

the **AKIBA BULLETIN**

Iyar/Sivan/Tamuz 5780
May/June 2020
Vol. 66, No. 6

Temple Akiba of Culver City



Our Light Shines Brighter  Together!
We are community, wherever we are!



Also In
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Annual Reports for the
Congregational Meeting
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BULLETIN DEADLINES

The first day of the prior month to publication

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Jul/Aug	Jun 1
Sept/Oct	Aug 1
Nov/Dec	Oct 1

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ANNA VASQUEZ, Custodian

MATT BARRERA, Custodian

MARY LOU BASARABA, Choir Director

MAY/JUNE Friday Shabbat Services

Friday, May 1 6:30pm
Shabbat Shira Service

Friday, May 8 7pm
Shabbat Service with Choir

Friday, May 15 7pm
Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Friday, May 22 7pm
Shabbat Service

Friday, May 29 7pm
Shabbat Service

Friday, June 5 6:30pm
Shabbat Shira Service

Friday, June 12 6 pm
Disney Shabbat Service

Friday, June 19 7pm
Shabbat Service with Choir

Friday, June 26 7pm
Shabbat Service

Shalom, Rav



Dear all,

I write this newsletter from my office. Five feet from my office is my bed. A few feet further away is the nursery where Maya and Eli are sleeping. Down the hall a little further is the office of the Controller of Los Angeles.

Upstairs is a wide range of “restaurants” in our refrigerator and freezer.

In another corner is our “movie theatre.”

I turn my computer on, and with a flick of a switch I am conducting Torah study for adults or putting on a puppet show for tots or guiding teens or leading worship or participating in a committee meeting.

Indeed, the world is a different place than what we knew just a few months ago. I miss so much being able to go out and sit in cafes, enjoy the arts, and shop in stores. I miss visiting congregants, socializing with friends, and leading worship with Cantor Frailich in front of a live congregation.

I miss my parents being able to give my children a kiss.

Yes - there is so much to miss.

And yes, I often feel selfish expressing that. After all, these losses are nothing, NOTHING compared to the horrifying pandemic that our world is experiencing. So I don't want to come across as callous. Rather - I want to share that it is OK to express our losses, even amidst the world situation. They are real.

But they are only real if we can also take inventory of the tremendous blessings we gain.

I am home with my kids, and I am growing because of them.

I have dinner with Ron every day at a normal hour.

I go on walks with my family.

I am writing more.

I am composing more.

I am learning to be more resilient, more inventive, more creative, and more present.

What are your losses?

What are your blessings?

How have you changed in the past months?

And how will these changes guide your future?

With love and shalom,

Rabbi Zach Shapiro

Our Light Shines Brighter  Together

Cantor's Corner



I've recently had two songs stuck in my head, both with the same words. The first is a song by Sonny and Cher, “The Beat Goes On”:

The beat goes on, the beat goes on

Drums keep pounding a rhythm to the brain

La de da de de, la de da de da

The second song is similar in nature by the Whispers, “And the Beat Goes On”:

And the beat goes on

Just like my love everlasting

And the beat goes on

Still moving strong on and on

The songs remind me that even in the midst of the Covid 19 crisis, our beat goes on. Although our doors have physically closed, our hearts remain open, filled with love, hope, and the promise that life will get better. The beat of our liturgy, of our music also continues its steady rhythm.

I was joking with our Cantorial Intern Josh Goldberg today that clergy have become the newest YouTube stars. And thank goodness for that! Synagogue life has not stopped. In fact, it's flourishing within the digital realm. Websites such as Jew It At Home make it easy and accessible for Jews around the country to stay connected to Jewish life and to each other. Almost all of Temple Akiba's programming has continued online through Zoom calls, Facebook and YouTube.

And our sacred day of rest, Shabbat, continues each week online. In fact, even our usual Shabbat schedule remains consistent to the best of our abilities. We still offer our Shabbat Shira the first of each month with our song leader Aliya. And we celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries of all of our congregants during the service for that month. If you are celebrating a birthday or anniversary, tune in to hear your name read!

The second Shabbat of the month is our Choir service. While it is difficult for the choir to sing together, we ask members of our choir to sing the prayers for that service. Choir members such as Randy Murphy, Sharlene London, Julie Grey and Jean Gasca have enriched our Shabbat through their soulful singing.

The third Shabbat of the month is our Kabbalat Shabbat. Members of our incredible KabShab band help to lead these services filled with beautiful music. Our Song Leader Emeritus, Craig Newman, helps lead, along with his wife Monique on the harp and Jonathan Gording on the Dobro.

And our creative services continue to shine as well. We had a beautiful Shabbat with six local Cantors on April 17 and we are so excited to present our Disney Shabbat on Friday, June 12 at 6pm. This will be an incredible evening with our liturgy set to some of your favorite Disney tunes.

Yes, the beat continues to go on at Temple Akiba. I wish you all strength, health and love.

Cantor Lonee

President's Message

On July 1, I will have completed my first year serving as president of Temple Akiba of Culver City. What a year it has been. As I write this letter, I reflect back on the past two months and all the things that we have experienced together. The need to shelter at home has resulted in disruption of our normal routines and caused many challenges at Temple Akiba and throughout the country. However, I also reflect on the many positive things and blessings that have come out of this difficult time.

I feel so grateful for the countless ways we have pulled together, supported one another and pushed forward in the face of difficulties. Temple Akiba has taken swift and unprecedented actions to maintain physical distancing, keep us safe, and yet still support our community through virtual outreach and programming. Our virtual Shabbat services, Lunch and Learn, Religious School and ECC classes, Torah study, and other programs have been amazing. Thank you to our Board leadership and incredible staff who have done such a great job of adapting to this new paradigm, staying positive and supporting our community.

