



Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Lisa Hochberg-Miller

Mah Nishta Na Ha'Leila HaZeh, Mi Kol Ha-Leilot?" Why is this night different from all other nights? If you thought that question was from our Passover seder, think again- it has become the mantra of planning High Holy Days during a time of Covid.

Let me share with you what has been going on behind-the-scenes. It became clear to us, by early July, that we could not aim to create in-person services and online services. It is a rare congregation that will attempt to gather in-person this year. Our commitment to protecting health and well-being leads to this caution- even when it means we sacrifice the extraordinary joy of being able to shmooze, embrace, sing together, hug, shake hands and visit. Like you, I long for these things! This year, we are guided by this question: How do we create a physically distant High Holy Day experience that can fill our souls, address our spiritual struggles, and give us strength, while providing familiar structure, voices, melodies and rituals. Answering that question has consumed me, Cantor Robin, Sara Alviani, the Ritual Committee chaired by Aurora Shapiro, our House chair Alan Kirschbaum, and the Board of Directors!

The answer is that we are busy creating a HHD experience that will include erev and morning services. And "creating" is the word! Under production guidance from congregants Rick Bloom and video leadership from congregant Eric Rosenberg, using still photography from Ron Pollack, audio recordings from three past High Holy Days, we are working to create services that feature audio and visuals that can enhance what is live for this year. Cantor Robin is tireless, as she works to record choir members singing, and as she prepares music she will sing. We have some wonderful surprises for you! I can't overestimate how much work this takes. To record a virtual

choir singing one song can be 40 hours of production work! It is only the magic of Hollywood (and fancy equipment and professionals!) that makes it all look so easy!

While many larger congregations have been streaming services for a few years now, this will be a new area for us. Getting our sanctuary set with new cameras and the right technology has been a huge undertaking, and we are grateful to Alan Kirschbaum for shouldering this work.

We can use your help! Do you enjoy making videos? Have you been making a birthday video on iMovie? Have you been recording yourself on an instrument on video studio? Using OBS? We have so many creative ideas, and you may too, as you read this. Please contact us- we are dreaming of videos to accompany our prayers, to celebrate all the themes of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

In the next few weeks you will receive a mailing explaining how you will access services virtually this year, and giving you a lot of materials to enhance Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Marisa is planning programs for families, a physically distanced tashlich will happen, and we will welcome student rabbi Elana Rabishaw to be part of our High Holy Days. Services will be accessible to all our congregants. If you know people who are not members who want to join us, have them call the office. While we are not "selling tickets", we want to make sure the larger community- and even your children or grandchildren who are physically distant—can join us.

We are looking forward to being together to welcome 5781. This year, more than ever, in spite of and because of all that has transpired this year- we need to be together as our beloved, Temple Beth Torah community. We are working tirelessly to make that a reality.

President's Message

Nancy Marcus



I am proud to be the new President of Temple Beth Torah. I come on the heels of an amazing lady, Pam Small, and during a time of great uncertainty. We all have so many questions, the least of which is when will the sanctuary be open for worship. And while I have no definitive answers to that and other

similar issues, I do know that our congregation has encountered tough times before and we have met them with determination and have persevered. I have no doubt that we will persevere this time as well and come out stronger.

I encourage everyone to renew their membership and give more if possible. And if you need help, please reach out. Our professionals, staff, lay leaders and volunteers are working overtime to keep our Temple running smoothly and to meet the demands caused by COVID-19. We have a board of terrific people with two new board members, Joy Goldowitz who steps in as the VP of Community to fill the shoes of Deni Jones. And Keren Zaks succeeds Allan Paskin as the VP of Membership. Pam Small is staying on the board as the VP of Governance. There is so much going on which others are reporting on in this edition of the Shofar.

We are a proud, honorable and worthy congregation and it gives me tremendous satisfaction to be part of this Jewish community. I am always available for your questions, concerns or just to chat. I can be reached by email at marcusfam@aol.com. I look forward to getting to know you all, and if I already know you, then to know you better.

