

"TZEDEK, TZEDEK TIRDOF." "JUSTICE, JUSTICE SHALL YOU PURSUE."

FROM THE DESK OF RABBI BARRY M. LUTZ, R.J.E.

Anyone who has spent time in my confirmation class can tell you about this most important command found in Deuteronomy 16:20. This imperative is at the core of my teachings about the Jewish foundations of social justice. These words are the motivating factor behind my annual travels with our confirmation students to Washington D.C. so that they might participate in the LeTaken Social Justice Seminar of the Religious Action Center. These words have compelled me to join the governing board of M.E.N.D and to introduce M.E.N.D's Home Garden Project to our community. And, most recently, these words have encouraged me to participate in the Balfour Brickner Rabbinic Fellowship of the Religious Action Center. It is a fellowship that will offer me the opportunity to enhance and deepen my own "voice" as a social justice advocate; and ultimately, I pray, deepen and broaden our own impact as a community pursuing social justice both within and outside of our community.

As I prepare to take our confirmation class to Washington D.C. that they might have the opportunity to raise their voices in pursuit of social justice, I find myself, once again, reflecting on these words. What does this brief sentence teach us about justice?

First, that we must pursue it! We must not sit idly by and hope that justice will somehow happen. Our task is to be a source of justice for all those who find themselves in unjust circumstances. Our task is to be a source of food justice to those who are hungry, to cry out for economic justice for those who are economically oppressed, to be a source of social justice, lifting up those who have been pushed down or forced out. We must pursue justice for all those who find themselves facing unjust circumstances.

More than that, we must never stop pursuing justice. We cannot act justly once and assume we have done our part. In Abraham's conversation with God regarding the destruction to Sodom and Gomorrah he does not stop when God agrees to halt the destruction if 50 righteous are found in the land. No. He continues on: 40, then 30, 20 and 10. He does not stop. Nor can we ever stop. The pursuit of justice is at the very core of the Jewish conversation and of Jewish action. To be Jewish is to continually pursue justice.



But, it is hardly enough to arrive at a just end. The path we take is equally important. *"Tzedek, tzedek tirdof."* "Justice, justice you shall pursue." "Why," the rabbis ask, "this repetition?" In response to their own question they say, "Because a just end must be obtained through just means." It is of no consequence to get to the right end if we have not pursued that end justly. Achieving justice for ourselves at the cost of what is just for another is not to have achieved very much at all. And so, the pursuit of what is just is an ongoing journey. We wrestle with ourselves and struggle with those human forces (both within us and within others) that would suppress justice for others in pursuit of our own or their own goals.

These are the lessons I teach our confirmation students. These are the lessons I hope that they take with them next month to Washington D.C. These are the lessons that I hope will continue

to inform them as they go out in pursuit of their own lives. I pray that the ideal of pursuing justice will be central to the actions of their own lives and that it will continue to inform our communal journey as well.

MAZEL TOV TO OUR JANURAY B'NAI MITZVAH FAMILIES

January 9, 2016

Steve and Tammy Tiber and Family
on the Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Tiber

January 23, 2016

Dianna Greene and Scott Greene
and Family on the Bat Mitzvah of
Alexa Greene



MEND BABY SHOWER COLLECTION

From January 15 to February 15 we will be collecting new and gently used baby clothing, sizes Newborn to 12 months. We are also looking for **baby care essentials:** disposable diapers, formula, bottles, wipes, shampoo. Larger baby items are welcome such as strollers, car seats, and we leave the rest to your imagination. If you need a pick-up, please contact Judy Stehr at jesterjudy@gmail.com or call: (818) 744-6227.

MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity) is one of TAS' Social Action Partners. They are a non-profit, non-denominational social service agency located on San Fernando Road in Pacoima. MEND's vision statement aims to ensure that "all members of our community living in poverty attain self-reliance and contribute to society as caring human beings."

In 2013, MEND served over 38,000 individuals per month. Leading up to the semi-annual Baby Shower celebrations, the organization provides educational workshops on childcare and safety, child and mother healthcare and nutritional programs among other services.

Please look for the blue MEND barrels with the Baby Shower signs just outside the school office and in the synagogue hallway.

WE WILL ALSO BE HOSTING A TOUR OF MEND ON A SATURDAY MORNING THIS COMING SPRING 2016. WE HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN US.



