

Temple Beth Sholom Presents:

Our Voices – A Monthly Newsletter

January 2023 – Tevet/Shevat 5783 | Issue 35 | 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

1/6 @ 6:00 p.m. | Family Shabbat – This family friendly service is held the first Friday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

1/13 @ 7:00 p.m. | Shabbat Service of Justice and Hope – Join us as Rabbi Sobel highlights the words of the Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

1/20 @ 7:00 p.m. | Shir Joy Musical Shabbat – This musical service is held once per month.

1/26 @ 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.

1/27 @ 7:00 p.m. | Sisterhood Shabbat Service

1/29 @ 10:30 a.m. | Adult Education Book Chat – *People Love Dead Jews* by Dara Horn

Worship and Reflections

“...And All Shall Sit Under Their Vine and Fig Tree, and None Shall Make Them Afraid.”

Rabbi Sharon Sobel

On January 16th, we commemorate the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Shabbat immediately prior, Jewish people begin reading the book of *Sh'mot* – the Book of Exodus, the story of our people's time in slavery in Egypt, our physical and theological redemption. Just a few weeks later, we'll observe *Tu B'shvat*, our Jewish Arbor Day – where we celebrate trees, nature and all that God bestows upon us. (Please see the included flyer for our Artist/Scholar-in-Residence Weekend, Feb 3-5th).

Why am I connecting the observance of MLK Day, the book of Exodus and Tu B'shvat? At first glance, it seems as if Tu B'shvat has nothing in common with the themes of the other two: Tu B'shvat celebrates nature, the day the first almond blossoms appear in the land of Israel. In its more contemporary setting, Tu B'shvat allows us to focus on our relationship with the environment, our connection to God, and how the two are inextricably intertwined. (cont. on page 2)

“...And All Shall Sit Under Their Vine and Fig Tree, and None Shall Make Them Afraid.” cont.

On MLK Day, we remember and commemorate the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr: civil rights leader, social justice activist, pastor, preacher, husband, father, scholar, orator, dreamer. The Book of Exodus highlights the long, hard road our people took to find their way from Egypt to the Promised Land of Israel. A road fraught with disappointment, frustration, and setbacks. Yet, on this road, our people, the Jewish people, was born. Our nation found its path toward building a covenantal relationship with God. We discovered some of the greatest eternal truths that still guide us today, thousands of years later.

Many people have experienced struggles of slavery, oppression, and bondage. Many people have had to walk that same road our people did so many years ago. As we are all aware, the struggles are still not over. The Jewish people's story of oppression and redemption strongly resonates with the lessons taught by Dr. King. Dr. King often spoke with a prophetic voice echoing those biblical values, morals, and ideals. He fought for what was just, right, and fair. Many rabbis and ministers, priests and good people of all religious and ethnic backgrounds walked alongside him. His message still cries out to us today, in our broken, hurting world.

Our relationship with the environment and with nature, teaches us that there is always hope for the future. Tu B'shvat reminds us that we are blessed with what we have today because of those who planted seeds before us. These seeds can be the literal seeds for food, or the symbolic seeds of justice, peace, harmony, and hope.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. often spoke about those seeds of justice, he tried to grow a field of hope. He caused the sun to shine on a forest of dreams for so many people, creating a positive environment of potential and opportunity: just as the Israelites saw their potential of opportunity as they marched on their journey toward the promised land.

As we commemorate the Rev. Dr. King, begin the Book of Exodus, and prepare to celebrate Tu B'shvat next month we affirm our pursuit of justice, as well as our commitment to protect our environment. As the Rev. Dr. King taught:

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” (Birmingham, Alabama, April 16, 1963).

This is my prayer for these dual observances: “Let violence be gone; let the day come soon when evil shall give way to goodness, when war shall be forgotten, hunger be no more, and all at last shall live in freedom.” As the prophet Micah reminds us: Then all shall sit under their vines and fig trees, and none shall make them afraid. (Micah 4:4)

In honor of MLK Day, please join us for a special Erev Shabbat Service of Justice and Hope, highlighting the words of the Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., the words of our tradition and special musical selections: **Friday, January 13th at 7:00 p.m.** with Rabbi Sharon Sobel and Mark Thompson.

