

A photograph of three young boys sliding down a bright green slide. The boy in the foreground is wearing a blue Dodgers t-shirt and blue shorts, sliding on a brown sack. The boy in the middle is wearing a light blue t-shirt and blue shorts, also on a brown sack. The boy in the background is wearing a light blue t-shirt and blue shorts, on a brown sack. Large black letters 'S' and 'W' are painted on the green slide. In the background, there are colorful circular decorations and a building.

# *the* Judean

March/April 2018

[www.templejudea.com](http://www.templejudea.com)

# From the Board

## Bill Harris - VP of Finance



It seems we enjoy many seasons and cycles in our lives as Jewish people. We enjoy baby naming's, B'nei Mitzvot, weddings, as well as celebrate High Holy Days, Chanukah, Purim, Passover, and more. Right now, we are entering the annual festival of preparing the temple's budget. This is not a widely celebrated festival, so, I thought I share the process with you.

The budget is the project of our Finance Committee, which is comprised of members of our congregation who have experience with other non-profits and/or with financial operations. These lay leaders work together throughout the year on the budget with Executive Director Ellen Franklin and Director of Finance Diane Lennox. We start the process by looking at last year's financial results and how we are doing in the current fiscal year. Then we start looking forward. We review membership projections, enrollment in the ECC and Religious School and gather data from each area of operations, based upon the membership and enrollment projections. I've been involved in this process for a few years now -- I must say that ignorance was bliss.

Our goal is to make everything run as smoothly as possible to allow our community to enjoy our terrific clergy, wonderful professional staff supporting our membership, awesome educators who enlighten our children and maintenance staff who keep the grounds and facilities running at an excellent level.

Once we've gathered this information, we compare operating costs with projected revenues. I'm sure you'd be surprised that projected expenses typically exceed projected revenue. We work to try and get them to match, beginning with our projected sources of funds. After we look at membership projections, we work with Director of Development Eileen Aroesti and Temple Trustee Greg Cohen, who chairs the Development Committee, to see what they have reasonably projected for our fundraising efforts. After reviewing our sources of funds, we examine the projected expenses and ensure that we have cost-effective plans and procedures in place. We work to balance the congregational needs vs. the available funds in an ever-changing and increasingly uncertain environment.

The good thing is that the committee, as members, loves our temple. We make the decisions necessary to come up with an operating budget that will allow to continue to be proud to be a part of the Temple Judea community.

I encourage you to take a look at the budget when it comes out and bring your questions to the annual congregational meeting, when our work is officially presented.

## Temple Judea's Mission

Temple Judea exists to enrich the lives of our congregants by creating meaningful, inspiring, innovative Jewish moments that resonate with individuals and families through the generations.

### Senior Staff

Rabbi Joshua M. Aaronson  
Rabbi Cantor Alison Wissot  
Rabbi Samuel L. Spector  
Cantor Yonah Kliger

Rabbi Bruce Raff, Director of Education  
Margie Ipp, Director of Early Childhood Center

Ellen Franklin, Executive Director  
Diane Lennox, Director of Finance  
Eileen Aroesti, Director of Development  
Rachel Cohen, Program Director  
Marissa Subar, Director of Camp Zehut

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Arthur Jablon	

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Judy Scharf, Caring Community  
Aime Friedman, Women of Temple Judea  
David Daniel / Antony Gluck, Brotherhood  
Erin Mediuch, ECC Parents' Association

Submissions for the Judean may be sent to  
Judean@templejudea.com.

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Printing by Gam Enterprises



# The More Things Change . . .

*Rabbi Joshua M. Aaronson*



**f** RabbiJMA

We live in an era in which the 'truth' is increasingly elusive. Thus, while it is painful to watch, we should not be surprised at the efforts in Poland to blot out the 'truth' about the Holocaust in Poland. If you are not paying attention to this sad turn of events, I urge you to do so, not only because of what it says about the state of Jews in the world, but also what it says about society in general.

As I write this, legislation is making its way through the Polish Parliament that would criminalize references to "Polish death camps," and any suggestion of Polish complicity in the Holocaust. The noxious idea behind this legislation is that Poles were as much victims of the Holocaust as Jews. Unsurprisingly, the advocate for this bill is the newly-elected far-right nationalist Law and Justice Party who in a familiar refrain wish to lay part of the blame for Poland's economic woes on their country's ill-deserved (in their minds) reputation as partly responsible for the death of Polish Jewry.

There is a small kernel of truth wrapped in this otherwise outrageous revisionist history: Poles hated the Germans and the Nazis. However, Polish antisemitism had made the situation for

very close to 4 million Polish Jews extremely precarious. On the one hand, Poles account for the largest number of people enshrined in the Righteous Gentiles at Yad Vashem; on the other hand, Jews in Poland were victims of virulent antisemitism for centuries.

We should not for a minute believe that we have seen the last of antisemitism in this world. And, if there is antisemitism, there is prejudice and hatred of all kinds. There is no one in this world who is antisemitic but otherwise friendly to minorities. If you are antisemitic, you are a misogynist, you are a racist, you are a homophobe—it's just that simple.

Let us bear this lesson in mind as we approach the most important festival on the Jewish calendar: Passover. Passover is about freedom, of course, but freedom writ large. Passover calls upon us to imagine a world in which everyone is free, not only from slavery, but from prejudice of every kind. And, it is no accident of the calendar that the period between Passover and Shavuot includes Yom HaShoah and Yom Ha'atzmaut, observances that point to the possibility of redemption even in our own age.