מחזור לימים הנוראים
משכן הנפש
MISHKAN HANEFESH
Machzor for the Days of Awe



For decades Temple Ahavat Shalom has used the *Gates of Repentance* as our machzor for the High Holy Days. In 2009, our congregation moved to using *Mishkan T'filah* (Dwelling Place of Prayer) as our siddur for regular services during the year. *Mishkan T'filah* represented an approach to prayer that was very different from the book that preceded it, but it has become a familiar and welcoming companion to our worship experience at TAS.

Over the past several years a new High Holy Days machzor, similar in approach and style to *Mishkan T'filah*, has been under development. Entitled *Mishkan Hanefesh* (Dwelling Place of the Soul), it was published in 2015. We at TAS will begin to use *Mishkan Hanefesh* for the first time in 2016.

As has been our practice, congregants will need to purchase their own High Holy Days machzor. The books are sold as a set; one for Rosh Hashanah and one for Yom Kippur, within the next few weeks we will be providing an order form that allows purchasing the standard edition for \$42.00 (2 books per set), or the large format edition for \$100 (3 books per set). When you submit an order form, we will obtain the books from the publisher and notify you when they are available for pickup. We will be taking orders through March 31, 2015.

If you wish to purchase and then dedicate one of the sets to be available for general use in honor of, or in memory of a loved one, you can do that using the same form. Additionally, you can purchase a set as a gift for a member that may not be able to afford a set. Watch your email for the release of the order form.

SPOTLIGHT ON SISTERHOOD

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! (DEADLINES IN BOLD)

Jan. 20 (Wed)		Mah Jongg Card order deadline
Jan. 21 (Thurs)	7:00 p.m.	General Meeting
Jan. 27 (Wed)	6:15 p.m.	Monthly Mah Jongg
Mar. 13 (Sun)		Campership Application deadline

SISTERHOOD'S HANUKKAH CELEBRATION



In December, Sisterhood celebrated Hanukkah with latkes and sufganiyot and worked off the calories with some Israeli dancing. Thanks to Gabriella from the Keshet Chaim Dance Ensemble for leading us

in dance and teaching us the dances too. The evening was a musical and tasty celebration. We also collected lots of TAS Gifts for the Heart & Target gift cards for MEND. Everyone's generosity is much appreciated.

JANUARY MEETING



Sisterhood is sponsoring an evening of interfaith discussion with women of different faiths. On **Thursday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m.**, representatives from the Muslim Women Speakers Movement, the Catholic-Jewish Women's Dialogue and the Jewish-Muslim Women's Dialogue will participate in a panel discussion which will be moderated by Diane Levine, Professor Emerita of Anthropology at Pierce College. She is a co-author (with Bruce Rowe) of *A Concise Introduction to Linguistics* and is on the advisory board of Annual Editions: Anthropology.

This evening will be a fascinating look at the similarities and differences between the faiths. Everyone is welcome to attend. \$5 admission (free for Sisterhood members.)

MAH JONGG CARDS

The deadline for ordering your 2016 Mah Jongg cards (**Wednesday, January 20**) is fast approaching! If you haven't ordered yours yet, don't delay! You can purchase one or more in either regular (\$8) or large size (\$9). Use the order form in the Menorah. You can also find this form on the Temple website or in the Temple foyer. For every card sold through Sisterhood, we make a minimum of \$1.25 (and a bonus for selling over 200 cards). The cards cost you no more than if you bought straight from The Mah Jongg League. Do your friends need cards too? Please ask them! Any questions, please email Robyn Blachman at blachmanj@yahoo.com or call (818) 832-7874.



CAMPERSHIPS

Is your child attending a Jewish Camp this summer? Would he or she like to receive a Sisterhood/Men of TAS campership? Requirements for receiving a campership include: 1) submitting the application before the deadline (March 13, 2016) 2) being a member of Temple Ahavat Shalom and 3) completing five (5) hours of service for Sisterhood or the Men of TAS (also before March 13, 2016).

Don't delay arranging for your child to put in service hours - there are only two months left! Service must be to Sisterhood or the Men of TAS, not to the Temple. If your child would like to receive a campership, contact Laura Silverman at laurasilver818@aol.com or (818) 207-6886 to find out what service opportunities are available.

Applications are available on the Temple website and in the religious school office.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MAH JONGG

Don't know how to play? Want to learn? Come to our monthly Mah Jongg game. 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 at anitapearl47@gmail.com.



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ONEG SPONSORSHIP



Is there an event, a person or a memory you would like to honor in a special way?

