

Chronicle

THE
VOICE
OF
JEWISH
LONG
BEACH
PUBLISHED
SINCE 1947

JULY - AUGUST 2020 | TAMMUZ-AV-ELUL 5780

COMPASSION



LOVE

IN JUSTICE

Love Thy Neighbor, Even in the Age of Social Media • My Humble-brag
and Vision for the New Normal • The Quintessential American Jewish
Story • Jewish Responses to Crisis • Remembering an Icon • 36 Hours

CRISIS

PANDEMIC



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THE VOICE OF JEWISH LONG BEACH
PUBLISHED SINCE 1947

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JEWISH LONG BEACH
EMPOWERING GREATER LONG BEACH
AND WEST ORANGE COUNTY SINCE 1948

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INSIDE

- 4** The Quintessential American Jewish Story
Storytelling played a outsized part of Richard Marcus' upbringing. With family members escaping Russia, others Hungary, both contributing to the fabric of Jewish New York post WWII.
- 5** L'Taken
L'Taken Seminars expose thousands of high school students to a variety of public policy issues, Jewish values, and advocacy skills. With support from Jewish Long Beach, students from Beth David made the trip to D.C.
- 6** Bringing to Life the Essence of the Past
Niv Ashkenazi, virtuoso violinist, brings the music of the Holocaust to life.
- 7** Remembering an Icon
Bobby Kronick will be remembered for many things, including his extensive work to bring the vision of the Alpert Jewish Community Center to life!
- 8** My Humble-brag and Vision for the New Normal
Rabbi Marcus recounts his "moment of unavoidable humility," and how that lesson relates to our collective pandemic experience.
- 9** Jewish Responses to Crisis
Dr. Jeffrey Blutinger takes a look at our current crisis through a lens to the past, on how Jewish people have responded and what we should do now.
- 10** Alpert Jewish Community Center
Keep connected with the "J" virtually AND now live, in-person with limited access for swimmers and children as we slowly, and carefully, open our doors.
- 12** The Hebrew Academy's Onsite Program Planned for 2020-21.
Taking advantage of a large 11-acre campus and small class sizes, The Hebrew Academy is planning to open in August with full classes.
- 13** Community News/Tributes
- 14** Tributes
- 15** In Memoriam

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SHABBAT CANDLELIGHTING

July 3	7:50 pm	July 17	7:45 pm
July 10	7:25 pm*	July 24	7:41 pm
		July 31	7:35 pm

August 7	7:29 pm
August 14	7:21 pm

August 7	7:13 pm
August 28	7:04 pm

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From the CEO'S Desk – Love Thy Neighbor, Even in the Age of Social Media

Zachary Benjamin | Chief Executive Officer Jewish Long Beach



Zachary Benjamin

In 1968, our country roiled with crisis and political unease. The back-to-back bullets that felled Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy just weeks apart sent staccato explosions of shock through an American social fabric already threadbare from the death and deep divisions of the Vietnam era.

While I did not live through 1968, I can only imagine that 2020 must feel similar to those who did. Pandemic, economic turmoil, social unrest, and psychological trauma on an unprecedented global scale are stacked atop each other, eroding away our national confidence and threatening the mental, physical, and emotional welfare of each and every American. The numbers push the limits of our comprehension. COVID-19 has taken double the number of American lives in just three months that the Vietnam War took over the course of a decade. In a figurative instant, entire industries collapsed, leaving millions suddenly without means to support their families and themselves.

Amidst this grim and morbid backdrop, the murder of George Floyd provided the spark that ignited the already smoldering tinderbox of race relations in this country. While hundreds of thousands of Americans hungry for systemic change exercised their right to peacefully and nobly assemble in demand of a national evolution, armies of nihilistic opportunists seized the moment to foment chaos, destroying thousands of businesses nationwide—many family- and minority-owned—and plunging us deeper into a widespread malaise of fear, anger, and hopelessness.

Feeding the discord is a seething undercurrent of toxic bile fueled largely by social media. This technology, with Facebook and Twitter as its

standard bearers, has for years slowly chipped away at the foundations of social interaction and discourse, exposing the raw nerves of our fears and frustrations, and providing forums to not only express anger, but to operationalize it publicly and without filter. It is as if our national id has been laid bare and weaponized against those whom the hive mind deems non-compliant with its ideologies and non-adherent to how those ideologies should be expressed. This ad hoc digital vigilante justice system extends not only to those openly expressing abhorrent or morally derelict perspectives, but even, in many cases, to those who choose not to engage or do not engage in ways that indicate sufficient strength of conviction.

