



### Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Lisa Hochberg-Miller



We find courage and guidance from Passover, when we recount a cornerstone story of our people's identity.

What should be on our minds, as we sit down to Seder this year? We will no doubt be thinking about family, food, kibitzing, and those 4 cups of wine. We must remind ourselves, as we focus on the accoutrements of the meal, that our focus must be of a more profound nature. The story we retell is one of economic disparity—those kept in poverty to serve the needs of a wealthy and opulent Egyptian society. The story we retell is one of religious subjugation—where Jews are regarded as inferior because of their religious beliefs in one God. The story we tell is of the abuse of political power—a Pharaoh, and a clever vizier (our Joseph) who attain wealth for the State while forcing the Egyptian people into dire economic straits by collecting all the grain to sell back to the people through the years of famine. It is a story of triumph over political corruption, inhumanity to a subject people, and the rising up of courageous souls to change their lives.

We sell the power of the Exodus story short if we think we can spend 15 minutes eating matzo, salted parsley, and delicious haroset, and then move on.

What could be on our minds, as we sit down to Seder? Our tradition teaches 600,000 souls left Egypt 3,500 years ago, refugees who had only a few hours to pack their homes, grab gold and silver from Egyptian neighbors, and bake the

dough that was rising in the kitchen.

In 2016, more than 10 million people, including 50% of all Syrians, have fled their homes. If we let that statistic fall on a hard heart because many of these refugees are Muslims or because they might not like Jews or Israel, we make ourselves akin to Pharaoh, whose moral crime was that of a hardened heart. Not every Syrian is a would-be terrorist or an anti-Semite.

What do we say of those who ignored Jewish refugees prior to World War II because those potential refugees were a different religion, and... you know, you can't trust a Jew? Can we be guilty of the same racism?

What might be on our minds as we sit down to Seder? Perhaps the 1.3 million Eritreans, who have left their South Sudanese country and fled, (about 60,000 are now living in Israel, seeking asylum). Or the million who have flooded Europe in the last year. When we look at the causes of a

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### Celebrating Pesach at TBT

WRJ WOMEN'S SEDER  
Monday, April 18, 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY FAMILY SEDER  
Friday, April 22, 6 p.m.

FIRST DAY MORNING SERVICES  
Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m.

8TH DAY MORNING SERVICES  
& YIZKOR  
Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### ADULT ED

##### What Happens After I Die?

Jewish Views of the Afterlife  
with Rabbi Mike Lotker  
Tuesday, April 12, 19 and 26 at 7:00 pm  
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

##### iEngage: Jewish Values

and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict  
Sunday, April 17 and 24 at 10:00 am

#### PROGRAMS

##### Food Share

Every Tuesday at 9:30 am  
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

##### Tot Shabbat

Friday, April 1, 6:00 pm  
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

##### Family to Family\*\*

Sunday, April 3 at 6:30 am  
DOWNTOWN VENTURA

##### River Haven Food Drop Off

Monday, April 4 before 3:00 pm  
TEMPLE BETH TORAH KITCHEN

##### PJ Library Community Concert

Saturday, April 9  
Dinner at 5:00 pm  
Havdalah at 6:00 pm  
Free Concert at 6:30 pm

##### Brotherhood Brunch

Sunday, April 10 at 9:30 am  
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

##### TBT Hikers

Sunday, April 10 at 2:00 pm  
MONTECITO OVERLOOK TRAIL

##### First Night Community Seder

Friday, April 22 at 6:00 pm  
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

#### MEETINGS

##### AA Meeting

Every Thursday at 8:00 pm  
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

##### TBT Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, April 3, 10:00 a.m.  
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

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TBT 5776:  
Jewish Community  
Jewish Life  
Jewish Belonging



## Rabbi's Message

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huge global migration, we have to balance our fear that the status quo is changing with the real humanitarian crisis for people who are—we admit—profoundly different from us. We have to balance our fears with our compassion.

We find courage and guidance from Passover, when we recount a cornerstone story of our people's identity: economic inequity destabilizes countries. Racism and religious bigotry cannot exist in just countries. Persecution of "the other," of minorities, of those with economic and religiously different identities, is misuse of power.

If we, who sit around opulent tables laden with food, concerned with our wealth, our health, our pleasures and our fears cannot learn from our own history to speak up for reasoned responses to modern day exoduses, who shall?