Are you celebrating a birthday or an anniversary? Have you experienced a career change, a graduation or a new home? Are there people in your life you want to pay special tribute to, or would you like to honor the memory of loved ones?

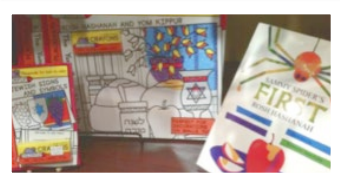
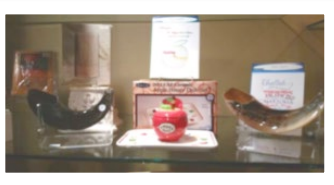
If you want to celebrate, to honor or to remember, please consider marking the occasion by sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat. We would like to share the time with you, hear the story behind the sponsorship and help you make the occasion a bit more special. In addition, your sponsorship will go a long way to support the work of the Sisterhood for our Temple, our youth and the Jewish community.

If you have questions or are interested in sponsoring an Oneg, please contact the Temple Office at: (818) 360-2258.

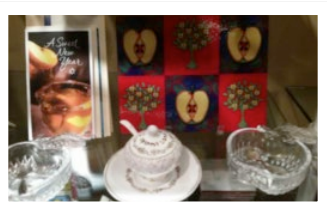
EXTENDED KIDDUSH

Has the cost of Bar/Bat Mitzvah receptions got you down? Sisterhood can provide a low cost luncheon after your child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah for your family and friends. This is not the big schlabang with a DJ and dancing – it's a low key way to provide a nice meal after the service for your guests. Contact Sharon Janis at (818) 886-1295 if you are interested.

JUDAICA SHOP



Stop by the temple Judaica shop, brought to you by Sisterhood, and view our latest treasures! See our wonderful selection of holiday items to enhance your celebrations. Throughout the year we carry a versatile collection of Judaica – jewelry, tallits, kippahs,



mezuzahs, yads, candleholders, yahrzeit memorials, cards for every occasion and more!

We are open during Shabbat evening onegs, on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. (when Sunday School is in session) and Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. - Noon.

Special appointments? With pleasure! Call Laraine Miller at (818) 993-0796 or Linda Sculler at (818) 701-7117. Credit cards, checks and cash accepted. Shop proceeds help fund the many Sisterhood projects and services provided to the temple.

COUPONS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES



TAS Sisterhood sends 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.

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

Sue Sculler and Jackie Zev

Temple Ahavat Shalom Sisterhood Co-Presidents



What does it take for Jews, Muslims and Christians
to live together in peace?

DIALOGUE!



Thursday, **January 21**, at 7pm, representatives from
the Muslim Women Speakers Movement,
the Catholic-Jewish Women's Dialogue and
the Jewish-Muslim Women's Dialogue
will come together for an evening of interfaith discussion
with women of different faiths.

Discussion will be moderated by **Diane Levine**,
Professor of Anthropology Emerita at Pierce College.

\$5 Admission (free to Sisterhood members)
Light refreshments will be served



MEN OF TEMPLE AHAVAT SHALOM (MoTAS)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“What Binds Us Together”



A few weeks ago, I attended the final Shabbat service at Temple Beth Torah in Granada Hills. They are in the process of closing up operations. During the dinner and service, I reconnected with congregation members with whom I had built

close relationships during my years there in the early 2000s. I've offered to be an ambassador to any TBT member who wishes to explore our congregation.

As I walked into that last service, I picked up a Gates of Prayer. It was dedicated on the occasion of Jay Sculler's Bar Mitzvah by his parents. It made me think about the

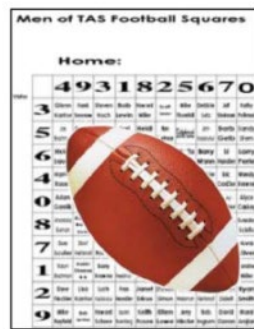
friendships I've made at TAS, for it is because of TAS and MoTAS I got to know the Scullers. I thought of the bonds built between the men in MoTAS, between MoTAS and Sisterhood (it was a joint MoTAS/Sisterhood activity that bound me to the Scullers), and between everyone in the congregation.

Building that bond is necessary if an organization or a congregation is to survive. MoTAS and Sisterhood provide opportunities for bonding. Through MoTAS and Sisterhood, you can build friendships for life. Through service and fellowship, the connections between people become almost unbreakable. I invite you to join us in celebrating those bonds at the MoTAS Shabbat on Friday, January 29.

