

March is Women's History Month

Here are all who have celebrated a Bat Mitzvah since we opened in 1947:



Judith Kaplan, first USA
Bat Mitzvah in 1922

Sharon Siegel, 1964
Marlene Barrish, 1964
Patrice Vengarick, 1965
Sharon Lipco, 1966
Sherry Baron, 1968
Amy Simrin, 1968
Cynthia Siegel, 1972
Deborah Robin, 1976
Ronda Valdez, 1978
Sarah Neal, 1994
Amy Neumeister, 1994
Blake Magnus, 1994
Jana Christenson, 1994
Bonnie Birch, 1994
Skip Dixon, 1994
Nancy Saylor, 1995
Rosalyn Strauss, 1995
Abby Peskind, 1995
Elizabeth Mahan, 1995
Sonia Simrin, 1995
Marty Weinberg, 1995
Rebecca Andrews, 1995
Erica Smith, 1996
Dara Greenstein, 1996
Alisa Neal, 1996
Brittany Schwartz, 1997
Stacy Moore, 1997
Catharine Mahan, 1997
Lauren Grippi, 1997
Jennifer Skinner, 1997
Bailey Christenson, 1997
Rebecca Bronstein, 1998
Kelly Guajardo, 1999
Jenna Joyce, 1999
DeeDee Chavez, 1999

Ali Arbeit, 1999
Lauren Schenkman, 1999
Talia Anders, 1999
Rena Jacobs, 2000
Anna Fram, 2000
Allison Olmos, 2000
Debra Neal, 2000
Laura Klein, 2002
Kaitlin Rudnick, 2003
Jamie Joyce, 2003
Judy Black, 2003
Kathleen Chambers, 2003
Ariel Anders, 2003
Esther Brandon, 2003
Lynne Rosenstein, 2003
Jackie Rudnick, 2003
Sarah Kirschner, 2004
Amanda Rudnick, 2004
Hannah Black, 2004
Reena Fram, 2005
Rachel Goldner, 2006
Rebecca Green, 2006
Sage Russinsky, 2006
Julia Brennan, 2006
Connie Wellman, 2007
Peggie Soltis, 2007
Taylor Feher, 2007
Rebecca Corona, 2007
Karen Briefer, 2007
Kathi Gose, 2007
Susan Simrin, 2007
Wendy Wayne, 2007

The Shofar

Temple Beth El • Bakersfield, CA
Where Judaism Lives

March 2022 • Adar-I /Adar-II 5782

Amelia Eglan, 2007
Rachel Kirschner, 2007
Rachel Chavez, 2007
Jessica Shiell, 2008
Shelby Rothberg, 2009
Sarah Klein, 2009
GeorgieAnna Escobedo, 2009
Rachael Sheeter, 2010
Laura Russinsky, 2011
Ali Moore, 2011
Zoe Zanoft, 2011
Katie Brennan, 2011
Ariana Shiell, 2011
Kerriane Escobedo, 2011
Pamela Elisheva, 2012
Jill Eglan, 2012
Janet Blumberg, 2012
Nancy McCombs, 2012
Marsha Parr, 2012
Michayla Escobedo, 2012
Juane Aggenbach, 2013
Peyton Kniffen, 2014
Kenya Edelhart, 2015
Emily Sincoff, 2019
Isabella Rudnick, 2019
Adison Gartenlaub, 2020



**Celebrating the
100-Year Anniversary
of the First Bat Mitzvah
in North America**



The President's Perspective

Dear Chevrei,

Please welcome **Alexis Lukehart**. She was previously a member at Temple Beth El and her children grew up here going to our Religious School! It is so wonderful to have her be a part of our community again!

We have once again opened our doors for hybrid services on **February 25th**. At least for now we will remain also on Zoom so we are able to include our members that are unable to come in person. Welcome back to Temple Beth El!

We have started our new schedule of having the **first Friday of each month as a Family Service starting at 6:00 pm** and will be for about one hour. Our first service was on February 4th and it was just delightful! All are welcome to come to this service. Yasher Koach to all who participated!

We also started the **first Saturday of each month as an in-person Havdalah Service in the Courtyard of the Temple** following the Jewish Learning at 6:30 pm. Our first service was on February 5th and was attended by several people. The Rabbi played his guitar as everyone sang. This was put together by Larry Saslaw and Jill Egland. The times will change based on the time of sunset. We will keep you posted of the changes each month. Yasher Koach to Larry & Jill and all who attended!

