Cheshvan/Kislev/Tevet 5784 November/December 2023 Vol. 70, No. 3





Also In This Issue: Join us for our 70th Anniversary Photo & Memorabilia Display on Sunday, December 10 page 6

Come see what we have in store for Chanukah this year!

Check out our interview with Ukrainian Refugee, Andrii Bogancha pages 23



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A bi-monthly publication of:

Temple Akiba

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MARY LOU BASARABA, Choir Director

Friday Shabbat Services **NOVEMBER/DECEMBER**

Friday, November 3 6:30pm Shabbat Shira Service with 5th Grade Friday, November 10 6:30pm Shabbat Service with Choir Friday, November 17 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service Friday, November 24 6:30pm Thanksgiving Shabbat Service Friday, December 1 6:30pm Shabbat Shira Service with 4th Grade Friday, December 8 6:30pm Chanukah Family Service with Guest Artist, Justin Stein Friday, December 15 6:30pm Kabbalat Broadway Shabbat Friday, December 22 6:30pm Shabbat Service Friday, December 29 6:30pm Shabbat Service

> On three things the world is sustained: on Torah, on service, and on deeds of loving kindness.

> > Pirkei Avot 1:2

Shalom, Rav

Dear all,

A Midrash teaches that when Adam & Eve were in the Garden of Eden, winter was approaching,



and the days were getting shorter. Having never experienced this passage of seasons, the couple were afraid that one day, the sun would not rise at all and that the world would end. So Adam & Eve lit a fire and prayed that God would have the sun rise earlier the next day. But nothing positive happened. In fact, the sun rose even later & set even earlier.

The following night, Adam & Eve lit two fires. And again, the sun rose late & set earlier. For the entire week, Adam and Eve lit an additional fire. And for the entire week, the response was the same.

On the 8th night, they lit eight fires. And on the following morning, they noticed the sun rose a minute earlier and set a minute later!

Indeed, this Midrash has parallels to the light we kindle at Chanukah, at the darkest time of year (but on the precipice of the days just beginning to get longer again).

I think about this story specifically now, as our Jewish world has been enduring darkness. The October 7 Terror Attack on Israel, our Homeland, pierced every soul. Age old fears (realities) of antisemitism arose. Anti Jewish rhetoric erupted throughout college campuses, in city centers, and across the world. We all started looking over our shoulders in ways that we thought only our greatgrandparents had to.

And yet we learn that despite the dark hour we are in, we continue to chase after light. We stand with our people. We stand with all those in the shadow of terror. We keep on nurturing our flame while lighting new ones. Our light is eternal, & hate will not destroy it.Go out and harness that light. Do not be afraid to put your Chanukkiah in the window. Let the world know that each candle we light eradicates darkness.

Sending you blessings of love and shalom, Rabbi Zachary Shapiro

Cantor's Corner

Growing up during the Winter holiday season, the radio stations were filled with Christmas songs. I longed for my favorite stations to play the Dreidel song or Light One Candle but they were never played.



In the mid to late 90's that finally changed and a Chanukah song was played over and over again on many different radio stations. Adam Sandler's Chanukah song was first debuted on Saturday Night Live's Weekend Update on December 3, 1994. It became a huge phenomenon and was such a source of pride for Jewish kids. We finally had a song that belonged to us, a song that was funny and relevant, a song that was informative and a Jewish song in the sea of Christmas songs. There have been 4 variations of the song throughout the years which center on the theme of Chanukah & how Jewish children often feel alienated during the Christmas season. The songs mainly consist of the names of celebrities who are Jewish or have Jewish ancestry. Some of the names mentioned in the music were surprising. I never knew that Paul Newman, Goldie Hawn or Harrison Ford had Jewish parents until hearing Adam Sandler sing about it.

Our people are especially feeling alienated today. In the wake of the atrocious attacks on the people of Israel at the hands of the Hamas terrorists, our suffering is being denied, ridiculed or justified. The Jewish people need each other more than ever. There has been too much silence when it comes to support of our community and the silence allows for more atrocities to occur. I was relieved when I saw that the Hollywood community came together in support of Israel. Some of the same celebrities mentioned in Adam Sandler's song expressed their disgust with the evil terrorist attacks in Israel. 700 notable Hollywood figures signed an open letter that condemned the attack on Israel, called for the return of hostages and called on the entertainment community to refrain from sharing misinformation about the war.

Adam Sandler himself shared on social media that he was "heartbroken by the horrendous attacks on Israel." He said he "prays for peace and the safety of innocent Israeli and Palestinians everywhere." His song was a beacon of light for the Jewish people during the holidays and is now a beacon of connection for the Jewish people during these dark times. We pray that this light will continue to grow every day until peace is achieved.

Wishing you a Chanukah filled with light, love, connection and peace. **Cantor Lonee Frailich**

ECC & Religious School

Chanukah and Resilience

Throughout history, the Jewish people have faced adversity again and again. But with hope and resilience, we have refused to give up. This Chanukah let's consider the ways we are building strength and resilience to be like the Maccabees.

Here are ways you can build your child's resilience:

- Support your child but try not to solve every minor problem or disappointment. For example, if your child doesn't get invited to a birthday party or doesn't get what they want for their birthday, you could talk about how they feel instead of trying to fix the problem.
- Avoid predicting and preventing problems for your child. This might mean letting your child hand in homework that's wrong or not replacing a broken toy. Overcoming small challenges builds your child's resilience for bigger setbacks.
- Help your child to identify and manage strong emotions. For example, your child might be worried about a family member who's sick. You could say, "I can see you're really worried about Grandpa. It's OK to be worried. But remember we're doing everything we can to help him get better."
- Encourage your child to have another go when things don't work out the first time they try something. Praise your child for trying, no matter the result. You could say 'I'm proud of you for finishing the race' or 'Well done for giving it another go'.
- Build your child's self-compassion. Self-compassion helps your child deal with disappointment, failures, or mistakes by being kind to themselves. In turn, this helps them to move on from difficult experiences.
- Help your child to develop problem-solving skills in an age-appropriate way. For example, if a child at school says or does something unkind to your child, brainstorm how your child might respond next time.