We invite you to comment on this message. Just visit <http://wp.tasnorthridge-motas.org/2015/12/19/what-binds-us-together/>

SPORTS SQUARES

The Fall Football Squares program finished in December with the last Monday Night Football game. Congratulations to all of the winners, and remember that the real winner is Temple Ahavat Shalom. Grants from the Fall Football Squares program are scheduled to be announced at the February MoTAS Speakers Meeting.



We all know that football doesn't end in December. The Superbowl will be played on Sunday, February 7. Of course, this means that **registration is now open for Superbowl Squares!** This is a program similar to the existing football squares, only focusing on the Superbowl. Registration forms are available in the Temple Foyer. More information, including printable registration forms and a link to on-line registration, may also be found at <http://squares.tasnorthridge-motas.org/>.

Registration Closes February 2.

MOTAS WATER BOTTLES

MoTAS has aluminum water bottles, with a flip top and internal straw, with a carry handle, that are a lovely shade of blue, with the MoTAS logo in white. These can be yours for only \$10. If you would like a water bottle, please contact president@tasnorthridge-motas.org, and we will make arrangements to get you one. They will be available at all MoTAS events.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

SPEAKERS PROGRAM

California's older driver population is numbering about 2.9 million today. It is estimated there will be over four million residents age 65 and older in California by the year 2020. Knowing that much of this community still relies on driving as their primary means of transportation, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) provides the Age Well, Drive Smart program. The program is supported by the Keeping Everyone Safe grant from the California office of Traffic

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Safety. The Age Well, Drive Smart talk provides education specifically designed to help older drivers tune up their driving skills, refresh their rules-of-the-road knowledge, learn about normal age-related physical changes and how they affect driving ability. Even if you are under 65 you should attend; you can learn what to watch for when older parents and relatives drive.



The Age Well, Drive Smart program is a cooperative effort by the CHP and the DMV and is taught by qualified CHP Senior Volunteers. These volunteers have been trained to bring this educational and stimulating program to you. While many members are newer, our “oldest” member has been involved as a Senior Volunteer since 2002. We have all been business men and women involved in a variety of occupations. Now while some are retired, some still working, we have all become sworn members of the California Highway Patrol Senior Volunteer Program. We all enjoy the myriad of activities we are involved in and look forward to presenting this new CHP program to the public.

Prior to the program’s speaker, the Men of TAS will be serving our traditional breakfast starting at 8:45 a.m., consisting of bagels, lox, eggs, cookies, fruit, juice, and coffee/tea (donations appreciated). At 9:00 a.m. there will be a d’var torah, introductions and a review of upcoming activities.

MOTAS SHABBAT - FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2016

The service starts at 7:30 p.m. and will feature participation by the Men of Temple Ahavat Shalom. In addition to the normal Shabbat service, there will be reflections by MoTAS members on how active participation in MoTAS have strengthened their relationship to the Temple. The Man of the Year for 2016 will be announced.

If you are a man in the congregation and would like to participate in the MoTAS Shabbat, please contact Bob Levine at tasbolevine@gmail.com.

We encourage everyone to come to the service to learn about everything MoTAS does for the congregation, and to thank all of the active participants of MoTAS.

MOTAS ANNUAL APPEAL

Sometime during the month of January, MoTAS will be mailing its annual appeal letters. MoTAS is an inclusive organization: every man in the congregation is a member of MoTAS irrespective of contributions. In 2012, we eliminated the dues requirement for membership, and moved to this model. Because we have no dues, every year MoTAS asks the men of the congregation to support our work financially. We encourage you to select an amount that is comfortable and that reflects the value of the MoTAS relationship to you. We would love to see 100% participation from every man. We recognize contributions of \$100 or more on our wall of honor at <http://wallofhonor.tasnorthridge-motas.org>. The funds support our non-specific contributions to our temple that benefit the general fund, as opposed to specific projects, as well as those activities that are service-oriented and not designed as fundraisers. Contribute using the form in the mailing when you receive it, or contribute online by visiting www.tasnorthridge-motas.org and selecting “Support Us” from the right-hand column.



FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

Mark your calendar now for these February activities:

- Sunday, February 7 at 8:45 a.m. Our February speakers meeting will feature Aaron Weissman who will discuss the differences between the courts, and present information on how to use the court system effectively and efficiently. Aaron has practiced in civil and business litigation for over 33 years, emphasizing civil law and motion and appellate practice. A UCLA undergraduate pre-med student, Aaron earned his J.D. from the University of West Los Angeles School of Law in 1980. He is currently at Novian & Novian, LLP. Aaron has been a member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association and American Bar Association since 1983, a member of the Beverly Hills Bar Association since 2008 and has served as a Volunteer Grader of Moot Court Appellate Briefs for the American Bar Association since 2008.
 - A Men’s Hangout will be scheduled in February; we are rescheduling it from its original date as it was scheduled over the Super Bowl. Some things take priority in life.
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ACTION ALERT LIST

MoTAS is establishing an Action Alert List for “short fuse” action requests – calls for volunteers, reminders for an event in the next week, etc. As “spam” is not kosher, this is an opt-in list. If you want to be added to the list, either email your request to president@tasnorthridge-motas.org or RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/motas-action-alert>.



TEMPLE BETH TORAH FAREWELL

In December, MoTAS members were encouraged to attend the final performance of the TBT choir, and the MoTAS president attended the final service. This is part of our close connection with TBT, for as we learned at the November meeting, Temple Ahavat Shalom was created as the merger of North Valley Reform and TBT (and further, North Valley Reform was formed in 1962 as a splinter from TBT, so our congregational history goes back 64 years to the start of TBT in 1951).

RECENT ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING



On **Sunday, December 12**, MoTAS shared the experience of this year’s Yiddishkayt Helix trip to Eastern Europe. This trip brought a collection of artists and scholars to Belarus, Latvia, and Lithuania as part of a program of exploration of the

world of Yiddish communities. Artist Benny Fernman, artistic director at De Toledo High School (formerly “New Jew”) in West Hills, shared with us his experiences on the trip. If you want to learn more about Yiddish, the TAS Life Long Learning program will have a special program on Yiddish the second week of January, led by another person who went on the Helix trip.

Temple Beth Torah held its final regular Shabbat service in December. Although some aspects will continue as a Havurah and their Sisterhood will continue to meet, TBT congregants will be looking for a new home. MoTAS would like to welcome any TBT member who would like to visit TAS. We will be your ambassadors. Just contact president@tasnorthridge-motas.org to coordinate.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Keep up to date with MoTAS with our weekly newsletter, which is also posted on the MoTAS Website at www.tasnorthridge-motas.org. Contact Aaron if you are not receiving the email. 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



Join us for a special
evening at TAS

The Jewish Studio Project
presents an adult evening of
community, celebration and creativity

Saturday, February 6th, 7:00 p.m.

delicious hors d'oeuvres, wine and desserts
musical havdalah

\$10 in advance, \$13 at the door
(\$11 online in advance- watch your emails for the link)

**Temple Ahavat Shalom
18200 Rinaldi Place**

Brought to you by SYNAPLEX

TAS HAD A BUSY MONTH IN DECEMBER WITH SOCIAL ACTION ACTIVITIES

YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE:



1. Throughout November and early December we were donating Gifts from the Heart (Matanot MiLibeinu) with leadership from Sarah Londer, carrying on the tradition of tzedakah – justice and righteousness – to help those less fortunate. Our TAS holiday tradition started more than two decades ago, and we continue in program founder Fran Rosenfeld’s memory.

Hundreds of books, toys and clothing were donated by our TAS community for local families that otherwise could not afford holiday gifts. In addition, TAS families and *havurot* were generous in adopting five entire families, served by Aviva Center, the Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center (servicing over 9,000 children and adults per year with conditions of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and other conditions), and the Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services.

2. Friday, December 11, 2015:

We celebrated Hanukkah on this very special Shabbat. Under the leadership of Sue Issler and a wonderful team of Synaplex volunteers we enjoyed delicious latkes, after which we came together as a community and wrapped additional gifts collected as part of Matanot MiLibeinu – all while also having the opportunity to eat sufganiyot and participate in Hanukkah art projects.

3. Saturday, December 12, 2015:

Rabbi Lutz and Rabbi Shawna (and children), Barb Gelb and her son, Jacob, TAS Board President, Barry Krowne,

Social Action Committee members, and several congregant families participated in the annual MEND Holiday Program. As a long-time Social Action Partner with MEND, TAS was given the honor of providing breakfast for MEND’s Board members and volunteers from Corporate Sponsor Anthem Blue Cross.

About 1,200 Valley families and over 5,000 individuals in need are helped each year at Christmas time. This Saturday was one of several days in December when registered families are able to pick out a toy or book for their children, are given new blankets and generous boxes of food including fresh vegetables and chicken or turkey for Christmas Dinner. It takes a village: hundreds of corporations, schools, synagogues, churches and community groups provided the gifts to be distributed.

