

the Ma'alot

November 2014 • CHESHVAN~KISLEV 5775



SHM PERSPECTIVE PROJECT

Join Us for These Events & Much More!

- **Mitzvah Launch 2014**
Sunday, November 2nd, 8:30 am–12:30 pm
- **Hot Challah Club**
Friday, November 7th, 6:30 pm
- **Family PJs & Pizza Havdallah**
Saturday, November 15th, 6:00 pm
- **Adopt-a-Family Thanksgiving Food Drive**
Sunday, November 23rd, 10:00 am–2:00 pm

New Programs at SHM

Hineini: Jewish Mindfulness Group

First Meeting:
Tuesday, Nov. 4th,
6:00 pm

The Happiness Project

First Meeting:
Wednesday, Nov. 5th,
10:00 am

Friday Night Live!

"Ashreinu"

Friday, November 28th,
7:30 pm



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the Ma'alot

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FOUNDING RABBI

THE SHABBAT PERSPECTIVE

Friday, November 7th

- 6:30 pm: Hot Challah Club
- 7:00 pm: Family Shabbat Service with 3rd Grade Participation and Youth Choir & Band

Friday, November 14th

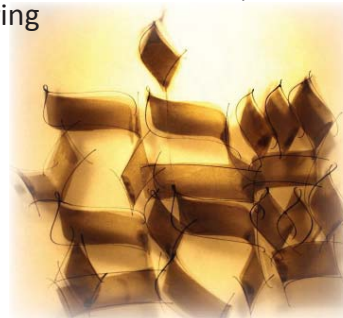
- 7:30 pm: Jr. Congregation (Grades 3-7)
- 7:30 pm: Shabbat Service "Honoring Our Veterans"

Friday, November 21st

- 6:30 pm: Tot Shabbat
- 7:30 pm: Shabbat Service with Temple Musicians

Friday, November 28th

- 7:30 pm: Friday Night Live! Shabbat Service, "Ashreinu"



THE PERSPECTIVE PROJECT

DELIVERED ON KOL NIDRE 5775



Rabbi Richard Steinberg
*The Rona Perley Memorial
Senior Rabbinic Chair*

Writing a book is tough stuff. This is the lesson I have learned from this past year as my writing partner, Eileen Lenson, and I have been working diligently in trying to produce a quality manuscript for our upcoming book. Every word, every sentiment, every comma must be perfectly placed and completely thought out. Nothing in a book, worth its weight, gets there willy-nilly. Sermons on the other hand, as you know, sometimes use words excessively. I have done my best to approach this one like it's a book, only much shorter. Tonight and for these past 10 days we have all been writing a book, the book of our life. What is written there tells our story and as that Book of Life is opened up; we read about and review the actions of our lives this past year. Nothing is there by accident.

The Machzor, the High Holy Day prayer book, is filled with prayers about this Book of Life. "You, O God, open the book of our days, and what is written there proclaims itself, for it bears the signature of every human being." God reads the book, in this metaphor, but we are the authors of our own lives. My question tonight, does the book of your life say what you want it to say about you?

This year at Temple our theme is called "The Perspective Project." It is an attempt to encourage us to look at our own lives and decide how we are going to view the world, but this is completely dependent on how we view ourselves. Yom Kippur is essentially a day of perspective...a day of deep introspection. And so gaining perspective is about the interplay in each of our

autobiographies between how we tell the story, how well we use spell-check and how we footnote our experiences.

"The book of our life is made up of how we define ourselves and the circumstances of our lives. The footnotes tell us context, we write the meaning."

1. We are the authors of our stories. Nobody but us tells the story, or has the ability to narrate, unless we give them the pen.
2. If you are like me, you type fast but with many, many typos—spell-check keeps us honest and humble.
3. The footnotes of our lives give context to our stories.

We all have a narrative to tell. We take the experiences of our lives and we interpret them. Take for example, Gretchen Alexander. She is sightless. But she refuses to allow her blindness to limit her life activities. She enjoys archery, golf, softball, sailing and water-skiing, as well as a number of other activities that those of us who are sighted have yet to learn.

She also speaks to groups about living life fully. When speaking to a group of high school students, she was once asked if there was anything she wouldn't try.

"I've decided to never skydive," she answered. "It would scare the heck out of my dog."

Gretchen is writing her biography as she wants it to be read. She is living

out her potential to its fullest extent and doing it with humor.

Our lives are a series of stories about an apparent fact pattern we tell ourselves. And the more we tell ourselves these stories, the more we believe them and the more they become part of us. So often, however, those stories and experiences are negative in nature. We write horror stories about our own lives, recording only the sorrow and trouble, overlooking the chapters filled with joy and triumph. We beat ourselves up by creating stories of woe and victimhood about the experiences of our lives.

"...to gain perspective, we must realize there is more to learn. If we are set in our ways, we are without possibilities. In fact, the knowledge of not being perfect or not having all the answers is quite freeing."

But it doesn't have to be this way. Why does Gretchen, who is blind, choose to live her life one way and yet another person who is blind

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2015 AIPAC Conference

March 1-3, 2015

Informational Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 5th, 6:30 pm

Join us at Temple to hear details about the upcoming AIPAC Conference trip!

might not see the possibilities that she does? As Helen Keller famously said, "...although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of suffering." Depending on how one sees themselves—they can be a person of suffering or a person who overcomes suffering. How do you narrate what happens to you? What is the plot structure of your existence? Do you write about the great strength it takes to overcome your challenges, or do you write about how challenges overcome you?

Our challenges and our difficulties, and I don't want to minimize them for a second, are real and they are ours. Life can be hard. Pain is a reality and there is no way of avoiding it if we live long enough—but those obstacles, even those tragedies, don't have to be the only storyline of our lives, or even the dominate story, or the overarching story...they can be a chapter, or even a theme throughout that helps guide, but doesn't define the wholeness of our being.

At Temple, Rabbi Lewis, Cantor Shikler and I deal a lot with death. We watch as people go through the process of mourning and I am in awe as I witness the depths of strength people find to go on with their lives anyhow, even after losing a spouse or a loved one. Mourning is a process of memory but then it is also an opportunity to write one's future. It is about appreciation for what was and then how to apply those lessons to tomorrow. In our Jewish tradition, the mourning period is a year and it takes at least that year to write such a story, but it can be written. I have seen it time and again. But I have also seen the story of the person who never writes a new chapter after the death of a loved one. It is as if their book has ended, while they are still living.

Experience the

POWER



PEOPLE



IMPACT

AIPAC Policy Conference 2015 March 1-3

More than 14,000 pro-Israel Americans gather in Washington, D.C. for the annual AIPAC Policy Conference to help shape U.S. policy and further strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship.

UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

The AIPAC Policy Conference is the largest gathering of America's pro-Israel community. Through demonstrations of groundbreaking Israeli innovations, keynote speeches by American and Israeli leaders, inspiring moments on stage, and intimate educational sessions, Policy Conference delegates experience the full scale of pro-Israel activism in three powerful days.

The conference culminates with the opportunity for delegates to lobby their members of Congress in support of legislation that enhances the relationship between the United States and Israel.

WHO ATTENDS THE CONFERENCE?

- More than 14,000 pro-Israel Americans
- More than two-thirds of Congress
- More than 2,300 students from 481 campuses
- 260 student government presidents from all 50 states
- More than 275 synagogue delegations
- AIPAC membership from across the country



Join **Rabbi Richard Steinberg** and fellow members of **Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot** in our nation's capital for three of the most important days affecting Israel's future.

For more information about Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot's delegation, or to register for the AIPAC Policy Conference, please contact Judah Lindemann at (202) 937-1184 or jlindemann@aipac.org.

"Three of the Most Important Days Affecting Israel's Future"

To learn more, visit www.aipac.org/pc



“Ashreinu”

Friday, November 28th
at 7:30 pm

Music is a powerful tool for evoking the inner space within which transformative prayer can happen. The ancients knew this, and music was a big part of the ancient temple ritual.

This service features congregational melodies and eclectic, contemporary music which compliment the creative service booklet compiled by Cantor Shikler, specifically for this service.

