

## THE BENEFITS OF LIFELONG LEARNING

FROM THE DESK OF BARB GELB  
*Director of Lifelong Learning*

Eight years ago, my friend Stacey walked into my office in Memphis, TN and told me she thought I should meet a man she knew in Virginia Beach, VA. She had known him for 15 years, and it suddenly dawned on her that we might really like each other, so she wanted to give him my number. To be honest, I was only trying to be polite when I told her that would be fine, but I never planned on going out with some guy named Kenny who lived about 700 miles and two plane rides away. Meanwhile, Stacey's husband Michael called the Virginia Beach man and told him about me. His response was that in the 10 years he had been divorced, this couple had never mentioned any woman to him, so this must be pretty special. He called me immediately. Two short months ago, I married him.



Hebrew, or a plethora of issues, the real bonus is the connection you will make with others. The people you learn with might not become your best friends, but they will know you, care about you and be there for you. That is what is unique about synagogue life. If you take the step to really get into it, you will be embraced by an authentic, caring community. Lifelong learning is one of the easiest ways to take that first step.

*What does this have to do with lifelong learning or anything at TAS for that matter?*

I think it's about the basic need for all of us to connect with others. Studies show that people who are part of a community are happier and healthier than those who are not. At TAS you might go to services, or maybe you drop your kids off for religious school. You might even go to a concert or carnival. These are wonderful events to attend, but they don't always provide the chance to connect with others, to really become part of the community.

As an adult, there is so much more for you at TAS. We offer a wide range of learning opportunities, and in addition to increasing your knowledge of Judaism, Torah, Israel,

In February, we have a wide range of offerings including lay-led Shabbat Torah study, a parents of teens discussion group with Rabbi Lutz, a lecture on Zionism and Crisis, a film about women and human rights and our ongoing Hebrew, art, and Torah study classes. Each of these classes offers you the opportunity to learn, grow and connect.

Back to my story of meeting my husband and what it has to do with all of this. Stacey and I met because we both attended a lunch and learn at our Temple. Michael and Kenny met because they both attended a parent night at their sons' Jewish preschool. We were each part of a Jewish community in which all of us were invested, and because Kenny and I were each important to them, they made the effort to get us together. What's even more significant is that our story is not unique. It happens all the time. In addition to the intrinsic value of learning, people make connections that help them find a partner, a friend, a job lead, a date for their child or grandchild.

I urge you to take the first step to getting involved, who knows where it might lead.

**A NEW  
LOOK!**

## SOCIAL HALL REMODEL

A Huge Thank You to Wendy & Barry Krowne for a significant gift to make this possible!



...STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO

# MAZEL TOV TO OUR FEBRUARY B'NAI MITZVAH FAMILY

*Saturday, February 28*

Alex and Sharon Barder and Family on the  
Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Sarah Barder



Temple  
Ahavat  
Shalom



TEMPLE AHAVAT SHALOM 2015 ANNUAL GALA



Honoring **FRAN & ED HANDLER**  
**RABBI SHAWNA &**  
**ISAAC BRYNJEGARD-BIALIK**

May 30, 2015 6:30 p.m.  
Cocktails, Silent Auction, Dinner and Dancing  
Calamigos Equestrian Center - Burbank



# BE THE MATCH<sup>SM</sup>



**BE THE MATCH**  
**BONE MARROW TESTING**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH**  
**8:30 AM TO 12:00 PM**

TEMPLE AHAVAT SHALOM  
 ROTHENBERG CHAPEL



Cheryl Hatkoff and her family have been there for us....Now we need to be there for them!  
 Cheryl was diagnosed with Leukemia. She will need a Bone Marrow Transplant.

**Only 10 Minutes**  
**of your time and a simple cheek swab**  
**could save Cheryl's life or the life of**  
**others! If you are between 18-44 years**  
**old you could **Be The MATCH!****

**TELL**  
**OTHERS!**  
 Adult Children  
 Friends  
 Neighbors

The entire Hatkoff Family has been an integral part of the TAS Family for over 28 years,  
 dedicating themselves to giving.

#### A SHORT LIST OF CHERYL'S TAS INVOLVEMENT

- ECEC Board Chair
- Created the ECEC Luncheon
- Created Tot Shabbat
- Served as Havurah Coordinator
- Youth Group Chair
- Helped to create and implement Club 45
- Chaired Sisterhood Tea
- Helped on countless B'nai Mitzvah Shabbatons
- Helped on countless TASTY Lox Box Sales
- TAS Gala Co-Chair
- Volunteered Countless Hours for Sisterhood
- Volunteered Countless Hours for the TAS Annual Galas, Purim, Carnivals and more!

#### BRIAN'S (CHERYL'S HUSBAND) SHORT LIST

- Current President of MRJ West
- Past President of MoTAS
- Helped to Create the Men's Club Father Son Camping Trip
- Board Member of the MRJ
- Chaired BINGO which brought in tens of thousands of dollars
- Chaired the Cemetery Committee
- Volunteered Countless Hours for Men of TAS, Gala Committee and more!
- Past Member of TAS Board of Trustees

**Let's make this event successful....Cheryl needs us now!**

**Know someone that can't make the testing date?**  
**Sign up at [www.BeTheMatch.org](http://www.BeTheMatch.org) for a mailed kit!**

# MEN OF TEMPLE AHAVAT SHALOM (MoTAS)

## MoTAS AS ROLE MODELS

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### *“Making Your Contribution”*



Nonprofit organizations, such as TAS and MoTAS, thrive on your contributions. Whether contributions of time, money or both — all are important for an organization's survival. This is especially true of MoTAS: We have no dues. Being a man and being a member of TAS

automatically make you a member of MoTAS. Further, TAS does not financially support MoTAS, so the dues you pay to TAS are not indirect dues to MoTAS.