May you find inspiration and meaning in the season of our freedom.

# The Superpower of Play

Margie Ipp - Director of ECC

Lisa Whitman - Assistant Director of ECC



Dictionary.com defines **perseverance** as “steady persistence in a course of action or purpose, especially in spite of difficulties, obstacles, or discouragement.” In old time parenting-speak, perseverance means, “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.” But how do we teach our children to have perseverance? How do we get them to try, try again when things don’t work out? You may be surprised to know, that once again, the best way to teach our young children this important skill is through play, and specifically, pretend play.

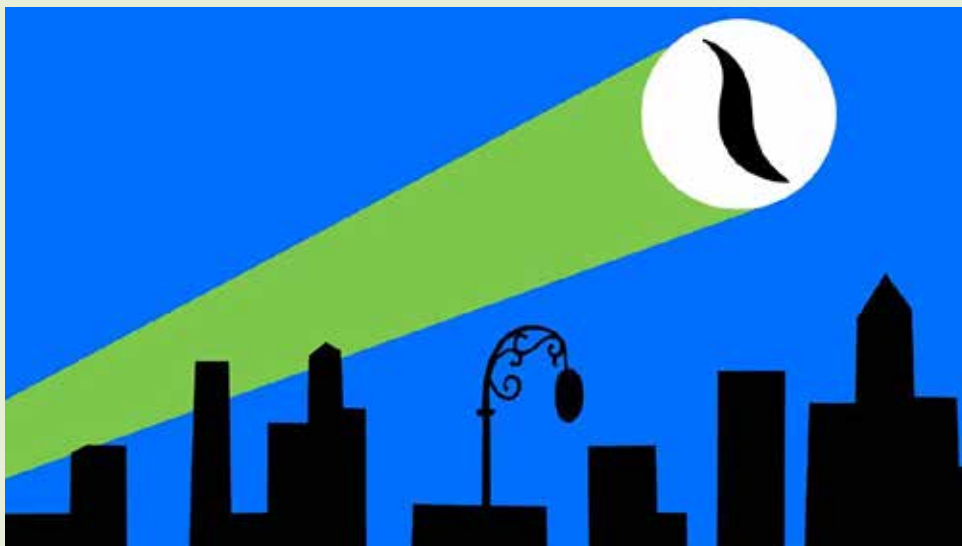
In a new study called “The Batman Effect: Improving Perseverance in Young Children”, researchers found that children were more likely to try new things when they were pretending to be a superhero. In the study, when children were given superhero names and props and then asked to complete a task, they were much more likely not to give up than when they were just being themselves. Was it because children feel braver when they can pretend to be someone else? Did the sheer joy of pretending help children to focus on the fun, rather than the difficulty of the challenge at hand? Whatever the reason, pretend play helped children keep trying even when things got hard.

Teachers in every classroom on our campus use pretend play each day to encourage perseverance and many other skills. Have you ever wondered why children will clean up at school, but struggle at home? At school they sing while cleaning up, or they set a timer and “race” to clean up, or they pretend that a fairy or a lion or a giant are coming soon and the room needs to be all cleaned before they arrive. Our teachers are brilliant at this! The children aren’t always pretending to be superheroes (although our school is protected by many a Batman and Spiderman every day!), but they are always encouraged to pretend. They play family and have to navigate disputes. How will they get their pretend children to go to bed on time? They pretend to be train conductors,

butterflies, doctors, puppies, artists... the list goes on and on. Each time they pretend to be someone else, they are experiencing the world in a slightly different way and with a new perspective. These types of experiences can only help them to grow and expand their horizons.

So, next time you want your child to

brush her teeth or eat his veggies, try bringing out his or her inner superhero. It may work, and it may not, but it will be more fun for both of you, and it may just teach a life lesson that will last forever. And if it doesn’t work the first time...try, try again!



## Teaching Our Children: The How, What and Why

Rabbi Bruce Raff - Director of Education



*Parents often ask me to tell them about Religious School. If I were to summarize the philosophy of our school in three words, it would be FUN, MEANINGFUL and MEMORABLE.*

I want our students to enjoy being here. Every day should be fun. I want our students to have a sense of connection and community, for this to be the Jewish place in their lives, and the place they are with friends in a safe, comfortable, and nurturing Jewish environment.

I want what they learn here to be meaningful. That is, I want it to be relevant to their lives, for them to see the lessons of Judaism as important, valuable tools in living a better life. They will learn something new every time they are at school, and I hope they will see Jewish values and everything we teach them, as cornerstones of their lives.

I want them to see what we do as memorable. If what we do is fleeting – the memorization of data or facts - it is not transformational. We want them to be affected by it, so that it will leave an indelible mark on their beings, emotionally, and spiritually. We want our kids to be changed by being here, so that their actions in the world will be somehow different than if had not been students here. If not, then we have failed, and fallen short of our mark.

I tell our students nearly every time I speak to them that according to Judaism, there is a Jewish purpose to life -- this is to make the world a better place than it would be if you were not here. I believe we need to teach the Jewish value of

empathy and label it as such. Torah teaches us that we were strangers in a strange land and the Haggadah teaches that our father was a wandering Aramean, but this is not to show us that as Jews we travel a lot. The idea of these passages, as well as the fact that there are more commandments dealing with the treatment of a stranger than anything else in Torah, is to show us how we need to act, not only to the people we love, and to our friends, but to the people we don't know. Judaism teaches us that how we treat others is the key to the kind of people we are.

