Ine Illean the May/June 2019

templejudea.com



From the Board

Dani Rogers- Secretary



I have been a member of Temple Judea for almost 25 years. Over that time period, the clergy has changed, staff members have changed, the physical building has changed, friends are no longer members, and my kids have grown up and flown the coop. Yet, I have never felt more connected to Temple Judea than I do now. How is that possible? Having spent quite a bit of time thinking about it, I truly believe it has to do with volunteering. Volunteering not just to benefit me and my family, but volunteering to benefit the greater Temple Judea community. And it is not like I had the time to volunteer. I was balancing being a mom of 2 very busy kids, a working civil trial attorney, a wife, a daughter, a sister, a friend and a dog owner (and I am sure a million other important things that I cannot recall). But when there was a need, and a friend asked me if I wanted to help, I said yes.

I started out helping to plan the activities and snacks for Tot Shabbat. My kids liked Tot Shabbat, so I was going to be there anyway, and it didn't take much extra time to help with the planning. Then I offered to help make latkes for my kids' religious school classes for Hanukkah. I was not an expert latke maker by any stretch of the imagination, but my step-mother was and she came along to help. My volunteering helped me learn about the different facets of the Temple Judea community, what it means to be part of the community, and how much the community relies on volunteers to survive. I worked at the Purim carnival, made blankets for the Caring Community's welcome baby baskets, delivered challah to new temple members, and organized the Catering Kids for the Women of Temple Judea. I even attended a few adult education classes to see what that was all about. Then I joined the Adult Education committee. From there I joined the Board as a Trustee and then became Secretary. I did not set out to be so involved. It just happened. And along the way I realized that it strengthened my connection to my Temple Judea community and my resolve to do my part to make sure Temple Judea continues to thrive.

So many people feel that once their children have completed Religious School, their connection to, or need for, the synagogue ends. But life doesn't stop once our kids' religious education stops. The community we all inevitably turn to when we seek comfort for an illness or a death in the family, or to celebrate a marriage, or a new baby, remains. Being connected to that community can make a huge difference in your life. It has definitely made a difference in mine. So, stay connected, volunteer, get involved, help out where you can. It can truly be a rewarding experience for you, and can only benefit your Temple Judea community.

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.



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Rabbi Joshua M. Aaronson Rabbi Cantor Alison Wissot Cantor Yonah Kliger Rabbinic Intern Eric Rosenstein

Rabbi Bruce Raff, Director of Education Lisa Whitman, Director of Early Childhood Center

Ellen Franklin, Executive Director Diane Lennox, Director of Finance Eileen Aroesti, Director of Development Rachel Cohen, Program Director

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

Edited by Gail Aspinwall Design and layout by Josh Geyer Printing by Gam Enterprises



A Spring of New Beginnings

Rabbi Joshua M. Aaronson



f RabbiJMA

The last festival of 5779 is Shavuot. Temple Judea will celebrate Shavuot on Saturday, June 8, beginning at 5 pm. We will gather for inspiring worship, we will study the texts of our people and of course, we will have something to eat. I hope you'll join us for a wonderful Shavuot celebration. After our celebration, consider going out to eat with family and friends to keep the joy going!

Friday night worship services during the summer are particularly invigorating. Things are a bit more relaxed (and given how relaxed we normally are, that's saying something!). Although your clergy team does take vacation during the summer, a couple of us are always present at Shabbat services PLUS, we are often blessed to have some of our CITS and other special visitors join us.

On July 1, we will welcome Rabbi Eric Rosenstein as our assistant rabbi. I hope many of you—indeed, most of you—have had a chance to meet Rabbi Rosenstein during his tenure as our rabbinic intern, either this past year or during the summer of 2018. Rabbi Rosenstein brings formidable skills as an educator, a pastor and a musician, among other talents. Rabbi Rosenstein's main area of focus will be our religious school, our ECC and our young adults. Working closely with Rabbi Raff, Rabbi Rosenstein will build upon our success in youth programming and high school. Working with Lisa Whitman, Rabbi Rosenstein will work to engage our ECC families more broadly in the synagogue community. And of course, Rabbi Rosenstein will be on our bima.

We will also be blessed to welcome Rabbi Rosenstein's wife, Carly, their daughter Lilah and a beautiful baby who, by the time you read this, will be approaching a month old! As well as being our rabbi, the Rosenstein's will be parents of ECC children. I know you will join me and Debbie in welcoming them to Temple Judea.

I wish you a summer of joy, inspiration and safety.