MoTAS survives on your contributions — primarily contributions to our annual appeal and contributions to our annual Golf Tournament. We held the Golf

Tournament in October, and it looks like it did not bring the amount budgeted. This makes our annual appeal even more important.

Right after the MoTAS Shabbat on January 23rd, we mailed our annual appeal letters. We urge you to respond to those letters and provide financial support to our operations, at a level that is comfortable to you and that you feel reflects the contribution of MoTAS to your life and to the life of TAS. For more information, visit <http://support.tasnorthridge-motas.org/>. We thank you in advance for your contributions; contributions \$100 or over will be acknowledged on our Wall of Honor.

Note: These commentaries are first posted as a featured entry on the MoTAS Website, [www.tasnorthridge-motas.org](http://www.tasnorthridge-motas.org/); they are then shared in the Menorah the month after they are posted. You're invited to discuss this article at <http://wp.tasnorthridge-motas.org/2015/01/04/making-your-contribution/>.

### MAN OF THE YEAR - BOB LEVINE

At the Friday, January 23rd MoTAS Shabbat, MoTAS announced our 2015 Man of the Year: Bob Levine. Bob is the immediate Past President of MoTAS. He helped MoTAS win the STAR award for its programming from the MRJ, and moved MoTAS to its inclusive model of membership. On Sunday, March 7th at Temple Beth David in Westminster, Bob will be honored together with the Men of the Year from other congregations in the MRJ Regional Man of the Year dinner. To join our contingent, RSVP at <http://moydinner.tasnorthridge-motas.org>. The cost of dinner is \$36 and reservations are due by Thursday, February 26th.



## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### FEBRUARY SPEAKER MEETING - (RABBI) HAL DAUM

MoTAS is getting a head start on TAS's 50th Anniversary Celebration with our February Speaker, Hal Daum, on Sunday, February 8th. In 1965, Temple Beth Torah formed as the merger of North Valley Reform (founded in 1962 as a split from Temple Beth Torah) and Temple Beth Torah (founded in 1951 as a split from Temple Beth Hillel; TBT later split back out in 1968). Hal was a student rabbi back in 1962 and served as the first rabbi of North Valley Reform. Since then, Hal has had a long and varied career, including working in real estate, as a parole officer, and as the Executive Director for a number of congregations. We invite you to join MoTAS on Sunday, February 8th (8:45 a.m. - Breakfast; 9:00 a.m. - Activity Review; 10:00 a.m. - Speaker) to learn about TAS in the days before it was TAS.



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## MEN'S HANG OUT WITH THE RABBI

On Sunday, February 22nd, MoTAS will be holding a special Men's Hang Out and Discussion with Rabbi Lutz. This discussion is limited to 20 people, and was full as of press time. If you are interested in adding your name to the waiting list, please contact Dave Friedman at [vp2@tasnorthridge-motas.org](mailto:vp2@tasnorthridge-motas.org). Given the level of interest in this, we will work with Rabbi Lutz to schedule another hang-out with him.

## MARCH ACTIVITIES

Mark your calendar now for these March activities:

- **Sunday, March 1st at 8:45 a.m.:** Our **March membership meeting** is our annual "Yellow Candle" Yom HaShoah box packing meeting. In a year that has seen growing anti-semitism in Europe, remembering the Shoah is even more important. We'll be boxing candles after our usual breakfast and activity review.
- **Saturday, March 7th at 6:00 p.m.:** The **Regional MRJ Man of the Year Dinner** at Temple Beth David in Westminster. RSVP to be part of the TAS group at <http://moydinner.tasnorthridge-motas.org/>.
- **Sunday, March 8th:** The **TAS Purim Carnival**. MoTAS will be assisting with food and may be coordinating some gaming events.
- **Sunday, March 29th at 5:00 p.m.:** The **6th Annual Men's Seder**, in the TAS Social Hall. All TAS men and their brothers, fathers, uncles, adult children, and friends are welcome. This is a special Seder that discusses men's themes and issues. More details in upcoming MoTAS Weekly's and the March Menorah.

## RECENT ACTIVITIES

### LATE DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

MoTAS held two activities in late December: A special Men's Only Hangout on Sunday, December 22nd where we cooked and served traditional Hanukkah Foods, and a Jewish Christmas activity on Thursday,



December 25th where we got together to go to a movie and Chinese food. Both events were well received and enjoyed by the participants.

## JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Councilman Mitch Englander was scheduled to speak at the January MoTAS Membership meeting on Sunday, January 11th. Mitch was unexpectedly called away, and we were delighted to have as our substitute speaker Ms. Lilian De Loza-Gutierrez, community relations manager for the San Fernando Valley from the LA Metropolitan Transportation Agency. We had a lively discussion about transportation issues in the Valley, explored Metro's current projects in the area, and shared our thoughts regarding transportation needs for the Northwest Valley. We had approximately 30 people in attendance.



## MOTAS SHABBAT

MoTAS held its annual MoTAS Shabbat on Friday, January 23rd. Preceding the service was a community Shabbat dinner catered by Silver Spoons Catering. The service, which was conducted by Rabbi Shawna, Cantor Jen, and MoTAS members, included reflections on how MoTAS strengthened the relationship of participants to MoTAS and TAS, and reflected how the Men of TAS view ourselves as role models of service to the congregation. During the service, we announced our Man of the Year winner, Bob Levine. Pictures from the event should be up shortly on the TAS website.