Please join the TBT Board  
for two special

### Town Hall Meetings

**Sunday, April 3, 10:00 a.m.**

for a presentation on the new  
Bi-Laws (Meister Hall)

**Sunday, April 17, 4:00 p.m.**

to discuss questions  
(Meister Hall)

## First Night Pesach is Seder Night at TBT!

Temple Beth Torah will host a first night Seder this year, Friday, April 22, giving us a chance to acknowledge Shabbat as well as Passover. The cost is \$20 for adults and \$8 for each child. We hope this makes it easy and affordable for your extended family, your chavurah, your Rosh Hodesh group, your friends, your Brotherhood buddies, and more to celebrate together. Our Haggadah is accessible and engaging for all ages, and our craft table and family involvement have always made our Community Seder a success.

Our reservation deadline is April 15 to ensure a seat. After April 15 there is a late fee, and reservations are on a first come, first served basis. This Seder fills up!

We are always looking for individuals and families who will underwrite this community event; consider a donation. Find your name on our big "thank you donors" poster!

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Friday, April 1 PARSHAT SHEMINI

6 p.m. Tot Shabbat  
No community dinner  
7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

### Saturday, April 2

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service,  
No Torah Study this morning

### Friday, April 8 PARSHAT TAZRIA

Brotherhood Shabbat  
7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services,  
led by TBT Brotherhood  
Including Torah and sermonettes by  
Brotherhood men  
Special oneg to follow

### Saturday, April 9

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service  
11:30 a.m. Kiddush & Torah study in the  
library

### Friday, April 15 PARSHAT METZORA

6:00 p.m. Torah school families activity  
6:30 p.m. BYODairy Dinner Shabbat dinner  
7:00 p.m. Erev Shabbat Family Services  
NOTETIME!  
Followed by oneg

### Saturday, April 16

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning  
11:30 a.m. Kiddush & Torah study in the  
library

### Friday, April 22 PESACH-FIRST SEDER

6:00 p.m. Community Seder Dinner  
Reservations are required

### Saturday, April 23

10:00 a.m. Shabbat/Pesach 1st day Morning  
Service  
11:30 a.m. Kiddush & Torah study in the  
library

### Friday, April 29 PESACH-8TH DAY

7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services  
Passover oneg

### Saturday, April 30

10:00 a.m. Shabbat/Pesach 8th day Morning  
Service with Yizkor  
11:30 a.m. Kiddush & Torah study in the  
library



No Congregational Dinner  
**First Friday, April 1**

6:00 p.m. - Tot Shabbat  
7:30 p.m. - Erev Shabbat Service  
followed by oneg

## President's Message

Liz Hoffman



Cantor Sarah possessed so many extraordinary qualities that she was our clear first choice.

After a yearlong search by the Cantor Search Committee, I am so excited to share with you the details about our new Cantor! Cantor Sarah Fortman Zerbib-Berda, (you can call her Cantor Sarah or Cantor ZB) will



**Cantor Sarah Fortman Zerbib-Berda**

be starting with us on July 1st. In an interview process that produced some excellent finalists, Cantor Sarah possessed so many extraordinary qualities that she was our clear first choice. Cantor Sarah has a stunning voice and a warm and engaging personality. It is my belief that she brings something really special to TBT.

Cantor Zerbib-Berda grew up in Los Angeles. She attended UCLA and received her Masters in Jewish Sacred Music from the Academy for Jewish Religion.

She was ordained as a Cantor in May 2015. Her Master's recital (<https://youtube.com/c/CantorSarahZB7>) included a gospel choir and is unlike anything I had ever seen.

Cantor Sarah has been working at Stephen S. Wise Temple and has been involved with their Sisterhood, Young Adults group, and the 60+ networking group.

She has worked with Adult and Youth Choirs

and has experience leading services, performing lifecycle events, and tutoring B'nai Mitzvah students. Other accomplishments include performing for the Cantor's union conferences (CA and ACC) and writing and performing two different one-woman shows.

On a personal note, Cantor ZB is married to Nathan who is an attorney in Los Angeles. While she will be commuting for the time being, Cantor Sarah and Nathan have been exploring Ventura and hope to move our way at some point. They are both excited to participate as members of our community. She will be at Temple approximately 3/4 time and will be here for both days of Torah School.

