



KOL HA'AM

TEMPLE BETH AM AFFILIATED WITH THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM • VOL 16, NO. 1 • Tevet - Sh'vat 5776 • January 2016

From our President

Dear Temple Beth Am Community,



I hope everyone had a joyous Hanukkah and refreshing winter break! May the lights of Hanukkah guide us as we move into 2016.

As we begin this new secular year I want to update you on two specific areas within our synagogue where much is happening: security and campus expansion. Our Security Committee, along with our Board of Trustees and Education Cabinet, have been discussing and evaluating many new initiatives to make our synagogue and school as safe and secure as possible. We have engaged experts to guide us and are always reevaluating our practices. We will notify you as changes are made and ask that you continue to support our security staff in the important work that they do. This means complying with the usage of key fobs and car stickers for our members to access our facility. Thank you in advance for being supportive of these efforts. The safety of our community remains our top priority. A special thank you to House and Grounds Vice President Bradley Temkin for leading our security efforts and to all of our staff for remaining dedicated to this issue.

Our campus expansion efforts continue to move forward. The open area on Corning created by the demolition of two of the buildings has been seeded and should be ready for use by our schools and synagogue in January. Our School Visioning Committee has been working diligently to design a new school building that truly supports 21st Century learning. It will support a Middle School as well as other needs of our synagogue. The Board of Trustees has approved the overall scope of the plan, and now we begin the process of approaching the City for approval. In the coming months, decisions will be made for this exciting facility's final plans.

The Sanctuary Design Committee has been immersed in the design phase for the Sanctuary, to create a prayer space in which we may all be spiritually uplifted. They are considering a variety of designs for the sanctuary remodel and, with the Board of Trustees, have also been discussing extensively what to do with the balcony space. The balcony space has tremendous potential for needed year round usage.

continued on page 11

2016
PRESSMAN ACADEMY
"UnGala"

Never stop dreaming

Saturday, January 23, 2016
DATE

8:00 pm - Midnight
TIME

Temple Beth Am
1039 South La Cienega Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90035
PLACE

Debbie Abeles
Julie Schimmel
TEACHER HONOREES

TICKETS: \$75.00 per person until January 7th (Early bird special)

After January 7th: \$100.00 / each

VIRTUAL TRIBUTE BOOK: \$25 - 1/4 page, \$50 - half page, \$100 - full page



TEMPLE BETH AM

1039 S. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90035
310.652.7354 • 310.652.2384 (fax)

To reach an operator,
dial 310.652.7353

SCHOOL PHONE LINE

310.652.2002

School Fax: 310.360.0850

betham@tbala.org • www.tbala.org

TEMPLE BETH AM is an egalitarian Conservative synagogue that is devoted to spiritual and religious enrichment and that values Jewish tradition while embracing innovation. Its many programs serve a multi-generational congregation. These include multiple opportunities for: worship of god, adult learning, education of children and families, acts of loving kindness, and outreach to those seeking community and meaning in their lives. The synagogue is committed to the institutions of Conservative Judaism, the broader Jewish community, the State of Israel and the advocacy of democracy and religious pluralism.

Mike Cohn, President

Rabbi Adam Kliffeld, Senior Rabbi

Rabbi Ari Lucas, Associate Rabbi

Rabbi Hillary Chorny, Cantor

Sheryl Goldman, Executive Director

Rabbi Yechiel Hoffman,

Director of Youth Learning & Engagement

Dr. Erica Rothblum, Head of School

Rabbi Joel E. Rembaum, Emeritus

Rabbi Jacob Pressman^{z"l}, Emeritus

Rabbi Harry Silverstein, Emeritus

KOL HA'AM

Copy Editor

Ellen L. Jacobs

Graphic Designer

Jeff Baughman

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Kol HaRav



The most appropriate place for children to be is in *shul*. And the most wonderful people a *shul* could have in its midst are children. For one, kids learn to be in *shul* how? By being in *shul*! And by learning the rhythms, ethos and norms via trial and error, and osmosis, and not by being permitted in every once in a while and suddenly being expected to know how to act. Additionally, *shul* is a place of realness, not perfection. We may pray in a sanctuary, but we are not a museum. The Talmud names children as the guarantors for our future. They should be among us. And those adults most concerned about the noise level should refocus the spotlight on the myriad of adults who could do more to respect others' spiritual needs by reducing their own talking and volume and silencing their cell-phones. Kids belong in *shul*.

Or....

Children should not be in *shul*. Certainly not young kids, who have a hard time staying quiet. And certainly not during sensitive moments during services. After all, the adults who come to pray, and listen, and learn and contemplate deserve some serenity. If they wanted a hubbub they could find it in many other places. People don't come to a sanctuary in order to surrender sanctuary. We should all agree that children should be in children's services or programming, or at the very least removed from services the instant they make a peep. Kids just don't really belong in *shul*.

Some of you read the above paragraphs and became angry at one while feeling totally validated by the other. "It's about time someone said it like it is!" And some of you may feel that both were written in the extreme and that the healthy zone is somewhere in between.

For as long as there have been Jews gathering to pray, there have been Jews upset at how loud the room is. As TBA member Bob Braun once put it to me, this dilemma probably arose during the First Temple and is unlikely to be resolved by the coming of the messiah. It is perhaps somewhat reassuring that the issue we deal with here at TBA, and which has come to a head a few times in recent months, is ubiquitous and age-old. And not all of the volume issues are related to (or blamed on) children. We're not alone. Decorum is elusive. Kids can be loud. And so can adults.

What is a community to do? How do we both honor and somehow resolve two (or more) competing values, each of which individually is beautiful, unassailable, and integral to Jewish life? It is a value to pray, to develop a sense of inner quietude, and to provide serene settings for meditation and davening for a community. It is a value to honor the person (lay or clergy) who prepared a *drash*/sermon and deserves to deliver it to a nearly-quiet and attentive room, and it is a value to honor those who came to listen and learn by reducing distractions, some of which literally make it impossible to hear the speaker.

And it is a value to inculcate children into the experiences, sounds and rituals we hope will escort them throughout life; it is a value not to excoriate children for being children, and to have reasonable expectations for what they can, and cannot, do. It is a value to reinforce that we are a multi-generational community and that very multi-generational quality is exquisite, and should be celebrated. We're balkanized enough already; we don't need to sequester youngsters away from everyone else.

