

## DON'T LET THE LIGHT GO OUT

FROM THE DESK OF RABBI LUTZ



Don't let the light go out! So teaches Peter Yarrow in his wonderful and uplifting Hanukkah folk song. His lesson is found first in the book of Leviticus where the Israelites are instructed: "Fire shall be kept burning upon the altar continually; don't let the light go out." Of this instruction the great Hasidic master, the Baal Shem Tov, once taught: "Your heart is the altar. Whatever your work, let a spark of the holy fire remain within you, and fan it into a flame." This is the spark of which Peter Yarrow speaks. This is the miracle of the continually burning flame. The miracle is not that a cruse of oil lasted for eight days. The true miracle is that the light has continued to burn on in the human soul despite so many attempts to extinguish that Divine flame.

*"We are all Maccabees!"*

Hanukkah is a reminder of the spark that glows within us all. We celebrate the festival of lights at the darkest point in the calendar year to remind us that even when we find ourselves at the darkest of moments in our own lives, there is a light that continues to shine within. It is the light of the human spirit. It is the light of possibility. It is the light of hope. It is God's light. It was that light which allowed the Maccabees to overcome one of the mightiest armies in the world. Time and again, throughout Jewish history, we recall the miracle of the light of the human spirit overcoming seemingly insurmountable odds to emerge victorious in their battle against darkness.

It comes as no surprise that some of the greatest contemporary stories of the battles of the forces of light against those of

darkness come from the pens and keyboards of Jewish writers. Spielberg, of course, immediately comes to mind. But "googling" Jewish comic book creators will lead you to a Wikipedia list of 70 more. After all, who better to understand the monumental and miraculous nature of that battle than those whose history is replete with such struggles – and who have lived to tell the tale? We are all Maccabees!

And yet, as each of the above teachings indicates, it is ultimately our choice whether that light shines forth or not. That is the reminder that comes with each night of Hanukkah. Each night as we increase the light of the Hanukkiah, a reminder shines forth for us to be ones who do exactly this in those places in need of our light. We must be the ones who go out and multiply the light. Through the acts of our hearts and our hands, with the commitment of our feet and our souls, we must bring God's light into the world.

This community is the source of so many miracles of the human spirit. Opportunities abound here for you to join your light with that of others. I pray that you will use these nights to consider your own commitments and then join with us in our continuing efforts to bring the light of healing and compassion and justice into the world.



*Don't let the light go out.*



SONGS ABOUT LIFE, LOVE  
AND  
OTHER NECESSITIES



C'MON ALONG AND LISTEN TO  
SONGS OF BROADWAY AND  
BEYOND



**DATE** Saturday, January 31, 2015

**TIME** 8:00pm

**PLACE** Temple Ahavat Shalom

**STARRING**

Cantor Jen Roher, Cantor Patti Linsky,  
Cantorial Intern Lily Tash



**DESSERT RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE CONCERT**



To RSVP or for more information:

(818) 360-2258 • [www.TASnorthridge.org/concert](http://www.TASnorthridge.org/concert)

# MEN OF TEMPLE AHAVAT SHALOM (MoTAS)

## MOTAS AS ROLE MODELS

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### *"You are MoTAS"*

At every membership meeting, I remind the men present that our goal is to be a role model of doing things right. What does this mean? To me, it means that we are exemplar representatives; each of us is representative of how people perceive MoTAS: if we're welcoming, people perceive MoTAS as welcoming, if we're ethical, people perceive MoTAS as ethic. This notion isn't unique to MoTAS, it is true for the Temple Board as Ambassadors for the congregation, and it is true for every member of Temple Ahavat Shalom.

The notion of being a role model is fundamentally Jewish. It is captured in the words of Rabbi Hillel in the Talmud,



Shabbat 31a, where he boils down the Torah to the following: "That which is despicable to you, do not do to your fellow, this is the whole Torah, and the rest is commentary, go and learn it." The way we behave reflects on how newcomers and visitors perceive MoTAS and Temple Ahavat Shalom.

As the Men of Temple Ahavat Shalom and members of Temple Ahavat Shalom, let us strive to be the people we would like to meet and be around. Let us be the person about whom it is said, "I became part of TAS and MoTAS because of him."

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/2014/10/30/you-are-motas/>.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On Sunday, December 14th at 8:45 a.m., join the Men of TAS in Activity Center 3/4 for a scrumptious breakfast typically consisting of bagels, lox, eggs, cookies, fruit and beverages (donations appreciated). Our monthly meeting begins at 9:00 a.m., followed by our program. This month, we're going to be sharing stories about Judaica.



Every time I visit the home of a member of TAS, I see a collection of beautiful Judaica. Each of these items has a story: where it was bought, why it was bought, how it spoke to you. Sharing these stories helps us to learn about each other. In December, when our observance centers on an item of Judaica – the Hanukkiah – we've decided to share our stories. Bring an item of Judaica or two, and let us learn about it.