Our annual **Congregational Meeting will be held on May 22, 2022** this year. We will be discussing the particulars at our next Board Meeting.

This November will be the **75th Anniversary of Temple Beth El**. It will be wonderful to celebrate this austere occasion. If anyone is interested in putting this together, please contact me.

Ilene Schechter
President



The Rabbi's Ruminations

Our Values in the Face of Crises



First the good news: It seems like those who have received sufficient dosage of the vaccine are showing signs of almost certain survivability from this wretched COVID-19 virus. As a result, masks are being peeled off, ever-so-slowly, so that we can have hopes of communicating Panim el Panim, face to face.

For far too long—March 2020—we have been stranded in our ability to utilize the full palette of expression to connect to one another. In far too many instances, children were unable to visit dying parents, new acquaintances could not shake hands, we could barely be in the same spaces. Temple Beth El itself, our communal home, has felt deserted for weeks and, while we had a few months of intermittent Shabbat services and Chanukah there, we still have not held High Holy Days nor Purim in our precious Sanctuary, with all its patina from 74 years of blessings. Thank goodness that is seemingly changing; we will hold Purim on Wednesday evening March 16th in our sanctuary; thank you to Pamela for making this come to fruition!

Now the bad news: Just as the pandemic seems to be waning, the world feels more violent, with growing repression. The 40 million people of Ukraine—including an estimated 200,000 Jews—have had their rights of self-determination stolen from them (this is not new; many of our congregants' families lived in the Pale of Settlement within Ukraine, hailing from Odessa either being uprooted from Shtetls in/near Vinnitsa, Kremenchug, Tulchin, Zhitomir, Berdichev, and so many other villages, long ago annihilated by the Ukrainians and later by the Nazis).

As I write this, the capital Kyiv is facing bombardment by Russian artillery, its citizens taking up arms and desperately trying to resist the overwhelming might of the Russian military that has invaded their lands. This unjust war built upon conquest, not defense, has also exacerbated a teetering economy to worsen, and we can predict more suffering, more destruction, a world crisis that seems unlikely to go away for the foreseeable future. The fate of other lands, too, such as Taiwan, South Korea, and in many ways Israel lays in the balance; the global alliances are shifting and with this change comes immense uncertainty that our way of life is secure. I worry about our children's future.

In the face of so much change, as forces beyond our control shape our destinies and that of the seven billion inhabitants of the planet, what can we do to maintain our clarity of purpose, to embody our values, and to make the world a better place than we left it? How do we make our lives more meaningful despite our anguish, our uncertainties? Here's a couple of choices that do NOT work:

The first bad choice is to cave to the negativity, despair, and cynicism that characterizes this era. We can give up on humanity, we can join the bandwagon of sarcasm, nihilism and condemnation, posting our hatred on Facebook, encourage others' despair, emphasize the negative. This is *sinat chinam*, gratuitous hatred, the option embraced by Jews at the time of the Destruction of the Temple. This is the anarchist vision of Korach, the "blow S**t up" idea of "if I can't have it, no one can," the ugliest, most vile, and fundamentally un-Jewish approach to the egregious offenses that surround us, spreading our crushed spirit to others, beyond repair.

The second bad choice—perhaps the path of least resistance for the introverts among us—is to hide, to disappear from visibility, to shrink into nothingness...essentially, to die before we have died. This is Pink Floyd's "Comfortably Numb," the elimination of consciousness and the parallel escape from conscience. This is the dodgeball vision of Jonah, who fled to Tarshish, off the grid, to watch from the sidelines as the world came to an end. He slept in the hull of the ship, while the tormenting storms nearly thrash his vessel to smithereens. So, too, we can escape, run far away from responsibility, watch as the world collapses, perhaps hunker down in our own bunkers and disengage from everyone, leaving everyone to fend for themselves. So much for the Jewish belief that we are created *B'tzelem E-lohim*, in the Divine Image. By accepting defeat, relenting on our responsibility to meet despair with hope and with solutions, we embrace another un-Jewish approach to hardship which emphasizes our disconnection from the G•d that offers solutions.

continued on page 11

Happy Anniversary!

