Hillel Omer

March–April 2017
Adar–Iyyar 5777

TALE AS OLD AS TIME: PURIM 5777

Adults
Sing-a-long to the Beatles
March 11
7:00 p.m.

Family
Beauty and the Beast Shpiel
March 12
10:00 a.m.

Purim Carnival
March 12
11:30 a.m.

Get tickets and wristbands at bethhillel.info

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Having just returned from a course of study in Israel with a cohort of colleagues from across the Jewish denomination spectrum, I learned that we are all struggling with what it means to be a rabbi in America in this season. The great irony for most of us was that being in Israel gave us a sense of calm in the storm. When, for most of our lives even with love in our hearts for Israel, her difficulties and struggles were a much bigger challenge than the day to day politics in America.

In the safe space provided to us in Israel, my fellow clergy members and I spent hours not just deep in text study, but in discourse on our obligations to our individual congregants, the organizations we work with, and to our own moral conscience. Some felt the weight of the risk of their jobs for speaking out in the political realm, and others feared loss of jobs for not speaking out. Some, like me, pondered how to be responsible for our deep desires to live our moral conscience set firmly in place by Jewish values, all the while knowing that when we do so we may isolate ourselves from members of our communities.

Rabbi Adam Kliegfeld articulated this dilemma well when he said, “Some of you (congregants) may want us to be prophets, and courageously speak out. You want us to shout ‘Acharei, after me!’ as we lead you forward into the turbulent waters. And some of you need us to be priest, and hold and console you during times of pain saying, ‘Ani kan– I am here’…I am here to make this a safe space.”

TBH has a long history of taking strong stands, embracing the other-being a home to all no matter race, sexual identity, gender identity, and religious affiliation, welcoming refugees like the Vietnamese and Soviet identity, and religious affiliation, welcoming all no matter race, sexual identity, gender and priests, seekers of justice, and comforters. Our doors are open to hear you, to listen to you, and to be present.

The road ahead will be long, and we, your clergy, want to be present to help navigate the journey. Please know that you can call us and come in to talk. We endeavor to keep the pulpit a safe space, a non-pundit place for warmth, learning, and knowledge. A place to explore deeply Jewish values, and join together for the warmth of healing found in community and prayer. Join us for Friday night services to embrace Shabbat and renew our souls.

In addition, it is clear that times in America are turbulent with the addition of social media rapidly changing, twisting, and turning. In the way of our prophets, we will do much to share with you the positions of our Reform Movement, through the Union for Reform Judaism, Central Conference of America Rabbis, and the Religious Action Center’s resolutions. In this season, there are so many coming out we ask you to go to our Facebook pages to keep up with the current resolutions and statements. Please take a moment to like the “Temple Beth Hillel” page, for a more personal approach friend me at “Rabbisarah Hronsny,” and friend Rabbi Ellie at “Eleanor Steinman”. It is here that you will be able to keep up with action steps and our movements’ positions. In addition, TBH has a community organizing group, Bet Hillel l’Tzedek – Beth Hillel Seekers of Justice that is continually forming. If this is a place you would like to be active, please send an email to me at rabbisarah@tbhla.org. We welcome your participation.

Temple Beth Hillel is a diverse community of people that draws together for a variety of reasons and needs. We welcome all with deep respect for the diversity of our sacred community. As your clergy, we desire to serve you fully, being comforters, embracers of your truths, and prophets of moral conscience drawing our voices together to cry out on behalf of the weakest in our society.

Shalom,
Rabbi Sarah Hronsny

If I am not for myself, who will be for me?
If I am only for myself, what am I?
And if not now, when? –Rabbi Hillel
SHABBAT & HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES

March

SHABBAT, MAR. 3-4
Friday, March 3 7:00 p.m.
Erev Shabbat Services
Services in the Bauman Sanctuary will be led by Rabbi Hronsky, Song Leader Stein, and Cantor’s Chanters. Oneg to follow.

Saturday, March 4
9:30 a.m.
Drumming Shabbat Experience
Join us for a family friendly service in the Feldman Horn Mercaz, led by Rabbi Hronsky, Brotherhood members, Song Leader Stein and guest musicians. Oneg to follow.

11:30 a.m.
Community Purim Carnival
Join us for our annual Purim Carnival! Fun for all! Tickets & wristbands available at bethhillel.info

April

SHABBAT, MAR. 17-18
Torah Portion: Ki Tisa, Exodus 30:11-34:35
Friday, March 17 7:30 p.m.
Scout Shabbat Service
Calling all current and past Cub, Boy, and Girl Scouts for this special Shabbat. We will be led in prayer by Rabbi Hronsky, musical guest Cantor Lily Blum, and TBH troops in the Bauman Sanctuary for a service led by the Scouts. Oneg to follow.

Saturday, March 18
9:00 a.m.
Brotherhood Shabbat Morning Minyan
A wonderful musical Shabbat service held in the Feldman Horn Mercaz. Services led by Rabbi Hronsky, Brotherhood members, Song Leader Stein and guest musicians. Oneg to follow.

SHABBAT, MAR. 24-25
Torah Portion: Vayakheil/P’kudei, Exodus 35:1-40:38
Friday, March 24 5:45 p.m.
Shabbat Nosh
Join us in the Sands Mallet Social Hall before service for light refreshments.
6:05 p.m.
Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Services led by Rabbi Steinman, Song Leader Stein, and percussionist in the Bauman Sanctuary.