While social media can be a powerful tool to educate and communicate, the perfect storm of crisis in which we are currently embroiled has brought to a crescendo its destructive and, perhaps ironically, anti-social impact.

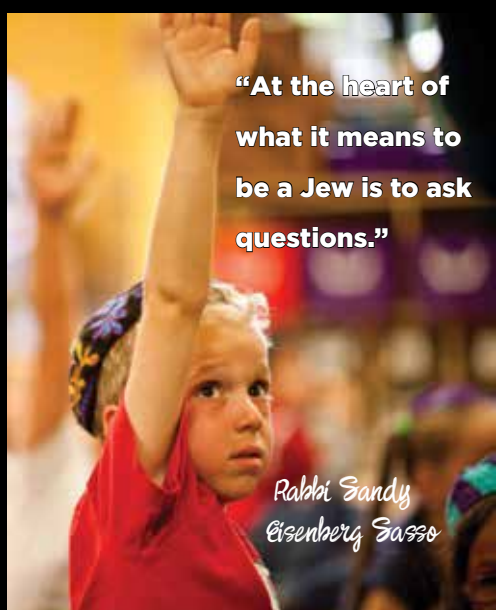
While social media can be a powerful tool to educate and communicate, the perfect storm of crisis in which we are currently embroiled has brought to a crescendo its destructive and, perhaps ironically, anti-social impact. There was a time when one's political, religious, and philosophical perspectives were their own. Not so long ago, one could not demand that a private citizen reveal their views, and the choice to do so was solely that of the individual. Social media has created an environment in which immense pressure is levied on private individuals to publicly express a given political or moral perspective, with failure to do so resulting in potential damage to reputation and, in extreme but increasingly frequent cases, physical threat and even loss of employment.

The toxic discursive landscape that social media

has helped create begs a question. When does this brand of moral policing cease merely to be holding our fellow human beings accountable for each other's actions and instead enter the dangerous territory of legislating and criminalizing thought? Furthermore, social media has compelled us to expend so much energy attempting to determine whose views align with our own—and thus it has generated so much anxiety around whether we can even entertain friendships with those whose perspectives may differ—that it has robbed us of the time and presence of mind to engage in self-care and care for those with whom we share physical spaces.

If a Jewish angle exists, it is in the notion that “love thy neighbor” is a principle that should apply regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, or national origin, and also regardless of whether our neighbor chooses to reveal their personal perspectives, how zealously they do so, or whether those perspectives align with our own. This is not to say that we should allow racism, antisemitism, or any other form of bias and bigotry to enter our spaces. Rather, we should find peace with the notion that those who choose not to share do not necessarily espouse abhorrent viewpoints, and not all who hold views that differ from our own necessarily harbor hateful or destructive ideologies.

In closing, I ask you to join me in a challenge. During these volatile times, to the extent possible, let's log out. Let's live presently and heal our hearts. Let us allow ourselves to mourn loss and injustice as human beings living together in a physical ecosystem. Let us wean ourselves from the addiction to information and from the compulsion to know that which lies in the recesses of others' minds. We owe it to ourselves to lift this burden from our shoulders in a time when we are bent under the weight of so much more. 🕊️



The Chronicle welcomes your letters to the editor, articles and opinion pieces. Please send your Pulitzer-worthy materials to chronicle@jewishlongbeach.org. We cannot guarantee if, or when, they will be published. Submissions may be edited as needed.

From 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 24, until 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, Jewish Long Beach held a matched fundraising event. All gifts made during this time were matched by a generous donor. The alchemy of the gift turns \$50,000 into \$100,000, within those 36 hours.

Did we do it? Did we reach the ultimate goal? Stayed “tuned” to your inbox and social media for the results, as the Chronicle went to press before

the countdown began.

But, you can add to the success of this event. Increase the funds available toward our Jewish Long Beach Impact Grants, COVID-19 Relief Grants, the cultivation of emerging Jewish Leaders, advocacy, the stewardship of the Weinberg Jewish Long Beach Campus and so much more, by donating today - call 562.426.7601, ext 1314. 🕊️

My Jewish Long Beach Story – The Quintessential American Jewish Story

Richard Marcus | Jewish Long Beach Board of Directors – VP Planning and Grants

My paternal great-grandparents escaped Russia with the fall of the czar. My maternal grandmother was the one member of her family they could collectively afford to help escape Hungary in 1938. Both families became part of the interwoven fabric of Jewish New York in the post-war era.

