>.

12/15 @ 5:00 p.m. | Community Chanukah Festival – Hosted by the Merage JCC in Irvine. Entrance is free and open to the community. TBS will have a booth! Please contact the JCC with questions at 1 Federation Way, Irvine, CA 92603 or 949.435.3400.

12/15 @ 6:30 p.m. | Brotherhood Poker Night – Held in the Social Hall the 4th Thursday of each month. Contact Lew Seigler (misterleu@gmail.com) with questions and to sign up. Please note, due to the Chanukah festivities, poker is held on the 3rd Thursday this month.

12/18 – 12/25 @ 6:00 p.m. | Chanukiyah Lighting in the Orange Circle – Our annual lighting of the chanukiyah in the Orange Circle continues! Join as we light up the night together. Please visit <https://tbsoc.com/chanukah/> for a list of all our Chanukah happenings. (cont. on page 2)

The Month Ahead, cont.

12/23 @ 7:00 p.m. | [Chanukah Shabbat Service](#) – For this special service we invite everyone to bring their own *chanukiyah* (Chanukah menorah) + 7 candles (6 and the *shammash*). You can also register for dinner by visiting the TBS website or calling the office. Dinner includes chicken, latkes, salad, and more for \$20 (\$12.50 for children). Following services, we have a special oneg with *sufganiyot* (jelly donuts).

12/25 @ 9:00 a.m. | [Brotherhood Pancake Breakfast](#) – Head to the Social Hall where the men of TBS will be cooking and serving a delicious breakfast. We can't wait to see you for this annual event.

Worship and Reflections

Chanukah – Lighting the Sparks of Justice and Hope

Rabbi Sharon Sobel

I write this just after three students were killed and two others were wounded in a shooting at the University of Virginia and four University of Idaho students were killed on Sunday. Young people filled with promise and hope, had their lives extinguished, all due to unfounded hatred and violence. Our hearts weep for their parents and families, their friends, and classmates, for the potential unfulfilled.

We learn from the Talmud: “Whoever saves a life, it’s considered as if they’ve saved the entire world.” (B. Talmud Sanhedrin 37a). Therefore, we can extrapolate that whoever destroys a life, it’s as if they’ve destroyed an entire world – a world that could have been, a world that should have been, a world of endless possibilities.

People are not born with hate in their hearts. People learn to hate. They learn it at home, they learn it from their peers, they learn it on the streets, they learn it from the media.

Worlds are not only destroyed with guns and knives, they’re destroyed with words: words that cut like a knife, shoot straight to the heart like the bullet of a gun. We know that antisemitism has been on the rise over the past few years. It should have no place in this world – we should be able to live safely, in peace and harmony with our neighbors of every race, religion and nationality.

I still have hope, despite the increase of gun violence, despite the deaths, despite the rise of antisemitic incidents, despite the injustice we see in our world – that goodness will prevail. When I meet with our ECC students, our Religious School students, our B’nai Mitzvah students, and speak with our High School students, they give me hope for the future. Even those at young ages, understand that not everyone can be kind and caring. Not everyone is able to see the humanity in those they deem “other.” Not everyone behaves in a just and good manner. Yet each one of these students gives us hope for an envisioned future.

They understand that not everyone feels the warmth and glow of the holiday lights, or feels the love of family and friends, or knows the feeling of having food in their bellies or the security of a safe and secure home. Perhaps this is why some people act out in hate against others. They understand that some people act out in hate due to ignorance, fear, or misunderstanding. They know that it is up to them, to their generation to help make this world a better place for all who live here. Our young people are our spark of hope for the future. They are like the *shamash* – the helper candle which lights the way for all the other candles on our *chanukiyot* (Chanukah menorah). (cont. on page 3)

Chanukah – Lighting the Sparks of Justice and Hope, cont.

Chanukah is all about hope. The flames on the candles remind us that all it takes is one spark to light a flame: a flame that leads to justice, a flame that leads to healing and wholeness. One flame in the darkness can bring great light, great warmth to a very dark place: one spark of righteous deeds can inspire others to do the same.

This Chanukah, this Festival of Lights, as we continue to kindle our Chanukah candles, I know that we can encourage that hope to remain alive in our young people by dedicating ourselves anew to bringing justice, hope and light to our broken world.

Let each of us be that spark or flame that ignites others to join in repairing our world: *ani v'atah n'shaneh et ha'olam* – “together, you and I can change the world.” Please join us for our special Chanukah Shabbat service with a delicious dinner, latkes, festive music, and communal candle-lighting on **Friday, December 23rd** beginning at 6:00 p.m. We also invite you to each of the 8 nights of Candle Lighting in the Old Town Orange Circle at 6:00 p.m., and to join with TBS and the greater OC Jewish Community for a fun Chanukah festival at the JCC on **December 15th from 5:00 -7:00 p.m.** *Chag Urim Sameach!* May you have a light-filled Chanukah!