March 10

Joshua & Edith Rudnick
William & Laura Wolfe

March 19

Stacy & Mark Davis

March 23

Michael & La Zelle Broida

March 24

Jeffrey Russinsky & Linda Morales



Support Temple Beth El

Help us sustain our robust vision for Jewish life by contributing to any of the following funds:

General Contributions:

- Tree of Life
- Prayer Book Plates
- Memorials
- Memorial Book
- Kol Nidre
- High Holy Day Seats
- Caring Committee

Specific Funds:

- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Camperships

To contribute online:

<https://templebethelbakersfield.org/donation/>

MEGILLAH READING

Erev Purim

Wednesday
March 16,
6:00pm

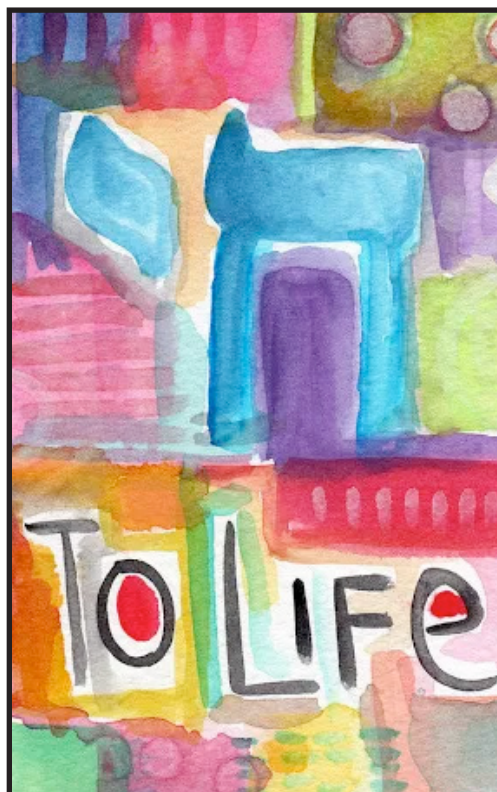


at Temple Beth El and via ZOOM

Changes?

Please notify the Temple office with your membership information — addresses (including email), phone number(s), births, marriage, yahrzeits.

Please help up keep our data base and membership directory updated.



Purim is coming! Purim is coming! Purim is coming! Purim is coming!
coming! Purim is coming! Purim is coming! Purim is coming!

Happy Birthday!

March 1

Esther Brandon

March 2

John Knight

March 3

Elaine White

March 4

Julia Brennan

March 5

Elijah Escobedo
Zoe Zanoff

March 11

Adam Ray Rodriguez

March 12

Laura Russinsky

March 13

Rudie Chavez
Robert Smith

March 14

Jeffrey Russinsky

March 15

Dawn Baron
Linda Hakimi

March 16

Peggie Soltis-McGraw

March 17

Tom Armistead
Jill Egland

March 18

Lucas Baron
Jessica Kessler

March 20

Isabella Rudnick
Rachel Wainwright

March 21

Michael Feldman

March 25

Amy Knight

March 26

Irene Christenson

March 27

Stacey Rodriguez
Mauritz Theron

March 29

Taylor Feher

Welcome to Bright Beginnings Learning Center

2906 Loma Linda Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93305

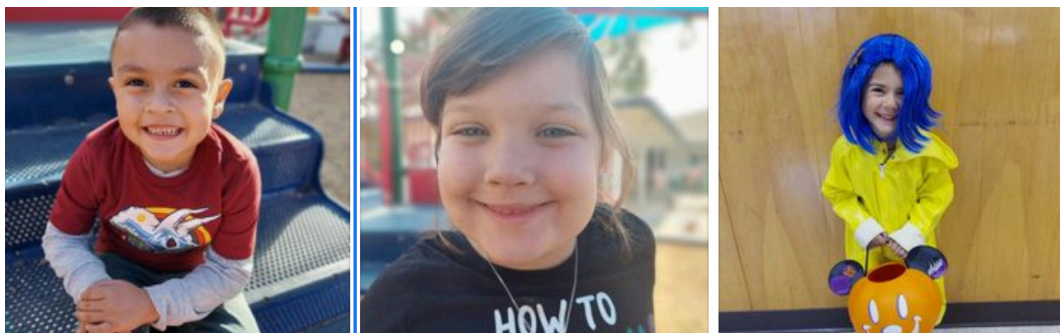
Hours: 6:30a.m. to 6:00p.m.

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- School Age program 5-12
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- Online distance learning for school age children

For more detailed information, contact Bright Beginnings at (661) 324-1253

or email: tonibblcdirector@gmail.com



Reminder!
This month's Book Club selection is *The Gallery of Vanished Husbands* by Natasha Solomons!