We have added a new curricular stream in all grade levels of tikkun olam, repairing the world. Our students are not learning about the importance of the principle, they actually do it – on a regular basis as part of school. It is our hope that they learn the difference between charity (an unexpected act of generosity) and mitzvah (obligation). They will understand those commitments we have taken on as Jews, as well as the commandments and the values connected to them, which give us our Jewish moral compass.

That's our philosophy. That's our goal. That's our purpose. That's what Religious School at Temple Judea is about. If you know someone you think would benefit from such a program, have them join us in this fun, meaningful and memorable task of creating Jews.



# Upcoming ADULT LEARNING



## BaBayit – Inspiring Jewish Learning in Homes around the Valley

We continue these classes in the Spring with each of the Temple Judea clergy teaching courses (consisting of three classes each) in the homes of fellow congregants. Throughout the valley, our congregants have opened their homes and invited our community to attend these learning sessions in a comfortable and relaxed setting. All classes begin at 7pm. Reservations are required and they may be made one session at a time by contacting Tammy at 818-758-3800 or [tlerman@templejudea.com](mailto:tlerman@templejudea.com).



### **Cantor Yonah Kliger**

Holy Music & Prayer: Deepening Our Connections  
Tuesdays, March 6, 20, 27, 2018



### **Rabbi Bruce Raff**

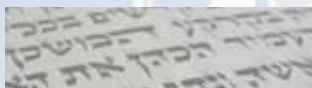
It Is All About Values  
Wednesdays, April 18, 25, May 2, 2018



### **Rabbi Sam Spector**

The Protection Of The President: How Three Of America's Greatest Presidents Ensured American Jewish Prosperity  
Thursdays, May 3, 10, 17, 2018

## Ongoing Learning



### **Weekly Torah Study (Parashat Hashavua)**

Wednesdays, 12pm

Our clergy will teach about the weekly Parsha. No experience or sign up necessary, just come!



### **People of the Book – Book Club**

First Wednesday of the Month, 6pm

Join us for a wonderful discussion of Jewish books.

*\*visit [TempleJudea.com](http://TempleJudea.com) for more information and to register*



# PURIM PALOOZA



**Purim Poker Party**  
Saturday, March 3 - 5pm

**Carnival**  
Sunday, March 4 - 10am to 4pm



CHAMILTON  
A PURIM SHPIEL



**MAZEL TOV TO AN AMAZING  
PURIM SHPIEL, CHAMILTON,  
FEATURING OUR TALENTED CONGREGANTS**



## B'nei Mitzvah - March / April



**JESSICA BAILIN**

Daughter of Aileen & Steve Bailin  
3/3/18, 10:30am

Project: Sharing her passion for caring for animals, she was involved with numerous pet rescue and adoption organizations.



**JULIANNE PLOTKIN**

Daughter of Elham Tabibian, David Plotkin and Lauri Mattenson  
3/10/18, 10:30am

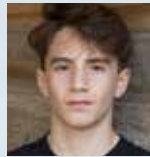
Project: Raised money and awareness for the Tiger Frances Foundation, which works to end animal abuse and homelessness.



**OLIVER GORIN**

Son of Amy & Jeff Gorin  
3/10/18, 5pm

Project: Collected warm clothing for underprivileged children that attend Camp Ubuntu.



**DEVIN GASWAY**

Son of Allie & Geoff Gasway  
3/17/18, 10:30am

Project: In honor of his aunt who passed away last year from breast cancer, Devin created shirts and sold them, and donated the proceeds to an organization called Stop Cancer.



**JESSE GOLDMAN**

Son of Gillian & Colin Goldman  
3/17/18, 5pm

Project: Worked with Operation Gratitude to produce paracord bracelets for the U.S. troops stationed overseas. Bracelets may be turned into strong cords useful in emergency situations.



**AVA EDLEY**

Daughter of Lisa & Douglas  
3/24/18, 10:30am

Project: Became an Ambassador and raised funds for Footloose, a non-profit organization that collects new and gently used dance shoes of all kinds to aspiring dancers in need.



**ALEXANDER BOTHAST**

Son of Samantha & Lee Bothast  
3/24/18, 5pm

Project: Volunteered for Play it Forward by organizing a team for their annual walk to help provide much needed sports equipment to underserved schools.



**LILY BOTHAST**

Daughter of Samantha & Lee Bothast  
3/24/18, 5pm

Project: Volunteered at Pet Orphans, a dog and cat rescue, by socializing and caring for the animals while they await adoption. Will also make dog toys at her Bat Mitzvah to donate to Pet Orphans.



**JACOB WISSOT**

Son of Alison & Michael Wissot  
4/14/18, 10:30am

Project: Planned, produced, and performed in the AOK Mitzvah Concert, raising funds for scholarships to Jewish camp.



**AIDEN PREUSS**

Son of Jennifer & Richard Preuss  
4/21/18, 5:00pm

Project: Worked with The Giving Spirit to help and feed L.A.'s homeless community.