Words are powerful. I have a friend who always referred to himself as a depressed person. And indeed he did have depression, which at times was debilitating for him. But through his own efforts and from receiving help, he realized he was a person who “suffered from depression” instead describing himself as a “depressed person.” Depression was part of his life, but it did not define the whole of his life. Because if you are only a “depressed person” there is no escape—there is no more or less to you. And we know that there is a lot more to all of us...we are not defined by one thing. No one is.

The person who plays the role of the victim all the time is a person who cannot see the potential in themselves. They define themselves by what happens to them instead of how they can make things happen for themselves. As Dr. Steve Maraboli, motivational speaker and author, writes, “As I look back on my life, I

“In writing our lives as we want them to be read, we must include footnotes to avoid plagiarism...that is pretending to be someone or something we are not. Footnotes give context and attribution”

realize that every time I thought I was being rejected from something good, I was actually being redirected to something better.” Now that is perspective. It is a great plot and compelling story. He is the author of his own book.

Yom Kippur is the quintessential “perspective day.” As I typed the word “quintessential,” a red line suddenly appeared under the word. I had misspelled it. And this day simply says—you are not perfect. And if you think you are, you really aren’t perfect and you have no

perspective. Quintessentially, Yom Kippur tells us that we are good, but flawed.

I have come to the conclusion in my life that the person who has a healthy perspective on life is a pluralistic person, which is to say that a pluralistic person understands that he does not possess all truth, all knowledge. A pluralistic person understands that “truth” is shared by many and not just one person or set of ideas. Those who claim to know it all, know nothing at all, for they are blind to the possibilities before them.

My friends, to gain perspective, we must realize there is more to learn. If we are set in our ways, we are without possibilities. In fact, the knowledge of not being perfect or not having all the answers is quite freeing.

Perspective is to know that we don’t know the whole truth about anything

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Shabbat Service Honoring Our Veterans

Friday, Nov. 14th, 7:30 pm



We will honor those of all ages who have served their country as men and women in uniform. Worship with us as we give a blessing to these brave souls. If you are a veteran, please contact us at the Temple office.

Welcome New Members

Grant & Dara Michaelson

Harvey & Bella Kaufman

Howard & Ellen Glasser

David & Ellen Gibbs

David & Laura Linton

Sandra Fleissig

Mark & Jacqueline Jecman

Jaim & Laura Landman

Condolences to...

Uri Klugman on the death of his mother, Harriett Tzivia klugman

Sheryl Stritch on the death of her mother, Lilian Saslow

Larry Bann on the death of his father, Sidney Bann

Kory Hittelman on the death of her father, Vic Braden

The Community Perspective

Brit Tikvah:

Discovering & Dealing with
Dyslexia with guest,
Joan McNichols

Wed., Nov. 12th at 7:00 pm

Joan is the Director of Dyslexia Outreach Services for The Dyslexia Foundation and the Director of the McNichols Learning Center in Newport Beach. She has over 40 years of experience in the education field. Her experience includes instructing students from elementary to high school and providing teacher training throughout the country.

Chai Society: Lunch & Speaker, David Lewis

CEO, Bureau of Jewish
Education of Orange County

Wed., Dec. 10th at 11:30 am

**"A Jewish Answer to the
Question of Why Evil Exists"**

Lunch is \$5.00 per person. RSVP online at www.shmtemple.org or call the temple office. If you have any questions, please feel free to call either of the Chai Society co-chairs: Barbara Kaitz, (714) 960-9403 or Sid Kuperberg, (714) 963-6161.

The Happiness Project

Facilitated by Nadine Durbach, MSW, Manager of Adult Care at Jewish Federation and Family Services, along with Rabbi Steinberg and Rabbi Lewis

Wednesday at 10:00 am beginning November 5th

With age comes wisdom...and, a sense of renewed perspective on life. Join us on this journey to explore what it means to find happiness in all aspects of your life as you age—from physical wellness, relationships with children and grandchildren, to financial well-being and more. Along the way, you will create a unique ethical will to share with generations that follow.

Fee: \$50 per person. RSVP online at www.shmtemple.org or call the office at 949-857-2226.

November 5th

December 3rd

January 7th

February 4th

March 4th

April 1st



RHETORIC AND REALITY DELIVERED ON ROSH HASHANAH 5775



Rabbi Leah Lewis
*Rabbi & Director of Lifelong Learning
The Jaffe Family Rabbinic Chair*

Why do we work so hard? For what? For this? For stuff? Other countries, they work, they stroll home, they stop by the cafe, they take August off. Off! Why aren't you like that? Why aren't we like that?

Because we're crazy, driven, hard-working believers, that's why. Those other countries think we're nuts. Whatever. Were the Wright Brothers insane? Bill Gates, Les Paul, Ali? Were we nuts when we pointed to the moon? That's right, we went up there and you know what we got? Bored. So we left. Got a car up there and we left the keys in it, do you know why? Because we're the only ones going back up there, that's why.

But I digress. You work hard, you create your own luck, and you gotta believe anything is possible. As for all the stuff. That's the upside of only taking two weeks off in August.

If an actor could portray the stereotype of the American Dream incarnate, then an actor by the name of Neal McDonough won the Academy Award when this commercial premiered during the Academy Awards. He stood by the infinity pool in his back yard and started to speak. He kept talking while he walked through his pristine hillside home, right past his children who were playing in the family room, and out to the brand new Cadillac in the driveway. According to the advertisers, if we just keep moving forward, working harder and only taking two weeks off in August, we will have all the 'stuff.' The good stuff. The best stuff. If you work hard, anything is possible. Success. The American dream.

When this commercial was aired, people didn't know whether to laugh at its sheer absurdity or to be inspired by its adoration of the American drive. A controversy, of sorts, was born. The

morning after, the media had almost as much to say about McDonough's picture of "success" as they did about the pictures of Hollywood stars and their red carpet fashion! People asked: Is this how our families, our friends, our community, our schools, our country define success? Is this how I define it?

Earlier this year, the Harvard Graduate School of Education launched a new initiative called "Making Caring Common." This initiative, aimed at enhancing moral development in young people, is the result of a survey of 10,000 middle and high school students from a variety of schools, cultural backgrounds, races and socioeconomic classes across the country. Researchers began by surveying parents. They asked, 'Which do you want more for your children—for them to succeed? Or for them to grow up to be caring human beings?' 96% of these parents said that their priority is to raise ethical, caring children. They claim that nurturing the moral character of their children is "very important, if not essential." 96%. Yet when the youth of these same parents were surveyed, a different truth was revealed. A full 8,000 out of these 10,000 kids reported that they are convinced that their parents are actually "more concerned about achievement or happiness than caring for others."

The authors of this study point to what they call a "rhetoric/reality gap." Adults—both parents and teachers—want their children to prioritize caring over achievement, but 80 percent of those kids say that the message that is actually communicated to them tells a different story altogether. There is a disconnect between what we say and what we do, and though we like to think

that teens do not listen to their parents, it turns out that in this case, they do.

The study goes on to quantify the students' own priorities. When asked about what is most important to them, 80%—that same 8,000—acknowledged that personal success, defined for them as achievement and personal happiness, is more important than caring for others.

I have no doubt that in the quiet moments of honest reflection, most of us do care about making our world a better place, and about caring for others. But when the dominant voice in our society sells the 'American Dream' as the acquisition of a Cadillac by working and striving and achieving at nearly inhuman levels that often do not even reflect what we care about, the voice inside of us—the voice that reminds us of what is important—gets drowned out. Not just for our youth, but for all of us.

'U'v'shofar gadol yitaka—the great shofar is sounded,' proclaims the Unetanetokef prayer that is so central to our High Holy Day liturgy, 'V'Kol d'mama daka—and the still small voice is heard.' Tomorrow we will hear the piercing notes of the great shofar call out to us. Almost paradoxically, it is amid that noise

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SHM Annual Chanukah Service & Community Dinner

Friday, Dec. 19th

Service at 6:00 pm

Dinner at 7:00 pm



Rabbi Steinberg invites you to join us for our annual SHM Chanukah dinner and service. Bring your family's menorah to light at the service. Enjoy a delicious dinner with brisket, latkes, and more...

