Temple Beth El of South Orange County is a dynamic, growing and diverse community having multiple modes of Jewish expression. With about 600 households, and with the merger of Congregation Eilat (a Conservative affiliated congregation) into Temple Beth El, we are one of just a handful of congregations nationally that will be affiliated with both the Reform and Conservative movements. We genuinely embrace the pluralism of the greater Jewish community within our congregation so we can provide a Jewish home for those who identify with either of these movements and for those who are just looking to connect and express their Jewish selves.

Our mission: To establish and maintain a loving Jewish community of educated, involved, spiritual and empowered congregants who come together to celebrate and observe diverse progressive traditions in Jewish thought and belief.
Sh’mah by Cantor Natalie Young

Sh’mah
Listen
Can you hear it?
The God-filled voices around.
Some soft and gentle;
That still small voice within.
Others strong like thunder;
Driven by the wind.
From soulful song
To lonesome cries;
From deep conversation
To empassioned pleas.
Each voice longing to be heard.

And God
God is part of each one of them.
Voices of dreamers and soul-shakers
Voices of justice and law-makers
Voices of light in the darkness.
Voices of loved ones in our ear
Voices of those no longer here.

Sh’mah...
Listen!
To all the voices present here.
The voices that challenge us
And shake us;
The voices that keep us up
And frustrate us.
The voices of wisdom from past generations
And new voices that bring inspiration.
Voices that remind us who we are
And those that comfort and motivate us.
We...
We are this choir of angels.
Klal Yisra’el.
One community united in faith and love.
Stretched and strengthened by the many voices
That bind us together.
Sh’mah Yisra’el, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai echad!

-Cantor Natalie Young

Continued on page 7

Our Future as a Covenantal Community
by Rabbi K’vod Wieder

The heart of Jewish tradition that defines our relationship with God and the other is Brit— “covenant.” In the book of Exodus, God makes a brit olam—an eternal covenant with the people of Israel—saying, “You will be My people, and I will be Your God.” Covenant implies a level of commitment to relationship that is so deep that it can weather any challenges or disappointments. A contract is something that is temporary and transactional. If our relationship is contractual, then I feel free to abandon the relationship if the terms of our agreement are not met. But, if we share a covenant with each other, then even when expectations are not met, we continue to work together to find a way to stay in relationship. Having a covenantal relationship with God or with other people is essential to growth. It means that when things get challenging, we agree to stay present, to draw on resources that we didn’t know we had, to engage our creativity, and to find ways to express our love. As a result we transcend our own boundaries becoming more aware of the fullness and depth that we are.

This year Temple Beth El of South Orange County is engaging in a strategic planning process to discover who we want to be. This August 28–30 we will be privileged to have Rabbi Sid Schwarz with us as a scholar-in-residence. Rabbi Sid is the author of Finding a Spiritual Home and Jewish Megatrends, among other books, and has been engaged in studying synagogue transformation for over 30 years. In his study of Jewish demographics, the findings of national programs like Synagogue 3000 and STAR (Synagogue Transformation and Renewal), and a deep study of four very successful and thriving synagogues, he observed that the most successful synagogues had the elements of Covenantal Communities.

Continued on page 12

Changing the Texture
by Cantor Emerita & Interim Clergy Shula Kalir-Merton

As we wake up each morning, our tradition suggests that we say the very brief, but powerful prayer of thanks called MODEH ANI, in which we thank the Ultimate Creator for allowing us to wake up—safe and sound—returning our soul back to us in sharp, functioning condition. We must never take our physical wellbeing for granted, nor send the message that WE are entitled, while others—whose bodies may have betrayed them—are not. Still, as almost every day progresses, life and the world in which we live find us hanging on for dear life, wondering... What challenges will force their way into our day? What impediment will present itself along our path? What difficulty will land on the community, the country, the world? Often—all of the above, causing Modeh Ani to turn into MADUAH (Why)? or MAH ACHSHAV (What now)? or a plaintive HASHIVENU (Return us)... Yes, inevitably and pretty regularly, we may find our souls yearning to be returned to the days when life was simpler, more innocent, when MODEH ANI could last throughout the day. For me the panacea to this aching of the soul has always been the remembrance of those who came before me, for it is upon their shoulders that I stand.

I remember my father, who as a young Rabbi in Nazi Germany (before my birth, so this was told to me by him and my mother) was thrown into a concentration camp as his synagogue was burned to the ground. He survived without bitterness or hatred, remaining positive and steadfast in his faith and his love for his God! The divine spark in his soul burned

Meet Our Leadership
In February 2010, after President Alan Fenning presented the idea of merging to his Board and the TBESOC community, Eilat now had three potential partners to consider. Congregation Eilat (represented by Evan, Steve, two-time former president Marty Stein, Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Committee Leslie Tatel, and other key lay leaders) and TBESOC (represented by Alan, Rabbi Peter Levi, VP Judaism in Action Charlene Zuckerman, Executive Director Al Welland, and Treasurer Jeff Greer) amicably began outlining their shared vision, generating increasing excitement on both sides as the mutual benefits of such a shidduch (arranged wedding) became apparent.

**Ten Years Ago in Our Synagogue’s History...**

The Day We Became One Community

Congregation Eilat (“Eilat”) was incorporated in March 1968. As with all long-standing synagogues, members celebrated births and marriages; families supported each other in the loss of loved ones; and children and teens learned Hebrew and grew up with a strong Jewish identity. Ten years ago, Eilat was lay-led with only part-time clergy and membership was declining. By July 2009 it was clear that the financial situation was not going to be remedied by a traditional fundraising campaign. A Strategic Planning Committee was formed, and a series of emotionally-charged town hall meetings took place to dialogue openly about various options, beginning with selling their building. By the end of 2009 Co-Presidents Evan Wohl and Steve Birch and their Board of Trustees were struggling with several possibilities: sign a lease-back agreement with a future owner; move to a smaller, affordable space in a commercial or other standalone building; combine with another synagogue; or dissolve completely. Exploratory discussions with Temple Judea in Laguna Woods (unaffiliated at the time but led by a conservative Rabbi) and Congregation B’nai Israel in Tustin (a Conservative synagogue) were in early stages when Shalom Elcott, President of Orange County Jewish Federation, called Evan to suggest what Evan remembers as “a trailblazing idea”: a merger between two different denominations, namely with Reform synagogue Temple Beth El of South Orange County (“TBESOC” founded in 1981).

**"The more I listened and thought about it [a merger with Beth El], the better it sounded." (Evan Wohl)**

This led to Wendy Lupul’s research efforts into the handful of dual-affiliated synagogues around the country at that time, contacting their leadership to learn how various synagogue activities were addressed and how the needs of both Conservative and Reform congregants were being met. Then initial conversations were held between the leadership of Eilat and TBESOC to discuss this possibility.

Through late June 2010 meetings at the board and congregational levels were held in parallel to keep everyone informed simultaneously. While Alan and other TBESOC leaders met with Leslie and Eilat’s negotiating team to resolve numerous challenges—the formal legal structure, moving, membership, affiliation, services, facility usage, Eilat’s artifacts, kashrut, education, personnel including clergy, governance, and finance, to name a few—Evan and Steve continued to take care of daily synagogue business, including the sale of their building. This was a very emotional time for Eilat.

**“We found a lot of common ground and also ways that our differences would complement each other. It was an exciting time for Congregation Eilat...and we were now planning for a successful future as part of a larger community.” (Steve Birch)**

On July 1, 2010 the Congregation Eilat membership approved the “marriage,” and on July 22 TBESOC did the same. On July 26 the Memorandum of Understanding was entered into, including the transfer of the proceeds from the sale of the Mission Viejo

“The more I listened and thought about it [a merger with Beth El], the better it sounded.” (Evan Wohl)
property, and on August 12 the Dissolution and Asset Transfer Agreement was signed.

“Surprisingly, not a single TBE[SOC] member objected to the potential deal although concerns were raised about how the Reform-Conservative mix would work and about the financial aspects of the potential deal. Several spoke emotionally in favor of going forward...I take great pride and satisfaction in having led TBE[SOC] to embrace the vision of one congregation with two forms of worship and affiliating with both the Reform and Conservative movements.” (Alan Fenning)

Some might say it was beshert (destiny, a perfect match); others might simply reflect and celebrate the shared history of our kehilah kedoshah (holy or sacred community) and legacy for future generations.

“Large enough to serve you; small enough to know you.” As Temple Beth El of South Orange County’s motto suggests, their hearts opened wide and many new relationships were formed. Both the leadership and membership of ten years ago worked hard to establish what was then a pioneering and innovative coming together of two different Jewish communities, and the result of this important milestone in Jewish South Orange County’s history is the vibrant, successful, integrated community of today—and we are still evolving. Several of Congregation Eilat’s signature programs have been happily adopted and continue to be well attended by many: the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service (which has become a tri-faith social action project), Tikkun Leil Shavuot (an all-night teaching/learning experience in celebration of receiving the Torah on Mt. Sinai), Sisterhood Shabbat (now called the Kol Isha Shabbat Service or KISS—please read Our 10th KISS for more about it), weekday minyanim (now our Tuesday evening Refuat HaNefesh service), and of course weekly Saturday morning Shabbat services in the Conservative mode of worship followed by a Kiddush lunch.

At The Samueli Center for Progressive Judaism, each individual is free to explore various pathways to connect to, practice and express their Judaism, and choose what role they play as part of the whole that is our enduring—endearing—synagogue community. And today we are thriving as THE Jewish presence in South Orange County where both Reform and Conservative Judaism can be explored and observed, flourishing together.

To experience Congregation Eilat’s journey in August 2010, we invite you to watch the following four-part series of YouTube videos (lovingly created by Wendy Lupul). It is a real treat to see so many (then) unfamiliar faces that became friends over the past decade.

1. Torah wrapping Eilat courtyard (9:31) tinyurl.com/ Torah-wrapping
2. Departing Eilat (8:48) tinyurl.com/Departing-Eilat
3. TBE[SOC] Entry (8:40) tinyurl.com/Arriving-at-TBE[SOC]

Our TBESOC community has grown and evolved in many ways since its formal inception in 1981, and these last ten years are no exception. As we prepare to celebrate our 40th anniversary in 2021, look for more articles like this one reflecting back on our history and looking forward to shaping our future.

Our 10th KISS

Many dedicated TBESOC members—including a devoted KISS Task Force—helped create our 10th annual Kol Isha Shabbat Service and Kiddush Luncheon on February 8. Here's what attendees have said about this engaging service: “It just gets better and better; you could feel all the love in the room...it brought our community together. Kol Isha at TBE has truly become one of the highlights of the year... I was so pleased to attend...not to be missed... the women of Temple Beth El of South Orange County lead a beautiful, meaningful Shabbat morning service... The service was so inclusive, meaningful and very, very special.” Surrounded by family, friends and community TBESOC women served as welcoming, warm greeters, confidently led prayers and skillfully read Torah, with many taking on new challenges and executing their parts superbly. Cantor Natalie Young inspired us with her moving and meaningful words of Torah and also led our KISS Choir. A sumptuous KISS Kiddush Luncheon, supported by the generosity of our many donors, provided a wonderful opportunity to visit with each other after services. We greeted, prayed, led, sang, ate, and schmoozed with friends old and new... all in all a great day for our community. Please contact KISS Task Force Chair Wendy Lupul at kol_isha_shabbat@cox.net if you already know what part you want for next year’s Kol Isha Shabbat Service set for January 30, 2021.
Discover and Explore Diverse Shabbat & Weekday Worship Experiences

Celebrate Shabbat in a variety of modalities and continually evolving experiences.
“Jewish ritual is a technology for our spirit.” - Rabbi K’vod Wieder

6pm Friday Kabbalat Shabbat Services*
March 13 (with Rabbi Allen Krause Scholar-in-Residence, Professor Daniel Matt), 20, 27; April 3, 17 (Unity Shabbat Service), 24; May 1, 15, 22; June 5, 12, 19, 26 (BE Sisters leading); July 10, 17, 24; August 7, 14, 28 (Scholar-in-Residence Shabbaton with Rabbi Sid Schwarz); September 4, 11, 18 (Erev Rosh Hashanah); Oct 2 (in the sukkah)

5:30pm Appetizer oneg (a time for the community to come together and visit over snacks)
6pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service
A multi-generational, joyous and participatory musical service welcoming Shabbat with dancing, community and opportunities for reflection and inspiration. The Band of Milk & Honey often plays during this service. On Shabbat Chai days, class will conclude with a musical Shabbat Walk led by Cantor Young, reminiscent of some of our favorite Jewish overnight camp memories of being “picked up” on the way to Shabbat celebrations in community. Please plan to arrive fifteen minutes early to share in the joy of “living Shabbat” with our religious school students—l’dor v’dor, from generation to generation.

Soul Spark Shabbat Services
Select Fridays, March 13, April 3, May 22
Join Rabbi K’vod, Cantor Young and guest musicians for a unique Shabbat service that weaves meditation, contemplative and evocative melodies, and mystical teachings to allow us a deeper awareness of sacred presence in ourselves and each other.

Outdoor Kabbalat Shabbat Services on the Lawn
with The Band of Milk & Honey and our Kol Haneshamah Adult Choir
Come enjoy an uplifting Shabbat of music and prayer in the fresh air with friends and family.

7:30pm Friday Traditional Reform Shabbat Services
April 10, May 8, June 26, July 31, August 21, September 25
A beautiful worship service in the mainstream Reform model using a variety of musical styles to create a warm and inviting worship experience. Kol Haneshamah (the adult choir) typically sings on the last Shabbat of the month. This service is followed be a dessert oneg, often including homemade items lovingly prepared by our Audacious Bakers.

Weekly 9am Saturday Torah Study
Explore the weekly portion in a warm and welcoming atmosphere where each participant has the opportunity to learn, listen and share. A brief lay-led service follows the study. Contact Luke Wood at jewish@3dsolarsystem.com for more information (see page 19).

Weekly 9:15am Conservative Service, except when Jerusalem Shabbat**
A high-energy, joyous, participatory service with opportunities for meditation and contemplation in a warm and intimate community. Led by our clergy and lay leadership in the Sidney Eisenberg Chapel. This service is followed by a delicious Kiddush lunch prepared by our Chop & Chat Crew.