SHABBAT, MAR. 31
Torah Portion: Vayikra, Leviticus 11:5-26
Friday, March 31 7:30 p.m.
Bluegrass, Jewgrass: A Special Themed Musical Shabbat Service
Join us in the Bauman Sanctuary for services led by Rabbi Hronsky, Song Leader Stein, and musical guests. Oneg to follow.

HOLIDAY, APR. 18
Tuesday, April 18 9:00 a.m.
Yizkor Passover Service
A reflective morning service led by Rabbi Hronsky in our Bauman Sanctuary where we remember our loved ones.

SHABBAT, APR. 7-8
Torah Portion: Tzav, Leviticus 6:1-8:36
Friday, April 7 7:30 p.m.
Erev Shabbat Services
Services in the Bauman Sanctuary will be led by Rabbi Hronsky, Cantor Linsky, and the Adult Choir. Oneg to follow.

Saturday, April 8
9:00 a.m.
Shabbat Text Study
Join us in the Kaufman Beit Midrash for our monthly, hour-long study of the Torah. Led by Rabbi Steinman.
4:00 p.m.
Moses Program:
S’udah Shlesheeth
A special outreach to Jews with disabilities. Please RSVP to Tobi Schneider at tobianne63@gmail.com

SHABBAT, APR. 14-15*
Torah Portion: Chol HaMo-eid Pesach, Exodus 33:12-34:26
Friday, April 14 7:00 p.m.
Erev Shabbat Services
Services in the Bauman Sanctuary will be led by Rabbi Steinman and the Cantor’s Chanters. Birthday blessings will be shared. Oneg to follow.

*Rabbi Sarah will be leading Passover services in the Bauman Sanctuary.

SHABBAT, APR. 21-22
Torah Portion: Sh’mini, Leviticus 9:1-11:47
Friday, April 21 5:45 p.m.
ECE Shabbat Picnic
Pack a delicious dinner and join us in the Sands-Mallet Social Hall before service.
6:30 p.m.
Special Mechina
Trot Shabbat
A young family oriented service led by Rabbi Hronsky, Song Leader Stein, our Mechina students. Oneg and Israeli dancing to follow.

Saturday, April 22
9:00 a.m.
Mitzvah Bus Sponsored by Women of TBH
Adults and families with children 8 and above are invited for the opportunity to perform acts of tikkun olam, repairing our world. We will come together for our world. We will come together for short study and prayer than board the bus with planned stops to perform acts of giving back to our community, while learning about organizations around Los Angeles who need our help.

10:00 a.m.
Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Davidson

SHABBAT, APR. 28-29
Torah Portion: Tzavah, Leviticus 12:1-15:33
Friday, April 28 5:45 p.m.
Shabbat Nosh
Join us in the Sands Mallet Social Hall before service for light refreshments.

6:05 p.m.
Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Join us in the Bauman Sanctuary for services led by Rabbi Hronsky, Song Leader Stein, and percussionist.

Saturday, April 29
10:00 a.m.
Bat Mitzvah of Lilah Meinhart

Congrats to our March/April B’nei Mitzvah!

March 4

Andrew Benson
Son of Barri & Michael Benson

Dylan Benson
Son of Barri & Michael Benson

Benjamin Josef Davidson
Son of Lara & Alan Davidson

April 22

April 29

Lilah Rose Meinhart
Daughter of Julie & Tim Meinhart
The Importance of Our Committees
by Eric Goldman
TBH President

I am writing this article in January. This is the time that planning for next year kicks into high gear. Our fiscal (financial) year is from July 1st to June 30th of the next year. This process enables our budgets such as for the school year, to be treated as one year. This is also where we finalize our forecast for the current fiscal year and create a budget for next year. We base these predications on the coordination of our major religious services schedule, school year curriculums, and other numerous, spiritually based and engaging events. It is also the time we develop next year’s board slate. Most of our board members come from the various committees and task forces that we have as a temple. The topic of this column is the committee process.

I attended my first congregational meeting 6½ years ago (the importance of your attendance is a subject for a future column). While I may not have intuitively understood everything at that time, I was given the opportunity to ask some engaging questions. Shortly after, I was asked to join the Budget and Finance Committee. In that committee, I learned a lot of how our committee system works. It surprised me how similar the way we work is to the way our government works.

For those of you not from my generation (or those of us who have forgotten), I encourage you to see the Schoolhouse Rock video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyeJ5SojE1c (Google: Schoolhouse Rock bill).

While we have nowhere near the red–tape that our government has, I believe that those mechanisms, procedures, and results are so vitally important. These are not just words, but necessity. The temple has so many crucial topics to discuss, the board (like Congress) does not have the time nor the expertise to completely vet these important topics, let alone execute them by themselves. Perhaps the most significant reason why committees are so fundamental to our organization’s operations is that they provide the necessary research and follow–through. That is why it is so crucial for us to participate in committees. It is also important to have representation from all of our constituencies such as ECE, Elementary, and Religious Schools, as well as empty nesters and the like.

Some people think, as I used to, that the temple was just some organization that ran on its own, like any company. I find it more of a co–op, an organization in which we all play a key part. I believe we should all do our best to commit to areivim (mutually responsible; every Jew is responsible one for another) and our committees are the best place to practice that religious covenant.