### DECEMBER MEN'S HANG OUT

On Sunday, December 21, at 6:00 p.m. we will be holding our December Men Only Hangout and Discussion. This month we'll be celebrating Hanukkah with greasy foods -- latkes, fried (and baked) chicken, and sufganyiot. Come join us, light some candles, eat some food. We'll sit. We'll schmooze... and who knows, we might even discuss a Hanukkah-related topic. RSVP online at <http://www.eventbee.com/event?eid=195123093> or on the sign-up sheet at the December meeting. The cost will be \$10 at the door, and space will be limited.



### TRADITIONAL JEWISH "CHRISTMAS"

I don't know what you do on Christmas, but what I do is go out for a movie and Chinese food. Last year, after our movie, we met up with two other MoTAS members for dinner. That was so much fun we're exploring making it

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an optional MoTAS activity. If this is your tradition, we'd love you to join us. We're in the process of picking a few potential movies (take a look at <http://www.movieinsider.com/movies/december/2014/> and send me your ideas -- "Into The Woods"

is a distinct possibility). We'll settle on a few that are all at the same multiplex (either Pacific Northridge, Pacific Winnetka, or in Woodland Hills) around the same time, and then meet up after the movie. Depending on the size of the group, we'll then either go out to a restaurant where we've made a reservation or bring in Chinese to a member's home. If we go the latter route, we'll distribute the menu ahead of time so we can pre-order, and pre-determine the amount per person. Note that this is a family event, not men-only. If you're interested, please RSVP at the December MoTAS meeting or online at <http://www.eventbee.com/event?eid=185523194>. We're setting a hard deadline of December 15 so we can make any necessary reservations.

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## JANUARY ACTIVITIES

As a teaser, here are some activities to look forward to in January:

- Sunday, January 11th at 8:45 a.m. Our January speakers meeting will feature Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch Englander who will speak about new and on-going projects that affect Northridge.
- Friday, January 23rd. Join us in the Sanctuary for our annual MoTAS Shabbat. This service will include MoTAS members leading the service, sharing some stories and announcing our Man of the Year.

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## MOTAS CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

At the end of October, MoTAS held its annual Charity Golf Tournament. Thank you to all the volunteers, players, and participants. As part of the Golf Tournament, MoTAS produced a Temple Calendar (which also served as the tournament program). This calendar provides -- in one convenient place -- information on the Temple officers, calendars and information about Synaplex, Life Long Learning, ECEC, the Temple Youth Groups, Sisterhood, Social Action, as well as lots of information about MoTAS. The calendar is available in the Temple foyer.

It was developed as a way to give visibility to those individual, companies, and organization that have supported MoTAS, and by extension, Temple Ahavat Shalom. Patronize them and let them know you saw their support in the MoTAS Calendar/Ad Book.

Our intrepid photo team Steve Zonis and Scott Yollis shot almost 600 pictures. We're working on culling them down and will have them available in the TAS photo archive online after the first of the year.



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## MITZVAH DAY

On Sunday, November 2nd the Men of TAS joined the congregation in repairing the world... or at least our buildings in Northridge. On Mitzvah Day, the Men of TAS repaired school gates, cleaned lighting fixtures, built stools, and painted Tessa's door. Thank you to all our volunteers: Daniel Faigin, Dave Friedman, Larry Hoffman, Scott Yollis, Bob Brostoff, Joel Lowell, Robert Spier, Rick, Mervis, Steve Rosen, Bill Shapiro, Mike Thornhill, Brian Hatkoff, Mike Rayfield, and from AEII at CSUN: Matt Covelli, Avi Cohen, Tyler Wainfeld, and Alex Howard. Here are some pictures of "Men with Tools for the Schools":



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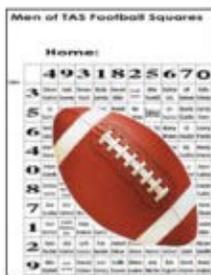
## NOVEMBER SPEAKERS MEETING

At our November Speaker's meeting, Dr. Allan Katcher (a TAS member) spoke to us about why people are successful in some situations and not in others. We learned how to identify our personal strengths, and how to determine the complementary strengths we need in those we work with to be successful. This included learning six basic strategies to be more effective in dealing with people and helping them to deal effectively with you.

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## SPORTS SQUARES

Our sports squares program is continuing with new winners every week. You can find a list of the winners, and a description of the program, at <http://squares.tasnorthridge-motas.org/>.



**Registration is now open for Superbowl Squares!** This is a program similar to the existing football squares, only focusing on the Superbowl, which will be played on February 1, 2015. Registration forms are available in the Temple Foyer. More information, including printable registration forms and link to on-line registration, may also be found at <http://squares.tasnorthridge-motas.org/>.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Menorah can't contain all that MoTAS is doing! 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, however, 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.

