



TEMPLE ISRAEL
LONG BEACH



Kol Yisra'el

THE VOICE OF TEMPLE ISRAEL



March 2025 / Adar-Nissan 5785



Celebrate Purim With Us!

Saturday, March 15 at 7:30 pm

Staff Purim Shpiel

Teen Shpiel Teaser - "Tangled"

Adult Purim Shpiel is Yacht Rock!

Dress in your best "Yacht Rock" costume!

Cash Bar and Prizes for Best Costume!



**YOUR DONATION OR LEGACY GIFT
WILL HELP FUND OUR FUTURE!**

Temple Israel's Foundation oversees the investment of your legacy gifts to allow Temple Israel to continue to maintain our beautiful facility and continue services and programming for our community.

If you are interested in supporting our future, or getting more information, please call the Temple office.

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**TEMPLE ISRAEL'S MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR**



FRIDAY, MARCH 7 AT 7:30 PM

ADULT GAMES - KID GAMES - REFRESHMENTS

THE EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL AGES - NO COST TO ATTEND
JOIN US FOLLOWING SHABBAT SERVICES
RSVP BY MARCH 4 TO CLW@TILB.ORG

Get Well Wishes

Cheryl Avirom	Kevin O'Grady
Colleen Carver	Nadine Pekar
Miriam Elisheva	Sam Sanderson
Joel Epstein	Joseph Schleich
JoAnn Farris	Doreen Wright-Wendell
Darrin Hammer	

MARCH SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday, March 7

6:00 pm Family Shabbat Service

Saturday, March 8

8:45 am Torah Study

10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service

Bat Mitzvah of Raquel Lowenthal

Friday, March 14

6:00 pm Tot Shabbat

7:00 pm Got Shabbat? Service

Saturday, March 15

8:45 am Torah Study, Kaddish Recited

No Shabbat Morning Service

Friday, March 21

6:00 pm Kol HaNeshama - Musical Shabbat in the round

Saturday, March 22

8:45 am Torah Study

10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service

Bat Mitzvah of Dani Suojanen

Friday, March 28

Shabbat at Home (No Service at the Temple)

Saturday, March 29

8:45 am Torah Study

11:00 am Senior Shabbat and Luncheon

at the Alpert JCC



Kol Yisra'el is a monthly newsletter published August - June by Temple Israel (a member of the Union for Reform Judaism). The deadline for submission of all material for the newsletter is the 10th of the preceding month prior to publication.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

*Rabbi Scott Fox • Cantor Kelly Cooper • Cantor Emeritus Marvin Finnley
Eric J. Shatzkin, Exec. Director • Sharon Amster Brown, Director of Ed.
Kara Liu, Youth Director • David York, Accompanist*

Our Mission Statement Guided by Reform Jewish values, our mission is to engage in a journey of prayer, learning, and community that inspires us to transform ourselves and the world.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024 - 2025

Jerry Levy <i>President</i>	Jonathan Gotz <i>VP Resource Development</i>
Justin Perlman <i>VP Education</i>	Paul Levitt <i>VP Social Action</i>
Kathy Kreida <i>VP Membership</i>	Scott Sterling <i>Secretary</i>
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Renee Florsheim, Jared Goldin, Jill Fisher Granek, Steven Gratch, Dawn Haldane, Darrin Hammer, Lisa Hill, Kate Sachnoff, Marcia Senteno, Sheri Sinaga, Ed Zwieback
Mark Sharzer, Foundation President



DARK AND LIGHT

By Jerry Levy, Temple President



The concept of joy and celebration during dark times or periods of adversity seems paradoxical. When challenging times occur during the winter months it can be especially stressful. Depression or Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) are well-known common conditions that can affect many people. The impact on our psyche can be amplified by the tumultuous events of the last few months. As the hostages remain in front of mind, their slow, agonizing release

over weeks only adds to our stress. The last few months have been especially challenging as we deal with events both local and distant. Our hearts go out to the thousands of people affected by the fires in the Palisades and Altadena, even if we don't know someone personally impacted by the destruction of their home.