*Bringing Shabbat Home
Select Fridays, May 29, July 3, November 27, December 25
The synagogue will be not hold a service on these dates. This is an opportunity to gather with new and old TBESOC friends and observe Shabbat—“ceasing from rest”—outside of the synagogue setting. Take advantage of this evening as an existing Small Group, or open up your home to a fellow congregant and share how YOU observe Shabbat.

**Jerusalem Shabbat: A Taste of Milk and Honey (and a little schnapps)
with Rabbi K’vod, Cantor Young and percussion accompaniment
Select Saturdays, April 18, May 9 at 9:30am in the Sidney Eisenberg Chapel
• Be absorbed in a meditative and meaningful musical journey through the morning service.
• Enjoy transliterated and fully accessible Hebrew prayer.
• Rejoice around the Torah with schnapps and sparkling cider.
• Participate in lively conversation over lunch and a spirited Birkat Hamazon (Blessing after the Meal)
March 28  Cameron Levine
April 25  Andrew Lotterman
May 16  Irving Pincus
May 23  Matthew Far-Hadian
June 13  Noah Selvan
June 27  Simon Young
August 22  Sydney Elowitz
August 29  Maya Crane

The Reform Shabbat morning service is led by our clergy and the bar/bat mitzvah student(s), enhanced with guitar accompaniment by Cantor Young, and takes place in the Pasternack Family Sanctuary. This service is open to our entire congregation.

**Special Saturday Morning Programming for Families with Young Children: Shabbat Katan**
May 9 at 10:30am
An abbreviated musical morning service and Shabbat activities designed specifically for young families (with an adult present followed by community Kiddush lunch and time to connect with others.

**Become a Teen Torah Chanting Master**
If you are a teen and want to become a more proficient Torah reader, enroll in this unique program by emailing Rabbi K’vod at kvod@tbesoc.org (see page 18 for more information).

**Refuat HaNefesh: Healing of the Soul Minyan**
Tuesdays from 6:30–7pm in the chapel
This brief lay-led service provides an opportunity to pray for family and friends who are suffering from illness—be it physical, emotional or spiritual in nature—and enables those of us who are in mourning or observing a yahrzeit to recite Mourner’s Kaddish, surrounded by the support of our TBESOC community.

This service is open to everyone—members and non-members alike. Please join us.

**Rabbi K’vod Wieder (continued)**

Covenantal Communities not only involve large numbers of congregants, but high levels of engagement—where congregants experience their synagogue as being a major component in a meaningful life and being a place where they are not only connected with others, but also feel supported in their own growth.

The first principle of Covenantal Communities is that it is a place where people feel empowered: all congregants feel like they can use their gifts and talents to enhance the programmatic vitality of the congregation. This element is already a part of our culture here at TBESOC where our high quantity of programmatic offerings match our strong involvement in committees not only in areas like Men’s Club and BE Sisters, but also Israel Matters, Meditation & Jewish Spirituality, Jewish Justice Advocacy, Jewish Life and Ritual, and many more.

The second principle of Covenantal Communities is that it is a place where people feel supported: all congregants can use their gifts and talents to enhance the programmatic vitality of the congregation. This element is already a part of our culture here at TBESOC where our high quantity of programmatic offerings match our strong involvement in committees not only in areas like Men’s Club and BE Sisters, but also Israel Matters, Meditation & Jewish Spirituality, Jewish Justice Advocacy, Jewish Life and Ritual, and many more.

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And finally, Covenantal Communities need to be mission-driven and program-aligned. Our congregation needs to have a mission statement that is a living document that inspires and challenges the members of our congregation. Our mission should articulate a purpose for being that invites us to become better people and live more meaningful lives. And all of the programs that we offer need to align with our purpose. As we begin our strategic planning process, we will engage with you to discover and express who we are and what we care about. What is the mission and purpose that speaks to the soul of this community?

In our current society, we interact with most businesses and organizations as consumers. Our interactions are transactional—where we pay our money and expect products or services to fulfill our expectations. Many of us approach our synagogue the same way. As long as we relate to our synagogue as a consumer, we will miss the opportunity for real relationship and spiritual growth because the interaction is only about ourselves. But if we choose to connect with Temple Beth El of South Orange County from a place of covenantal relationship—where our coming together is about co-creation and about giving and receiving—then we will find ourselves a part of a vibrant, dynamic Jewish People supporting each other in growing towards God.
Pesach

Passover begins Wednesday evening, April 8 and ends Thursday evening, April 16
As you prepare your home for the holiday, keep in mind that food banks are in need of donations. You can always bring your food donations to the temple collection area (in the corridor near the Adult Library). South County Outreach Food Bank will pick up these donations.

Passover Hospitality

Need a Host? Want to Host?
If you would like to host one or more members of our TBESOC extended family who do not have anyone local with whom to share Passover seder on the first night, please call the temple (949-362-3999). Likewise, if you don’t have a place to attend a seder and would like to join others from the temple, please also let us know. We will work to match everyone up and ensure that “all who are hungry” have a place to come, eat, schmooze and enjoy the mitzvah of the seder meal as it was intended to be enjoyed—together. The Conservative Pesach Guide 5780 is available online at tbesoc.org/up-coming-holidays to assist in preparing your kitchen for Passover and understanding the dietary restrictions many observe during this holiday.

Programs to Enrich the Holiday

Tuesday, March 24 at 7pm
Passover - Teachings and Practices of the Festival of Freedom
Rabbi K’vod will extend our understanding of the Passover seder and freedom, as well as share some practical ways to make our seders more meaningful.

Tuesday, March 31 at 7pm
Sephardic Passover Seder
Join BE Sisters, Cantor Shula and members of TBESOC for a Sephardic seder. Learn more about the traditions of Spain and Persia. Please see page 25 for complete details.

Yom HaSho’ah

Yom HaSho’ah, also known as Holocaust Remembrance Day, occurs on the 27th of the Hebrew month of Nisan. Shoah, which means “catastrophe” or “utter destruction” in Hebrew, refers to the atrocities that were committed against the Jewish people during World War II—the largest manifestation of antisemitism in recent history. The Shoah is also known as the Holocaust from a Greek word meaning “sacrifice by fire.”

Community Unity Shabbat

Friday, April 17
4pm Shabbat Chai
5pm A conversation about the Holocaust between generations.
Les Hajnal survived the Holocaust as a child in Hungary. The proud father of Cantor Natalie Young and grandfather of Gabriel, Alex, and Bella Young will share his legacy and lessons of his experiences with the next generation of his family and our community.

6pm Unity Shabbat
Please join us Friday evening as we celebrate Shabbat with friends, family, and other communities of faith. “So powerful is the light of community that it can illuminate the whole earth.”

Wednesday, April 1 at 9:30am
ECC Passover Exodus
Our preschool students will spend time in ancient Egypt: meeting Pharoah and Baby Moses, building pyramids, experiencing the ten plagues, baking matzah, and crossing the parted sea!

Sunday, April 5 at 5pm
Fleeing to Freedom: In Search of a Better Life
Join Jewish Justice Advocates and the interfaith community for A Passover Seder Reinterpreted to Illuminate the World Refugee Crisis (see page 22 for complete details).

Yom HaSho’ah Memorial Ceremony

Monday, April 20 at 7pm at the Merage JCC (Irvine)
Following a candle lighting ceremony, we will present Trudie Strobel: A Life in Tapestry. Trudie survived the Holocaust because her mother was a seamstress for the Nazis and sewing skills saved her life, and later became her way to overcome tragedy and spread a message of hope. Maya and Lila, two remarkable high school students from Los Angeles, discovered Trudie’s long-hidden treasury of tapestries and brought them to light by creating this unique exhibit (preview it online at tinyurl.com/A-Life-in-Tapestry.) To take part in the ceremony or if you know a Holocaust survivor whom you would like to honor with a candle lighting, please contact Debbie Meline at debbiem@jccoc.org. For more information, please visit jewishorangecounty.org.

Daytime Book Club: Yom HaSho’ah Program

Tuesday, April 21 at 11:30am in the adult library
The TBESOC Daytime Book Club will observe Yom HaSho’ah by reading Cloud of Smoke, Pillar of Fire: Judaism, Christianity, and Modernity after the Holocaust. This is an essay by Rabbi Irving “Yitz” Greenberg, one of the greatest rabbis and theologians of our generation. He explores the impact of the Holocaust on both Jewish and Christian ideas of God, and how we are to make sense of it ourselves and stay in relationship with each other. Rabbi K’vod will lead the discussion. Copies of the
Spring and Summer Jewish Holidays

Yom Hazikaron (Israel’s Memorial Day)
Monday, April 27 at 7pm at the Merage JCC (Irvine)
Shevet Tapuz (the local Israeli Scouts troop) will present their annual Erev Yom Hazikaron program, a meaningful tribute and worthwhile event for the entire community, even those who do not have a personal connection to a fallen soldier.

Israel Independence Day
Yom Ha’atzma’ut Film Screening
Wednesday, April 29 at the Merage JCC (Irvine)
6pm Israeli dinner
7pm Movie Sustainable Nation documenting Israel's solutions to its water shortage
Celebrate Yom Ha’atzma’ut with an outdoor Israeli dinner prepared by local Israeli chefs and live Israeli music. Following dinner, we will screen the award-winning film. For more information, please visit jewishorangecounty.org.

Celebrate Israel
Sunday, May 3 from 3-6pm at Irvine Hebrew Day School (Santa Ana)
The Merage Jewish Community Center, Israeli American Council, and Irvine Hebrew Day School Israel Mini Maker Faire are throwing a “bigger and better” 72nd birthday party for Israel, including live entertainment, Israeli food, games, and booths.

Lag Ba'Omer Bonfire
Monday, May 11 at 6:30pm on the basketball court, immediately following the last day of Hebrew school and All School Tfilah
Get fired up for Lag Ba'Omer! Rejoice on the 33rd day in the Omer Count in celebration of the “light” received from Jewish mystics long ago. Join our TBESOC community for a wild and festive celebration of Lag Ba'Omer Israeli style with singing and dancing around the bonfire. Enjoy a scrumptious Israeli potato bar and desserts. Bring your own blankets and beach chairs! Don’t miss this event—perfect for all ages. RSVP on the temple website by May 5; sponsored by the Israel Matters Committee.

Shavu’ot
Revelation and Torah: Traditional and Mystical Understandings
Tuesday, May 12 at 7pm
Rabbi K’vod will guide us to a deeper connection to Torah, and the teachings and practices surrounding this celebration of the Jewish People’s revelation on Mount Sinai.

Ascending the Mountain: An All Night Shavu’ot Experience
May 28–30
Tikkun Leil Shavu’ot on Thursday, May 28 starting at 7pm and continuing throughout the night
As a sacred window in time, the holiday of Shavu’ot invites us into an experience of personal and communal revelation. More than a historical moment, the story of the Israelites receiving Torah at Mount Sinai is meant to be re-experienced by us as an opportunity to receive guidance around how to live our lives more “soulfully”—with a deeper sense of purpose and meaning. Join the community of Temple Beth El of South Orange County in an all-night journey using sacred texts, stories, meditation and music to ascend the mountain of revelation to reveal a Torah that is personal, authentic, and life-giving.

Morning Conservative Services for Shavu’ot
Day 1 Friday, May 29 at 5:30am
Day 2 Saturday, May 30 at 9:15am (Yizkor)

Tishah B’Av
Wednesday, July 29 in the chapel
8pm Traditional Evening Service & traditional reading of Lamentations
On Tishah B’Av, the first and second Temples in Jerusalem were destroyed five centuries apart. Our tradition teaches that only through embracing brokenness can true healing and redemption be realized. Join us for both traditional and creative observances of this sacred time. It is a time to mourn, heal and grow as individuals and together in community.
We have wonderful opportunities for worship on these upcoming High Holy Days: Cantor Emerita Shula Kalir-Merton (in the role of rabbi), Rabbi K’vod Wieder and Cantor Natalie Young will lead Reform services with soulful music and spiritually relevant sermons in our breathtaking sanctuary, and Rabbi K’vod Wieder and Cantor Sue Deutsch will again lead our participatory Conservative services in the more intimate setting of our beautiful Sidney Eisenberg Chapel. BOTH ritual experiences create a personal and communal journey to living our lives more fully and authentically, and all four of our clergy will share their sermons in BOTH services (Conservative and Reform modes of worship). Abbreviated services for all ages, filled with music, reflection and inspired teachings, will be held in the Pasternack Family Sanctuary and last about an hour. Age-appropriate programming for children and paid childcare will also be offered throughout the High Holy Days.

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<td><strong>Rosh Hashanah Day 2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tashlich</strong></td>
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<td>Sunday, September 20</td>
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<td><strong>Kol Nidre</strong></td>
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<td>6:15pm <em>Minchah</em>, 6:30pm</td>
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<td>Sunday, September 27</td>
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<td><strong>Yom Kippur</strong></td>
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<td>1:30pm <em>Yizkor</em></td>
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<td>Monday, September 28</td>
<td>2pm Teaching: <em>The Book of Jonah</em></td>
<td>2pm Teaching: <em>The Book of Jonah</em></td>
<td>2pm Yizkor, Afternoon Service and <em>Ne’ilah</em></td>
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<td>4:30pm <em>Minchah</em>; 5:30pm <em>Ne’ilah</em></td>
<td>4:30pm <em>Minchah</em>; 5:30pm <em>Ne’ilah</em></td>
<td>6:30pm <em>Havdalah</em> &amp; Break Fast Nosh</td>
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<td>7pm <em>Havdalah</em> &amp; Break Fast Nosh</td>
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**Slichot: A Gateway to the High Holy Days**

**Saturday, September 12**
"But *tshuvah* [repentance], *tfiilah* [prayer] and *tzedakah* [charity] temper judgment’s severe decree," from *Unetaneh Tokef*, High Holy Days liturgy.
8pm Dessert reception
8:30pm *Havdalah* and Slichot Service in the rotunda

**Spiritual Preparation for the High Holy Days: Mikveh at the Beach**

**Sunday, September 13 at 9am** at Diver’s Cove (Laguna Beach)
9am Renew your spirit for the High Holidays with a communal mikveh ceremony at the beach for both men and women.