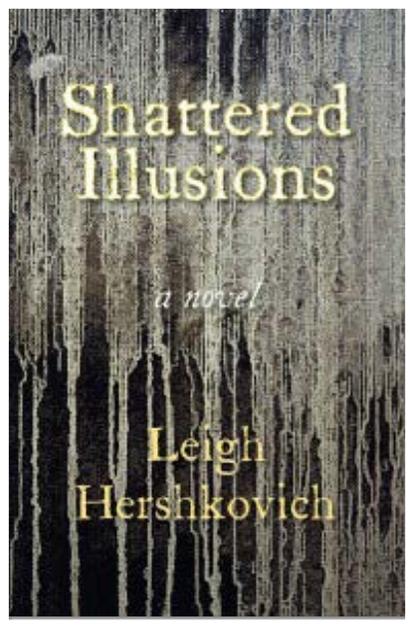


Men of  
Temple Ahavat Shalom

## "SHATTERED ILLUSIONS" AUTHOR WILL APPEAR AT DECEMBER MEETING

The Book Group is pleased to announce that the author of the novel *Shattered Illusions*, Leigh Hershkovich, will be our guest at the meeting on Thursday, December 11, during which Sherry Lucks will be the discussion facilitator.

*Shattered Illusions* is Ms. Hershkovich's first novel. The story features four disparate characters who are thrown together as witnesses to the murder of Sam Knightly, a beloved coffee shop owner in a small Louisiana town. Ella, an Orthodox Jew, goes to the town in search of her mother who mysteriously abandoned her family in Chicago many years before. Marco is an Italian immigrant who settles in Louisiana with his wife hoping to start a family. Danny is a troubled Australian teen sent by his parents to live with an estranged uncle who has his own past to deal with. And Sarah is a motivational speaker who



takes off for Louisiana after getting a phone call from her sister that she was getting divorced. As the investigation unfolds, it becomes abundantly clear that this is more than a crime novel, but a character study about the lives of four individuals bonded through tragedy.

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

*Phyllis & Hal Bass*

# ECEC

We are finally able to wear warm sweaters and the weather is definitely getting cooler. Thanksgiving is over and we are now preparing for Hanukkah. The year has flown by and our ECEC children have grown in so many ways. Our families have formed stronger connections and are involved in community activities and the children are settled and happy at school. Our second Rosh Chodesh night for Moms is coming up soon, and the Dads had such a great



Gobbletta struts her stuff

get-together that they too are planning another event.

The Parent and Me program now meets every Friday at 9:15 a.m. It is not too late to join us. Enrollment has already started for next semester, so if you know of anyone interested in the class, please ask them to call the preschool and we will invite them to visit.

We have so much planned for this next month. Every child is making a special Hanukkiah to bring

home. It is hard to make anything as wonderful as the Thanksgiving centerpieces were, but these will also be very special treasures. We are also learning about the Maccabees and the oil that burned for eight days. Walking through the classrooms we hear Hanukkah music, see dreidels spinning and most importantly, smell the oil from all the latkes being fried. What a wonderful holiday this is!

On Tuesday, December 16, the first night of Hanukkah, our preschoolers are going to sing Hanukkah songs at the Northridge Mall. We will be on the upper level, by PacSun, at 6:00 p.m. We will do the candle lighting and then we will entertain you. Please come and support us. We would

love to have a familiar audience to sing to.

On Wednesday, December 17, the second night of Hanukkah, we are having a Food Truck event here at TAS. Please stop by and pick up dinner from one of our delicious food trucks. We will also be doing the candle lighting and having another sing-a-long with our clergy. This event is open to the public so please invite your friends and families and let's have a wonderful gathering here.

On Friday, December 19, the fourth night of Hanukkah, we will be having our last Bim Bam Bimah of 2014 and this event will include the TAS Latke Dinner. These Shabbat services, which are geared for young children, have been a great success. They are also open to the community so invite your family and friends and join us as we welcome Shabbat.

I would like to wish you all a joyful, light filled Hanukkah.

L'Shalom,

*Tessa Cramer,  
ECEC Director*



Thanksgiving story time  
with Sheila Reback



ECEC singing songs of Thanks

# SPOTLIGHT ON SISTERHOOD

## PAID-UP MEMBERSHIP BRUNCH



Sisterhood held its annual paid-up membership brunch on November 16th to thank members for their support and

to encourage participation for the coming year. Over 70 women from TAS attended the event. Sisterhood welcomes 11 new members to its fold, six of whom were in attendance. Entertainment was provided by Stephanie Blum, a very funny Jewish mother from the Bronx to whom many of us could relate. A delicious brunch was provided by Weiler's Delicatessen and a good time was had by all.