(Vegan that is gluten free option available with advance notice)



Adults \$25.00 / Child (ages 3-12) \$16.00

RSVP by December 11th by calling the Temple office at 949-857-2226 or online at www.shmtemple.org

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO THE CONGREGATION

DELIVERED ON YOM KIPPUR 5775



Beth Carroll
Temple President

In 1901, attendees of the fifth Zionist Congress in Switzerland, turned their discussion to establishing a fund to purchase land in what was then Palestine. This proposed fund was the brainchild of Russian math professor Zvi Hermann Schapira. He had first brought this concept to the inaugural Zionist Congress in 1897. Much to the frustration of the movement's founder, Theodor Herzl, many ideas had been debated without much action. Herzl was determined that the Congress would establish a fund and bring the dream of a Jewish state closer to a reality. The first vote of the fifth congress was to table the motion. Herzl had missed the vote.

When he heard the result, he hurried into the hall to passionately plead for the fund's immediate establishment -- and he won! The Congress set a goal to raise 200,000 pounds -- one of the delegates pledged 10 pounds in memory of the late Professor Schapira. Herzl made the second donation. Herzl's aide made the third donation, and the Jewish National Fund was born.

You may remember the blue tin boxes with trees on them that were a symbol of Zionism all over the world in Jewish Communities... dimes, quarters, shillings and francs were put into these boxes and the fund grew. Separately, a lone Jew could not realize the dream of a return to the Homeland, but together, through Jewish National Fund, the Jewish People could build a nation. ALL IN, as a group -- with everyone participating.

By 1903, the JNF had acquired its first parcel of land: 800 acres in Hadera. Trees were planted wherever new land was purchased. By the time Israel became a state in 1948, the JNF owned 12.5% of all the land of Israel -- land that was transformed into a beautiful and fertile area suitable for a new state.



One donation at a time, that's exactly like our story here. The Capital Campaign has raised close to \$5,000,000, one donation at a time from generous and visionary donors. A year ago, we discussed the quest for a new building. A number of our congregants stepped forward and said "I'm in!" and pledged funds toward our Building Campaign -- despite the fact that we had not located an ideal facility yet. Our Board fully participated, our staff fully participated. These first donors believed in the vision, recognizing that there's a gap between what can be done in our current facility and what is needed to do the best to serve our congregation into the future.

Our congregation has grown from the 194 families who occupied this facility when we bought it to 650 families today. Last year, I shared the thought process behind looking for a new facility. We have outgrown our home, and we believed that we could not make revisions to this space that would meet our requirements. We felt limited by the enormous estimated cost to

provide the parking required by the city if we modified this space to be roomy enough for our current congregation and any subsequent growth that we may experience. So we looked for a new home. And looked, and looked.

The Temple office was contacted by a Korean Church at one point in the quest. They were interested in purchasing our building. They had cash to purchase a facility and had been looking for the right place for five years. They shared their frustration with us at not finding a place that was the right price and size for their growing congregation. Sound familiar? And we've only been exploring this for a bit over a year!

We found a few interesting properties. One building we considered is not too far from here in a light industrial area that has some education facilities mixed in with small assembly and technology companies. It had great bones, but presented us other challenges -- not enough green space, not enough onsite parking. We brought in Michael Lehrer and Roberto Sheinberg, architects who were referred to us by multiple sources to take a look at the space and tell us how they would transform it to a holy place of warmth and community for Shir Ha'Ma-alot. Lehrer Architects helped us to see the promise the facility held if we opened up some walls, created some green space and made the most of large open spaces in the facility. But it wasn't meant to be. The owner wanted too

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THE EDUCATION PERSPECTIVE



Talia White
Religious School Principal
The Alpert-Waldman Family
Education Chair

On Rosh Hashanah the year 5775 began and as we think back on our days in synagogue, they were filled with stories of our challenges, our heritage and our traditions as Jews. Our stories are powerful, they are the cement that binds one generation to another and another. Stories captivate our absolute attention, describe moments of intense joy, and fill our hearts with courage and commitment.

As adults, we think we have heard them all. For a child, the telling of a

story places them in a moment. A story breathes life into an experience; fantasy becomes real, impossible odds become achievable and fear is overcome. Stories ripen within a child's mind. The same story at two, may rhyme and sing, at five, it may be humorous, at 10, its mysteries and challenges may be revealed. The story is the same, the child has grown, understanding and meaning have deepened. One cannot explain the story's depth at 2 or 5 or even 25, without robbing the child of the experience, that moment of revelation. The reading and the exploration of the story must be the "child's" journey.

November is Jewish Book Month and we are celebrating the stories that bring us together. Below, I have compiled a small list of my personal favorite books that I hope you will share with your children.

- *The Bedtime Sh'ma* adapted by Sarah Gershman
- *Modeh Ani* adapted by Sarah Gershman
- *It's a...It's a ...It's a Mitzvah* by Liz Suneby and Diane Heiman

- *Hashem is Truly Everywhere* by Chani Altein
- *Abraham's Search for G-d* by Jacqueline Jules
- *Tower of Babel* by A.S. Gadot
- *Gershon's Monster* by Eric A. Kimmel
- *When the Chickens went on Strike* by Erica Silverman
- *Miriam in the Desert* by Jacqueline Jules
- *The Orphan Rescue* by Anne Dublin (age 8 and up)
- *Touched by Fire* by Irene N. Watts (age 8 and up)
- *The Anne Frank Case- Simon Wiesenthal's Search for the Truth* by Susan Goldman Rubin (age 9 and up)

Each of these books shares a story and offers the opportunity to share time and conversations with your children while building a love of reading and learning through Jewish literature.

Happy Reading!!



Hot Challah Club

Friday, Nov. 7th:
Family Shabbat Service
Make the challah: 6:30 pm
Service: 7:00 pm

Come just a few minutes before services to nourish your body as well as your soul. We invite people of all ages to make a

challah and while you are at services, the challah will bake. As you leave for home after the Oneg, you will have a fresh challah to enjoy for the Sabbath. There is no fee, however RSVP is requested so that we may plan for enough dough. RSVP online at www.shmtemple.org or call the Temple office at 949-857-2226.

Family Havdallah Experience

"PJs and Pizza!"

Saturday, Nov. 15th
at 6:00 pm

Come in your PJs and join us for pizza, stories, crafts and havdallah—a sweet ending to Shabbat.

\$5 per person, RSVP online at www.shmtemple.org or call the Temple office at 949-857-2226.





Jessica Herron Sharing and Caring
Annual Thanksgiving Project
Sunday, November 23rd
Food Collection: 10:00 am–2:00 pm

The families chosen for this program come from the poorest areas of Orange County. There are hundreds of needy families from our inner city schools, community programs and Jewish organizations. The families chosen for this program are truly the poorest of the working poor.

You will be provided with a food list.

If you would prefer, you may purchase a grocery gift certificate.
The food will be collected and distributed on November 23rd
(the Sunday before Thanksgiving)

Please bring your donations to the synagogue between 10:15am - 12:15pm on that day.
We will have volunteers in the temple parking lot to unload your car.

Thank you for your generosity, caring and involvement.

If you would like to participate or have any questions, please contact: Barbara King at frombking@cox.net or Dana Klein at nevatolate@aol.com. Donations are gladly accepted any time on the temple website, www.shmtemple.org. Indicate that your donation is for the Jessica Herron Fund on the donation page.

Jessica Herron Sharing & Caring
Christmas & Chanukah Adopt-A-Family
Sunday, December 14th
10:15 am—12:30 pm



Please join us as we help families in our community celebrate their Winter Holidays. The families chosen for this program come from the poorest areas of Orange County. They are truly the poorest of the working poor from our inner city schools, community programs, Jewish organizations and adoption and foster care agencies.

You will be given a choice of families to “adopt” along with their “wish list”. Bring your gifts to the temple

on Sunday, December 14th . The receiving families will pick up your gifts in the afternoon. Opportunities are also available to deliver directly to your selected family.

If you would prefer, you may make a monetary donation or provide gift certificates to stores such as Target, Sears, Kohls or JCPenney.

If you are interested in participating in this program, you may choose a family to sponsor by signing up in the book located in the temple lob-

by, registering online at the temple website or contacting Barbara King (frombking@cox.net) and information will be sent to you via email.

Volunteers are always needed to help unload donations, distribute the gifts to receiving families and/ or deliver the gifts to those without transportation!

