



Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Lisa Hochberg-Miller



70 also was a celebration of all that comes with "the fullness of life."

The Talmudic rabbis understood the number 70 to represent completeness. At 70, in their estimation, a person had reached the fullness of years. Perhaps because it was based on the number 7, which designates wholeness (think the seven days of creation), the rabbis imagined that 70 was the culmination of life, the moment of self-realization. From 70, the hair turned grey, the body bent, and old age set in. Such was their experience, 15 centuries ago!



But 70 also was a celebration of all that comes with "the fullness of life." It was a time to revel in wisdom, in maturity, in family, in retirement from one's life work, and the chance to study, give and rest—all important components of living a good life. As is true in our own day, 70 was an achievement, not an ending.

These are the thoughts that surround me as we reach Israel's 70th anniversary of statehood this spring. April 18 is Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel Independence Day. Could it really be 70 years since the iconic photo of David ben Gurion was snapped, his standing at the microphone on the dias in Independence Hall in Tel Aviv, declaring

statehood would occur at midnight on May 14/15, 1948? For many of us, we remember that moment; for others of us, Israel has always been there. For some of us, we recall too well the wars of those first decades, when we held our breath praying that Israel would survive. For some of us, we continue to hold our breath. For others, we no longer worry about existential survival, but are concerned with issues of safety, security and other aspects of existence. Young or old, as American Jews Israel holds a place in our lives. There is a connection to Israel that is unlike any other country on earth that we do not physically inhabit!

So what can we offer Israel, in honor of 70 years? We can offer Israel the kind of unconditional love we offer our family members. The desire to know her better, the patience to understand her issues and concerns. The desire to address the difficult political and religious issues she wrestles with—just as we do with that same unconditional love we have for the United States. When we consider all the states that were created and failed during the 20th century, Israel's success as a democratic state at 70 years must give us pause to reflect and consider the attributes of her success. And what contribution has the Jewish nature of this state played in her remarkable achievements of science, humanities, medicine, law, liberal faith, government, education, environmentalism, and the like?

As Israel reaches this age which our sages considered full and blessed, may Israel merit a future that continues to be so!

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADULT & FAMILY LEARNING

TBT Book Club

A Trumpet in the Wadi: A Novel
Saturday, April 21 at 12:30 p.m.

Judaism's 10 Best Ideas

Sunday, April 22 and 29 at 9:30 a.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

Short Story Discussions

with Deborah Pollack
Tuesday, April 24 at 2:00 p.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

PROGRAMS

Family to Family**

First Sunday of each month at 6:30 a.m.
DOWNTOWN VENTURA

Food Share

Every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

River Haven Food Drop Off

Monday, April 2 at 3:00 p.m.
TBT KITCHEN

WRJ Seder

April 4 at 5:30 p.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

Tot Shabbat

Friday, April 6 at 6:00 p.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

Mishpacha

Sunday, April 15 at 10:00 a.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

Brotherhood Brunch Lox and Bagel Brunch

Councilman Erik Nasarenko, speaker
Sunday, April 15 at 9:30 a.m.
MEISTER HALL

Torah School Family Shabbat

Friday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

continued on page 3



TBT 5778:
*Jewish Community
Jewish Life
Jewish Belonging*



Sisterhood

This spring, our goal is to talk with TBT women and gather your interests, energy and women-power to re-new our sisterhood.

In a year that has been filled with women's empowerment, we know this is the right time for drawing Temple women together for social, educational, advocacy and spiritual reasons. New Temple members Ann Kerman, Candace Rosenbloom, Sarah Gordon, and their Rosh Chodesh group have stepped up to champion conversations to vision sisterhood anew. This spring, our goal is to talk with TBT women and gather your interests, energy and women-power to re-new our sisterhood. Our first step is community conversations, to develop a clear picture of what our community of Jewish women would want to see in a vibrant, engaged sisterhood.

Ann, Candace and Sarah have reached out to each of our five Rosh Hodesh groups and asked to be invited to an upcoming meeting or gathering, to have an open conversation and listen to you and your ideas. If you are not in a Rosh Hodesh group, but would like to invite a group of your Temple women friends over to meet with Candace, Ann and Sarah, that would be wonderful, too! Our hope is that by summer, we will be

ready to launch sisterhood anew.