We will be providing a number of opportunities this summer for congregants to meet Cantor Sarah in smaller groups. We will be reaching out to specific groups such as the Torah School and preschool families, Brotherhood, Sisterhood, and others. If you would like to set up time for your Havurah, Rosh Hodesh, or other group to meet Cantor Sarah please contact Reanne Singer or Pam Small. We will do our best to make sure that everyone is well acquainted before High Holy Days.

We are so thrilled that Cantor Sarah will be joining us in July; we can't wait for you to meet her!

*B'Shalom,*

Liz

## TRANSPARENT TBT

1.) The Board reviewed and endorsed the direction of the new security plan being developed by the security subcommittee.

2.) The Board approved the revised bylaws. They will be mailed out and posted on the TBT website. Community meetings will be held 4/3/16 at 10:00 am and 4/17/16 at 4:00 pm in Meister Hall. At the first we will review the changes and at the second we will address questions. We will vote on the new bylaws at the Annual Meeting.

3.) The Board discussed ways to increase staffing in the main office. We will begin by trying to recruit more volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Liz Hoffman.

### Brotherhood Meeting

Monday, April 4, 6:00 pm  
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

### Ritual Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 7, 5:00 pm  
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

### HR Meeting

Thursday, April 14, 6:30 pm  
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

### Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, April 14 at 7:00 pm  
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

### TBT Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, April 17, 4:00 p.m.  
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

### House Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 21 at 7:00 pm  
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

### Social Action Committee

Thursday, April 21 at 7:00 pm  
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

### Professional Support Meeting

Thursday, April 21 at 7:00 pm  
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

### Planning Meeting

Thursday, April 28, 7:00 pm  
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

\*offsite event

## Need Space on Your Bookshelf?

by Ada Feldman (mitzvah-librarian)

### Notes from the Mitzvah Librarian: Our Redistribution Project

I want to thank our TBT community for recycling their *Gates of Repentance* prayer books. Your response has been wonderful.

Bill and Gretchen Schmidt, former TBT members (who remember us fondly and send their regards), have been very helpful in finding new homes for our books, as they visit other congregations when they travel. And, if you too know of any congregations that would like to have this gift, e-mail me.

I am still collecting books. Please leave them in our TBT library (as you enter, in the back, on the right side, top shelf) with or without a note saying: for Ada Feldman.



The Shofar is published 11 times per year, by Temple Beth Torah, 7620 Foothill Rd., Ventura, CA 93004-1125. Issue #04-2016. Subscriptions for non-members are available at \$25 per year.

## Brotherhood

Alan Kirschbaum

### Harvey exemplifies loyalty to family, friends, and the Jewish community.

The Western Region Men of Reform Judaism honored TBT's Dr. Harvey Harris as one of its 14 men of the year for 2016. MRJ-West presented the award at its 18th annual Man of the Year Dinner, on March 5, at Temple Beth Shalom in Santa Ana. More than 400 Jewish men and their families attended the event. A half-dozen TBT Brothers trekked the 100 miles to Santa Ana to be present for the ceremony. Also joining Harvey were wife Jessica, sister Donna Tritten, daughter Elizabeth Payumo and, granddaughter Gabriela Payumo.

The TBT Brotherhood recognized Harvey for his personal and professional qualities and on his continuing contributions to Temple Beth Torah. He contributes his insights at Brotherhood planning meetings. Harvey pitches in to help distribute Yom HaShoah candles, and Temple Annuals. He is active in the Temple kitchen at our Brunches, Film Festivals, Torah School breakfasts, and making latkes for Hanukkah. When not in the kitchen, he has found time to organize the ritual for our Men's Seders and orchestrate our Brotherhood Shabbat Services, which this year will be on Friday evening, April 8.

In short, Harvey exemplifies loyalty to family, friends, and the Jewish community. The Harris family has been active at Temple Beth Torah for the past 44 years.

The name Dr. Harvey Harris will soon be added to the plaque displayed in the Temple hallway that lists our Men of the Year. Be sure to stop and admire what that honor represents.

A future Temple Beth Torah Man of the Year is reading this article but first he needs to get involved in Brotherhood events. Please attend our Brotherhood first Monday of the month evening meetings. If you would like more information please email President Bob Braitman at [brotherhood@templebethtorah.com](mailto:brotherhood@templebethtorah.com).