Co-Chaired by Barbara King and Dana Klein. For questions contact Barbara at frombking@cox.net or Dana at Nevatolate@aol.com

Weekly Lessons of Life: Torah Study

Taught by Rabbi Steinberg and Rabbi Lewis

Saturdays at 8:30 am

11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/22, 11/29

Each week our Torah portion invites us to search our souls for meaning, memories, mitzvah, and lessons on how to be a mensch. We read the Torah over and over again each year, increasing our insight into its depth. Study the weekly Torah portion with the Rabbis and gain inspiration that will nourish your soul. You will have food for thought that will nourish your soul. Weekly study is an essential part of Jewish life.

Living Room Learning

**Thursday, Dec. 11th, 10:00 am
at the home of Teri Bassman**

This program, designed for women, will cover issues, concerns and topics in a safe, intimate and warm environment. No fee for the event, however RSVP is appreciated. Contact the Temple at 949-857-2226 to register or for the address for Teri Bassman.

Nosh and Drash (Yiddish for "Learn")

Taught by Rabbi Steinberg, Rabbi Lewis and other amazing teachers

Sundays 8:30–9:30 am

Join us on Sunday mornings between 8:30 and 9:30 to enjoy a bagel and coffee and food for thought. We will inspire you with one basic question: How can I apply Judaism to my life in a meaningful way? The class will learn the basics of Judaism from Bible to Talmud, from Reform to Orthodoxy. We will explore the ethics of our religion that guide our beliefs.

With a wide array of guest speakers and the core of the course taught by Rabbis Steinberg and Lewis, we will gain insight into the Jewish spark that can light up our lives. Feel free to drop in whenever you are available, or come every week. Each week will be a unit unto itself, but the more one attends, the more they will understand the building blocks of Jewish life.

November Israel Series

November 1st: Orthodox Judaism

November 9th: Israel, Is Peace Possible?

November 16th: Israel, Religious Progress or Regress

November 23rd: Israel on Campus

Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot



LATKE



COOKOFF

**Sunday, Dec. 7th
10:00 am**

Bring a batch of your favorite latkes to share, along with copies of the recipe and a clever name for your recipe... and let the voting begin!

- Ovens will be available starting at 9:00 am to heat your pre-made patties
- The tantalizing taste test will run from 10:00–11:00 am
- And the winner is...the exciting announcement to be made at 11:00 am
- **GRAND PRIZE:** 2 free tickets to the 2014 Chanukah dinner!

If you would like to participate in the competition, register online at www.shmtemple.org or call the Temple office at 949-857-2226



NaSHiM: Shir Ha-Ma'alot Women
stronger together

Girls' Night Out

Manicures & Mimosas

*Thursday, Nov. 13th
at 6:30 pm*



Meet up with old and new friends for a fun evening out at "Oh My Nails" salon in Irvine. Food and fun are included... the salon service is up to you!



\$20 per person. Register by Nov. 11th online at www.shmtemple.org or call the Temple office at 949-857-2226

NOVEMBER 2014 / CHESHVAN~KISLEV 5775

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:30 am - Torah Study 10 am - Bar Mitzvah of Elijah Littman 6 pm - SHMoFTY: Top SHMeF!
2 8:30 am - 7th Grade Action Day 8:30 am or 10:45 am - Religious School with Mitzvah Launch 8:30 am - Nosh & Drash: Orthodox Judaism 10:15 am - Youth Choir 10:45 am - Torah Time for Tots 12:30 pm - Youth Band	3 9:30 am - Mah Jongg 10 am - Bar Mitzvah of Owen Wiedermann 6:45 pm - Adult Choir	4 4:15 pm - Hebrew School 5 pm - 7th Grade BMC 5 pm - 8th-10th Grade Classes 6 pm - Hineini (Mindfulness Group) 6:30 pm - 11th & 12th Grade Class 7:30 pm - SHMoFTY Board Meeting 7:30 pm - Men's Spirituality Group	5 10 am - Happiness Program	6 5:30 pm - Essay Writing Workshop for Teens 6 pm - Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 pm - Temple Musicians 7:30 pm - Board of Trustees Meeting	7 10 am - Torah Time for TINY Tots 6:30 pm - Hot Challah Club 7 pm - Family Shabbat Service with 3rd Grade Participation and Youth Choir & Band	8 8:30 am - Torah Study 10 am - Bat Mitzvah of Dana Levenson
9 8:30 am or 10:45 am - Religious School with 5th & 6th Grade Family Experience (off site) 8:30 am - Nosh & Drash: Israel, is Peace Possible? 10:15 am - Youth Choir 12:30 pm - Youth Band	10 9:30 am - Mah Jongg 6:45 pm - Adult Choir	11 No Hebrew School	12 7 pm - Brit Tikvah with speaker, Joan McNichol "Discovering and Dealing with Dyslexia" 7 pm - Women's Support Group	13 6:30 pm - Girl's Night Out: "Manicures & Mimosas" 6:30 pm - Temple Musicians	14 10 am - Torah Time for TINY Tots 7:30 pm - Jr. Congregation (Grades 3-7) & JIFTY Overnight 7:30 pm - Shabbat Service "Honoring Our Veterans"	15 8:30 am - Torah Study 6 pm - Family Havdallah Program
16 8:30 am or 10:45 am - Religious School 8:30 am - Nosh & Drash: Israel, Religious Progress or Regress 10:15 am - Youth Choir 10:45 am - Torah Time for Tots 12:30 pm - Youth Band 1:00 pm - MiTY: Afternoon at the Movies!	17 9:30 am - Mah Jongg	18 4:15 pm - Hebrew School 5 pm - 7th Grade BMC 5 pm - 8th & 9th Grade Classes 6:30 pm - Healing Service 6:30 pm - Board of Education Meeting	19	20 6:30 pm - Temple Musicians	21 10 am - Torah Time for TINY Tots 6:30 pm - Tot Shabbat 7:30 pm - Shabbat Service with Temple Musicians	22 8:30 am - Torah Study 10 am - Bat Mitzvah of Jordyn Tamani
23 8:30 am or 10:45 am - Religious School 8:30 am - Nosh & Drash: Israel on Campus 10 am - Adopt-a-Family Thanksgiving Food Drive 10:15 am - Youth Choir 12:30 pm - Youth Band	24 9:30 am - Mah Jongg 6:45 pm - Adult Choir	25 No Hebrew School	26	27 Thanksgiving Temple Office Closed	28 Temple Office Closed 7:30 pm - Friday Night Live! Shabbat Service, "Ashreinu"	29 8:30 am - Torah Study 10 am - Bat Mitzvah of Regina Saad
30 No Religious School						

B'nai Mitzvah Students



Elijah Littman

November 1, 2014

Son of Sue & Jay Littman
I attend: Tarbut V'Torah
I enjoy: Gymnastics, swim at the beach,
hanging out with friends and my dog, Cali
Mitzvah Project: Volunteered in the Homework
Cafe after school, tutoring & reading to kids



Jordyn Tamani

November 22, 2014

Daughter of Sharon & Scott Tamani
I attend: Serrano Intermediate
I enjoy: Soccer, drawing, cooking, getting
together with friends & Girl Scouts events
Mitzvah Project: Created Chanukah gift boxes for
underprivileged Jewish children



Owen Wiedermann

November 3, 2014

Son of Jackie Hense and Scott Weidermann
I attend: La Paz Intermediate
I enjoy: Taking care of animals in need,
computer games and travel
Mitzvah Project: Assisted in coaching younger
special needs children in karate