I am grateful to our Board of Directors and staff who have been making calls to our membership to find out how everyone is doing. We want to know how you are doing! I am also appreciative to Lauren Varsano and our Caring Community who have assisted many in our congregation who are not able to go to the store to receive food and pharmacy items. If you are in need, please reach out to Lauren at caringcom@templeakiba.net.

I hope that you will join us at our upcoming Congregational meeting on Wednesday, May 27, at 7 PM via Zoom. Look for your invitation in May! Just click on the link to enter the meeting. If you have any questions regarding how to participate, please call Amram Hassan, our Executive Director, at 310-398-5783. Your participation is very important. Members of our Executive Committee will be giving reports on our Temple's activities. You may also read them in this Bulletin.

We will continue to engage in new ways and keep you informed during this time when we must remain physically apart, but still deeply connected as a Temple Akiba Community.

I am filled with hope as we approach this new fiscal year and know that Our Light Shines Brighter - Together!

Ira Diamond
President



ECC & Religious School

I will teach you in a room.

I will teach on a zoom.

I will teach you in your house.

I will teach you with a mouse.

I will teach you here or there.

I will teach you because I care.



Our Temple Akiba teaching staff cares! We know that this has been stressful for our families, and we applaud you for balancing work, and your children from home. We feel fortunate for your support as we navigate these new waters together.

We saw a very funny meme that said "I'm not sure which is more scary - the fear of contracting the Coronavirus or the fear of being trapped at home with my kids!!!"

Thank you to all of our teachers for their commitment to providing ongoing connections and opportunities for our children during these very challenging times. They have proven that they are continually finding opportunities to engage with our families in new and innovative ways.

These are unprecedented times and I am in awe of the creative ways our teachers have risen to the occasion of providing virtual community and connection to our children and families at home.

I am so proud that our ECC has remained connected with daily virtual classes and at-home activities each week. Thank you to Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Lonee for continuing to support our families with live virtual music sessions and Shabbat each week. Our teachers have been committed to connecting with each child and family every week to check in and have one to one time.

Thank you to our Religious School teachers for continuing to provide a virtual learning environment where our students can stay connected to their Temple friends and teachers while continuing to learn.

What I do know is that we will eventually be together again and the connections and community formed during this time will last us a lifetime into the future.

I am so grateful to all our educators and look forward to connecting with each and every one of you in person soon.

Randee Bishoff
Director of Education



Mazel Tov to the Temple Akiba
Confirmation Class of 2020

Shayna Graff

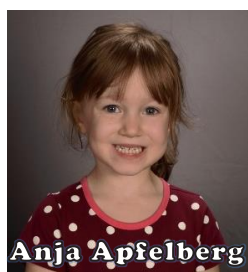


Tesla Schainen

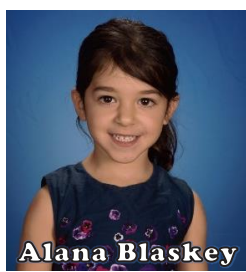


Camille Joffe





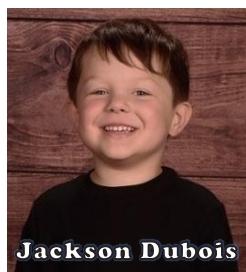
Anja Apfelberg



Alana Blaskey



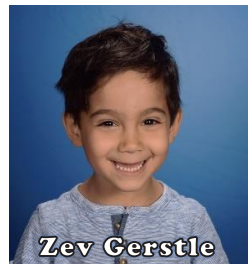
Veronica Cruse



Jackson Dubois



Elijah Gerstle



Zev Gerstle



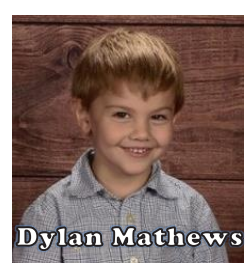
Eden Hakakian



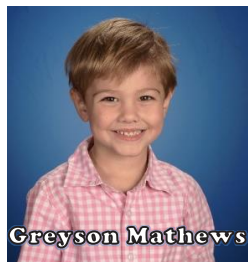
Eliana Leshtz



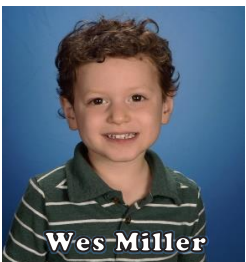
Naomi Longo



Dylan Mathews



Greyson Mathews



Wes Miller



Oliver Mizrahi



Chloe Moser



Lila Newman



TEMPLE AKIBA
of CULVER CITY
Our light shines brighter together

Mazel Tov to the Temple Akiba ECC Graduating Class of 2020!



Vivian Newman



Lily Parks



Nico Parks



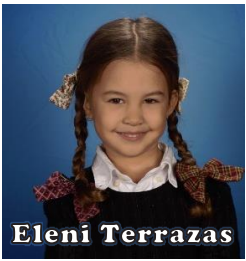
Aila Sadja



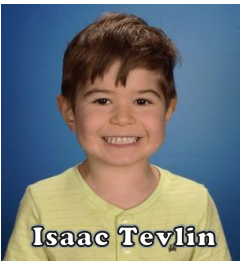
Eli Sherman



Logan Tenenbaum



Eleni Terrazas



Isaac Tevlin



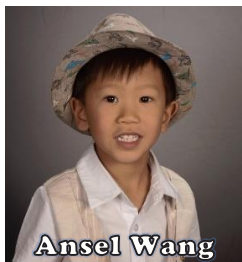
Nathan Van Gelder



Cate Van Loon



Owen Wald



Ansel Wang



Penelope Weingarten



Lola Weisman

TEMPLE AKIBA OF CULVER CITY TZEDAKAH SOCIETY 2019 - 2020

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

President's Circle

Tzadik

Bill & Trish Flumenbaum Jerry & Letty Mendel
Sara & Peter Rutenberg Sue Urfrig

Heschel

Barbara Axelband Myrna Kayton

Priesand

Diana & David Hauptman

Hillel

Judy & Mike Bauer Gabrielle & Trey Doheny Helene & David Jaffa
Sandy Luboviski Dana & Tyson Sayles