Rabbi Sharon L. Sobel

Let “New Beginnings” Continue

Soni Rice, Worship Committee Member

November was a month filled with thanksgiving and gratitude! Rabbi Sobel's installation weekend was both beautiful and meaningful and gave us an opportunity to celebrate as a community. We look forward with a renewed sense of optimism, enthusiasm, and dedication.

And now, as we approach the winter solstice, it's time to embrace the lights of Chanukah, the Festival of Rededication. Chanukah begins at sundown on Sunday, December 18th and ends the evening of Monday, December 26th. Among the many opportunities for fun with family and friends, TBS will be lighting our Chanukiah at the Orange Circle every evening at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend and enjoy the candle lighting, prayers and singing, and of course, jelly donuts. There is a great selection of restaurants around the Circle, so why not make an evening of it! In addition to the open invitation each evening, the following groups will be leading the candle lightings:

Sunday, December 18th - Brotherhood and TBS Chavurot

Monday December 19th - ECC and Religious School

Tuesday, December 20th - Families and Friends

Wednesday, December 21st - Sisterhood

Thursday, December 22nd - The TBS Board

Friday, December 23rd - TBS will be having an **onsite** Shabbat dinner, catered by Parties by Panache. We will light the Chanukiah at TBS this night. See the TBS website for details and reservation link.

Saturday, December 24th - Families and Friends

Sunday, December 25th - Families and Friends

May your homes be filled with latkes and love, sharing and *sufganiyot*, and the lights of rededication that cast away the darkness. *Chag Chanukah Sameach!*

“Shir Joy” – Musical Shabbat

Rabbi Sobel and Cantorial Soloist Bill Shafton



Calling all musicians and singers! Do you play an instrument? (Keyboards, stand-up bass, percussion oboe, clarinet, violin, cello, flute – or any instrument.) Do you love to sing? Join Rabbi Sobel and Cantorial Soloist Bill Shafton in TBS’s all new band, Shir Joy. Musicians and singers of all ages are invited to join this program to provide traditional and contemporary music during Friday evening Shabbat services beginning in January. Email Rabbi Sobel to learn more: rabbisobel@tbsoc.com

Executive Messages

Mike Winston, TBS President

With the High Holy Days being late this year, I found myself in an interesting mental exercise to finish processing the revelations of Yom Kippur to planning for the thankfulness of Thanksgiving. From assessing what I could have done better, who have I hurt, how can I right my wrongs to thinking about being thankful for my family and friends, thankful for health, thankful for my community. This Ying-Yang of remorse to thankfulness would seem like I could only be immersed in one or the other, but not both.

Turns out, this was not black or white and it was very much possible to have a balance between being remorseful and thankful. You can be apologetic for an action while being appreciative of someone’s forgiveness. I find this conundrum happening a lot in everyday life, treating situations as “either or” rather than a continuum of possibilities. For example, for a lot of people volunteering at temple seems like an all or nothing position and that the option to volunteer was a long-lasting committee with an endless time commitment. This is why we started the Volunteer Corps this year, which I presented during my address at Kol Nidre, to be able to volunteer at TBS while not committing yourself long term. You can sign up for so many options by just contacting the office. TBS needs your help.

We already have many volunteers for some of our amazing upcoming events, such as our Let’s “Gelt” Together program and Candle Lighting at the Orange Circle. And there are many more areas you can help in the upcoming months. I look forward to seeing you there. L’Shalom.

Brotherhood

Community – Fellowship – Action – Service

Sylvan Swartz, Brotherhood Director of Membership

Beer was flowing, burgers, pizza, and fries were consumed and lots of laughs came out of our happy group of 14 men at the Tustin Brewing Company to start off November in Brotherhood. While we were at it, we watched the World Series. I can't say this was a religious experience, at least for those not over imbibing, but it was fun. We will be doing this again at different venues in the coming months.

Brotherhood poker was held again under the expert card shark, Lew Siegler. To keep things interesting, he held it on the 3rd Thursday of the month instead of the 4th Thursday of the month to accommodate Thanksgiving. It was still well attended, and we hope it will continue growing. (cont. on page 5)

Brotherhood, cont.