Harvey Harris with Gabriela Payumo, Elizabeth Payumo, Jessica, Donna Tritten

## Inviting All TBT Congregants on April 18

**Would you like to see fewer homeless people on our streets?** A year ago Rabbi Lisa and other clergy wrote the Ventura City Council requesting a meeting and workshop to help resolve this issue together.

The City Council finally realized we are very serious and agreed to meet **Monday, April 18 at 6 pm in the Island View Room in the Derby Club, at the Ventura Fairgrounds.** This is our opportunity to make our voices heard. We **NEED YOUR PRESENCE** at this meeting. Come with your family and all your friends and neighbors. **Numbers really count.**

The Ventura Chamber of Commerce is providing major support for this event, recognizing the problem and joining with the faith community and the downtown business owners to resolve the homeless situation. Some of the ways we want to do this are:

- Change current zoning so a 24-hour permanent shelter with supportive services can become a reality leading to permanent housing and the homeless off the streets.

- Have the City of Ventura set aside specific properties for very low income housing to be built, to expedite construction by reducing permit fees, streamlining the process, and inviting low income housing developers to build.

- Work with developers/contractors to rehab some existing properties to very affordable housing.

**Please join us on April 18. Together WE will reduce homelessness in our city!**

If you can't come, please contact our Ventura City Council members at 805-654-7827 or at [council@cityofventura.net](mailto:council@cityofventura.net). Individual members' email addresses:

## TBT Hikers Sunday, April 10, 2:00 p.m.

### Montecito Overlook Trail

The front country of the Los Padres National Forest has many great trails, and the hike to the Montecito Overlook via the Cold Springs Trail is a popular one. With ocean and mountain views, interesting geology and a seasonal stream with a small waterfall, this moderate hike packs a lot of scenery into a short distance. ([nobody-hikesinla.com](http://nobody-hikesinla.com))

Please email Jackie Stone or Jill Bonilla to be added to the Hiking mailing list for more information.

If you would like to carpool, we will meet at TBT at 1:15 p.m. Please email Jackie so we know how many to expect.

## Sisterhood Seder April 18

by Pam Small

Spring is in the air and we know what that means—it's time for the TBT Sisterhood Seder! This year we will be celebrating together on Monday, April 18 at 5:30. Dinner will be a little different as we are making a Sephardic meal based on recipes from the cookbook *Entrée to Judaism* by Tina Wasserman. I promise the flavors will be wonderful as I plan to try them out on my family first and, oy are they the food critics! There will be drinking (many cups), singing (many songs), and the traditional conga line will dance between the tables! Bring your friends and join us for a memorable evening of joyous celebration!

To make a reservation please call the Temple office (805) 647-4181. Reservations are \$30 for members, \$36 non-members.

Eric Nasarenko, Mayor:

[enasarenko@ci.ventura.ca.us](mailto:enasarenko@ci.ventura.ca.us)

Neal Andrews, Deputy Mayor:

[nandrews@ci.ventura.ca.us](mailto:nandrews@ci.ventura.ca.us)

Cheryl Heitmann: [cheitman@ci.ventura.ca.us](mailto:cheitman@ci.ventura.ca.us)

Jim Monahan: [jmonahan@ci.ventura.ca.us](mailto:jmonahan@ci.ventura.ca.us)

Carl Morehouse: [cmorehouse@ci.ventura.ca.us](mailto:cmorehouse@ci.ventura.ca.us)

Mike Tracy: [miketray@cityofventura.net](mailto:miketray@cityofventura.net)

Christy Weir: [cweir@ci.ventura.ca.us](mailto:cweir@ci.ventura.ca.us)

Thank you for your support.

Lynn Geller

Social Action Committee

# LEARN & ENGAGE by Berta Defren Steele

Look for the flyers that give more details on our offerings and join us in discovering new ways to live Jewishly and spiritually.

**Tuesday, April 5: Rebirth in Germany?** HUC College Commons – cancelled.

**Sundays, April 10 & 24, May 22, June 5; 10-11:30 a.m.: iEngage: Jewish Values and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.** The Hartman Institute has produced another critically acclaimed curriculum to bring the issues and challenges of Israel forward for thoughtful exploration in its iEngage series. This 12 Sunday session course continues in Fall 2016 and is led by Rabbi Lisa Hochberg-Miller. Cost: \$50 for course materials.