**Rosh Hashanah Services**

**Friday, September 18** Abbreviated Erev Reform and Conservative Services

**Saturday, September 19** Day 1 Reform and Conservative Services with special programming for families with young children (including paid child care), followed by *Apples & Honey*

**Sunday, September 20** Day 2 Conservative Service

**Tashlich, Picnic Dinner and Havdalah**

**Sunday, September 20 at 5:30pm** at the Dana Point Pier
Gather with fellow congregants of all ages for a morning of song, discussion and introspection in celebration of Rosh Hashanah. Just as a new year begins for the world, so too do we renew ourselves by symbolically casting away our shortcomings, wrongdoings and transgressions (against each other, the environment, etc.). This ceremony
is known as *Tashlich* (“cast off” in Hebrew) where we throw bread crumbs into a natural flowing body of water and recite biblical verses. Then we will picnic together, share in the *Havdalah* rituals, and enjoy a sweet dessert (provided). Bring your own *parve* or dairy meal (no meat) and picnic blankets.

**Yom Kippur Services**

**Sunday, September 27**  Abbreviated Kol Nidrei Reform and Conservative Services  
**Monday, September 28**  Reform and Conservative Services (including *Yizkor* with special programming for families with young children (including paid childcare); afternoon study session (with Steve Birch), and Avodah Meditation (with Rabbi K’vod and percussion accompaniment); Reform and Conservative Evening Services, concluding with *Havdalah* and break fast nosh

**Help Build Our Sukkah!**

**Sunday, September 27 at 8am**

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the opportunities to reflect on our lives and our direction for the year. The week of Sukkot is where we actualize the beginning of our year in joy. To begin this festive season, we need YOUR help to set up our sukkah! All ages are welcome to come out and participate in this wonderful mitzvah. Bring your tools with you; no skill required—just an openness to have fun and help our community.

**Tickets for Services**

**Family and Guests**

Community members, as well as parents, grandparents and siblings of our member families, are welcome at our services. High Holy Day tickets will be available for purchase for immediate family of our members (must be purchased by the temple member) as well as for non-members (online).

**Members**

Any member who has ordered High Holy Day tickets will receive them by mail during the third week of August. If you have not received them, call our office & we will arrange to leave your tickets at “will call” (just outside of the building entrance). Members attending out-of-town services should contact Myka Thompson at mthompson@tbesoc.org to arrange reciprocal tickets at another congregation.

**Personalized Name Tags**

Want a personalized name tag? Help create a more welcoming community by making yourself more approachable at services and events. Proceeds from these name tag sales benefit our Saturday morning Chapel Service Kiddush Fund. Order your personalized name tag online by September 1.

**Machzorim: High Holy Day Prayer Books**

In order to participate fully in the Reform and Conservative High Holy Day services you will need to bring your own *machzor*. We use the two-book set (silver and gold) of *Mishkan Hanefesh* for Reform Services, and the *Machzor Lev Shalem* for Conservative Services. Please plan to bring your book to every service, clearly identified as yours (book cover, initials, nameplate, etc.). Order yours online in time for the holidays.

**Book of Remembrance**

As part of the observance of Yom Kippur, we publish a *Yizkor* Book of Remembrance in which we inscribe the names of our loved ones who are no longer with us. To include your loves one(s), change your existing listing and/or make additions, please visit our website. It is customary to make a donation in memory of those who have departed. All changes/additions must be made online by September 20.

**Volunteer Ushers**

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated at all of our High Holy Day services! Please indicate your availability to usher when you purchase your tickets. All ushers participate in training prior to the holidays. Contact Myka Thompson at mthompson@tbesoc.org if you are interested in volunteering.

**Special High Holy Day Programming for Families with Young Children**

**Tot Services**

Rosh Hashanah Katan, Saturday, September 19 at 9am  
Yom Kippur Katan, Monday, September 28 at 9am  
Held in the Judith Eisenberg Youth Center (youth lounge)

**Child Care (ages 2-PreK)**

Rosh Hashanah Day 1, Saturday September 19  
Yom Kippur, Monday, September 28  
We are pleased to offer paid childcare during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services for children ages 2 PreK who are not participating in the Children’s Experiences (see below). Childcare will be held in the Early Childhood Center (ECC) classrooms. We do not include diapering. During drop-off you will be asked to provide a cell phone number for staff to contact you if your child needs to be changed. Please reserve your spot through the temple website no later than September 4 as space in the program is limited.

**Children’s Experiences (grades PreK-7)**

Rosh Hashanah Day 1, Saturday September 19 at 9:45am  
Yom Kippur, Monday, September 28 at 9:45am  
Students in PreK-7th grade will be guided through the meaning, rituals and prayers of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur with age-appropriate activities, stories, songs and a special children’s service with help from our BESTY teens. Please RSVP on the temple website by September 4. If you have any questions please contact Wendy Yesharim, Program Director, at wyesharim@tbesoc.org or 949 362-3999 x214.

Childcare is also available on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur mornings as early as 8:30am. Please let us know to expect your child!
Jewish Life and Rituals Committee presents: Summertime Havdalah
Date, time and location TBD

Come celebrate the tradition of awakening our five senses as we say goodbye to Shabbat and rejoice in song at our community Havdalah service. After sunset enjoy the taste of sweet wine, smell the spices, see and feel the candle flame, and hear the beautiful blessings. Everyone welcome! Bring your acoustic guitar and join us in song and prayer. Look for details in the weekly newsletter in July.

The scope of the Jewish Life and Rituals Committee (JLRC) is as follows:
• Audacious Hospitality*: all ritual events are designed to allow participants feel welcome, regardless of difference, and to build relationships with each other.
• Spirituality: all ritual events strive to help connect participants with meaning, purpose and connection to something greater than themselves.
• Tradition: all ritual events are guided by the wisdom of our Jewish sages, even as they are interpreted by us today. This element is distinguished from the value of “familiarity” which ensures that participants do what they are accustomed to doing.
• Accessibility: all ritual events are designed for all congregants to participate, regardless of Jewish knowledge or Hebrew skills.
• Participation: all ritual events allow and encourage participation, whether encouraging congregation to sing, allowing people to lead portions of the service and ritual, or creating space for people to share their thoughts and experiences.

Please contact Mark Adler, Committee Chair, at mvguy2000@yahoo.com to volunteer on this committee.

Celebrate Your Next Event in Aliso Viejo!
Centrally located in South Orange County, our building has a range of rooms to accommodate your next simchah or business event—from intimate classrooms starting at only $50/2 hours, to our banquet hall that accommodates 250 guests. Other venues include our upstairs outdoor terrace, ground floor patio, large outdoor turf lawn with stage and adjacent full-size basketball court, and many indoor conference and library/lounge spaces.

Need help planning your next event? Call Linda Lander, Event Coordinator, at 949-362-3999 x401 or email her at jel6351@cox.net for personalized assistance.

Cantor Shula Kalir-Merton (continued)

firmly at all times! I also think about his mother and father, my grandparents whom I never met, because Auschwitz butchered them before they could escape to Israel. Their poverty was so severe that they and their eight children survived on taking on laundry and selling haberdasheries door to door. Yet, no one went hungry and the Shabbat meal was always abundant and filled with love. Yet, my grandmother never ate, making sure that the family did not perceive any shortage. They too loved their God, and fueled their divine spark with that devotion. I also think about my father’s grandfather, who in spite of frailty, ill health, and abject poverty delighted in teaching his grandson Torah and Talmud, preparing him for a bar mitzvah that may have been modest in material evidence (a Thursday service with one delicious honey cake to share among the minyan), but filled with the light of Torah and God’s presence.

Ultimately, I think about that which we must all remember: namely that my stories are the stories of many, indeed the story of our people throughout the centuries. That each morning’s MODEH ANI prayer is no guarantee that life will be smooth sailing, but a “shot in the arm” to boost our spiritual energy—indeed our ever-rented soul to welcome, to tackle, and to meet the challenges that are sure to appear. Above all, it is a reminder that WE ARE NEVER ALONE! We have entire tribes of loved ones’ souls accompanying our every day, like an orchestra playing melodies that embrace us with love and encouragement, with the Divine Orchestrator leading the way! So, upon awakening each morning, reach for the siddur on your nightstand and “Strike Up The Band” with MODEH ANI! It really does change the texture of the day!...
A Message from Program Director, Wendy Yesharim
Wendy has been a part of TBESOC education programs since the opening of the Early Childhood Center. Her youngest two children participated in the preschool program. As an early childhood educator she quickly became part of the faculty. Wendy has taught our parent and me, transitional, toddler and in our religious programs. During her time in the classroom Wendy takes pride in bringing a love for learning, Judaism, positive first school experiences, and insuring that every child feels special and loved. In addition to her time in the classroom, in 2016 Wendy became a part of the Temples leadership team as Religious School program director and B’nai Mitzvah coordinator. This past year Wendy has stepped into the Early Childhood Director position and is looking forward to growing both the Religious School and Early Childhood Center.

Led by experienced and caring teachers with a low teacher/student ratio (no larger than 7:1), our programs include:
• Parent/toddler classes for 7-24 months of age
• Preschool program for 2-year-olds to PreK/TK
• Before-school Breakfast Buddies
• After-school Snack Club
• Dynamic after-school enrichment classes such as Music and Movement, Mini Art Masters, Junior Chefs, STEM Superstars, and Amazing Athletes!

For more information about how the ECC can enrich your child’s Jewish learning, contact Wendy Yesharim, Program Director, at wyesharim@tbesoc.org or 949-362-3999 x214, or visit our website at tbesoc.org/early-childhood-center.

Upcoming Events

Shabbat Katan: Saturday Morning Programming for Families with Young Children
May 9 at 10:30am
An abbreviated musical morning service and Shabbat activities designed specifically for families with young children (with an adult present) including a Torah parade, community Kiddush lunch, and time to connect with others.

Open-to-Join Wednesday Morning Mah Jongg from 9:15-11am
Meet up with ECC parents and other congregants who love mahj on Wednesday mornings in the children’s library. Bring your group of four and your cards; sets are always available in the children’s library.

Family Gatherings
Friday, March 20 at 9:30am Saba and Savta in the Early Childhood Center - Grandparents and Grand-friends are invited to spend Shabbat morning beginning with a morning treat with our clergy, celebrating Shabbat with the ECC children, and enjoying some special time in the classroom.

Wednesday, June 3 at 9:30am Moving On Up Ceremony in the Pasternack Family Sanctuary

Friday, August 21 at 9:30 am ECC Shabbat Meet & Greet in the Sidney Eisenberg Chapel

Monday, August 24 at 9:30am Bagel Nosh and first day of fall classes

Passover
Wednesday, April 1 at 9:30am ECC Passover Exodus - Our preschool students will participate in a walk through Passover Exodus: meeting Pharoah and Baby Moses, working hard to build pyramids, exploring all the plagues, baking matzah, and crossing the parted sea!
Thursday, April 9 at 5:30pm Second Night Seder

Rosh Hashanah
Sunday, September 20 at 5:30pm Tashlich, Picnic Dinner and Havdalah at the Dana Point Pier

Holiday Celebrations

Friday, October 2 Pizza in the Hut (Dinner in the Sukkah)

Saturday, October 10 Family Simchat Torah Celebration and Glow Party

Sunday, November 22 Interfaith Thanksgiving hosted by TBESOC

Friday, December 11 Chanukah-Palooza

SAVE THESE DATES!

ECC PTO
To become involved in the ECC Parent Teacher Organization, an auxiliary for ECC parents and guardians (both temple members and non-members) dedicated to supporting and enhancing our early childhood program, contact Wendy Yesharim at wyesharim@tbesoc.org or 949-362-3999 x214. Meetings are held all year long on the first Wednesday of every month at 9:15am.

All of these programs are open to children of all races, religions and national origins. In adherence to the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), our programs do not discriminate based on a child’s disability. We strive to offer reasonable accommodations to enable children with disabilities to be fully included in our programs.
Aron and Sala Samueli Religious School

Monday Hebrew School runs from 4:30-6:30pm
Friday Shabbat Chai starts promptly at 4pm

Shabbat Chai schedule:
4pm Grade-level learning with an area for parents to schmooze and nosh—and play mahj.
6pm Welcome Shabbat together during Friday night Shabbat services in the sanctuary
• PreK-2nd grade: Parents pick up their students in the classroom at 5:50pm
• 3rd-7th grade: Parents meet students in the Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Jewish learning is an exciting endeavor that continues throughout our lives. Our mission is to educate both children and adults in the beliefs and practices of Judaism so that they will feel passion and pride in being Jewish. Participating in an educational climate, our students can discover and cultivate his/her own strong and lasting Jewish identity. At the Temple Beth El of South Orange County and Aron and Sala Religious School, our goal is simple: learn through authentic leadership, prayer knowledge, rituals and holiday observances. We invite you to join us in building community with each other. Together we will nurture bonds of friendship as our kids develop a sense of belonging to our temple community and the Jewish People. By engaging in Torah with our faculty, our children learn about our traditions and how it can make their lives more meaningful. Celebrating Shabbat together, our kids have an opportunity to sing, pray, dance and feel the joy of Shabbat as a family. Shabbat Chai Friday evening services are an integral part of the Shabbat Chai curriculum.

All of our events are on a Google Calendar and on the grade level tabs on the temple website at tbesoc.org/religious-school.

Wendy Yesharim, Program Director/B’nai Mitzvah Coordinator
wyesharim@tbesoc.org and 949-362-3999 x214

**Upcoming Events and B’nai Mitzvah Services**

**Friday, March 27**
3rd and 4th Grade Family Shabbat Experience and Dinner: 3rd/4th grade parents. please join your student at 4pm for Shabbat Chai.

**Saturday, March 28**
Cameron Levine Bar Mitzvah

**Thursday April 9**
Passover Second Night Seder

**Friday, April 17**
Shabbat Chai Holocaust Conversation Shabbat Chai 5th-7th grade students and families will spend an afternoon learning about the Holocaust and participating in an interview with a Holocaust survivor.