We invite you to join us and help support TAS. Dues are \$45 for members, \$72 for sponsors and \$118 for patrons. If you would like more information, please contact Cheryl Frumes at [tas.cherylf@gmail.com](mailto:tas.cherylf@gmail.com) or Margaret Chroman at [Margaret@chroman.com](mailto:Margaret@chroman.com).

## PROGRAMS

Latkes, Sweets and Gift Exchange, December 18th at 7:00 p.m. Please bring a wrapped gift of \$10 -\$15 for our gift swap exchange! Be creative! We will also be collecting TAS Gifts for the Heart and Target gift cards for MEND. Can you make Latkes? RSVP to Ellen Pollack at [chbybubbe@aol.com](mailto:chbybubbe@aol.com) or (818) 700-8640 by Sunday, December 14th.

## SAVE THE DATE:

**Thursday, January 15, 2015 - 7:00 p.m. Genealogy Program**

**Thursday, March 19, 2015 - 7:00 p.m. Women's Seder**  
(a sit down meal featuring Asian traditions and foods)

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

## 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? Why not co-sponsor 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.

## EDUCATION

Did your child attend a Jewish camp or go 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? If you have any questions, 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. Please note the price increase, from the National Mah Jongg League. Thank you for your support.

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. There is a \$5

donation to play. Contact Anita Hoch for more information at (818) 360-0160, or email her at [anitapearl47@gmail.com](mailto:anitapearl47@gmail.com). There will not be a game in December due to the holidays. Cost of the Mah Jongg cards; \$8 small card \$9 large card. Forms can be found on the TAS website and in every Thursday email.

## 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.



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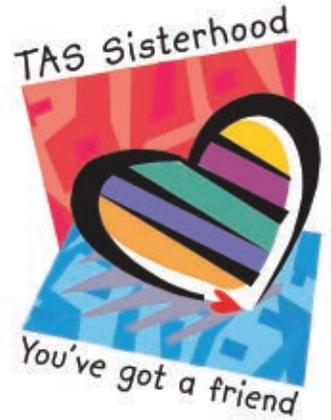
Thank you for cutting and sorting your coupons. They should be sorted into envelopes and labeled "FOOD" and "NON FOOD" this makes it more convenient for the recipients to find what they need.

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

Sisterhood Board meetings are now on the First Tuesday of each month at the Temple from 6:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m. If you would like to attend, please contact me at (818) 416-3637 or [tas.sues@gmail.com](mailto:tas.sues@gmail.com).

**Sue Sculler**  
**Temple Ahavat Shalom**  
**Sisterhood President**



# PAWS FOR CHARLIE



Charlie Kayne, the son of Rob and Faye Kayne and the grandson of Doreen and Paul Kayne, has autism and severe apraxia (difficulty saying sounds, syllables and words). He undergoes several types of therapies for hours each day of the week. He struggles to accomplish what most of us take for granted.



Charlie likes animals and actually engages with them. 4 Paws for Ability, Inc. trains service dogs especially for people with autism. A service dog would improve Charlie's life greatly, providing safety, companionship and comfort. Skills fostered by working with a service dog can increase his independence and greatly enhance his quality of life.

Charlie's family is committed to raising \$14,000 in support of 4 Paws for Ability, Inc., to secure a dog specifically trained to meet Charlie's needs.

Please consider making a donation by visiting: [www.4PawsforCharlie.com](http://www.4PawsforCharlie.com), or mail a check to 4 Paws for Ability, in honor of Charlie Kayne, and mail it to 4 Paws, 253 Dayton Ave., Xenia, OH 45385. Donations are tax deductible.

--**Fran Krimston**

**Providing SERVICE DOGS**  
**to Children Worldwide**





# Celebrate Hanukkah

with recipes, crafts, e-cards,  
blessings, and more...

**Hanukkah**  
December 16–24, 2014

**ReformJudaism.org**  
Jewish Life in Your Life

## SOCIAL ACTION HAPPENINGS

### THE TAS TRADITION OF GIVING CONTINUES...

#### Matanot MiLibeinu (Fran Rosenfield's Gifts from the Heart Program)



As the holiday season gets into full swing, it's time to open our hearts to local San Fernando Valley families in greatest need. Matanot MiLibeinu (Gifts from the Heart), our holiday toy drive created by longtime Social Action Committee chair Fran Rosenfield, of blessed

memory, has become one of our congregation's signature community programs.

Sign up now to make this year's program a success. Here's how you can help:

1. You may choose a child's name from the Matanot MiLibeinu board in the temple main hallway, or **simply bring an unwrapped gift** and place it in the box hallway by **Sunday, December 14**.
2. You, your family or havurah can **Adopt a Family** for the Holidays: contact Sarah Londer at [sarublon@aol.com](mailto:sarublon@aol.com) for more information.
3. We are also collecting unused holiday cards, 2015 calendar, and wrapping supplies, including gift wrap and Scotch tape. Drop these off in the same box used for the toy collection.
4. Join us on the evening of **Monday, December 15th** when we'll host a special **"wrapping party" to wrap the donated presents** \*CONTACT Sarah Londer, [sarublon@aol.com](mailto:sarublon@aol.com), for more information on the time and location for the event.