Gigi Saad

November 29, 2014

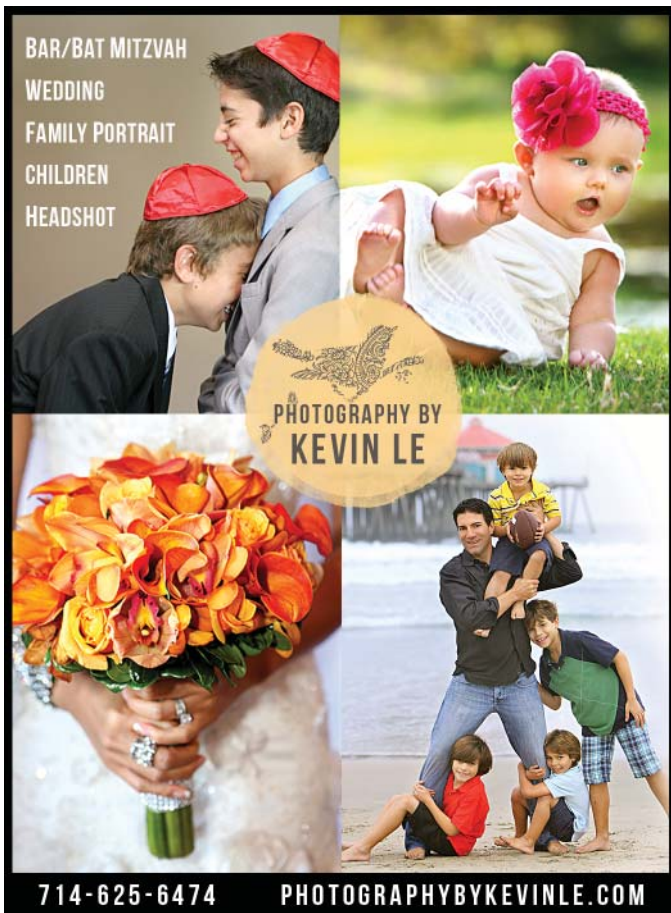
Daughter of Kristen & Carlos Saad
I attend: Pioneer Middle School
I enjoy: Musical theater, reading, volleyball
and creative writing
Mitzvah Project: CHOC Walk 2014 & Lion's Heart
Service Group



Dana Levenson

November 8, 2014

Daughter of Steve & Dori Levenson
I attend: Corona del Mar Middle School
I enjoy: Volleyball, soccer, cheer leading
and movies
Mitzvah Project: Assembled swab kits for the
Be The Match Foundation for bone marrow
testing



ON-GOING PROGRAM

SLEEPING BAG DRIVE!!!!

Help needy families stay warm! Our goal is to provide sleeping bags to hundreds of needy families throughout our community. The majority of the family members we help sleep on the floor. Any extra money they may have, they spend on food.

Donate new or gently used sleeping bags!

Help spread the warmth of love to the needy in our community. Bring your sleeping bags to the temple.

Questions? Ask Barbara King at frombking@cox.net



Youth Group Perspective

Register for these events online at shmtemple.org under "Events & RSVP" or follow the registration link in the emails.

CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!

SHMoFTY (Grades 9-12): Top SHMeF!

Saturday, November 1st, 6-9 pm

Join your SHMoFTY friends at UCI for an awesome cooking lesson/competition taught by an incredible UCI chef! It's going to be a delicious evening

JiFTY (Grades 6-8): Overnight at SHM!

Friday & Saturday, Nov. 14th & 15th

Drop off Fri at 7:15 pm/Pick up Sat at 8:30 am

Come to SHM for a night full of fun, starting with Jr. Congregation and then continuing on through the night with games and good times with your JiFTY friends!

MiTY (Grades 4 & 5): Afternoon @ the Movies!

Sunday, November 16th, 1-3 pm

Join your MiTY friends after religious school in the youth lounge for movie theater snacks, and we will all enjoy a movie to unwind after school!

Jr. Congregation Service (Grades 3-7)

Friday, November 14th at 7:30 pm

This fun, camp-style service brings our youth together to celebrate Shabbat. We sing, take part in interactive sermon through art, and of course there is the Yoneg (Youth Oneg) in which we eat and play in the Youth Lounge. Parents are invited to attend the regular Shabbat service at the same time in the sanctuary.

Teen Shabbat at Rabbi Steinberg's (Grades 8-12)

Friday, December 5th at 7:00 pm

This service is designed with Jewish teens in mind. We fill Shabbat with ruach as we pray, sing and explore through a Jewish lens issues which are important to teens. Services conclude with a Yoneg (Youth Oneg). This service will be held at Rabbi Steinberg's home. RSVP is needed to plan how many to expect for the Yoneg. Register online at www.shmtemple.org or call the temple office at 949-857-2226 if you need Rabbi's address.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE! MITZVAH LAUNCH LEND 2014 A HAND!



**Sunday, Nov. 2nd
8:30 am-12:30 pm**

One of our goals in creating Mitzvah Launch is to enable our students to understand the importance of helping others. In keeping with our goal, we have created a Mitzvah project that the entire school can participate in. Mitzvah Launch will be a regular Religious School day. On this day, the students will be making and packing close to 700 lunches for a homeless shelter. It is our hope that the physical participation will resonate with the students and encourage students to perform future mitzvot. Everyone is encouraged to participate! Join us at the temple any time during the morning.

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really. We know our perception about life and those perceptions become our guiding facts, but being a human is humbling and with such an admission, we grow, we develop and we become more whole. We don't spell everything correctly all the time.

The idea of the Book of Life, comes from the Talmud¹, in a saying attributed to Rabbi Yohanan who taught: "Three books are opened on Rosh Hashanah, one for the thoroughly wicked, one for the thoroughly righteous, and one for the people in the middle. The thoroughly righteous are written in and sealed into the realm of Life; the thoroughly wicked are written in and sealed into the realm of Death, while the ones in the middle are suspended until Yom Kippur. If they prove meritorious, they're written for Life, and if they prove not to be, they are written for Death."

Are any of us so thoroughly righteous or wicked that we are written automatically in to one or the other

"My question tonight, does the book of your life say what you want it to say about you? ...we determine its content."

book? Or are most of us a more complicated story, somewhere in the middle? We are not perfect and so we have room to grow. It means we have work to do and it means we have perspective. What we do with that perspective is the ultimate definition of who we are. If we develop skills in order to change, grow, mature and live out our full potential—that is a plot of depth and meaning. Imperfection is a central theme of our life. Yom Kippur is the ultimate spell-check—it underlines our misspelled actions in red and encourages us to change.

¹Talmud, Tractate Rosh Hashanah 16b

Mentsch of the Quarter



Friday, Nov. 14th, 7:30 pm
Dick Gorelick

Richard (Dick) Gorelick is our mentsch of the quarter. He is a man of eternal optimism. He is the role model for living a life of meaning. His love of family and his dedication to his friends and fellow congregants is outstanding. After one meets Dick, with his wonderful life partner and wife, Betty, you walk away feeling the world is a kinder more gentler place. Dick's smile brightens a room and radiates warmth and love. He has dedicated decades to our Temple and we are forever grateful for all he has done.

On Rosh Hashanah we ask to be written into the Book of Life "kotveinu b'sefer hayim". At the end of Yom Kippur, we ask to be sealed into the Book of Life—"Chotmeinu b'sefer chayim."

In writing our lives as we want them to be read, we must include footnotes to avoid plagiarism...that is pretending to be someone or something we are not. Footnotes give context and attribution. We are a people of the Book. The Torah, the Haggadah, the Talmud—all written by others. On the High Holy Days, we are confronted with the Book of Life. This Book of Life is ours. Our parents influenced us and take up many footnotes of our story. Our professions, our spouses, our experiences are all the context for our lives but we author the responses to those circumstances. As someone put it so well: "Economic factors will determine whether we are rich or poor, but not whether we are honest or robbers. Environmental factors will determine what language we speak, but we decide what words we're going to say. Psychological factors may determine whether we

are happy or sad, but we decide whether that's going to lead us to creative or destructive behavior. Our genetic makeup will determine the color of our eyes, but we choose what we want to look at and admire." The book of our life is made up of how we define ourselves and the circumstances of our lives. The footnotes tell us context, we write the meaning.

Moses is the greatest author of all time. The last four books of the Torah are all about his own life; his struggles and his successes. He spoke of his own foibles and imperfections, his anger problems and his family issues. He recognized his own mortality even, understanding that his day of death was coming soon. But in the writing of his own life, in his Book of Life, we call the Torah, he spoke of his eyes being undimmed and his strength unabated, even on the last day of his life. He was able to see the Promised Land, though he did not enter and he felt blessed and privileged to have led his people for forty years. Many other men would have been concluded their biography with "woe is me" that I

can't enter the land. "Woe is me" that I will not see my people flourish. But Moses, at the end of his, did not write about going blind in old age, but rather having eyes that still saw the beauty of life and its blessing. He understood the context of his life and made meaning of it.

Arye Ben Gurion, nephew of David Ben-Gurion, wrote the following, "When my grandson reached Bar Mitzvah age he asked me: "What kind of holiday is [Yom Kippur] Rosh HaShanah?"