**Saturday, April 25**
Andrew Lotterman Bar Mitzvah

**Monday, May 11 5:15-6:15pm**
All School Tfilah
We invite the community to join our 3rd-7th grade students on the last day of Hebrew School as they lead us in a short service and answer relevant questions brought by our interfaith clergy partners. The service will be followed by our community Lag Ba’Omer Bonfire on the basketball court.

**Friday, May 15**
Last Shabbat Chai, Siyum Celebration and Mitzvah Recognition Shabbat
4pm
Last Shabbat Chai, Siyum Celebration and Mitzvah Recognition Shabbat
Parents enjoy community happy hour with a heavy oneg while students close out the year with their classmates.

5:20pm
Parents are invited to celebrate our students and teachers in this Culmination Program.

6pm
Join us for a Kabbalat Shabbat Service that incorporates our student leaders! A Friday evening Shabbat service and dinner celebrating our teen leaders, the work of the 8th Grade Tzedakah Board, and graduating seniors. During the 7th grade Mitzvah Project Showcase, our teens will be recognized for their commitment, creativity, teaching skills, ability to connect with younger students, and contributions to the community.

**Camp Kohavim**
Summer programming for children ages 7 months to entering Kindergarten

Eight one-week sessions with a different theme each week:

- **Session 1 June 15-19** Music to my Ears (Drum circle)
- **Session 2 June 22-26** 3-2-1 Blast Off (Planetarium comes to ECC)
- **Session 3 June 29-July 2** USA (Firework Picnic) - There will be no camp on Friday, July 3.
- **Session 4 July 6-10** Down on the Farm (w/visit from the Petting Zoo)
- **Session 5 July 13-17** Up, Up, and Away (Incredible Bubble Show)
- **Session 6 July 20-24** Magic of Reading (Dr. Seuss Magic Show)
- **Session 7 July 27-31** Olympics (ECC wins Gold field day)
- **Session 8 Aug 3-7** Summer Fun (Beach Party)

Each week will also include special in-house guests and field trips on Wednesdays. Full- and half-day classes available as well as before- and after-school care.

Wendy Yesharim, Program Director/B’nai Mitzvah Coordinator
wyesharim@tbesoc.org and 949-362-3999 x214
**High Holy Days**

**Saturday, September 19**
- Rosh Hashanah Children’s Experience, followed by **Apples & Honey**
- Tashlich, Picnic Dinner and Havdalah at the Dana Point Pier
  - Help build our temple **sukkah**!
  - Yom Kippur Children’s Experience

**Sunday, September 20**
- Pizza in the Hut (Dinner in the Sukkah)

**Sunday, September 27**
- Interfaith Thanksgiving hosted by TBESOC

**Monday, September 28**
- Chanukah-Palooza

**Friday, October 2**
- **Hebrew Boot Camp**
  - August 3–6 from 10am-12pm
  - A Hebrew intensive camp for ALL students grades 4-7 wanting to catch up and refresh before the start of the new school year. Contact Wendy Yesharim, Program Director, at wyesharim@tbesoc.org to enroll, or with any questions about TBESOC Religious School programming.

**Saturday, October 10**
- Family Simchat Torah Celebration and Glow Party

**Sunday, October 11**
- Chanukah-Palooza

**Friday, October 28**
- **Hebrew School**

**Saturday, November 22**
- Interfaith Thanksgiving hosted by TBESOC

**Monday, November 23**
- **Hebrew School**

**Friday, December 11**
- **Chanukah-Palooza**

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**Upcoming B’nai Mitzvah**

- **Saturday, May 16** - Irving Pincus
- **Saturday, May 23** - Matthew Far-Hadian
- **Saturday, June 13** - Noah Selvan
- **Saturday, June 27** - Simon Young
- **Saturday, August 22** - Sydney Elovitz
- **Saturday, August 20** - Maya Crane

*Each bar/bat mitzvah student will lead a portion of the Reform Shabbat morning service along with our clergy, enhanced with guitar accompaniment by Cantor Young. This service is open to our entire congregation—all religious school students and their families are encouraged to attend—and takes place in the Pasternack Family Sanctuary at 10am.

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**Religious School Education Committee**

Do you want to have more impact on your child(ren)’s religious education at TBESOC? Join and/or give feedback through our Religious School Education Committee! Our mission is to:

- Support the goals of the Aron and Sala Religious School
- Promote school programming
- Facilitate and improve communication between the religious school and its families
- Strengthen our temple community through a positive, successful religious school experience

This team of parents supports students, clergy and staff by working to find ways to make the religious education program meaningful, educational, inspiring and fun.

Melissa Roye and Julie Fingersh are co-chairs for this committee. Meetings occur quarterly in February, April, August and October. Reach out to Melissa Roye at melmo3@yahoo.com, or Julie Fingersh at julesif@yahoo.com, to learn more about us and how your family can participate.

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**Hebrew School**

- **August 28**
- **December 11**

**2020-2021 School Year**

- **Shabbat Chai dates only:** March 27; April 17, 24; May 15 and during the 2020-2021 school year
- Meet up with Shabbat Chai parents and other congregants who love mahj on **Friday afternoons** just off the rotunda. Bring your group of four and your cards; sets are always available in the children’s library.

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**Open-to-Join Friday Afternoon Mah Jongg from 4-5:30pm**

- **February, April, August and October**

**2020-2021 School Year**

- **Shabbat Chai starts Friday, August 28**
- **Hebrew School starts Monday, October 5**

2020-2021 Religious School information will be available online beginning **March 27**. Currently enrolled families will be re-enrolled for next year and have the opportunity to confirm their information in person during Hebrew School/Shabbat Chai on **March 27/30**. New students can register online or contact Wendy directly at wyesharim@tbesoc.org or 949-362-3999 x214.

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The Aron & Sala Samuelsa Religious School will be offering all new programs in the **2020-2021 school year**. These programs have been created to meet the needs of our growing and diverse community. In addition to Shabbat Chai, Monday Hebrew and B’nai Mitzvah courses, we are excited to offer two new programs:

- **Monday afternoons:** "Hebrew for Young Children” class for students in grades K-2
- **Tuesday afternoons:** We will make Judaism come alive in a series of Chuggim (electives) for students in 3rd-7th grades, exploring our traditions through, dance, art, cooking and more.

**tbesoc.org**
Meet Our Religious School Educators

Sarah Zidbeck Shabbat Chai Kindergarten Teaching Assistant
This is my first year as an official member of the TBESOC teaching staff. I remember being a kid in these classes, and I love being able to give back to my amazing and supportive community by creating a fun and kind place like the one I had as a kid. When I’m not at temple, my passions are drawing and painting. I love musical theatre, playing video games and watching TV shows with my family, and hanging out with my two dogs and my fish. I love meringues and bagels, and my favorite movie is Bohemian Rhapsody.

Shayna Shane Shabbat Chai 2nd Grade Teacher
In the classroom I am able to be part of the children’s learning about what being a Jew means. Everyday day I learn something about myself working with young children. Working at TBESOC has made me love being Jewish; it is such a supportive environment that allows children to grow into proud adults who also love being Jewish. When I’m not at temple, I am “the super nanny” for a wonderful family with 2 children, out and about with my lovely mother, or in the “hot room” practicing Bikram Yoga.

Nikki Spearman Shabbat Chai PreK/Kindergarten Teacher
I love working with the kids and getting to know families! It’s extra special for me that my kindergartener is in my Shabbat Chai class. My favorite thing about Judaism is the community and I love being a part of that and watching the kids grow up. I teach babies so they do funny stuff all the time! I love watching them learn to talk to each other, share toys and sing songs. When I’m not at the temple, I’m schlepping my three young daughters around between school and activities. And I love cheesecake!

Michal Elkayam Shabbat Chai 5th/Hebrew Gimel Teacher
I was born and raised in Haifa, served in the Israeli Air Force, have a BA in social work from Haifa University and a MA in counseling from Cal State Fullerton. Working with kids has always been my passion. It is as rewarding as it is challenging. When I’m not at temple I enjoy art, cooking and spending time with my family at home or going on trips. My two favorite sweet treats are Lindt Lindor and Bueno chocolate bars.

Lauren Gelb Kindergarten Teaching Assistant
I grew up going to preschool and kindergarten here at TBESOC, and then went through the Hebrew and religious school programs as well. I’ve always loved little kids, and spending time with them every Shabbat Chai is what I enjoy most about the program! Something I’ve learned from being a teacher here is how much ways to express our Judaism. When I’m not at temple, I’m spending time with my friends and family, watching Doctor Who or Downton Abbey, or reading. I love dark chocolate and pumpkin-flavored things.

Shira Greenbaum Shabbat Chai Teaching Assistant
My many summers at URJ Camp Swig/Newman are what lit the fire in me to teach Jewish education. I always looked forward to heading to camp each summer, and I remain close friends with many of my camp friends today.

Ethan Cortes Shabbat Chai and Hebrew 4th/5th Madrich
I am currently a student at Aliso Niguel High School. Over the past three years that I have been involved at TBESOC, I have found a family and a community that I feel very connected to and grown to love. When I’m not at temple, I enjoy playing golf and spending time with friends.

Levi Wieder 3rd Grade Assistant Teacher
I’ve been at TBESOC for eight years. I’ve always loved mentoring younger children and I used to volunteer in the classrooms, and this is my first year as a teacher. I love my kids, and my coworkers are all very friendly and relaxed. When I’m not at temple I’m hanging out with friends or reading.

Yael Weinberger-Butler Shabbat Chai 3rd Grade/Hebrew Alef Teacher
I was raised in Israel near Haifa. Before receiving my degree in social work from Newman are what lit the fire in me to teach Jewish education. I always looked forward to heading to camp each summer, and I remain close friends with many of my camp friends today.

Sandy Rothenberg Shabbat Chai 5th Grade/Hebrew Gimel Teacher
My students have taught me that it is hard to define why and how Jews believe in God, and that there are many wonderful
Meet Our Religious School Educators

Barbara Rheingold-Gerlicki Hebrew Specialist
I have been a teacher at TBESOC since 1985, when my older son was in Kindergarten, and receive much nachas (pride/pleasure) from seeing generations of my former TBESOC students and madrichim (teenage assistants) become Religious School and Hebrew teachers themselves. I am known for telling “corny” jokes and using mnemonics to help students learn to read Hebrew prayers. I like dark chocolate.

Chloe Berg Madrichah
I decided to become a Madrichah last year because I wanted another way to feel more connected with the community besides being a part of the BESTY youth group. It’s a great feeling to teach the little ones about our religion and help them understand and share appreciation for our culture. When I’m not at temple, I’m at the beach with my friends!

Lilith Lainer Madrichah
I am in high school and homeschooled. I enjoy photography, literature and psychology. I also love teaching and volunteering.

Russel Winkler 4th Grade Assistant Teacher
This is my first year as a Jewish educator after having been participating in the teachings and traditions of TBESOC since 1998. Being able to share knowledge and experiences with the next generation allows me to return to the temple what it gave to me: a Jewish identity. I look forward to helping our students shape their own Jewish identities while connecting to the TBESOC community in a new way.

Arad Elkayam Madrich
I am a senior at Trabuco Hills High School. The thing I enjoy most about teaching in the TBESOC religious school program is all the unique and individual students, as well as my coworkers and newfound friends. When I’m not at temple, I’m planning, attending, or hosting a Dungeons and Dragons campaign or playing bass. My favorite movie is Spiderman: Into the Spider-verse.

Chavva Olander Shabbat Chai 6th/7th Grade and Hebrew Dalet/Hay Teacher and Hebrew Tutor
I have been a member of TBESOC for 25 years. One of the most important lessons I’ve learned in my time at TBESOC is that there are many ways to connect to Judaism. When I’m not at temple, I’m spending time with my kids, working at my other jobs, or working to finish my philosophy degree. My favorite movie is just about anything by Darren Aronofsky, especially Mother! and Requiem for a Dream.

Kelly Olshane ECC and Shabbat Chai 1st Grade Teacher
I have been teaching at the ECC for 12 years. I love teaching because “when I had a child of my own, I realized I didn’t want to go back to corporate America. I had a desire to be around [young] children and there are tremendous rewards, including watching a child grow academically, socially and emotionally. This job is so rewarding.”

Debbie Grinacoff Shabbat Chai 2nd Grade Teacher
Shabbat Chai allows me the opportunity to teach children the Jewish values I taught my own children. When preparing for each session, I make sure to incorporate all modalities in order to reach each and every child in a caring, nurturing environment filled with meaningful activities that bring forth Jewish knowledge—and there is a lot of laughter while we learn. When I’m not at temple, I’m at the beach, lake or gardening. I love to bake and walk my dog. My favorite movie is The Wizard of Oz.

Michael Stern 5th Grade Teaching Assistant
TBESOC has fostered a wonderful community of students who are not only passionate about Judaism and take their studies seriously, but also engaging, creative and fun to work with! Recently, when I was substituting for 3rd grade Shabbat Chai and we visited the prophet gallery, I had thought-provoking conversations with a couple of students about what it means to be a modern prophet. When I’m not at temple, I’m cheering on the Angels and the Lakers. My favorite sweet treats are cookies and ice cream.

Beth Parker ECC and Shabbat Chai PreK/Kindergarten Teacher [not pictured]
I absolutely love teaching and being a part of this community. Through teaching, I have learned how much I CAN learn by listening to even the smallest AND youngest of our kiddos. Kids are so funny and so smart and they make me laugh on a daily basis. When I’m not at temple, I’m enjoying friends and family. I enjoy exercising, paddle boarding, sailing and kayaking as often as I possibly can. My favorite movies are romantic comedies and I will never pass up a frozen banana or cotton candy.

Gabriel Young 5th Grade Teaching Assistant [not pictured]
The reason I love teaching is because I get tired just as much from my students as I teach them. I’ve learned some extremely valuable skills, and have been able to refine my teaching skills for each individual student, and what their needs require. My favorite moment teaching was when I first introduced the game of Sparkle to my students. Now it is one of their favorite games, and they look forward to playing in every class! My favorite ice cream flavor is cookie dough.