SISTERHOOD CHAI•LIGHTS

March 2022

Sisterhood members continue to participate in many exciting and interesting activities! **All activities have been via Zoom and will continue to be in accordance with the temple's opening status!** All activities can be started at any time and no prior attendance is needed. The following is a list of activities coming up in March:

Sunday, March 13th at 1pm

Cooking classes at TBE and via ZOOM

Thursday, March 17th at 4pm

Sisterhood Leadership meeting via ZOOM

Sunday, March 20th at 1pm

Legacy Writing Class via ZOOM

Sunday, March 20th at 3pm

Regular monthly Sisterhood meeting via ZOOM

Sunday, March 27th at 1pm

Book Club via ZOOM

If there is a change due to a conflict we will advise prior to the meeting/activity!! If you have any questions please feel free to email me!!

We hope to see you all at future meetings!

LIZ SHERWYN

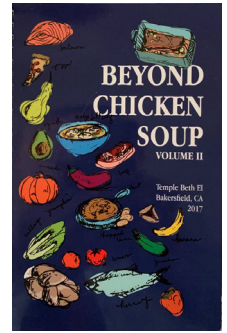
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WOMEN OF TEMPLE BETH EL presents COOKING CLASSES via ZOOM



A once-a-month cooking class at **1 pm on special Sundays** featuring Legacy recipes from the cookbook BEYOND CHICKEN SOUP VOL II, and an additional recipe of the cook's choice. The cookbook is on sale in the Temple Beth El Gift Shop if you don't have one already.

TO PARTICIPATE: We will send you a Zoom link and the ingredient list (if you want to cook along with the cook) the week before the class.

Sunday, March 13, 2022 at 1pm:

It's all about **HAMANTASHEN!** It's time to be **JOYOUS!** March 16 is the night of Purim and Sisterhood is going to gift home-made Hamantashen to Bakersfield Temple Beth El members...or should I say "Norma's Kitchen"-made? Yes, Ladies, we are gathering together for LIVE demonstrations (plus filmed for Zoom as well) of three recipes: From our cookbook, on Page 165, Marsha Parr's Grandma's Hamantashen and Amanda Garza's great grandmother, Laura Lauria's grandmother Shirley Polland's (z"l) recipe. Helen Armistead will also be demonstrating her mother, Norma Schwartz's (z"l) recipe. (Not sure why it didn't make it into our cookbook, but we'll be sending it out the week before via email.) **COME**



AND JOIN US to watch and to learn how to fold those little Haman's Hat pastries, which can be as tricky as the man himself! We need lots of HELP because we'll be making dozens of cookies. We'll be socially distancing in the Social Hall to put them together, then baking them in the wonderful new oven donated by the Schwartz Family in Norma's honor. Questions? wotbesisterhood@gmail.com

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Sisterhood Book Club

Don't worry husbands. The *Gallery of Vanished Husbands* by Natasha Solomons isn't a how-to guide; this work of fiction is a portrait of Juliet Montague's life from 1958 to 2006. She chooses her own future by challenging her world both culturally and religiously. Natasha's main character looks upon herself as an outsider and strives for an independent identity without losing the closeness of her parents and children. Visit the link below at Jewish Book Council to learn more about the book and to purchase from JBC affiliates. We will meet March 26th 1pm on the TBE Zoom to discuss.

<https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/book/the-gallery-of-vanished-husbands>

Synopsis

On her twenty-third birthday Juliet Montague comes home to find that both her husband and her most prized possession — her portrait, painted when she was nine — have disappeared. In the traditional suburban London Jewish community in which she lives, Juliet is now an agunah. Her husband has vanished without giving her a divorce, leaving her in lifelong limbo, unable to marry and looked upon with a mixture of sympathy and suspicion.

On Juliet Montague's thirtieth birthday she heads to London, determined to have a good day and buy a badly needed refrigerator with money she has saved for months. On a walk along Bayswater Road, however, she sees a young artist working on a portrait of a girl and decides to buy that instead. The artist refuses to sell it, telling Juliet that what she wants is a portrait of herself, which he will paint for the same price. That meeting and that portrait change Juliet Montague's life.

With two young children, a job at her father's optical company, and her parents nearby, Juliet is firmly anchored in her traditional community. But her meeting with the painter Charlie Fussell, a talented and socially connected young man, launches them on a bold venture. Juliet has a talent for looking at pictures, for seeing art; Charlie has a talent for painting and travels in a circle of similarly talented artists. Juliet and the artists open Wednesday's Gallery, and over the next decades she becomes the proprietor of the highly respected and successful gallery, an innovative and important figure in the London art world of the 1960s and the owner of scores of portraits painted by her artists. And through the gallery she comes into the life of the reclusive artist Max Langford, who, like her, is frozen by experiences that confine him; together they create a love that frees them to live more fully.