Write Your Tallit Memory

Ufros Aleinu Sukkot Shlomeicha – “Spread Over Us the Shelter of Your Peace”

What's *your* tallit story? Rabbi Sharon Sobel is pleased to launch TBS's “Sharing Personal Tallit Memories” writing project. These stories will be collected, compiled, and distributed during our Scholar/Artist in Residence Weekend February 3rd-5th, 2023 with Daniel Abramson. Daniel is an educator, artist, environmentalist. We'll be learning with him, creating an oversize painting-on-silk TBS tallit to be used for community events, and celebrating Tu B'shvat with our community-wide Tu B'shvat Festival on **Sunday, February 5th**, beginning at 8:30 a.m. (cont. on page 3)

Details for Written Submissions

1. All submissions must be submitted in Word format, or in the body of an email (any other format will not be accepted).
2. Submission must include your full name, mobile number, and email address. Please indicate whether or not you give permission to publish your name with your submission.
3. Submissions should please be a maximum of 400 words and should be proof-read for spelling and grammar corrections. (Please understand that submissions may be edited for brevity, clarity and/or grammar).
4. Photos in jpg format are welcome (but not necessary)!
5. Submissions can also take the form of a poem, a drawing or a photo with a paragraph explaining its significance.
6. All submissions must involve the theme of “*tallit*,” and should be your own true memories (i.e., we’re not looking for fiction at this time).
7. All submissions should be emailed to: rabbisobel@tbsoc.com by Tuesday, January 17th. Submissions received after this date may not be included. (If you do not receive a reply that your submission was received, please call Rabbi Sobel to see if she received it.)

Examples include Mark Thompson’s *tallit* gifted to him by TBS on his 13th anniversary here, Mitch Cohen’s *tallit* that he purchased in the Old City of Jerusalem in 1992, or Mike Winston’s *tallit* that he bought for his grandfather in Israel and is once again his now that his grandfather is no longer alive.

In the darkness, and the light...

Soni Rice, Worship Committee Member

December was marked by the winter solstice, illuminated by the lights from our Chanukiyot. Our homes, sanctuary, and the Orange Circle were filled with the lights of rededication in our personal, congregational, and community lives. And now we look toward January, the month of hopeful clarity and appreciation for those things seen in the light!

We’re observing Shabbat services in the sanctuary or chapel at 7:00 p.m.; Family Services are held the first Friday of the month at 6:00 p.m. On **January 20th**, Rabbi Sobel and Cantorial Soloist, Bill Shafton, will be leading us in the first of our Shir Joy Shabbat services. Please join us for this very lively and engaging musical service. And remember that the weekly Torah Study sessions are in the Board Room every Saturday morning at 9:15 a.m. and virtually on Zoom. We’re completing the book of Genesis and beginning the journeys of Exodus this month.

As congregants, we’re used to coming into the sanctuary or streaming services and having “all at the ready.” But that doesn’t magically happen. Fabian Raygoza and Octavio Montanez, our long serving and “quietly omnipresent” and supportive maintenance staff, have been busy. In conjunction with Rabbi Sobel, they prepare the sanctuary and social hall, from the objects on the bima, to the prayer books, brochures, audio and visual needs, and setting up/and taking down for the Oneg Shabbat. Their work is quiet, efficient, and necessary for the seemingly effortless Shabbat and holiday observances. They attend to our everyday needs with patience, humor, and ingenuity. They are always ready to help congregants and staff with an oftentimes wide range of requests. Please take time to be aware of the underpinnings of our setting and to be grateful for Octavio and Fabian’s presence.

"Shir Joy" – Musical Shabbat

Rabbi Sobel and Cantorial Soloist Bill Shafton



Initial Rehearsals:
January 4 (7:00 PM)
January 11 (7:00 PM)
January 20 (5:30 PM)*

*This is our first "Shir Joy" service. The final rehearsal will take place right before the service.

Please email Rabbi Sharon Sobel (and let her know either what instrument you play or what part you sing: tenor/soprano/alto/etc) so we can send you the music in advance of the first rehearsal: rabbisobel@tbsoc.com
(It's highly encouraged to attend all rehearsals).

Shir Joy Shabbat Dates:
January 20 April 28
February 17 May 19
March 24 June 16

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Executive Messages

Mike Winston, TBS President



for Chanukah. The thought they put into what the other would appreciate and the excited thankfulness they showed when they opened their gifts was just priceless. Mimi and I are very proud parents.

Temple Beth Shalom also was able to give greatly to our greater public this past month. Between our Let's Gelt Together program open to all visitors and our Chanukah candle lighting at the Orange Circle, we had many people join our community to celebrate. The candle lighting at the circle was especially exciting as we were able to provide an opportunity for other Jews in our neighborhood to come celebrate, as well as providing an opportunity for other non-Jewish members of our neighborhood to learn and participate. I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe New Year's celebration. I look forward to seeing you at TBS at an upcoming event. L'Shalom.

Sisterhood

We've been Busy, busy, busy... Sisterhood 2022 was well represented in helping at "Let's Gelt Together." We participated in lighting the Chanukah candles at the Orange Circle on the 21st of December and then a group of our members went out to dinner together in Orange. We like socializing and it was a nice way to catch up during this busy holiday season.

Sisterhood, cont.