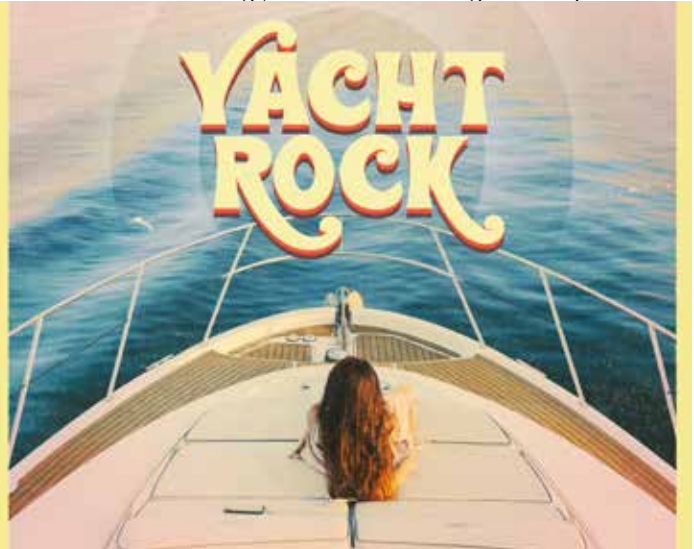
Compounding local issues are concerns about the rise of antisemitism, both on our local campuses and across the country. With the change in national leadership we worry about the wholesale changes in the federal government where many departments, such as USAID, Education, Interior, Food and Drug Administration and the Pentagon are losing career civil servants with intimate knowledge of how government functions. The impact of the tariffs is unknown, but most likely will lead to higher prices, higher interest rates and even the possibility of a recession. Fear and retribution are the new currency in Washington with the immigrant population, legal and illegal bearing the brunt of these aggressive actions. They are worried about family separation and deportation and will go 'underground' ultimately causing a huge negative ripple effect to our economy.

So, with all this *tsuris*, how can we continue to celebrate happy events? As Jews, it is part of our DNA which emphasizes "simcha" (joy) as a spiritual goal, even in challenging times. Even during the Holocaust, our ancestors found ways, in secret, to continue to celebrate important events that defined them as Jewish. Similarly, our celebrations will help us get through tough times that show the importance of family, community, resilience, and continuity. Every Friday night we can light Shabbat candles to help bring light into our homes. Some of our most joyous events are when we celebrate B'nai Mitzvah, wedding celebrations and baby namings continuing centuries long traditions.

As the seasons change, Temple Israel encourages its congregants to throw off the cloak of Winter and come together to celebrate two important events: Purim with its emphasis on getting dressed up, drinking "until one cannot distinguish between "Blessed is Mordechai" and "Cursed is Haman," and enjoying the Purim Shpiel is a perfect antidote for winter doldrums. Then, we have another opportunity to get dressed up and have an adult beverages:

The Annual Gala on April 5th at the Alpert JCC. Mark your calendar as we celebrate Steve and Michelle Gordon for their many contributions the Temple and the Community.

I look forward to seeing you at both of these great Temple events.



Celebrate Purim With Us!
Saturday, March 15 at 7:30 pm

Adult Purim Shpiel is Yacht Rock!



PURIM CELEBRATION

Bouncers, Crafts, Games, Food, Hamantaschen, and Fun for All

SUNDAY • MARCH 16 • 12 -3 PM

Scan to get tickets

AJCC Member	Public	
\$5	\$10	Kids (Ages 2 - 13) Prices go up at the door

Free! Adult Chaperone

Free! Kids under 2
Visit the Tot Zone with age-appropriate bouncers and games!

\$7 Lunch Plate
Kosher Hot Dog, Chips, Juice, Hamantaschen



Program Patrons: Lauren Friedman, Don & Andrea Kaiser, and Solar Wholesale Group
Sponsors as of 2/17/25



**LEARNING FROM THE PROPHETS -
CONTEMPORARY RELEVANCE**

By Ron Artstein, VP Ritual Practices



The reason for the date of Purim is explained in the Megillah: on the fourteenth day of Adar, the Jews stopped killing their enemies, so they made it a day of feasting and merrymaking (Esther 9:16-17). This aspect of Purim is often overlooked when we retell the story. We like to think of Purim as the story of how Esther and Mordechai foiled the plot of Haman to kill all the Jews, so we gloss

over the part where Jews are given the license to kill, not in self defense but as an act of vengeance (Esther 8:13). According to the Megillah, Jews killed eight hundred people in Shushan over two days, and seventy five thousand people in the rest of the Persian Empire in just one day. In his book, Rabbi Wolli Kaelter (who served as Temple Israel's Rabbi from 1955 to 1979) lists this excessive killing as one of the many reasons he despises the holiday of Purim.