Maimonides

Lacey & Marc Bauer Carol & Ira Diamond Harper & Aaron Leshtz
Ilene & Howard Lichtman Cathy & Bruce Penso Rebecca & Jeffrey Penso
Lillian Morris & Dinesh Chhetri Andie & Jay Swerdlow Elizabeth & Morris Zlotowitz

Miriam

Linda & Bob Fleischman Elaine Holiday Renee Meshul & Thomas Klitzner

Micah

Emily & Gary Hoggatt Mickey & Don Mann Jeanne & Ron Marmalefsky
Patrucia Newler & Ira Clark Lori & Ira Rudich Dione & Dan Shugar

Deborah

Sharon Balter Alexandra & Keith Damsker Verna Erez Manami & Avi Fischer
Jeremy Gerstle & Adina Rosenthal Antoinette Glick Mathew Harawitz & Lia Buman Michele Hindler
Deborah Koniak-Griffin Eileen & James Krause Mary Lachman Wendy & Saul Miller
Marni & Matthew Schapiro Sam Sewall & Allison Arch David Silberstein & Leah Potok
Jenna & Adam Sonenshein Cindy & Mike Smith Dassi Usen Virginia & Lester Wagner Leona Weitz

Welcome Back to Enrichment.... Involvement.... And Engagement

It's Membership Renewal Time!

- ◆ Be a part of a supportive and vibrant temple community
- ◆ Receive tickets for High Holy Day services
- ◆ Personally engage with our Clergy, who are available for your life cycle events
- ◆ Be eligible to enroll your children in our Religious School
- ◆ Enjoy Adult Education classes
- ◆ Receive our bi-monthly newsletter
- ◆ Be eligible to join a Havurah (social friendship group)
- ◆ Receive reminders of your family Yahrzeits/inclusion on the Shabbat Yahrzeit list
- ◆ Have the privilege of voting at Congregational Meetings
- ◆ Have the opportunity to serve on a committee or become a member of the Board of Directors
- ◆ Know that you are supporting your Jewish community

**We are delighted that you are part of the Temple Akiba community.
By completing and returning your Membership Covenant now, you will continue
to enjoy all these benefits and more.**



Questions? Contact Amram Hassan at amram@templeakiba.net or Elizabeth Zlotowitz (V.P. Membership) at membership@templeakiba.net

Our Light Shines Brighter - Together



Please join us at our Congregational Meeting

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

7 PM

via Zoom Conference

Information about the meeting will be sent to all members via regular mail and email.

For additional information, please contact the Temple office at 310-398-5783

A Guide for Re-imagining Shabbat for 2020

A mini series class with Rabbinic Intern Daniel Freedman

April 24, May 1, May 8 and May 15

Fridays 11 am - 12 noon on Zoom



Customarily, Jewish prayer books include a study section of the laws for preparing for Shabbat in between the Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv (Evening) liturgy. Specifically, the second chapter of Mishnah Shabbat, which deals with the laws for lighting Shabbat lights. These laws, however, do not address the contemporary Reform Jewish community, especially in light of our new 2020 social distancing reality we are living through.

This mini class can serve as a way to help both a community and an individual solidify its Shabbat observance in a time when we all really need it! Join rabbinic intern Daniel for his last official teaching, inspired by the research he did for his rabbinic capstone for HUC. If you attended Daniel's Shabbat class last year, this more practical approach to Shabbat will compliment last year's more theoretical discussion, but by no means is any prior experience or knowledge necessary!

The link to join the class may be found on the Temple Akiba website: www.templeakiba.net

May 2020 7 Iyar 5780 - 8 Sivan 5780

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7 IYAR 11:00 AM Guide to Re-Imagineing Shabbat for 2020 with Rabbinic Intern Daniel Freedman 6:30 PM Shabbat Shira Service	2 8 IYAR 9:00 AM Torah Study
3 9 IYAR	4 10 IYAR Teacher Appreciation Week 12:00 PM Lunch and Learn	5 11 IYAR	6 12 IYAR 11:00 AM Prayer Writing Workshop with Cantor Lonee Frailich	7 13 IYAR	8 14 IYAR 11:00 AM Guide to Re-Imagineing Shabbat for 2020 with Rabbinic Intern Daniel Freedman 7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Choir	9 15 IYAR 9:00 AM Torah Study
10 16 IYAR Mother's Day No Sunday School	11 17 IYAR 12:00 PM Lunch and Learn	12 18 IYAR 7:00 PM Sisterhood Board Meeting	13 19 IYAR	14 20 IYAR	15 21 IYAR 11:00 AM Guide to Re-Imagineing Shabbat for 2020 with Rabbinic Intern Daniel Freedman 7:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	16 22 IYAR 9:00 AM Torah Study
17 23 IYAR Last Day of Sunday School	18 24 IYAR Last Day Akiba High 12:00 PM Lunch and Learn	19 25 IYAR Last Day Hebrew School	20 26 IYAR 5:30 PM PJ Story Night	21 27 IYAR	22 28 IYAR 7:00 PM Shabbat Service	23 29 IYAR 9:00 AM Torah Study
24 1 SIVAN	25 2 SIVAN  Memorial Day ECC/Temple Administration Closed	26 3 SIVAN	27 4 SIVAN 7:00 PM General Congregational Meeting	28 5 SIVAN Erev Shavuot	29 6 SIVAN  Shavuot ECC/Temple Administration Closed 7:00 PM Shabbat Service	30 7 SIVAN 9:00 AM Torah Study
31 8 SIVAN Red Cross Blood Drive at Temple Akiba						