One of the emerging goals of sisterhood is to re-claim sisterhood's tradition of providing shiva support at a time of loss, for our temple members. If you are in need of such support, or if you would like to be a volunteer on our new "Shiva Sisters" team, contact Ilene Ramgren, Ann Kerman, Candace Rosenbloom, or Sarah Gordon.

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE: Come to the Women's Seder, April 4

There is something completely memorable for women to experience a seder where women sit at the table, read a special haggadah that highlights women's historical experiences, and allows women to raise their voice to the themes of redemption, freedom and equality. Join us for our sisterhood's Women's Seder, a unique evening for women of all ages. Please make your reservation for a delicious dinner and program at temple as soon as you read this!

Chicken Soup – the Heart of TBT

What do these people have in common? Ada Feldman, Dana Jennings, Marlene Charton, Susan Sher, Susan Storch, Deborah Pollack, Deni Jones, Larry Barber, Elena DeVos, Pam Small, Kathy Wertheim, Ron Turner, Norma Van Riper and Juanita Seavey are all Chicken Soup Volunteers.

When Rabbi Lisa hears of an illness in the community, a hospitalization, perhaps a baby being born, or a family with a recent loss, she initiates the chicken soup delivery mensches via email. These volunteers respond, bringing a bowl of chicken soup or a challah (or maybe even a desired corned beef sandwich), to a community member. The message is: Your TBT Family is thinking of you at this time. So if one of these people lands on your doorstep with a matzo ball and some soup, know that you are loved.

Thank you to all of our Delivery Mensches.

Shofar

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APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Friday, April 6

DAY 7 PESACH

6:00 p.m. Tot Shabbat

7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services



Saturday, April 7

PESACH YIZKOR

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

Including Hallel and Yizkor Memorial Prayers

11:30 a.m. Kiddush & Torah study - Bank Family Library

12:00 p.m. Illuminated Manuscripts with Pam Small. End Passover with a great learning opportunity. Bring your own lunch and stay for a visual presentation on artistic haggadot and manuscripts through the ages.

Friday, April 13

PARSHAT SHEMINI

7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Followed by oneg Shabbat

Saturday, April 14

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

11:30 a.m. Kiddush & Torah study - Bank Family Library

Friday, April 20

PARSHAT TAZRIA

Torah School Shabbat

6:15 p.m. Candles & Kiddush in Meister Hall, Torah School Program and nosh

7:00 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service



Saturday, April 21

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

11:30 a.m. Kiddush & Torah study - Bank Family Library

Friday, April 27

PARSHAT ACHAREI MOT-KEDOSHIM

7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 28

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

11:30 a.m. Kiddush & Torah study - Bank Family Library



President's Message

Pam Small

Rabbi Jaclyn's resignation came as a shock to all of us.

We had a wonderful Purim Carnival this year! Over 110 children attended. I know the count because Deborah and I sold the tickets at the door. As you can see in my photo, my go-to costume is Medusa because once you own an amazing hat like that, why would you be anything else? It is especially fun to have kids pretend to turn to stone once they recognize who I am. Thanks to Marisa, Danielle, and all the volunteers who made Candyland such a fun day!

I am sorry to be writing this at the end of a difficult week. Rabbi Jaclyn's resignation came as a shock to all of us. We had no idea she was looking for another job. I have been getting some questions from fellow congregants and I thought I should provide those answers to all of you.

We offer a competitive salary with benefits to our candidates because we consult with the placement directors at the schools in Los Angeles and New York. We signed a two-year contract. We did not pay moving expenses for Rabbi Jaclyn because this was a part-time job of 28 hours. Her husband, an accountant, had accepted a full-time job in Woodland Hills. We had hoped they would settle in Ventura, but Camarillo or Thousand Oaks would have worked as well, both for him and for her. They have been living with her parents in Los Angeles since their move and although the commute can be challenging, we had several congregants offer their homes for Jaclyn and her family to stay in over the weekends.

The Board chose to terminate her contract early for several reasons, but primarily we were concerned about our b'nei mitzvah students. We have three this year and all three ceremonies take place this summer. Rabbi Jaclyn's final weekend with us was going to be the weekend before the first bat mitzvah. The Board felt that it would be better for our students to adjust to a new tutor now instead of dealing with that change just before they stepped up on the bimah.

Rabbi Jaclyn came from a large synagogue in Seattle and was accustomed to a very formal administration; we are more casual here in Ventura. She commented on this to me and I offered to meet with her weekly to answer questions or to guide her in any way I could. I also offered to include her in my weekly meetings with Rabbi Lisa. She didn't think this was necessary and when she

wanted to talk, we met. I was always available and so was Rabbi Lisa. Rabbi Jaclyn told me that Lisa was a wonderful colleague and mentor.