**NATHAN ZIMMER**

Son of Michelle & Gavin Zimmer  
4/21/18, 5pm

Project: Volunteered with Soles4Souls which creates sustainable jobs and provides relief through the distribution of shoes around the world by disrupting the cycle of poverty.



**HELENA BIRBROWER**

Daughter of Kimberly Bonheim Birbrower and Cliff Birbrower  
4/28/18, 10:30am

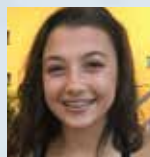
Project: Tutored kids in reading, focusing on students who cannot afford a private tutor.



**ISABEL NAZAR**

Daughter of Paula & David Nazar  
4/28/18, 10:30am

Project: Volunteered with Project Second Chances, which provides a second chance for unprivileged children such as foster care children.



**KENNEDY CHAVEZ**

Daughter of Hallie & Scott Chavez  
4/28/18, 5pm

Project: Helped to keep the oceans clean and safe for marine life by raising money for the organization Heal the Bay and participating in a beach clean-up event.



# Celebrate The Magnificent, Marvelous Margie

*Eileen Aroesti, Director of Development*

*Sunday, May 6, 2018*



For 32 years, we have had the privilege of having Margie Ipp, ECC Director, as a vital part of our Temple Judea education team. She has taught, nurtured and loved generations of little ones, many who have become active adult members of our temple with children of their own. Everyone has a story about Margie -- she is renown in our synagogue community and throughout the Los Angeles early childhood community.

After her many years as an educator who has set the highest standards for Jewish nursery school education, Margie is retiring. In wishing her well, we knew that saying goodbye would not be easy. Margie is an institution in our community and only a celebration befitting her many years of service to our community would be enough for our Magnificent, Marvelous Margie.

On Sunday evening, May 6, at a private home, we will celebrate all things Margie. Our celebration, chaired by Allison Kanter & Toby Koppekin and hosted and underwritten by Chris and Greg Cohen, will be an evening filled with memories and joy. Tickets and tribute opportunities will be available soon. We hope to see you on May 6.

## Thursday in the Shul with Mordechai

As part of our week-long learning with our Artist-In-Residence in January, Mordechai Rosenstein and 40 guests, who are part of our Rabbi's Circle \* Rabbi's Table, came together for an evening of food, learning and art. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were abundant as everyone mingled amidst the beautiful Rosenstein artwork in the Solael Room and then enjoyed a wonderful dinner and dessert catered by Scott Roeb. The high point of the evening was the opportunity to learn with Mordechai and understand the genesis of his artistic style. This was done through a power point presentation as Mordechai narrated each piece and shared stories about his youth in Philadelphia and how he developed his particular artistic niche. The evening ended with the opportunity to purchase his artwork with a portion of the proceeds going back to the synagogue.

We are so thankful to Ellen Fink Israel and Stu Israel for underwriting this lovely event.



# 10/10 Partnership

## Temple Judea & Mount Sinai

There are few moments in life as fraught with emotion and stress as the moments we encounter at the end of life's journey. Whether we are fortunate to live life until '120' in the manner of our great prophet Moses or the number of our days is something less, there is a great gift we can bequeath to our loved ones: the gift of planning for the expenses of a funeral and burial.

The gift of planning reduces the stress your loved ones will inevitably face at this difficult moment. The act of planning in advance opens the door to critical conversations about the end of life that can take place in a thoughtful and loving manner. As we move into tax season, many of you think about your future planning in many different ways. I'd like to suggest that you consider advance planning as part of your yearly review of finances and other important matters.

Temple Judea is proud to once again partner with Mount Sinai Memorial Park's Simi Valley location to offer the purchase of burial plots that will allow your loved ones to move through the journey of life's end with comfort and peace. In addition, if you purchase through Temple Judea, a portion of the cost of your burial plot will be donated Temple Judea. If you plan in advance for end-of-life arrangements, you can designate to Mount Sinai that you are a participant in the Temple Judea 10/10 partnership. As well, upon the death of a loved one, you can also designate that the purchase of a burial plot should be part of this program.

We will be holding another information session in the near future. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact my assistant, Tammy Lerman, to schedule an appointment to come in a talk about this important mitzvah.

### 2018 TEMPLE JUDEA

# MEN'S RETREAT

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 21 & 22, 2018  
AT BEAUTIFUL GRINDLING HILLTOP CAMP IN MALIBU

Cost of \$180

per temple member (must be 18 & older)  
Space is limited & scholarships are available

**Special Guest Speaker:**  
co-creator and producer of the Big Bang Theory!!!

Learn from Rabbi Spector's teachings and stories of the Mossad.  
Enjoy great food, hiking, relaxation, sports, and fun for all!

Get to know other brothers at Temple Judea!

For more info and to sign up, [www.templejudea.com](http://www.templejudea.com)

## Temple Judea Women's Retreat

*Picture yourself here...*

**Camp Mountain Chai in Big Bear Lake**  
**April 27-29, 2018**

We hope you will join us at this glorious and beautiful location, to once again retreat, relax, renew, and bring some friends who have not yet experienced this. We'll be joined by Rabbinic Intern Lily Kowalski, and are already working on forming teams of people to lead new and interesting programs and sections. We're so excited to let you know that due to the generous sponsorship from the Women of Temple Judea, the retreat will be at the inexpensive cost of \$180 per temple member.