We have already started planning for the annual **December 25th** Pancake Breakfast. It will start at 9:00 a.m. and raffle and breakfast reservations are already in the mail. Once again, we will have a myriad of raffle items as well as the usual fruit, plain, blueberry and chocolate pancakes, turkey sausages and eggs, served any way you like—as long as you like them scrambled. Support the Brotherhood by joining, buying tickets, and having a great breakfast on the 25th. Remember, our money goes to support the Temple and primarily the children of the Temple. We wish you all a very happy Chanukah and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sisterhood



Our Annual Paid-Up Membership Event – Bunco And Brunch – held on Sunday, November 6th was a great event enjoyed by all who attended. Galit Reitman chaired the event with Rachel Solinger to create a wonderful autumn atmosphere. We had an abundance of food from Benjie's with baked goods from Brenda Beck and Donna Wolffe. Nancy Silverman, Cathy Markowitz, and Brenda Beck were part of the committee. Thank you to our committee for a job well done. And a big “Thank You” to our members and their guests who shared their afternoon with us.

On **December 4th**, at Let's Gelt Together, the Sisterhood Gift Shop will be open to attendees. We have many Chanukah Menorahs, Chanukah-related items, and Judaica. In addition, Sisterhood members support the event by volunteering to help in the different games and activities. We hope to see you there!

December 21st is Sisterhood Night at the Orange Circle to light the electric Chanukah menorah in the plaza, sing songs, and eat jelly donuts. We plan to meet at a restaurant in the old town Orange area. This is open to all Temple members. We will need to know how many people are interested in joining us to assist with our reservations. Please call or text Barbara Swartz @ 949-322-1940 or barbaraswartz@gmail.com.

December 28th – Sisterhood Board Meeting in the TBS Board Room. All members are welcome to attend.

We will offer a Thursday night class to learn how to play mahjongg beginning mid-January. Please contact Sandy Drummond at 714-501-9818 or s.i.drummond@sbcglobal.net to sign up. Also, the end of January is the Sisterhood Shabbat. If you would like to help, we are forming a committee now. Please get in touch with Brenda Beck @ 714-692-2176 or brenda@thebecks82.com.

Galit Reitman has done an amazing job scheduling Onegs following shabbat services. If you would like to honor someone's birthday, anniversary, yahrzeit, baby naming, graduation ... whatever you want to celebrate with your TBS family, please help by donating to TBS Onegs. Contact Mara at the Temple Office or Galit @ 714-209-6041 or galit.reitman@csusb.edu.

Our Youth

Early Childhood Center

Tamara Levin, Director of Early Childhood Education

The year is ending, and the ECC is a frenzy of activity. All the classrooms were busy preparing for their Thanksgiving feasts, and many families are gearing up to travel or planning on hosting friends and family.

One of the major events that the ECC is planning is our Gatsby Vegas Night Fundraiser. We are all looking forward to this event. It has the dual purpose of raising much needed funds to improve our playground, and to unite the ECC families and Temple members in an evening of fun, laughter, and camaraderie. The PTA is extremely busy putting together the evening; please contact me if you'd like to volunteer.

I am so privileged to work with such a dedicated and efficient group of parents all of whom are deeply committed to ensuring that our children have the best possible preschool experience. They are investing not only in their own children's wellbeing, but those who will be joining us in the future. I sincerely hope that all of you will join us on **February 11, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.** I look forward to seeing you there! (Please see our flyer on page 11.)

Support Our Early Childhood Center - Tanaka Farms CSA Produce Boxes

Sarah Resnick, ECC Parent and CSA Coordinator



TBS is now a designated pick-up site for bi-weekly produce boxes as part of a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program with Tanaka Farms in Irvine. Being part of this subscription program also serves as a fundraiser with **10% of all proceeds going to our ECC.**

Program Details:

- Bi-weekly deliveries to the TBS Living Room on Tuesdays between 3:30-5:30pm.
- As a CSA subscriber, you also get free general admission to Tanaka Farms for the subscriber + up to 4 guests (\$5-\$10/person value depending on time of year) as well as a 10% discount on the produce stand.
- Box information: <https://www.tanakafarms.com/boxes>
- Program information: <https://www.tanakafarms.com/about-csa>
- This Week's Box: <https://www.tanakafarms.com/this-weeks-box>

Enrollment Details:

- Sign up link: <https://csa.farmigo.com/join/tanakafarms> and choose "Temple Beth Shalom of Orange County"
- Choose box size and create an account; use "TBS15" for \$15 off your first box!
- Note: Subscribing **does not** require ordering a box every single time. You can make account changes (cancelling an upcoming box, changing the box size, etc.) by the Thursday before each delivery

Committee Updates

Membership/FWYC

Mary Gonzalez, VP of Membership



The Membership Committee hopes to see you at our second annual Chanukah Festival, “Get Your Gelt On” at **12:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 4th** in the TBS courtyards. Hummus Way Restaurant will provide a delicious lunch. Activities are scheduled for all ages including a dreidel competition and candle making, and our ECC children are putting on a special holiday performance. We also hope to see you at the Merage JCC for a community-wide Chanukah festival on **December 15th at 5:00 p.m.** Stop by and see us at the TBS booth and head to <https://www.jccoc.org/> for more details.