Wendy Yesharim Program Director, ECC and Religious School/B’nai Mitzvah Coordinator [pictured on p. 13]
I have been a part of TBESOC education programs since the opening of the Early Childhood Center, and I have taught our parent and me, transitional, toddler and religious school classes. I love to be a part of families’ growth and connection to community from the time they walk through our doors. When I’m not at temple, I’m cooking, baking and spending time with my family. My favorite snack is chips and salsa, and for dessert anything with apples or fresh sorbetto!

Irina Rogel-Wieder Shabbat Chai 4th Grade/Hebrew Bet Teacher
I received my MFA in theatre in dance and worked in LA as a motion-capture and theatrical actress for over ten years. During that time I was also teaching Hebrew and yoga lessons. As a student of Torah, I integrate Jewish teaching in my classes. My background in theater comes in handy when teaching Hebrew in fun and creative ways.

Bottom: Russel, Chavva, Kelly; Top: Arad, Debbie, Michael, Ilana
A soulful place for friends, fun, and becoming the leader you were meant to be.
BESTY is an awesome opportunity to discover the depths of Jewish community through developing bonds and strengthening friendships with other teens. Through periodic socials and events—including a couple of major retreats—our teens have many diverse pathways into Jewish engagement that are both meaningful and fun. Our teen leadership board and clergy team are deeply committed to creating an inclusive space where each person’s unique presence and contributions are valued. This year our BESTY Board Members are:

- **Co-Presidents:** Ethan Cortes, Ethan Engler, Gabriel Young
- **Programming VP:** Lilith Lanier
- **Social Action VPs:** Ella Levi, Sophia Roye
- **Religious & Cultural VPs:** Hannah Spector, Levi Wieder
- **Membership VP:** Chloe Berg
- **Communications VP:** Jane Griffin
- **Fundraising and Financial VPs:** Tamara Cortes, Lily Lustig, Talia Penzell
- **Songleading VP:** Jaidan Kiefer

Contact Jesse Arzt, Youth Director, at jesse.arzt@gmail.com with any questions about our teen programming. Registration for this fall will open in the spring. Check the website for details!

**Madrichim**
Select Mondays from 4:30-6:30pm (Hebrew) and/or Fridays from 4-7pm (Shabbat Chai)
Become a mentor and build relationships with younger students with this opportunity to stay connected to your Shabbat community, help out in classrooms, and earn service hours while doing a mitzvah. Join our Hebrew School and/or Shabbat Chai leadership team by contacting Wendy Yesharim, Program Director, at wyesharim@tbesoc.org.

**Become a Teen Torah Chanting Master**
Learn how to let our 3,000 year old sacred text effortlessly flow through you in the melody of our ancestors. The key to success is motivation and practice. If you are a teen and want to take your bar or bat mitzvah to the next step in becoming a Torah reader in our Saturday morning prayer community, then this program is for you! Enroll any time during the year by emailing Rabbi K’vod at kvod@tbesoc.org and earn rewards based on the number of **aliyot** you have completed chanting during services. By enrolling in this program you are also welcome to make an appointment with Rabbi K’vod to get help with your chanting.

**8th Grade Tzedakah Board**
Fridays during Shabbat Chai - A new cohort will begin with the 2020-2021 school year on August 28.
Tzedakah Board is a philanthropic foundation of 8th graders who commit time outside of school to engage in questions of how to fix our broken world. In this influential and dynamic program, participants learn about historical Jewish wisdom and contemporary Jewish teachings regarding charitable giving, social change and financial literacy. More details about this unique program can be found on our website at tbesoc.org/besty-teens.

**Upcoming Events**

**Graduation and Mitzvah Recognition Evening**
Friday, May 15 at 6pm
A Friday evening Shabbat service and dinner celebrating our teen leaders, the work of the 8th Grade Tzedakah Board, and graduating seniors. During the 7th grade Mitzvah Project Showcase, our teens will be recognized for their commitment, creativity, teaching skills, ability to connect with younger students, and contributions to the community.

**B’tzalel Arts & Music Festival 2020: Seeds of Peace - L’takein et HaOlam (Healing the World)**
Sunday, May 31 at 1pm outside on the Temple Beth El of South Orange County campus
Join us, along with other participating congregations, for a fabulous afternoon of art, music, theatre and fun! Come celebrate the amazing creations of all our artists who participated in our workshops, and explore your own creativity at some of our hands-on stations! The day will include musical performances by professional and community groups on the green stage, art class displays, cooking class tasting station, play & learn village for kids, silent auction, and artist crafts fair. This will be a wonderful community event you won’t want to miss!

**Dinner, Movie and BESTY Campout Under the Stars**
Overnight from Saturday, June 27 at 7pm–Sunday, June 28 at 8am
Celebrate the end of a fantastic year with your BESTY besties! Details will be posted on our website.

**CHILDSPREE**
August 14 at 9am at the temple
Volunteer to stuff backpacks
August 16 at 8am at Macy’s (at The Shops at Mission Viejo)
Chaperone a foster child for Back-to-School clothes shopping (see page 22 for more information).

**Spring Retreat**
NFTY SOCAL Spring Kallah
April 24–26 at Camp Alonim (Simi Valley) for grades 8-12
Spring Kallah is an immersive, weekend camp retreat focused on welcoming 8th graders and saying farewell to our seniors. Begin with a special teen-led musical tfilah and an innovative and engaging mixer experience, and spend the weekend “unplugged” at beautiful Camp Alonim. Registration opens March 8 with incremental pricing through April 12 at tinyurl.com/NFTYSpring.
Learn

World of Judaism: Adult Education

Select Tuesdays at 7pm
Learning with others allows us to live our Jewish value of Talmud Torah. Whether you can pop in for one class or make it to the entire series, we invite you to stimulate your lifelong love for Judaism and learning by participating in any/all of the following discussions:

Passover: Teachings and Practices of the Festival of Freedom
with Rabbi K’vod Wieder
March 24
Passover commemorates the story of the Israelites’ journey from slavery to freedom through the Exodus story. This session will examine some of the core insights of the holiday about freedom and the ritual practices that are associated with the holy day. In addition to intellectual understandings, we will introduce some practical ideas to make our seders more meaningful.

Shabbat: Traditional and Creative Observance
with Rabbi K’vod Wieder and Cantor Emerita and Interim Clergy Shula Kalir-Merton
April 14, 28
Shabbat is more than a day of rest—it is day of increased awareness, renewal, and fulfillment. Our tradition has deep insights into how to make Shabbat a regular source of strength and connection in our lives. In these two sessions, we will learn traditional Shabbat practices and how they help us engage deeper with ourselves and with each other. We will also explore how creative Shabbat observance embodies the spirit of our tradition as it meets us in the 21st century.

Cousins at the Table: The Consequences and Opportunities of Living as a Religious Minority in the U.S.
with Rabbi K’vod Wieder and Imam Tarik Ata
April 21
The second session in this series will explore Jewish and Muslim perspectives on the consequences and opportunities of living as a religious minority in the U.S. Besides hearing from our spiritual leaders, this session will be an opportunity for Jews and Muslims to discuss and learn more about each other’s traditions in small groups.

Shavu’ot: Revelation and Torah - Traditional and Mystical Understandings
with Rabbi K’vod Wieder
May 12
Being one of the three pilgrimage festivals, Shavuot is one of the major moments in sacred Jewish time where we explore the deeper meanings of the revelation of Torah on Mount Sinai. Besides learning the teachings and practices of the holiday, this session will be an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of what Torah is and how it can guide our lives.

with Cantor Emerita and Interim Clergy Shula Kalir-Merton, Cantor Natalie Young and Cantor Sue Deutsch
May 26; June 9, 23
Our prayer liturgy and synagogue practices have the opportunity to be meaningful technologies of the spirit. And for many of us we struggle with the language of the prayers—even in English—to express our deepest truths and yearnings. These three sessions will introduce us to the deep logic of our prayer services, and how they can support us in living our own personal and spiritual journeys more fully.

Spiritual Preparation for the High Holidays: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur
with Cantor Emerita and Interim Clergy Shula Kalir-Merton
August 4, 18
Many of us come to synagogue with much expectation for the High Holy Days and are not sure what is expected of us spiritually. What is the inner reflection we are asked to engage in? How does the High Holy Day liturgy help us connect deeper with our truths and aspirations? This session will be an exploration of the major spiritual concepts of the High Holy Days and an understanding of the prayers so that our experience in synagogue has the potential to be transformational.

Future Topics Include:
September 22, 29  Sukkot and Simchat Torah: Accessing Wellsprings of Joy
October 13   Lifecycles: Birth and B’nai Mitzvah
October 27   Lifecycles: Marriage and Death
November 10  The Denominations: Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, and Reconstructionist
November 24  The World of Jewish Sacred Text: An Exploration of How Scripture Creates Tradition
December 8   Two Faces of Chanukah: Jewish Identity and Spirituality

Please check our website at tbesoc.org/adult-education for updates throughout the coming months.

Shabbat Morning Torah Study Group
Saturdays at 9am
Explore the weekly portion in a warm and welcoming atmosphere where each participant has the opportunity to learn, listen and share. The Torah Study Group provides its members and guests an opportunity to deepen their understanding of Torah in a safe and welcoming community which values respect for different perspectives and civility toward all. We value diverse opinions on the parashah being studied, including those not emanating from Judaism. Please join us in study any Saturday morning; a brief lay-led service follows the study. Contact Luke Wood at jewish@3dsolarsystem.com for more information.

SAVE THE DATE: Torah Study in the Sukkah
Saturday, October 3 from 9am–12pm
We will have a pot luck dairy brunch following this study session.

tbesoc.org
Learn

Rabbi Sid Schwarz: Scholar-in-Residence

Friday, August 28

5:30pm Appetizer oneg
6pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service
7:15pm Dinner and speaker

Re-Imagining the American Synagogue
Rabbi Sid’s book, Finding a Spiritual Home: How a New Generation of Jews can Transform the American Synagogue, helped to shape the synagogue transformation efforts of the past two decades. In this presentation Rabbi Sid will share insights about how to re-think the paradigm of the American Synagogue in a way that might help congregations do a better job of engaging the next generation of American Jews.

Saturday, August 29

9:15am Abridged Shabbat Morning Service
10:30am Out of the Box Shabbat Service Experience
You should attend this prayer experience if: a) you are often bored at services; b) you have no idea why anyone would willingly attend a worship service; c) you are a deeply spiritual person but services don’t always work for you; d) you want to go where prayerful Jews have never gone before. Through discussions, song, movement and sharing, participants—from young to old—will walk away with a new appreciation for the Shabbat liturgy and the transformative power of prayer. This experience will not include a Torah service.

Important note: If you want to participate in this experience, you must be in your seat by 10:30am (start time). While people may leave whenever they choose, it will be impossible to appreciate or understand the experience if you are not there at the beginning.

12pm Lunch

What is Prayer? Talk Back and Text Study
This will be a chance to reflect on the morning’s prayer experience with Rabbi Sid through the prism of classical rabbinic texts on prayer. It will challenge your assumptions about what forms of worship are closer to the intentions of the rabbinic tradition.

Biography
Rabbi Sid Schwarz is a social entrepreneur, author and teacher. He is currently a Senior Fellow at Hazon: The Jewish Lab for Sustainability, a national organization based in New York.

Rabbi Sid founded and led PANIM: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values for 21 years; its work centered on integrating Jewish learning, Jewish values and social responsibility. He is also the founding rabbi of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation in Bethesda, MD where he continues to teach and lead services. Dr. Schwarz holds a PhD in Jewish history and is the author of two groundbreaking books: Finding a Spiritual Home: How a New Generation of Jews Can Transform the American Synagogue (Jewish Lights, 2000) and Judaism and Justice: The Jewish Passion to Repair the World (Jewish Lights, 2006).

Rabbi Sid directs The Clergy Leadership Incubator (CLI), a program that trains rabbis to be visionary spiritual leaders. He also created and directs the Kenissa: Communities of Meaning Network which is identifying, convening and building the capacity of emerging new models of Jewish identity and community across the country.

Cantor Natalie Young (continued)

I just returned with thirteen of our teens from Washington, D.C. for a four day Social Justice Seminar called L’Taken sponsored by the RAC (Religious Action Council).

With other teens from around the country, they looked at how the Reform Movement applies Jewish perspectives to mobilize around issues and learned ways to advocate for the things they are passionate about. It was really inspiring to see our teens so empowered as they worked together to create speeches for lobbying on Capitol Hill. They learned about all of the important components of the speech, starting with sharing facts about their particular issue and why they felt it was important for the country to address it. I was moved to see the strength and courage they had as they shared personal stories, bringing vulnerability and humanity to issues that have become so politicized that sometimes we forget about how they personally impact people in our community. Among other things, they shared about struggles with mental health, and the fear and anxiety around gun violence (some of whom had experienced it personally through the loss of friends). Teens spoke out about many difficult issues and shared how current legislation affects them personally, using Jewish texts and values to not only support their views, but also to personalize the connection. The final part of their speech needed to conclude with an “ask.” What was it they were asking of that member of Senate or Congress?

For many generations, kids were meant to be seen and not heard, their voices silenced or ignored. No longer is that the case. We are counting on our youth to speak out against injustices and to help right the wrongs. We are asking them to learn from those who came before, to take in the wisdom from those who have learned to move mountains. We are asking them to envision the world they wish to build for themselves and the next generation, and understand that change doesn’t happen overnight, but rather one step at a time. We are asking them not just to speak, but to listen—to all of the different voices, many preaching different truths. Only through listening can we begin to understand the plight of our nation, how we became “us” and “them”. Our teens were deeply challenged as they became the witnesses to a life and reality outside of the home they know, expanding their minds and souls in sometimes uncomfortable ways.

Jewish tradition teaches that education is an essential command. As it is written, “One who teaches a child Torah is considered to have taught that child and that child’s children and grandchildren, to the end of the generations” (Kiddushin 30a). The passing down of knowledge from one generation to the next is critical to maintain the vitality of our society, and we can do this by engaging with our youth in critical conversations about the world we live in. It’s our responsibility to invite teens to the table so that we can ensure this next generation of leaders is knowledgeable and connected to those outside their peer group.