We could pull a Rip Van Winkle, sleep for two generations, and return to a Jewish community still trying to figure out this intractable puzzle. There are no easy answers. Even in shuls that have a "crying room," which allows parents with toddlers to see and hear the service but which doesn't permit the kids' noises to seep out, the issue persists. We won't solve this in one article. This has to be a dynamic, in which we are willing to hear from one another, and consider changing our certainties. But I do want to give a humble stab at some informal, unofficial, flexible guidelines that might inform some decisions moving forward. Even as I write them, I invite all of you to share with me your own thoughts. Perhaps a next step might be to gather some community voices to process this issue, so that we can learn from one another and

YOUTH LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

Rabbi Yechiel Hoffman, Ed.D., Director of Youth Learning and Engagement
Eric Maman, Vice President of Youth Learning and Engagement

LEADING, LEARNING AND EARNING:

Beth Am teens are afforded many opportunities to develop their leaders as staff for our excellent programs. These are great opportunities to develop important professional skills, while having a great time with other peers and YLE staff.

Camp Keshet

Teen Counselors in Camp Keshet learn valuable leadership skills, including programming design and time management. Counselors create strong bonds with their campers throughout the years and therefore forge a deeper connection to their community and better the future generation of TBA.



"Working at Camp Keshet for the past four years has been an incredible experience. Something I learned that I value is to accept my mistakes, and to learn from them. I not only learned how to be a better counselor, but I learned valuable things that make me a better person."

- Sarit Ashkenazi, 11th grade

Shabbat Yeladim

Shabbat Yeladim teen staff share their love for Shabbat with children each week. Counselors lead Tfillah, dance with the torah and share Shabbat stories. Through their weekly interactions with children, counselors develop leadership and collaborative skills, while working hands-on with children and make a strong impact on their Jewish lives.



"I enjoy spending Shabbat mornings with the children in Shabbat Yeladim. It's fulfilling to entertain the kids and interact with them. It is also a great way to spend time with other teens as we work together."

- Josh Cohn, 9th grade

Jewish Learning Community

The JLC's Madrikhim Program fosters teens development as a Jewish leader and pride in teaching others. Our Madrikhim work directly in our JLC classrooms on Sunday mornings. They develop important skills like communication, collaboration, problem solving, flexibility and creative thinking. Our Madrikhim gain valuable work experience while strengthening their connection to the TBA community and the next generation of children..



"It has really been a meaningful experience for me to be able to be in the Madrikhim program in the JLC. Being able to encourage kids from a young age to love Judaism is something so special. I am so privileged to have the opportunity to be part of this process in their lives."

- Mira Berenbaum, 10th grade

TBA FAMILY SHABBATON @ CAMP RAMAH

Take a break from the chaos of everyday life and join your Temple Beth Am community's "island in time"- the annual Family Shabbaton at Camp Ramah in Ojai, CA. Enjoy fresh air, beautiful scenery and spiritual sustenance with your friends and family. This unique event will create meaningful connections to your community and Judaism for your entire family.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Shabbaton (including helping with Adult Programming!) please e-mail Natasha Newman, Assistant Director of YLE at nnewman@tbala.org

Early registration is open now through January 30th, while space permits!

Enjoy discounted rates on one of Beth Am's most memorable events of the year!

For more information visit www.tbala.org/shabbaton

Come to Ramah for the...
Friends. Rabbis. Community.

TEMPLE BETH AM

APRIL 1-3
FAMILY SHABBATON
CAMP RAMAH

Enjoy the...
Nature. Pool. Bonfire. Ruah.
Children & Family Programs.

SAVE
Early Bird Discount!
Including Family of Four
\$600
Deadline Jan. 30

Registration now open! www.tbala.org/shabbaton

iGive: To Honor the Past

(This is the first in a three part iGive Series)

During the summer of 1989, my father and I walked into a nursing home in Greensburg, PA where one of the employees who recognized my dad asked him if he was Seth, to which he replied, "No, this is Seth, my son." The employee responded, "Well, your father (my grandfather), Jacob, asks for him often." This was striking because my Zayde had advanced Alzheimer's Disease and his moments of lucidity were fleeting. As we entered the room, my Zayde's eyes lit up and he motioned for me to approach him. He pulled me close in one of the tightest embraces I ever felt and whispered in my ear with the strength he had, "You are my only grandson, honor the family name and keep it Jewish." This was his last moment of lucidity and he passed a few weeks later.

I am delighted that I am honoring my grandfather's wishes by working at a Jewish institution that is dedicated to creating community and educating the current and future Jewish leaders of the world. I am proud that I met my wife in the Colen-Salter Ballroom at Temple Beth Am. I am grateful that we have been blessed with two wonderful children and welcomed them both into the covenant at ceremonies at TBA (the elder enrolled in the Rabbi Jacob Pressman Academy Early Childhood Center).

Just as my Zayde was an integral part of founding his Jewish community, my opportunity to honor his wishes via my relationship at Temple Beth Am would not have existed without the vision of Abe Jacobs, Samuel Goldman, Harold Fish and three others to establish the Olympic Jewish Center in 1935. Without Rabbi Jacob Pressman, what would the face

of Jewish education and Jewish life look like in Los Angeles (and the world)? Our rich history is filled with 80 years of visions, dreams and memorable moments for thousands of members and families. Each vision, dream and moment added to a legacy of creating a strong Jewish community. Without these, we would not have a community to call home, where many of us met our closest friends and spouses and fostered a strong Jewish identity in our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

How can we today, a community that has gained so much by those who came before us, express our gratitude to them? We can ensure that our community continues to thrive by giving of our time and giving of our financial resources. We can honor our ancestors by guaranteeing the success of our community by making an annual gift, by investing in the campus expansion and renovation project or by naming TBA/JPA in our estate plan.

By making a gift to support Annual Giving, I am not only supporting our community, I am honoring those who made TBA what it is. By doing such, I am expressing my gratitude for their vision and their dreams. Please honor those who have created this community by making your gift online today at www.tbala.org/giving or by calling 310-652-7354 x 205.