The Membership Committee happily recognizes our newest (and returning) members. Please join us in welcoming them to the TBS family!

Matthew, Katrina & Eliana (12) Dodyk | Gail & Malcolm Geffon | Janice & Mitchel Goldberg | Eileen Rheins
Cathy Markowitz | Galit, Assaf, Ari (17), Dalia (14) & Sam (9) Nachshon | Robert Hoadley | Barbara Rosen
Ira & Marilyn Barnett | David Wolfe, Mary Berry & Chloe Wolf (10) | Stuart Silverman & Deborah Surfas
Sarah & Zach Bronstein | Stephen & Sharon Kessler | Rachel, Ryan & Ezra (1) Wolf | Alan & Minh Karlin
Alyssa, Aaron & Molly (2) Rubin | Len & Susan Silberman | Alajandra, David & Onyx (1) Lopez
Spencer, Danielle & Zoey (<1yr) Reckon | Daniel, Whitney & Maxwell (2) Reckard

Chavurot

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

Our program is up and running! We have several active chavurot spanning all age groups and stages in life. Joining a Chavurot is not a one-time event; they are ever changing. If you have questions or would like to join a chavurah, please call or text Shani at 714-343-1135 or shaniboone2@sbcglobal.net.

Social Action

Education - Direct Service – Advocacy - Collections

Social Action remains committed to spreading *Tikkun Olam* throughout our congregation, community, and to those in need. If you are interested in joining us in our work, please contact the office. We meet the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Mitzvah Meals is Back!

Mitzvah Meals Team



The Mitzvah Meals team has been working to reinvent and refresh this legacy program, and we are pleased to announce its return! We are back in the TBS Kitchen the **3rd & 4th Sundays of each month**. Anyone interested in becoming a part of the new and improved Mitzvah Meals, please call the TBS office or text Sharon Kessler at 301-254-7728. There is a link to sign up on the TBS website, so you can easily choose the dates for which you would like to volunteer. We are also accepting donations of baked goods to the kitchen by 9:00am on the Sundays we are cooking.

Mitzvah of the Month – TBS Holiday Toy and Gift Drive

Bonnie Robinson, Social Action Member

Donate a toy or gift and bring a smile to a child's face this holiday season. TBS is partnering with the Friendly Center to help reach their goal of providing toys and gifts to 400 local families. They can't do this without the support of caring individuals like you! We're collecting toys and gifts for children ages 2-17. **They should be new, unwrapped, and have a value of \$25.00 or more.** Please see our flyer on page 12 for suggestions. Toys and gifts should be delivered to the TBS Living Room by **December 14, 2022**.

You may also order directly from the Friendly Center Holiday Drive Wish List on Amazon. Friendly Center is a nonprofit organization that provides wrap-around services that elevate families to overcome crisis and the barriers of poverty. Their services include counseling, job development, domestic violence intervention, food distribution for families and seniors, emergency assistance, after-school tutoring, English as a second language instruction, parenting classes and financial literacy. Parents at Friendly Center have registered for appointments to handpick gifts for their children. Each family will also receive a bag of hygiene items and groceries. Friendly Center's Food Pantry received a good portion of our High Holy Day Food Drive donations, and we would like to continue to support these families. Questions? Please contact Bonnie Robinson at 714-292-2762.

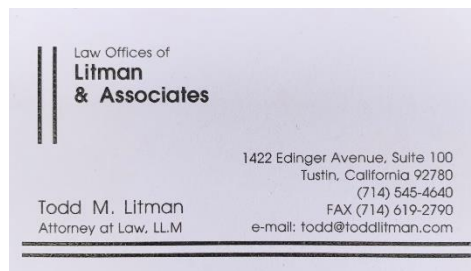
Do You Have an Hour a Month to Bring Happiness to Seniors?

Alan Shebroe, Worship Volunteer

We are still taking volunteers to lead Shabbat services for Bubbe & Zayde's Place. Their website can be found at <https://bubbeandzaydesplace.com>. If you are interested in joining this legacy TBS mitzvah program or have questions, please contact me at alan53@earthlink.net / 626.664.8384.

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.