I wish I could say that all of my philanthropic endeavors were purely altruistic, but the truth is they are not. I have truly gained more than I have given. I have gained so many leadership skills from a remarkable group of people who have supported me in my endeavors. As a parent, I think it provided a venue for being a good role model for my children. For example, I would like to think my participation in TBH has inspired my daughter to lead the Challah for Hunger, a Jewish organization that helps the local homeless, and my son who is actively participating in our Youth group at a national level.

In some cases, the efforts of our committees are easy to see, such as Mitzvah Day, Comedy Night, and our annual Purim Carnival. Others, such as Budget and Finance and Religious Practices are behind the scenes and equally important. Some committees are ongoing, such as Brotherhood/ Women of TBH, while others are task forces that have a start and finish, such as supporting our fun and appealing events. My appeal is for you to find something that appeals to your interests and availability. I encourage every family to take part in at least one committee. Please contact me at president@tbhla.org to coordinate your interests. These committees have made me a better person, and I can only hope it will do the same for you.

Women of TBH

Woman of Excellence
by Jodie Reff & Evelyn Lever
Women of TBH Co–Presidents

In the next few months, we will be highlighting WTBH Board Members who contribute so greatly to our programs for the Temple.

Women of TBH has always been interested in social justice issues, particularly those related to critical women’s issues, the environment, homelessness, hunger and, in recent years, the care of our young, our disabled and elderly.

This month we would like to highlight our talented and creative Social Action Chair, Julia Wackenheim who has helped lead the discussion on eldercare, and inspires us everyday to become activists, and stand up for what we believe and to be heard. Julia was born in Reno, NV and raised in Atlantic City, NJ. She graduated with a BFA from Emerson College, and currently lives in Studio City with her husband, son, three dogs and a cat. Julia loooves pizza, pickles, and Hallmark movies.1

Julia has described herself as a “Mother/Wife/Actor/Producer/Jewish Activist”. She is also the mother of Gus, an adorable 20–month–old toddler, who

1 Julia’s love of Hallmark movies is well known among her friends and family.
brightens any room he enters. As an actor/comedienne, Julia has done stand up, performed at IOWEST Improv, been in commercials, and has produced and acted in an original web series. She loves performing and describes acting as “equal parts mental and spiritual stimulation; something she says she has only experienced in childbirth.”

She also loves the concept of tikkan olam, the Jewish concept of being responsible not only for ones own moral, spiritual, and material welfare, but the welfare and health of the world.” She says she has “always had a sense of tikkan olam within her being.”

Julia says her ultimate life goal is to mix her acting with tikkan olam. She seems to be doing just that.

Tikkan olam is what has driven her “towards advocacy and education on women’s rights and the current state of caregivers and care giving in this country.” She has been an advocate for animal rights and for the last several years she has chaired our Caring Across Generations Committee with Rabbi Jim Kaufman.

As the general population ages more of us will need quality and affordable care, and Caring Across Generations works not only to educate the public on the needs of the elderly, disabled, and very young, but also advocates for the rights of domestic workers to receive fair and equitable pay and working conditions. As part of Caring Across Generations, Julia advocates for domestic worker rights and helped get The Domestic Worker's Bill of Right 2016 (State Senate Bill 1015) passed here in California that provides caregivers with permanent overtime provisions (work hours and pay); she has attended conferences in Washington D.C. and returned with information on ways we can disseminate information, get needed legislation passed, advocate for those in need of quality care, and advocate for caregivers who deserve our respect as members of a needed and dignified profession.

Julia openly shares her warmth and caring heart with all. She has shared her darling son with us in WTBH, which has unofficially adopted him. In the past year Julia has become increasingly more active in WTBH and eagerly gives of her time and energy despite her busy schedule: She has attended our Pacific District Conference, hosted our Chanukah party, created a lovely bracelet at our Crafts Night, and joined us for the Million Women March L.A.

We are so proud and happy to call Julia our friend.

1: juliawackenheim.com
2: Women to Watch. Boshemia.com
3: Entrepreneur of the Day–Lioness magazine
Many of you are families with children enrolled in the Temple Beth Hillel Early Childhood Education program, Beth Hillel Elementary School and/or the TBH Religious School. As you know, each of these schools provides age-appropriate, dynamic and meaningful learning for children from age 2 to 12th grade. Claudine Douglas, Kathryn Jensen, and I are always delighted to speak with you and any families you know about our programs, however Temple Beth Hillel is not just for kids.

In Pirkei Avot we learn “Ben Bag Bag says, search in it and search in it, since everything is in it. And in it you should look, and grow old and be worn in it; and from it do not move, since there is no characteristic greater than it,” (5:22).

At Temple Beth Hillel we believe that learning is a lifelong endeavor. While our formal school programs are designed with children in mind, there is always more to learn about Judaism; our traditions, practices, stories, prayers and how Jewish values can help us to be better adults.

I hope that you will consider joining Claudine Douglas and I in our discussion of Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can’t Stop Talking by Susan Cain on Thursday, March 16 at 8:45 a.m.

Did you know that we have a weekly Torah study on Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. open to anyone? Each month we also have an adult book club led by members of our congregation. Rabbi Hronsky and I lead a text study one Saturday morning per month where, this year, we are studying Maimonides. Join us!

If there is something that you would like to learn please do not hesitate to let me know. Planning for the 5778/2017–2018 calendar is already under way. Feel free to email me your thoughts at rabbieilie@tbhla.org.