B'Shalom,
Nancy



TBT 5780:
Jewish Community
Jewish Life
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Shofar

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Past President's Message

Pam Small

Thanks to all who participated in my President Send Off! The Board had a bit of bubbly and some special Purple Lady Bakery Treats. I also received a very beautiful Miriam's Cup which I will always treasure. The drive-by was wonderful! It was so nice to see your faces in real life again. Thanks to all who participated!

Pam



Education & Family Programs

Marisa Schrier



We are taught from Pirkei Avot (Ethics from our Ancestors), that we should, "let our homes be a meeting place for sages." As we all begin to prepare for the challenges of Distance Learning in the Fall, we also have been given this incredible opportunity to transition our homes into sanctuaries filled with sages (wise students and teachers).

Torah School teachers and staff have been putting this piece of wisdom into action by participating in the extraordinary NewCaje Conference. The goal of NewCaje, is to connect, inspire and affirm all Jewish Educators while building a Jewish community. This yearly conference is usually an intensive 5 day experience. In the world of Covid, they transitioned the Conference into a virtual 4 week experience. During the 4 weeks, 1,000+ Jewish Educators, have had the chance to choose from over 400 workshops, ranging in topics from: Creating Meaningful Prayer via Zoom, Successfully Engaging Students Virtually, and Holidays Through Music and Dance. NewCaje also provides nourishing programming for participants, such as: spiritual concerts, a huge range of prayer experiences and time to network with other educators with the same interests. This Conference has provided our Torah School Staff and teachers time to grow, learn and rejuvenate, allowing them to be refreshed and prepared for when we begin

virtual classes in the Fall.

Our 2020–2021 Torah School Year plan is projected to be held from 10/04/2020–06/06/2021. We will begin in a Distance Learning format, and transition to in person or hybrid options when it is safe to do so. Last year, our 3rd-6th Graders, led by the fearless and talented teacher Tassi, experimented with the Shalom Learning Value Based Curriculum. This curriculum was created with a virtual class in mind. After exploring other Judaica curriculum, we have decided to move forward with Shalom Learning for all students, TK-7th Grade. I invite you to explore the Shalom Learning website: <https://www.shalomlearning.org/curriculum/values-based-judaic-curriculum/>

High Holidays 5781 are going to look and feel different. This does not mean that we can't have a successful and meaningful High Holiday experience. Children's virtual programming will include: services, educational experiences, art opportunities, baking, a High Holiday TikTok Challenge and more! Additional information and registration forms will be available soon!

Please contact me with any questions or suggestions.

Looking forward to learning with you soon,
I'shalom,
Marisa

Children's World & TBT Preschools

Marion Levin-Welch

Preschool was shut down at the end of March because of the covid virus. But that did not hold us down. We have reviewed the policies of licensing, CDC, and the department of health that are required to reopen in August. We have parents who chose not to join us this fall and others who will. The same applies to teachers. At this time we will open with 60% of our normal number of students but that will not slow us down. We will also have a virtual component for some of the stay at home families. We want to educate during these trying times.

Teachers will create fun activities, super outdoor times and a great outdoor art center. Even though the kids must remain with their pods or classroom friends, we will implement the things

we can for many of our essential worker's children. We will be safe and cautious, at the same time bring laughter and giggles that will radiate over the airs of the temple grounds.

Be safe and stay healthy as much as you can.

Shalom

Marion Levin-Welch M.A.



Brotherhood

Ron Halpern



The Brotherhood is still having our monthly meetings, Family to Family-helping feed families on the Avenue and doing food share each week from TBT distributing food to people who are in need.

We are planning a Brotherhood comedy night August 29. More information on this event soon.