"I replied: 'I will give you for this incoming year a diary with 365 pages and every morning you will try to write down all your hopes for that day and then before you go to sleep each night you will examine honestly and summarize how much of your expectations [of yourself] you realized. Know that whatever you wrote down in that book was the sum of your very own choices and decisions, the work of your own hands and the fingerprints you left on the world. No God or no superior force intervened to enforce its will on you [As Maimonides says, God gives us absolute free will in the realm of moral responsibility and only a fool believes that one's fate is sealed by luck or by the horoscope]. Your balance, your final accounting, is on the 365th page of your diary. That is [Yom Kippur] Rosh HaShanah.'"

My question tonight, does the book of your life say what you want it to say about you? On Yom Kippur as we implore God to seal us in the Book of Life, let's realize that it is us who are the authors of the stories found in that book. We determine its content. By understanding this assignment of writing a meaningful autobiography, we must appreciate the fact that we are not perfect and by taking the context of our life as an opportunity to respond—we will gain perspective in facing not only the present, not only the future, but eternity itself.



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Friday: One hour before services

Sunday: 8:30 am-1:00 pm

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Rabbi Lewis from pg 7

that we are challenged to tune in to the near silent voice that lies at the core of our very being, the whispering reminder of who we are.

‘Wake up!’ this day is screaming out to us, ‘Stop moving for just a moment. Listen, pay attention to the still small voice that is crying out inside of you.’ It is the voice of truth, the voice of perspective, you might even call it the voice of God. If only we can hear that voice calling out to us, then live our lives according to what really matters—the people we love, the values we cherish, the things we care about—then, Judaism teaches, we will succeed.

In his pivotal book, *The Lonely Man of Faith*, Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik taught that there are two sides of our natures, which he called Adam I and Adam II. Adam I is the worldly, ambitious, external side of our nature. He wants to build, create, create companies, innovate. Adam II wants to do good and to be good. In the words of columnist David Brooks, who wrote about Soloveitchik, Adam I’s motto is “success.” Adam II’s motto is “love, redemption and return.”

In my new position as Director of Lifelong Learning, I see good people, every day, caught up in the ‘drive’—caught up in Adam I—and worn down because of it. “My child wants to be part of the youth group, she really does. Her

friendships here are her favorite ones. But she doesn’t get home from practice until 8:00. She needs to eat dinner and shower, and she doesn’t even start her homework until long after everyone else is already asleep. She is up until at least 2:00 in the morning. And then she needs to be back at school for Zero Period because she has an AP test coming up.” Sound familiar? The players and the specifics may be different, but the point is the same. The need to achieve is so strong that we disconnect from the critical moments of love, redemption and return.

Preliminary statistics show that this year’s entering freshman class at UCLA comes with an average high school grade point average of 4.39. Last time I checked, that was a 4.39 out of a possible 4.0! No wonder cheating on high school campuses runs rampant.

And it is not just students who feel the pressure to keep up, despite the quiet voice that tells us that really, we do not need to. We claim that beauty comes from within, yet Americans of all ages spend more money than any other civilized country on diets to look like the supermodels who have a body mass index of about half that of the average American woman. We celebrate athletes like Alex Rodriguez and Lance Armstrong who set new records in their sports, only to find out that they are setting those records pumped up on performance-enhancing drugs. And that is to say nothing of the other sport in the news these days! Within our gap between rhetoric and reality, there is a need to keep up. To succeed...if you want to call it that.

It turns out that in our drive to thrive, we sacrifice a whole lot more than two weeks in August. We sacrifice our humanity. In an article earlier this summer in “The New Yorker” magazine, author Jacob Rubin described the challenge that people who will stop at nothing to achieve—people he calls “strivers”—face when they try to narrow the gap between rhetoric and reality. Rubin cites the response of the Tibetan scholar, Lobsang Lhalungpa, when he found himself walking on the busy streets of San Francisco’s financial

Hineini:

A JEWISH MINDFULNESS GROUP



**Tuesday, November 4th
6:00 pm**

From the Torah to modern day, the word *hineini* means that we do more than simply show up. We are fully present, fully mindful of the world around us. Judaism can inspire one to live a mindful life, but it takes practice. Be part of this 6-part practice in Jewish mindfulness to acquire the gifts and benefits of *hineini*.

Future session dates:

December 2nd

January 6

February 3

March 3

April 7

district during a regular, weekday rush hour, back in the 1970's. Amid the shouts and the horns and the bustle, this monk was, to say the least, out of his element! He turned to his guides and said simply, "I don't see any humans here."

Today, it would appear that the next generation of 'strivers' is reversing its course. More and more busy adults are finding their way to meditation retreats and mindfulness groups. No longer are these 'out there' ideas or fringe activities. They are almost mainstream! But, as Rubin points out, the tables have not turned as much as we might think. These strivers are not meditating to become more human by narrowing the gap between their rhetoric and reality. No, they are meditating because research has proven that these practices actually maximize performance! Mindfulness and meditation can actually help us achieve the American Dream... Not exactly what the originators of this twenty-five hundred year old philosophy of non-striving had in mind. And not exactly what the first century rabbis had in mind when they wrote in the Mishnah, "In a place where there is no human, strive to be human."

U'v'shofar gadol yitaka, v'kol d'mama daka. The shofar is blaring. Now is the time to be quiet so that we can hear, and then respond. Cheshbon HaNefesh, a soulful response.

The twentieth century philosopher, Israel Knox, described the ancient rabbinic concept of Cheshbon HaNefesh, normally translated as 'taking an accounting of our souls', as the essence of repentance. "We confess our failure to span the gap between conscience and conduct, between the standards we profess and the actions we perform," he writes. Our work, in other words, is to try to span the gap. He continues, "This chasm between believing and living may or may not always be surmountable, but the refusal to try to span it is sin and the will to bridge it, at least to narrow it, is repentance." Knox knew what the ancient rabbis knew, and what the Harvard researchers are now reminding us—that to narrow the gap between the words we speak and the life we live is



the sacred work of this season. And it doesn't come easily.

The first step in closing the gap is paying attention, being mindful. Jon Kabat-Zinn is the author of *Mindfulness for Beginners* and dozens of other books and articles about the practice of mindfulness. "Mindfulness is awareness," he writes, "[awareness] cultivated by paying attention in a sustained and particular way: on purpose, in the present moment, and non-judgmentally." It helps people cope with stress, anxiety, pain and illness. Kabat-Zinn makes the case that regardless of what motivates us, living according to our values—being mindful—does help us to become more human.

Once these High Holy Days conclude, the shofar will go quiet for a while. But when it does, the still small voice will remain. It is our job to hear it purposely, in the now, and without judging what it is or is not saying. This year, you are invited to come here, and to join with other temple members, on a regular basis, to do just that. During six sessions starting in November, we will tune in to our 'still small voice,' and we may even do it beneath the blare of the shofar. Consider giving yourself the gift of being a part of this new initiative called Hineini; a Jewish mindfulness group. There is information about it in your program book, and more details will be coming shortly.

In the Torah portion that we will read tomorrow morning—that we read each Rosh HaShanah—we will revisit the deeply troubling story of Abraham, called upon by God to prove his faith

by sacrificing his son on the altar. No less than three times in this short story, Abraham heard the voice inside of him that enabled him to hear the cries of the others, despite the noise that must have been going on inside his head. He answered, 'Hineini.' 'I am here.' To God, who called out to him, hineini. To his son who called, hineini. To the angel who stopped him from the unspeakable act, hineini. In those few fleeting moments, Abraham was present enough to hear the calls, and to respond.

In the words of Rabbi Harold Schulweis, "This is what hineini is all about—the initial willingness to respond to the other...Each of us has to be ready to respond and act when the other, to whom we are committed, calls."

Rabbi Schulweis, an astute citizen of our society, understands what we can see if we are really honest with ourselves: That we do value caring and doing what we can to improve our world, but when the rush is on, we mute the inner voice. We strive. And because we love them, we want our loved ones to do the same. In the rush to achieve, those critical 'hineini moments' are rare.

During the ten days between now and Yom Kippur, challenge yourself to reverse that trend. See if you can tune everything else out so that you can tune in to your priorities, to the call of the people to whom you are committed. Then, be fully present for them. Make a hineini moment happen. Better than that, make two, or make ten. When we hear the call of the shofar tomorrow, announcing this new year, 5775, may we all have the fortitude to listen, to hear the call and to respond.