RabbiAaronson@)TempleJudea.com

Welcome To Our New Assistant Rabbi

Rabbi Eric Rosenstein is a graduate of the Rhea Hirsch School of Education and was recently ordained at the Hebrew Union College: Jewish Institute of Religion, in Los Angeles. He is thrilled to continue his relationship with Temple Judea as assistant rabbi and to connect with the community over the coming years. During his rabbinic training, Eric interned at a number of other local congregations, including Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills, Leo Baeck Temple, and Temple Ner Ami in Camarillo, California. He also served as a chaplain intern at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, and has served as a song leader and cantorial soloist. Eric is a contributing co-author to the book, The Fragile Dialogue: New Voices in Liberal Zionism (CCAR Press, 2017). He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Carly, and two children, Lilah and a beautiful baby boy named Gabriel.



f eric.rosenstein.5

What Are Loose Parts? Lisa Whitman - Director of ECC Sari Edber - Assistant Director of ECC

If you walk into a Nursery School classroom at Temple Judea, you might see a patch of grass on the floor with dinosaurs, rocks, and pieces of fabric. You might see a table with playdoh, sticks, shells, and pieces of wood. Sometimes you'll see bottle caps and corks in a sensory table next to cars and little people. What do all of these seemingly random items have to do with one another? They are all considered "loose parts," and they are part of an important movement in early education. Simply described, loose parts are items that can be manipulated by children creatively and without expectation. Whereas a car ramp really only has one use -- put a car on top and watch it go down-- there are an endless number of creative directions that can be followed with a bunch of loose parts. In their book "Loose Parts: Inspiring Play in Young Children," Lisa Daly & Miriam Beloglovsky explain, "When children interact with loose parts, they enter a world of 'what if' that promotes the type of thinking that leads to problem solving and theoretical reasoning. Loose parts enhance children's





f TempleJudeaECC

ability to think imaginatively and see solutions, and they bring a sense of adventure and excitement to children's play." There is no right or wrong with loose parts. There is only creativity, exploration and invention.

At Temple Judea, we believe so strongly in incorporating loose parts into our curriculum that one of our teachers Jil Dyan has opened up a Loose Parts Resource Center for the staff. Teachers can check out items like smooth sea glass, slices of trees called "tree cookies," shells, scarves, plastic tops etc. for use in the classroom. Then, all that is needed for a unique and wonderful learning experience, is the creativity of children.

If you are cleaning out a garage or a particularly over-stuffed closet or drawer, and you come across some loose parts, please consider donating them to the ECC. After all, one person's trash is a classroom's treasure!



It's Time to Register for the Upcoming School Year Rabbi Bruce Raff - Director of Education



Temple Judea RS

The great Rabbi Hillel, in Pirke Avot teaches "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, who am I? If not now, when?" For the purpose of this piece – I want to focus on the last sentence. When will you sign your children up for Religious School?

For those whose children will be completing Nursery School in June – the answer is now. There is going to be so much change in your child's life – a new school, new teachers, new friends; let them enjoy what they already enjoy – their Nursery School friends, a familiar environment, Jewish learning at Temple Judea. Let them come and study with teacher Jill from Nursery School, either Sunday mornings or Tuesday afternoons.

And for families who are continuing in Religious School: Why does signing up now matter? We want to hire the very best teachers for your children – and finding great teachers at any time is difficult, and at the end of the summer is nearly impossible. So, please do your child a favor. Give her or him the opportunity to have an amazing teacher by signing up now.

There are new programs coming this year:

Ba'Bayit - Inspired by the desire to connect our children to those of our Jewish neighbors – to create Jewish community in our neighborhoods, and to be sensitive to your demanding lives – we will now offer a new alternative to traditional Religious School by bringing our full curriculum (taught by our best teachers) right into your home: Ba'Bayit (literally – "in the home"). Offered for students entering grades K-6 who live west of Topanga Canyon, this new experimental program will bring Religious School into your home. See the temple website for more details.

The seventh grade program is changing. There will be class one Tuesday a month and one Sunday a month there will be an amazing Social Justice Day Trip. Students will have an opportunity to have a Food Justice Tour, an Environmental Justice Day, a chance to understand homelessness in our city. They will learn about and support people with special needs and more. Don't allow your child to miss this important opportunity to both learn and "do good" at the same time.

Our high school program is changing as well. Students in grades 8-12 will come to temple only two evenings per month and participate in a variety of amazing classes and programs. In addition to the other programs (like Confirmation, madrachim and CIT's) our students will have the opportunity to join us for a weekend on Love and Relationships from a Jewish perspective. Students will learn about sexual language, peer pressure, sexual harassment, intimacy, caring, homosexuality, birth control and STDs, and most importantly what it means to be in a loving, caring relationship – all from a Jewish perspective.