I look forward to learning with you soon!
What makes for a fun summer camp experience? Being outside, exciting hands-on experiments, creative cooking, playing with water, and a nurturing and loving environment. Temple Beth Hillel's ECE Summer Camp offers all this and more. Temple Beth Hillel's ECE Summer Camp plans themed weeks, offers flexible schedules, and developmental grouping to fit your child's needs.

Summer will be here before we know it! Our ECE staff is busy planning a rewarding camp experience for your children. In late February the summer brochures will be available, so take advantage of early bird pricing through April 7! If you would like more information or a tour of our facilities, please call 818–761–6983.

**NEED IDEAS FOR A MEMORABLE SIMCHA?**

**TBH Event Fair**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 6:00 - 8:00 PM**

**IN THE SANDS-MALLET SOCIAL HALL**

• Join us and meet all types of vendors
• Ask questions and see samples
• See the latest in entertainment trends

• Bring your appetite!
• Sample food and pastries from many of our approved caterers

Please call/e-mail Nardit Gilboa with any questions:

(818)763-9148  ♦  ngilboa@tbhla.org

Temple Beth Hillel  ♦  12326 Riverside Dr  ♦  Valley Village  ♦  91607  ♦  www.tbhla.org
Hi! My name is Olivia Bodner, and I am currently a junior at Burbank High School. I am the Social Action Vice President on the HRTY Board, and I am thrilled to have lead our temple's youth group this year. I have attended Temple Beth Hillel since I was 3 months old in Mommy and Me. I have been a member of this amazing congregation for basically my whole life, and couldn’t be more proud. Ever since I was little, I have wanted to be a part of such a wonderful group of young Jewish leaders and now that I am in H.R.T.Y., I see how passionate others are as well. I couldn’t be more honored to graduate from the Religious School program alongside some of my greatest friends. As the S.A.V.P. my goal is to better inform people about social injustices and how to incorporate Judaism into Social Action events. I look forward to sharing the New Year together, and can’t wait to see where it takes us!

This year we are re-building H.R.T.Y., we had a few events, Jews in Space, Game Night, Hallah and Hogwarts, we partnered with the TBH Brotherhood for a Kings game, and have lead some of the Kehillah time for the Religious School High School program.

We have increased our participation in NFTY and had 5 teens represent TBH at NFTY convention, we met with over a thousand other Jewish Teens, got to see Chicago, and participated in various workshops.

### HRTY

- **Friday, March 17–Sunday, March 19**
  - NFTY Leadership Kallah
- **Saturday, April 29–Sunday, April 30**
  - NFTY Spring Kallah

### Jr. HRTY

- **Saturday, April 1**
  - NFTY678 Spring Kallah
- **Sunday, April 9**
  - Jr. HRTY Chocolate Seder

### Club345

- **Sunday, March 19**
  - Club345 event – Costume Party
Don’t miss Temple Beth Hillel’s 70th year commemorative gala—mark your calendars now for May 6, 2017.

For your entertainment, two spectacular groups will perform. Country Nation, featuring Temple Beth Hillel friend, Ricky Katz, delivers a high energy performance that appeals to all audiences. As seen on America’s Got Talent, The Boobé Sisters with Leah Finkelstein will captivate your attention. This fun loving, comedic, 60’s inspired group mixes creative satirical songs with audience interaction and giveaways.

No gala is complete without a fabulous meal and silent auction. Bella Donna will serve a sit down dinner with options for all tastes and preferences. Don’t leave without bidding on one of our enticing prizes, including a trip to Cabo for two, Dodger tickets for 4, a round of golf at Woodland Hills Country Club for 4 and much, much more.

Now that we've got your attention, buy your tickets to celebrate with us as we pay tribute to Temple Beth Hillel for 70 incredible years of service to our community.

DID YOU KNOW?

1) Our charter was signed 12/11/1946 with 13 original families
2) On July 1, 1960 Cantor Brown became our Cantor
3) July 1, 1973 Rabbi Jim joined as Assistant Rabbi
4) In 1979 Rabbi Jim and Sue started Seder in the Desert
5) 1997 celebrated our "Golden" (50th) anniversary
6) 2000–2001 Brotherhood held the first Thanksgiving for the hungry
7) In 2003, Rabbi Sarah Hronsky joined as the Assistant Rabbi

Akela’s Corner

"Payday" for Pack 311
by Glenn Cote
Cubmaster, Pack 311

As Cub Scouts all over the country do at this time of year, Pack 311 will have its annual Blue and Gold Banquet (a catered party celebrating the birthday of Scouting) on March 5 at Temple Beth Hillel. At this event, select boys in every rank will receive bronze, silver, or gold uniform inspection medals, and we’ll also induct the new Boy Scout Den Chiefs as well as recognize the parent volunteers who “help the Pack go.” This will be our second year with a “Cub Scout Carnival” on the upper lawn hosted by the Bear Dens! Speaking of bears, on March 11, we’ll spend a “Zoopendous” overnighter at the L.A. Zoo, followed on the 19th by a hike on the Old Zoo Trail in Griffith Park. Finally for March, the Clippers will host us for a game and tour of the Staples Center on the 25th.

At our April 20 Pack meeting, the Scouts will receive their hard-earned rank patches: Kinder boys will receive their Lion patches, First Grade boys will be awarded Tiger patches; the Second Graders will earn Wolf patches; and the Third Graders, Bear patches. Scouts in Fourth Grade are known as “Webelos” (WE’ll BE LOyal Scouts), and have an extra month to complete their rank requirements. The Fifth Grade boys also have an extra month to complete the requirements for the highest award in Cub Scouting, the “Arrow of Light.” We’ll also have a campfire on April 22, and our Hiking Team will lead a hike along the Getty View Trail on the 29th.