### CONTINUING ANOTHER TAS HOLIDAY TRADITION: HELP SERVE CHRISTMAS MEALS FOR RESIDENTS OF L.A. FAMILY HOUSING

On Christmas Day (December 25), you can still see a movie and eat Chinese food, but take a break and spend part of your day pursuing *Tikkun Olam* (Repair of the World). Embrace the holiday spirit, Reform Judaism-style, by joining TAS

members in reaching out to those in need. TAS Social Action Partner L.A. Family Housing in North Hollywood needs volunteers at their Valley Shelter and Irmas Transitional Living Center to help serve meals on Christmas Day, since most of their staff will be spending the holiday with their own families.

For the sixth consecutive year, we'll be helping to bring a holiday celebration to individuals and families who are transitioning out of homelessness. The TAS volunteers who have previously participated at L.A. Family Housing on Christmas Day have found it an extremely rewarding experience.



Families and volunteers of all ages (children of grade school age or older) are welcome. The precise volunteer shifts were still being finalized as of this newsletter's deadline, but will likely involve a late morning/early afternoon shift for lunch, and a late afternoon/early evening shift for dinner. Watch the weekly email updates for updated information.

To sign up, **RSVP no later than December 20** to Ken Bernstein at [kbernstein3@gmail.com](mailto:kbernstein3@gmail.com). Volunteer space is limited, so do try to sign up early!

### HARVEST FOOD - FIGHT HUNGER - BUILD COMMUNITY



This month, TAS will again be teaming up with **Food Forward** to join this incredible organization in its dedicated effort to nourish the needy in our own community. And it's wonderful to volunteer with Food Forward since **100% of the harvested fruit and vegetables is donated to local food pantries across Southern California, including our social action partners SOVA and MEND.**

Since forming in 2009, **Food Forward** has harvested nearly **1.3 million pounds of fruit** from its **Backyard Harvest Program**, all of which has fed the hungry. That impressive number has more than quadrupled – to almost

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**6 million pounds of food recovered**, altogether – through the successful launch of its **Wholesale Market Recovery Program** earlier this year. Let's celebrate this holiday season by picking fruit for others in need. You'll be so glad you did!

**WHO:** Everyone of all ages can join in the harvesting fun!

**WHAT:** A local backyard fruit pick

**WHERE:** Designated residence in the NW San Fernando Valley

**WHY:** To supply our local food pantries with fresh fruit to nourish others in need in our community

**WHEN:** Sunday, December 14, 2014  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**HOW:** Roll up your sleeves, grab your gloves, and start pickin'!

**RSVP:** To TAS SOS Coordinator, Shellie Turer at (818) 993-2255, or via e-mail at: [PetsRPeopleToo@att.net](mailto:PetsRPeopleToo@att.net). Space is limited to 15-20 volunteers, so sign up now!

## FOOD FORWARD: FIVE MILLION POUNDS OF FRESH PRODUCE IN FIVE YEARS



Would you like to help fight hunger by connecting Southern California's abundance of fresh produce with those in need? It is as easy as picking fruit in your own neighborhood or going to your local farmers market!

Food Forward is a nonprofit organization with a burning mission: to salvage fresh produce that would otherwise go to waste and redistribute it to thousands of people who lack reliable access to healthy food. With the help of dedicated volunteers and generous donors, Food Forward has collected over 5 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables from backyards, farmers markets, and LA's downtown wholesale market. The produce is then donated to over 200 food banks and direct service local agencies across Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties.

Since 2009, Food Forward has provided 24 million servings of food to people of diverse backgrounds and situations in Southern California -- from senior citizens, low income families and individuals, children and the homeless. With Americans throwing away \$165 billion dollars of food yearly, and with one in six Los Angeles residents unsure about where their next meal will come

from, Food Forward's recovery programs are working to combat the waste of precious food resources.

To expand the reach of Food Forward's successful programs, more kindhearted fruit donors and volunteers who want to make a positive impact in the community are needed. If you have a fruit tree and would like to donate your surplus fruit through the Backyard Harvest Program, Food Forward can arrange for fully insured volunteers to pick the fruit or assist homeowners in arranging a DIY harvest. 100% of the fruit collected is donated to local agencies like MEND Poverty, SOVA and Seeds of Hope. Property owners will enjoy numerous benefits: eliminating food waste in their yards, helping those who are hungry and receiving a tax-deductible receipt for each donation!

With 100 food recovery events each and every month, there are many opportunities to get involved. Volunteers can sign up for a fruit picking event or register to collect fruits and vegetables at one of the 13 farmers markets Food Forward gleans at each week. For more information about volunteering or to donate your tree's fruit, go to [www.foodforward.org](http://www.foodforward.org) or email [volunteer@foodforward.org](mailto:volunteer@foodforward.org).