Our situation is not uncommon in small synagogues across the country. Rabbi Lisa has a colleague whose temple uses only musicians and doesn't have a cantor. I have been getting suggestions from many of you and I am sharing them with the Board. Our beloved Robin Faigin has stepped up to lead us in our Shabbat services and we have hired a tutor for our b'nei mitzvah students who lives in North Hollywood, but Skypes with the kids. They are so comfortable with the computer that this is easy for them.

The Board re-approved our ad from last year and I immediately sent it to the placement director at the cantorial school in Los Angeles. Rabbi Lisa has heard of some candidates through word of mouth and she is attending a conference this week (March 18–21) and will talk to other colleagues. We will find solutions to keep music in our services and Torah school, tutoring for our students, and a soaring spiritual experience for the High Holy Days.

B'Shalom,
Pam



TRANSPARENT TBT

1. We are pleased to announce we are in the process of updating the sound system in the sanctuary.

2. Our long serving coffee machine has developed serious problems. Our lovely, new Meister Social Hall will soon have a new coffee maker.

3. Camp TBT will not be at JAC this year. We are looking for other sites. We are hopeful we will be able to find another site.

4. If you know a congregant who is ill or in need of assistance/support, contact the office.



MEETINGS

AA Meeting

Every Thursday at 8:00 p.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

House Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 5 at 7:00 p.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

Ritual Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

Brotherhood Meeting

Monday, April 2 at 6:00 p.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

Social Action Committee

Thursday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

Professional Support Meeting

Thursday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

**offsite event



Below is a list of funds you may wish to consider when making a donation to TBT:

Annie Shapiro Torah School Fund
Bank Family Library Fund
Building Fund
Cantor's Music Fund
Educator's Discretionary Fund
General Fund
Dressler Shiva Platter Fund
Harris TBT Preschool Fund
Jewish Film Festival
Meister Youth Trip to Israel Fund
L'Dor V'Dor Capital Campaign Fund
Murray Lieber Helping Hand Fund
Pavin Building Maintenance Fund
Rabbi Lisa's Discretionary Fund
Social Action Fund
TBT Legacy Fund
Torah School Scholarship Fund
Youth Activities Fund
Worship & Celebrations Fund

Brotherhood

Ron Halpern



The Brotherhood continues to be a wonderful group that shares good times and meaningful events. It has been a rewarding experience so far to serve as president. We have a special brunch that we are looking forward to in April, and I'm not fooling! But first let me report back on the unforgettable evening several Brotherhood members spent celebrating our Man of the Year, Al Geller.

On March 10 Al Geller, Bob Braitman, Jack Snader, Ron Hanock, Robert Ingram, Ivor Davis, Alan Kirschbaum and I boarded a "party van" and travelled in the pouring rain to Temple Beth Tikvah in Fullerton. There we were joined by many other Brotherhoods from temples all over Southern California. Steve Portnoy, the Men of Reform Judaism President, was in from New York and presided over the event. I was lucky enough to be able to present Al Geller with his award. The following day in Ventura some of the Brotherhood met with Steve who gave us ideas on how to help attract new members. We will use those tools to reach out at TBT for new members to make us an even more vibrant group. It will be challenging work, but we will make the effort.

In fact, any prospective new members would

be more than welcome to join us at our monthly meeting on April 11. We will be sharing a delicious meal and talking about April Fool's jokes, among other things. Give us a try!

We will be having our Brotherhood Bagels and Lox Brunch on Sunday, April 15, and are hoping for a good turnout. Our honored guest speaker will be recent past Ventura Mayor and current City Council member, Erik Nasarenko. Erik is also a Deputy District Attorney with Ventura County. This will be a very interesting program that all of us should try to attend. Please call the office for your reservations. In addition, we are planning an exciting afternoon at the Fillmore and Western Railway Co. for the Brotherhood and TBT families. This may be combined with a wine tasting next door at Giessinger Winery. Stayed tuned for more information.

**Our next Brotherhood Brunch
will be held**

Sunday, April 15 at 9:30 a.m.

at Temple Beth Torah

JOIN US!