March 2022 Yahrzeits

3/04 Shabbat Service Yahrzeits	
Adolph Bernstein, father of Stacy Davis	3/1
Ruth Broida Harter, mother of Greg Broida, grandmother of Michael Broida	3/1
Anne Caplan, mother of Diane Rogers	3/1, Adar-I 28, 5782
Michael Calvin Brust, remembered by David and Lillian Brust	3/2
Harold Greenstein, father of Jay Greenstein	3/2
Estelle Salnitsky, aunt of Esther Brandon	3/3
Loraine Baranowicz, sister of Alexis Lukehart	3/4, Adar-II 1, 5782
Fay Berger, great-grandmother of Leah Bank	3/4
David Kohn, uncle of Muriel Vekas z"l and Arline Pike z"l, great-uncle of Irvin Pike	3/4
Hyman Krute, uncle of Jackie Rudnick z"l	3/5
Sheila Overture, niece of Arline Pike z"l, cousin of Irvin Pike	3/5
Art Rockoff, husband of Jan Rockoff z"l	3/5
Dan Neal, remembered by TBE	3/6
Marie Redding, mother of Jeanne Moore	3/6
Melvin Adelstein, brother of Sylvia Katz z"l, uncle of Larry Saslaw	3/7
Esther Schwartz, grandmother of Diane	3/8
Naum Genel, father-in-law of Ana Genel z"l	3/10
Myer Makoff, brother-in-law of Florence Makoff z"l	3/10, Adar-II 7, 5782
3/11/2022 Shabbat Service Yahrzeit	
William Fish, grandfather of Larry Fish	3/11
Barry Schwartz, father of Stacey Rodriguez	3/12
Mike Scott, foster son of Stan and Norma Schwartz z"l	3/12
Esther Flaxman, aunt of Larry Saslaw	3/14
Bessie Kaplan, mother of Marsha Parr	3/14
Amram Sheriki, father of Haya Klein	3/14, Adar-II 11, 5782
Sarah Kasse, great aunt of Steve Magnus, great-great aunt of Elliott Magnus	3/15
Sam Saslaw, uncle of Larry Saslaw	3/15
Catherine Holt, mother of Harold Holt	3/16
Betty Schweningen, mother of Pamela Sue Hartley	3/16
3/18/2022 Shabbat Service Yahrzeit	
William Greenberg, father of Ella Abrams	3/18

David Kosakowski , husband of Dorise Bitton	3/18
Salome Pincoski , daughter of Sheryn Pincoski z"l	3/18
Samuel J. Young , father of Robert Young	3/18
Samuel Epstein , father of Etta Robins	3/19
Peter Perez , step-brother of Joshua Rudnick	33/19
Allen Wolfe , father of Bill Wolfe, grandfather of Matthew and Daniel Wolfe	3/19
Zelda Baron , friend of Dan z"l and Mary Speare	3/20
Bradley Dillon , grandson of Peggie Soltis-McGraw	3/21
Dr. Ralph Franklin , friend of Dan z"l and Mary Speare	3/21
Ida Kruger , great-aunt of Sarah Mawhirter	3/21
John Nichter , father of Sheryn Pincoski z"l	3/22
Arline Pike , mother of Irvin Pike	3/22
William Pike , father-in-law of Arlene Pike z"l, grandfather of Irvin	3/22
Jay Leopold , brother-in-law of Judy Strauss	3/24, Adar-ii 21, 5782
3/25 Shabbat Service Yahrzeit	
Peter Golombek , remembered by Carla and Len Epstein	3/25
Geitel Stern , great-grandmother of Steve Magnus, great-great-grandmother of Elliott Magnus	3/25
Mickey Wayne , mother of Wendy Wayne z"l	3/25
Max Gruber , father of John Gruber	3/26
Jim Humphrey , father of Karlyn Farber and Laura Reyes, grandfather of Kari Aguilar	3/26
Tony Rodriquez , father of Adam Rodriquez	3/26
Betty Younger , wife of Milton Younger z"l	3/26
Anna Goodman , mother of Vickie Hugo z"l, grandmother of Victor, Kenny and James Hugo	3/28
Hannah Somkin , grandmother of Ilene Schechter	3/28
David Shroder , uncle of Shulamit Shroder	3/29
Hyman Hoffman , grandfather of Steve Magnus, great-grandfather of Elliott Magnus	3/30
Bruce Pagni , friend of Peggie and Colleen Soltis-McGraw	3/30
Jeanette Stevenson , mother of Phil Stevenson, z"l	3/30

Judaism requires those comforting mourners to provide meals following their loved one's funeral. Temple Beth El's Caring Committee provides these Meals of Condolence, Se'udot Havra'ah. Please donate, <https://templebethelbakersfield.org/donation/> to the Caring Committee so that we may continue to support our mourners in their time of need.