My family was small, but I grew up with an outsized number of stories. The three cousins of my maternal grandmother who survived the camps all were like additional grandparents, and they never shied from sharing the most intimate details of their experiences. My grandmother avoided this fate, but had her own trials. She endured: an 18-month odyssey through Europe to make it the U.S.; unbelievable challenges in the insular Hungarian Jewish community in New York; and a newlywed husband who had fought for America only to return and endure mental health issues so significant he never left the halfway house. She and the grandfather I knew, also from Hungary, kept a kosher home and became pillars in the Astoria (Queens) Jewish community.



Elisabeth Reich, Richard's maternal grandmother

My paternal grandmother, grandfather, and their shared best friend grew up together as a trio in the Brooklyn Hebrew Orphan Asylum. My grandfather died at 33-years old and my father, then nine, decided to start going to shul every morning – an unusual response in his secular family. My grandmother remarried to their shared best friend when my father was eleven. She was the matriarch and, all these years after her passing, in many ways still is.

The grandfather I knew was a foreman and organizer in Bagel Bakers Local 338 and not to be trifled with. In the 1950s, Brownsville's (Brooklyn) Jewish community was shrinking and violence was growing. My father and his brother struggled with gangs and beatings for being Jewish. As he tells it, one day when he was 11 years old, a limo rolled up to their decrepit apartment and a Lubavitcher Rebbe got out.

He asked my grandmother's permission to pick him up from school every day, protect him, feed him, and lead him in his Torah and Kabbalah studies. He did this until he was 15, when he left studies to work in order to help his family, crediting the Rebbe with not just an education but saving his life.



Rachel and Israel Weiner, Richard's paternal grandmother and father

I was a California kid, but the influence of these stories shaped my life. We held tight to Jewish values and history if not tenets of faith. I rebelled against what I saw as the dogmatic views of the conservative synagogue where I trained for my bar mitzvah, but it was my first important lesson. My father openly challenged the rabbi and the education director on the notion that I was engaging in critical debate and this was a central part of what it means to be Jewish. They did not agree that it was good that I should challenge, but the experience gave me the opportunity to learn from my father. Later, as a Jewish teen in a decidedly not Jewish Orange County town anti-Semitism often ran high. My father's lessons about meaningful, intellectual engagement served me well.

No one in my family ever asked me whether it was important to me to marry someone Jewish. I had never dated someone Jewish. I didn't really think about it. What I remember most about the moment I met my (Israeli) wife Yael was some embarrassment that I was brushing my then very long hair. I was in love with her before I even put down the brush. So began a decades-long journey of exploring the differences between American and Israeli Jewish thought – about what it means to be Jewish in the world.

I credit my teenage son with being my third teacher. How to describe his thinking? Uh, let's say less Rabbi Akiva, more Moses Mendelssohn. This is a kid who concluded in his Bar Mitzvah D'var Torah that G-d got it wrong because G-d couldn't understand Moses' relationship with Miriam and Aaron. While my son is often exasperating, he, like my father, doesn't rebel but rather channels his discontent into the intensely Jewish values of engagement and questioning. It has made me proud as a parent, but I have also learned a lot about the role of reason in Judaism.

So, why do I engage? Why do I commit my time to our Long Beach Jewish Community? In part it is identity. I consider myself a person who acts with Jewish values. In part it is history. My family's stories are my stories, and it my job to pass them down and try to understand them. In part it is collective family debt. The contribution Jewish organizations, and, particularly, Federations have made to my family is a debt that can never be repaid. In part it is fear. We live in a world where anti-Semitism ebbs and flows but never goes away. In part it is about my nuclear family. It is simple to be passive and remain a Jew in Israel. In California it is a choice, and one I have wanted to help my kids understand. Most importantly, it is about community. The Long Beach Jewish Community is magical. It is passionate and compassionate, it is full of people with strong opinions but open minds, and it is both diverse and plural. It is a community that earns our respect and support every day by what it is and the people that make it who it is.



Howard Tzvi Marcus, Richard's father

Editor's note:

Sadly, after we received this story we learned of the passing of Richard's father, Howard Tzvi Marcus. Richard shared with us that his father was a true mensch with an unyielding moral compass. The significance of sharing our stories is magnified when we lose the links to our past. May Howard's memory be for a blessing and may we all be blessed as we continue to dedicate ourselves to ensuring our future as a community. 🕯️

Welcoming the New Jewish Long Beach – Board of Directors 2020-2021

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L'Taken – Teaching Teens How to Repair the World Through Advocacy



Rabbi Nancy Myers with the three students from Beth David in front of Capitol Hill.