# TAS' MITZVAH DAY A GREAT SUCCESS



This year's Mitzvah Day was bigger and better than ever, as Religious School students and adults participated together, undertaking numerous activities toward Tikkun Olam.

Just a few of the many highlights of the day included:

- 6th Grade Religious School Students and adults decorated and filled 43 Turkey Boxes. Your food donations made it possible for 43 families to celebrate a wonderful Thanksgiving.
- For TAS Social Action Partner Jewish World Watch, the 7th Grade class and adult participants painted large sections of canvas that will become three shelter tents for refugee children in Darfur, under the direction of our Art Specialist, Lezlie Kussin.
- Sisterhood members and congregants coordinated a successful coupon clipping activity which assists overseas troops and their families. Sisterhood also worked hard and made Knitted Knockers-- prostheses for mastectomy cancer patients at Northridge Hospital and Holy Cross Hospitals.
- Men of TAS (MoTAS) stepped up to make much-needed repairs around the ECEC, painting doors, fixing lights, and building wooden step stools.
- The adult choir led by Cantor Roher performed at Aegis of Granada Hills (senior living and care center). Songleader Robbo led our 3rd Grade Religious School Students in performing, and later led a sing-along, both at the Jewish Home for the Aging in Reseda.
- For Operation Gratitude, TAS students and adults wrote letters to our soldiers serving overseas. Kindergarten Students and our TAS community made cards as part of TAS' Caring Community to Temple members in need.
- For MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity), one of our TAS Social Action Partner organizations, our congregation collected and sorted a large volume of donated clothing to assist some of the neediest San Fernando Valley families.
- The 2nd Grade class donated and assembled about 50 of completed toiletry kits for Social Action Partner L.A. Family

Housing, with the help of congregants' donations, as well.

- The 1st Grade Religious School class and parents baked and delivered delicious cookies for our fire fighters.
- Halloween candy donated by 5th Grade Religious school class and from TAS families was further donated to the Frontline Foundation, based in Northridge, to be delivered as desserts for meals brought to Los Angeles' Skid Row.
- Engaging speakers enriched our knowledge on pressing issues, including Dina Garcia, speaking on living with disability; two teens, Samantha and Shawn, addressing their "Back off Bully" anti-bullying campaign; Rabbi Jonathan Klein (a TAS alum), sharing his work on local economic justice issues, and Rhonda Mayer and Loren Lieb from the Brady Campaign, updating the congregation on current efforts to combat gun violence
- TAS was honored to be joined for Mitzvah Day by students from CSUN's Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity and Nancy Cartwright, the voice of Bart Simpson and Honorary Mayor of the North Valley.

Many thanks to all Temple members who donated the requested items for Mitzvah Day, and to the dozens of volunteers who made the day so successful. We particularly want to recognize Judy Stehr, who skillfully coordinated this year's event and worked tirelessly to organize all of the activities and event details, as well as Jackie Zev, who assisted with the event's logistics. Director of Lifelong Learning Barb Gelb also brought tremendous energy and leadership to this year's event, making the Religious School's participation particularly broad and meaningful.

The Religious School's contributions were also made possible through the hard work of grade-level captains: Susan Bernardo, Devorah Rosenberg, Dianna Greene, Beth Foster, Luanne Markowitz, Gerri Sisko and Bonnee Lallouz. Many thanks to our committee volunteers and activity coordinators, including Sarah Londer, Jill Cullen, Shellie Turer, Efrat Yakobi, Alyce Caskey and Sue Issler. And this year's Mitzvah Day was made so much richer by the participation of our auxiliaries and organizations temple-wide, including the Men of TAS (led by Daniel Faigin), Sisterhood (Sue Sculler, Mel Birken, Ellen Lowe and many others), and the Caring Community (Tammy Goldenberg). We also send out a big thanks to Robert Cohn who led the MEND sorting project and Barbara Seltzer and Janet Rosen who led our card writing project for overseas troops. Finally, a special thank you to Kim Udelf and her invaluable Mitzvah Day assistants from TASTY: Nicole Wilhelm, Alex Goldbloom, Jacob Labowitz, Jacob Labowitz and Grace Vogel.



# MITZVAH DAY 2014



Dine for **TAS** Fundraiser  
for the month of **December**.