Purim has been associated with violence in recent times as well. The U.S.-led operation to liberate Kuwait (Operation Desert Storm) ended on February 28, 1991, which happened to be Purim. During that war Israel received showers of SCUD missiles from Iraq, and I was serving in the south of Israel. I remember some rabbinical type who came to our chow hall when we got the notice that the war had ended, and gave an incoherent presentation on how the absence of God from the Megillah is like George Bush protecting Israel from Saddam Hussein. Three years later, on Purim Day 5754 (1994), American-Israeli physician Baruch Goldstein opened fire on Muslim worshippers at the Cave of the Patriarchs, killing 29 and injuring more than 100. In reaction to the massacre, Hamas executed its first successful suicide bombing within Israel proper. While Goldstein's act was widely condemned both in Israel and abroad, he is glorified by some extremists in Israel.

As I am writing these words, we are in the midst of a long overdue ceasefire and captive exchange between Israel and Hamas, which has the potential to end the war which started with the October 7 massacre of over a thousand people in Israel. The 15-month war has killed tens of hostages, hundreds of Israeli soldiers, and tens of thousands of Palestinian militants and civilians. The ceasefire is very tentative and fragile, yet there are voices within the Jewish community and the Israeli government (including supporters of Baruch Goldstein) that call for ending the ceasefire and returning to war, even if it means leaving our captives behind. As we enter the month of Adar, we should remember that Purim celebrates the ending of the killing; the time to end the killing is now.



Shabbat at home

Shabbat at Home **Friday, March 28** is a unique program that gives us an opportunity for our Temple Israel family to share the joys of Shabbat with a potluck dinner in the warmth of congregants' homes.

BE A HOST: Please know that you are performing a Mitzvah by welcoming other congregants into your home. All you have to do is to provide the table settings; your guests will bring dinner. Temple Israel will provide to you a list of your guests and their contact information, and some helpful hints for celebrating Shabbat in your home. If you are willing and able to host, please email VPRitualPractices@tilb.org. We appreciate your response by March 10.

BE A GUEST: If you prefer to participate in this wonderful program by providing a portion of the Shabbat meal and attending as a guest, please fill out the guest portion of the web form and we will match you to a host. Sign-up to be a guest



<https://forms.gle/Dsh5hTcK7buinn1z5>



Senior Shabbat and Luncheon

**Saturday, March 29 at 11:00 am
at the Alpert JCC**

Led by Temple Israel Clergy
followed by Luncheon and Entertainment by
JAC

Entertainment funded by
TI's Sarah & Wolli Kaelter Sabbath Fellowship Fund

RSVP Call Anneise Thompson (562) 426-7601

<https://jewishlongbeach.ticketspice.com/senior-shabbat>



Sisterhood Women's Night Out

TUESDAY

March 18 at 6:30 pm

NayadaThai Cuisine
11401 Carson Street, Lakewood

\$35.00 (cash or check)

RSVP to Elyse Gordon
(526) 619-8829



SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP

THE GIFT SHOP IS OPEN
Sundays from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
and by appointment.

Contact Elyse at (562) 619-8829



Sisterhood Board is looking for new board members for 2025-2026. Please join us and bring your fresh ideas for engaging other members and helping to support our community.

Please contact Robin Lilien (robinlilien@earthlink.net).

SISTERHOOD

invites you to our 6th Annual

GAME DAY

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

at Temple Israel

9:30 am - 2:00 pm



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Bring your favorite game to play
with your friends.

Mahjong • Rummy Tile
Bridge • Scrabble

SNACKS • LUNCH • DESSERT

Please bring extra cash to purchase
opportunity tickets.

\$ 40 per person

RETURN FORM WITH YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO TEMPLE ISRAEL SISTERHOOD BY FRIDAY, APRIL 18. (No credit cards please.) Please include e-mail and phone number if we need to contact you. Copies of form available in the lobby or download at the link below

https://www.tilb.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/gameday_apr25web.pdf



קשר Keshher

TEMPLE ISRAEL
8th-12th Grade



Aravah Marcus
ANDI President

For Keshher, the first few months of the new year mean one thing: Purim! All month, many of our teens have been working diligently on our annual Purim Shpiel, and we are so excited to share “A Very Tangled Purim Shpiel” with Torah Center and the congregation. Keshher also had a Tu B’Shevat Cooking Program, where we all helped to prepare a delicious meal inspired by the seven species. Eighth grade had a fantastic trip to New York where they learned about American Jewry and Jewish

immigration to the United States, explored the city, and, of course, ate lots of good food.