When we truly take the time and learn to listen to all of the voices who make up our community, we are strengthened. When we can recognize behaviors that separate us from the community, we can make changes. When we become aware of injustices, only then can we take action to right them. By living our Jewish values, we create a home where everyone is welcome. This is how sacred communities are built.
Meditation and Jewish Spirituality

In Psalms 65:2 it says, “For You, silence is praise.” Many of us find that some of our deepest connections with God or a Presence larger than ourselves can happen in silence. Our unique, contemporary programming connects adults in South Orange County through meditation, contemplative prayer and wisdom teachings from the Jewish mystical tradition, deepening our relationship with God and one another.

Temple Beth El of South Orange County, Congregation B’nai Israel, and the Community Scholars Program present the 2020 Rabbi Allen Krause Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with Professor Daniel C. Matt, PhD:
From Kabbalah to the Big Bang: Ancient Wisdom and Contemporary Spirituality

Friday, March 13 at 6pm
Soul Spark Shabbat Service followed by dinner and learning with Daniel Matt (with advanced registration)

Saturday, March 14
9:15am Conservative Shabbat Service
12pm Daniel Matt teaches over a community Kiddush luncheon
2-5pm Spirituality Workshops (with advanced registration)

We are thrilled and privileged to host the world-renowned teacher of Jewish Spirituality and one of the world’s leading authorities on Kabbalah and the Zohar.

Soul Spark Shabbat Services
Fridays, March 13, April 3, May 22 at 6pm
Join Rabbi K’vod, Cantor Young and guest musicians for a unique Shabbat service that weaves meditation, contemplative and evocative melodies, and mystical teachings to allow us a deeper awareness of sacred presence in ourselves and each other.

Please contact Rabbi Kwod or Cantor Young at 949-362-3999 if you are interested in sponsoring a Soul Spark Shabbat, which allows us to bring in a guest musician.

Shabbat Morning Meditation
with Rabbi K’vod in the adult library
Select Saturdays, April 4, May 2, September 5, October 3 at 8:45am
Join us for 25 minutes of soulful stillness with instruction prior to Shabbat worship services.

Jerusalem Shabbat: A Taste of Milk and Honey (and a little schnapps)
with Rabbi K’vod, Cantor Young and percussion accompaniment
Select Saturdays, April 18, May 9 at 9:30am in the chapel
On the streets of Jerusalem on Shabbat morning, the dew on the trees reflects sunlight sparkling diamonds, the air is crisp and still, and the peace is palatable. Joyous prayer pours out of houses and little shtiebls—the human song and the song of creation intertwined. Friends and family come together to eat, to share, and to immerse in words of life-giving Torah. One can’t imagine a Torah more relevant and real.
• Be absorbed in a meditative and meaningful musical journey through the morning service
• Enjoy transliterated and fully accessible Hebrew prayer
• Rejoice around the Torah with schnapps and sparkling cider
• Participate in lively conversation over lunch and a spirited Birkat Hamazon (Blessing after the Meal)

Ongoing Jewish Meditation Group
This meditation session is for beginning and experienced meditators and will be an afternoon of silence, learning and presence, led by one of our Committee members. Dates and times will be announced and posted on the temple website.

Meditation at the Beach
Sunday, August 23 at 8:30am
This morning, outdoor meditation session is for meditators of all levels. Look to our website for the specific location and directions just prior to the event. All attendees are invited to meet up afterwards at the Urth Caffé (Laguna Beach) to socialize over brunch.

Special High Holiday Meditation Session: Yom Kippur Avodah Meditation
Monday, September 28 at 4pm
A guided, shamanic meditative journey with Rabbi K’vod using the imagery of the High Priest in Jerusalem to affect inner transformation and healing, accompanied by Evan Wohl on the drum.

Israel Matters
To deepen the bond between Medinat Yisrael (The State of Israel) and Temple Beth El of South Orange County by creating and implementing education and advocacy programs targeted to increase the congregation’s knowledge and experience of Israeli life and culture, and to facilitate support of Israel.

Lag Ba’Omer Bonfire
Monday, May 11 at 6:30pm on the basketball court, immediately following the last day of Hebrew school and All School Tfilah
Get fired up for Lag Ba’Omer! Come sing and dance around the bonfire in celebration of this festive Israeli holiday. All ages welcome (see page 9 for details).

tbesoc.org
Tikkun Olam - Repairing the World

Join Jewish Justice Advocates (JJA)

Educate, Advocate and Engage in Civil Action

JJA follows the specific values as stated in Brit Olam which TBESOC has signed as a community. We covenant with the wider Jewish community to confront: “... injustices at its root. We act through our communities and congregations, with partners from across lines of difference, to bring about a world in which all people experience wholeness, justice, and compassion.” We have committed to “lead our community in our social justice work, including:

• Acting in solidarity with vulnerable communities
• Building relationships across lines of difference in our local community
• Acting at the local, state/provincial, and/or federal levels to address the root causes of injustice and advocate for systemic change
• Participating in state-specific social justice work with our RAC [Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism] state project, where applicable.”

Jewish Justice Advocates’ projects focus on issues relating to:

• Immigration
• Homelessness
• Preventing gun violence
• Criminal justice reform
• Civic engagement
• Equal rights
• The environment

Watch for upcoming social justice opportunities! Join us at our next monthly meeting on Sunday, March 22 at 10am at the temple. For more information, please email Carol Singer at normcarol@cox.net, or Barby Schwid at bschwid@gmail.com.

CHILDSPREE

August 16 at 8am at Macy’s (at The Shops at Mission Viejo)

CHILDSPREE is BACK! CHILDSPREE is an unforgettable opportunity for you to personally make a difference in the life of a foster child. You, as a chaperone, get to take a child Back-to-School clothes shopping to help that child step into the new school year with confidence and pride.

This fall will be our 5th annual event! We have clothed 250 children from newborns through 18 years old through these back to school shopping experiences. The children served have been chosen from Orangewood, Laura’s House, Jewish Federation & Family Services, and Orange County’s Children & Family Services. Our goal this year is to raise money and provide this experience for 50 children.

Watch for details over the summer through email and on our website. Contact Kim Gubner at kgubner007@gmail.com to volunteer as a chaperone, sponsor, or contribute to the breakfast, help coordinate the event, or donate much-needed funds. Looking forward to seeing you in August!

Chavurat Tzedek

Chavurat Tzedek is a group inspired by Jewish commitment, dedicated to raising awareness by doing charitable and service work. Chavurat Tzedek participates in:

• Social action projects such as our annual Interfaith Thanksgiving project coming up on November 22.
• Every year Temple Beth El of South Orange County partners with our friends from the United Methodist Church (Mission Viejo) and the Orange County Islamic Foundation (Mission Viejo) to create Thanksgiving food parcels in support of Families Forward, a non-profit organization committed to helping local Orange County families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. In years past our community has helped provide over 200 meals in this annual collaborative event. SAVE THE DATE to participate in this collaborative mitzvah!
• Awareness and education
• Stimulating and engaging discussion
• Visiting local nursing homes and sharing Shabbat or Jewish holidays with people who do not have many or any visitors
• Putting together and delivering misloach manot (Purim gift baskets of food and drink) to nursing homes and others in our local community

Our Feed the Hungry program, a year-round food drive and toiletry campaign, benefits families in need in our immediate area through Jewish Federation & Family Services, Orange County. Please drop off canned items and/or travel-size shampoo, soap, toothpaste, etc. (downstairs in the labeled bin in the donation area) whenever you are in the synagogue for school, a meeting, services, a social event, etc. Contact Jodi Halbreich at tbesocfinance@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.
B’tzalel and Party Book

B’tzalel Arts & Music Festival 2020: CONNECT! CREATE! COLLABORATE!
ONGOING through Sunday, May 31
"Through the arts, our collective creativity has the ability to build personal and communal connection to Judaism and to God." - Cantor Natalie Young

Temple Beth El of South Orange County is excited to host its second B’tzalel Arts & Music Festival. Gifted artists and musicians from Orange and Los Angeles counties continue to share their talents through a series of workshops, lectures and performances which we hope will inspire you to explore your own Jewish wisdom, understanding and knowledge. From now through the end of May, you can participate in this growing festival by attending—or leading—a session through TBESOC or one of three neighboring Jewish communities: Congregation B’nai Tzedek (Fountain Valley), Temple Beth El (San Pedro), and Temple Beth Sholom (Santa Ana). Then on May 31, everyone will come together in an afternoon of celebration and artistic expression. What will you create?

Check the online calendar at btzalelartsandmusicfestival.org frequently for the most up-to-date offerings. We thank all the incredible artists and musicians for their time and leadership. To present a session or for more information, please email info@btzalelartsandmusicfestival.org.

Upcoming Classes at TBESOC (except where noted*)
- Sunday, March 15 at 1pm: Cook, Wine and Dine (making fresh pasta from scratch) with Sarah Eagle
- Tuesday, March 17 at 9:30am at a private home* Whole Wheat Challah Making with Debbie Solomon (ages 5+)
- Wednesday, March 18 at 7pm: Jewish Art of Micrography with Eileen Ettinger (ages 12+)
- Sunday, March 29 at 1pm: Pastel Pomegranate Drawing with Barby Schwid (ages 12+)
- Tuesday, April 14 at 4:30pm by Las Brisas (Laguna Beach)* Joy of Photography with Mary Church (bring your cell phone, tablet or camera)
- Saturday, April 18 at 2pm at a private home* How to Propagate Cacti and Succulents with Bob Simon
- Wednesday, April 22 at 3pm: Learn to do Quilling with Lauren Shavitz
- Sunday, April 26 at 4:30pm at Temple Beth Sholom (Tustin)* Chocolate and Wine Pairing

B’tzalel Arts & Music Festival: Seeds of Peace - L’takein et HaOlam (Healing the World)
Sunday, May 31 outside on the Temple Beth El of South Orange County campus
Join us, along with other participating congregations, for a fabulous afternoon of art, music, theatre and fun! Come celebrate the amazing creations of all our artists who participated in our workshops, and explore your own creativity at some of our hands-on stations! The day will include musical performances by professional and community groups on the green stage, art class displays, cooking class tasting station, play & learn village for kids, silent auction, and artist crafts fair. This will be a wonderful community event you won’t want to miss!

Host one, donate to some, attend many! Ready to share your idea? Have a question? Contact Jen Paletz at jenpaletz@gmail.com to start planning a party today.

A Night of Magic and Hypnosis
Hosted by Merritt & Andy Weiss, Barby & Howie Schwid, Robin & Scott Ijams, Debra & Mike McKee, Tamara & Greg Griffin, Amy & Joel Packer
Saturday, March 21 at 7pm at the temple
Enjoy a pre-show cocktail reception including a strolling magic show. Directly after, join us for the main event with hypnotist Richard Rumble, aka MISTER HYPNOSIS. Richard has been amazing audiences for over 25 years. From small, intimate home parties to county fairs, from corporate events to Las Vegas, his shows are full of energy and laughs that will create memories to last a lifetime! NOTE: The 8th grade Tzedakah Board will be providing paid child care for children ages 2-11 during this event, starting at 6:30pm. Sign up at the ECC desk ($10/hour, $5/sibling).

Old World vs New World: Blind Wine Tasting
Hosted by Debra* & David Solomon, Bonnie & Scott Kehe
Saturday, April 25 at 6:30pm at a private residence
Taste 12 different wines (6 white and 6 red) and learn a little about each of the grapes, food/wine pairings and more... An elaborate charcuterie board and a variety of small plates to pair with the wines will be provided.
*Host Debra Solomon is both a WSET Level 2 in Wine & Spirits and a CSW (Certified Specialist in Wine).

Party Book
Temple members—either individually or with friends and/or community sponsors—continue to generate ideas for and generously donate parties, and then host them!
- In December 2019 kids and adults alike enjoyed the Dolly & Me Tea Party hosted by Elizabeth Miller
- The Cooking Party at TSpoons hosted by Mollie Lazarus on January 16, 2020 was a great success! Everyone learned something new, and all went home with amazing recipes and their own personalized aprons.
- The matinee performance of The Perfect Dog at the Laguna Beach Playhouse on January 19 was SOLD OUT and a huge success thanks to host Ellen Prince.

As a host, you are entirely in charge of the event. Once the party details are established, our committee will help you determine the value of the party. Then we add the event to our website (tbesoc.onlinewebbook.com) where people can purchase tickets to attend. Both temple members and non-members are welcome to attend our parties. ALL of the proceeds go directly to TBESOC. There’s no better reason to “party” than to support our incredible temple while building relationships with each other and continuing to grow our community together.

Check the online calendar at btzalelartsandmusicfestival.org frequently for the most up-to-date offerings. We thank all the incredible artists and musicians for their time and leadership. To present a session or for more information, please email info@btzalelartsandmusicfestival.org.

Hosted by Merritt & Andy Weiss, Barby & Howie Schwid, Robin & Scott Ijams, Debra & Mike McKee, Tamara & Greg Griffin, Amy & Joel Packer
Saturday, March 21 at 7pm at the temple
Enjoy a pre-show cocktail reception including a strolling magic show. Directly after, join us for the main event with hypnotist Richard Rumble, aka MISTER HYPNOSIS. Richard has been amazing audiences for over 25 years. From small, intimate home parties to county fairs, from corporate events to Las Vegas, his shows are full of energy and laughs that will create memories to last a lifetime! NOTE: The 8th grade Tzedakah Board will be providing paid child care for children ages 2-11 during this event, starting at 6:30pm. Sign up at the ECC desk ($10/hour, $5/sibling).

Old World vs New World: Blind Wine Tasting
Hosted by Debra* & David Solomon, Bonnie & Scott Kehe
Saturday, April 25 at 6:30pm at a private residence
Taste 12 different wines (6 white and 6 red) and learn a little about each of the grapes, food/wine pairings and more... An elaborate charcuterie board and a variety of small plates to pair with the wines will be provided.
*Host Debra Solomon is both a WSET Level 2 in Wine & Spirits and a CSW (Certified Specialist in Wine).
Do you like to share your thoughts about the books you’re reading? Looking for a way to spend some time with friends? Join a book club! Or would you rather be in your own quiet space or creating memories by reading with a special child in your life? Check out the TBESOC adult and children’s libraries! Additional resources for Jewish books can be found online at' jewishbookcouncil.org (adults) and pjlibrary.org (young children). If you would like to volunteer in one of our libraries, let us know by contacting Sharon Wolfson at shwolfson@sbcglobal.net.