You might want to make everything all right for your child, but sometimes your child has to go through uncomfortable feelings so they can work things out for themselves. Try looking at Chanukah as another step towards helping your child build their more resilient self.

L'Shalom,

Randee Bishoff, Dir. of Education

President's Message

Our world has changed overnight! I struggle to find the right words. This I know. I am...

Thankful to be part of this community at such a time, a place to feel safe and secure, a place to share our fears and concerns. A place that comes together in times of darkness and difficulty. A place that shines brighter together, radiating light and love.

And yet, a new reality has set in, with armed guards on Temple Akiba grounds. A day I hoped would never come. Our first priority, though, is always to ensure the safety and security of our children and families.

This I know...We remain a warm and welcoming community more than ever.

Life goes on and we try to live our lives as normally as we can. As we approach this time of year-Thanksgiving and Chanukah- we are reminded to be grateful and to look for the miracles in life.

I appreciate the continued incredible partnership with Rabbi Zachary Shapiro, Cantor Lonee Frailich, Executive Director, Jeffrey Rips, Director of Education, Randee Bishoff and all the staff, along with our dedicated Board of Trustees who have come together during this dark time to tackle the difficult situations we face and at the same time, to shed rays of light and hope.

I am grateful for the response that Rabbi Shapiro and I received to our call to volunteer during the High Holy Days. Our inbox was full and we are delighted to add many of you to various committees and to make use of your talents and time.

I am thankful for my immediate family who live in town and grateful for all the family who travels to join us for Thanksgiving every year. I hope your Thanksgiving celebrations are full of joy.

In these dark times, I am buoyed by the words of encouragement from our beloved Rabbi Shapiro. Out of the chaos, there will be light. A rainbow will emerge. As we get closer to Chanukah and lighting the candles I hope and pray that the world will be brighter and peace is on the horizon.

Wishing us and Israel a Chanukah miracle!

Cathy Penso, President

Executive Director's Message

On Friday October 6th, there was a beautiful sunset, followed by a wonderful Shabbat Dinner with my sister, my mother, and my nieces & nephews. It was a special night being together in Israel shared with catching up and excitement for the upcoming wedding of my niece. Little did we know that would be the last time all of us would be together while on this visit to Israel, as early the next morning I was awoken to sirens and loud explosions. The alarm, fear, and juxtaposition of the beauty of the night before was palpable.

My mom & I then spent the next several days at our hotel, very close to the bomb shelters, which we had to visit several times over those days. We were very fortunate that we were able to get safely home, and that my friends and family throughout Isarel are also still safe. As you know, there are many who aren't able to share the same story, and my thoughts and prayers are with all of them, all of Isarel, and to everyone who is suffering during this unfortunate war.

In just a few weeks, we will be celebrating Chanukah, where the miracles of the oil lasting for 8 days and that of the Maccabees defeating the larger army are reminders of our challenged history, the importance of standing together, to fight for what we believe, and that the light, our light, truly does shine brighter when we come together. Days have passed, and as the situation in Israel continues to unfold, I am continually reminded why Temple Akiba is so important for our children, families, members, staff, and community.

Now more than ever, we all need a place where being lewish is celebrated and protected, where our children can participate in the joy of community, deepen their connection to ludaism, build strong friendships, and develop confidence to carry them through the year. Now more than ever, we all need a place where we can come together to be part of a community, and feel the warm embrace that Temple Akiba is known for. While we know that these aspects of Temple Akiba have always been important, now they feel even more crucial.

As Rabbi Hillel said, "if not now when." If you come to Temple often, or you haven't come to Temple in a while. I invite you to join us, and feel our love, warmth, and embrace at a Shabbat Dinner, upcoming Chanukah celebration, Adult Education Class, or to just have a conversation – we are here! Temple Akiba is our Home. Temple Akiba is your Home, and our Light Does Shine Brighter with you here!



L'Shalom, Jeffrey Rips, Executive Director

Men's Group Message

Shabbat Shalom Chaverim, it is Shabbat as I write this, one week into the war with Hamas, and it is hard to see a way out of this war without a lot more damage and a lot more pain to so many people, both those we love and cherish, and those we haven't met yet. My heart aches and I worry, for the innocents, no matter which side of the border they live on, and for our sons and daughters, nieces and nephews, putting their lives on the line to protect Israel. With gods help, perhaps there will be a good resolution by the time you read this.

There are many lessons we can learn from this war. From what I have seen so far the biggest help for those in harm's way and for those hurt has come not from the government, but from the families and friends of the affected. Here at home, it is much the same. In good times or bad, the Temple is our family, its members our friends, our brothers and sisters. We have to work together and to look out for each other. So many of us do not take advantage of the caring hearts and helping hands extended by those around us whenwe are in need. Too many of us have become disconnected from the friends we once had. If you know someonein this situation, encourage them to become part of the Men's Group. It is a great way to develop the relationships that make life livable, even enjoyable. There is no reason for people to feel isolated from the world, not when there is so much that is open for participation and so many opportunities for connection.

The Men's Group of Temple Akiba invites you to join us for our upcoming events:

Tuesday, November 7th, at 7PM - A Men's Group Get Together. Our first chance this year to get together, schmooze, talk about stuff, & hang out. There will be nosh & drinks.

Tuesday, November 28rd - We will be hosting Rabbi Stanley David to talk about themes raised in his books, including Re-Forming Judaism: Moments of Disruption in Jewish Thought.

Tuesday, December 19th - Israel & Hamas - a discussion of the war and its aftermath.



Temple Akiba Men's Group

MEET YOUR TEMPLE AKIBA STAFF AND **BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023-2024**





Andrew Lachman, Ira Diamond, Jenna Sonenshein, Jamie Shwartz, Morris Zlotowitz, Tracey Wise Finkelstein, Wendy Senelick, Marc Bauer, Sara Fields, Helene Jaffa, Cantor Lonee Frailich, Herman Barnathan, Cathy Penso, Jeffrey Rips, Leah Potok, Lisa Tsimanis, Linda Park, Benjamin Rapaport, Randee Bishoff, & Rabbi Shapiro

Absent: Robyn Altman, Dina Hempling, Rebecca Holzberg, John Magoulas, Leah Penso, & Kathryn Vischjager



High Holy Days "Behind The Scenes" Honoring The Builders of Our Ark









Let's take a moment to give a round of applause to this incredible group of individuals! Year after year, this team works together "behind the scenes" to set up & take down our ark, ensuring that our holiday observance can be complete. The bonds they've forged with one another and the Akiba community by taking responsibility for this important role deserves to be highlighted.