Seth Rosenzweig
Director of Development

Mazal tov to the graduating members of the Holkhei Derekh - Adult B'nei Mitzvah Journey

On October 21, 2014, this group of committed adult learners from different backgrounds, convened by Rabbi Ari Lucas, met for the first of over 80 hours of classes with the TBA clergy. They learned practical skills like how to navigate the siddur, read Torah, and read Hebrew more fluently. They discussed issues of theology and Jewish practice. They delved into the texts of our tradition - Torah, Talmud, Jewish law, and more. They supported each other at critical moments in their lives (the bat mitzvah of a child, a death in the family, sickness, a wedding, a conversion, and more).

On Shabbat morning, December 19th, they celebrated their completion of this course of study. Each member chanted a portion of their Torah reading and prepared a short d'var torah that was published in a booklet to mark the occasion.



Mazal tov to: (L to R) Row 1: Caroline Miller, Jackie Weiss, Arlene Milrad; Row 2: Emily Yaron, Jenni Asher, Larry Rubin, Sharon Camu, Celeste Del Rio; Row 3: Wanda Peretz, Karen Fried, Bella Kapp, Marla Weiss, Liora Rothchild; Row 4: Manuel Romero, Shannon Romero, Rabbi Lucas; Not pictured: Evelyn Steinberg, Liz Aniel

Photo Credit: Steve Klitzky

Our B'nei Mitzvah



Ari Maman

Son of
Eric and Rishelle Maman
JANUARY 16, 2016

BRIS & Baby Namings

Allegra Willa Ezros

Daughter of Lucien and Sabrina Ezros
Granddaughter of Stella and Jeff Ezros
Born on June 26, 2015
Given the name *Aliza*

Rose Stoff

Daughter of Vanessa and Kenneth Stoff
Born on October 1, 2015
Given the name *Ruth*

Aviva Isabelle Schlossberg,

Daughter of Kerry and Nathaniel Schlossberg
Granddaughter of Darlene and Abraham Schlossberg
Born on October 8, 2015
Given the name *Aviva Elisheva*

Talia Aviva Shamshian

Daughter of Ortila and Ben Shamsian
Sister of Makayla and Kaylee
Born on October 11, 2015
Given the name *Talia Aviva*

Ahuva Simha Ortega

Daughter of Vanessa and Orlando Ortega
Sister of Amaris
Born on November 1, 2015
Given the name *Ahuva Simha*

Yahrzeit Donations

*We thank those who support the synagogue community
in memory of their loved ones named below:*

Anne Abramson, Samuel Arshawsky, Minnie Bally, Fishel Bank, Jody Barry,
David Bemel, Philip Berlin, Sandra Bloom, Anne Breskin, Allen Broudy,
Lee Brunswick, Nathan Bunnage, Phyllis Chass, Louis Chazanov,
Sadie Cherman, Chana Cheslow, Sam Cheslow, Bessie Chess, Phyllis Colker,
Bruce Cowan, Margaret David, Helen Deutsch, Kathleen Firestone,
Abraham Fishman, David Frankel, Sam Friedman, Rena Ganzberg,
Barry Gibbons, Donald Gillin, Morris Ginsburg, Leib Giterman,
Pearl Glaser, Jeffrey Goldroyz, Lev Goldroyz, Lilly Green,
Theresa Greenblatt, Sanford Grinel, Osna Guttman, Meyer Hackman, Flora
Haim, Dorothy Hurwitz, George Jacobs, Shlomo Jonathan, Judith Kaplan,
Celia Kichaven, Lois Knee, Seymour Knee, Max Koffman, George Konheim,
Eugene Kramer, Isidor Kraushaar, Celia Kravit, Herbert Krieger,
Mollie Krieger, Nathan Kristal, Sophie Kristal, Edna Kulkin, Rita Labbate,
Sara Langer, Helene Lebovic, Daniel Lefkowitz, Nathan Loober,
Eva Lubetkin, Jerry Lubetkin, Ty la Lumer, Gerald Mandel, Oscar Mandel,
Harry Meisel, Anna Miller, Donald Miller, Henry Miller, Winston Millet,
Arnold Minsky, Belle Mintz, Steven Mintz, Bluma Moed, Chaijja Moed,
Elie Moed, Sam Morgenstein, Cele Nimoy, Saada Ohayon, Yosef Ohayon,
Paulo Parras, Sandra Patack, Charles Petlak, Charles Pilch,
Rosalia Reizmann, Marvin Resnick, Regina Ritter, William Rockmaker,
Irving Rosen, Jacob Rosenthal, Nancy Rubin, Lorraine Rubin, Rose Sabovic,
Shima Sack, Blanche Salick, Jennifer Sanders, Willaim Satt, Willaim Schur,
Morris Schwartz, Sadie Schwartz, Mildred Shanfield, Edward Shapiro,
Shahyar Shoushani, Herbert Silberman, Hilda Silberschein, Rebeka Silon,
Richard Silvera, Ada Silverman, Bella Slobodetskaya, Raymond Snyder,
Jeanette Somers, Charles Sommer, Fannie Sommer, Chula Sorger,
Ben Soskin, Hortense Spieler, Myrna Spiwak, Hinda Stawisky,
Ida Stoffmacher, Walter Stroh, Nessie Swartz, Harriet Tasoff,
Sarah Vodovoz, David Wagner, Hubert Wallace, Hyman Wank, Mae Wank,
Marcy Wank, Florence Warner, Mary Wolf, Davoud Younessi,
Borough Zeldis, Helen Zisovic, Max Zisovic

Engagements & Weddings

Mazal Tov to:

Sharona Rosen and Nedim Saul,
son of Esti and Izak Saul, on their engagement!
Rebecca Platt and Fred Raskin on their engagement!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

ברוכים הבאים

We welcome the following New Members
to our Temple Beth Am family (as of 12/15/15):

Jaclyn & Josh Margolis
Julie & Damon Pressman
Robert & Rochelle Schultz
Ortiz & Jacques Van Dam
Matthew & Melissa Weinberg

In Memoriam

We mourn the passing of

Milton Berman, husband of Ruth Berman
Evelyn Garber, mother of Ed (Orley) Garber
Beverly Grey, mother of Steven (Karen) Grey
Sharlene Lauretz, sister of Beverly (Mark) Fienberg
Harold "Hal" Horowitz, brother of Stephen (Elaine) Horowitz
Marvin Patack, father of Melissa (Michael) Berenbaum
Augusta Eleanor Klieger Rothman, mother of Mark (Victoria) Rothman
Frieda Schlossberg, mother of Abraham (Darlene) Schlossberg

CLASSES OF THE REMBAUM INSTITUTE OF ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY PROGRAMMING

For information and class sign-ups, visit www.tbala.org/classes, or contact Rabbi Ari Lucas at alucas@tbala.org or 310-652-7354 x210.