June 2020 9 Sivan 5780 - 8 Tammuz 5780

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9 SIVAN 12:00 PM Lunch and Learn	2 10 SIVAN	3 11 SIVAN	4 12 SIVAN	5 13 SIVAN 6:30 PM Shabbat Shira Service	6 14 SIVAN 9:00 AM Torah Study
7 15 SIVAN	8 16 SIVAN 12:00 PM Lunch and Learn	9 17 SIVAN	10 18 SIVAN	11 19 SIVAN	12 20 SIVAN 6:00 PM Disney Shabbat	13 21 SIVAN 9:00 AM Torah Study
14 22 SIVAN	15 23 SIVAN	16 24 SIVAN	17 25 SIVAN 7:00 PM General Board Meeting	18 26 SIVAN	19 27 SIVAN 7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Choir	20 28 SIVAN 9:00 AM Torah Study
21 29 SIVAN Father's Day	22 30 SIVAN	23 1 TAMMUZ	24 2 TAMMUZ	25 3 TAMMUZ	26 4 TAMMUZ 7:00 PM Shabbat Service	27 5 TAMMUZ
28 6 TAMMUZ	29 7 TAMMUZ	30 8 TAMMUZ				

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

Philip and Myn Rootberg Foundation

Steven H. Hassan

Caroline Joseph

In honor of:

The Baby Naming of **Max Philip Bauer**, from Dana Rosner

The birth of **Max Philip Bauer**, from Morris and Elizabeth Zlotowitz

In memory of:

Howard Shabsis, from the Akiba Amoeba Havurah, David and Diana Hauptman, Bob Knopf, and Cindy and Mike Smith

Jeffrey Penso, from Bob Knopf

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In celebration of:

Diana Escudero's birthday, from Ann Wright

In honor of / in appreciation of:

Rabbi's blessings for Judy Broutt, from Elaine Metzinger

Rabbi Zach and **Cantor Lonoe** for inspiring us during this challenging time, from Leslie Cohen

Rabbi Shapiro and your collective efforts to provide content on the internet [i.e. services], from Steve and Mary Ross

Rabbi Zach Shapiro, with profound gratitude, for his personal, spiritual and broad community leadership at the LA City Rainbow Halo dedication and Yahrzeit for Julia Cukier Siegler, from Jody Cukier of the In Memory of Julie Fund at the California Community Foundation

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Tova and Kurt Larsen

JUSTIN SHABSIS MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:

Howard Shabsis, from Stella and Matt August, Lacey and Marc Bauer, Zvia Hempling, Sue Polep, and Leanna & Ron Watts

In honor of:

The Birth of **Sebastian** to Leah and Jon Abaum, and grandparents Cathy and Bruce Penso, from Leanna and Ron Watts

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER FUND

In honor of:

Teachers **Pauline** and **Sarah**, and students **Hunter** and **Ryan Karayev** children of Katelyn and Eugene Karayev, as they love their teachers and the school and look forward to returning when the school is able to reopen, from the Coscarelli Family Charitable Trust

YAHRZEIT FUND

Edith and Abe Bandel, Arleen's parents, from Arleen and Lewis Forsheit

Eleanor Naar Barron, from Fay Lipman and Jody Stritzel

Judith Broutt, my mother, from Elaine Metzinger

Marion Chelnek, from Sue Urfrig, and David & Roberta Slavitt

Harold Cherness, my husband, from Carolyn Cherness

Ida Frankel, my mother, from Art Frankel

Marvin Gelb, my father, from Steven Gelb

Andrew Glauberg, my son, from Rhoda Glauberg

David Goldstein, my father, from Don Goldstein

Walter Horn, my father, from Jeffrey Horn

Melvin Jaffa, my brother, from David Jaffa

Fred and Rabbi Isidore Jamner, from Judy Freedman

Jim Kallis, my cousin, from Fred A. Blumenthal and Patricia Powers

Bess Kanner, Ethel's mother, from Ethel and Jack Berger

Betty Karel, Linda's mother, from Linda and Joel Forman

Lil and Sam Kaushansky, my parents, from Farla Binder

Harry and Sandra Kleinberg, my parents, from Joyce Simmons

Dora Kochen, our niece, from Arleen and Lewis Forsheit

Rose Kolb, my aunt, from Donald Urfrig

Emma and Robert Lachman, my mother and brother, from Mary Lachman

Thelma Lander, my mother, from Diney Shulman

Phillip Levine, Shirley's father, from Shirley and Morris Price

Joshua Lobenthal, my brother, from Lisabeth Lobenthal

Esther Ludvigson, my mother, from Max Ludvigson

Robert Marks, my husband, from Barbara Marks

Eve Meyer, my mother, from Andrew and Suzan Meyer

Victor Penso, Bruce's father, from Bruce and Cathy Penso

Joseph Poizner, my father, from Michael Poizner

William Polep, my father-in-law, from Susan Polep

Harry Pollack, my father, from Lila Sherman

James and Lou Samuelson, my brother and father, from Janet Nathanson

Howard Shabsis, from John Magoulas

Ruth Shappell, from The Edelman Family

Nathan Spector, Michael's father, from Michael and Benita Spector

Barry Stark, my husband, from Jane Stark

Sherri Lee Stone, my mother, from Michael Stone

James and Mildred Trepeck, my parents, with love from Toni Glick

Anne Urfrig, my mother, from Wendy Temple and Donald Urfrig

Jerome Urfrig, my husband, from Sue Urfrig

Louis Vodovoz, my father, from Adelle Wexler

Stanley Yudell, my husband, from Sheila Yudell

Benjamin Zakheim, my father, from Rosalyn Zakheim

DAY CAMP FUND

In appreciation of:

Akiba Day Camps, from Elaine Holiday

CHOIR FUND

In memory of:

Howard Shabsis, from Michael and Rosalie Gotz

Howard Shabsis, from Sue Polep

VP Membership Annual Report
Elizabeth Zlotowitz, VP Membership

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Elizabeth Zlotowitz, Chair, Sonni Helmer (Membership Trustee), Lauren Varsano (Caring Communities Trustee), Marla Rothfarb, Carole Seedman

This has been a busy and fulfilling year for Membership. Among the highlights:

- Hosted seven wine and cheese Open Houses last summer/fall for prospective members. These elegant "pro-negs" were held on Friday evenings prior to Shabbat Services and were very well received. Thanks go to the hospitality team of Diana Escudero, Barbara Lever and Meg Clements who prepared and served the provisions and greeted our visitors with open arms and a welcoming smile.
- Sponsored three welcoming events for New Members: (1) A Havdalah service/social gathering for new Religious School parents, which took place at the lovely home of Ellen & Gregg Goldfarb, (2) a Sunday Brunch for new Senior members, hosted by valued members Diana and David Hauptmann in their home, and (3) Shabbat Dinner and Recognition Service, during which the new members were introduced to the congregation and called to the bimah for a special blessing by Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Frailich.
- Hosted three very special catered Shabbat dinners followed by Shabbat Services to honor over 100 Longtime Members of our Temple. Although their children finished Religious School, grew up and went their separate ways, these cherished members consistently maintained their membership at Temple Akiba – some joined as far back as 1957! We stand on their shoulders and are very grateful for their dedication and commitment to our community.
- Respond to new member inquiries and reach out to continuing members whom we haven't seen for awhile. Particularly during the months while the temple building is closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, we are actively reaching out to our Temple community so that all our members will continue to feel connected.
- Work closely with the Caring Communities committee to assist congregants in need. Most recently, we have helped "match" older temple members who are not able to shop for provisions with younger folks who are willing to make purchases and deliver items to their door.
- Temple Akiba will end this fiscal year with a total of 407 Members and will continue welcoming those who wish to join even after this report is published.

Thank you to the members of the Committee (listed above) as well as the many volunteers who assist throughout the year by greeting, phoning, driving, schlepping, and always answer the "call" when needed. These volunteers are the heart and soul of Temple Akiba – unsung heroes. We are also grateful for the support of our dedicated office staff (Amram, Abby and Dina), as well as Rabbi Shapiro, Cantor Frailich, Randee Bishoff and Diane Germansky.

Whenever members of our community gather – be it on Akiba premises or via a Zoom meeting – we are always delighted to "see" you. And with membership renewal season just around the corner, we are looking forward to greater adventures ahead. Temple Akiba is here for you. When your renewal packet arrives at your door this summer, we hope you will take that opportunity to show that you are also here for Temple Akiba. We welcome you... we want you... and we need you... perhaps now more than ever.

VP Finance Annual Report
Morris Zlotowitz, VP Finance

I would like to thank Amram and Dina for their hard work in maintaining the Temple's books. They have done a great job with our books as well as maintaining member account balances in our member database (Chaverware). I want to thank the Finance Committee (Mike Bauer, Bob Knopf, Susan Frazin, Wendy Miller, Stella August and Veronica Gursky) for serving on the finance committee and their assistance in the preparation of the budget.

New developments for the 2019/2020 fiscal year:

- A new money market account was opened with Bank of the West in order to earn a higher rate of interest on funds held in our reserves.
- The Temple's mortgage balance is \$720,751 as of March 31, 2020. We are soliciting proposals from our current bank (as well as other banks) to refinance our debt at terms that are more favorable than our current loan.
- As with other businesses and nonprofit organizations in the United States, the coronavirus pandemic has created uncertainty and challenges for Temple Akiba. We estimate that the fiscal impact will be an approximate loss of \$300,000 for the year ended June 30, 2020. This deficit is mainly due to the recent loss of tuition fees for the Early Education Center, and anticipated loss in collection of membership dues, religious school tuition fees and camp fees due to the impact of the pandemic on our families. The Temple has applied for an SBA Payroll Protection Plan loan, which if finalized and received, will help the Temple pay its employees during this difficult time. The Temple has cash reserves and we have also updated our budget to only pay utilities and other expenses necessary to maintain our facilities and vital programs for the remainder of this fiscal year. As we look to FY 2021, Temple Akiba is a strong and vibrant community that will overcome the challenges created by the Coronavirus pandemic and will continue to be the Jewish center for the Culver City/WLA community.

VP Development Annual Report
Johanna Besterman, VP Development

Since joining the Executive Committee in July, 2019, I've had the privilege to work with my fellow board members and volunteers to develop and implement fundraising events at Temple Akiba. This year was the first to include our President's Circle – the highest level of donors within our Tzedakah society – who we've honored with a beautiful new plaque in the foyer just outside our Social Hall. While our planned unveiling celebration had to be postponed, we look forward to honoring our donors and continuing this special community of generosity.

Our 2020 Gala went on as planned, bringing over 150 members and friends together to support our Temple and honor congregants Sue Urfrig and Jen and Danielle Sheppherd. It was an evening of dining, dancing, schmoozing and celebration that also raised significant funds for our Temple Fund-A-Need. A special thanks to those who attended and pledged.

Unfortunately, as the Coronavirus imposed new restrictions on our ability to gather physically, we had to postpone our annual Purim Carnival and Silent Auction. We hope to hold the carnival later this summer, if at all possible. And we are thankful and grateful for the terrific collection of Silent Auction items we will have to help bolster our fundraising needs.

As of today, the newly formed Development Committee is hard at work setting priorities and determining a fundraising calendar for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. We plan to continue to host many of our fundraising events, but are also excited to develop new and different types of fundraising events. Our goal is to continue to bring our community together in fun and fulfilling ways where we can celebrate our heritage and our faith while benefiting our Temple programs and operations with much needed funds.