Men from our Brotherhood celebrating Al Geller receiving his MRJ Man of the Year Award.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR LOAN



LENDING A HAND NEEDS A HAND: OR A LITTLE STORAGE SPACE

by Elena Devos

Our Lending a Hand program loans congregants medical devices like wheelchairs, crutches, etc. Having medical devices available for short-term use has been a blessing to many of our families, saving them time and money during a stressful time. (Note: we are able to ONLY do short-term loans.)

Now, we need a hand too—or a storage area of some sort, to be accurate. The committee member who stores many of our items has run out of space. A TBT family just offered additional needed items, but we are out of room. DO YOU HAVE A SMALL AMOUNT OF SPACE TO STORE EVEN A FEW FOLDABLE ITEMS? A third garage? A storage area with extra space? Please let me know.

If one of our members needs an item in your storage area, he or she can contact you directly to pick up the device. As we gather more equipment, we know we are making life simpler for people who are having a difficult time in their lives. Thanks for considering this big favor.

Elena DeVos

Sign up to receive our weekly
T'Kiah and Lifecycle
notices by email.



Send your email address to
Martha@TempleBethTorah.com

Expand Your Horizons – Learn Something New!

Deborah Pollack, VP of Adult Learning and Programs

I'm still looking for a few good teachers and I know that you're out there. Here at Temple Beth Torah we enjoy sharing our interests, skills, and knowledge with others. If you're wondering whether you have enough information to teach a class, let me assure you that nothing helps expand your own intellectual horizons more than teaching. I thought I knew something about literature until I started teaching it—that's when I really began to learn. So if you or someone you know is itching to teach us something new, even something new about something we think we already know about, send an email to me. *To learn is to grow—let's do it together!*

Upcoming education opportunities for April and May:

April 21, 12:30-2:00, TBT Library Shabbat Book Discussion and Potluck Lunch

A Trumpet in the Wadi: A Novel by Sami Michael
Led by Karen Kinrose

Come join us for a lively book discussion; there is no cost and all are welcome. Please read the book and bring a non-meat lunch item to share.

Israeli novelist Sami Michael shares his gift for navigating the cultural conflicts in modern Israel through this novel. Set in the Arab quarter of Haifa, the book focuses on the tensions between Arabs and Jews in the months leading up to the war in Lebanon in



1982. The story is told with a small cast of characters: an Arab Christian family, a Russian Jew who lives in their apartment building, and a nosy downstairs neighbor. This is a tale that transcends its Middle Eastern setting with an honest and heartbreaking story of impossible love and the strength of family.

April 24, 2:00-3:00, TBT Library Short Story Discussion

Led by Deborah Pollack

Join us as we engage in close reading and discussion of superb short stories by writers from diverse backgrounds—not all of them Jewish. Contact Deborah (see my email address above) for a link to the latest story.

May 1, 8, & 15, 7:00-9:00 p.m., TBT Library Exploring Evil

Led by Fern Perusse-Filzen

Want to learn more about The Dark Side? Join Fern to explore *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis along with Jewish writings to compare and contrast philosophy and perspectives on the role of evil in Judaism and Christianity. The book is available in multiple formats and you are advised to read it before the class. Excerpts for discussion will be provided for each session.



Suggested donation to TBT of \$10 for all three sessions to help cover the cost of materials.

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Children's World & TBT Preschools

Marion Levin-Welch



April is the month that we start planting in the preschool garden and getting ready to feed our current families that come to the Brotherhood Food Share program.

Our preschool celebrated another author's day with Dr. Seuss's Birthday and the Cat in the Hat on March 1st & 2nd and then continued the merriment in the classrooms. The Cat in the Hat read stories to us and then we took pictures to remember the event. Each year we are lucky to get a visit from Dr. Seuss's favorite friend.

Our very own Temple Beth Torah Preschool planned a Passover program with the children and the families on Monday, March 26th. We enjoyed having our Rabbi Lisa and Marisa there with us for the program in the social hall that started at 9:15. We planned this family event for preschool families at TBT preschool, listened to songs at our sing a long and made an arts and crafts project to take home. Part of the event was we had a mini Seder so the children could understand the order of the Seder.

On Tuesday the 17th of April from 5:30 to 8:00 pm we are planning to hold our Open House. We will have an ice cream social where the kids can have a lovely dessert after their growing food... This Open House event presents our annual book fair, art show designed by the children, and a silent auction. You are invited to join us if you would like

to. Bring the kids and grandkids.