Lastly, thirteen of our 9th-12th graders, Sharon Amster Brown, and Kara Liu traveled to Washington, D.C. for L’Taken, a social justice seminar with the Reform Action Center, where we learned about public policy issues from a Jewish lens and lobbied to our congresspeople. We also got to visit several museums and monuments, and explore D.C. Both of these trips were incredibly exciting and educational for everyone who went on them! We can’t wait to see you later this month at our Purim Shpiel “sneak peek” on Saturday night, March 15 and at our full performance on Sunday, March 16. All are invited!

KESHER PROUDLY PRESENTS

A VERY

Tangled

PURIM SHPIEL

Sunday, March 16 during Torah Center!

KOL M'YISRAEL / A VOICE FROM ISRAEL

By Jeremy Rosen



After an eternity of uncompromising purgatory, cycling between the hell of October 7th slaughter and fresh tragedies of everyday war, finally, finally, finally, a small step towards healing has begun. Finally: the words “permitted for publication” of another name of a fallen soldier, don’t begin each evening’s news. Finally: the hostages, broken and emaciated, are returning home, in humiliating and infuriating conditions, but returning at last. Finally: for the first time in an eon, during which we fell between the cracks of reality, it feels ok to breathe a deep breath, see the green in the trees, and hear the chirping birds in their branches. Finally: that deep headache subsides, and the shoulders can sit a little straighter on the back.

No one is mistaken; the road to recovery will be long and painful yet. Much uncertainty and prices to be paid lay ahead. The most tragic of the small coffins of two ginger children are only the first of many that will continue to break our hearts. Yes, the road ahead is shrouded and rough, but at least this small relief is finally graced upon us.

Run for Their Lives

Global run/walk events calling for the immediate release of the hostages held by Hamas

LOCAL GROUP MEETS SUNDAY MORNINGS

10:00 am

At the corner of Ocean and Bayshore

Join our local community in this national program where they meet once a week in a designated location in the neighborhood, for a short 1km walk/run to show support support for the immediate release of the hostages held by Hamas. It takes about 18 minutes.





A CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

By Steve Gordon, TI Foundation Board Member



Temple Israel is well known for so many members being part of our temple family for decades. This is true, not only for many congregants, but also for a member of our Senior Staff.

This year, celebrating her 25th anniversary with us, is our very own Sharon Amster Brown. Sharon has recently been given the title of Director of Education and Congregational Engagement. During her tenure, she has dedicated herself to shaping our youth into responsible individuals with strong Jewish values.

I recently caught up with Sharon to discuss her time at TI, and what it has meant to her (actually, this interview was conducted by email, but it felt far more trendy and cool to say, “I recently caught up with her”).

Steve -

To start, I'd like to wish you a very hearty Mazel Tov on your 25 years with Temple Israel. It has truly been a time of growth, accomplishment, and impressive achievement.

When you think about having been with Temple Israel for 25 years, what is the first thing that comes to your mind?

Sharon -

I feel so grateful to have spent my entire career at Temple Israel. The first thing that comes to mind is the wonderful relationships that I have formed with members of our community. From students to teachers...from lay leaders to fellow staff members... from Torah Center families to adult learners, I have had the honor of getting to know so many special people.

Steve -

With a very long and impressive career, what are you most proud of?

Sharon -

Thank you so much. I think that I'm most proud of the feelings of connection to Judaism and community that I have helped to foster through our various educational programs and activities. Seeing our members engage in temple life brings me much happiness and pride.

Steve -

How do you balance being both a member of our senior staff, as well as a long-time congregant?

Sharon -

I consider it a gift to hold this dual role. It is rare to be able to serve one's own community in the way that I get to. I have loved being part of our TI story over these past 25 years, and I look forward to many more years together. My long tenure as a staff member and congregant has allowed me to see the big picture,

understanding that although there are sometimes challenging times, our community is strong and dedicated. I think that being a member as well as a staff member, has driven my love for and dedication to this congregation.

Steve -

As a member of our senior staff for so long, you certainly understand the importance of fundraising and financial stability. Do you see our financial needs as any different today than they were 25 years ago?