For more info and to sign up, [www.templejudea.com](http://www.templejudea.com)



# Women of Temple Judea

*Aime Friedman, President*

2018 is only two months old and Women of Temple Judea is off and running with a variety of events that will have your calendar so booked you won't have time to rest. There is something for everyone – both women and men, so don't be shy; jump in, get involved, and attend our events. You'll be hooked!

Our Painting & Pinot event on January 27 exceeded our already high expectations. With instruction from Artist-in-Residence Mordechai Rosenstein, we discovered our inner creativity, which we expressed through the Hebrew alphabet. It was truly fascinating to see how different everyone's artwork turned out even though we all got the same instruction. Some truly beautiful artwork was created. We discovered that if given the opportunity and inspiration, we're all artists!

If you missed our annual Bingo event on February 6 (this year, appropriately named "I Heart Bingo"), you missed another fun-filled event. Roxy and Bingo Boy had us rolling in the aisles as we vied for bragging rights for declaring Bingo! As well as some



fun prizes. Wine, chocolate, and the Brotherhood bartending were some of the beautiful extras that made the event so awesome.

"And the Oscar Goes To" (Second in our Joint Speaker Series with Brotherhood) on February 20 was another winner, as David Daniel brought back Glenn Whipp from the L.A. Times and Nicole Sperling from Vanity Fair to once again discuss this year's Oscar contenders and give their predictions.

The weekend of April 27 – 29 brings us to our highly acclaimed, renowned and celebrated Women's Retreat. We're going back to Big Bear, where things can get a little wild and crazy. If you've ever been to one of our retreats, you'll agree that this is a unique opportunity to bond with other women, have fun, and create a wonderful memory. Sign up on the temple website.

[f Women-of-Temple-Judea](#)

# Brotherhood *Anthony Gluck and David Daniel, Co-Presidents*

What's cookin' with Brotherhood? Plenty! After ending the year by feeding folks at Chanukahpalooza and our annual Pancake Breakfast, we swung into 2018 in high spirits -- martinis, to be precise -- as we began planning our next Tasting Series event for April 17. Whether Tax Day has you celebrating or looking to drown your sorrows this year, join us for this latest installment of our extremely popular series.

Another tradition continued, as we prepared for the Academy Awards with our second annual Oscars Night, as a pair of nationally-known entertainment journalists held forth on their favorites and longshots. And we're following that up in our Speaker Series with Women of Temple Judea by bringing in Dr. Henry Oster, author and Holocaust survivor, in April.

There's plenty of fun and games: we bartended at WTJ's "I (Heart) Bingo" night, and we're helping to organize the big Purim Poker Party in March. Of course, we get lots of practice at our monthly Poker Nights! At the same time, we're serious about giving back to the community, volunteering monthly at Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission's Genesis House, which shelters women and children who are often fleeing abuse. And plans are in high gear for our annual Men's Retreat in late April, featuring great programs and speakers at gorgeous Gindling Hilltop Camp in Malibu.

Service and silliness, educational and entertaining events, and plenty of food and drink and fellowship: if this sounds like your kind of group, join us!



[brotherhood@templejudea.com](mailto:brotherhood@templejudea.com)

# Where Does Your Money Go?

Ellen Franklin, FTA - Executive Director



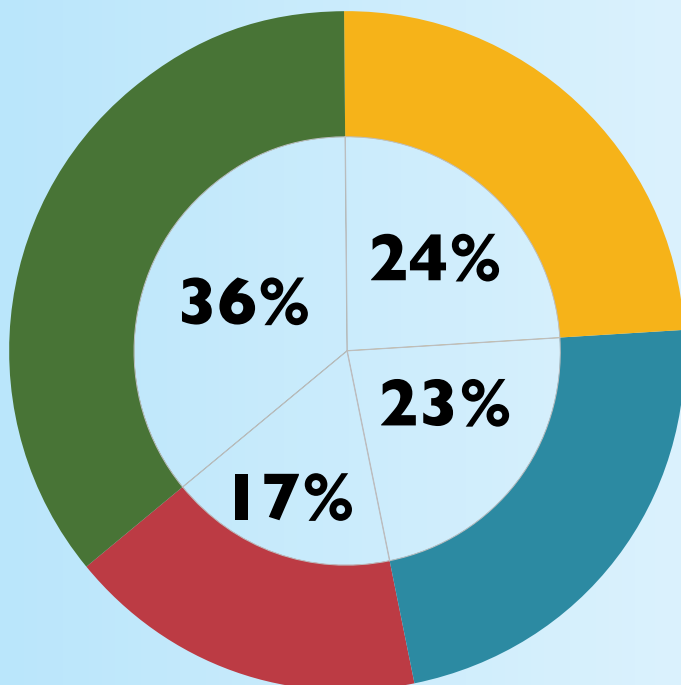
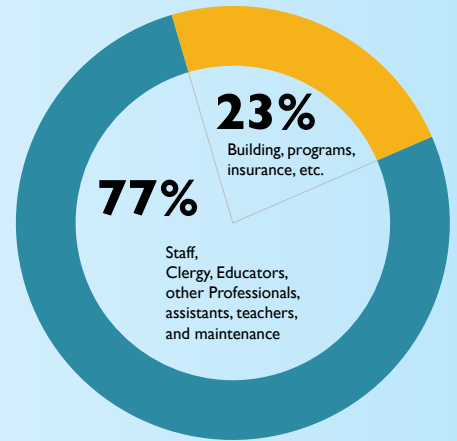
Every year, you are asked to pledge an amount to support Temple Judea. Your contributions -- for membership, fees, school tuition, donations, etc. -- comprise 100% of our revenue. In other words, the temple's only source of funds come from you, our members.