The final plug is for your teen to join us for a weekend trip to the Religious Action Center in Washington D.C. The RAC (as it is called) is the hub of Jewish values, and the L'taken seminar gives over 2,000 Reform Jewish students a chance to impact our country as they share their views on social justice topics with decision makers on Capitol Hill. The program is designed to expose your student to a variety of public policy issues and explore the Jewish values that inform the Reform Movement's advocacy around these issues.

So much to do. So many exciting programs. But all of them have deadlines – and we need you to register. Help us create the best possible experience for your child. Please sign up now. If you have questions about anything written here – please feel free to contact me at rabbiraff@templejudea.com or by phone (818)758-3800 ext. 104.



JOIN THE FESTIVITIES ON MAY 11, 2019 AT 5PM AS WE HONOR

Executive Director ELLEN FRANKLIN

Rabbi Cantor
ALISON WISSOT

AND ACKNOWLEDGE OUR WOMAN PRESIDENTS

Myrna Gordon, Kaye Bernstein, Jaci Feldman, Teri Levin, Ellen Fink Israel, Gail Aspinwall

Benefactor Event....Gala.... Afterparty
Live Auction
Silent Auction



We are happy to announce our first

Shhh.... ONLINE SILENT AUCTION

Beginning MAY 1, 2019 It's as easy as

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All you need to do is register at:

templejudea.com/auction

SAVE THE DATES

for two spectacular outdoor music concerts. As usual, bring your own picnic dinner, blankets and lawn chairs and we'll provide dessert, beverages and a fun summer concert at a private residence.

HOME-GROWN MAY 30, 2019

Extraordinary graduates from the Temple Judea music program, Elizabeth Woolf, Charlie Kramer, and Lexi Weakley, sing their original compositions in a beautiful backyard location in Encino.*

CANTORS OUTSIDE THE BOX AUGUST 18, 2019

Rabbi Cantor Alison Wissot and Cantor Yonah Kliger bring colleagues and friends for a relaxing night of musical entertainment, in our favorite stunning ranch in Moorpark.*

*Locations given upon RSVP.

Check templejudea.com for more details.

Tickets \$20 each or \$36 for the series.

JUDEA BOWL

Join us as we recognize our Confirmands Erev Shabbat Service & Religious School Confirmation Friday, May 17, 6:15pm

Rachel Boden
Miles Dugan
Jason Ellis
William Lake

Brooke Lehrhoff
Susannah Ness
Lily Rotter
Samuel Yablon

B'nei Mitzvah - May/June



BRAYDEN MORDKOWITZ Son of Carrie & Oren Mordkowitz May 4, 2019, 10:30am Project: Children's Hunger Fund



ADAM MORDKOWITZ Son of Carrie & Oren Mordkowitz May 4, 2019, 10:30am Project: Children's Hunger Fund



NOAH SHAPIRO
Son of Lisa & Sam Shapiro
May 4, 2019, 5pm
Project: Volunteered with West Hills Champions, a baseball league for kids with special needs.



JACKSON GROD
Son of Adina Gregor & Mitchell Grod
May 11, 2019, 10:30am
Project: Volunteered to distribute food and clothing to the homeless.



SYDNEY SOPHIA KEANE
Daughter of Sarah Fitzmaurice & Josh Keane
May 18, 2019, 10:30am
Project: Worked with Lion's Heart, a teen-based volunteer
program to inspire teens to have a positive impact in their
communities through leadership and community service.



JOSHUA BENJAMIN MURPHY

Son of Dina & Marshall Murphy
May 18, 2019, 10:30am
Project: Participated in a Go Baby Go Workshop, working with a
team to construct off-the-shelf ride-on cars for children whose
diagnosis has affected their motor skills and cognition, to improve
their mobility and childhood experience.



JAKE PESSIN
Son of Bree & Adam Pessin
May 18, 2019, 5pm
Project: Volunteered every month at the SOVA Food Pantry
gathering and packing grocery items requested by needy families,
individuals and the homeless and sorting canned and packaged
food donations.



QUINN SADIE MEYER

Daughter of Vicki Botnick & Joshua Meyer
May 25, 2019, 10:30 AM
Project: Created care packages for Operation Gratitude, which
sends hundreds of thousands of letters, crafts and care products
overseas to military members, veterans and first responders.