Sharon -

I absolutely understand the significance of financial stability for Temple Israel. Without the ongoing support of donors, life at Temple Israel would look very different. Their financial gifts allow us to dream and execute high-level programming on behalf of our congregation. We are fortunate to have dedicated lay leaders and staff who are committed to ensuring our congregation's strong financial status for today's needs and for many, many years to come. I really appreciate the long-term planning and forecasting that has been done over the past few years, allowing us to have a better sense of financial needs for years to come.

Steve -

You and Adam have been supporters of our Temple Israel Foundation. How important has that been to the two of you when you think about our overall financial needs?

Sharon -

Adam and I are very proud to support the Temple Israel Foundation. The temple has given our family so much and we are honored to give back in this manner. I hope that our participation as donors helps to inspire others to give to this beautiful community. We love how the TI Foundation supports both ongoing needs of the congregation, as well as long-term needs through responsible investing and planning.

Steve -

Ten years from now, when we are celebrating your 35th anniversary, how do you envision Temple Israel, and how do you foresee us getting there?

Sharon -

Ten more years, you say? We shall see what the future holds, but what I can say for sure, is that we will forever be part of this Temple Israel community in some way. I hope that the next ten years will be ones of growth, creativity, meaningful learning, and thoughtful spirituality for our congregation. As the world evolves and faces challenges, I hope that Temple Israel will continue to be a place of refuge and connection. I foresee that people will want a place where they can form important, dear relationships and find programs, services, and opportunities to serve. Temple Israel will be that place like it has been for the past 101 years, but with its own 2035 flare! Undoubtedly, our financial needs will grow as well, as we maintain our building, add to our staff, and support the needs for a growing community.



**Maya Mahoney
March 1, 2025**

Maya is very excited to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah with her family, friends and the Temple Israel community on March 1, 2025. She currently attends Rogers Middle School as a seventh grader. In her free time, Maya enjoys playing soccer, snowboarding, participating in Long Beach Junior Life Guards and hanging out with her friends. She is an avid baker and chef. Maya also enjoys playing Monopoly, Uno and Connect Four.

For her Mitzvah Project, Maya volunteered at the Alpert Jewish Community Center, working with kids at the Winter Camp Program.



**Raquel Lowenthal
March 8, 2025**

Raquel Alejandra Lowenthal is an honor roll seventh grade student at Oak Middle School. She lives to play soccer, and you can find her on the field with her club teammates five days a week! Raquel enjoys snowboarding, theater, volunteering with the developmentally disabled, and feels being the middle child is the greatest gift life can offer. She's extremely proud of her Jewish heritage and plans to stay active in her community, and thankful for her family, friends, teachers, and all her b'nai mitzvah classmates.

all her b'nai mitzvah classmates.



**Dani Suojanen
March 22, 2025**

Dani Suojanen attends Rogers Middle School, where she enjoys her Math and Art classes. Dani swims competitively on the Seal Beach Swim Team several days a week, and if water didn't damage paper, she would read while swimming. Although Dani enjoys both reading and writing, her Mitzvah Project includes neither. It involves a different type of therapy, cats! Dani volunteers at the Little Lions Foundation, where she is caring for the kittens in the nursery. You may also see Dani at Friday night services at the Temple,

where she greets congregants. When summer rolls around, Dani usually hikes and volunteers on farms internationally with her mom. She enjoys binge-watching Gilmore Girls and Brooklyn 99, along with the occasional murder mystery. Dani is grateful for her Temple Israel teachers, her friends from Hebrew School, and the Jewish community for supporting her on this journey to be a Bat Mitzvah.

TOT SHABBAT

**Friday, March 14 at 6:00 pm
with Rabbi Fox and Cantor Cooper**



Tot Shabbat is a fun, informal, child-centered Shabbat Service, designed especially for children, their loved ones. Through songs, prayers, stories, and Torah time, children love this Service! Free Pizza Dinner provided.

Please RSVP to Michelle at mdt@tilb.org

Got Shabbat? Service

Generously sponsored by Rob & Debbie Feldman

Friday, March 14 at 6:00 pm

*Got Shabbat features a live Jazz band,
The Shabbatones
led by Barry Cogert and includes
piano, sax & clarinet, drums and stand-up bass
with the amazing singing talents of Kendra Cogert*



CONTINUING THE TEMPLE ISRAEL TRADITION



The Purim Bag



(SHALACH MANOT) FUN(D)RAISER!

EVERYONE GETS A PURIM BAG WITH A PERSONALIZED GREETING!

Will you take this special opportunity to send Purim greetings and good wishes to members of our Temple Israel family and raise important funds to help support all of our programming?