My best to all,
Ron Halpern

ADULT EDUCATION & PROGRAMS

Deborah Pollack

Our bodies may be restricted from going where they'd like to at this time, but our minds certainly are not! We will be offering a variety of educational opportunities in the upcoming year of 5781, so be sure to take advantage of them. The neat trick is to feature classes that can zoom into your home or be offered face to face (remember that!) once restrictions are lifted. This year there will be no brochure, but classes, discussion groups, and workshops will be publicized as they become available through the TBT website, Facebook page, weekly T'kiah and Shabbat service announcements, so stay tuned!

We plan to offer 4-5 Shabbat afternoon book discussions led by an assortment of facilitators. The focus will be on important books for us to read for a deeper understanding of racism and people of color. If you have reading selection suggestions or have attended our

discussions in the past and are interested in leading one yourself, please contact me.

Short story discussion groups will continue on the 4th Tuesday of every other month at 2:00; the next one is scheduled for August 25. If you are interested in participating, let me know and I'll send you a Zoom invitation.

There are also a number of additional remarkable classes to be offered. Dr. Cliff Wilcox, whose American Jewish folksingers course was so successful last year, will be teaching an eight part series on the American Jewish Experience Through Film. Rabbi Mike Lotker will lead a five-part class on Jewish mythology (we'll finally get to understand where Lilith comes from!). Rabbi Lisa will continue her multi-part adult b'nai mitzvah class, Deborah O'Neill will help us to deal with our reactions to the pandemic through writing, and the very accomplished Joy Goldowitz will lead craft classes.



"In my Grandma's Kitchen"

Rosh Hashanah Recipes: Learn how to make and braid a Round Challah for Yuntif with Erica Walsh. Check the T'kiah for time and date!

Social Action Committee

HIGH HOLY DAYS FOOD DRIVE

Hunger doesn't stop during the pandemic and neither do the traditions that define us. We will be collecting food this year for two groups: farm workers and their families and Brotherhood Food Distribution, whose donations help to keep families in their homes. We will also welcome checks to Food Share, Inc., which can turn each \$1 into almost 3 meals. Last year your donations provided over 4,500 meals!

The choice of farm workers and their families to receive food was an easy one.

They are one of the hardest working and neediest groups in our community but they receive little if any government assistance. They have one of the highest rates of Covid-19 in the county. Foods that their families most need will be listed in our flier. Food Share will deliver your donations directly to the farms and churches that distribute to the farm workers. We will not collect clothing or other items this year.

We are deeply grateful to Steve Yapp of PODS Oxnard, who has donated a POD for many years. The cost of the rental would make the drive impractical. Steve is an unsung hero in our community.

Look for our flier in the T'kiah with more details.

Ruth Schwartz

Social Action Committee



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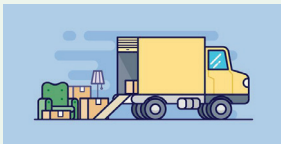
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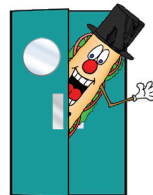
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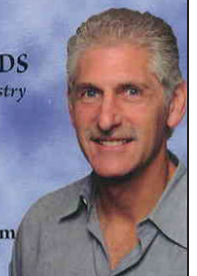
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Slichot-Saturday

September 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Friday, Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah

Saturday, Sept. 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Rosh Hashanah: Second Day

Sunday, Sept. 20

Erev Yom Kippur

Sunday, September 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur

Monday, September 28 at 10 a.m.

Sukkot- First Night

Friday, October 2

Service times and Holiday Events
will be listed in the T'kiah!

How to reach us

Phone: (805) 647-4181

Email: TBTVentura@TempleBethTorah.com

Web: www.TempleBethTorah.com

Temple Auxiliaries & Affiliates

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Ron Halpern (805) 647-5278

Women of TBT (Sisterhood)

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Children's World & TBT Preschools

Marion Levin-Welch (805) 647-3798

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

Marisa Schrier educator@templebethtorah.com

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