April is the month that we start planting in the preschool garden and getting ready to feed our current families that come to the Brotherhood Food Share program. The kids really enjoy the opportunity to be outside and learning the basics of gardening from our science teacher Dawn Reily. In partnership with planting this month we will be having a week of Earth Day so the children will learn to understand a little more about Tikkun Olam. We have many activities planned and many special projects for them to learn hands on the importance of recycling, repurposing and how to care for the earth.

Our Marla the Mermaid program, brought to us from the Parks and Recreation, will occur on the 12th of April as well. The children will learn about sea life, creatures in the ocean and learn new songs. That makes the month pretty special.

The best part of the month is that we, as a school, will be riding the train in Fillmore to the Fish Hatchery, and then back to the Fillmore station. Some of our children have not been aboard a train and this will be their first experience. Yeah!

Just to let you know that now is the time to register for preschool and we would love to have you share that information with other families. Sign up your child, your grandchild or anyone you know of. We wish you and your family a happy Passover.

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

CAMP HAVERIM

MAKING FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Camp Haverim is Around the Corner

I am thrilled to be directing Camp Haverim for the fifth year in a row. Last summer was amazing and now I am looking forward to creating more memorable experiences this year.

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 June 18th thru July 27th. Each week will have a different theme such as Tikkun Olam, Kindermusik, Science & Lego Workshops, Soccer, Cooking and Art. Camp is for children ages 3-9 years old and we also offer a Parent & Me class for children 20 months-30 months on Tuesdays & Thursdays. 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!
Shalom,
Marlena Gomez
Director, Camp Haverim

Torah School Calendar

Torah School Dates:

Sundays: April 15, 22, 29
Wednesdays: April 11, 18, 25

No Torah School:

Sundays: April 1, 8
Wednesday: April 4

Torah School Family Shabbat Friday, April 20

Tot Shabbat Friday, April 6, 6:00 p.m.

A Purim Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Purim in Candyland Carnival! Not only did everyone have a great time, but we raised a lot of money too, thank you! Children and adults enjoyed our Purim in Candyland themed booths including: Mini Gumball Machine art project, Gumdrop Mountains (STEM inspired building activity) and a Donut Hole Toss. There was a glow in the dark room, photo booth, a Magician who entertained us with a show, and the social hall was filled with more activities. With costumes, live music by Frank Barajas, a jolly jumper, art, games, prizes, a rock wall, bungee jumper and food, it was a fun and uplifting day for people all of ages.

The money we raised at the Purim Carnival helps support our Family Learning Days, school holiday celebrations, Torah School Shabbat Program and other programs that enrich and enhance our Torah School. We are thankful for your time and appreciate your support of our educational programs.

Help sponsor the Shofar!

For more information,
call the Temple office at
(805) 647-4181.



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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 or Judy Fleischman in the Temple Office at (805) 647-4181.

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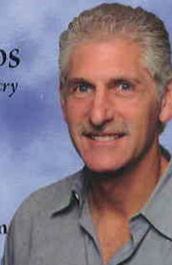
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TRIBUTE FORM. When making tributes please include recipient's name and address so that a note can be sent to them. Include your name, the fund and occasion for the tribute (in Memory or in Honor of, etc.). Please feel free to cut this out and include with your tribute. More copies can be picked up in the Temple Office.

Your Name: (as you would like it to appear to recipient and in the *Shofar*) PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

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**LOOKING AHEAD
TO MAY**



May 5
Trivia Night

May 19
Tikkun Leil Shavout

May 20
Last Day of Torah School

May 28
Memorial Day – Office Closed

**SUMMER CAMP!
June 18-July 27**

Summer Camp should be a thought on your radar. This year, Ms. Marlena again will run a six-week program with some new ideas and themes with even more activities related to Judaism.

Camp starts June 18 and runs until July 27. Look for brochures and more information in the upcoming *Shofars*. See you at camp.



How to reach us

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

Temple Auxiliaries & Affiliates

Brotherhood

Ron Halpern (805) 647-4181

Sisterhood

Debe Bloom (805) 647-4181

Children's World & TBT Preschools

Marion Levin-Welch (805) 647-3798

Senior Youth Group/VCTRY (9th-12th grade)

Marisa Schrier (805) 647-4181

Junior Youth Group (6th-8th grade)

Marisa Schrier (805) 647-4181

UJA/Federation

Cheri DeKofsky (805) 647-7800

JFS Office

(805) 641-6565

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Director of Education and Family Programs
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