Pack 311 welcomes boys in kindergarten through fifth grades, or 6–10 years of age, from all religious and family backgrounds. For more info, please visit us on the web at www.cubpack311.com
Strategic Planning Initiative Moves Forward
by Barbara Motz
Chair, Strategic Planning Committee, Immediate Past President

In the Summer 2016 Omer, I reported on the status of the strategic planning initiative. The initiative has been moving forward since that time, and the developments are very exciting.

The Strategic Planning Committee honed and refined the plan. The specific objectives and more detailed action items for each of the three goals (Kehillah/Community; Parnasah/Economic Wellbeing; and Nikayon/Organizational Effectiveness) were further developed. Our senior leadership staff and temple president then reviewed this draft plan. All were enthusiastic and recognized that implementation would require an active partnership between our staff, our lay leaders and our committees. With this input, the plan and the report to the Board were finalized after High Holy Days.

“The Strategic Planning Committee believes that the best way to both grow membership and create a financially secure synagogue is by building on what we have already developed” in the areas of k’hilah, parnasah, and nikayon. The objectives within these goals are intended to create an organized framework to solve problems, to develop new ideas for growth and to move forward with many of the initiatives that the staff and board are already working on.” (Strategic Planning Committee Report, p. 5)

Generally speaking, the objectives of k’hilah are:

• To develop more meaningful and creative programming to meet the diverse interests of our membership;
• To strengthen members’ connections to the TBH Community;
• To build upon the excellent schools and b’nai mitzvah program, to grow enrollment, and to bolster school families’ relationship to TBH for continued membership; and
• To reach out to unaffiliated to grow our membership.

Through the goal of parnasah, we seek:

• To engage in meaningful financial planning beyond the current one–year budget cycle;
• To ensure our dues structure and our fundraising meet the needs of our congregants and the fiscal needs of our congregation; and
• To develop additional sources of funding.

And, in nikayon, we want:

• To improve financial controls and management;
• To provide for efficient and appropriate expenditures for janitorial/security services and for physical plant maintenance, repair and improvement;
• To make certain that TBH is operating effectively and efficiently;
• To track membership in a meaningful manner;
• To improve lay leaders’ skills;
• To develop succession plans;
• To build alignment with all Temple constituencies; and
• To update the Constitution and By–Laws.

On Sunday, January 8, 2017, there was a special meeting of the Board of Trustees. In addition to the trustees and senior leadership staff, past presidents and committee chairs were invited to attend. The first 2½ hours were spent in a detailed review of the specifics of the plan. Thereafter, the Board took three actions. First, it accepted the report of the Strategic Planning Committee. Second, it adopted the Strategic Plan in its entirety, with instructions to the committee to review a few of the objectives and action items for possible amendments based on the discussions during the meetings. The committee is to report back to the Board by its April meeting. Third, the Board voted to make the Strategic Planning Committee a permanent standing committee. The committee will have responsibility for reporting on the progress of implementing the plan.

This strategic plan is a dynamic document. It is a rolling, three–year plan that should be reviewed at regular intervals so there is always a three–year roadmap for the temple. Some objectives and action items may take longer than anticipated and the timeline may be extended. Some may be added, and some may fall by the wayside. The plan is not a contract set in stone, but rather a document that can and should be reviewed and updated as appropriate.

The Strategic Plan relies, to a great extent, on a partnership between our senior leadership team and congregants, including the Board of Trustees and committees. “The Strategic Planning Committee firmly believes that by making TBH the “best it can be,” we will engage our current members and encourage new members to join. With the involvement of our community and focused plans, we will also be able to improve our financial situation, to maintain a stable staff that is responsive to the needs of our temple and to provide for our facilities.” (Strategic Plan Committee Report, page 7)

Over the next few months, the Strategic Planning Committee will be reviewing the discussions of the January 8th meeting for possible amendments. Additionally, our staff, our Board of Trustees and our committees, with the support of our consultants from Executive Services Corp, will be beginning the process of implementing the plan. If you would like to be part of this exciting process, please contact our Executive Director, Al Welland.\r
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Ultimately, it’s your experience that matters.

To be sure, we’re proud of our 29 years of experience in senior living. But, to us, what really matters is your experience at our communities.

We do everything with that idea clearly in mind.

So, go ahead, enjoy yourself with great social opportunities and amenities. Savor fine dining every day.

And feel assured that assisted living services are always available if needed.

We invite you to experience The Village at Sherman Oaks for yourself at a complimentary lunch and tour. Please call 818.245.5832 to schedule.
An article in the Los Angeles Times was recently written by Michelle Maltais, called Mindfulness: A Mental Trick. However, mindfulness for helping people with stress, has been around for awhile. It’s not so much a trick as a technique for handling stress.

Mindfulness is an open–hearted way of being aware of the flow of moment–to–moment experience as it’s happening. Another way of defining it is a way of being present in daily life and it encompasses being present with those around you and with what you are doing. Teachers of mindfulness say that, “across settings and populations” people find the practice of mindfulness most helpful.

In the L.A. Times article, the author gives us five ideas on how to introduce the power of mindfulness to your routine in daily life.