**Café Graikos**

**Monday, December 8**

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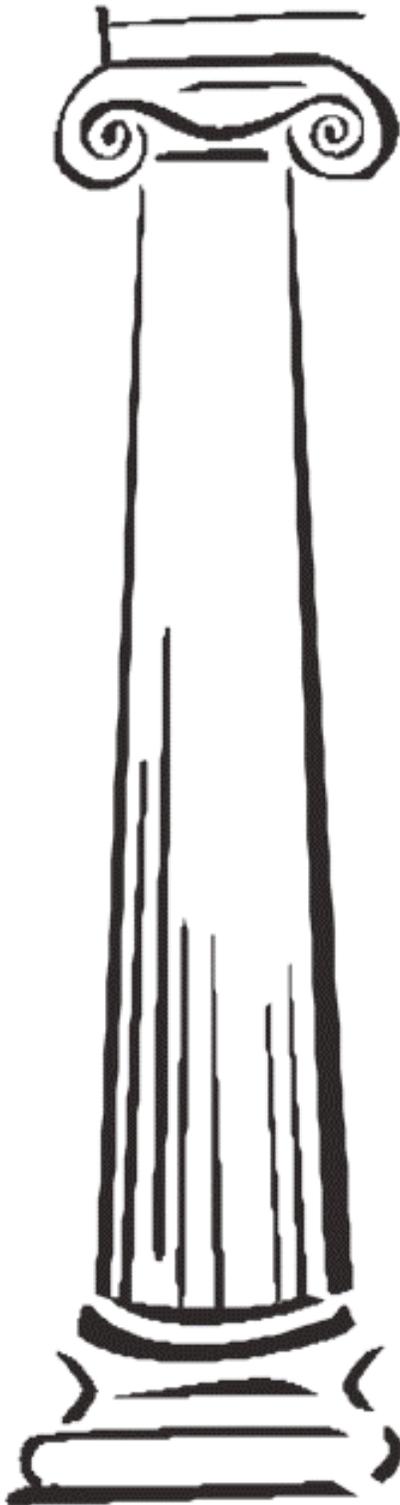
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Temple Ahavat Shalom

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## FOOD TRUCK NIGHT

*Second Night of Hanukkah*

*Wednesday, December 17th 5:30 pm*

There will be an assortment of trucks to choose from!

A portion of all sales will be donated to the ECEC



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## GENEROUS GIFTS

### CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Sisterhood of Temple Ahavat Shalom  
Edward and Nancy Kaplan in honor of Kyle Kaplan's Bar Mitzvah

### CARING COMMUNITY FUND

Barry and Cathy Pearlman in honor of the Speakers of the "What Now? Preparing for the Inevitable" event, Fran Krimston, Joan Krimston, Howard Schnee, Doreen Kayne, Gary Dosik and Neil Schwartz. Thank you for your time and expertise!  
Sharon and Mel Janis to Barbara and Fred Garfinkel in memory of Rona Economy  
Abbey Klein to The Caring Community  
The Hatkoff Family in honor of Lynn Miles, "Thanks for your being there and your comforting touch!"

### EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND

Bryan and Myrna Davis to the ECEC Infant Toddler Center in honor of the birthday of Vienna Sofia Davis  
Sophia Redondo in memory of Smadar Sciutto

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Schachter Family in memory of Eilon Kalichowsky  
Ed and Nancy Kaplan in honor of Kyle Kaplan's Bar Mitzvah

### RELIGIOUS AND HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

Steve and Rhonda Schachter in honor of Steve's birthday  
Sophia Redondo and Cynthia Spoon in honor of the wedding of Barb and Kenny  
The Pearlman Family to Barb Gelb, Mazel Tov on her wedding

### RONNA AND LEW EDGERS MEMORIAL ISRAEL PROGRAMS

Judith and Arnold Alban in memory of Helene Gluck

### SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Paul and Ava Silver

### VI AND DAVID LIEBER MEMORIAL MUSIC FUND

Beth Gaby in honor of Teddy's Bar Mitzvah, Affectionately Fran Phyllis and Hal Bass, Judy and Richard Seligman and their Havurah for their kind generosity from Sheila Morrison  
Adult Choir members for their caring nurturing from Sheila Morrison

## YAHARZEITS

Beverly Shore in memory of Dorothy Shore  
David and Laurie Scher in memory of Samuel Scher  
Marc and Amy Brown in memory of I. Michael Brown  
David and Rebecca Breuer in memory of Rose Breuer  
Andrea and Barry Mann in memory of Jamie Knopf  
Andrea and Barry Mann in memory of Justin Knopf  
Lynda and Herb Folkman in memory of Jerry Pearlman  
Leslie Sperber Reid in memory of Anne Ablon  
Kathleen Barker in memory of Louis Bluman  
Anita and Steven Hoch in memory of Martin Luckner  
Eunice Horwitz in memory of Dr. Alexander Horwitz  
Sue Miller and Daryn Pakcyk in memory of Lynne Marder  
Terry and Bruce Hatkoff in memory of Natalie Resnick  
Leslie Sperber Reid in memory of Leonard Ablon  
Hildie Gold in memory of Monte Mallet  
Neal and Arlene Hoffer in memory of Irving Hoffer  
Max and Ruth Lupul in memory of Ludwig Lupul  
Max and Ruth Lupul in memory of Marcel Lupul  
Jill and Alan Morgenstein in memory of Irene Zuckerbrow  
Jill and Alan Morgenstein in memory of Albert Zuckerbrow  
Teri Horn, David Horn and Matt Horn in memory of Howard Horn  
Lynda Fox in memory of Harry Wolfe  
Nick and Rosie Mandel in memory of Moritz Mandel