During December, our TAS School was also harvesting the vegetables planted on Mitzvah Day in our MEND Community Garden, providing some of the fresh vegetables that recipients will have for Christmas Dinner.

To quote Rabbi Lutz: “For Hanukkah we had the privilege to spread a little of the light and the Hanukkah miracle! What a blessing.” PLEASE PLAN ON JOINING US NEXT YEAR!

JANUARY 28, 2016 - PLEASE JOIN US AT 7 P.M. AT TAS FOR OUR NEXT SOCIAL ACTION MEETING AND BRING YOUR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS FOR THE NEW YEAR OF ACTIVITIES.





**SYNAPLEX HANUKKAH DINNER
AND SERVICE
DECEMBER 11, 2015**



HAS THE GUN CONTROL MOVEMENT REACHED A TIPPING POINT?

BY RHONDA MAYER

For those who have been working on gun violence prevention since the shooting at the JCC in Granada Hills in 1999, there's a point that it sure seems like we'll never get anywhere. Some think that if we didn't see change after the deaths at Sandy Hook three years ago, we can never expect to see change. But, the gun violence prevention community believes that we have reached a "tipping point."

In October, the Brady Campaign and the American Public Health Association held a summit for advocates. There is a movement to address gun violence as a public health issue. Given that about 2/3 of gun deaths in the US are suicides, over 1800 accidental shootings have occurred in 2015 (Gun Violence Archive), over 25,000 injuries (Gun Violence Archive), and over 600 children under the age of 11 have been killed (Gun Violence Archive), the issue should be addressed in terms of prevention.

We talked about what we could learn from other organizations – who can remember not getting into a car and immediately putting on a seat belt, or putting a baby

in a car without a car seat, buying a car without air bags, or people smoking in restaurants? We learned that Tennessee is working with firearm dealers to post information about depression and guns- which has resulted in an enormous reduction in suicide. We heard from pediatricians in Florida who have been prevented from speaking with patients about guns in the home – they can ask about car safety, pool safety, but not firearm safety.

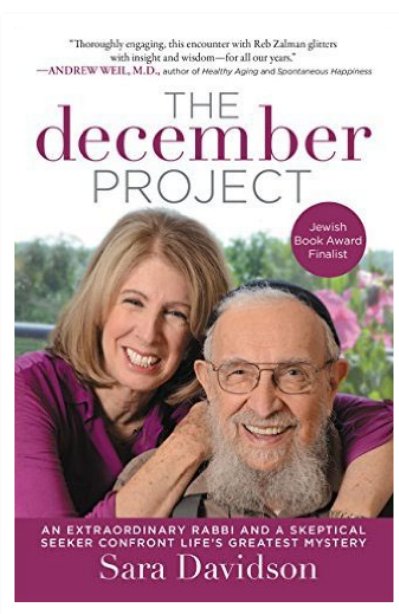
Ending the ban on the Center for Disease Control to study gun violence is included in a bill in US Congress as of this writing. Responsible gun owners are standing up for common sense laws to prevent gun violence.

Want to make a difference? You have an hour; you have plenty of time – we've got something for you to do. Can you make a few phone calls? Can you help educate people? Can you bring together a group for a speaker? Can you help with tables at health fairs? Do you have contacts with people that would benefit from our message? Please contact me at rhondamayer@msn.com – **you CAN make a difference!**

BOOK GROUP TO DISCUSS, *THE DECEMBER PROJECT: AN EXTRAORDINARY RABBI AND A SKEPTICAL SEEKER CONFRONT LIFE'S GREATEST MYSTERY* BY SARA DAVIDSON ON JANUARY 14

Rabbi Zalman Shachter-Shalomi shares his extraordinary life and wisdom. He barely escaped the Nazis, became an Orthodox rabbi, married four times, fathered 11 children, one from a sperm donation to a lesbian rabbi, formed friendships with leaders of other faiths. Breaking with the Orthodox, he founded the Jewish Renewal movement. His story is a fascinating life journey. Over two years he met with the author to discuss his thoughts on how people can have a more heightened and grateful life and help people not "freak out about dying." He said, "When you can feel in your cells that you're coming to the end of your tour of duty, what is the spiritual work of this time, and how do we prepare for the mystery?" Together they created strategies to deal with pain and memory loss and found tools to cultivate

simplicity, fearlessness and joy – at any age. Davidson includes twelve exercises so that readers may experience a sea change in facing mortality. Reviews of this book have been overwhelmingly positive, one reviewer wrote, "You will love this rabbi, and savor his honesty and down-to-earth humanity. I found his sense of humor, his joyful approach to life, and his genuine love of God and his fellow man irresistible." Bob Levine will facilitate the discussion.