## SPORTS SQUARES

The Fall Football Squares program finished in December with the last Monday Night Football game. Congratulations to all of the winners. MoTAS is pleased to announce the following grants from the Fall Football



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## Squares:

- L'Taken Scholarships – \$900
- TASTY Support – \$400
- Avodah-ships for Songleaders Bootcamp – \$400
- Professional Combo of Musicians for an upcoming Shabbat – \$600
- Youth Choir Shirts – \$700

Registration for the Superbowl Squares activity is closed; winners will be announced after the Sunday, February 1st Superbowl. Watch your email for announcements regarding the availability of the March Madness Squares; information is always available at <http://squares.tasnorthridge-motas.org/>.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

The easiest way to keep up to date with MoTAS is to read our weekly email newsletter, which is also posted on the MoTAS Website at [www.tasnorthridge-motas.org](http://www.tasnorthridge-motas.org). On the website you can find information on all our activities, sign up forms, biographies of MoTAS members, and records from MoTAS executive board meetings. We also have a

Facebook group at [www.facebook.com/groups/tas.motas](http://www.facebook.com/groups/tas.motas) that you can join. The best way to learn about us is to come to a MoTAS event or a TAS Shabbat, introduce yourself to anyone with a MoTAS nametag, and participate. We want to build a relationship with you.



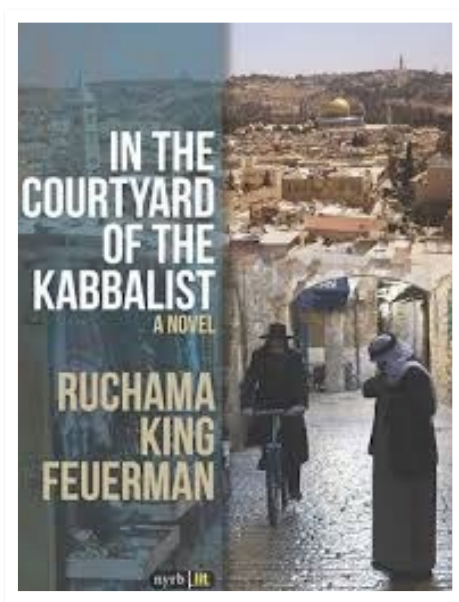
Men of  
Temple Ahavat Shalom

## BOOK GROUP WILL DISCUSS "IN THE COURTYARD OF THE KABBALIST" FEBRUARY 12

Elaine Pfefferman will facilitate discussion of *In the Courtyard of the Kabbalist* on Thursday evening, February 12. Ruchama King Feuerman's novel was a 2013 National Jewish Book Award finalist. It tells the story of a Lower East Side haberdasher, Isaac Markowitz, who moves to Jerusalem to begin a new life. There, Isaac becomes the assistant to a revered old rabbi who dispenses advice to troubled souls. Among those Isaac meets is the motorcycle-riding Tamar, who arrives in Israel to look for a husband, and Mustafa, an Arab with a congenital deformity employed as a janitor at the Temple Mount.

When Mustafa finds an ancient shard of pottery that may date back to the first Temple, he brings it to Isaac in friendship. That gesture sets in motion a series of events that lands Isaac in the company of Israel's criminal underworld,

puts Mustafa in mortal danger, and leaves Tamar struggling to save them both. As they move about, these characters, who represent a microcosm of Israeli society, are never sure if their luck will run out or if they will be sheltered by a higher power.



Book Group meetings take place in the Library/Chapel. Refreshments are available at 7:00 p.m. and the discussion begins promptly at 7:30 p.m. A \$5 contribution per person is requested. All are welcome.

*Phyllis & Hal Bass*

# ECEC



nearly half of our moms meeting last month to have dinner together and to talk about the actual meaning of Rosh Chodesh. This is a lovely social event which enhances our community, and everyone with young children is very welcome to join us.

Remember our monthly Bim Bam Bimah. This event is open to everyone, so join us to welcome Shabbat on February 13th at 5:30 p.m. and sing and dance with all of our preschoolers.

L'Shalom,

***Tessa Cramer,  
ECEC Director***



We are looking forward to another busy month in our ECEC. We start off celebrating Tu B'Shevat, the birthday of the trees, by planting in our own garden on the side of the Temple. We hope to have a thriving harvest soon. The children will plant flowers, herbs, fruit and vegetables and, if we manage to prevent the squirrels from eating everything, we will have our own school grown salad in the summer. Gardening is wonderful for children. Not only are they learning about nature and the environment, but math and science too when they count the leaves and compare the textures. Their language skills increase, creativity abounds, motor skills are strengthened and the benefits and knowledge are never ending. There are not many places in the country where we can spend so many days outdoors and here at the ECEC we definitely take advantage of this blessing.

The other exciting event we have coming up this month is Grandparent/Special Friend Day. Our children will bring someone from another generation to school to join us for a few hours. We plan on making challahs together, playing outside and in, creating an amazing art project, having snacks and then inviting our guests to join us for our community Shabbat. The children are so excited to be hosting this event. Pictures will follow in next month's newsletter but we will also have a display posted earlier in the school.

I am also excited to share with you how successful our Rosh Chodesh women's group has become. We started off by scheduling dinner meetings for our moms on or close to the actual dates of Rosh Chodesh. This has now grown to



save the date!

25th Annual  
**ECEC**

Luncheon & Boutique  
Sunday, March 29, 2014

Boutique Opens at 10 a.m.  
Lunch starts at 11:30 a.m.

Join us for food, shopping, silent auction and raffle!!