B'nei Mitzvah - May/June



RACHEL JAYE HOFERT

Daughter of Bonnie & Bruce Hofert

May 25, 2019, 5pm

Project: She is a partner in Three Heartstrings with friends and they sell \$5 personalized bracelets that raise money to donate to a different charity each month.



WILLIAM STUBINGTON
Son of Julie & Mark Stubington
June 8, 2019, 10:30am
Project: Collected baseball equipment to donate to inner city programs.



JORDAN LEHRHOFF
Son of Wendy & Steven Lehrhoff
June 15, 2019, 10:30am
Project: Volunteered and raised money to buy equipment and help fund scholarships for special needs athletes.



MICHAEL SHIFF Son of Wendy & Greg Shiff June 22, 2019, 10:30am Project:TBD



AIDAN GREENFIELD
Son of Shelly & Jeffrey Greenfield
June 1, 2019, 5pm
Project: Created a program with his brother to use the
proceeds from the sale of vintage clothing on their e-commerce
site to purchase and donate needed food and supplies for
SOVA food pantry.



DYLAN JOTKOWITZ

Son of Marcy & Joe Jotkowitz
June 15, 2019, 10:30 AM
Project: Worked with nonprofit and community organizations in
the Repair the World program. Also volunteered at the Saffyre
Sanctuary because he has always loved animals and nature and
hope to continue to be involved in both.



NATE KUGLER
Son of Jennifer & Andrew Kugler
June 15, 2019, 5pm
Project: Volunteered his time assisting the under-served through the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry.



ALYSON GOVENAR
Daughter of Wendy & Timothy Govenar
June 29, 2019, 10:30am
Project: Volunteered at Saffyre Sanctuary helping care for horses who have been abused, abandoned or neglected.



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Social Action Committee Announces Days of Service Jennifer Lutzky - Chair



The Social Action Committee has consolidated their programs and activities into four Days of Service – opportunities for Temple Judea to participate in active, hands-on programs to benefit our community. These days of service will revolve around established Social Action programs and include packing backpacks, creating Thanksgiving meal boxes, Mitzvah Day, and Big Sunday.

To kick off the school year, our Backpack program will take place in August. This is a long tradition of the Social Action committee, and creates backpacks filled with school supplies such as binders, pens & pencils, dictionaries, calculators, etc. These backpacks are donated to School on Wheels, an organization providing tutoring services and school supplies to homeless children in Southern California. Students will not only have the supplies they need to be prepared for school, but will not feel set apart from other students for lacking materials. Social Action typically donates between 600 and 1,000 full backpacks every August.

In the fall, Social Action will host a Thanksgiving Market, where students can get a feel for what it's like to shop for groceries, and adults can contribute toward boxes providing a full Thanksgiving meal -- including turkey -- for families in need. One Sunday in November will be dedicated to filling and decorating boxes and writing holiday messages to the families.

Mitzvah Day will follow the format of our traditional Mitzvah Days in the past, but will no longer fall on the traditional date. Instead of November, Social Action and Religious School will partner to hold Mitzvah Day in February, so students and teachers have more time during the school year to research, plan and implement their Jewish value projects.

Big Sunday has now evolved into a month-long "Month of Big Sundays", and Social Action will choose one large event for participation by our temple community, still on a Sunday in May. We will continue to support ongoing causes by serving meals and hosting drives. And of course, Social Action will still participate in additional temple activities, such as the Purim Carnival, and continue to partner with other temple groups, such as Brotherhood, Women of Temple Judea, Judeans for Justice, JSTY and the ECC.

Social Action is always looking for new committee members. If you are interested in helping to plan our Days of Service, or just in attending one, please contact Jennifer Lutzky at jenlutzky@yahoo.com



Women of Temple Judea

Aime Friedman, President

The Women of Temple Judea have been very active these past few months. Our own Marcy Lenard was one of the stars of this year's Purim Shpiel. Besides lending her exquisite voice to the proceedings, Marcy was the chief costumer. Both were accomplished with great aplomb. At the Purim Carnival, Women of Temple Judea staffed the hamantaschen and bagel booth, which was lots of fun. We kept the party going dancing to the great tunes spun by the DJ.

Also in March, WTJ and Brotherhood ended our Speakers Series with a bang (no pun intended) as we presented our very own temple member, Bill Prady, co-creator of The Big Bang Theory. We not only laughed at some amazing Jewish humor, we actually learned quite a bit about that humor, and how it moved through the centuries from Eastern Europe, to the Catskills, to the Hollywood writers' rooms and beyond. We are already planning next year's Speaker Series. If you have a suggestion for a speaker, please let us know.

In April, Women of Temple Judea held our first "Game Day," with dozens of women coming together to play their favorite games, eat and drink. What more does a person need?