People of the Book
On the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm (except as noted*)
This evening book club has a great time exploring literature from a variety of authors and genres. We welcome adult members to join us in lively discussions and learning for our spring and summer 2020 selections:

*April 22 Leonardo and Gabriel by Tim Tigner (historical fiction)
May 13 Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens (fiction)
June 10 Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover (nonfiction)
July 22 Planning and potluck meeting for 2020-2021/5781. Be ready to eat yourself silly and showcase your favorite books for the new book review year! (*6:30pm)

Please contact Mollie Lazarus at mlarazar@gmail.com or 949-338-5075 if you have questions or are interested in joining.

Daytime Book Club
On the third Tuesday of the month at 11:30am in the adult library
Our Daytime Book Club provides the opportunity to discuss previously selected Jewish-themed books. Our upcoming selections are:

March 17 Promised Land: A Novel of Israel by Martin Fletcher (historical fiction)
April 21 Yom HaSho’ah Program: We will observe Yom HaSho’ah by reading Cloud of Smoke, Pillar of Fire: Judaism, Christianity, and Modernity after the Holocaust. Copies of the article will available in the adult library, and it can be found online at tinyurl.com/Yom-HaShoah-reading. Please see page 8 for more details.
May 19 The Wartime Sisters: A Novel by Lynda Cohen Loigman (historical fiction)
June 16 The Last Flight of Poxl West: A Novel by Daniel Torday (fiction)
July 21 Shylock Is My Name: William Shakespeare’s The Merchant of Venice Retold by Howard Jacobson (fiction)
August 18 The Muralist: A Novel by B.A. Shapiro (historical fiction)
September 15 Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love by Dani Shapiro (nonfiction)
October 20 The House at Tyneford: A Novel by Natasha Solomons (historical fiction)

Interested in attending or have questions? Please contact Sharon Wolfson at shwolfson@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Women’s Retreat
Building Sacred Spaces: Connect, Create, Collaborate
May 1–3 at Pala Mesa Resort (Fallbrook)
Connect with the women of Temple Beth El of South Orange County on an unforgettable Shabbaton! For over 20 years, TBESOC women have gathered for a themed weekend retreat filled with friendship, spirituality and self-discovery led by clergy, committee chairs and Jewish women from our community. Leave Pala with connections that thrive in the community of TBESOC forever! Online registration is open now through April 1; registration fees cover your room, food and all activities for the weekend. Scholarships are available. Contact Cat Mirsky and Hilary Rosen at tbewomensretreat@gmail.com with any questions.

Please contact Cat Mirsky and Hilary Rosen at tbewomensretreat@gmail.com with any questions.
BE Sisters
BE Sisters is the women’s auxiliary of Temple Beth El of South Orange County. We begin and sustain friendships through social activities and working together to create opportunities for learning, fun and helping others. Notable programs and causes supported recently include:
• Backpack and clothing drives
• Comedy Night
• Providing Chanukah latkes for the Religious School
• Support and donation for the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving event
• Chanukah donation to Jewish Federation & Family Services
• Hosting speakers on a wide variety of topics

It’s time to get active in Sisterhood! Membership in BE Sisters is open to temple members and non-members alike. Contact us directly at besisters@gmail.com. To learn more, visit us on Facebook at BE Sisters of Temple Beth El South Orange County, or visit our webpage at tbesoc.org/BE-Sisters.

Sephardic Passover Seder
Tuesday, March 31 at 7pm (6:30pm wine and schmooze)
Cantor Shula Kalir-Merton with lead the seder as Lois Wilson and Goly Kohanteb guide us through the traditions of Spain and Persia. End the evening together enjoying delicious Sephardic Passover desserts. This program is FREE; everyone is welcome! Door prize drawing courtesy of the TBESOC Gift Shop. RSVP online by March 27 at tbesoc.org/rsvp.

Upcoming Events

Friday, June 26
Sisterhood Shabbat and Installation Dinner
Enjoy a lovely dinner before a unique women’s service.

Saturday, July 18
Wines of the World
Come together to learn about wines and Judaism around the world

Men’s Club
The TBESOC Men’s Club is an auxiliary group for men seeking camaraderie in a Jewish environment, wanting to benefit the synagogue and its many programs, and having the desire to devote some time and energy to support the charitable and educational needs of the greater Jewish community both near and far. Our programming—some purely social, some focused on fundraising—welcomes member families of all ages and religious beliefs who want opportunities to experience more Jewish culture in their lives. Men’s Club has given over $9000 to those in need over the past year, and we continue to help those in need. Our programming includes:
• Meeting for breakfast on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month at The Broken Yolk (Mission Viejo)
• Attending live sporting events
• Playing golf together on Mondays
• Gathering to watch Monday night football, play poker and schmooze
• Sponsoring and hosting Comedy Night with BE Sisters
• Raising money through our annual summer Golf Tournament and December Bowl-a-Rama fundraisers

Dues are only $36/year and joining is easy through the temple website, or contact Gil Ross at garlc@aol.com or 714-501-5329 for more information.

Our 18th Annual TBESOC Summer Classic, proceeds benefiting Juvenile Diabetes Research
Sunday, June 7 at Monarch Beach Golf Links (Dana Point)
Last year over 70 golfers gathered in friendly competition, raising $1500 which was distributed equally to United way for the homeless, Alzheimer’s Foundation, and Holocaust survivors in Orange County who were in need. This year we hope to do even better! Registration is open from March 15–June 2 at tbesoc.org/rsvp. More details can be found on our website at tbesoc.org/mens-club. Sponsorship opportunities are available through May 26; contact Marv Chotiner at 949-916-8384, or Gil Ross at 714-501-5329.

Annual Meeting
Sunday, June 14 at 10am at the temple
In March, emails will be sent to Men’s Club members asking for voluntary board representation for the coming year, effective July 1. Our nominating committee will contact all those who express interest. Then in June, we will vote on the slate of nominees. Members who cannot attend will receive a proxy via email.
Connect

Bringing Shabbat Home
Fridays, May 29, July 3, November 27, December 25
The synagogue will not hold services on these dates.

This is an opportunity to gather with new and old TBESOC friends and observe Shabbat—“ceasing from rest”—outside of the synagogue setting. Take advantage of this evening as an existing Small Group, or open up your home to a fellow congregant and share how YOU observe Shabbat. To help you create a meaningful and engaging Shabbat, audio files and a resource booklet are available online to download and share with your guests which include:
- What ritual items you need to bring Shabbat home
- Blessings and songs (in Hebrew, transliterated Hebrew, and English) and some teachings related to them
- Torah text and discussion topics
- Holiday recipes

Kol Haneshamah (Adult Choir)
Rehearsals on select Wednesdays from 7-9pm
Come fill your soul with song and learn about our traditions and liturgy through our rich musical heritage. Our adult choir, led by Cantor Young and accompanied by Carol Roman (piano), is made up of dedicated volunteers from our TBESOC family—post-b’nai mitzvah members and ECC parents alike. No experience necessary. We sing for Reform High Holy Day and select Shabbat services throughout the year. Please contact Cantor Young at cantoryoung@tbesoc.org to join. Our next rehearsal is April 22 in the sanctuary.

The Band of Milk & Honey
Members include Cantor Natalie Young (guitar and vocals), Kim Gubner (vocals), Hilary Rosen (vocals), Alan Levine (bass guitar), and Evan Wohl (percussion)
Rehearsals as needed
Our volunteer band is comprised of both professional and amateur musicians who share a passion for Jewish music and enhancing Kabbalat Shabbat. We typically play during Shabbat Chai Fridays throughout the school year, outdoor Friday nights during the summer, and several other special events and holiday Shabbat evening services. Our repertoire includes a mix of traditional Jewish liturgical music and modern compositions by Debbie Friedman, Craig Taubman, our own Cantor Natalie Young, and others. Skilled musicians are welcome to audition; in particular we are seeking a male vocalist. Contact Cantor Young at cantoryoung@tbesoc.org to discuss your interest.

Chop & Chat Crew
Most Friday afternoons at 1pm in the downstairs kosher dairy kitchen
Did you know that every Shabbat morning after the Conservative service, we continue the special time with our community by sharing lunch together? Sometimes Torah discussions can be heard along with lots of laughter as friends relax and celebrate what good things happened during their week. We always end in songs of praise as we thank The Holy One for the meal (Birkat Hamazon, or colloquially known as “benching” in Yiddish). These meals are lovingly prepared weekly by our Chop & Chat Crew.

We typically cook hot dishes on Thursdays and prep on Friday afternoons for Saturday morning. If you would like to volunteer your time and share in this mitzvah, or to sponsor all or part of a Conservative Kiddush lunch, please contact Sandy Rothberg at sandy@rothberg.org or 949-525-7827.

Mah Jongg
Wednesdays from 9:15-11am in the children’s library
Fridays during Shabbat Chai from 4-5:30pm just off the rotunda
Come one, come all! Meet up with fellow ECC/Shabbat Chai parents and other congregants who love to play mahj! This is a free event and we welcome all levels of players. Bring your own cards and group of four—or makes plans ahead of time to ensure a full table. Sets can be found in the children’s library and are always available for play. Don’t know how to play and interested in learning? Contact Wendy Yesharim at wyesharim@tbesoc.org and we will match you up with an experienced player.
Audacious Bakers
Did you know that the Friday night dessert oneg (translated as “pleasure, joy, exquisite delight”) often includes baked goods made lovingly by temple members? These amazing congregants invite you to join their efforts and become an "Audacious Baker" ... even if you don’t bake! How?
• Volunteer to come in on a Friday before 5pm to platter pastries. There are up to 20 specific Fridays per year that we need this help, so be in touch for dates.
• Stay after select Friday night services to carefully put away the unused pastries in freezer-proof containers.
• Bake pastries at home or in the upstairs kitchen at the synagogue.

Questions? Ready to sign up to help? Contact Sherri Krause at shkrause29@cox.net or 949-933-6873.

Men’s Softball Team
Sunday mornings from 8-10:30am in Irvine
Did you know there is a TBESOC Men’s Softball Team that plays in the Orange County Softball League? Yes there is! We play on Sunday mornings and we’re a good team: we won our first championship last year and went 21-3 in 2019. We play multiple seasons throughout the year, so we can find a spot for new players any time. If you are an active softball player (ages 18+) that would like to join the team, please contact Larry Bitton at larrybitton@gmail.com or 949-354-1474. We are especially in need of an outfielder and shortstop. Go Beth EI!!

TBESOC Hiking Group
Select Sunday mornings, usually about three hours in duration
Are you passionate about hiking? Or have you considered going on a hike, but are hesitant to take that first step? We have a group for you! Explore the beautiful outdoors and connect with fellow Jewish community members on our periodic beginner to low-intermediate level hikes around Orange County. Guided by Mansour Kohanteb, an experienced hiker, the Hiking Group is an ongoing, drop-in opportunity for all ages—and no prior experience is necessary. The trails vary in location, elevation and difficulty so you can pick and choose which hike to join. If you would like to be included in our email group or have any questions, please contact Mansour at mansourteb@gmail.com or 949-500-5550.

Chai Guys
Meetings usually the third Thursday of the month (off-site)
Chai Guys is a group of men who get together at least once a month for the sole purpose of socializing with other TBESOC men. We enjoy a wide variety of active, fun weekday evening and Sunday activities—sometimes as father and son(s), sometimes just adults—such as archery, climbing, wood working, axe throwing, a night at the movies, attending sporting events, etc. (ages post-bar mitzvah+) as well as micro-brewery tours and meeting for casual drinks and conversation (ages 21+). Feel free to invite friends who are not members to our events.

Chai Guys supports the Men’s Club and its activities while catering to guys with busy 9-to-5 schedules and an adventurous, enthusiastic bent. To get on our email list, please contact Brad Shapero at drshapero@premierhealthcaresc.com.

Annual Congregational Meeting
Monday, June 1 at 7pm
Meeting materials will be mailed to all members in good standing 30 days prior and will include:
• updates from our Board of Trustees
• the slate of nominations for Board positions starting July 1, 2020
• proposed changes to the bylaws
• proposed 2020-21 budget
If you are unable to attend, please be sure to submit your proxy so that we will have a quorum for voting. Proxy ballots will be available at the front desk of the temple and online.
Hinenu Caring Committee: The Schmooze Crew
The Mitzvah of a Visit

You may know from personal experience how crucial it is to have a loving person by your side, or your loved one’s side, when recovering from major illness or surgery, or feeling lonely because of being housebound by an ongoing condition.

And you may be the person who can provide the compassionate touch that makes someone’s day brighter, calmer and more connected to our TBESOC community.

Please consider joining the Schmooze Crew. We are part of TBESOC’s Hinenu Caring Committee, the outreach branch of our temple. The mitzvah we create can be measured in smiles, hugs and love.

If you would like to be a part of this warm and caring group of people, please contact Shari Pratt at sharipratt3@gmail.com or 949-859-1324. (Please do not text). I will reply and share with you how easy and fulfilling it is to become a Schmooze Crew member. Someone is waiting for you.

Chicken Soup
Wishing a full & speedy recovery to...

Leslie Brody  Chaya Cohen  Anita Gold  Natalie Grumet  Jeff Koff  Gail Lipton  Sherri Krause  Norma Levenson  Dawn McLaren

Elizabeth Miller  Debbie Motenko  Rachael Neufeld  Elaine Reisch  Muriel Sachs  Karen Skirvin  Sue Treshansky  Leslie Wegener  Bea Wohl

If you hear of someone who is ill or homebound, please contact our Hinenu Caring Committee Co-Chairs, Cindy Leish at personal.leish@gmail.com or 949-436-2463, or Patty Rosenbaum at pattyhrosenbaum7@gmail.com or 949-413-3474.