For many on this team, the task of setting up our ark for High Holy Days is a vital part of their commitment to our community. We cannot thank them enough for their dedication and hard work, and we are truly grateful for everything they do. If you'd like to learn from these legends and be a part of next year's crew, please contact Kathryn at programdirector@templeakiba.net





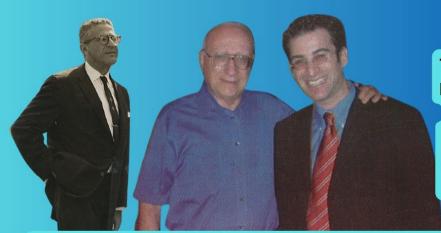








HERE'S TO 70 YEVARS



Temple Akiba's
Rabbis through
the decades!
Rabbi Lymon,
Rabbi Maller &
Rabbi Shapiro

Sunday, December 10 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Temple Akiba Social Hall

Jump into our History with us!
Join us for an afternoon down memory lane as
we celebrate Temple Akiba's 70th Anniversary!

Reunite & nosh with family and friends from Akiba's past to today.

Come see our Display full of Photos, historical documents, and Memorabilia.

RSVP by December 4th to admin@templeakiba.net





B'Nai Mitzvah - Mazal Tov!



Benny Gursky son of Michael & Veronica Gursky Saturday, November 4



Amanda Walker daughter of Alicia & Robert Walker Saturday, November 18











Shop for all your holiday celebration and gift giving needs!

Temple Akiba Sisterhood's **Annual Chanukah Boutique**

Sunday, November 12, 2023

9 am to 1 pm—in the Temple Social Hall

We have traditional, unique, and new items for every day and all holidays, as well as weddings, bar/bat mitzvot, and other occasions. Stock up on Gelt, Dreidels, and Candles. See our complete selection of Menorahs, Ritual Items, Jewelry, Toys and more*

*We can also special order almost anything

10 % discount off any purchase of \$100 or more



SISTERHOOD

Solidarity Through Lighting Shabbat Candles



Scan Code to Purchase a Shabbat Kit

We invite you to engage with our Solidarity through Shabbat program, designed to help our community connect with one another and with our people in Israel in a meaningful way. To that end, we have created Shabbat candle gift sets. This includes a set of beautifully crafted Shabbat candles packaged in a colorful bag, along with Shabbat prayers and a prayer for Israel. Additionally, we have included a hamsa sticker to bring you extra connection, protection & a little joy. It's a small gift, a tiny gesture, but with a big impact. Lighting Shabbat candles connects us to one another and to the peace of Shabbat.

In doing so we can also support Magen David Adom & the Jewish Federation of LA with our collected funds. Each set of candles will be a minimum donation of \$18 (as a symbol for life). Pay via check or Credit Card and come pick up a kit at the Temple. Let's bring more light into the world, a thing that as Jews we know exactly how to do.

JOIN US ON ZOOM AT 5:30 PM FOR CHANUKAH CANDLE LIGHTING.

Thursday, December 7 **Craigie Fresh & Family Singalong**

Saturday, December 9 - Mystery Host

Sunday, December 10 - Mystery Host

Monday, December 11 **TASTY Youth Group Takeover**

Tuesday, December 12 - Mystery Host

Wednesday, December 13 - Mystery Host

Thursday, December 14 Penso Family

*For those who would like to join a holiday decoration crew and help decorate our campus for Chanukah, please contact Kathryn: programdirector@templeakiba.net





Mah Jongg Tournament

Sponsored by Temple Akiba Sisterhood Sunday, January 14, 2024





Temple Akiba 5249 Sepulveda Blvd. Culver City, CA 90230 (310) 398-5783 www.templeakiba.net

Come join the fun!

Tournament fee is \$45 per person which includes a continental breakfast, a delicious buffet lunch, and snacks.

Schedule:

Check-in, coffee and bagels 8:30 - 9:00

9:00 - 12:00 Session 1 (3 rounds)

Lunch 12:00 - 1:00

1:00 - 4:00 Session 2 (3 rounds)

Awards 4:15

For more information, please contact

Judi Nachenberg (818) 764-6240 email: judi@mahjonggfunla.com Valerie Meyer: vimeyerqt314@gmail.com or Kristine Capell: kristine.capell@gmail.com

A \$10.00 ADMINISTRATIVE FEE WILL BE CHARGED FOR ANY CANCELLATION NO REFUNDS 14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE TOURNAMENT

To register, fill out the form below and enclose it with a check & copy of your Vaccination Card to:

Mail to: Judi Nachenberg 7037 Park Manor Avenue North Hollywood, CA 91605

Please include a copy of your Covid Vaccination Card with your registration — Masks recommended ------tear off------Temple Akiba Sisterhood-Mah Jongg 1/14/2024 _____ Phone:_____ Address: _____ Zip:____ Email: Check all that apply: ☐ I am willing to be East and keep score ☐ I will bring my Mah Jongg set and dice





We've so very excited that 169 women have joined or renewed their membership in Temple Akiba Sisterhood. And also very appreciative of the 38 men who have chosen to support us as Associate members. Thank you to all those who have joined or renewed their membership. You can still become a member even if you have missed the directory deadline. The Membership brochure is available on the Sisterhood page of the Temple website, or you can access via the barcode on our Brochure on your cell phone, or contact Sisterhood Co-VP of Membership Wendy Senelick at membership.tasisterhood@gmail.com. Dr. Raphael Sonenshein entertained and enlightened more than 110 members following our Annual Membership Dinner. We are so fortunate to have an ongoing relationship with him.

We were delighted to provide apples and honey sticks to all of the students of our ECC & Religious School It is our sincere hope that their learning experiences at Temple Akiba will be filled with sweetness. Once again, we had the privilege of distributing mini challahs to worshippers when leaving Yom Kippur services. This is truly a joy as so many congregants were so grateful.