A grant from Jewish Long Beach made it possible for Beth David youth to attend the February 2020, L'Taken workshop in Washington D.C. L'Taken is a transformational 4-day weekend focused on Jewish values, tikkun olam and public policy. While exploring Washington, D.C., teens build and strengthen their congregational community and experience their own individual capacity to create change. The weekend culminates with meetings on Capitol Hill.

Three teenagers from Beth David, Zach Bernstein, Jake Nguyen, and Juneau Resnick joined with hundreds of youth from around the country for an intensive program on Jewish values and governance. Every hour was jam packed with learning and engaging programs dealing with the environment, poverty, jail bonds, disabilities, LGBTQ, women's reproductive health, gun violence, Israel, and more.

In between sessions, they toured the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and spent some hard hours at the

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Each of the youth researched and wrote a paper on a topic of their choosing. Zack wrote about the United States' support of Israel. Juneau advocated for reproductive choice for women, Jack raised concerns about the continuing rate of gun violence in the U.S. These papers were brought to Capitol Hill and shared with their representatives. They met with a member of Kamala Harris' staff and then sat in Alan Lowenthal's office to share their concerns.

Rabbi Nancy Myers who accompanied the teens from her congregation remarked, "No doubt these exceptional teens learned more than they ever could in a classroom and returned tired but excited by all that they learned. We are all



Meeting in Congressman Alan Lowenthal's office.



Havdalah celebrated at the Jefferson Memorial with views of the Washington monument.

grateful to the Jewish Long Beach. The cost of this program including airfare, hotel, and sessions exceeds \$1,000 per youth. The grant made this affordable to the families of these teenagers. We thank you and look forward in a couple of years of doing it with other youth." 🕊️

For more information about Impact Grants, contact sharon kenisberg: sharonk@jewishlongbeach.org.



The mission of Jewish Long Beach is to inspire community and advance philanthropy to strengthen Jewish life in Greater Long Beach, Israel and the world. One of the ways that we do this is through impact grants. These grants address needs in the following areas:

- Jewish Education: Jewish young adults, summer camp, Holocaust remembrance and understanding, finding entry into the Jewish community, and Jewish education across movements.
- Community Engagement: Tikkun Olam/Social Justice partnerships in Long Beach; outreach and Jewish understanding in the broader Long Beach community; combating anti-Semitism; creating points of contact for non-engaged young Jewish families; involving teens.
- Jewish Pluralism: Resources for interfaith families, bridges across denominations, and building inter-generational relationships.
- Engaging with Israel and the World: Building cultural bridges, partnerships, and engagement with community groups and organizations, and incubator programs.
- Planning for a Post-Covid-19 Future. 🕊️

High Holy Days Greetings

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Bringing to Life the Essence of the Past

Carol A. Beckerman | Development/Editorial Coordinator



“Awe is a way of being in rapport with the mystery of all reality. The awe that we sense or ought to sense when standing in the presence of a human being is a moment of intuition for the likeness of God which is concealed in his essence.” Abraham Joshua Heschel, *God in the Search of Man* (as cited by Lawrence Kushner, *The Way Into Jewish Mystical Tradition*).

At age 2 1/2, Niv Ashkenazi was with his parents visiting Tel Aviv. It was there, when he first witnessed a street performer playing the violin. He became entranced and didn't want to leave. From that day forward, he kept asking his parents for a violin.

At age 3, he went to see a teacher who utilized the Suzuki Method, a holistic method of instruction commonly used to teach children the violin. After his consultation, Niv declared to his parents that he wanted to start learning at age 6.

And so he did.

While the Suzuki lessons fostered his violin playing, his classroom education at Highland Hall Waldorf School in Northridge supported his creative growth with its emphasis on self-expression. Yet, even as he immersed himself in learning and practicing his instrument, he still had not given much thought to a life and career built around his musical interests, at least not until age 13, when he attended a summer music festival in Oregon. In an open dialogue between students and faculty, one professor asked if anyone wanted to have a career in music. Ninety-nine percent of the students raised their hands. But not Niv. It was in that moment, for the very first time, he actively thought about the future. And once again, he made up his mind in favor of music – dedicating his life to the violin.

After high school, Niv was accepted into Juilliard. Thus began, what Niv calls, “the long process” of his 6-year musical education, earning first a Bachelors and then a Masters degree. Even though his first loves are solo performance and chamber music, he continues to explore other aspects of a career in music and as an inspiration for others.