1) First, just S.T.O.P.: When you’re in the middle of a stressful moment, or just want to be more mindful, remember to just S.T.O.P. The acronym stands for SLOW into the moment, TAKE a breath, OBSERVE what’s happening before you PROCEED.

2) Breathe in and out: No matter where you are, take an inventory of sense throughout your body as you go.

3) Snap to it: Sometimes, all it takes to break the cycle is a simple act – change your mind! Do a finger–snap when you want to focus your mind on being attentive, with warmth, friendliness, and care, you’re doing something good for yourself and your loved ones, and for our world.

4) Listen before you leap: We can use the quality of presence through meditation to fully show up with another human being. We can listen to them fully without jumping in or trying to fix them. Adults can model mindful responses to kids to show them what’s possible with their own understanding and behavior.

5) Focus for the whole family: Do simple things at home to encourage and nurture focus and calm. Kids can learn breathing awareness, listening to others while being totally present, and doing activities i.e. dancing, drumming, singing, etc., to tune in on the senses.

Another author hone s in on the fact that “awareness is central to mindfulness practices.” Becoming truly aware of what is distressing to an individual and how that stress affects him/her is a key part of stress management.” That author suggests journaling as a way to mindfulness. Keeping track of emotions and stressful feelings can increase awareness of what is going on with you.

To conclude, the practice of open–hearted mindfulness is an antidote to the fears we humans have as we enter the new year.

For more resources, call the TBH Community Counseling Center at (818) 762–4817.

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**TBH, You Are Invited to Attend:**

**What:** Elana Stein Hain will speak in this third lecture of "Visions of Shared Society: The 'Tribes of Israel' " by the Shalom Hartman Institute.

**When:** Sunday, March 5 at 4:00pm

**Where:** Temple Beth Am, 1039 S La Cienega Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90035

**Details:** TBH Members attend the lecture for free, non–members pay $20. Optional dinner is $36 for both members and for non–members.

**Visit:** shalomhartman.org/LAcollaborative for more details and to register for this class (if you have not already done so). Advanced registration is REQUIRED.

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Generously funded by the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles.
# Calendar of Special Events

## March

### Sunday, March 5

**9:45 a.m.**

**Adult Education: Who would have thunk it?**

### Sunday, March 5

**12:30 p.m.**

**Caring Across Generations**

"Dementia Part I: an overview with a specialist followed by a panel with Jeff Adler and Donna Julien" at Temple Beth Hillel. Light Lunch provided (with a vegetarian option). RSVP to Rabbi Jim at rabbikaufman@tbhla.org

### Sunday, March 5

**4:00 p.m.**

**Shalom Hartman Institute presents Elana Stein Hein at Temple Beth Am.**

See page 12 for details.

### Wednesday, March 8

**7:00 p.m.**

**Adult Education: TBH Book Club**

Join us in the Kaufman Beit Midrash as we discuss with Sheila Milov the book *The Lost Wife*, by Alyson Richman.

### Saturday, March 11

**7:00 p.m.**

**Adult Purim: Sing-a-long to the Beatles**

Join us for this adult evening and sing-a-long to Beatles tunes! We will have snacks, drinks, and a Purim Shpiel set to the Beatles.

### Sunday, March 12

**10:00 a.m.**

**Beauty and the Beast Purim Shpiel**

Be our guest and join us for this Purim Shpiel set to the classic tale of Beauty and the Beast!

**11:30 a.m.**

**Annual Purim Carnival**

Join us for our annual Purim carnival! Tickets and wristbands can be purchased at bethhillel.info

### Sunday, March 19

**9:45 a.m.**

**Liturgues of Love**

*Advanced Registration Required*

Cost: $60/TBH members or $120/non-members

What does it mean to be loved by an unending love, to love your fellow people, to love God, and to love yourself?

### Sunday, March 26

**9:45 a.m.**

**Liturgues of Love**

*Advanced Registration Required*

### Sunday, March 26

**11:15 a.m.**

**PATH - Making Lunches for Bunches**

Please join us as we assemble 100 lunches for the homeless. We are also in need of supplies. See how you can get involved by visiting tbhla.org/social-action

### Monday, March 27

**7:30 p.m.**

**Rosh Chodesh with the Women of TBH**

Join the Women of TBH off-site for a celebration of the new moon. RSVP to sisterhood@tbhla.org

### Tuesday, March 28

**3:30 p.m.**

**PATH - Making Lunches for Bunches**

Please join us as we assemble 100 lunches for the homeless. We are also in need of supplies. See how you can get involved by visiting tbhla.org/social-action

### Saturday, March 11

**7:00 p.m.**

**Rosh Chodesh with the Women of TBH**

Join the Women of TBH off-site for a celebration of the new moon. RSVP to sisterhood@tbhla.org

## April

### Sunday, April 2

**9:45 a.m.**

**Liturgues of Love**

*Advanced Registration Required*

### 5:00 p.m.

**Brotherhood Passover Seder**

Join the Brotherhood in the Kaufman Beit Midrash for their annual Passover Seder. RSVP to brotherhood@tbhla.org

### 5:00 p.m.

**WTBH Passover Seder**

Join the Women of TBH in the Sands-Mallet Social Hall for their annual Passover Seder. RSVP to sisterhood@tbhla.org

### Sunday, April 23

**11:15 a.m.**

**PATH - Making Lunches for Bunches**

Please join us as we assemble 100 lunches for the homeless. We are also in need of supplies. See how you can get involved by visiting tbhla.org/social-action