Our Annual Chanukah Greetings is underway. Want to show your appreciation to our staff? Sisterhood creates a Chanukah Goody bag for every staff member, and you can be a part of spreading the joy by filling out the form in this Bulletin or the weekly Temple Newsletter and sending it to the Temple. Our Annual Chanukkah Boutique will be happening this year on Sunday, November 12th, from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. We will have gelt, dreidels & candles as well as Menorahs, games and other ritual & gift items for any celebrations. Can't make it to the Boutique contact Linda Park at mommylinda50@hotmail.com to shop by appointment.

We hope everyone has a bountiful Thanksgiving filled with love & a joyful Chanukah filled with light.





"Our Light Shines Brighter Together"



As we prepare to kindle the lights of the Menorah in celebration of Chanukah, Let us remember those who bring light to our lives the whole year through!









Send a "Chanukah Greeting" to the Staff of Temple Akiba from your family.

Let them know that you are thinking of them and all that they do!

Donate \$5/Staff member (\$150 for all 42), and your family's name will be included with a Chanukah Greeting gift. Gift includes: candles, a dreidel, gelt, & a special gift and Chanukah message.

Temple Akiba Sisterhood wishes you and your family a very Happy Chanukah! For more information contact: Valerie Meyer: vjmeyerqt314@qmail.com or Kristine Capell: kristine.capell@qmail.com

Please check the staff members to whom you would like to send a "Chanukah Greeting": Michelle Azizian Rabbi Zachary Shapiro Amber Aquilar-Cuevas Hirbod Behnam Cantor Lonee Frailich Yecenia Amador Sarah Bialkin Joshua Shapiro Alyssa Czech ____Jeffrey Rips Sigal Eini Eliana Harris Liana Hanokaee Randee Bishoff Sarah Kebre Espi Reynolds Leah Penso Cristal Mendez Michael Rothbart ___Robyn Altman Evelyn Mosely ____Sahar Sanandaji Rebecca Holzberg Mayanna Napchan Gabriella Sanandaji Dina Hempling Claudia Pezzuto ___Livya Yashar Kathryn Vischjager Paulene Reed Melissa York ____Ariel Pepper Talia Richards Suzanne Zoltan Stephanie Rosales ____ Mary Lou Basaraba Andreas Porter ___ Fernando Madrigal _Esther Servin Kyle Whitmore ___Tyrell Walter _Lily Smarts _Anesia Straughter Total Staff Checked: _____x \$5/Staff (or All \$150) = Total Enclosed: _____ Family Name: PLEASERETURNYOURFORM with a check to Temple AkibaS is terhood NOLATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 st.

TEMPLEAKIBASISTERHOOD-5249SSEPULVEDABLVD., CULVERCITY, CA.90230















Thank you to all who have donated & who have pledged to donate in honor of the High Holy Day Appeal. Your gift makes our light shine brighter together! \$5,000 and above Roberta & Marc Hamilton Patricia & William Flumenbaum Peter & Sara Rutenberg

<u>\$2,000 - \$4,999</u>

Cathy & Bruce Penso Dana Sayles Mathew Harawitz & Lia Buman Rabbi Zachary Shapiro & Ron Galperin

\$1,000 - \$1800

Pamela Josephson, Jerry Mendel, Craig & Monique Newman, Leonard Blonder & Michele Paley, Ira & Maria Pemstein, Eric & Ariel Rudin, Rick Tuttle & Rebecca Rona Tuttle, Lisa & Alexander Tsimanis, Ronald & Leanna Watts, Jerome Wiener & Shari Starr, Gabrielle Zadra & Mark Wild

\$<u>500 - \$999</u>

Meredith & Jonathan Basiri, Arleen & Lewis Forsheit, Amy & Joshua Goldenberg, Lillian Jenkins, Jonathan Josephson, Rosalind La Briola, Richard Moster & Beverly Trunk-Moster, Svetlana & Benjamin Rapoport, Debbie Richards, Jay & Andrea Swerdlow, Janet & Mark White

\$360-\$499

Jenna & Daniel Guggenheim, Veronica & Michael Gursky, Jessica & Ryan Haselton, Joanne & Lawrence Kahn, Arthur & Joan Kassan, Susan Polep, Myrna Robinson, Leila & Paul Rosemberg, Jennifer & Alexander Safyan, Kevin Sher, Robert Sondik & Joanna Schaenman, Jodi & Steven Zimelman

\$180 *-* \$359

Lindsay & Michael Angrisani, Sheila & Peter Benjamin, Gregg Bernstein, Randee & Scott Bishoff, Marc Blaskey & Jodie Semp Blaskey, Steven Broutt, Margaret Clements, Carolyn Cohen, Ira Diamond, Rachelle & David Fleischman, Anthony Gardner, Amanda & Jared Goldwasser, Barbara Guggenheim, Sonya Helmer, Lisa Jamner, Myrna Kayton, Deborah Koniak-Griffin & Art Griffin, Anita & Scott Markowitz, Eric Metz & Melissa Sanders, Elaine & Michael Metzinger, Wendy & Saul Miller, Ariel Nahmias, Gary Ostrick & Karen Bernstein, Lisa & Eric Potruch, Irene Reingold, Terry Shenkman, Michelle & Josef Shwartz, Janice Tytell, Suzanne Urfrig, Sheila & Stan Weinberg, Morris & Elizabeth Zlotowitz

\$100 - \$179

Daniel Barer, John Blaskey, Terry Coty, Linda Davine, Benjamin & Radhika Fliegel, Lesley Gold, Daniel & Mia Kennedy, Sharlene & Anthony London, John Magoulas, Randy Murphy, Michael Poizner & Joanne Wolf, Wendy Shabsis, Terry Skinner, Dov Waisman & Shira Sergant, David & Mariana Weinzimer, Diane & Allan Wertheim, Ryan & Lauren White, Jill Will & Justin Ottinger

\$1- \$99

Herman Barnathan, Diane Bulgatz, Denise Paz, Leslie & Ronald Ostrin, June Penso, Elaine Saperstein, Andrea & Matthew Sherman, Barbara & Robert Steinberg, Andrea Wertheim, Tracey Wise Finkelstein & Marc Finkelstein