EVERY FAMILY YOU ADD TO YOUR GREETING LIST IS A DONATION TO THE TEMPLE.

IT'S EASY TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR PURIM BAG FUN(D)RAISER!

EVERY Temple Israel household will receive ONE lovely Purim Bag that includes a Personalized Scroll of Greetings from Temple Israel and all those in the congregation who choose to wish them well. Every Purim Bag will contain hamantaschen and a Purim gift from the Temple. Additionally, in the spirit of *matanot l'evyonim* (giving charity to the needy), a percentage of all donations will be used to help hungry families in Long Beach.

GO ONLINE...

Log in to www.purimproject.com

Your user ID and Password will be mailed out to you.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

The cost to send the greetings you select is

\$2.00 per family chosen, plus an \$18 initial fee

(i.e. send wishes to 10 families for 10 x \$2.00 each = \$20 + \$18 = \$38),

OR

"SAY CHAI" TO THE ENTIRE TEMPLE ISRAEL COMMUNITY

We are once again offering this special opportunity for a donation of \$236. That's less than 43¢ per greeting...much cheaper than mailing a Purim card to everyone and it's a tax deductible donation!

DEADLINE IS NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, MARCH 6

PLAN AHEAD FOR PASSOVER

**Harriette Ellis
Worker Justice
Seder**

Temple Israel in Long Beach
269 Loma Ave, Long Beach
Thursday April 10, 6pm - 8pm

- Hear the Passover story as it relates to the struggle of grocery workers and immigrants.
- The event is free and welcoming to all ages and faiths
- Food will be provided

RSVP Required: bit.ly/justiceseder

PASSOVER FESTIVAL SERVICES

Sunday, April 13 at 10:30 am

Saturday, April 19 at 10:30 am
Yizkor Observed

RADICAL JEWISH WOMEN

In Celebration of Women's History Month

Tuesdays at 5:30 pm
March 4, 18, April 1

Teacher: Rabbi Fox



This year, as we lift up the voices of Jews we can look up to, who we are proud of, and that we have the privilege to learn from, join us for a class learning about the histories of some of the most influential women changemakers in our Jewish community and how not only is our community and country a greater place because of them and their work, but also how our world

has been changed by them radically, sometimes revolutionarily, and all for the better.

SONGS OF RESILIENCE

A Free Concert with Cantor Cooper

Sunday, March 9 at 4:00 pm

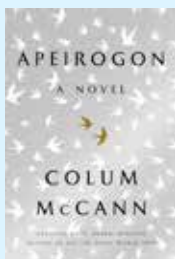


Join us for an inspiring evening of music that celebrates the enduring spirit of resilience in Judaism. This concert weaves together traditional melodies and contemporary songs highlighting the strength, hope, and perseverance that have sustained the Jewish people through generations. Come experience the resilience of a community that has turned adversity into a song of survival and triumph.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Discussing *Apeiogon: A Novel* by Colum McCann

Wednesday, March 12 at 7:00 pm
on Zoom



This extraordinary novel is the fruit of a seed planted when the novelist Colum McCann met the real Bassam and Rami on a trip with the non-profit organization Narrative 4. McCann was moved by their willingness to share their stories with the world, by their hope that if they could see themselves in one another, perhaps others could too.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87285748108>

Cooking Class: PASSOVER CLASSICS THAT HAVE HELD US TOGETHER

Sunday, March 23 at 9:45 am

Teacher: Amy Lipeles, Temple Israel Congregant



Who doesn't want to add a new recipe to their Passover Celebration? Our morning together is sure to be educational and delicious!

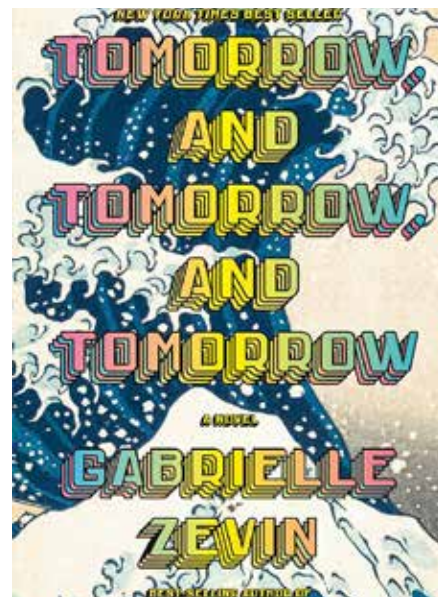
Cost: \$15

TI READS ONE BOOK

Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow

Sunday, March 30 at 12:30 pm
In person discussion and celebration
of the completion of the book

Join Rabbi Fox, other members of our staff, and lots of congregants, as we read the book *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*. Throughout the year, we have had opportunities to discuss the book together. This is the final of three facilitated sessions.