### Sunday, April 23

**12:30 p.m.**

**Caring Across Generations**

"Dementia Part II with Dr. Randy Mervis" at Temple Israel of Hollywood. Light Lunch provided (with a vegetarian option). RSVP to Rabbi Jim at rabbikaufman@tbhla.org

### Tuesday, April 25

**3:30 p.m.**

**PATH - Making Lunches for Bunches**

Please join us as we assemble 100 lunches for the homeless. We are also in need of supplies. See how you can get involved by visiting tbhla.org/social-action

### Wednesday, April 26

**7:30 p.m.**

**Rosh Chodesh with the Women of TBH**

Join the Women of TBH off-site for a celebration of the new moon. RSVP to sisterhood@tbhla.org
Mark a birthday, bar or bat mitzvah, anniversary, yahrzeit or special occasion with a donation to Temple Beth Hillel.

Make your choice from the funds, which are listed below, then send your tribute and payment to:

Temple Beth Hillel
1236 Riverside Drive
Valley Village, CA 91607

Please include the name and address of the person you are honoring so that we can send a special acknowledgment card in your name. You can also make your donation online at tbhla.org/donate.

Clergy Funds
- Rabbi Sarah Hronsky Fund
- Rabbi Eleanor Steinman Fund
- Cantorial and Music Fund
- Emeritus Rabbi Jim Kaufman Fund

School and Youth Funds
- Beth Hillel Day School
- Elementary School
- Early Childhood Education
- Religious School
- Scholarship
- Campership

Community Outreach Funds
- North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry Fund
- Community Counseling Center Fund
- Moses Fund
- $360 Construction Fund
- Tree of Life Fund
- Endowment Fund

A complete list of Temple funds is available online at tbhla.org/donate

Remember—all donations are tax-deductible!

In honor of
Phil and Virginia Raucher, by Deborah Raucher
Donations
by Emily and Jason Horn
by Nickie Bryar and Glenn Block
by Susan and Eric Goldman

RABBI ELEANOR STEINMAN FUND
In Loving Memory of
Janie Siegler Aaronson, by Kate Aaronson
Donations
by Alexandra Glickman
by Nickie Bryar and Glenn Block

EMERITUS RABBI KAUFMAN’S FUND
In Loving Memory of
Bernard Marx, by Marion Marx
In Appreciation of Rabbi Jim
by Dorothy Manolson
by the Nemiroff family
Donations
by Leslie and Richard Frank
by Riva and George Bromberg

BILLY G. GINSBERG FUND
Donations
by Jessica and Elliot Hirsch

DAVID S. MORHAR CAMPERSHIP FUND
In Honor of
Virginia and Phil Raucher’s 50th Anniversary,
by Leslye Adelman and Richard Konigberg

DAY SCHOOL FUND
In Loving Memory of
Ileane Lieber, by Marilyn Morris and Tisdale family
Donations
by Jessica and Elliot Hirsch

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUND
In Honor of
Barbara Pratt, by Susan Pasternak and Lurry Picus and Matthew
Donations
by Jessica and Elliot Hirsch

GEORGE FRIEDMAN SHOFAR FUND
In Loving Memory of
Bertha Fink, by Lee and Howard Fink

MAX SANDS SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND
In Loving Memory of
Florence Schwartz, by Linda and John Vacc
Harry Sirak, Sarah Sirak, Gary Sirak, Jeanne Mallet, Karen Meisel, by Leslie and Steve Rouff
Leona Kransnick, by Linda and John Vacc
In Honor of
Freddie Goldberg, by Leslie and Steve Rouff

MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE FUND
In Loving Memory of
Anna Pitt, by Ann Bose
Anna Zalis, by Yana and Vladimir Shysterberg
Audrey Jenkins, by Sid Jenkins
Bernice and Marvin Herzog, by Rhea Sallin
Benn Levin, by Harriet Levins
Carl Gerichter, by Jo and David Haimovitz
Charles Harris, by Sylvia Marcovitch
Dorothy Fey, by Lyn and Jeff Fey
Edna Silver, by Katherine and Leonard Klein
Elaine Fracter, by Steven Holtz
Esther Zerman Gura, by Margaret and Jack Schlaifer
Florence Rothfeld, by Marlene Putteman
Gertrude Greenfield, by Dolly Growirth
Goldie and Jesse Sonkin, by Pam Bieber
Gus Waldman, by Lyn and Jeff Fey
Harry Klein, by Katherine and Leonard Klein
Hyman Hirschsohn, by Barbara and
Harry Hirschsohn
Ida Wolf, by Lyn and Jeff Fey
Irv Korhberg, by June Ross
Isadore Bernstein, by Arleen and Manny Bernstein
Jack Maler, by Helen Maler