VP Administration Annual Report
Jeffrey Reynolds, VP Administration

- We successfully worked with our workers' compensation carrier to update the characterization of many of our employees. The costs of coverage depend on the heaviness of the work of the employees, and we believed that this had been misstated by our carrier. As a result of these efforts, Akiba saved close to \$13,000, on premiums.
-
- New contracts were agreed with Cantor Lonee and the ECC director Randy Bishoff. This will help to guarantee our continued growth as a synagogue.
-
- Air Conditioning continues to be a priority for Akiba. The costs of repairs are very high. The bureaucracy involved in making those fixes is quite daunting. We had a meeting with the Culver City inspector and Viking Heating and Air. It was decided to focus our efforts on the Sanctuary and the Social Hall. This work will continue as soon as the coronavirus situation has normalized.
-
- We have started on plans to develop a Policies & Procedures manual. A committee was formed and has held several meetings. The goal is to document all of the important temple functions so that new people could more easily step into positions and know how to handle key actions.
-
- Attempts were made by email scammers to victimize members and staff of Akiba. The administration communicated security recommendations to all members to keep them from falling for these fraudulent schemes. Please be suspicious of any emails soliciting funds to be sent to individuals. If you have any questions about email communications, please contact the office.
-
- When the coronavirus crisis began, we cut back the staff's in-office hours. When government guidance indicated a stronger response, all staff were sent home to work full-time remotely. The office staff have been handling calls, mail, and email from their homes. Payments, both to and from Akiba have been steadily completed. All the time, our goal has been to keep any Akiba staffer or volunteer from being infected. The care being shown by all concerned is commendable.
-
- Plans are being made for future programming. This is very difficult to do, as no one can predict how the virus will affect the area, or what the government will do to respond. We are carefully watching how coming synagogue events might be impacted. We need to be vigilant because deadlines are arriving for securing venues, and we must avoid paying for something we will not be able to use. This is a truly challenging environment.
-
- Staff are being paid their full wages. There have been no layoffs or pay cuts. But we cannot guarantee that we will be able to continue this way for months. We are working with the Vice President of Finance to make sure that the synagogue stays within its means. If cuts have to be made, they will. Right now, that is not the case.
-
- Administrative functions are presently working well despite the difficulties imposed by the virus. This is far from an optimal situation. When it is safe to return to being an in-person synagogue, we will make sure that all steps are taken to protect your welfare. We wish you well.

VP Education Report 2020
Scott Markowitz, VP Religious Education

We at Temple Akiba are extremely blessed with the greatest Education team led by our Director Randee Bishoff, Assitant Director Diane Germansky, our ECC Teachers and our Religious School Teachers. During this trying time, we have done what the Jewish people have done throughout time.. PERSEVERED and continued moving forward. We have all been hit hard by the CoronaVirus Pandemic. The new norm is that of home schooling and constant Zoom calls (who even knew what Zoom was before)! I am extremely proud to work directly with this amazing group.

Religious School:

This Year Religious School expanded with over 200 children in our programs. Since the end of March we have held our classes virtually. All our families have had the opportunity to participate in T'fillah sessions on Sunday mornings and classroom activities on Monday nights, Tuesday afternoon and Sunday Mornings.

This year Temple Akiba Religious School continued our Hebrew program called onward Hebrew. Our students continue to thrive and learn through this program. The students are enjoying learning Hebrew and we already see results with our older students as they transition into the Hebrew Lab and begin decoding.

- Students in K-6 learn language via Hebrew Through Movement. You will find first grade students following multiple-step directions spoken only in Hebrew
- You will find students of every age involved in t'fillot (Jewish worship) every Sunday our program meets. Students are comfortable in the synagogue, they are knowledgeable, and they feel at home. You will find the teaching of the meaning of the prayers is a focus of our program
- You will find our classrooms and hallways infused with Hebrew language – Words on the walls, conversations about ritual words, and directions to stand and sit. Our students acquire Hebrew quite naturally with a focus on Jewish life vocabulary.
- And, you will find our oldest students learning to decode and recite the prayers of the Jewish people via a computer language learning lab.

As Part of our ongoing Religious School innovation project we continue to conduct focus groups and surveys to gauge the goals of our community for Jewish Education. We have narrowed the field to several core areas of importance to our stakeholders. These areas include; Basic Knowledge Base, Jewish identity, the school home connection, Jewish experiences, building community and examining ethics and Jewish values. These central values will allow us to begin asking questions which will shape the goals of our program. As we delve into these questions and beyond over the course of the upcoming year, we are excited to continue our exploration of how we can continue to innovate Religious Education at Temple Akiba.

ECC:

Our ECC Teachers have been teaching virtually since the end of March and have been working extremely hard to meet the needs of the families and their students. They have made themselves available to assist in anyway they can. They have come through like troopers and we are blessed to have such a great staff.

This year ECC is at full capacity. All of our classrooms are full and we are almost at capacity for the 2020/2021 School Year. We have a graduating class of 29 children. In addition to our regular preschool programing we have focused on expanding our outreach to infants with our Tiny Tot Shabbat Program successfully capturing over 20 babies 0-2 each month for a Shabbat experience. Our Parent and me classes this year led by Assistant Director Diane Germansky have been a huge hit. We have already begun to form a parent group with those families who will begin transitioning to the ECC in the coming years.