PLEASE RSVP FOR ALL PROGRAMS
TO CHARMAINE clw@tilb.org

Temple Israel's
ANNUAL SHULHOUSE ROCK GALA

Join us as we honor and celebrate
MICHELLE & STEVE GORDON

Saturday, April 5
6 pm at Alpert JCC
3801 E. Willow St
Long Beach, CA 90815

Dinner, Auction, and
1950's Style Entertainment

*1950's attire
Encouraged*

THANK YOU TO OUR GALA SPONSORS

- Binnie & Jack Berro*
- John & Marcie Blumberg*
- Alan & Rosecarrie Brooks*
- Mark Dressner & Matt Davis*
- Hank & Joyce Feldman*
- John & Joy Fisher*
- Alain & Tari Hirsch*
- ALan & Kathy Kreida*
- Jerry & Joanne Levy*
- Alan & Robin Lilien*
- Rich & Amy Lipeles*
- David Tillman & Karen Zoller*

Temple Israel's Annual Gala
SHULHOUSE ROCK

Tribute Book Ads

Finished Book Size 8 1/2" x 11"
Your Donation Is Tax Deductible

Outside Back Cover	\$1,800
Inside Front Cover	\$1,500
Inside Back Cover	\$1,500
Full Page (Full Page Size 8" x 10.5")	\$1,000
Half Page (Half Page Size 8" x 5")	\$ 500
Quarter Page	\$ 250
Eighth Page	\$ 150

DEADLINE FOR TRIBUTE BOOK IS MARCH 21

Tributes need not be camera ready
(Photos may be included)

SUBMIT YOUR TRIBUTES TODAY!

Email to Michelle Techau: mdt@tilb.org



GALA ADMISSION

Billie Holiday - \$2,500

Gala Admission for 2 Guests, 1 Bottle of Preferred Wine with Dinner and a Full Page Tribute Ad

Chuck Berry - \$1,250

Gala Admission for 2 Guests, 1 Bottle of Preferred Wine with Dinner and a Half Page Tribute Ad

Doris Day - \$720

Gala Admission for 2 Guests and a Quarter Page Tribute Ad

Buddy Holly - \$360

Gala Admission for 1 Guest and a Quarter Page Tribute Ad

Little Richard - \$180

Gala Admission for 1 Guest

Gala First-Timer Torah Center Parent - \$100

Gala Admission for 1 Guest



**SOUTH COAST
INTERFAITH COUNCIL**
SERVING SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1953

INTERFAITH GREETINGS

The Threat of the Christian Nationalist Right's Vision

By Roni Love, member of the South Coast Interfaith Council

In September I introduced you to the Interfaith Alliance and its weekly podcast *The State of Belief*. Ray Kirstein, its producer, recently invited Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons, one of the country's top advocates and experts "working at the intersection of religion, politics and policy," to join host Rev. Paul Brandeis Raushenbush to discuss the threat of the Christian Nationalists' vision for America's future and how conversely, so many Christians and other Americans of diverse faiths and beliefs are collaborating to advance a compelling and competing vision of true religious freedom and mutual respect.

Here's a sampling: "If authoritarianism comes to the United States, it will be done in the name of Christianity and restoring God to the public and putting God back in our schools. It will be a Christian theocracy that is advanced. You see that in Project 2025. A year ago, I was the first person to go through this 900-page document and identify its different theocratic elements. They talk about how they are going to put forth a religious definition of marriage. They talk about portraying the left as trying to advance a religion that would attack Christianity. And throughout Project 2025, you see explicit and implicit appeals to Christian nationalism." Kirstein further stated that "Graves-Fitzsimmons has over a decade of experience working with faith communities on some of the most important social justice issues of our time: religious freedom, democracy, LGBTQ rights, reproductive freedom, immigration, anti-Muslim bigotry, and more." He's worked at the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty with an emphasis on its Christians Against Christian Nationalism campaign. Prior, he held positions at the Center for American Progress, ReThink Media, and the National Immigration Forum. He's an ordained Baptist deacon and author of *Just Faith: Reclaiming Progressive Christianity*. The Center for American Progress (CAP) named him one of its "Annual List of Faith Leaders to Watch."