High Holy Days~5775

On behalf of the congregation, we would like to express our appreciation to the High Holy Days Committee and to all of the volunteers who pitched in to help with the numerous tasks involved in making the holidays special for all of us. Thank you for all your passion, commitment and efforts to make this season memorable.

- *Offsite Parking/Shuttle Coordination:* Marc Franklin
- *Head Usher / Coordinator:* Barry Fast
Ushers: Dana Anenberg, Tom Armbruster, Jeff Arrow, Louise Beckerman, Greg Berkowitz, Darin Blindell, Ron Elter, Ari Flechner, Robert Fleishman, Alan & Carole Frankel, Mike Gelman, Marty Hart, Aaron Horwitz, Eric Horwitz, Beverly Jacobs, Lloyd Lenson, Victor Lindsey, Heath Liner, Anthony Osborn, Bob Radus, Ron Radziminsky, Aaron Rios, Bette Rothman, Doug Schulein, Marc Spero, David Teincuff, Steve Tobenkin, Phil Waldman, Bob Wolf, Jim Worrell
- *Greeters and Monitors:* Dana Anenberg, Sharon & Darin Blindell, Brad Eisenstein, Jacob Friedman, Myron Goldstein, Mark Hyman, Heath Liner, Stephanie Mitchell, Lloyd Sellinger, Jerry Silver, Adam Sloate
- *Break the Fast Coordinator:* Wendy Hirsch Gary
- *S'lichot Coordinator:* Myra Firth; Assisted by Bakers: Gail Eisenstein, Rachel Harman-Friedman, Natasha & Sophia Abraham, Nina Frenkel, Diane Lindsey, Lori Reznick, Lori Schwartz, Sheryl Sloate, Arlene Taslitz and anyone else who brought a dessert.
- *Prayer Book Checkout Coordinators:* Debra Borden & Shannon Coleman
- *High Holy Day Food Drive:* Joe Sloate assisted by Hayden & Sam Allcorn, Joshua & Jeremy Cooper, Matt Drucker, Jacob Friedman, Daniel Gilman, Adam, Ethan & Isaac Sloate
- *Pledge Card Distribution:* Karen Brutman, Gail Eisenstein, Jamie Evans, Wendi Fast, Carole Frankel, Wendy Gary, Debra Goldman, Eileen Lenson, Lisa Monette, Ellen Olshansky, Charlotte Radziminsky, Lori Reznick, Abby Rozenberg, Richard Sternberg, David Susson
- *Children's Workshops Teachers:* Rachel Bickford, Sandra Blumenkranz, Kayla Globerson, Amy Kadell, Heather Rosenthal and all the madrichim who assisted.
- *Tashlikh Coordinators:* Anthony, Julie, Jessy & Molly Osborn
- *Sukkot Coordinators:* The Radziminsky, Coleman and Allcorn Families

Thank you to Bruce and Wendy Gary for lovingly polishing all of our Torah ornaments so they sparkled during the holidays.

Thank you to our young singers Anna Bassman, Molly Cohn, Olivia Goldstein, Rachel Morros, Elin & Lillie Radziminsky, Rebecca Snyder, Rachelle Speckler, Leah Trank, and to Jackie Colgate and Kim Cohen for singing so beautifully with the Cantor. Thank you to the Temple Musicians and the Choir for all the beautiful music.

A very big thank you to the entire SHM staff for their support. In addition, thank you to our President, Beth Carroll for her leadership. Most importantly, thank you to Rabbi Steinberg, Rabbi Lewis and Cantor Shikler for their wonderful and inspiring services.

Joe Sloate

High Holy Day Chair

much money for the property, more than we felt it was worth -- and he wasn't open to negotiation.

We found a piece of empty property near here and once again asked Lehrer Architects to have a peek. Michael and Roberto went with us to the property and told us what we might be able to do with it. They then came to our building here on Michelson to meet with our team and asked us a simple question: "Why would you move from here, where you are surrounded by beauty? Look at the green, open space that is all around!"

We explained that several years ago when the Temple explored the concept of expanding this space, we came to the conclusion that it wouldn't work. The Temple would have to spend too much money on a parking lot. We would not be able to meet the needs of our congregation if we had to spend \$30-70,000 a space to build a multi-story parking structure just to meet the city requirements for parking that would allow us to enlarge our sanctuary and to make our home more comfortable while also allowing us to expand our programming for our Congregation.

Michael and Roberto suggested that we take another run at the city. After all, it had been a while since the city flat out said "no way" on counting the upper parking lot in our parking equation. Perhaps engaging consultants who have worked successfully with the city in the past could be persuasive. We have such a beautiful space here right on the golf course with green all around us and frankly, people love our location and the building -- it just isn't adequate for our current congregation.

Michael began to paint a picture of his vision for our property. He painted a picture that included enough space, a more open floor plan, flexible space to accommodate the changing needs of our congregation from day to day as the use shifts from worship to education to community events. He spoke to us of indoor/outdoor space. He and Roberto reminded us that views of the greenery would make us feel closer to nature,



maybe even closer to God. We engaged Lehrer Architects to draw and cost out what they felt it would take to make our present facility into what we want as well as look at what we could do with the open land we were considering.

At the same time, we consulted our Financial Advisor, who shared with us that the Commercial Real Estate market has shifted. Investors were beginning to put their money into Commercial Real Estate at a faster clip than the stock market because the return on their investment was significantly higher. This was driving the cost of commercial property up. While it meant that we could expect significantly more return on the sale of our current home, it also meant that we would be paying more for any building we purchased.

We started working with Lehrer Architects and their consultants on the possibilities. We were successful in getting preliminary agreement from the city that our upper parking lot should indeed be counted in the total parking on the site. We were also told that we could leverage offsite parking for heavy days, similar to what we do for High Holy Days -- and that this option would satisfy the city. A Conditional Use Permit is required to put this agreement into final written form, but Lehrer Architects, our consultant and we feel that the City of Irvine has shifted its thinking significantly on the issue of parking. We will indeed be able to proceed with expanding this site.

We looked at our space with fresh eyes, and compared it with the vacant land. The vacant land was in a prime area and would have been conveniently located, as we are here. However, there

was no guarantee that there would not be development nearby in the future. Open green space has a way of sprouting buildings here in Orange County, and there's no reason to believe that the proposed site would remain an oasis.

Here on Michelson, the adjacent land that is home to the golf course is on is not going to be developed -- it will stay green. Michelson was looking more and more attractive to us, but we needed to see what the Lehrer team had in mind for our space.

The Lehrer team met with a small group to discuss our requirements. This group's mission was to create enough of a vision for the Lehrer team that they could begin to shape a model of our remodeled home. It is a starting point, there is a ton of work to now have more detailed discussions with broader groups of people to flesh out our specific requirements.

For this preliminary step, the group shared ideas about how we gather in communities, how we learn, how we worship, what our events and activities look like. We shared what we really, really need versus what would be nice.



Spending time with us over the last several months, the Lehrer team has gotten to know us and has a strong sense of our desire to stay close knit and warm. They recognize that we want to be environmentally responsible (green) and take advantage of space inside and out. We shared with them that we need the flexibility to use space for Hebrew Chavurah (small study groups) and then be able to turn the room and use it for a larger class or meeting.

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We shared our need to have a bigger choir loft, a better sound system, the ability to have multiple services on a Saturday morning – in a sanctuary and a chapel. We need a place for our children to use as a Youth Lounge, a space not shared for classes or meetings. We need a play yard for our young children to wear off their wiggles. We told them we wanted to have an intimate space, but that we want a sense of elegance – but not snootiness. We are a warm, Hammish, congregation, so we cannot come across as ostentatious in our design.

The Lehrer team took all the feedback, their observations, and their experience in creating holy spaces and proposed a magnificent facility. The design is for an overall transformation that will take place over time, following a strategic plan. We can now work to raise the funds to begin to rebuild our home into the energy efficient, modern, flexible, warm, holy space that will take us well into the future. We are thrilled to be able to share a model of the facility Lehrer Associates has developed for our congregation with you.

The model will be available for you to check out in the lobby at the Temple when you visit or come for services.