V.P. Religious Practices Annual Report
Carol Diamond VP Religious Practices

- It has been my honor to serve this past year as Vice President Religious Practices. I would like to thank Helene Jaffa, our Adult Education Trustee, for all of her efforts this past year.
- We are so blessed to have Rabbi Zachary Shapiro and Cantor Lonee Frailich as our clergy. Their efforts and activities reach every member of our congregation. I learn from them every day!
- Thank you to congregational member Retired Rabbi Tony Holz for offering classes that expand our minds.
- We are so grateful to have had our wonderful Rabbinic Intern, Daniel Freedman for a second year. Daniel has brought his inspirational thoughts and insights to Temple Akiba through the classes he has taught, Torah Study, and Shabbat services. Daniel is leading one last class, "A Guide for Re-Imagining Shabbat in 2020," this month via Zoom. He was also active in our Tikkun Olam Committee this year, helping with their homeless initiative. We wish him the best of luck as he moves on to his Rabbinic career!!
- We were also blessed to have an extraordinary Cantorial Intern this year, Josh Goldberg. My heart soared every time he sang at Shabbat! Josh was instrumental in assisting Cantor Lonee in putting together our wonderful Musical Artist Series. We wish Josh much success as he continues on his journey to become a cantor.
- Our fantastic Musical Artist Series was sponsored by the Flumenbaum and Jaffa families. We are so grateful for your support of Temple Akiba and its programs! Although some of the Series programs had to be taken off the calendar due to the pandemic, we hope to bring them back next year. We are still planning to have our Disney Shabbat on June 12 – just through Zoom! It will start at 6 pm so all the children can watch - put it on your calendars!
- Rabbi and Cantor offered many learning opportunities for adults and children this year including our Torah Study, Lunch and Learn, Coffee with the Clergy, Adult Education Series and Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation. I know that they are planning exciting programs for this coming year too. We hope that you join us at one or more.
- Our High Holy Day Services last year were again joyous and inspirational. I would like to thank:
 - o David Hauptman and all of the ushers
 - o Choir Director Mary Lou Basaraba, Linda Winters, Craig and Monique Newman and our amazing choir
 - o And of course, our great staff at Temple Akiba.
- Last, we hope that you will join us for our Shabbat services and programs via Zoom and Facebook live until we are able to be physically together again in our beautiful sanctuary. We understand that it can be challenging at times to connect to the services, but I am happy to help. Just give me a call!

Jew It At Home - Check It Out

Congregations across Southern California and Nevada join together to offer Jewish learning, singing, yoga, and more- open to anyone via an internet connection!

Jewitathome.com

VP Affiliations Annual Report
Cathy Penso, VP Affiliations

Thank you to the Trustees, Chairs and the members of the Tikkun Olam Committee and the Mitzvah Day Committee for their dedication this year to make a difference in the lives of our members and in the lives of those less fortunate than us. Thank you to the Board and Staff for their support of our efforts. Stronger together!

Tikkun Olam Committee

The Tikkun Olam Committee focused most of its efforts this year on housing and homelessness. We held two very successful forums. More than 160 people attended the first one in October, which was co-sponsored by the Culver City Area Interfaith Alliance. Experts in the field educated our participants and 8 organizations were on hand to provide information and opportunities for involvement. Our second forum in January focused on turning compassion into action in four specific areas to combat homelessness: Landlord Incentives, Shared Housing, Safe Parking and Legislation. More than 70 people participated, were supportive and eager to take action. The Committee was gathering more information on Landlord Incentives and SAFE Parking prior to the Coronavirus outbreak and had emailed attendees to ask them to hand out flyers about Shared Collaborative Housing and to participate in RAC-CA's legislative agenda.

The Tikkun Olam Committee works in conjunction with the Religious Action Center, the social advocacy arm of the URJ. RAC-CA's 2020 legislative agenda is in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic in the areas of Criminal Justice, Immigration, Health Care, Economic Justice and specifically, with regard to housing and homelessness, RAC-CA is advocating the following: Protect the homeless as well as renters and homeowners at risk of losing their homes

- Institute a complete moratorium on evictions, foreclosures, and rent increases.
- Provide rent and mortgage relief to those who need it.
- Provide emergency housing in motels, hotels, and other settings for all homeless people.

Committee members will be meeting virtually with our legislators, along with other congregations, to urge them and the Governor to support these priorities and asking the Governor to significantly reduce the prison population at this time.

Members of the Tikkun Olam Committee participated in the Culver City Homeless Count as part of the County Wide effort in January.

In support of immigrants, we had planned to have a Refugee Shabbat Service on March 21. That will be rescheduled.

Social Action, Sharlene London-As Chair of the Jewish World Watch Walk to End Genocide, Sharlene had begun to organize Team Temple Akiba for the Walk that was to take place on April 26. Due to the Coronavirus the Walk has been rescheduled for October 25, 2020. JWW continues its work to end atrocities throughout the world and to fight the spread of Covid-19 in these countries. Toward that end, JWW held a virtual gathering on April 26 seeking donations.

Mitzvah Day, scheduled for May 31, has been cancelled. We may do some projects in the summer or later in the Fall. However, the **Red Cross Blood Drive** will take place on Sunday, May 31 in the Social Hall. Please donate if you can. There is a desperate need for blood. Go to www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: TempleAkiba. See flyer in bulletin for details.

Havurot-Efforts had begun to form Religious School Havurot, led by Dayna Greenspan. There was a lot of interest generated. We look forward to forming these groups when we are able.

Adult Retreat- Sonni Helmer had begun plans for a Mini Adult Retreat to take place during the Family Retreat in May. Sonni is researching a venue for a future adult retreat weekend.

Good & Welfare-Myrna Kayton sent 20 condolence, 35 get well and 9 simcha cards to Temple members this past year.

Temple Akiba staffed a booth at Fiesta La Ballona last August.

Volunteer Recognition Service Friday, June 21

Reports from Caring Community Trustee, Lauren Varsano, Men's Group President, Victor Nahmias and Sisterhood President, Linda Park are separate from this report but are part of Affiliations.