HUMASH WITH RASHI WITH RABBI ADAM KLIGFELD

Wednesdays, January 6, 13, 20 at 8:30 a.m.

Study Rashi's original Hebrew commentary on the text of the Torah.

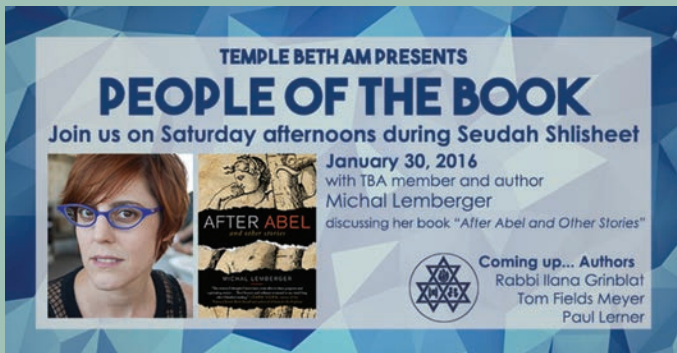
THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH WITH RABBI ARI LUCAS

Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.

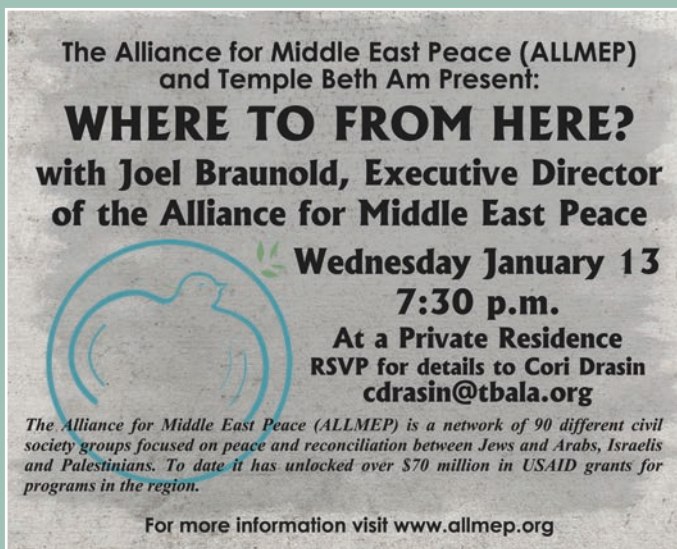
Jeremiah lived through the destruction of the first temple and the beginning of the exile. He contends with theological issues that emerge from destruction – outrage at God, hope in return and rebuilding, criticism of the people of Israel. Join Rabbi Lucas as we study this Biblical text together in Hebrew and English. No prior knowledge necessary.

MINI SIDDUR CLASS WITH RABBI AVI HAVIVI

Tuesdays after morning minyan, 8:10 – 8:25 a.m.



TEMPLE BETH AM PRESENTS
PEOPLE OF THE BOOK
Join us on Saturday afternoons during Seudah Shlisheet
January 30, 2016
with TBA member and author
Michal Lemberger
discussing her book "After Abel and Other Stories"
Coming up... Authors
Rabbi Ilana Grinblat
Tom Fields Meyer
Paul Lerner



The Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP) and Temple Beth Am Present:
WHERE TO FROM HERE?
with Joel Braunold, Executive Director of the Alliance for Middle East Peace
Wednesday January 13
7:30 p.m.
At a Private Residence
RSVP for details to Cori Drasin
cdrasin@tbala.org
The Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP) is a network of 90 different civil society groups focused on peace and reconciliation between Jews and Arabs, Israelis and Palestinians. To date it has unlocked over \$70 million in USAID grants for programs in the region.
For more information visit www.allmep.org

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Friday

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Temple & School Offices Closed

8

Friday

HOST OR BE HOSTED (HOBH) – share a Shabbat meal with new TBA friends! Hosts open their home to guests, matched by our wonderful HOBH coordinators to facilitate new connections.

RSVP deadline has passed for this month, but to check on a last-minute invitation, contact Shlomit Levy Bard: shlomit@studioslbphoto.com or Julie Shuer: julie.shuer@gmail.com

9

Saturday - 7:30 p.m.

SHALHEVET INSTITUTE COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

With Rabbi Kligfeld and other community leaders

See ad on page 7.

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Sunday

SISTERHOOD CELEBRATES ROSH HODESH SHVAT WITH THE WOMEN OF B'NAI DAVID JUDEA.

Our teacher will be Morateinu Alissa Thomas-Newborn, the first Orthodox woman congregational Rabba in LA. Details to follow.

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Wednesday - 7:30 p.m.

"WHERE TO FROM HERE?" Parlor meeting (private home) with Joel Braunold - Executive Director of the Alliance for Middle East Peace and his organization's critical work in seeking transform conflict into peace in Israel. For address and RSVP, contact Cori at cdrasin@tbala.org

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Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

TBA FILM SERIES: NOWHERE IN AFRICA

See back cover for details.

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Monday

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

Temple & School Offices Closed

22

Friday - 7:00 p.m.

YABA SHABBAT DINNER AT CORNING

Join other 20-somethings for a pot-luck Shabbat dinner, hosted by our musical artist-in-residence Josh Warshawsky.

RSVP to jwarshawsky@tbala.org

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Saturday - 7:00 p.m.

PRESSMAN ACADEMY UN-GALA

See cover for details!

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Monday

TU B'SHEVAT

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Friday

4:45 p.m. - NESHAMA MINYAN KABBALAT SHABBAT

followed at **6:00 p.m. COMMUNITY SHABBAT DINNER**

RSVP at www.tbala.org/communityshabbat

MORNING MINYAN:

Monday - Friday: 7:30 a.m.
 Sunday & Federal Holidays: 8:00 a.m.
 Rosh Hodesh & Hol Ha-Moed: 7:15 a.m.

DAILY MINYAN - EVENING MINYAN

January 3-7 4:35 pm
 January 10-28 4:45 pm
 January 31- February 4 5:00 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT

NESHAMA MINYAN - 4:45 p.m.