The Book Group meets in the Rothenberg Chapel/Library on the second Thursday of the month. Refreshments are available at 7:00 p.m. and the discussion begins at 7:30 p.m. A \$5 contribution per person is requested.

GENEROUS GIFTS

ALUMNI OUTREACH FUND

Terry and Bruce Hatkoff in memory of Wendy Krowne's father, Sonny Siegel
Ava and Paul Silver in memory of Sonny Siegel

ANNUAL GIVING / GENERAL FUND

Lynne and Steven Brener in memory of Larry Excell
Terry and Bruce Hatkoff in memory of Michael Saltsman's mother, Helen Saltsman
Deborah Weissman
Carolyn and Richard Saltsman in memory of Sonny Siegel
Sandy Green and Brenda Green in memory of Mike Saltsman's mother, Helen Saltsman
Gerald and Mary Stein
Fran Krimston

BEAUTIFICATION FUND

Lynne and Steven Brener in memory of Larry Excell

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Curtis and Myrna Miller to Cantor Roher for her help in preparing Odessa for her Bat Mitzvah

CARING COMMUNITY FUND

Tyree and Les Wieder in memory of Helen Saltsman
Fran Krimston to Steve Tiber in memory of your dear Mother, Cynthia Tiber
Fran Krimston in fond memory of Rabbi Solomon Kleinman
Sandy Lertzman in honor of the Aliyah for the Caring Community Members at the High Holy Days
Bonnie and Don Weissman in memory of Howard Wiser
The Pearlman Family in memory of Helen Saltsman
The Pearlman Family in memory of Leonard Krowech
Fran and Al Lapidés in memory of Helen Saltsman
Bryan and Myrna Davis

EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND

Miriam and David Donoho to the ECEC Infant/Toddler Center in honor of Stephen Hyam
Ava and Paul Silver in memory of Helen Saltsman

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Wendy and Barry Krowne in honor of Rabbi Lutz
Wendy and Barry Krowne in honor of Rabbi Shawna
Gloria and Allan Katcher in memory of Rebeca Smola
Sara and Joseph Kaplon in memory of Sonny Siegel, "Sonny's laughter and smile and the twinkle in his eyes will be missed. Sonny was a gentlemen's gentleman"
Curtis and Myrna Miller in appreciation of Rabbi Lutz for leading a beautiful service for Odessa's Bat Mitzvah

RELIGIOUS AND HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

Betty Gobst in honor of Efrat Doitch

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Rhonda Mayer in memory of Helen Saltsman
Andy and Barry Mann in memory of Helen Saltsman
Dorri and Bernard Raskin
Shari Guilfoyle in memory of Frances Rosenfield
Karen and Gordon Silverstein to the Morse and Thomas families in memory of their Mom, Jackie Morse

VI AND DAVID LIEBER MEMORIAL MUSIC FUND

Fran Krimston to The Krowne Family in memory of your beloved Sonny Siegel
Fran Krimston to Marian Rosen in memory of your dear Mom, Ruth Rosenberg

YOUTH FUND

Karen and Gordon Silverstein to Mike Saltsman and his family in memory of his loving Mother, Helen Saltsman

*Thank you all for your
generous donations!*

... CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

YAHREZITS

The Rofe Family in memory of Meyer Rofe
Jan and Michael Saltsman in memory of Lee Appel
Terry and Bruce Hatkoff in memory of Natalie Resnick
Mel and Les Birken in memory of Sam Brown
Noah Saxe in memory of Belle T. Saxe
Karen and Gordon Silverstein in memory of Ruth Levinson
Gail Karlin in memory of Sam Karlin
Gail Karlin in memory of Joan Rosenberg
Stephanie and Rodger Howard in memory of Rose Nadler
Kathleen Barker in memory of Olga Englova
Ruth and Max Lupul in memory of Esther Abramovitch
Nancy and Richard Horn in memory of Aladar Zipser
Nancy and Richard Horn in memory of Larry Zipser
Nancy and Richard Horn in memory of Gerda Zipser
Nancy and Richard Horn in memory of Seymour A. Horn
Nancy and Richard Horn in memory of Albert E. Horn
Sue and Paul Issler in memory of Kitty Esquenazi
Susan Cohen in memory of Esna Cohen
Anita Hoch in memory of Rose Schwarz
Terry and Bruce Hatkoff in memory of Louis Smith
Cathy Meyers in memory of Bertha Meyers
Howard and Laraine Miller in memory of Ernestine Miller
Richard and Bernice Burns in memory of Howard Wiser
Sandy Tilsen in memory of Ernestine Miller
Ira and Sherry Kaplan in memory of Billie Joan Bronson
Gordon and Bice Recht in memory of Hilda Recht