Temple Akiba Sisterhood

With the support of 179 Sisterhood members and 48 Associate Members, it has been an honor and privilege for Sisterhood to participate/augment/enhance Temple Akiba through this fiscal year by:

- Presenting each of 11 Bar/Bat Mitzvah youth with a Kiddush Cup (\$482)
- Presenting each of 3 Adult B'Nai Mitzvah with a book of Jewish Wisdom to commemorate their achievement (\$99)
- Presenting 3 Confirmands with a WRJ Womens Torah Commentary (\$162)
- Presenting each RS and ECC Student with holiday gifts for Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah, and Tu B'Shvat (\$552)
- Presenting 30 new 4th, 5th, and 6th grade Religious School students with a Mishkan T'filah (\$925)
- Presenting 30 ECC graduates with a Thank You God book (\$171)
- Presenting 475 congregants leaving Yom Kippur services with a challah (\$917)
- Donating \$350 in lieu of the Purim Carnival Bake Sale
- Contributing to the Gala with a Tribute Book ad (\$300)
- Co-sponsoring the Welcome Nosh on the 1st day of Religious School (\$137)
- Sponsoring 23 Oneg Shabbats, inclusive of preparing and serving latkes (\$2,475)
- Contributing to the Campaign of Light (\$100)
- Providing Camp Scholarships on behalf of Rabb's twins Maya and Eli (\$360)

Although our year has been interrupted, as have all our lives, we are dedicated to sustaining our Temple community and are honored to be able to donate \$10,000 to the Temple at this time. We pray for everyone's health and safety and look forward to the blessing of reaching the end of this journey – stronger and brighter together.

Men's Group of Temple Akiba

2019-2020 Activities

- We joined together with Sisterhood for the welcome back in September.
- Hosted the film "Chasing Portraits" with an appearance by the author in September
- Held a discussion, "Which Way Israel" reviewing the elections in Israel in November
- Hosted the film, "Walk on Water" in December
- Hosted "The Future of Culver City" with Michael Allen, Current Planning Manager, City of Culver City and several of his staff

- If we are back in meetings in May, we will host the showing of an Israeli film. Either Working Woman, Maktub, or the German film "Bye Bye Germany"
- If we are back in meetings by June, we will host a presentation on the Dead Sea, Qumran, and the Scrolls led by Moishe ben Shahar on 9 June

VP Youth Annual Report Kevin Knopf, VP Youth

Typically the report provided at the Congregational Meeting by the V.P. of Youth focuses more on the successes from the previous summer for both the Day Camp and Resident Camp programs. And yes, I would like to share with you a few of the successes from this past year; but the historical performance of our camps will not be an indicator for the future. So while I share our accomplishments below, I have also included a little on our future.

So first, the 2019 summer program highlights:

Resident Camp

Resident Camp was a huge success with 115 kids attending (17% increase from 2018). I visited the camp on Day 8 of 12 (July 31, 2019). The camp was held again at Camp Whittier in Santa Barbara, near Lake Cachuma. Leah Penso has continued to grow the Resident Camp program to its strongest state, both programmatically and fiscally.

Day Camp

Day camp continued to thrive in 2019. We had approximately 222 campers come through the camp this past summer (increase of 11% from 2018). Not only did we have an increase, but the quality of the training for staff and the quality of activities conducted for the campers continued to grow through the excellent leadership of Robyn Altman.

Our Future

So yes, we have built an incredible youth program through our camps and the phenomenal leadership of Leah Penso and Robyn Altman. However, the future remains uncertain for many things. What we do know is that our camp programs are crucial to our community. We should not think of them as profit centers or revenue streams, but as vehicles for building our community. For many Jewish adults, temple sponsored camps were the only thing that tied them to the Jewish community as kids. Our camps provide a service to our communities.

As we move forward into this summer, we are unsure if camp start dates will remain the same, and what camp will actually look like for this year. Both Robyn and Leah are working hard to identify what this future could be. We do know that as parents start to move back to work, camps are a necessary tool for childcare purposes. We also know that camps also provide an opportunity for our youth to develop a strong tie to the community and develop their Jewish identity. Temple Akiba's excellent professional staff and Board of Directors are working hard to make sure that as programs restart and are modified in response to the COVID-19 crisis, that we are doing so with the safety of all in mind. As a former camp counselor and director here at Temple Akiba, I can share with you that I am in awe of our staff and as a parent I am confident that whatever program changes are made, the health, safety, and Jewish connections will all be integral parts of the final product.

Jewish Federation Crisis Resources

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Community Call Line

The Max Factor Family Foundation Financial Assistance Network has increased its pool of funding. This assistance will help Jews whose income has been reduced, hours have been eliminated, or businesses are suffering. If you or someone you know needs access to social services including financial assistance, please call The Jewish Federation's Community Call Line at (323) 761-8305.

No-Interest Loans

To cover expenses related to COVID-19, help with free, no-interest loans is one click away. Additionally, a new loan fund has been established to help Jews in need.

Food for Those in Need

Jewish Family Service (JFS) SOVA Community Food & Resource Program is now providing prepackaged bags of food to help minimize the risk to both clients and volunteers. The JFS senior nutrition program is now providing all food via delivery. To receive these services, please call JFS Central Access at (877) 275-4537.



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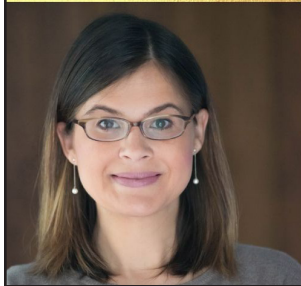
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Gifts & Memorials

"Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more."

-H. Jackson Brown Jr.

What a wonderful way to remember your loved ones. The cost of individual plaques for Temple members is \$750 and for those not affiliated it is \$1,000. How about participating in what may be the most exciting opportunity - the **Sue and Jerry Urfrig Family Memorial Room**. With your contribution of \$10,000 to the Campaign of Light, your name will be included on the Donor Board in the Memorial Room. The purchaser will have two complimentary plaques reserved for them to be designated with names they choose.

For more information please contact:
 Temple Office at admin@templeakiba.net
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