Prayer Book Bookplates In Honor or In Memory of...

Bookplates are available for only \$18 each. To order, make check payable to Temple Beth El, "attention: Bookplates." Please include any special wording and the manner in which you wish your name to appear. Questions? Contact the office at (661) 322-7607 or tbebakersfield@gmail.com.

Memorial Plaques

Temple Beth El provides a sanctuary for your sacred prayers, a social hall for special celebrations, a library to study our heritage, a school to teach our eternal values and ways to remember ones who are no longer with us.

One way we honor those who helped shape our lives is by adding a made-to-order bronze Memorial Plaque to the walls of the Temple foyer.

Contact Andy Abrams:
aabrams@bak.rr.com

Temple Contributions

Memorials/Yahrzeit

Brent Eastep: in memory of Hy Davis
Ronald & Laura Lauria: in memory of Tommy Lauria
Laura & Ricardo Reyes: in memory of Francisco Reyes

Rabbi Discretionary

Mary Gerena
Melanie Rudnick: in memory of Milton Rudnick
Tim Fromm, In honor of Kyle Malicdem's Bar Mitzvah
Debra Barrath, for including her mother in Mi Shebeirach
Andy and Ella Abrams

Caring Committee

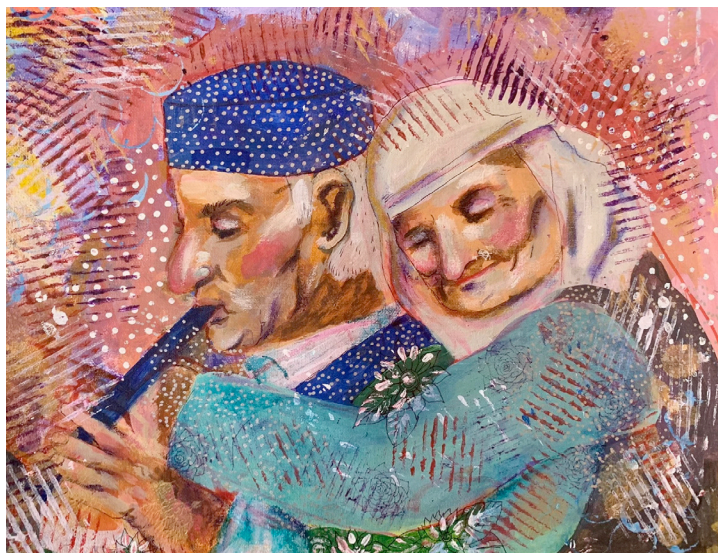
Melanie Rudnick: in memory of Sophie Rudnick, Saralee Rudnick, Libbie Berman Rudnick
Melanie Rudnick: in memory of Stan Simrin, Thomas Stull

Building Fund

Les & Diane Rogers

Tree of Life

Larry Saslaw: in honor of the Bar Mitzvah Kyle Malicdem



Loving Couple, acrylic print by Cassie Clark



**...and did we mention the
MEGILLAH READING
on
EREV PURIM?
Wednesday, March 16th
6:00 pm
at Temple Beth El and on ZOOM**

Come in Costume!
**Hear the Esther Story as creatively
interpreted by your fellow congregants!**

Rabbi continued from page 3

In stark contrast, the Jewish approach to hardship has always includes several core values, summarized here:

B'tzelem E-lohim. We are created in the Divine image, which is to say that while human foibles are problematic, humans are endowed with the ability to solve problem! We must believe, as Anne Frank bravely stated, that “In spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart. I simply can’t build up my hopes on a foundation consisting of confusion, misery, and death. I see the world gradually being turned into a wilderness, I hear the ever approaching thunder, which will destroy us too, I can feel the sufferings of millions and yet, if I look up into the heavens, I think that it will all come right, that this cruelty too will end, and that peace and tranquility will return again.” Or, as Nachman of Bratslav said, “It is forbidden to despair”

Al Shlosha D'varim Haolam Omed. The world stands on three things: *Torah* or law; *Avodah*, or relationship with God; and *G'milut Chasadim*, or bestowal of kindness on one another. A Jewish approach to hardship does NOT ignore the value of working toward a law-centered world that embraces the mysteries of the universe and is driven by seeking the divine in one another.

Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof. Not only must we celebrate Justice; we are duty-bound by Torah to pursue Justice, JUSTICE, to recognize injustices as delineated in our traditions and work diligently to eliminate them. Sitting it out as the world falls apart is not an option.

Modeh Ani L'fanecha. Give thanks daily for another day, another opportunity to shine light in the world.

We must stick to a daily regimen of the Four R's,

1. Re-edifying ourselves, that humans are created in the Divine Image, with power, knowledge and goodness
2. Rebuilding the world by being law-abiding, Godly, and kind to others
3. Restoring justice in the face of injustices, and
4. Rebooting every day with gratitude and thanks for another day of life

While it is no guarantee of creating heaven on earth, it IS a guarantee that we are doing our part, as moral, thoughtful people with cherished values built upon centuries of thought, to make the world a better place. If we do these things, we are guaranteed success, despite our mortality.

Join me on this march forward toward a better world. Happy March, Everyone!





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March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>PLEASE NOTE: This month, all temple activities will be conducted using an on-site/ ZOOM hybrid model, unless otherwise stated.</p>		<p>1 9am Prayer Class</p> <p>6:00pm Religious Practices Meeting via ZOOM</p>	<p>2 Midweek Hebrew via ZOOM</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 6:00pm Family Service</p>	<p>5 5:30pm Pirkei Avot</p> <p>6:30pm Community Havdalah in TBE courtyard</p>
	<p>6 10:00am Religious School</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 9am Prayer Class</p> <p>7:00pm Board Meeting</p>	<p>9 Midweek Hebrew via ZOOM</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 6:00pm Shabbat Sha-ZOOM</p> <p>6:30pm Schmooze</p> <p>7:00pm Shabbat Services</p>
<p>13 10:00am Religious School</p> <p>1:00pm Sisterhood Cooking Class</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 9am Prayer Class</p>	<p>16 Midweek Hebrew via ZOOM</p> <p>6pm Megillah Reading</p> <p>Erev Purim</p>	<p>17 4:00pm Sisterhood Leadership Meeting</p>	<p>18 6:00pm Shabbat Sha-ZOOM</p> <p>6:30pm Schmooze</p> <p>7:00pm Shabbat Services</p>	<p>19 5:30pm Pirkei Avot and Havdalah</p>
<p>20 10:00am Religious School</p> <p>1:00pm Legacy Writing Class</p> <p>3:00pm Sisterhood Meeting</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 9am Prayer Class</p>	<p>23 Midweek Hebrew</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 6:00pm Shabbat Sha-ZOOM</p> <p>6:30pm Schmooze</p> <p>7:00pm Shabbat Services</p>	<p>26 5:30 Pirkei Avot and Havdalah</p>
<p>27 10:00am Religious School</p> <p>1:00pm Sisterhood Book Club</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 9am Prayer Class</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>		

Shalom Y'all!

As I write this, New Orleans is celebrating Mardi Gras, the streets are full of costumes, parades, and music. It makes me think about my Mom describing Purim as “basically Jewish Mardi Gras.” Purim is such a fun holiday and we will learn and celebrate it as a religious school on Sunday, March 13th. Families are welcome to zoom with us in costume at 10am!

In other news, our students and teachers have really been enjoying learning from the URJ's Chai Curriculum this year. Recently, we have been learning about *g'milut chasadim* or acts of loving kindness. Some questions we have been exploring are:

- What differences do we make when we do *g'milut chasadim*?



You're URJ!

URJ Vision & Priorities

The URJ builds community at every level, collaborating and connecting with congregations, organizations, and individuals across North America to advance contemporary and inclusive Jewish life.

The Union for Reform Judaism strives to create a more whole, just, and compassionate world. We motivate people from diverse backgrounds to participate and deepen their engagement in Jewish life; create a more inclusive Jewish community; help congregations stay adept and agile; develop teen and adult leaders to lead transformation for the future; foster meaningful connections to Israel; and agitate for a more progressive society.

Strengthening Congregations

The URJ helps build vibrant congregations and strong communities. We help congregations stay relevant and innovative, supporting them by helping to make easier to run the congregation and make the changes necessary to expand the way in which people can live Jewishly.