SATURDAY: 90 minutes before the end of Shabbat

29

Friday - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

TEEN MINYAN (7th-12th grade)

Great food! Ruah filled davening! Ping Pong & Board Games! And much more with Josh Warshawsky and your friends for THE TBA Teen Shabbat experience. RSVP to Reut Sklar at rsklar@tbala.org

30

Saturday

"PEOPLE OF THE BOOK" - the first in this year's series. Join for an enhanced se'udah shlishit and hear from TBA member and author, Michal Lemberger, about her new book "After Abel and Other Stories." See ad on page 6.

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Sunday - 4:00 p.m.

HARTMAN WESTSIDE LECTURE SERIES. Learn with scholar Elana Stein Hain on the topic of Justice and Righteousness - the Ethical Agenda of the Jewish People. These lectures have been taking place all over the West Side and the Valley. This is our turn to host.

Shabbat

Saturday Morning Services

Meditation Plus

9:15 a.m. - Whiteman Conference Room

Shir Hadash

9:15 a.m. - Sanctuary
Because of Hama'alot there will be no Service in the Sanctuary on January 9

BAIT Tefillah

9:45 a.m. - Pilch Hall Hall

Library Minyan

9:45 a.m. - Dorff Nelson Chapel

Havah Narishah Family Minyan

10:30 a.m. - Lainer Library
 January 9 & 23

Hama'alot

10:30 a.m. in Hersch
 January 9
Early Service will be held at 8:30 a.m. in Lainer Library

Shir B'Yahad

10:00 a.m. - Hersch Hall
 January 23
 An interactive (unplugged) service for young families, featuring Josh Warshawsky and other guests



Torah Portion

Jan 2	Shemot
Jan 9	Vaera
Jan 16	Bo
Jan 23	Beshalah
Jan 30	Yitro



Candle Lighting

January 1	4:37 pm
January 8	4:43 pm
January 15	4:49 pm
January 22	4:56 pm
January 29	5:03 pm

JOIN OUR FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM!

LOCAL, FRESH, ORGANIC PRODUCE DELIVERED TO PRESSMAN ACADEMY EVERY WEDNESDAY!

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 Support Pressman Academy with 5% back from every box!

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THE SHALHEVET INSTITUTE PRESENTS:

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS
 An Evening of Discussion & Dialogue

WHAT UNITES US?

Rabbi Sharon Brous
Ikar

Rabbi Yosef Kanefsky
B'nai David-Judea

Rabbi Adam Kligfeld
Temple Beth Am

Rabbi Pini Dunner
Beverly Hills Synagogue

WHAT DIVIDES US?

Saturday Night January 9th at 7:30 PM
 Shalhevet High School
 910 S. Fairfax Ave.

Click to RSVP
 shalhevet.org/shalhevetinstitute
 \$18 Suggested Donation

Generously Sponsored by The Kellner Family in memory of Max Kellner z"l

Building Community Through Conversation
 institute@shalhevet.org
 /ShalhevetInstitute
 @shalhevetSH



PRESSMAN
ACADEMY
OF TEMPLE BETH AM

DAY SCHOOL

We are still accepting applications for the 2016-2017 school year.

The Day School offers academic excellence balanced with social, emotional, and spiritual learning for children in Gesher (transition) through Grade Eight. You can find the application on line at

www.pressmanacademy.org

Please contact Lesley Bloom

at 310-652-7354, ext. 227 or

lbloom@pressmanacademy.org with any

questions about the application

or admissions process.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

2016-2017 School Year Open House

We are now accepting applications for the 2016-17 school year! If you would like to tour our ECC, please come to our

Open House:

Wednesday, 1/13/16, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Come meet our ECC Director,

Angie Bass, visit our beautiful school,

and learn about our warm Jewish community, our rich curriculum and

our exceptional Hebrew Program.

Please RSVP to Betsy at

bkirut@pressmanacademy.org or

310-652-7354, ext. 237 or sign up online:

www.pressmanacademy.org/eccopenhouse

PARENTING INSTITUTE

The Parenting Institute provides education and support for parents.

Please join us for these programs:

Stepping Stones Parenting Series,

Wednesday mornings,

1/27; 2/3; 2/17; 2/24; 3/2; 3/9; 3/23

at 8:15 a.m.

Talking Books: An Interactive Story Time

for parents and children in the library:

1/21; 2/18; 3/17; 5/19. Gather at 3:00,

program begins at 3:10.

Kol HaRav *continued from page 2*

make our community both more warm and inviting, and more primed for meaningful prayer and *drashot*. My current thoughts:

- We have wonderful programming for children on Shabbat. Childcare. Family services where hearing children's loud voices is the goal, not a distraction. And the Havah Narishah *minyán*, founded to be safe, loving embrace of children who want and deserve to be children even while in shul. We should be proud of all of these options.
 - Some parents prefer to be in the full-liturgy services, and have their children with them. This ought to be applauded and celebrated, as there are many wonderful motivations to want to bring your child(ren) to Shir Hadash, BAIT and LM. A long-time TBA member remembers longingly when the back of the sanctuary was clogged with strollers. That is a good visual, and we should support it.
 - Some ambient noise must be expected. And embraced, which is stronger than tolerated. When I toured a cathedral in Europe once, I was angrily chided for whispering to my friend. This is not what we want in our prayer spaces.
 - Some moments in services simply require more of a nod to quiet than others. In particular: the private *Amidah*. It is indeed hard to maintain spiritual attention when a single loud voice pierces an otherwise quiet room. But especially when the congregation is singing, we should handle distracting voices by singing more loudly rather than by shushing.
 - I lean towards the parents' side during most of *tefilot*. It is hard to demand silence from a child. And it is a good thing to want to be with your child in *shul*. To live and pray in a community means to accept an imperfect milieu. Come to TBA and expect that during much of the hours of *tefilot* in all of the rooms there will be some families with young kids in the room, learning how to be in shul by being in shul, absorbing everything around them—including your stares and recriminations. Open your hearts to them. Worry more about your talking than theirs. And, again, sing louder.
 - I lean in the other direction in the middle of a sermon or *drash*. Whether it is the rabbi, Bar/Bat Mitzvah student or layperson delivering it, it is exceedingly hard to deliver, and hear/listen to, a word of Torah when there is loud background noise. The acoustics are unfortunate, but it happens to be true that one squeal of a delicious baby can unwittingly pull the attention of a whole section of the congregation. And if the speaker is speaking not from a fixed text, but rather notes, an outline or from thoughts organized in one's mind, a beautiful toddler's cry can push the speaker off track, and it can be hard to get back on. For 10-20 minutes every Shabbat morning, I think it is fair to shift the primary responsibility to parents and ask them to be as considerate as possible for that stretch of time. To sit close to a door so that if there is noise they can leave quickly. Or to endure that which I know (I've been there!) is a sacrifice and just not be able to hear the *drash* that day because they were outside with their child. I think the speaker deserves that. And I know it is hard.
 - None of what I just wrote should ever give license to a congregant—no matter how frustrated—to speak sternly to a parent. Angry "shushing" is rarely effective and doesn't reflect the kind of community we're trying to build. Nor does the glaring disapproving look that parents sometimes get. Maybe a kinder way is to politely say to a parent, "I know how important it is to embrace kids in *shul*, but I'm finding the sound distracting at this moment." Public embarrassment or shaming is never okay even if that person is in the wrong. And remember, sometimes we just have to endure an imperfect situation.
- I end with where I started. Kids should not be in *shul*. Kids should be in *shul*. Both are true in many ways, at least for particular moments, and at least at particularly unpredictable and loud ages. Embrace of kids' natural volume is situational and on a continuum, so that a child quietly humming to her/himself during a *drasha* might be as much of a distraction as a child wailing during *Ein Kelohienu*. But bigger than that, adults need to focus on their own contributions to distractions more than on others'. And every word shared about this issue (not to mention others) among members of this community should be offered with respect, with kindness, with the goal of maintaining rather than demeaning the other's dignity, and with a recognition that in an issue as complex and fraught as this one, we just won't always have it exactly the way we want it.

I am looking forward to seeing—and hearing—all of you in *shul* soon. Don't forget to sing.

Rabbi Adam Kligfeld

Sisterhood SCHMOOZE

Dear Sisters and Friends,

Time moves quickly, we just welcomed 2016! As we said goodbye to the past year, we are hopeful for good health, happiness and many blessings in the New Year.

Looking for a change? Making new commitments? Setting new goals? Treat yourself to a new YOU - become part of TBA Sisterhood! You will not find a warmer, welcoming, and accepting group of women to learn, celebrate and to schmooze - all that nourishes a Jewish soul.

During November we had an amazing opportunity to watch the documentary *Imaginary Feast*, our heartfelt gratitude to Michael Berenbaum for sharing this beautiful film with our community. *Yasher Koah* to Sandra Braun for putting this meaningful evening together. We are proud to announce that all the proceeds from this program will benefit the Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund. It is part of our Sisterhood mission to support youth education and programming.

Everybody moves at a different pace, the pace we will take this year will matter. A fresh start to making time with your family, your aging parents, your professional life, social commitments, volunteering and leisure is here. No matter what your destination will be in 2016, may you reach it in Health, Happiness, and Peace!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

B'Shalom,
Stella Ezros
Sisterhood President

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 10: Rosh Hodesh Shvat
with Morateinu Alissa Thomas-Newborn

Wednesday, January 20: TBA Sisterhood Mahjong
at the home of Ann Istrin

Sunday, January 24: Torah Fund Study day,
PSWR Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Tuesday, January 26: The Mystery Book Club
GHOST HERO by S.J. Rosen at the home of Betty Berger

Join TBA Sisterhood at tbala.org/sisterhood or contact dkollin@pressmanacademy.org for more info!

Corinne L. Kamoun
Certified Public Accountant, EA

ckamoun@cleanledger.com
(310) 592-2799

TEMPLE BETH AM MEN'S SOCIETY

NFL Championship Game Viewing Party

Sunday, January 24, 2016

at a Private Residence
(information emailed to paid registrants)

AFC Championship Game: 12:30 p.m. | NFC Championship
Game: 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10 per guest

Join fellow members of our community at the TBA Men's Society Inaugural NFL Playoff Viewing Party. Root for your favorite team while enjoying cocktails & tasty food, courtesy of TBA Men's Society
RSVP today at www.tbala.org/football

2nd Annual Torah & Tequila with the Rabbis

Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

at a Private Residence
(information emailed to paid registrants)

Cost: \$30 per guest

RSVP today at www.tbala.org/torahtequila

BIG SUNDAY SUCCESS!

Thank you to all who helped TBA support the Big Sunday Annual Stuffing Event by contributing food items or market gift cards. More than 800 people turned out to help fill 2000 bags full of all kinds of great food for hungry and grateful people for Thanksgiving.

Here are couple of facts for you: Each bag served an average of 4 people. That, combined with all the people who turned out to help; not to mention the many people who dropped by the week before with food; plus all the folks who gave food at their schools, houses of worship, and businesses; as well as all the people who made generous cash donations means that more than 10,000 people were touched by this event!

We turned in 9 boxes filled with green beans, cranberry sauce, canned yams, jars/cans of turkey gravy, boxes/bags of stuffing, and cornbread mix.

Special Thank yous go to Fran Grossman and Sharon Grob for helping us decorate the collection boxes; to Pam Levine, Tanya Dorff and her son, Tehiya Ripps and her 2 daughters, Anita Happel for sorting the food into their proper boxes and Norm Garr for getting the boxes on cart and cleaning up. Thanks also go to Sharon Grob and Debbie Rich for delivering the boxes to the Big Sunday Office. The Daily Minyan donated \$500 which helped the Big Sunday staff buy food.

TBA was proud to be a part of this most worthwhile project.