You may wish to follow podcasts like this at: [Stateofbelief.com/subscribe](https://stateofbelief.com/). Every week, Rev. Paul Brandeis Raushenbush hosts lively, funny and poignant conversations with inspiring religious and civic leaders, as well as artists and activists from across the country. This is a great way to enter the new year!
Shalom, Salaam, Peace!

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MESSAGE

Our Neighbors and Workers:

What Is Our Responsibility?

By David A. Sacks, MD

As Jews, we sometimes wonder why everyone didn't sit up and take notice in Europe in the 1930's. If ever there was a time in the U.S. to sit up and not just notice but act, it is now. Executive action at the federal level is threatening not only our health and safety but that of the world, as well as the American economy, our children's education, and our individual freedoms. The sacred separation of religion and government is under attack, and the Reform Jewish organizations are joining in action to resist this. We are already seeing the dramatic impact of the federal actions to deport and/or incarcerate people who reside in this country without proper documentation who have not committed any crime other than crossing the border. There are those among our congregants who may be directly affected by threats of deportation. We, as Jews, must remember when others stood up for our forebears, and recall that the word "neighbor is not a geographic term, it is a moral concept" (Rabbi Joachim Prinz).

Unless we are Native Americans, we are all descended from people who came from other lands. Some came seeking escape from religious persecution or violence, some seeking economic and educational opportunity, some seeking both, and some were brought here forcibly to labor in homes and fields.

Today we face a national crisis. According to the Pew Research Center, an estimated 14,000,000 unauthorized immigrants currently reside within America's borders. The majority come from Mexico, while others come from Central America, Asia, Europe, Canada, and the Middle East. According to Pew, 4.4 million children under 18 were born in the US to unauthorized immigrants. Until January 21, 2025, authorization to remain in our country was extended to those born here, who had green card admissions, who had refugee status and those granted asylum status. Today, our undocumented neighbors face incarceration and deportation not only for violent and serious crimes (which is understandable) but also simply for the crime of having entered this country without official permission. The executive branch of the federal government has authorized raids by ICE, the FBI, and DEA to arrest, incarcerate, and deport them. It is seeking to revoke permission to remain for those who now have temporary protected status, including asylum seekers and those here with refugee status. In addition, separation of undocumented immigrant parents from their American-born children is under consideration by our Executive.

Most people think that undocumented immigrants don't pay taxes. Actually, "Undocumented Californians paid nearly \$8.5 billion in state and local taxes in 2022, according to estimates from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP)."

[Article continued online](#)

[Link to immigration info card](#)

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"Zecher Tzadik Livracha"

The memory of the righteous are a blessing



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on the death of her sister, Margaret Florsheim

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on the death of his sister, Sarah Kincaid



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Michele Berro in memory of beloved grandfather and great-grandfather, Harold Spellens.

Jackie Besley in loving memory of her father-in-law, Harold Spellens.
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Raymond Edelman in loving memory of his wife, Margie Edelman.
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Joanne Feldman in loving memory of her father, Lyle H. Bowman.

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Norma Schumow with thanks from the family.

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Judy & Denny Blumenthal in honor of Rochelle Anderson's new granddaughter, Mackenzie Rayne Zike.

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- 4 Bruce & Michelle Baral - 37 years
- 7 Marc & Anita Newman - 45 years
- 13 Naomi & Lilly Rosen - 5 years
- 14 Vebjorn & Jennifer Hoddevik - 20 years
- 17 David & Judith Ross - 57 years
- 21 Dylan Cherin & Paula Jamison - 28 years
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- 25 Timothy & Sarah Redondo - 18 years
- 26 Art Lim & Dawn Haldane - 30 years
- 27 Andrea & Carissa Levine - 14 years
- 29 Russell Berman & Linda Ackermann-Berman - 27 years
- 31 Timothy & Hannah Bullock - 13 years



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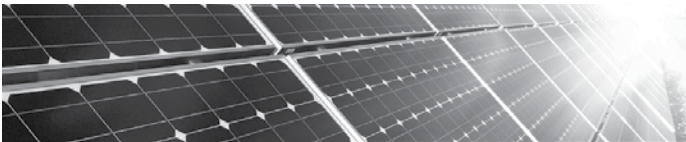
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