Please invite your friends & family!!!!  
Formal invites coming soon





## ALUMNI OUTREACH PROGRAM - FEBRUARY 2015



I would like to introduce the Alumni Outreach Program to those of you who are not familiar with it. Through this program we maintain contact with our 18 to 24 year olds, whether they are at home, away at college or working. We send packages for the New Year, Hanukkah and Passover plus a birthday card. Enrolled alums receive a challah and honey for Rosh Hashanah, a menorah for Hanukkah and matzah for Passover.

In the past, we have planned dinners with the clergy in various areas with higher concentrations of our alums. We also compile an Alumni Directory so our alums know where to find one another, especially if looking for a friendly face on campus.

We also like to share where our Alums go to college, where they work and their successes, travels and accomplishments. Please send me information about your son and daughters, so I can share with our congregation.



### THIS MONTH I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU LOCATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING ALUM:

Josh Hoffman has been living in Israel for two years, has made aliyah and has his own social media business. Elyssa Hoffman is in her first year of grad school at Chico State and will become a speech therapist. Liza Hoffman is in her first year at Berkeley and loving it. Jahmie Hilecher second year at UCLA majoring in Dance. She will be appearing on multiple upcoming episodes of "The Fosters" on ABC Family Network. Sara Hilecher is in her third year at Chapman University and majoring in Integrated Education Studies with a minor in Leadership Studies. She will be studying abroad in Florence, Italy this Spring semester. Matthew Hilecher graduated in December 2014 with a BFA in Film/Cinema from San Francisco State University. He is currently interning at a film studio in San Francisco. Zach Korduner is a freshman at Cal Berkeley.

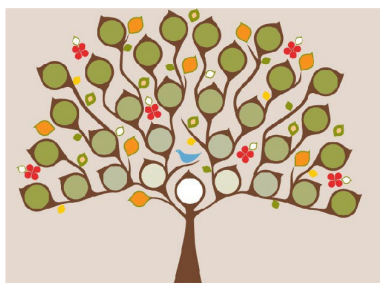
Please remember the Alumni Outreach Program when you make your donations. I truly believe it is one of the most important programs TAS has. Our children are our future.

**Debbie Weiss**

Phonemom656@gmail.com

# SPOTLIGHT ON SISTERHOOD

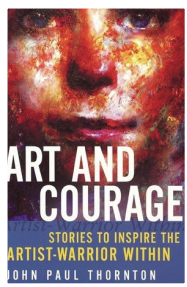
## PROGRAMMING



Genealogist Pam Weisberger spoke to us about researching your family tree. She inspired us to start or expand our own research. Her presentation was packed full of useful websites that are available for genealogical research. She

brought some books on Jewish names, one on first names and one on surnames, and many of us had fun looking up names from our families. Pam gave us handouts with suggestions and websites - if you would like one, send an email to Jackie Zev at [tas.jackiez@gmail.com](mailto:tas.jackiez@gmail.com).

Thursday, February 19, 2015, 7:00 p.m.  
John Paul Thornton is an American artist, educator, speaker and author of the book, *Art and Courage: Stories to Inspire the Artist-Warrior Within*. In keeping with the theme of linking social causes with art, John Paul Thornton, an intriguing and popular lecturer at Pierce College, will discuss the works of a 20th century artist whose works depicted Jewish life during the Pogroms of his homeland.



## SAVE THE DATE:

**Thursday, March 19, 2015, 6:00 p.m.** - TAS Sisterhood Seder, Jews in the Far East (Space is Limited)

**Thursday, April 16, 2015, 7:00 p.m.** - Making Prayer Work with Rabbi Lutz

## EDUCATION



Did you have a child who attended a Jewish camp, or went on a trip to Israel this past year? Did you know that every year our Sisterhood and the Men of TAS give camperships to help support these activities? All you have to do is download the application off the TAS website and follow the directions. Your child will need to do some volunteer hours prior to the due date, so download the application now so you will be

able to plan accordingly. Giving your child the experience of Jewish camp has been proven one of the best ways to ensure that they continue to live a Jewish life into adulthood, and we are here to support your efforts. If you have any question contact Roseanna Sculler at [rsculler@aol.com](mailto:rsculler@aol.com), (818) 886-7320 or Eileen Roseman at [scoobydoodle1@mac.com](mailto:scoobydoodle1@mac.com), (818) 807-3917 Education Co Vice Presidents.

## WAYS AND MEANS

Attention Mah Jongg Players: We are once again selling cards for 2015. Please support our Sisterhood by ordering your cards through us. You get all of the same benefits as if you ordered them directly, and they will be mailed to you.

If you have any questions about our fundraiser, please contact Robyn Blachman at [blachmanj@yahoo.com](mailto:blachmanj@yahoo.com).

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT MAH JONGG

Don't miss out on our monthly Mah Jongg games. We play on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:15 p.m. at the Temple. We always have a teacher there to give lessons, but you can't learn if you don't show up! Every level of play is accommodated. Don't miss out. There is a \$5 donation to play. Contact Anita Hoch for more information [anitapearl47@gmail.com](mailto:anitapearl47@gmail.com).



## CELEBRATE A SIMCHA



Do you want to honor a special birthday, anniversary, baby naming or an auf ruf? How about honoring a special

someone or accomplishment? Has someone in your family recently graduated, retired, or would you like to honor the memory of a loved one? You can honor someone by becoming a co-sponsor at a Friday Night Oneg? For a \$125 donation to TAS Sisterhood, your name and the reason for the simcha will be included in the Shabbat Shalom pamphlet. Contact Cindy Spoon in the Temple office at (818) 360-2258 if you have any questions.