**Tuesday, April 12, 19, 26; 7-8:30 p.m.: What Happens After I Die?** Join Rabbi Mike Lotker as he leads the class in an exploration of the wide range of authentic Jewish beliefs about the afterlife and how these beliefs have affected Jewish traditions of burial and mourning.

**Sunday, April 10; 2:00 p.m.: TBT Hikers.** Join the group on a hike in Montecito along Overlook Trail. Meet at TBT at 1:15 p.m. to carpool.

## COMING IN MAY

**Sunday, May 1; 2:30 p.m.: Community Yom HaShoah Concert: From Darkness to Light—Music as Resistance & Remembrance.** The Los Angeles Zimriyah Choral, under the direction of Nick Strimple, performs Jewish music and music of the Jewish experience throughout time.

**Tuesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24; 7:00-8:30 p.m.: The Four Keys to Happiness.** Join Fern Perusse-Filzen as she leads us in connecting our individual purpose and values to Jewish purpose and values, to understand how to nurture and grow healthy relationship, to expand our understanding of the myriad ways toward Tzedakah, and

Awake your inner Torah—  
Come learn with us!

to recognize what may be blocking us from moving toward forgiveness.

**Saturday, May 7; 12:30-2 p.m.: Shabbat Book Discussion and Potluck:** Our final book discussion of the year, facilitated by Deborah Pollack, is *Bee Season* by Myla Goldberg. This is the story of 9-year-old Eliza Naumann and her father Saul after she wins her school's spelling bee. The last word spelled in this novel is "origami," and it neatly describes the pair's relationship: beautiful, complex, and filled with sharp edges that stab if one fails to take care.



Please note, unless otherwise indicated, classes are free for TBT members and \$10 for non-members.

# Refugee Relief in Israel by Barbara Horne-Petersdorf

Barbara Horne-Petersdorf, the daughter of Rikki Horne and Rudy Petersdorf (z'l) grew up at Temple Beth Torah and graduated UCLA in spring 2015. She participated in birthright, and is spending a gap year in Israel, through the Masa program, which places American Jewish college age students in internships in Israel. We asked Barbara to share with our congregation the work she is doing with African refugees.

When I decided to move to Israel last May, I had no specific goals or hopes for my experience. I only knew that I wanted a year of adventure, travel and a new environment before I continue my studies in law school. After seven months of living in Tel Aviv, my expectations for this 'gap year' have been exceeded more times over than I can count.

Living in Israel during these times of tension is interesting. 'The situation', which is how all Israelis refer to the continued violence between Israelis and Palestinians, has persisted throughout the entirety of my time here. Shootings and stabbings by Palestinians occur weekly throughout Israel. However, whenever people ask me if I feel safe here, my answer is always a resounding "yes". The atmosphere of fear here is uniquely absent, especially in Tel Aviv, a city that has no time to pause or hesitate at words of a terror attack.

While I originally came to Israel to experience a new culture, I have also learned so much from the diverse communities of people living here. Everyone here has a story and is eager to let it be known. This is everyone from the Orthodox community to the secular Israelis, the Palestinians, the Christians, the Russians, the French and the African refugees. This leads me in to what exactly I am doing with my time here in Tel Aviv.

In January I began interning at the African Refugee Development Center (ARDC) in the heart of South Tel Aviv. Israel is currently experiencing the aftershocks of the past ten years, where over 60,000 African refugees, mostly from Eritrea and Sudan, fled into Israel. The Israeli Government was unequipped and unprepared to deal with such a humanitarian crisis, and this shows everyday through the injustices and maltreatment these asylum seekers have to live with. These asylum seekers are dropped off at the now infamous Levinsky Park, where they are given no direction, resources or assistance in rebuilding their lives. Now, within a several block radius there exists a renegade slum, drawing criticism from Tel Avivians. My office is tucked inside of this dilapidated community, and we open our doors to asylum seekers, providing services to help them apply for refugee status, reunify with family members in a



third country and pursue higher education opportunities.