We have many social events coming up in the new year. Check with Barbara Swartz at Barbara@swartzcre.com for information about "Sisters at Heart Dinners," the **January 27th** Sisterhood Shabbat and dinner, and several other events planned for the Spring. We will offer a Thursday night class to learn how to play Mah Jongg beginning **January 12th** at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Please contact Sandy Drummond at 714-501-9818 or s.i.drummond@sbcglobal.net to sign up.

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

Brotherhood

Community – Fellowship – Action – Service

Sylvan Swartz, Brotherhood Director of Membership



The annual December 25th Pancake Breakfast a great success. We had a myriad of raffle items as well as the usual fruit, pancakes, turkey sausages, and eggs. We also enjoyed visiting with members at the Chanukiah lighting in the Orange Circle. Brotherhood poker continues under the guidance of our expert card shark, Lew Siegler, held on the 4th Thursday of the month. Remember, help the Brotherhood by joining. Our money goes to support the Temple and primarily the children of the Temple. We wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Our Youth

Early Childhood Center

Tamara Levin, Director of Early Childhood Education

I am so privileged to work with such a dedicated and efficient group of staff and 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 11th at 6:00 p.m.** at our annual gala for a night of Vegas style fun. I look forward to seeing you there! (Please see our flyer on page 8.)

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. For program and enrollment details, please contact me or the ECC office, or visit <https://www.tanakafarms.com/about-csa>. 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.

Religious School

Lena Shupper, Director of Religious School



Happy New Year! A New Beginning! The secular new year gives us yet *another* chance to reflect. Children in the TBS religious school have been busily engaged in a variety of Judaic learning including role playing and acting out *Parsha* (*Torah portion*) Plays, playing Hebrew Connect Four, dancing along to Israeli Tik Tok videos, designing and tie dyeing *tallitot* (prayer shawls), and making and eating a delicious Gratitude Granola recipe (after learning *Modeh Ani* - a morning prayer of thanks).

We held a family-sponsored Nosh & Kibbitz breakfast before religious school in the fall, and one rainy Sunday right before Chanukah we gathered for a Family Learning Day. Families cozied up in the sanctuary for a Chanukah sing-along before rotating between meaningful activities around the synagogue. With Morah Hannah, each family designed a special framed art piece of a *chanukiah* (menorah for Chanukah) for the home.

In the kitchen, Steffanie Belasco and I were excited to make latkes with families and we discussed the significance of oil and light, the idea of role models, and how as Jewish people, we are a guiding light to others. Morah Mira helped families learn that the Hebrew letter shin on the dreidel (shin, shin, put one in) is an action we can feel good about if we think of shin as sharing (the Yiddish translation of the game action for shin is *shtet* - “share”). We all “put one in” by making Helping the Homeless starter kits to be finished at home and delivered as a family, an act of being a guiding light to others. Looking ahead in this new year, we are excited to come together for the Tu B’shvat weekend celebration! See you then!

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.

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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

Membership/FWYC/Chavurot

Mary Gonzalez, VP of Membership

Thank you to all those who joined us at the Orange Circle to light the Chanukiyah. It was such a joy to share the light filled evenings with you. Also, we have several active chavurot spanning all age groups and stages in life. If you have questions or would like to join a chavurah, please call or text Shani at 714-343-1135 / shaniboone2@sbcglobal.net. The Membership Committee happily recognizes our newest (and returning) members. Please join us in welcoming them to the TBS family!

Melanie, Danny, Joshua (17), and Jacob (8) Mallers | Howard and Lainey Mitzman

Social Action: Education - Direct Service – Advocacy – Collections

Social Action Committee

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 in the TBS Kitchen the **3rd & 4th Sundays of each month**. Anyone interested in becoming a part of the new and improved program, 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 encouraging and gladly accepting financial donations or donations of baked goods to the kitchen by 9:00 a.m. on the Sundays we are cooking. Your donations (of any kind) will keep this TBS legacy program running.

We are also 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 mitzvah program or have questions, please contact Alan Shebroe at alan53@earthlink.net / 626.664.8384.

Lastly, let's have an amazing end to 2022 and a bright 2023 beginning. "After Xmas" sales are a great time to purchase games for the kidlets and adults at both Orangewood facilities. The colder weather also calls for warm undergarments, i.e. t-shirts, thermal underwear, socks, pantyhose, etc. Questions? Please contact the office or Monica at sovta11@gmail.com / 949 458-8732.

Adult Education

Upcoming Events

Adult Education Committee

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

This panel discussion has been temporarily postponed. Please watch for rescheduling details on the website and in the weekly Shavu'on, to 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.

Adult Education, cont.

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 29th, at 10:30 a.m.** via Zoom. 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.

Torah on Trial

The committee is currently in the planning stages of presenting TBS's own Torah Trial event. Please watch the weekly Shavu'on or call the office for dates and times. The trial format will follow the composition of an authentic courtroom with attorneys for the defense, prosecution, and judge. 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?"

Save the Date for Our Galas!