Rounding out April, and because the eight days of Passover happened to end on a Friday, WTJ and Brotherhood was able to throw another "Post Passover Pizza Party" after Shabbat services. What better way to end Passover than with a leavened treat such as pizza, which we served along with salad, beer and a whole lot of fun.

Please remember that Women of Temple Judea will cater a Kiddush meal for any event, including bar/bat mitzvahs, baby namings and meals of condolence.

And, our gift shop has beautiful gifts and Judaica for any and all occasions. Please consider purchasing your tallitot and kippot at our gift shop. Bar and bat mitzvah families will enjoy a 10 percent discount on all purchases.

We'd love to hear from you. Email us at wtj@templejudea.com.

f Women-of-Temple-Judea

Brotherhood David Daniel and Antony Gluck, Co-Presidents

The Brotherhood fun never stops! We served up our usual grill goodies at the Purim Carnival, and Dan "The 'Stache" Lenard also starred in the Purim Shpiel. A few days later, "The Big Bang Theory" co-creator Bill Prady had a packed chapel roaring with laughter as he discussed the history of Jewish humor, bringing the third annual TJB/WTJ Speaker Series to a successful close. April brought more annual traditions: we packaged and distributed Yom HaShoah candles to the entire congregation, and teamed with WTJ for the Post Passover Pizza Party.



Coming up: our annual Men's Retreat, our bi-weekly Lunch Bunch and monthly poker night, and planning such events as the next International Tasting Series event and this year's Dodgers game. It's a perfect time to get involved in Brotherhood -- join us!



brotherhood@templejudea.com

Mazal Toy to

Our Director of Finance, Diane Lennox, on the birth of grandson Ron Aviv Lennox. Proud parents are Yarden & Bradley Lennox, who live in Israel.

Courtney & Paul Fishman, on the birth of son Cooper Chase.

Cheri Glick, teacher in our Nursery School, on the birth of grandson Logan William.

Candice & Brandon Ballew, on the birth of daughter Hailey Nicole, joining big sister Natalie.

Ruthie Aseraf, teacher in our Nursery School, on the birth of her first grandson Romeo Aseraf. Proud parents are Margalit & Adam Aseraf.

Carly & Rabbi Eric Rosenstein welcomed their son Gabriel Blake, joining big sister, Lilah.

Jenny Silver & Travis Owens on their marriage. Jenny is the daughter of our Executive Director, Ellen Franklin.

New Members We Welcome You!

Ennesa & Ronny Alfandari Gail Goldstein

as of 4/3/19



SHAVUOT Saturday, June 8, 5 - 6:30pm Join the clergy for a provocative teaching session & hear the chanting of the Ten Commandments. Our study topic will be: "Chosenness - Is it good for the Jews? Is it good for humanity?"

Havurah Means a Group of Friends



We Appreciate These Donations

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the judean

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Beverly Dolin sending get well wishes to Judy Scharf

Brendie & Al Rosenbloom in memory of Herbert B. Rosenbloom

Brendie & Al Rosenbloom sending get well wishes to Judy Scharf

Carolyn Fasteau in memory of Jean Goldstein

Darlene & Jerry Daniel sending get well wishes to Judy Scharf

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Lillie & Jack Schrier sending get well wishes to Judy Scharf

Marian & Bill Schiff sending get well wishes to Judy Scharf

Marlyn & Art Burleigh sending get well wishes to Judy Scharf

Marsha & Mark Novak in memory of Marty Bakst

Marsha & Mark Novak sending get well wishes to Judy Scharf

Sylvia Lezak sending get well wishes to Judy Scharf

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Janice Rosenblatt for Ellen Franklin being honored at Temple Judea Celebrates Women Gala

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Beverly & Lynn Freed in honor of the birth of Ron Aviv Lennox, grandson of Diane Lennox, & Romeo Aseraf, grandson of Ruthie Aseraf

James Lerman in memory of Simone Lerman

Troy, Posen, Tuchfeld, Baker, Hamner, & Eichnerg families in memory of Victor Aseraf

PAUL RUBENSTEIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND

Laurie & Steven Rodstein in memory of Margaret Begelmam

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Barbara & Larry Diamond in memory of Mike Rothberg

Cathy Gordon in memory of Mike Rothberg

Sheila Linderman & Alan Schiff in honor of Bill Schiff's "Special" Birthday

Terry, Alfred, & Randal Curtis wishing a speedy recovery to Caryl Reback

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Chuck Berney & Family in memory of Bruce Fane & Doris Carp

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