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## COUPONS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

TAS Sisterhood is pleased to announce that this month we were able to send two boxes of coupons to overseas bases. The coupons went to Japan, to the Air Force/Marine Unit and to the Navy. The families appreciate the coupons, as prices are very high overseas.



coupons, please call Mel Birken at (818) 366-2397.

*Sue Sculler*  
*Temple Ahavat Shalom Sisterhood President*

Thank you for cutting and sorting your coupons. They should be sorted into envelopes and labeled "FOOD" and "NOT FOOD" This makes it more convenient for the recipients to find what they need.

The boxes sent are the very largest Flat Rate. These go to an APO, therefore we pay domestic postage. The boxes are stuffed as full as possible, and several pounds of coupons make their way to those who need them.

While they do accept expired coupons, all coupons must be cut. Sheets of uncut coupons cannot be sent out and will be recycled. Volunteers who can cut coupons are welcome. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to cut



## RACHEL SCHACHTER'S BAT MITZVAH PROJECT

My Mitzvah Project is the most meaningful thing about my Bat Mitzvah. My Mitzvah Project is about charity and giving back to our community. Giving back to our community is a very big part of Judaism. The Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) at Temple Ahavat Shalom is where my Jewish education began. I started preschool at TAS on my second birthday. My closest friendships were made at the Temple Ahavat Shalom Preschool. My experience there was unforgettable.

For my Mitzvah Project, I am raising money and collecting new or gently used children's books to donate to the ECEC at Temple Ahavat Shalom. In addition to collecting books, I will be spending time each week, reading the



books to the children at the ECEC. If you can please donate money or a new or a slightly used children's book you would be greatly enriching our ECEC community.

Please drop off your donation of books and/or cash to Tessa Cramer, ECEC Director at the ECEC office. If you would like to make a monetary donation please make your check payable to Temple Ahavat Shalom. Please indicate "ECEC Books / Rachel's Mitzvah Project" on the check.

Thank you for helping me to complete my Mitzvah Project.

*Love always,*  
*Rachel Schachter*



Today I will assume my responsibilities as the U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom. It is a great honor. It is linked with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism with what has been the abiding passion of my heart: to make real the Jewish prophetic ideals of justice, peace, freedom, equality and compassion, in America, in Israel, in the lives of human beings everywhere.

The greatest blessing of my life was to do so for 40 years at the RAC. Imagine: someone giving you a job to do what you love doing more than anything in the world, day in and day out. Of course, by this point in his journey, Moses had approached the Promised Land and we have a bit longer to go, but...

I believe in liberal Judaism, in its understanding that our sacred texts were written by men and women struggling to understand what God called them to do in order to make God's values real here on earth – and that we each write the next chapter through the work of our lives.

I believe in the Reform Jewish Movement, and believe that its strength, creativity and inspiration will be the bastion of Judaism for all the generations to come.

I believe in America, in its ideals and its willingness to struggle, time and again, to live up to those ideals: that it might inspire the global community to embody the freedom and hope that is at its core.

I believe in the great cause of social justice: that we are not the prisoners of the bitter failures of the past, but that we can — and must — be the shapers of a better future for all God's children.

And I believe in you — the leaders, teachers, activists, rabbis, Jewish professionals, the members of our congregations, the families, the Jews affiliated and unaffiliated — who believe that being a Jew means speaking up for and empowering the powerless; means pursuing justice for all; means doing

whatever we can to bring peace to the world. You have made everything I have accomplished possible. You have upheld the RAC, built by the generation of the Eisendraths, Vorspans, Hirshes, Brickners, Lipmans, Gittlesohns, and Evanses — and made it a living tapestry of contemporary social justice in America.

Now the torch passed to me by that generation is being handed to the next — to the generation of Rabbi Rick Jacobs, himself a great champion of social justice, who is reshaping Reform Judaism for the better; to the remarkable, experienced, ever-creative staff of the Religious Action Center; to the young rabbis across North America who are recharging social justice everywhere; and the extraordinary lay leaders who guide this vital enterprise.

For all you have done, I am forever in your debt.

For what you will do in writing the next chapter of prophetic Judaism, all will be in your debt.

With abiding affection and appreciation,

***Rabbi David Saperstein***

# FROM THE DESK OF RABBI RICK JACOBS

As you know, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC) has played a central role in our Movement's legislative advocacy efforts for the last 50 years — and for the last 40, has been led by the inimitable Rabbi David Saperstein. When the history of the RAC is written, Rabbi Saperstein's role in the RAC's growth and strength will be clear and his list of accomplishments will be long and impressive.

With David's retirement comes a once-in-a-generation opportunity to find the next leader of the RAC. The position requires someone with a deep commitment to social justice, the skills to organize our Movement, and the passion to inspire Reform Jews from coast to coast to take action. Once those criteria were established, the leading candidate was crystal clear: I am pleased to announce that Rabbi Jonah Pesner has been appointed as the next director of the RAC.

I know you join me in congratulating Rabbi Pesner on becoming only the fifth director of the RAC in this *shebecheyanu* moment. Those of you who know him know that he was destined for this job. His deep experience organizing congregations around social justice issues through the URJ's popular Just Congregations initiative; his leadership in the successful Massachusetts campaign for health care access, which has become a national model for reform; and his extensive experience in leading, teaching, and speaking at Reform congregations and institutions — all of these make him the natural choice.

Rabbi Pesner has been an invaluable partner to me over the last few years as one of the principle architects of the new URJ vision, as well as the groundbreaking Campaign for Youth Engagement. He will continue in his role as Senior Vice President of the URJ, where he will remain in the senior leadership of the organization in addition to his role at the RAC. Additionally, he will continue to lead Just Congregations, which will more formally become a part of the RAC's operations.