Anita and Steven Hoch in memory of William Oberman  
Dara and Joseph Fiss in memory of Baylis Resnick  
Myrna and Curtis Miller in memory of Albert Comroe  
Eunice Horwitz in memory of Dr. Alexander Horwitz  
Shelly, Lori, Jamie and Adam Garelik in memory of Sophie Garelik  
Les and Mel Birken in memory of Sy Schuster  
Les and Mel Birken in memory of Lillian Cohen  
Les and Mel Birken in memory of Sam Brown  
Allan and Gloria Katcher in memory of Rebeca Smola  
Jan and Michael Saltsman in memory of Joan Appel  
Rosie and Nick Mandel in memory of Abraham Pressburger  
Richard and Cathie Lutz in memory of Aaron Lutz  
Ethel Brook in memory of Jory Goldberg  
Stephanie and Rodger Howard in memory of Rose Nadler  
Debbie and Scott Weiss in memory of Max Sreay

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## Condolences

Barb Gelb and Family on the death of her friend, Karin Gubin

Lia Warman and Family on the death of her ex son-in-law, James Usgaard

Sharon Janis and Family on the death of her friend and our past president of the Sisterhood of TAS, Regina Gooze

Lisa Cohen and Family on the death of her grandmother, Rhea Kimmel

*May their memory be a blessing*



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For more information call:

**Fran Krimston**

Family Advisor and Liaison to Temple Ahavat Shalom

310.641.0707 x 272

[fran@hillside Memorial.org](mailto:fran@hillside Memorial.org)



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# DECEMBER 2014 AT TEMPLE AHAVAT SHALOM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 10:00am - Judaica Art Class	<b>2</b> 9:30am - Torah Study 6:00pm - Sisterhood Board Meeting	<b>3</b> 7:00pm - 50th Anniversary Committee Meeting	<b>4</b> 10:00am - Melton Class 4:00pm - Intermediate Hebrew 7:00pm - Social Action Committee Meeting	<b>5</b> 9:15am - ECEC Parent and Me 6:45pm - Lay-led Torah Study 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat Service	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:00am - Adult Hebrew 9:15am - iEngage Israel Seminar	<b>8</b> 10:00am - Judaica Art Class	<b>9</b> 9:30am - Torah Study 7:00pm - Cantor's Concert Committee Meeting	<b>10</b> 7:15pm - JNET Meeting	<b>11</b> 10:00am - Melton Class 4:00pm - Intermediate Hebrew 7:00pm - Book Group Meeting 7:30pm - Religious School Parent Board Meeting	<b>12</b> 9:15am - ECEC Parent and Me 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat Service Yoga	<b>13</b> 9:00am - Shabbat Morning
<b>14</b> 8:45am - Men of TAS Meeting 9:00am - Adult Hebrew 9:15am - iEngage Israel Seminar	<b>15</b> 10:00am - Judaica Art Class	<b>16</b> First Night of Hanukkah 9:30am - Torah Study 6:00pm - TAS Tuesdays 6:00pm - ECEC Sings at Northridge Mall	<b>17</b> 4:00pm - ECEC Hanukkah Food Trucks 7:15pm - TAS Board Meeting	<b>18</b> 4:00pm - Intermediate Hebrew 7:00pm - Sisterhood Latkes, Sweets and Gift Exchange Event 7:00pm - Budget and Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm - Worship Committee Meeting	<b>19</b> 9:15am - ECEC Parent and Me 5:30pm - Bim Bam Bimah 6:15pm - Synaplex Community Latke Dinner 6:30pm - Social Action Gift Wrapping Project 6:30pm - Hanukkah Arts & Crafts for Young Children 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat Service 9:00pm - Lay-led Torah Study	<b>20</b> 10:30am - Chapel Minyan
<b>21</b> 12:30pm - Sr. TASTY Iron Chef Hanukkah Event 6:00pm - Men of TAS Hang Out/Discussion (Hanukkah Party) - Away	<b>22</b> 10:00am - Judaica Art Class 6:00pm - Rosh Chodesh (ECEC Mom's Night Out)	<b>23</b> No Dalet/TAS High	<b>24</b> No Hebrew School 3:00pm - Temple Offices and School Closed 6:15pm - Sisterhood Monthly Mah Jongg	<b>25</b> Temple Offices and School Closed	<b>26</b> 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat Service	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10:00am - Judaica Art Class	<b>30</b> No Dalet/TAS High	<b>31</b> No Hebrew School 3:00pm - Temple Offices and School Closed			

## The Menorah is . . .

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