November 2023 17 Cheshvan 5784 - 17 Kislev 5784

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			17 Cheshvan	18 Cheshvan	19 Cheshvan	20 Cheshvan
			1	2	3	4
			7:00 PM Sisterhood Israeli Dance Class	7:00 PM Leadership Program Class	9:00 AM Tiny Tot Shabbat	9:00 AM Torah Study
					6:30 PM Shabbat Shira Service with 5th Grade Families	10:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service with Bar Mitzvah of Benny Gursky
21 Cheshvan	22 Cheshvan	23 Cheshvan	24 Cheshvan	25 Cheshvan	26 Cheshvan	27 Cheshvan
5	6	7	8	9	10 Temple Closed	11
					1	
10:30 AM Intro to Judaism Class		7:00 PM Men's Group Meeting	7:00 PM Life Transitions Group via zoom		TASTY Youth Group Veterans Day Camp	9:00 AM Torah Study
					6:30 PM Shabbat Service with Choir	
					Veteran's Day	
28 Cheshvan	29 Cheshvan	1 Kislev	2 Kislev	3 Kislev	4 Kislev	5 Kislev
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00 AM Chanukah		7:00 PM Sisterhood				
Boutique		Meeting		2:00 PM Book Club	4:00 PM Challah Braid & Bake	9:00 AM Torah Study
7:30 PM Rosh Hodesh Class					6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat	5:00 PM Shabbat Service with Bat Mitzvah of Amanda Walker
6 Kislev	7 Kislev	8 Kislev	9 Kislev	10 Kislev	11 Kislev	12 Kislev
19	20	21	22	23 Temple Closed	24 Temple Closed	25
10:30 AM Intro to Judaism Class			7:00 PM Life Transitions Group via zoom		6:30 PM Thanksgiving Shabbat Service	9:00 AM Torah Study
No Religious School				Thanksgiving	Thanksgiving	
13 Kislev	14 Kislev	15 Kislev	16 Kislev	17 Kislev	0 0	
26	27	28	29	30		
		7:00 PM Men's Group Book Discussion		7:00 PM Leadership Program Class		
No Religious School						

December 2023 18 Kislev 5784 - 19 Tevet 5784

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
S	hare a Ter	mple Akib	a Memory	y	18 Kislev 1 9:00 AM Tiny Tot Shabbat	2 9:00 AM Torah Study
your fa	r of our 70 th Anniv vorite Temple Akib rear. Please send y Programd	a memory that we	can share throug athryn Vischjager	hout	6:30 PM Shabbat Shira Service with 4th Grade Families	
20.70			22.70	2170		2179
3 20 Kislev	21 Kislev	5 22 Kislev	23 Kislev	7 24 Kislev	8 25 Kislev	9 26 Kislev
10:30 AM Intro to Judaism Class	ECC Closed for Parent/Teacher				5:30 PM Community Dinner with Latkes	9:00 AM Torah Study
	Conferences				6:30 PM Chanukah Family Service with Guest Artist, Justin Stein	
27 Kislev	28 Kislev	29 Kislev	13	2 Tevet	3 Tevet	16
10:30 AM Intro to Judaism Class 2:00 PM 70th		7:00 PM Sisterhood Board Meeting	7:00 PM Life Transitions Group via zoom	2:00 PM Book Club	4:00 PM Challah Braid & Bake 5:30 PM Donation Bin Dedication	9:00 AM Torah Study
Anniversary Historical Display					7:30 PM Kabbalat Broadway Shabbat	
5 Tevet	18 6 Tevet	7 Tevet	8 Tevet	9 Tevet	10 Tevet 22	11 Tevet
10:30 AM Intro to Judaism Class		7:00 PM Men's Group Meeting			6:30 PM Shabbat Service	9:00 AM Torah Study
7:30 PM Rosh Hodesh Class						
	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break
24	25 Temple Closed	26	15 Tevet 27	28	17 Tevet 29	30 18 Tevet
Winter Break	-		7:00 PM Life Transitions Group via zoom	2:00 PM Book Club Meeting	6:30 PM Shabbat Service	
19 Tevet		ECC Winter Camp TASTY Youth Group Winter Camp				
Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break

TZEDAKAH

Members and friends of Temple Akiba have chosen to honor the memories of loved ones and to express their condolences to bereaved families by making contributions to the Yahrzeit and other Temple funds. In addition, one can make donations to the Temple to honor birthdays, a marriage, a baby naming, a conversion, the privilege of sitting on the bima, for having an aliya, or for any other blessed occasion.

TEMPLE FUND

Diane Bulgatz

Jeanne O'Briend Bender

Joel Steiner

In honor of:

Ziva Hamilton, our granddaughter, from Marc & Roberta Hamilton

Rebecca Holzberg, for her excellent work, love Dad, Aaron, & Jodi

In memory of:

Laura Jenkins, from Diana & David Hauptman Laura Jenkins, from Sharon Krakoff & Bob Knopf

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In gratitude to:

Rabbi Shapiro, for his generosity in welcoming Macey & Eli Goldstein to High Holy Day services, from Andrea Goldstein **Rabbi Shapiro**, for your help with Benny's Bar Mitzvah studies, from Veronica & Mike Gursky

Rabbi Shapiro, for the wonderful afternoon Yom Kippur service, from James & Elaine Kaufman

Rabbi Shapiro, for his chesed during our father's illness and during our time of mourning. From the children of Elliot Silverstein

Temple Akiba, for continuing to keep services streaming for those who are unable to attend in person, from Lisa Concoff Koronebck

In honor of:

The High Holy Days, from Lewis Jolton

Rebecca Holzberg, for her excellent work love Dad, Aaron, & Jodi

In memory of:

Roberta Slavitt, my wife, from David Slavitt **Roberta Slavitt**, my sister, from Sue Urfrig

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In gratitude to:

Cantor Lonee, for helping Benny with his Bar Mitzvah preparation, from Veronica & Mike Gursky *In honor of:*

The High Holy Days, from Lewis Jolton

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In gratitude to:

Rabbi Shapiro & Cantor Lonee, for the honor of an Aliyah, from Leana & Ron Watts

In memory of:

Laura Jenkins, beloved daughter of Lillian Jenkins, from Helene Jaffa

David Rosenfield, my stepfather, from Leanna & Ron Watts **Roberta Slavitt**, beloved sister of Sue Urfrig, from Leanna & Ron Watts

ECC FUND

Rachelle & David Fleischman

YAHRZEIT FUND

Helen Fay Burgess, our Nanny. Always in our hearts, with love & hugs, Bonnie, Dave & Michele Dukes

Kelley Elwer, remembered by Karen Trent and Bea Fine **Deborah Falcon**, beloved grandmother, mother, and friend, from Alexis Conerty

Arnold Fisher, my brother, from Verna Erez

Ruth Frome, my mother, from Barbara & Robert Steinberg **Jeanne Gillette**, my mother-in-law, from Janet Nathanson

Milton Glaser, my father, from Marc Glaser & Julie Glen

Shirley Green, my mother, from Paulette & Joel Gessin

Betty Groussman, my aunt, from Deborah Kopit

Sally Harris, my mother, from Louise Feinberg

Tim Harris, my husband, from Iwalani Harris

Leo Kassan, my father, from Arthur & Joan Kassan

George Levit, my father, from Amy Levit

Harry Levy, my father, from Marlene Abrams

Clarence Calvin Lewis, my father, from Arla Lewis

Letty Mendel, my wife, from Jerry Mendel

Sol Meshul, my father, from Renee Meshul & Tom Klitzner **Ruth and Sherman Paver**, my parents, from Jacqueline Paver

Daniel Rosenman, my father, from David Rosenman

Louba Serfati, my mother, from Josette & Raoul Benassaya

Mortimer Stern, my uncle, from Carol Fortel

Sylvia & Lewis Stock, my parents, from June Penso

Irving Rubinstein, my father, from Jodi & Steven Zimelman Shelley Surpin, my sister, from Andrea & Jay Swerdlow Samuel & Sofia ZeBrack, my parents, from Carolyn Brophy

LEE WOLKOWITZ FUND

In memory of:

Al J. Bulgatz, my husband, from Diane Bulgatz Laura Jenkins, beloved daughter of Lillian Jenkins, from Leanna & Ron Watts

RESIDENT CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of:

Robert Heyman, my beloved brother-in-law, from Leanna & Ron Watts

Lester Wagner, beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. With our love and sympathy to all the family, from Judy & Jimmy Rosenbaum

FROM THE HEART RESIDENT CAMP FUND

In honor of:

Leah Penso, from June Penso

RESIDENT CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of:

Naomi Abigail Hecht, our daughter, from Joel & Lori Hecht

CAMPAIGN OF LIGHT FUND

In gratitude to:

Rabbi Shapiro, for visiting our home, from Veronica & Mike Gursky

In memory of:

Bernice Fine Rosenfield & Carl Fine, my beloved parents, from Leanna & Ron Watts

Celia Fine, our beloved Bubbe, from Leanna & Ron Watts

UKRAINIAN REFUGEE FUND

Paula Fins



CARING COMMUNITY

Do you or a loved one need a ride to services or an appointment, a meal or an errand, a visit or phone call?

OR Can you provide these services?

Please let us know.

Co-Chairs:

Terry Coty: trcoty@hotmail.com

Terry Shenkman: teshenkman@gmail.com

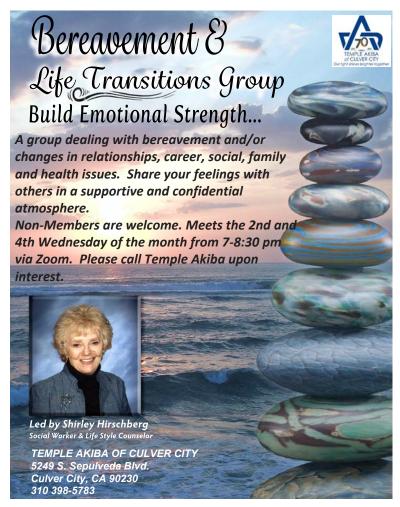
THANKS FOR CARING!



Congregants of Temple Akiba of Culver City will receive a Pre-Need Partnership Program savings on select properties and special financing. In addition, each purchase will generate a donation of \$500 per ground space or \$250 per cremation space to Temple Akiba of Culver City from Hillside in the name of the purchaser. This program is offered to better serve the Jewish Community and to provide additional support for Temple Akiba of Culver City.

> For more information contact: Sarah Gronlund-Jacob Community Liaison 310.491.8959 • sgjacob@hillsidememorial.org







Members

Allison Altschuler & Benjamin Davis

Cindy & Richard Bambam

Laura Duane & Eric Weinstein

Pamela Goldstein & Nikhil Mavinkurve

Caitlin Grana

Jill & Jonathan Hyman

Jennifer & Zack Kaplan

Elizabeth & Elliot Kotek

Amy & Leo Madnick

Michael & Pule Patchen

Michelle & Jon Reid

Lisa Sriro Booker & Robyn Booker

Julie Strom & Evan Gillespie

Emily Tabak & Colin Kim

Kathleen & Stuart Triebwasser

Andrew & Laura Wasser



WELCOME TO TEMPLE AKIBA

This October we hosted two Shabbat services to honor of our newest Temple Akiba members On 10/6, ECC families celebrated with special gathering after school. They grabbed a nosh in the sukkah, created flags for Simchat Torah & filled in holiday coloring pages. Rabbi Shapiro had everyone singing and clapping along to Shabbat melodies as we welcomed our new ECC families. Then, as part of the evening Shabbat service on 10/27, all other new members were honored with a special welcome and community prayer. We are so thrilled to that over 40 new members have joined our community this year - making our light shine even brighter.







HAVURAH HAPPENINGS

A havurah is a group of people with a common thread. From there, the fabric of friendship and support is woven – and it will absolutely enrich your life. Here are a few havurah groups that meet regularly and are open to new members. One of these groups may be right for you...