Rabbi Pesner joins an amazing staff who will spend the next few weeks transitioning him into his new position by meeting with Congressional leadership, key staff in the Obama administration, leaders of other Jewish and religious organizations, and a broad array of coalition partners with whom the RAC works on legislative priorities.

There will be much written about Rabbi Pesner in the weeks to come. In case you missed them, the first article about him has already appeared in the *Washington Post* and the URJ issued a press release. We invite you to share this good news with your community (shareable posts can be found on the URJ's Facebook page and the [RAC's Facebook page](#); you can also follow [@URJ](#) and [@TheRAC](#) on Twitter).

As the mantle of the RAC's leadership moves from Rabbi David Saperstein to Rabbi Jonah Pesner we move, as the Psalmist taught us, "from strength to strength — *m'chayil l'chayil*." L'Shalom,

***Rabbi Rick Jacobs***  
***President***



# 2015 Los Angeles Regional Conference

April 18-19 • Northridge, CA  
Temple Ahavat Shalom: 18200 Rinaldi Place

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## GENEROUS GIFTS

### ALUMNI OUTREACH FUND

Ava and Paul Silver to the Hirsch Family in memory of David Hirsch  
Arlene and Ronald Stone in memory of David Hirsch  
Jim Foster in memory of David Hirsch  
Lila and Sheldon Snow in memory of David Hirsch  
Phyllis and Hal Bass in memory of David Hirsch, husband of Debra and son-in-law of Barbara and Herb Wolpov  
Lisa Marmon in memory of David Hirsch  
Sandra Mast in memory of David Hirsch  
Karen Platt in memory of David Hirsch  
David Fractor in memory of David Hirsch  
Loving condolences to the Hirsch and Wolpov Families on the loss of their beloved David, from Abbey Klein  
Rhonda, Michael and Carly Mayer to Debra, Noah and Jordan Hirsch in memory of David Hirsch  
Kenneth Gross and Kate Pollack-Gross in memory of David Hirsch  
Mel and Les Birken in memory of David Hirsch  
Lynn and Mike Doner in memory of David Hirsch  
Debbie and Art Heisman in memory of David Hirsch  
Debra Moss in memory of David Hirsch  
Sally Blitz-Weisz in memory of David Hirsch  
Mel and Les Birken in loving memory of Sarah Shapiro, mother of Ana and Larry  
Melissa and Alan Kassan in memory of David Hirsch  
Esther Hyun in memory of David Michael Hirsch  
The Shaw Family in memory of David Hirsch  
Raymond and Beverly Howell in memory of David Hirsch  
Robert and Phyllis Klein in memory of David Hirsch  
Joan Blair in memory of David Hirsch, beloved husband, father and friend  
Debbie and Scott Weiss in memory of David Hirsch  
Debbie and Scott Weiss in memory of David Lascoe  
Sisterhood of Temple Ahavat Shalom

### ANNUAL GIVING/ GENERAL FUND

Todd Ponaman in loving memory of Connie Friedman  
Andy and Barry Mann in memory of Kitty Esquenazi, the mother of Sue Issler  
Andy and Barry Mann in memory of Lee Appel, the father of Jan Saltsman  
Aaron Weissman in memory of Roselyn A. Weissman and Muriel K. Weissman  
Arlene and Ronald Stone in memory of Howard Wisner  
Floyd Siegal in honor of Bruce Hatkoff  
Debbie and Art Heisman in memory of Judith Seligman  
Lillian Lazar in memory of David Hirsch  
Stu Bernstein in memory of David Hirsch  
Andrea Yahudian in memory of David Hirsch  
Larry and Dori Hoffman in memory of Arnold Hoffman  
Stephanie and Rodger Howard in memory of Sue Issler's mother, Kitty Esquenazi  
Stephanie and Rodger Howard in memory of David Hirsch  
Cynthia Spoon Pyle to Ava Silver and Family, in memory of David Lascoe  
To the Hatkoffs, we wish Cheryl a speedy recovery, sending our best wishes, Len and Judy Soloff

### AVODAH FUND

Sisterhood of Temple Ahavat Shalom

### CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Lynn and Mike Doner in memory of Lee Appel  
Carol Segal in memory of Judy Seligman  
Paul and Ava Silver with our thanks from the Silver/Lascoe Family