Dr. Richard Seligman in memory of Judith Seligman
Marjorie Dallis in memory of Jennie Dallis
Anita Hoch in memory of Suzy Lowinger
Bryan and Myrna Davis in memory of Sylvia Rapoport
Tammy Kent in memory of Larry Lichtenstein
Dr. Alan and Jill Morgenstein in memory of Leonard Morgenstein
Noah Saxe in memory of Miriam Alpert
The Rofe and Shapiro Families in memory of Sarah Shapiro

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Condolences

Michael Saltsman and Family on the death of his mother, Helen Saltsman

Joni Hoffman and Family on the death of her uncle, Leonard Krowech

Phil Morse and Janet Thomas and family on the death of their mother and our Founding Temple Member, Jackie Morse

Terri Jonisch and Family on the death of her mother, Sally Jonisch

May their memory be a blessing



Congratulations to:

Rebecca and David Breuer are the proud grandparents of Samuel Francis Breuer. The proud parents are Leah Flynn and Daniel Breuer.



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JANUARY 2016 AT TEMPLE AHAVAT SHALOM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day Temple Offices and School Closed 5:00pm - Pre-Service Nosh 5:30pm - Erev Shabbat Service	2
3 No Religious School	4 ECEC Resumes	5 No Dalet/TAS High	6 No Hebrew School 4:00pm - Adult Beginners Hebrew Class 7:00pm - 50th Anniversary Committee Meeting	7 4:00pm - Adult Intermediate Hebrew Class 7:00pm - Sisterhood Board Meeting	8 5:30pm - Bim Bam Bimah 6:45pm - Lay-led Torah Study 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat Service	9 10:15am - Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Tiber
10 8:45am - Men of TAS Meeting 11:00am - Facts of Life	11 6:00pm - ECEC Rosh Chodesh Mom's Night Out	12 9:30am - Torah Study 6:00pm - Post Confirmation	13 4:00pm - Adult Beginners Hebrew Class 7:30pm - ECEC Parent Board Meeting	14 10:00am - Melton Class 4:00pm - Adult Intermediate Hebrew Class 7:00pm - Book Group Meeting	15 6:15pm - Erev Shabbat Service 7:30pm - Community Shabbat Dinner	16 9:30am - Torah on the Trail
17 No Religious School 10:00am - ECEC Bowling Fundraiser	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Temple Offices and School Closed	19 9:30am - Torah Study 6:00pm - Adult Ed: TAS Tuesdays 7:00pm - Marketing Committee Meeting - Away	20 4:00pm - Adult Beginners Hebrew Class 6:00pm - Mid-Year Calendar Meeting 7:15pm - TAS Board Meeting	21 10:00am - Melton Class 4:00pm - Adult Intermediate Hebrew Class 7:00pm - Sisterhood hosts Interfaith Discussion 7:00pm - Fund Development Committee Meeting	22 6:45pm - Lay-led Torah Study 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat Service	23 9:00am - Shabbat Morning Yoga 4:45pm - Bat Mitzvah of Alexa Greene
24 10:00am - Count Me In! Recognition Reception 10:00am - TAS Community Revitalization of the TAS Grounds 5:00pm - ECEC Movie/Pizza Night	25 10:00am - ECEC Tu B'Shvat Seder (Children Only)	26 9:30am - Torah Study	27 4:00pm - Adult Beginners Hebrew Class 6:15pm - Sisterhood Monthly Mah Jongg 7:00pm - Budget and Finance Committee Meeting	28 10:00am - Melton Class 4:00pm - Adult Intermediate Hebrew Class 7:00pm - Social Action Meeting - Away	29 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat Service featuring Men of TAS	30
31 9:30am - Adult Ed: Hartman Lecture Series - Away 11:00am - Facts of Life						

The Menorah is . . .

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