How do we spend your money? Mostly, it's for people – the people you encounter here every day who make our community so special. People comprise 77% of our expenses. Lots of people – the rabbis and cantors who lead us in worship, who teach and provide guidance, who visit us in the hospital, who name our children, who bury our loved ones, and who are here, every day, all year, in the event we need them. They also run programs, attend meetings, plan events, raise funds, and serve as our teachers, mentors, and role models.

Besides the clergy, there are so many more on whom we rely to manage Temple Judea daily. There are the educators who create meaningful and creative learning opportunities for people of all ages, the great maintenance staff, who make everything they do look easy. There are the many teachers – Nursery School, Religious School – who devote themselves to making sure our children have the best Jewish learning experiences possible. And there is the admin team – taking care of things behind the scenes – accounting, membership records, calendaring and scheduling, supporting the clergy and the educators, and keeping things run smoothly.

The rest of our expenses are operational, including program costs, office equipment and supplies, insurance, building and facility costs, our contribution to the URJ, the national Reform movement. All of this is less than one quarter of our expenses!

This also ensures our expenses are in line with our key values. When viewed by major functional areas, our expenses do mirror our mission. We spend:



**36%**

on educational programs, ensuring a knowledgeable Jewish community

**24%**

on worship and life cycles, bringing meaning and #Jewishmoments to the community

**23%**

on general services and administration, demonstrating a lean and efficient infrastructure

**17%**

on facility operations, providing the appropriate environment in which to congregate

Special thanks to the dedicated lay leaders who devote their time at the temple to ensuring our financial health and to you, for making Temple Judea a philanthropic priority.



## Mazal Tov to

To Blake Borkovitz and Andrea London, who welcomed son Kellan Strummer on November 18th. Big brother is Brooks.

To Rabbi Bruce and Tamar Raff, on becoming grandparents. Morgan Reese Raff was born to Jordan and Rami Raff on December 1, 2017.

To Diane Lennox, our Director of Finance, on the birth of her second grandchild, Benson Lennox Yudovich. Proud parents are Stephanie and Alex Yudovich.

To Katja & David Kwiat who welcomed their new son, Jordan on Monday, January 29, 2018. Mazal tov also to big sisters Stella and Paula.

To George Fogelson, son of Hilda Fogelson, on the publication of "Between the Redwoods and the Bay," a book about the Jews of Santa Cruz, CA.

To Nancy and Alan Wiener on the engagement of their granddaughter Chenin Pecora to Ross Reich.

To the Members of Temple Judea,

On behalf of Temple Beth Torah in Ventura, CA, please know how profoundly touched and grateful we are for the donation of gift cards to our Thomas Fire Relief Fund. . . .We really have seen the worst of nature and the best of humanity. Your response was part of this! I can't tell you what it feels like to have other congregations respond, simply because we are neighbors and because we are all Reform congregations.

Shalom and blessings for 2018,  
Rabbi Lisa Hochberg-Miller



***Have you included Temple Judea  
in your will or trust?***

***Let us know, so we can thank you.***

*Please contact Eileen Aroesti, Development Director  
at [EAroesti@TempleJudea.com](mailto:EAroesti@TempleJudea.com) to discuss your planned gift.*

**New Members**  
**We welcome you!**

Andrea London & Blake Borkovitz

Sara & Morgan Light

Maryam & Michael Mamaliger

Jacqueline & Scott Nates

Staci & Evan Pearlman

As of 1/25/18

## Community-Wide Tikkun Olam *Jennifer Lutzky*

Members of the Social Action Committee recently participated in a citywide Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, which gives the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority a clearer picture of how many residents are experiencing homelessness, and in what ways. This allows them to more appropriately allocate funding and services to assist as many people as possible.

Joining with other citizen volunteers, we fanned out across a portion of the San Fernando Valley in teams of three or four, armed with flashlights, tally sheets, and detailed sector maps. While I was based out of Encino, other groups tallied from many other points in the valley. We drove slowly through our assigned map sections, looking for those sleeping in doorways, in makeshift structures, and in parked RVs and campers.

Besides being useful to our community, the count was a good beginning to an upcoming push temple-wide to be more proactive in the arena of homeless and affordable housing

issues. Rabbi Aaronson, Social Action, and Social Justice will all be collaborating in the upcoming months to address ways we can help this community.

Social Action is always looking for ways to participate in community-wide events as well as our own temple programs. By joining with other synagogues and local organizations to achieve a common purpose, we can do more in larger numbers and be a part of a bigger effort to further tikkun olam all around us. Citywide events like Mitzvah Day and Big Sunday have always been an important part of our Social Action program. We hope you will find time to join us in our efforts!

The Social Action committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm at the temple. For more information about Social Action programs, please visit our website at [www.templejudea.com/socialaction](http://www.templejudea.com/socialaction) or email Jennifer at [jenlutzky@yahoo.com](mailto:jenlutzky@yahoo.com).



Look who's included in Architectural Digest's recent list of "The Most Beautiful Places of Worship in Every State." **Temple Judea!** Not only are we the only listing for California, we are one of only two synagogues mentioned, the other having been designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

For more info, see the story at [ArchitecturalDigest.com](http://ArchitecturalDigest.com). Search in their Travel Section or by date; it is in the January 17, 2018 issue.