### CARING COMMUNITY FUND

Phyllis and Hal Bass in memory of Sue Issler's mother, Kitty Esquenazi  
Phyllis and Hal Bass in loving memory of our dear friend, Judy Seligman  
Rhonda Mayer to Sue Issler and Family in memory of her mother, Kitty Esquenazi  
Rhonda Mayer to Dr. Richard Seligman and Family in memory of Judy Seligman  
Shelly, Phil and Jonathan Trop to Sue and Paul Issler and Family in memory of Sue's mother, Kitty Esquenazi  
Shelly, Phil and Jonathan Trop to Richard Seligman and Family in memory of Judy Seligman  
Sharon and Mel Janis to Sue and Paul Issler in memory of Kitty Esquenazi  
Sharon and Mel Janis to Debra Hirsch and Family in memory of David Hirsch  
Sharon and Mel Janis to Richard Seligman and Family in memory of Judy Seligman  
Sharon and Mel Janis to The Weissman and Wisner Families in memory of Howard Wisner  
Shelly and Phil Trop in memory of Sarah Shapiro, to Ana and Larry Rofe and Family  
Sharon and Mel Janis in memory of Sarah Shapiro, to Ana and Larry Rofe  
Anita and Steven Hoch in memory of Sarah Shapiro  
Abbey Klein in memory of Sue Issler's mother, Kitty Esquenazi  
Abbey Klein in celebration of the Bat Mitzvah of Sabrina Dresnick, granddaughter of Phyllis and Hal Bass. "Mazel Tov!"  
The Rofe and Shapiro Families in memory of Sarah Shapiro, our beloved mother  
Lynn and Mike Doner in memory of Judy Seligman  
The Pearlman Family in memory of Lee Appel  
The Pearlman Family in memory of Kitty Esquenazi  
The Pearlman Family to Abbey Klein in honor of Rose Elizabeth Sikes, "Mazel Tov"  
Fran and Al Lapidés in memory of Jan Saltsman's father, Lee Appel  
Abbey Klein in memory of my cherished friend, Judy Seligman, with love and support to Dick, their children and grandchildren  
Pam and David Kramer in memory of Kitty Esquenazi  
Fran and Al Lapidés in memory of Gordon Recht's mother, Hilda Recht  
The Pearlman Family in memory of Hilda Recht  
The Pearlman Family in memory of David Lascoe  
Sue and Paul Issler to the Caring Community, for all of their help and concern during this time of the loss of our dear mother, Kitty Esquenazi  
Melissa and Alan Kassan in memory of Hilda Recht  
Sharon and Mel Janis in memory of David Lascoe  
Shelly and Phil Trop in memory of David Lascoe  
Rhonda Mayer in memory of David Lascoe  
Rhonda Mayer in memory of Veronica Cohn  
Melissa and Alan Kassan in memory of David Lascoe  
The Newman Family thanking Diane Levine for leading the Minyan Service for the family and friends of Pauline Newman

... CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



## EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND

Benita, Aaron, Jordan, Norma and Jack in memory of Janil Heart  
Ava and Paul Silver to Jan Saltsman, in memory of her beloved father  
Lee Appel  
Debbie and Scott Weiss in memory of Lee Appel, Jan Saltsman's dad  
Marcy and Jerry Hilecher to the ECEC Infant Toddler Center  
Richard Field to the ECEC Infant Toddler Center in memory of David  
Hirsch  
Jan and Michael Saltsman in honor of a speedy recovery for Cheryl  
Hatkoﬀ  
Lynn and Mike Doner in honor of Cheryl Hatkoﬀ  
The Pearlman Family in honor of Cheryl Hatkoﬀ, "Get Well Soon!"  
Cathy Meyers in honor of Cheryl Hatkoﬀ  
Meryl and Andy Rimes sending wishes to Cheryl Hatkoﬀ for a speedy  
recovery  
Rodger, Stephanie, Alex and Adam Howard in honor of Cheryl  
Hatkoﬀ, wishes for a speedy recovery  
Sharon and Mel Janis to Cheryl Hatkoﬀ, "Get Well Soon!"  
Shelly and Phil Trop to Cheryl Hatkoﬀ, "Get Well Soon!"  
Lisa Schell in memory of Terry Winnick  
To Cheryl Hatkoﬀ, sending lots of positive and healing thoughts your  
way, with love Susan and Guy Wolff

## EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY FUND

Cathy Meyers in memory of David Hirsch  
Sheri and Jack Bloom in memory of David Hirsch

## MARISA INGRUM FUND-RESILENCE OF THE SOUL

Lynne and Steven Brener in memory of Larry Excell

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Lynn and Mike Doner  
Jan and Michael Saltsman in memory of David Hirsch  
Becky and David Breuer sending best wishes to Cheryl Hatkoﬀ  
Marcia Selz and Eduardo Subelman in memory of Bernie Berman, the  
uncle of Leslie Fischer

Jan and Michael Saltsman in memory of David Lascoe  
Jan and Michael Saltsman in memory of Fannie Rothman  
Gloria and Allan Katcher  
Leonard and Joann Roth in honor of Jessica Robinson's Bat Mitzvah  
Dorothy and Larry Hoffman in honor of Rabbi Shawna  
Edward and Fran Handler  
Paul and Ava Silver with our thanks from the Silver/Lascoe Family

## RELIGIOUS AND HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

Benita, Aaron, Jordan, Norma and Jack in memory of Elaine Taft  
Debra, Noah and Jordan Hirsch, "We want you to know how much  
David has touched all of us, as well as you, Debra. May he be a blessing  
to you, to keep in your hearts and minds forever. He was a great man".  
Much Love, Elliot, Sharon, Rebecca and David Fisch  
Susan and Neal Epstein in memory of David Hirsch  
The Pearlman Family in memory of David Hirsch

## RONNA AND LEW EDGERS MEMORIAL ISRAEL PROGRAMS

Arnold and Judy Alban to the Issler Family in memory of Kitty  
Esquenazi  
Arnold and Judy Alban to the Hirsch Family in memory of Dave  
Hirsch, loving father and husband  
Arnold and Judy Alban in memory of Judith Seligman

## SARITZKY FAMILY ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Fran and Al Lapidés in memory of Judy Seligman  
Fran and Al Lapidés in memory of Kitty Esquenazi, Sue Issler's mother  
Andy and Barry Mann in loving memory of Judy Seligman  
Susan Cohen in memory of Judy Seligman  
Sue and Paul Issler in memory of David Lascoe  
Elaine DuRoff in memory of Judy Seligman

## SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Ava and Paul Silver to the Issler Family, in memory of Kitty Esquenazi  
Cynthia Spoon Pyle to Sue Issler and Family, in memory of Kitty  
Esquenazi