Serenity Shabbat Services: A Community-Wide Initiative to Joyfully Celebrate the Dual Blessings of Recovery and Shabbat!
Friday, November 13 at 7:30pm followed by an oneg

Serenity Shabbat focuses on addiction awareness and the wisdom of Jewish tradition as it relates to the spiritual practice of recovery. Everyone is welcome, including members of the recovery community, friends and family who have been affected by a loved one’s addiction, and anyone interested in this unique spiritual experience. Developed by Jewish Addiction Awareness Network (JAAN), the 2020 series is our fourth year and is shared with other synagogues around Orange County:

- March 20 at 7:30pm at Congregation B’nai Tzedek (Fountain Valley)
- June 12 at 7:30pm at Temple Beth David (Westminster)
- September 11 at 6pm at Temple Beth Sholom (Santa Ana)

Please contact Sarah Wood at sarah@3dsolarsystem.com or 949-942-4550 for more information about Serenity Shabbat, and jaanetwork.org for community education, recovery programs, study groups, and other resources and services for Jewish individuals and families facing addiction.
Our Condolences to...
Jeffrey Ameen and family on the loss of his mother Edna Ameen and brother Ramsey Ameen
Ron Berman and Lisa Aisner and family on the loss of their father John Simon Berman
Phyllis Blanc and family on the loss of her mother Eleanor Levine
Nancy Blumenthal and family on the loss of her mother Dorothy Rush
Nieves Cespedes and family on the loss of her sister Laura Esther Cespedes Encinas
Terry Hanna and family on the loss of her father Jacob Weisberg
David Hillburn and family on the loss of his mother Lotte Hillburn
Mark Van Houten and family on the loss of his mother Lillian Marcus
Dave Lubowe and family on the loss of his father Tony Lubowe
Jodi Nortel and family on the loss of her mother Joan Nortel
Larry Smith and family on the loss of his father Bernard Smith
Kymberly Spector and family on the loss of her grandfather Hyman Fink
Abby Rubenstein and family on the loss of her sister Martha Stewart

Hinenu Caring Committee
What does the Hinenu Caring Committee do?
Hinenu means “Here I am! Here we are!” We create a true sense of community by helping to care for one another in times of need.

How do we accomplish this?
• **Cooking with Kavanah** (intention, purpose) to stock our temple freezer with kosher and vegetarian meals for delivery to congregants in need following a surgery or illness - led by Sarah Wood (sarah@3dsolarsystem.com)
• Pick up and deliver kosher meals from TBESOC to congregants
• **Schmooze Crew** calls and conducts friendly visits to support the sick or homebound - led by Shari Pratt (sharipratt3@gmail.com)
• Help with se’udat havra’ah (meal of condolence or consolation) set-up and clean-up
• Support mourners observing a shiva with set-up and clean-up
• Complete a minyan by requesting volunteers
• **Chevrah Kadisha** (training provided)

To learn more about how you can become involved in Hinenu, please contact Cindy Leish at personal.leish@gmail.com (949-436-2463), or Patty Rosenbaum at pattyhrosenbaum7@gmail.com (949-413-3474).

Bereavement Support Group
**Wednesdays, April 22–June 17 at 7pm**
When someone you love dies, it can feel like your world has been turned upside down. Sometimes even the simple tasks can seem insurmountable. Support groups can provide information and guidance to help us find our way through these transitions. This free, structured program for adults (age 18+) is open to the entire South Orange County community and is non-denominational. The group will be facilitated by a VITAS bereavement specialist.

Watch for temple newsletter announcements and mailings for details. Pre-registration is required as seating is limited. Please contact Amy Stallings, Bereavement Services Manager at amy.stallings@vitas.com or 714-743-2753 with any questions. Another session is planned for October 14–December 16.

Special Presenter: Dr. William G. “Bill” Hoy, Baylor University
**Wednesdays, May 13, August 5 at 7pm** at O’Connor Mortuary (Laguna Hills)
Dr. Bill Hoy, nationally acclaimed bereavement and end-of-life educational consultant, leads interactive workshops for the community. Previous topics include: complicated grief, the difference between unexpected loss and anticipated loss, how to support those who are grieving, and is there such a thing as a “grief process?”

Workshop are free of charge. Attendees must be 18 years or older. Please RSVP to Becky Lomaka at blomaka@oconnormortuary.com or 949-581-4300 x229.
Tzedakah

Ways & Means

TBE SOC has evolved as the primary center for Progressive Judaism in South Orange County. The Ways & Means Committee is the fuel that turns the “gears” that are TBE SOC’s programs. Help sustain our community with your charitable contributions (tzedakah) now and later. Giving to TBE SOC is a great way to ensure that current members and future generations find and experience both Reform and Conservative Judaism. Contact Jodi Halbreich at tbesofinance@gmail.com or 949-439-5726 to join the Ways & Means Committee.

How to Give Now

Volunteer! Give your time and share your skills. Find your path to connect with fellow congregants and live Jewish values:

- Front desk reception
- Deep clean areas of the building
- Mailing preparation
- Sanitize preschool toys
- Organize storage
- Maintain landscaping
- Re-shelve library books
- Set up, clean up or greet attendees at special events
- Prep, coordinate, shop or cook/bake for onegs/Kiddush lunches
- Join or take a leadership position on a committee or auxiliary/hobby group
- Solicit businesses to purchase advertising space, host restaurant give-back days or donate goods/services

Donate! Participate in food drives. Sponsor a Party Book party or an oneg/Kiddush lunch. Give directly to the synagogue in the form of our Simcha Tree, memorial plaques, building naming dedications and mezuzot, Tile Legacy Project, or tribute funds:

- Audrey & David Shieldkret Music Fund
- Cantor Natalie Young’s Discretionary Fund
- Cedarbaum & Mitchell Adult Library Fund
- Cedarbaum Reference Collection
- Chanukah Gift Drive
- Chapel Service Kiddush Fund
- Children’s Library
- Donna Van Slyke Campership Fund
- Early Childhood Center (ECC)
- Endowment Fund
- General Fund
- Gloria & Herb Smolinsky Torah Fund
- Interfaith Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Iris & Marshall Miller Memorial Shiva Fund
- Israel Matters Fund
- “KISS” Kol Isha Shabbat Service Kiddush Fund
- Leadership Development Fund
- Mary & Al Leavitt Programming Fund
- Mirsky TBE SOC Religious School Scholarship Fund
- Rabbi Allen Krause Scholar-in-Residence Fund
- Rabbi K’vod Wieder’s Discretionary Fund
- Raymond Plotkin Campership Fund
- Religious School Education Fund
- Terry Fierle Full Inclusion Fund

Shop!

- Amazon Smile: Start every online session at smile.amazon.com and choose “Temple Beth El of South Orange County” as your charity.
- Groceries: Link your VONS/Pavilions (Group ID #137225271) and Ralphs Rewards cards to TBE SOC.
- Jewish National Fund: Purchase trees and other items from their online shop at tinyurl.com/JNF-giving.

How to Give Later

Make plans to leave a gift in your will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy, and become a member of our Legacy Society or purchase your cemetery plot through us.

Our Tax Identification Number is 95 3749325. All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Tile Legacy Project

Flexible dates and times

Create your very own tile to be permanently mounted between the Early Childhood Center entrance and the flagpole. Help raise funds to continue beautifying the grounds of Temple Beth El of South Orange County. The Tile Legacy Project is an outdoor wall mural installation featuring the artwork of our members, clergy and staff. The project is an exciting way to leave your legacy while supporting our temple community—and have fun doing it!

Families may purchase one or more ceramic tiles ($36 each with advance registration, while supplies last) to design and paint. The tiles will then be kiln fired and set, creating a lasting memory of your connection to TBE SOC. Please reach out to Justine Moraes at justinemoraes@hotmail.com for more information or to schedule your time to paint tiles with friends and family.

THE TILE LEGACY PROJECT

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY
BY CREATING A TILE OF YOUR VERY OWN

WAYS & MEANS

Give Now & Later

Working Together

To Raise Funds

tbesoc.org
Fenning Family Simcha Tree of Life

Our Simcha Tree of Life is blooming at Temple Beth El of South Orange County! There are two options to celebrate your family’s special moments:

- Gold leaves are available for a $180 donation and are seen adorning the tree branches, spreading far and wide just as our temple community flourishes.
- Stones are available for a $720 donation and are placed at the roots of the tree, symbolic of the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

The leaves and stones may be inscribed to commemorate such joyous events as births, weddings, anniversaries and graduations, or to honor parents, family and friends. Share your simchas on our synagogue’s Tree of Life—a permanent dedication from generation to generation (l’dor v’adora) to the meaningful, happy events that touch our lives. Make sure to stop by the Tree, located in the Alter Family Rotunda, whenever you need a smile. Order forms can be found on the tbesoc.org Special Funds & Tributes page, or you can contact Myka Thompson at mthompson@tbesoc.org or 949-362-3999 x100 to order a leaf or stone.

Gift Shop

**Hours are posted on the door and by appointment all year long**

The TBESOC gift shop carries a wide variety of Judaica for all ages and all occasions: games, toys, books, jewelry, holiday and life cycle items, greeting cards, tallitot, Mah Jong cards, specialty gifts made by Israeli artists, custom/personalized kippot (available on order), and so much more! Check out the Chai Corner for bargain-priced merchandise $5 and below. We offer a standing 20% discount on most items to temple members, staff, and non-member Early Childhood Center families, and will work with you to meet or beat prices from online and other brick and mortar stores. Look for our holiday and other special sales throughout the year.

**Want to meet more temple members? Volunteer to work in the gift shop!**

Greet youngsters and their parents after school when they stop by to collect Shabbat, holiday and Jewish-themed stickers. We would like to extend our hours, so please contact Lin Goldman at kydteach@aol.com or 949-586-2632 if you are interested in donating your time, or if you have any questions about Judaica gifts.

Yahrzeit Remembrance Memorial Walls

Remember loved ones with a plaque on our memorial walls either in the rotunda outside the sanctuary/hall on the second floor’s The Kirschenbaum Family Memorial Wall; or in the chapel’s memorial boards on the ground floor dedicated/donated by Jerry & Cindy Greenstone, Michael & Joy Keveorkian, Clement & Anne Nusbaum, Morton Todd & Stacey McAdams, and Lynne & David Kennedy. Plaques on our memorial walls include a light that will be lit on the Friday preceding the anniversary of your loved one’s death, as well as on Yom Kippur, Shmini Atzeret, the last day of Passover, and the second day of Shavu’ot. To order a memorial plaque, please complete our online form found at tbesoc.org/special-funds-tributes or contact Myka Thompson (mthompson@tbesoc.org or 949-362-3999 x100.) You will need to provide the individual's full English and Hebrew names, as well as the date of death. If you need any help with Hebrew names or Hebrew dates, our clergy are happy to assist you.

Cemetery Plots

Preparing for the inevitable is a final gift for our loved ones. Of late, most of our members have chosen Harbor Lawn as their final resting place, so we purchased a group of plots in the Mount Olive Section. Our temple community’s area is visibly labeled along the wall. Each plot is $6995, $1300 of which is a tax-deductible charitable contribution to TBESOC (to the extent permitted by law). Plots may be used for one individual, or converted with Harbor Lawn directly into a double-depth space for one dual interment. To purchase, contact Jodi Halbreich at tbesocfinance@gmail.com.
Legacy Society

Continue the legacy of Temple Beth El of South Orange County for future generations with a gift in your will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy. Support the community here that is important in each of our lives!

Our temple community was created by visionary individuals—many of whom came before us—and the legacy of their values is palpable as soon as prospective, new and long-time members arrive on our campus. Our faith, culture and traditions are only possible because from generation to generation—l’dor v’dor—people like you and me invested in ensuring Jewish tomorrows. One way we can live this value is by making arrangements to leave tzedakah after our lifetime. No matter what our income level is, no matter how large or small our assets, we are empowered to lead by example after our lives by earmarking any portion of our life insurance, retirement account, house sale proceeds, etc. to Temple Beth El of South Orange County. In addition to all of the family that we want to leave our remaining assets to, we have the opportunity to make sure our values of Jewish traditions, community and peoplehood live on after we are gone. And by doing it in the memory of loved ones, they also continue to live on after we’ve gone. Join these members of our Legacy Society—temple members and Jewish community supporters who have committed to making sure our beloved TBESOC is here for future generations, at absolutely no cost to you as long as you live.

For a confidential discussion on how you can establish your legacy plan, please contact Mollie Lazarus at mlazarus24@gmail.com.

Join Our Legacy Society

- Anonymous
- Bart & Elizabeth Asner*
- Nadine Asner*
- Phyllis & Steve Blanc*
- Marc and Barbara Chasman*
- Firuzeh & Jeff Claar
- Shiffy & Avi Crane*
- Shirley (z”l) & Lew Einbund*
- The Faber Family*
- Pamela & Rob Fecher*
- Julie & Adam Fingersh*
- Karen Forrest*
- Robin Brandes-Gibbs & Tim Gibbs*
- Anita Gold*
- Susan & Michael Goldfader*
- Myra & Marv Gordon*
- Jeff Greer & Keary Gregg*
- Jodi Halbreich
- Mimi Harris*
- Steve Heit
- Mara & Kenneth James*
- Shula Kalir-Merton*
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- In memory of Ruth Ershler Mojgan Lustig
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“Large enough to serve you; small enough to know you.”

Becoming a member of Temple Beth El of South Orange County is easy, and membership contributions are flexible and tax-deductible. Come experience our worship services; attend an event; meet with our clergy, our professional staff and our teachers; and learn about our philosophy, our activities, our Religious School, and all that we have to offer. Please contact our Vice President, Membership, Lainey Mitzman at tbesocmembership@gmail.com or 714-812-2338 to discuss joining our congregation, or call Myka Thompson, Assistant Director, at 949-362-3999 x100 to schedule a guided tour. Visit our website at tbesoc.org/membership for an application and additional information.

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Michael & Sandy Dalis of Laguna Niguel
Josh Katz & Paula Mendez of Laguna Niguel and their daughter Lola Latz (3)
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Joel and Linda Levine of Laguna Niguel
Nichole Lezak of Mission Viejo and their children Logan Lezak (5) and Camille Lezak (3)
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<td>Wendy Yesharim</td>
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