## We Appreciate These Donations

### **RABBI JOSHUA M. AARONSON DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Ilene & Jack Blok in memory of  
Maaiké Rae Blok

Jill & Mark Shear in memory of  
Helen Prince

Judy & David Rutt in memory of  
Helen Prince

Karen & Steve Twersky in memory of  
Helen Prince and in appreciation of  
Rabbi Aaronson

Lori & Adam Saitman in memory of  
Joel Saitman

Sandy & Irv Klasky wishing a speedy  
recovery to David Wohlgemuth

Sara & Al Dreskin in memory of  
Rose Bass

Shelly Browne in memory of  
William Leiter

Susie & Jeffrey Mossa in honor of  
Sam & Ellie Mossa's B'nai Mitzvah

Yovita & Scott Pansky in honor of  
Jessica-Belle Pansky's Bat Mitzvah

### **RABBI CANTOR ALISON WISSOT DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Barry Levitt in memory of  
Ethel Levitt

Karen & Steve Twersky in memory of  
Helen Prince and in appreciation of  
Rabbi Cantor Wissot

Penny & Jim Gwin in memory of  
Sam Fenster, Jack Fenster,  
Jacob Stein

Sandy & Irv Klasky in memory of  
Marla Sheiner

Susie & Jeffrey Mossa in honor of  
Ellie & Sam Mossa's B'nai Mitzvah

Yovita & Scott Pansky in honor of  
Jessica-Belle Pansky's Bat Mitzvah

### **RABBI SAM SPECTOR DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Claudia Bloom Soroko &  
Steve Soroko in honor of  
Rabbi Sam Spector's Birthday

Karen & Steve Twersky in memory  
of Helen Prince & in appreciation of  
Rabbi Spector

Margaret Spector in honor of  
Chanukah

### **CANTOR YONAH KLIGER DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Debra Curtis in honor of  
Cantor Yonah Kliger

Jill & Mark Shear in appreciation of  
Cantor Yonah Kliger

Judy Miller in memory of  
Jean & Arvey Shier, Esther Neiman

### **GENERAL FUND**

Abby & Adam Meyers in memory of  
David Meyers

Allison & Brian Lambert in memory  
of Arthur Myerson

Ann & Jerry Gerstenfeld in memory  
of Frances Gerstenfeld &  
Lillian Nemeroff

Arlene & Eli Chernow in appreciation  
of Temple Judea

Betsy & Jeremy Kline in memory of  
Albert Goldfarb

Beverly Dolin in memory of  
George & Helen Bland, Sol Schaller

Bonnie Schwab in appreciation of  
Temple Judea

Bruce Maxwell in appreciation of  
Temple Judea

Charlotte & Mike Levitt in memory  
of Carl Liberman

Cindy & Jim Grant in memory of  
Jane Berzer

Colette & Michael Kramer in  
memory of James Donnelly

Donna & Ken Gold in memory of  
Charlotte Portnoy Gold

Donna & Ronald Roscoe in honor of  
Children's Education

Gail Browdy in memory of  
Sylvia Bidna

Irene & Leroy Leemon in memory of  
Shirley Marlis

Irving Goldberg & Family in memory  
of Michael Goldberg

Joel Drum in appreciation of  
Temple Judea





Cantor's Couch -- Shabbat Shira was celebrated in January with a wonderful evening of music, learning and memories featuring Cantor Jack Mendelson, one of the most well-respected cantors and teachers in today's Jewish world. Accompanied by musical collaborator Cantor Jonathan Comisar, Cantor Mendelson took us on a journey through his real-life stories of growing up in 1950s Brooklyn. It was not only a magical musical theater experience, but an evening of meaningful stories of Jewish culture from a bygone era. This event was part of the Patty Wells Memorial Concert Series, underwritten by Nancy and Alan Wiener in memory of their beloved daughter.



## We Appreciate These Donations

Judith & Andy Benson in memory of Dorothy Benson

Judith Davidson in appreciation of Temple Judea

Laurie & Steven Rodstein in memory of Arlene Gibberman

Leslie & Steve Lashever in memory of Mark Alan Gerson

Lillie & Jack Schrier in memory of Gertrude Schrier, Miriam Kunkis

Lois & Barry Scherer in memory of Sandra Greenfield Ferreira, Goldie Krevat Greenfield, Richard Goldwasser, June Goldwasser

Loretta Shine in memory of Sylvia Pearson Barrett

Lorrie & Richard Gurewitz in memory of Mary & Ben Gurewitz

Lydia & Jay Schlanger in memory of Jeanne Sankey, Jose Jimenez

Marcia Berman in memory of Toby Dodkowitz

Marcy & Aaron Tuchfeld in memory of Selma Peters

Marlene & Bob Miller in memory of Phyllis Phillips, Caroline Crespin, Robert Crespin