Dianne Shershow and Kathy Rosenblatt

Temple Beth Am Gratefully Acknowledges Donations through December 5, 2015

GENERAL FUND

IN HONOR OF

Rose Mary Cohen "Kallat Breishit" Shoshi & Izydor Wilchfort
Marlynn Dorff "Kallat Torah" Shoshi & Izydor Wilchfort
Sarah Lande's Bat Mitzvah Alisa Shudofsky & David Cohen
Rabbi Ari Lucas Susan Pondfield & Bill Mentlik
The birth of Mimi Julia Reich Marnie & Steve Stiglitz
Avram Salkin "Bar Association Award" Fran & Arnie Stengel

IN MEMORY OF

Patricia Alexander Eric Alexander
Shirley Brooks Andrea & Noah Jussim, Lori & Brian Papernik
Claire Feinberg Marlisse & Gary Bachrach, Markovic Family,
Nemetz Family, Lori & Brian Papernik
Leon Gerson Gail & Perry Maloff
Beverly Grey Markovic Family, Marnie & Steve Stiglitz
Harold Horowitz Kathe & Howard Pilch
Sharlene Lauretz Joanne & Paul Klein
Sidney Morgen Marlisse & Gary Bachrach
Rabbi Jacob Pressman Beryl Arbit, Lisa Feldman & Brian Greene,
Carol & Howard Knee, Harvey Rich, Rosalie T. Zalis
Esther Pretsky Ann Gershanov, Rob Kutner, Susan Laemmle & John Antignas,
Lori & Brian Papernik
Harry H. Stone's yahrzeit Laurie & Stephen W. Parker

DONATION

Irving Szkolnik

BILL STRICK MEMORIAL HELPING HAND FUND

IN HONOR OF

Marlynn Dorff "Kallat Torah" Lisa Feldman & Brian Greene
Jeff Ezros' Aliyah Stella Ezros
Lucien & Sabrina Ezros' Aliyah Stella Ezros
Allie Grey's engagement to Avi Kotlicky Rosanne Keynan

IN MEMORY OF

Claire Feinberg Vivian & Ron Alberts, Sherri & Mike Cohn
Leon Gerson Rosanne Keynan
Beverly Grey Lauren & Michael Chevlen
Morgen Kramer Vivian & Ron Alberts
Rabbi Jacob Pressman Bev & Mark Fienberg, Rosanne Keynan
Esther Pretsky Sherri & Mike Cohn & Family
Frieda Schlossberg Vivian & Ron Alberts, Beverly & Michael Harris

ROBERT FRIEDMAN MEMORIAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Sam Friedman's yahrzeit Elaine & Larry Friedman
Leon Gerson Natalie Roberts

JEWISH LEARNING COMMUNITY

IN HONOR OF

Rabbi Yechiel Hoffman Esther & Eli Silon

CANTOR KELEMER MUSIC FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Rabbi Jacob Pressman Beverly Mintz

MARCY COLKER KLEIN/BARRYSHAPIRO MEMORIAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Daniel Lefkowitz' yahrzeit Dvorah Colker
Rabbi Jacob Pressman Dvorah Colker
Esther Pretsky Dvorah Colker

LAINER LIBRARY FUND

IN HONOR OF

The birth of Caleb Wade Jacobsohn Essia & Howard Fredman
Sarah Lande's Bat Mitzvah Caryn & Rabbi Mitchel Malkus
The birth of Rose Stoff Essia & Howard Fredman

IN MEMORY OF

Shirley Brooks Essia & Howard Fredman
Esther Pretsky Essia & Howard Fredman

RABBI MALKUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Rabbi Jacob Pressman Susan & Joshua Pretsky

PRAYER BOOK FUND

IN HONOR OF

Teri Cohan Link's milestone birthday Sandy & Mayer Brenner

IN MEMORY OF

Leon Gerson Vivian & Ron Alberts, Lyle & Pam Kurtz
Claire Feinberg Sandy & Mayer Brenner

PRESSMAN ACADEMY DAY SCHOOL

IN MEMORY OF

Shirley Brooks Wanda & Avi Peretz

PRESSMAN ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN HONOR OF

Rose Mary Cohen "Kallat Breishit" Mimi & Howard Landres

IN MEMORY OF

Rabbi Jacob Pressman
Vivian & Ron Alberts, Goldie Altman, Dr. & Mrs. Michael Berenbaum and Family, Sandra & Mayer Brenner, Donna & Mathis Chazanov, Linda & Richard Cohn, Sherri & Mike Cohn, Mitzi & Stanley Eisenberg, Jack Fine, Irwin S. Field, John Fishel, Elaine & Larry Friedman, Mimi Feldman, Faye Gelb, Marlene & Harvey Glaser, Ivonne & Daniel Goldberg, Sandy & Bill Goodglick, Rebecca, George & Oliver Greenberg, Tamara & Marvin Greenstein, Elaine & Richard Gross, Sheri Hoffman, Susan Howard, Anna & Irwin Jacobs, Sally L. Kanin, Mary Kelly & Larry Miller and Lila & Willa, Lela & Norman Jacoby, Bonnie Kahn, Mimi & Howard Landres, Sarah & Michael Levai, James P. Levine, Lichtenstein Family, Mrs. Leeron London, Caryn & Rabbi Mitchel Malkus, The Markovic Family, Phyllis & Mitchell Miller, Susanne Weiss Morgen & Henry Morgen, Katherine & Michael Neumann, Scott Pitta, Barbara & Jerry Rabin, Judie Lynne Ram, Linda & Lee Rosenberg, Elaine & Daniel Rubenstein, Dale Schatz, Rebecca Schatz, Rebecca & Ilan Schwartz, Tobie & Larry Schwimmer, Joan Fischman Seff & Zachary Seff, Adele Shapiro, Alisa Shudofsky & David Cohen, Esther & Eli Silon, Sarahlie & Gary Strassberg, Chaja and Sam Tuchband, Rachel Weber & Ephraim Pelcovits, Lonna Smoller & Stan Picker, Judy Weintraub & Joel Warren, Janet Metson Urman, Shoshi & Izydor Wilchfort, Rosalind Wyman

CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Osna Guttman's yahrzeit Hannah & Marshall Kramer
Rabbi Jacob Pressman Mikie Bernstein

MITZI & NORMAN ROSENBLATT FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Max Gold's yahrzeit Kathy Rosenblatt

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TEEN PROGRAMS IN ISRAEL

IN HONOR OF

The birth of Aviva Isabelle Schlossberg Swerdlow Family

DAILY MINYAN

IN HONOR OF

Aliyah Robert Bird

IN MEMORY OF

Rubin Bird's Yahrzeit Robert Bird
Trudy Bird's Yahrzeit Robert Bird
Jeffrey Goldroyz' yahrzeit Stella Goldroyz Ezros & Family