## YAHREZITS

Marian and Bob Milman in memory of Helen Snyder  
Sandy Tilsen in memory of Ernestine Miller  
Terry and Bruce Hatkoﬀ in memory of Tillie Smith  
Scott and Debbie Weiss in memory of Mark Weiss  
Rosie and Nick Mandel in memory of Bella Presburger  
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Mel and Les Birken in memory of Manny Birken  
Rochelle and Marvin Skolnick in memory of Nathan Satz  
Rochelle and Marvin Skolnick in memory of Alfred Gennis  
Rochelle and Marvin Skolnick in memory of Rebecca Gennis  
Lisa and Glenn Kantor in memory of Lou Katz  
Allan and Gloria Katcher in memory of Jane Helen Katcher  
Cathy Meyers in memory of Sidney David Meyers  
Cathy Meyers in memory of Margaret Francis  
Abbey Klein in memory of Laura Klein  
Jan and Michael Saltsman in memory of Laurie Saltsman  
Edward and Fran Handler in memory of Mark Handler  
Edward and Fran Handler in memory of Carl Handler

Amy and Marc Brown in memory of Israel Rothlein  
Doug and Heather Kayne in memory of Stephanie Bryman  
Harriet and Wayne Long in memory of Sarah Bernstein  
Mel and Les Birken in memory of Bertha Klein  
Ira and Sherry Kaplan in memory of Suzanne Pleshette  
Alan, Jill, Sheri, Carli, Randy and Liz in memory of Leonard  
Morgenstein  
Gordon Lester in memory of Gordon Otto Lester  
Jerry and Marcy Hilecher in memory of Anne Hilecher  
The Warsavsky Family in memory of Margarete Warsavsky  
The Warsavsky Family in memory of Simon Samuelli  
Constance Robin in memory of Esther Goldberg and Leon Eskenazi  
Sue Miller and Daryn Pakcyk in memory of Myron Brynjegard  
Beverly Shore in memory of Linda Hiltz  
Barbara Sunenshine in memory of Martin Sunenshine

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## Condolences

Bonnie and Don Weissman & Richard and Bernice Burns on the death of their brother-in-law and son-in-law, Howard Wiser

Dr. Richard Seligman and Family on the death of his wife and our congregant, Judy Seligman

Ana Rofe and Family on the death of her mother, Sarah Shapiro

Jann Zinderman and Family on the death of her friend, Gary Cohn

Gordon Recht and Family on the death of his mother, Hilda Recht

Roseanna Sculler and Family on the death of her uncle, Stan Berman.

Ava Silver and Family on the death of her father, David Lascoe

Robert Cohn and Laura Ebersold and families on the death of their mother, Veronica "Roni" Cohn

*May their memory be a blessing*



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For more information call:

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# FEBRUARY 2015 AT TEMPLE AHAVAT SHALOM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:00am - Social Action Event - Away 9:00am - Adult Hebrew	<b>2</b> 8:00am - Lifeline Screening 10:00am - Judaica Art Class	<b>3</b> 9:30am - Torah Study 6:00pm - Sisterhood Board Meeting	<b>4</b> Tu B'Shvat	<b>5</b> 10:00am - Melton Class 4:00pm - Adult Intermediate Hebrew Reading 7:30pm - Purim Carnival Meeting	<b>6</b> L'Taken Weekend 6:45pm - Lay-led Torah Study 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat Service	<b>7</b> 9:00am - Shabbat Morning Yoga
<b>8</b> 8:30am - Bone Marrow Drive 8:45am - Men of TAS Meeting 9:00am - Adult Hebrew	<b>9</b> 10:00am - Judaica Art Class	<b>10</b> 9:30am - Torah Study	<b>11</b> 9:00am - ECEC Special Persons Day 7:15pm - JNET Meeting	<b>12</b> 10:00am - Melton Class 4:00pm - Adult Intermediate Hebrew Reading 7:00pm - Book Group Meeting 7:30pm - Religious School Parent Board Meeting 7:30pm - ECEC Parent Board Meeting 7:30pm - Purim Carnival Meeting	<b>13</b> 10:00am - ECEC/Grandparent Special Friend Day 5:30pm - ECEC Bim Bam Bimah 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat Service	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> No Religious School	<b>16</b> President's Day - Temple and School Offices Closed	<b>17</b> 9:30am - Torah Study	<b>18</b> 7:15pm - TAS Board Meeting	<b>19</b> 10:00am - Melton Class 4:00pm - Adult Intermediate Hebrew Reading 7:00pm - Sisterhood 7:30pm - Purim Carnival Meeting	<b>20</b> 7:00pm - Erev Shabbat Camp Service 8:30pm - Lay-led Torah Study	<b>21</b> 9:30am - Torah on the Trail
<b>22</b> 9:00am - Adult Hebrew 6:00pm - Men of TAS Men's Hang Out with the Rabbi (Dinner) - Away	<b>23</b> 10:00am - Adult Ed: Judaica Art Class 7:00pm - Gala Committee Meeting	<b>24</b> 9:30am - Torah Study	<b>25</b> 6:15pm - Sisterhood Monthly Mah Jongg	<b>26</b> 10:00am - Melton Class 4:00pm - Adult Ed: Intermediate Hebrew Reading 7:00pm - Budget and Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm - Social Action Meeting	<b>27</b> 6:30pm - Community Dinner presented by TAS High Service 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat L'Taken Service	<b>28</b> 4:45pm - Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Barder

## The Menorah is . . .

Published monthly by Temple Ahavat Shalom,

18200 Rinaldi Place  
Northridge, CA 91326

Editor - Fran Krimston  
818-363-1969-eve / 310-641-0707-day  
fran@hillside Memorial.org

Proofreader - Helene Kimmel  
Proofreader - Leanne Lansang

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