Marlene & Bruce Kanter in memory of Doris Kanter

Nancie & Harvey Piccus in memory of Phyllis Shane

Nancy & Al Wiener in memory of Harold Littman

Nancy & Jonathan Littman in memory of Joshua Littman

Nicole Hirsty-Saine & Ben Saine in memory of William Hirsty

Rabbi Sam Spector in honor of the birth of Benson Lennox Yudovich

Rhoda King in memory of Fannie Mutnick

Stephanie & Spencer Moseska in memory of Arthur Myerson

Susan & David Jefferson in memory of Jack Sanders

Susan & Dennis Levin in memory of Floyd Levin

Susan Stone in memory of Helen Prince, Bernie Cohen

Tammy & Jeff Lerman in honor of the birth of Benson Lennox Yudovich

Vicki & Arnie Kupetz in memory of Morris Kupetz

Wendy & Richard Kane in memory of Joshua Kane, Merle Kane, Arthur Weiss

### CAMPERSHIP FUND

Bonnie Friedman & Cantor Gerald Miller in appreciation of Jacob Wissot and his AOK project

### DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION EDUCATION FUND

Ida & Robert Worth & Family in honor of the birth of Morgan Reese Raff

Jill & Mark Shear in honor of the birth of Morgan Reese Raff

Karen & Steve Twersky in memory of Helen Prince & in appreciation of Rabbi Bruce Raff

Rabbi Sam Spector in honor of the birth of Morgan Reese Raff

Tammy & Jeff Lerman in honor of the birth of Morgan Reese Raff

### ECC PROGRAM SUPPORT FUND

David & Vera Neporent

Freddie Jacobs in memory of Mollie Klein

Helen Small in memory of Vivian Katzin

Nikki & Ivan Axelrod in memory of Melvin Shorr

Sandy Cooper in memory of Gail, sister of AnnRae & Robert Parks

### ELLEN M. ROSE CARING COMMUNITY FUND

Brendie & Al Rosenbloom in memory of Harvey Osherenko

Brendie & Al Rosenbloom thinking of Josh Rubenstein

Eric Rose in honor of Tenley's baby naming

Lorraine & Ray Friedman in appreciation of the Ellen M. Rose Caring Community

### ENDOWMENT FUND

Barbara & Todd Cobin in honor of the birth of Benson Lennox Yudovich & Morgan Reese Raff

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATION FUND

Brendie & Al Rosenbloom in memory of Marla Sheiner

Jill & Mark Shear in honor of the birth of Benson Lennox Yudovich

### HOMELESS/NEEDY ASSISTANCE FUND

Bonnie Friedman & Cantor Gerald Miller in memory of Harold Littman

Evelyn Bergman in memory of Robert Holtzman

Herb Schneider in memory of Jack Hyman

Nan Krasne in memory of Anne Krasne, Joe Krasne

Susan & Ron Katz in memory of Harry Pregerson

### MARSHALL BLAIR LEADERSHIP FUND

Gary Blair in memory of Marshall Blair

### MARVIN LEZAK ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Jackie Wissen in honor of Sylvia Lezak's "special" Birthday  
Nancie & Harvey Piccus in memory of Phyllis Shane

The Extended Shabbat Group

### MUSIC FUND

Lois & Barry Scherer in memory of Bernice, mother, grandmother & great-grandmother

### NATALIE SMOLENS ECC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Beverly & Lynn Freed in honor of the births of Benson Lennox Yudovich & Morgan Reese Raff

Brendie & Al Rosenbloom wishing a speedy recovery to David Wohlgenuth

James Lerman in memory of Albert Kaplan, Gerald Lerman

Sara & Al Dreskin in memory of Ethel Kru

### PAUL RUBENSTEIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND

Brendie & Al Rosenbloom in memory of Bernice M. Sterne

### RABBI DONALD GOOR LIFELONG LEARNING FUND

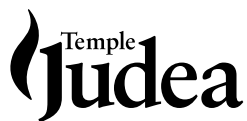
Ellen Heller

### RABBI HANS HIRSCHBERG SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE FUND

Chuck Berney & Family in memory of Ruth & Abe Berney, Gloria & Leonard Paul, Norman Berney, Howard Paul, Carol Berney, Vince Przybylo, Nicholas Przybylo, Julia Przybylo, Lil Pribish, Nelly Casale, Judge Harry Pregerson

### SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

Brendie & Alvin Rosenbloom wishing a speedy recovery to Jerry Gerstenfeld



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## **Passover 2018 begins in the evening of Friday, March 30 and ends in the evening of Saturday, April 7**

A Jew, someone once said, is someone who takes the Passover experience seriously. What does that mean? Passover is the unequivocal declaration that human beings have the right to be free. As Americans we may take this proposition for granted, since liberty is declared as a foundational value in our primary documents. Ironically, many of our founding fathers themselves owned slaves, which means that they cherished liberty, but not necessarily for everyone.

The Torah and the Passover Haggadah are not satisfied with the assertion that some, or even all, human beings have the right to be free. More is required. Those of us who are free must practice and activate deep empathy for those who have suffered oppression in the past and those who are currently oppressed. Thirty-six times the Torah states that we ought to be kind to strangers because we were strangers in the land of Egypt. We need to feel their pain, as it were, to motivate us to relieve suffering.

Therefore the Seder has a profound purpose. The Haggadah and Seder Plate are supposed to catapult us back in history so that we taste the bitterness of slavery. We enter into a time machine that asks us to remember Egypt as if it had actually happened to us. Hopefully this will result in a passionate care for those who are strangers, those who are different, those whom others wish to oppress. And then we, as Jews, direct our energy toward fulfilling our mission as a People to be a "light unto the nations."

Happy Pesach!