Israel: A Democratic, Pluralistic Jewish State

We believe that a Jewish state must be a democratic state that celebrates the pluralism of Jewish practice and identity. We celebrate the notion of *k'lal Yisrael*, the unity of the Jewish people.

Engaging Youth & Families with Young Children

The URJ coordinates a network of youth programs across North America that promote community, spiritual growth, and lifelong friendship, motivating more young Jews to embrace Jewish living as a path to meaning, purpose, and joy.

Social Justice

To be a Reform Jew is to hear the voice of the prophets in our head; to be engaged in the ongoing work of *tikkun olam*; to strive to improve the world in which we live.

Audacious Hospitality

The URJ stands for a Judaism that is inclusive and reflective of a wide range of identities and, through a focused effort on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work, accepts the responsibility of dismantling oppression both inside and outside of our communities.

For more information about various URJ programs, including the Religious Action Center (RAC), contact Larry Saslaw or Jill Eglund, co-chairs, Social Justice Committee.

- Why do we perform acts of g'milut chasadim?
- Why is it important to involve ourselves in world issues through acts of g'milut chasadim?
- What role can we play as G-d's partners in perfecting our world?

I encourage everyone to ask themselves these questions and perhaps throw a little extra in your tzedakah box this month.

Learning and Growing with you,

Sage Russinsky
TBE Religious School Principal and Alumni



Laura Wolfe with the 6th Grade Religious School class.

The Tent

“Looking up, Abraham saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them and, bowing to the group, he said “My lords, if it please you, do not go past your servant.” Genesis 18:2-3



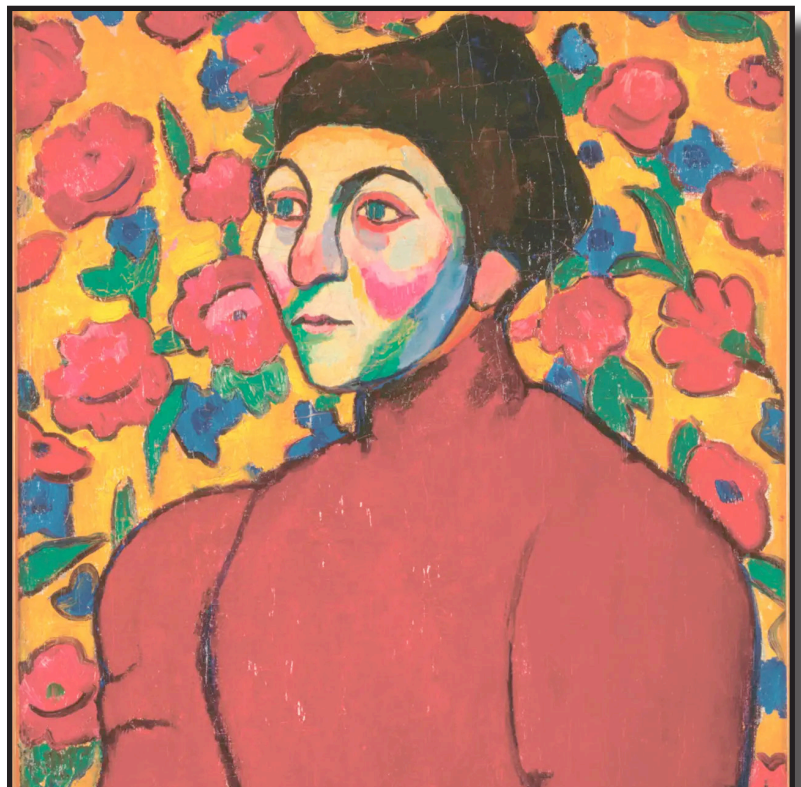
The Tent is a collaborative workspace for Reform Jewish lay and professional congregational leaders, as well as other Reform Movement leaders.

In **The Tent**, congregational leaders can:

- **Connect** with the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)- access content curated by the URJ and connect with leaders of the Reform Movement.
- **Network** with lay and professional leaders in congregations throughout North America- share information, frustrations and concerns.
- **Collaborate** with their own congregational leadership- create a private space in **The Tent** for the exclusive use of the congregational leadership team. This private Tent space promotes collaboration, provides transparency and can help leadership team become more productive and effective.

To request Tent access (for yourself or for other leaders in your congregation), write to the **Knowledge Network team** at urj1800@urj.org.

Already have a Tent account? Log in at urj.org/thetent.



Philomena (1907), by Sonia Delaunay

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