In honor of
John Zoller, by Dolly Growirth
Kate Tockerman, by Sylvia Tockerman
Laura Horowitz, by Rhea Sallin
Lee Waldman, by Lyn and Jeff Fey
Madeleine Kassab, by Alexandra Glickman
Marie Goodman, by Bobbe and Benjamin Tadels
Marion Wolf, by Lyn and Jeff Fey
May Bieman, by Rita and Herb Silverman
Mike Dushkin, by Betty Dushkin
Morris Bierman, by Rita and Herb Silverman
Norman Carlton, by Ann Bose
Patricia Nauman, by Cindy and Stuart Finder
Paul, by Allen and Lois Rothberg
Rachel Goldstein, by Tobi and David Schneider
Riva Shysterberg, by Yana and Vladimir Shysterberg
Sarah Chaiten, by Marlene Putteman
Sieg Waldman, by Lyn and Jeff Fey
Simeon Jacobs, by Beni and Werner Loewenthal
Sofia Balshin, by Linetsky and Balshin families
Solomon Fredlender, by Larry Fredlender
Sultana Stern, by Karen Stern
The niece of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Vanarck, by
Harriet Levins
William Baker, by Bobbi and Charles Baker
Zyama & Liza Kirzheh, by Faina and Lev Leznick

In Honor of
Bad and Sue Balkin’s 65th Anniversary, by Arlene, Dani, and Frank Balkin
Donations
by Katherine Klein
by Nancy Barber
by the Fridman family
by the Robert Steinmen Charitable Foundation

MOSES FUND
In Loving Memory of
Olivia Malka, by Tobi and David Schneider
In Honor of
Evelyn Lever, by Sheila Milov
Freddie Goldberg, by Tobi and David Schneider
Get Well Wishes to
David Beck, by Sheila Milov
Marcia Friedman, by Sheila Milov
Melanie Gragnani, by Sheila Milov
Paul Wunsch, by Sheila Milov
Donations
by Nickie Bryar and Glenn Block

NORTH HOLLYWOOD INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY
In Loving Memory of
Arthur Reichard, by Joyce and Harvey Reichard
Charles Stein, by Herb Slavin
Eugene Kramer, by Barbara Kramer
Florence Adler, by Barbara and Tobi and David Schneider
In Honor of
Barbara Reichard, by Joyce and Harvey Reichard
Nathan Goldman, by Natalie Goldman
Rose Gersman, by Susan Gesshel
Rose Kramer, by Barbara Kramer
Tennie Karp, by Lee and Howard Fink

In Honor of
Arlene, Frank & Dani Balkin, by Lynn and Vic Butcher
Rabbi Faith Tessler’s birthday, by Barbara
and Mark Singer
Rabbi Jim Kaufman, by Janet Howard
Scott Tessler, by Barbara and Mark Singer
Stanley Goldman, by Natalie Goldman
Virginia and Phil Raucher’s 50th Anniversary,
by Susan Gesshel
Donations
by Linder and John Vacc
by Nickie and Glenn Block
by Stephen and Susan Fischer
by Van Nuy–Sherman Oaks Racquet Club

ROBERT AND BETTY JOSEPH REAPER FUND
In Loving Memory of
Abraham Fruitman, by Barbara Elman
Alissa Shulman, Barbara Elman
Jean Elman, by Barbara Elman
Rose Davis, by Barbara Elman
ROEN AND JOHN PASTERNAK SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Donations
By Jessica and Elliot Hirsch

360 CONSTRUCTION FUND
Donations
by Emily and Jason Horn
by Julia and Tony LeWinter
by Nickie Bryar and Glenn Block

Please note that all contributions listed are through February 6, 2017.
If you would like to see a full list of Temple Funds please visit: tbhla.org/donate

In Our Community...

Refuah Shleimah
Wishing a full and speedy recovery to...
• Bill Weise
• Leslye Adelman
• Rita Silverman
• Steve Peck

Condolences To...
• Adam Lieberthal and family on the death of Allan Lieberthal
• Eddie Nemiroff and family on the death of Jeanne Nemiroff
• Ellen Simon and family on the death of Maurice Shapiro
• The Cornfeld, Price and Deal families on the death of Charlotte Conrnfeld
• Jamie Jacobson and family on the death of Shirlee Jacobson

We Proudly Welcome
• Abby Marcus and Qui T. Nguyen and children Marcus and Felix
• Avi Kahan and Lauren Fontein and children Lily and Nate
• Claire and Benjamin Tulis and son Max
• Gislene and Mathew Weig and children Roger and Philip
• Moses and Lucy Kagan and Steven Asbell and children Kingsley and Giles
• Moses Kagan

Mazal Tov to...
• Freddie Pasch Goldberg who has become a grandmother to Dax Alexander Elliot
• Spencer Peck, son of Steven Peck and Robin Toder, and Anna Krasnova on their marriage

Mazal Tov on These Special Wedding Anniversaries
• Marc and Rachel Ehrich—35th
• Steven and Laura Ex—30th
• Bradley and Lindsay Gerszt—10th
• Jonathan and Daniela Polk—10th

What does Temple Beth Hillel offer to adults?
• Adult Education Classes like Shalom Hartman Institute Classes, Adult B’nei Mitzvah, Liturgies of Love, and more!
• Free discussion and learning opportunities like the TBH Book Club and Torah Tuesdays
• Men’s and Women’s clubs offering community, projects and special events.
• Social Action opportunities like marching for causes, feeding the hungry, and more!

Stop by our main office to see how you can get involved!
Save the Date!

Seder in the Desert XXXVIII
April 14 – April 16

A fun filled weekend retreat led by Rabbi Sarah and Yuri Hronsky. Held at Yucaipa State Regional Park. Tent and R.V.s welcome. Easy camping, washrooms, sinks, beautiful grassy areas, and tons of fun!

Want to know more?
Attend our planning meeting at Temple Beth Hillel on March 5 at 11:30 a.m. or check out our page at: tbhla.org/sederinthedesert