DONATION

Ellen Metzger

RABBI KLIGFELD'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF

Cori Drasin, with gratitude Evelyn Steinberg

DONATIONS *Continued from page 10*

IN MEMORY OF

Stephen Horowitz's brother Leon Gerson My sister, Betty Bogen	Stephen and Elaine Horowitz Eleanor Klausner Evelyn Steinberg
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RABBI LUCAS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF
And with gratitude to Rabbi Lucas for Holkhei Derekh class Evelyn Steinberg

IN MEMORY OF

Claire Feinberg, Bobbie Feinberg's mother	Bobbie Feinberg and Ely Malkin, Stan Feinberg, Tari and Gary Weiss, Dede and Kenny Beard
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RABBI CHORNY'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF
Rabbi Chorny BJ Elias
Ella Maayan Chorny David Cohen and Alisa Shudofsky

LIBRARY MINYAN DONATIONS

IN HONOR OF
Our anniversary Susan Grinal & Larry Rubin
Our anniversary Many & Don Beier
Birth of granddaughter Aviva Isabelle Abe and Darlene Schlossberg
Dianne Roosth for her assistance Jonathan Friedman
Aliyah to the Torah Baruch Link
Library Minyan Dale and Mark Bodenstein

IN MEMORY OF

Father of Henry Morgen Carol Rosenberg, Rachel Sisk

JOINING HANDS FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Gary & Marlis Bachrach, Donna & Mathis Chazanov, Allan & Laraine Kokin,
Bob & Fran Malina, Mara Roshal

SISTERHOOD DONATIONS

To place a Sisterhood Tribute, contact Marlene Glaser
at 310-550-1738 or email: hagesq@aol.com

MAZEL TOV!

Dalia and Daniel Farkas Birth of Grandson, Noah Dov Unikel Norm Green Thank you and Happy New Year	Agnes and Semyon Emert Shoshi and Izydor Wilchfort Miriam Wagman
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Abe and Darlene Schlossberg
Birth of Granddaughter, Aviva Isabelle

Kerry and Nathaniel Schlossberg
Birth of Daughter, Aviva Isabelle
Cathy and Jeff Turkell and Family
Son Michael's College Graduation

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Audrey Cohn Marlene and Harvey Glaser
Elaine and Richard Gross
Tami and Marv Greenstein
Marlene and Harvey Glaser
Marlene and Harvey Glaser

CONDOLENCES

Mitchell Blank and Family Marlene and Harvey Glaser
Sharon Hoover and Family Elaine and Richard Gross
Loss of Mother and Grandmother, Joy Leona and Stan Sperling
Irene and Richard Burstein Agnes and Semyon Emert

Loss of Son, Adam Darlene and Abe Schlossberg and Family
Bobbie Feinberg and Family

Loss of Mother, Claire Agnes and Semyon Emert
Nadine Gerson

Loss of Father, Leon Shoshi and Izydor Wilchfort
Stephen and Elaine Horowitz

Loss of Stephen's Brother, Hal Horowitz Ricki Breskin-Kulkin and Marshall Kulkin
Rabbi Richard Levy

Loss of Wife, Carol Joy Blank and Family
Marjorie Pressman The Glaser and Schur Families

Loss of Rabbi Jacob Pressman Ricki Breskin-Kulkin and Marshall Kulkin
Abe and Darlene Schlossberg Agnes and Semyon Emert

Loss of Abe's Mother, Frieda Ricki Breskin-Kulkin and Marshall Kulkin
Marla, Stuart, Stephanie and Erica Weiss

Steve Grey and Family Stuart and Marla Weiss
Loss of Mother, Beverly

SPECIAL

Generous donation in honor of Darlene and Abe Schlossberg and Family
Aviva Isabelle's birth

From our President

continued from page 1

I am pleased and grateful to all within our community who are working so hard on the campus expansion project. Heartfelt thanks to our lay leaders chairing the various committees: Building Committee Co-Chairs Avi Peretz and Brant Dverin, Corning Now Chair Daniel Gryczman, School Visioning Co-Chairs Elyssa Elbaz and Aaron Marzwell and Sanctuary Design Committee Chair Diane Shapiro. As we move forward in sharing the vision of this project and asking for your support, a huge thanks to our Capital Campaign Chairs Bob Braun and Mark Samuel along with the entire Development team for all of their extraordinary work.

Hoping that 2016 will truly be a year of peace.

Mike Cohn
President

Celebrating our Teacher, Marlynn Dorff



For three years now, more than a minyan of women have been blessed to learn Megillot with master teacher Marlynn Dorff.

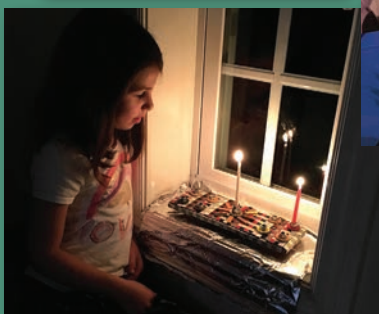
Shown here at her home in celebration of her *Simhat Torah* honor are some of her grateful students (left to right):
Seated: Joanne Klein, Regina Silver, Marlynn, Fran Grossman;
standing: Shoshi Wilchfort, Sheryl Goldman, Judy Weintraub, Renne Bainvoll, Hannah Kramer, Sandey Fields, Gabriela Litov, Renalee Pflug, Frankie Meppen.



TEMPLE BETH AM

TBA/Pressman Academy families and friends shared the light of Hanukkah together - May they shine bright into the New Year of 2016.

#TBaisHome



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TEMPLE BETH AM PRESENTS

A FILM SERIES

Saturdays, Jan. 16, Feb. 6, March 5
7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Am
Tickets \$10 | Purchase tickets online:
www.tbala.org/film

JAN. 16: NOWHERE IN AFRICA
2002 Best Foreign film winner

"It is so rare to find a film where you become quickly, simply absorbed in the story. You want to know what happens next. Caroline Link's "Nowhere in Africa" is a film like that, telling the story of a German Jewish family who escapes from the Nazis by going to live and work on a farm in rural Kenya. It's a hard-scrabble farm in a dry region, and the father, who used to be a lawyer, is paid a pittance to be the manager. At first, his wife hates it. Their daughter, who is 5 when she arrives, takes to Africa with an immediate and instinctive love" - Roger Ebert

Save the dates!
2/6: The Other Son
3/5: The Round Up

Featuring before and after commentaries with Producer, Writer & Film Historian
Dr. Michael Berlin