Adult Education

Upcoming Events

Adult Education Committee

Please take a moment to review our list of coming programming.

"Planning for Incapacity" – December 7, 2022, at 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Board Room

Todd Litman will be presenting a follow-up to last year's guest author presentation regarding the health of care takers. The evening will address the legal issues of what is needed when a loved one can no longer make decisions for themselves. Topics that will be covered will be Trusts, Durable Power of Attorney, Health Care documents, including Health Care Directives, HIPPA Waivers and Conservatorships.

"Reels and Repartee" Film Discussions

For our film "buffs," join us for guided discussions of current films representing a variety of topics. In addition to the discussion of the film *Image of Victory*, with Steffanie and Steve Belasco on Zoom, **December 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.** Two other films are being considered for 2023. The December offering is a 2021 film set in 1948 with a platoon going to Palestine to liberate farmers. Values are tested with both sides of the conflict reevaluating what they understand of war. This film is available on Netflix and should be viewed before the discussion. The next films to look for will either be *Shiva Baby* or *The Cake Maker* or *Leona*.

Book Chats

Book Chats will continue in 2023 led by Soni Rice, Cindy Grossberg and other guests. Our first discussion will take place on **Sunday, January 29, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.** in the Chapel. The selection is *People Love Dead Jews* by Dora Horn. Other books being considered for future chats are *3 Sisters*, *The Netanyahues*, *The Titan of Iran*, *Journey from the Land of NO*, *The Last Girl* and others. Follow the TBS weekly emails or <https://tbsoc.com/book-chat/> for more info.

Adult Education, cont.

"Jews on the Move: How Migration Supported by Philanthropy Remade and Remakes the Modern Jewish World"

This panel Discussion will be held on **January 22, 2023**, in the Chapel from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. followed by a reception in the living room with book signing and refreshments. Join us as we listen to a discussion with historian Matthias Lehmann, the Teller Family Chair in Jewish History at UC Irvine and Shira Klein, Associate Professor of History at Chapman University, and a TBS member. Our moderator will be Joel Kotkin, Presidential Fellow and Executive Director of the Center for Demographics and Policy at Chapman University and TBS member.

Torah on Trial

The committee is currently in the planning stages of presenting TBS's own Torah Trial event in late Spring. The trial format will follow the composition of an authentic courtroom with attorneys for the defense, prosecution, and judge. Keep your calendar open for the date of this experience when the audience will be the jury and individually submit their verdicts and listen to the verdict of the Judge. In reading the verdict, the Judge will explain their decision based on today's laws. Join us for the modern-day approach to the question, "How would events in the Torah be decided under today's rules and procedures?"

Don't Miss Out!

Rabbi Sobel's Meet & Greets

We hope you consider coming to one of these events if you haven't already. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know Rabbi Sobel! All events are held at TBS. Please register at <https://tbsoc.com/hello-rabbi/>.

Breakfasts – Join Us @ 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday, December 6

Lunches – Join Us @ Noon
Thursday, December 15

Community Events



TBS and our membership committee will have a booth with activities for families with young children. Please contact the JCC with questions at 1 Federation Way, Irvine, CA 92603 or 949.435.3400. We hope to see you there!

Save the Date!



Temple Beth Sholom TOY DRIVE



Donate a toy and bring a smile to a child's face this holiday season! TBS is partnering with the **Friendly Center** to reach the goal of providing toys and gifts to 400 local families (about 1,000 children). They can't do this without the support of caring individuals like you. Friendly Center is a nonprofit organization that provides wrap-around services that elevate OC families to overcome crisis and the barriers of poverty.

**Drop off your unwrapped gifts at the
TBS Living Room by December 14, 2022.**

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES:

- All gifts should be brand new
No used items
- Minimum toy value of \$25 each
- All toys and gifts should be unwrapped
- Collecting for ages 0-17
- Gift Cards are welcome



See the
**FRIENDLY CENTER
HOLIDAY DRIVE**
Wish List on Amazon

SUGGESTED TOYS AND GIFTS

TEEN GIFTS

- Skateboards
- Headphones/earbuds
- Bluetooth speakers
- Balls/sports equipment
- Makeup, bath/nail products
- Flat irons, curling irons, hairdryers
- Watches
- Wallets
- Target or Walmart gift cards (\$25 increments)
- Fast food gift cards

CHILDREN'S TOYS

- Infant learning toys
- Toy cars and trucks
- Legos
- Arts supplies
- Balls/sports equipment
- Skateboards
- Board games
- Action Figures/Dolls
- Craft kits
- Remote control toys



QUESTIONS? Contact Bonnie Robinson, Social Action Committee at (714) 292-2762