I dove head first into my work with the ARDC and each day I am learning so much and gaining new insights into another complex issue within Israel, one that does not receive nearly as much attention as it should. A Somali man named Ashraf, a friend whom I help with English, opened my eyes in a way I could never have expected. The first day we met, I was complaining about the traffic in Tel Aviv. He looked at me head tilted and asked, "You have been trafficked too?" After a second of confusion, I realized that Ashraf only knew one definition of 'traffic'

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## Education & Family Programs

Marisa Schrier



### We eat all of the traditional foods and enjoy our Passover customs.

My parents have always been the Passover Seder hosts among our family and close friends. Every year we see new faces; my parents always seem to find people who have no other place to go, “what is one more person?” Everyone takes turns reading from our out of date and much loved Haggadot. We eat all of the traditional foods and enjoy our Passover customs. Over 35 years ago, my parents each wrote a beautiful and personal essay about what Passover meant to each of them. Each year, before we do anything else, they take out their essays in their original handwriting and read them aloud. They speak about Passovers long ago. They speak of Passover dishes that have survived earthquakes; the long-standing tradition of the kids being told to “shah” (be quiet), and my Grandma’s fresh gefilte fish made with whitefish and pike, the whiter the fish the better.

Though not traditional, we recall the names of the people who are no longer with us. My mother lights Yahrzeit candles for each of them. These words and customs have become part of our Seder, our order. I hope you will share with me your Passover traditions.

I can’t wait to see what we are able to grow

in our Temple Garden this spring! I was fortunate enough to spend a morning at the Hansen Agricultural Research and Extension Center for a workshop on growing vegetables. Now that I know what to plant and how to plant it, I need some help doing it. Let me know when you can spend some time helping in our Garden.

I had the greatest time getting to know the women of the Achava Rosh Hodesh group. We had an amazing discussion about the different masks that we all “wear” during different stages of our life. Each woman then decorated her own mask. The masks are on display across from the Torah school office.

**It is very important that we make this event a hit...**

The Jewish Federation and The PJ Library will be sponsoring a Havdalah service and Free concert on April 9th. Jason Mesches, and his band will be performing an amazing show! Check him out, at: [Onegtime.com](http://Onegtime.com). Before the concert we will be serving a pre ordered & pre-paid pasta dinner (salad, 2 pasta dishes and bread) for \$8 per adult, and \$5 per child. That evening we will also have wine and beer available to purchase. BYODD (Bring Your Own Dairy Dinner). All funds raised help make Torah School awesome!

I’m looking forward to seeing our whole community at this great event!

*L’Shalom,*  
Marisa Schrier

## Torah School Calendar

### Torah School on:

Sundays: April 10, 17, 24  
Wednesdays: April 6, 13, 30, 27

### No Torah School on:

Sunday: April 3

### Mishpacha:

Sunday: April 10, 24

## CAMP HAVERIM

MAKING FRIENDS FOR LIFE

by Marlena Schumacher, Director

Shalom Haverim! I am excited to announce that I will be directing Camp Haverim again this year! Last summer was amazing and now I am looking forward to creating more memorable experiences this summer.

Our camp will offer traditional camp activities such as arts and crafts, games, sports, water play and of course silly camp songs! We will also offer Jewish cultural and religious activities, Shabbat services on Fridays and teaching Hebrew blessings.

Camp Haverim will be offered for 6 weeks starting from June 13-July 22. Each week will have a different theme such as Art, Cooking, Soccer, Tikkun Olam, Drama and Science. Camp is for children ages 2-8 years old and we also offer a Parent & Me class for children ages 2-2.9 years old. Camp will offer a variety of activities that will be appropriate for each child’s developmental level.

For more information about Camp Haverim, please stop by the preschool office to pick up a brochure or call 805-647-3798.

I hope to see you all this summer!  
Marlena Schumacher

## Looking for Junior Counselors and CITs for Camp Haverim!

Looking for some summer fun? Come join us at Camp Haverim! We are looking for Jr. Counselors (ages 17-18 years old) and CIT’s (ages 13-16 years old), who love to work with children, do arts and crafts, play games and sing silly camp songs!

If you are interested in applying, please stop by the Torah School Office to pick up an application or contact Marlena Schumacher at 805-647-3798.