The model represents a Conceptual Design and reflects the idea of creating a Campus with a Community Plaza or a Town Square, a sense of arrival and procession, a reconfigured and larger sanctuary and social hall open to the outdoors. The model shows us keeping the classrooms on the second floor along the south edge of the building, construction of new flexible multi-purpose classrooms, kitchen, bathrooms and administrative spaces, as well as a new chapel. The model represents the strategy to turn this wonderful place of possibilities into a rich, active and beautiful campus for many years to come. I hope you are as excited as I am with the possibilities that this opens up for us, for our children, and for our community! With the generosity of visionary early donors, we have raised close to \$5,000,000. We have told the Lehrer team that our fund raising goal is

\$10,000,000. I am not here today to ask you for money. I am here to ask for your time, ideas, and participation. We want to give you an opportunity to become engaged in this vital project for our Temple.

We have three main committees in which we are looking for volunteers to get engaged. Do you want to help with events? The Events Committee is in charge of developing and running a series of event based fundraising activities to raise awareness, involvement and community spirit for the campaign.



Do you have a talent for Marketing or Communications? We really need your help in this area. If you are willing to spend time with the Campaign and Building Committees, to add your creative ideas - This committee is in charge of developing all promotional materials including information sheets, FAQ's, articles for our newsletter, and other communications to keep the congregation informed about the progress of the campaign.

Are you good at reaching out to people to ask them to participate in events, to

donate money, to get engaged? The fundraising committee is responsible for the direct solicitation of contributions to the campaign from individuals, Havurah's and people interested in donating for focused areas of the buildout – like the school or kitchen or Chapel.

If these committees aren't for you, but you still want to help give the office a call and let us know. The Campaign Committee will contact you to explore your interest and the Campaign needs.

The goal is to gain 100% participation from our congregation in this important mission. Our success is dependent on engagement – It is dependent on our congregation being as excited about this Campaign as those of us who have been involved since the beginning. I hope you can sense the passion of the first donors, the Campaign Committee, the Building Committee, the lay leaders, the staff and the clergy! Everyone is charged up about the possibilities!

There are some critical next steps – The Building Committee will continue working with the architects on the strategic plan. The Campaign Committee will push to raise the balance of the funds needed and launch the committees so you can engage in this exciting project. Remember, the Temple Leaders have vowed not to move forward without pledges to cover our building plans. Raising enough funds is a “long pole in the tent”.

The Building Committee will bring the project to the congregation for a vote of approval prior to breaking ground. Now that we've decided to stay, they can begin in earnest to flesh out the full picture of the phasing and the financials of the overall program for your vote.

At the same time, the Campaign Committee will be hard at work raising money for the project. We have already raised close to \$5 million from contributions from only 10% of our congregation. The campaign budget is \$10 million, so there is a ton of opportunity for the other 90% of our congregation to answer the call that our parents answered before us.

Like most activities here at Shir Ha-Ma'alot, the campaign is a volunteer effort - run, very possibly, by the person

sitting next to you. Please welcome the Campaign Committee members into your home or to your Chavurah activities. Join them in Campaign events. Hear them out. They are dedicated volunteers who want to share news about the project, answer your questions and ask you for money to help fund this project. The only way we succeed if we are ALL IN.

Between 1936 and 1947, the Jewish National Fund wanted to settle land it purchased in Mandatory Palestine - the area covered by the British Mandate. The JNF was settling people far from other Jewish populations. The leaders at the time established the strategy of erecting "Stockade and Watchtower" settlements. The settlers in the whole area would band together to create pre-fab wood components and then convoys of hundreds of volunteers would set out for the new location during the middle of the night. Before morning, the entire settlement construction - including a surrounding double wall filled with earth and stones, searchlights, and a central watchtower - was completed. 118 settlements including 52 new kibbutzim were erected in this manner.

This same relentless commitment to our people and our Temple from you, our Congregation, will see this project through to success. We are transforming this building into a campus that will serve us, our children and our grandchildren. We have solutions for parking, for the school expansion, for multiple worship spaces with a larger sanctuary and a cozy chapel, for community space and for contemplative space. Our architects have built beautiful campuses at Bat Yam, Steven S Weiss Temple, and facilities at UCLA along with many other special and sacred spaces.

We can meet this challenge, rally to raise the funds and move this campaign and project forward. Each of you can participate in this great mitzvah. This campaign will only work if everyone contributes and participates. No contribution will be too small - We can be ALL IN!

Join us as we build this Temple of our dreams! It's what our parents and our grandparents did for us. It is now our turn. Let's go ALL IN!

Tzedakah Donations

RABBI STEINBERG'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Kara Jacobs, thank you for your courage in presenting your magnificent un-PC Rosh Hashanah sermon

Nancy Wolf, thank you for my birthday greeting

Leacarol Shinder in memory of Sheryl Strich's beloved mom, Lilian

Anatoly & Sondra Berman, our thoughts and prayers are with Ed & Sara Pulwer in your time of sorrow

David & Jill Susson in memory of Steven Sotloff

Lois & Gus Garcia in memory of Steven Sotloff

Michael & Lori Reznick, thank you for your presentation to the Shir Friendship Chavurah

CANTOR SHIKLER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Sid Lantor in honor of High Holy Days services

David & Jill Susson in memory of Steven Sotloff

CULTURAL ARTS/FNL FUND

The Sogolow Family sponsoring the October Friday Night Live!

Nancy & Bob Wolf in loving memory of our dear brother-in-law, Phil Blum

Nancy & Bob Wolf in loving memory of our dear aunt, Celia Schine

Nancy & Bob Wolf in loving memory of Walter Wolf

Nancy & Bob Wolf in loving memory of Mildred Wolf

Dyanne & Mark Drucker, congratulations to Nancy Wolf for her special birthday

Ness Albagli, thank you for the delightful "Hava Nagila" service on August 29th

JESSICA HERRON ADOPT-A-FAMILY FUND

Lori Schwartz & Bert White in memory of Lilian Saslow, mother of Sheryl Strich

Mark, Cindy & Ariana Spero in memory of Abe Yakir

Yahrzeit Fund

Ben Kraut in memory of Hilda Kraut

Katherine Liner in memory of Michael Klima

Dick Silber in memory of Herman Silber

Louise Litwack in memory of Arthur Gronsky

Marlyn Fried in memory of Danny Fried

Albert Weiss in memory of Mickey Weiss

Norm Einhorn in memory of Edith Einhorn

Denise Schapiro in memory of my father, Woodrow Sperling

Wendy Hirsch Gary in memory of Gerald Hirsch

Nancy Platka in memory of David Woolner

Marcia Labowitz in memory of Michael Malin

Stacey Calderon in memory of Gerald Mintz

Rosanne Griffin in memory of Reid Griffin

Alfie Schekman in memory of Helen Feinberg

Audrey Greenberg in memory of Iris Berest

Kory Hittelman in memory of Joan Braden

Lisa Anderson in memory of Alice Quateman

Daniel Perlmutter in memory of Joseph Perlmutter

Sandy Schekman in memory of Ronald Gechman

Stan & Deborah Silverstein in memory of Aaron Silverstein

Hilary & Jerry Wilk in memory of my father, Aubrey Plit

Judy Kuperberg in memory of Samuel Hazin

Mike Harris in memory of Ruth Talaber

Lysa Goldstein in memory of Roberta Chapnick

Stan Silverstein in memory of Irving Silverstein

Sam Smetana in memory of Roman Smetana

Ron Radzminsky in memory of Sue Radzminsky

Connie O'Connor in memory of Rose Goldblatt

Bunnie Mauldin in memory of Jerome Blatt

Esther Kettler in memory of Neil Kettler

Dr. Marvin & Mrs. Betty Blum in memory of Frank Snyder



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Temple website.
Go to: www.shmtemple.org

Other Donation Opportunities

- Memorial Board \$360 per name
- Tree of Life \$180 per name
- Prayerbook Fund \$35 per book

Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot has many Sanctuary and Facility Giving and Naming Opportunities. Please contact the Temple office for further information.

Tzedakah Contributions

Please enclose contribution and mail with this form to the Temple office.
(Minimum \$10.00 per name or occasion)

Donation Given by:	Acknowledgment sent to:
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Arts/FNL Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Rita Teller Camp Scholarship Fund |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Book Fund | |

Please note: If we receive your donation by the 15th of the month prior to a newsletter it will appear in that issue. After the 15th will be in the next issue. (Example: 11-15 will be in January issue).