Pub Akiba Havurah

We're relaunching our Pub Akiba gathering as a havurah! So, if you'd love an informal group of Jewish buddies to visit fun local spots for brew, food & friendship – this is for you. After our first meeting, different members of the group will choose locations for us to visit and enjoy. Our first meeting will take place on Saturday, December 2 at 7:30pm at Rasselbock Kitchen and Beer Garden. Let's have a pint & some schnitzel! Please RSVP to Kathryn so that we can reserve space for our group: programdirector@templeakiba.net

Movie Havurah

Perfect for those who love to discuss films, members gather to discuss predetermined films and will sometimes go out to see films and Laemmle or other theaters. Contact Victor Nahmias at vnahmias@aol.com







DONATION BIN DEDICATION

DECEMBER 15, 2023 AT 5:30 PM

Join us for a very special dedication of our new Donation Bins. Ira Diamond, in loving memory of Carol Diamond, hand-crafted three incredible bins so that people can bring donations for:

- Shoes for the Homeless
- Sova
- Other organization on a rotating basis

These bins embrace the mission of Temple Akiba while honoring the memory of a beloved cornerstone in our community.



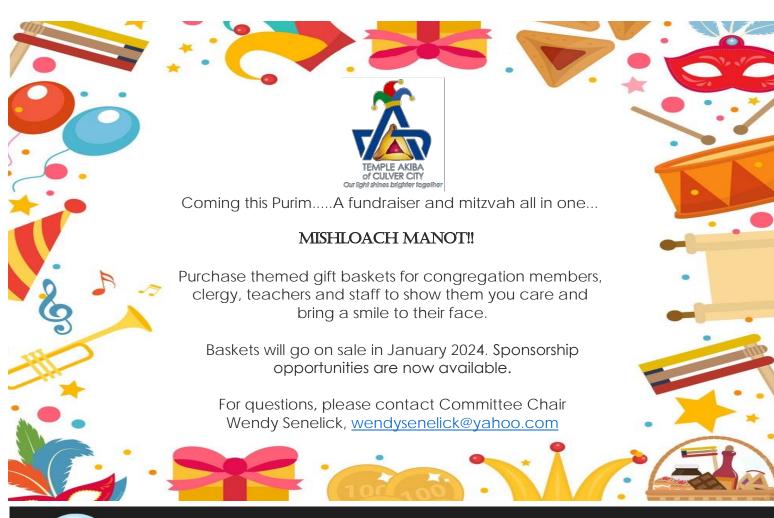
BOOIT Club

Nov. 16 & Dec. 14 at 2:00 PM

Join us on Thursday, November 16 at 2:00 PM to discuss Gangsters vs. Nazis by Michael Benson and The Dissident by Paul Goldberg. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, December 14 at 2:00 PM, book to be announced. The Book Club meetings will take place in member Helene Jaffa's home.

For more information, contact Helene Jaffa at 310-305-4170 or hjaffa9@gmail.com







TEMPLE AKIBA ECC & PJ LIBRARY PRESEN

Tiny Tot Shabbat xperience

Shabbat with your little one.

For kids 0-2 years.

Join us for PJ library storytime, music, singing, and fun with Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Lonee.

Come meet other families with tiny tots.

FREE and open to the whole community!



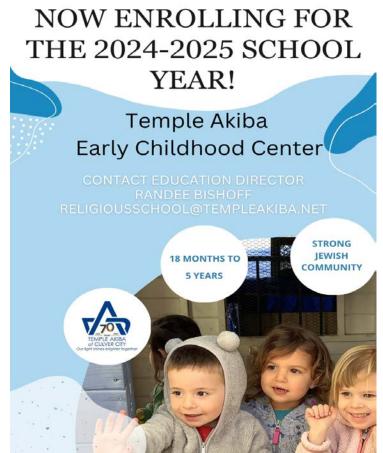




Join us in person for Tiny Tot Shabbat 2023-2024 At 9 AM Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1, Jan. 5, Feb. 2, Mar. 1, Apr. 5,

Please bring a towel or yoga mat for you and you child to sit on.

TEMPLE AKIBA OF CULVER CITY 5249 Sepulveda Blvd Culver City, CA 90230 www.templeakiba.net





TEMPLE AKIBA OF CULVER CITY 17ZEDAKAH SOCIETY 2023-2024

Temple Akiba thanks members who have made generous donations over their full membership commitment to bring an even brighter "Light" to our Temple Community.

President's Circle

Chai

Sara & Peter Rutenberg

Tzadik

Barbara Axelband Susan & Paul Balter Joy & Paul Jacobs Jerry & Letty (z'l) Mendel Leanna & Ron Watts Marla & Edward Wolkowitz Sue & Jerry (z'l) Urfrig

Heschel

Judy & Michael Bauer

Linda & Robert Fleishman

Priesand

Myrna Kayton

Cathy & Bruce Penso

Ariel & Eric Rudin

Hillel

Ira & Carol (z'I) Diamond Helene & David (z'I) Jaffa Susan & Barry Moser Maria & Ira Pemstein

Maimonides

Lacey & Marc Bauer Cayla & David Chipp Verna Erez Steven Hassan Alan Kahan Andrew Lachman & Ingrid Morań Yana & Adam Moser Lauren & Jeffrey Rips Wendy & Devin Senelick Andrea & Jay Swerdlow Laurie & Ira Waldman Elizabeth & Morris Zlotowitz

Moses

Elaine & Bruce Holiday

Jenna & Adam Sonenshein

Miriam

Diana & David Hauptman

Susan Frazin

Emily Parkhust & Gary Hoggatt

Donna Spielberg

Nancy & Herb Trachtenberg

Micah

Sharon Balter Meredith & Jonathan Basiri Patricia Newler & Ira Clark Sara Fields Laura Abrams & Owen Fighter Manami & Abraham Fischer Linda & Joel Forman Arleen & Lewis Forsheit Antoinette Glick Rosalie & Michael Gotz John Magoulas Lori & Ira Rudich Ari Rutenberg & Nikki Tilmouth Sheila & Stanley Weinberg

Deborah

Tamar & Fren Asken Diane Bulgatz Beverly Eshed-Magaril Connie Chiu & Jesse Golden Jill & Jonathan Hyman Paula Shulman & Matthew Josephson Deborah & Art Koniak-Griffin Miriam & Steven Levy Allison Parker & Sam Plotkin Joyce Perlick June Penso Diney & Ira Shulman Marni & Matthew Schapiro Svetlana & Benjamin Rapoport Debbie Richards Jessica Stroik & Kamyar Soleymani Annie Dimascio & Adam Tessitore Jane Stark Jack Wexler Gabrielle Zadra & Mark Wild



Help Keep our Neighbors in Need Fed and Clothed

Please Donate to Grace Diner, which has been

providing **MEALS TO-GO** Monday through Friday since April, 2020



ONLY these items are needed:

- Warm Jackets & Coats for Men & Women (Washed if Pre-owned)
- NEW Blankets
- Knit Hats & Gloves
- NEW Socks
- Sleeping Bags



Drop off your donations at the Temple in the donation bin at the Front Lobby outside. The drive will last the entire month of November.