## Children's World & TBT Preschools

Marion Levin-Welch



### The children enjoy the opportunity to be outside and learn the basics of gardening.

Our preschool celebrated Dr. Seuss's Birthday March 1st and 2nd as The Cat in the Hat read stories to us. Celebration continues, as our Temple Beth Torah Preschool is planning a Passover program with the children and the families on April 20th. We look forward to our Rabbi Lisa joining us for the program at 9:15 am. We plan to make chocolate matzah and special family heirlooms. There will be a sing-a-long, arts and crafts activities, and a mini-Seder so the children will experience the order of the Seder.

Tuesday the 19th of April from 5:30 to 8:00 pm will be our Open House. SCRATCH food truck, a farm to table operation that uses locally grown products, will be here to feed families. Planned for the evening are our annual book fair, an art show designed by the children, a silent auction, and an ice cream social. You are invited to join us. Bring the grandkids.

This is the month that we start planting in the preschool garden and getting ready to feed the families who come to the Brotherhood Food Share program. The children enjoy the opportunity to be outside and learn the basics of gardening from our science teacher Dawn Reily. Related to planting the garden this month we will be having a week of Earth Day so the children can under-

stand more about Tikkun Olam. We have many hands on activities and special projects planned for them so they learn the importance of how recycling and repurposing help to care for the earth.

The Senior Readers of Ventura County will be performing for the children this month on April 27. These performers are retired people who go to schools where they act out stories that children love. Some of the delightful members of the troupe are also members of TBT.

Now is the time to register for preschool. Please share this information families you know who have preschool age children.

We wish you and your family a happy Passover.

B'Shalom,  
Marion Levin-Welch, M.A.  
ECE Director



### Our Garden for the Future

by Marion Levin-Welch

The Garden Committee is ready to create two raised planting beds for vegetables, 4 x 10 feet, in the back lot of TBT. Those vegetables, along with the 42 trees that were recently planted, will grow and supply fruit to Preschool, Torah School, and for the Tuesday Brotherhood Food Share program. Please join us on Sunday, April 10 or Sunday, April 17 to clear the area and remove weeds. We will create the beds, line them with chicken wire, and fill them with dirt in preparation for planting.

Do you have the muscle to help? Bags of soil that you are not using? Extra chicken wire? Please call the Temple office at 805-647-4181 or call Marion/Marisa at 805-647-3798 to help. The benefits of this project will last for years.



The masks created by the Achava Rosh Hodesh group

### Refugee Relief in Israel

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and it pertains to his experience traveling throughout Africa as a slave and prisoner of human traffickers. It did not occur to him that for me, as an American, human trafficking is not common. It did not occur to me that Ashraf would not relate to my complaints about Tel Aviv's busy streets crowded with cars. I feel so honored to be learning from such resilient and optimistic people, and in turn devoting my time to help make their lives easier.

If you are wondering if there is a solution in the making regarding Israel's refugee crisis, the unfortunate answer is that there is not. Until the Israeli Government creates a legal framework to address the enormous community of Africans living in our

country, we will remain in a limbo—a delicate balance where these asylum seekers are not being deported, but are also not given any permission to work, social services, rights or representation.

I see the values of Judaism in place everyday within my work, although I am not working within a specific Jewish context. Each day I am reminded of humility, compassion, patience, respect and inclusion, all of which are crucial values my Jewish upbringing introduced me to at an early age. I may be a secular Jew, helping a huge group of non-Jews, who have created a lot of controversy within Tel Aviv, but I feel confident that the work I am doing is important and just. I am proud to say that in working at the ARDC, albeit without the apparent Jewish context, I still gain inspiration in knowing that many of the Jewish values I have grown up with are present here everyday.

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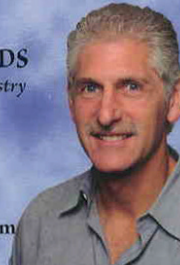
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**Sunday, May 1**  
Yom Hashoah Concert

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Adult Ed with Fern Perusse-Filzen

***Have you moved?***

Please call the Temple office to keep us informed of any new addresses, phone numbers or e-mails.

***Makom HaShalom Cemetery  
Plots at Ivy Lawn Memorial Park***

Please consider the purchase of a site at *Makom Hashalom* when planning your family trust, will, and advance directives.

Questions regarding availability, cost, and purchase, may be directed to Juanita Seavey in the Temple Office at (805) 647-4181.

***How to reach us***

Phone: (805) 647-4181  
Email: TBTventura@TempleBethTorah.com  
Web: www.TempleBethTorah.com

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