Questions: Sara Fields, Director of Engagement direngagement@templeakiba.net

Interview with Andrii Bogancha

Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator

1. What surprised you about living in Los Angeles?

We were surprised by the pace of life in America. Everyone is in a hurry, doing something, discussing plans for the future. After Europe it is very unusual. Before coming here, we lived a year in Austria, where people's life is very measured & not hurried. And of course local people surprised us. All the people we met after arrival were incredibly friendly. I felt this uniqueness back in 1994 when I was in America for the first time & lived with an American family for 2 weeks. I was unable to pass on this experience, but now all the members of my family could feel this level of hospitality & friendliness.



2. What have you found to be your greatest challenge living here?

The biggest challenge for our family is to accept the fact that all the accomplishments we have gained in our lives have gone to zero. Your circle of acquaintances, your circle of influence, your job, your skills, none of that is there anymore. In our families, we were raised with this "study hard and you'll ensure a successful life after 40" attitude. It turns out that at our age of 40, we are just beginning to learn.

3. What else would you like the congregation to know about you and your family?

We are incredibly grateful to all the people who are involved in supporting us in America. The most important thing for us is our children and their future. Now our daughter is studying at High School, our son is studying in College. We are happy about this fact. We are also open to learning and discovering new things. Due to the language barrier, our adaptation is not so fast, but we hope that we will soon find work and be able to be full-fledged members of American society.

Special Message from Michele Paley, Co-Chair of the Welcome Circle

I would like to thank the HIAS Welcome Circle Akiba members Svetlana Rapoport, Cheryl Levinson, Sara Fields, Leila Rosemberg, and Nancy Trachtenberg for all of their efforts to help re-settle this family, in addition to our Adat Shalom partners.

Also, a tremendous thank you to the Akiba congregation for so much support. In addition to monetary donations, gift certificates for their apartment, offers of help from driving to legal, advice, job skills training, housing and so much more, we had so much help. Lastly, thanks to Cathy Penso, Rabbi Shapiro, Jeffrey Rips, Rebecca Holzberg, and Dina Hempling for always being there whenever they were needed.



Temple Akiba's swag store is now open - just in time for our 70th anniversary year! We know that our community is full of spirit, so we have created a place to get Akiba gear that you are sure to love. We have lots of styles and color variations for infants through adults, so be sure to look around. 20% of your order directly supports Temple

Akiba. Let us show off our Akiba spirit in style!

> Please scan this code to visit our store.

CALLING ALL RV'ERS/CAMPERS

The Lovin' Levelers is an active Jewish RV Camping Club which originated out of the North Valley Jewish Community Center in the early 1970's. Many people question the idea yet alone the reality of JEWISH CAMPING versus exquisite hotels. While both are good, remember that in our early Jewish history we camped for 40 years in the desert after leaving Egypt!

Our membership is quite wide ranging from Santa Barbara to Oceanside, including the LA, San Fernando & Santa Clarita Valleys, Thousand Oaks to Ventura & Seal Beach to Brea. Our group is looking to expand with new members aged 50+. We are a "Traveling Havurah" in RV's of various sorts, enjoying the company of other Jewish people.

We plan group outings on one long weekend a month within 2-3 hours of Los Angeles. Our weekend outings include visiting places of interest in each area, gathering around a campfire, playing games, doing crafts and just having fun being together. Furthermore, we include brief but meaningful services and celebrations for Shabbat and Havdalah.



For more information contact Linda Fleischman, Temple Member, 310-487-8910 or Allan Teplinsky, Club President, Home (818) 368-3471; Cell (818) 264-6199













Introduction to Judaism is

an engaging multi-session course for anyone interested in exploring Jewish life through a Reform lens

October 8, 2023 - March 30, 2024

18 Sessions, At Temple Akiba **Sunday mornings** 10:30 AM -12:00 PM

Let's ask Tough Questions, Nourish our Souls Spiritually, Learn about Peoplehood,

Dialogue about God, Feel the Rhythm of Prayer, and Create Community



Tuition: \$250 for Non-Members, \$180 for Temple Akiba Members (all fees cover up to two people).

Register to Admin@templeakiba.net

ReformJudaism.org

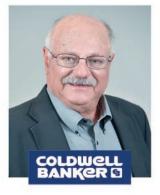
Jewish Life in Your Life

Supported by the National Center to Encourage Judaism, which funds programs that welcome people new to Judaism.



Want to invest in property in Los Angeles while helping to build new housing? Contact Temple Akiba member Josh Kamali at (323) 487-1348 or josh@reddoorinvest.com www.reddoorinvest.com

BRUCE FORMAN



Akiba Veteran's Auditorium **Volunteer High Holiday** Moving, Setup & Usher Corps

Committed to Serving Akiba Members since 1981

Are you selling your home?

Experience counts!

Special Benefit to Akiba Referred Clients

Call for details (310) 920-8465 Direct Line bjforman1@yahoo.com



Feliza, The Real Estate Matchmaker, invites you to a no obligation free real estate consultation.

10% of my commission will be donated, in your name, to AKIBA. Referrals will also qualify.

I've been serving home sellers and buyers, on the Westside, for over 25 years.

I look forward to getting to know each other!

Feliza Kohan, REALTOR® 310.581.8188 Cell / text Coldwell Banker Realty feliza.Kohan@CBRealty.com FelizaColdwellBanker.com CaIDRE #00639867