Being Jewish, with Israeli parents, has infused his life and career with special purpose. From the influences of musical worship to the mystical tenets of Tikkun Olam. Niv sits on the professional advisory board of Shane's Inspiration, a global non-profit dedicated to building inclusive playgrounds, and he is a member of the L.A.-based Street Symphony, which brings music to the homeless and incarcerated.

But it is his association with the Violins of Hope that stands out among his many accomplishments – and there are many. Through his association with Itzak Perlman and as an alumnus of the Perlman Music Program, Niv was invited to join a few other musicians to perform on instruments from the Violins of Hope collection, at a program in Sarasota, Florida. It was here that Niv met Amnon and Avshalom Weinstein, the father and son luthiers who have collected and restored instruments owned by Jewish musicians before and during the Holocaust. (See the March/April issue of Chronicle, pages 4-5.)

The Weinsteins were so impressed with Niv that they invited him to select a violin from their collection to have on long-term loan. One and a half years ago he tried 10 violins before selecting the violin he still holds in trust. This long-term relationship is in constant development.



Photo credit: Ricki Quinn

As Niv explains, “Violins are living. They breathe. This instrument continues to open up. It has gotten richer, deeper, more expressive. You have to step aside and let the voice of the instrument speak through. These instruments are special and unique.

Two violins in the Violins of Hope collection are locally supported: The German Violin is generously underwritten by Drs. Matthew Davis and Mark Dressner on behalf of the Alpert JCC; the Buried Violin is sponsored by Jewish Long Beach.

It tells you, to some extent, how it wants to be played.”

Indeed, as Heschel says, “. . . to be in rapport with the mystery of all reality . . .”

The recently released album “Niv Ashkenazi: Violins of Hope,” is a master work (see review by Barry Cogert), that gives the listener the opportunity to experience that mystery and get to know, during those moments, the presence of another, special, human being.

While it was necessary to cancel the Violins of Hope performances in Los Angeles and Long Beach this past April, we will be able to witness this soul stirring work in-person, rescheduled with the Long Beach Symphony on February 6, 2021. 🌍

Review – Niv Ashkenazi: Violins of Hope

Barry Cogert | Bassist, Founder/Director of the Jazz Angels



In “Violins of Hope,” the musical stories and history of the Holocaust are delivered with emotion through a rich tone. The fact that the instruments and music survived, that the violins were restored to concert quality and then the music is so beautifully performed by Niv Ashkenazi and Matthew Graybil is amazing and a reflection of the history of our Jewish people.

While the album is a compilation of songs, the listener will get a better idea of the violins' past and will receive the most musical satisfaction by listening to all 14 pieces in order and at one sitting. It is a deep musical story and should be listened to as such.

I would like to draw your attention to certain pieces and sections that spoke to me:

- Chassid in its entirety,

- Bestemming Triumph-the section just before and after the dialogue
- Trois-romance-the violin harmonies
- Three Songs - Sephardic Melody - which brings you to the ending of this story.

Whether or not the history and purpose of the project is known, this album will be a welcome addition to any classical music lover's collection. Knowledge of the back story only makes it more meaningful - connecting those in the present to those who suffered through the Holocaust. L'dor V'dor.

As a final thought, while some music is intended as background music while dining or during conversation, this is not one of those albums. “Violins of Hope” compels you to give your full attention and appreciation to each and every note of this musical story. 🌍

Remembering an Icon

Sharon Kenigsberg | Director of Endowment & Community Development



This past year, our community has sadly seen the passing of many pillars of our community. These leaders shared a passion and generosity for the Jewish community and they served as role models to all of us. On May 29th, we lost another pillar with the passing of Bobby Kronick.

Photo credit: Jessie Butler

Bobby will be remembered for his extensive work to fulfill the vision of creating the Alpert Jewish Community Center. He, along with his wife Evy, worked tirelessly to ensure that the Long Beach Jewish community would have a place to forever thrive. He therefore passionately headed the construction committee to build the new Alpert Jewish Community Center. Bobby led by example, reaching out to people at all levels to invite them to join him in giving back to the community. He served as an active member of both the Jewish Federation and the Long Beach Jewish Community Center's Boards of Directors, where he helped to create the plan for a new center. He continued to serve for many years on the Weinberg Jewish Federation

Campus Building and Grounds Committee after the new building and campus were dedicated.

In their profile in the 1999 dedication book for the new Campus, Evy and Bobby spoke about the value of continuity. It is the essence of continuity that kept them in Long Beach where they both were born, where their parents were lifelong friends, where they attended high school together, were married and raised their family. Ultimately, it was the desire to assure the continuity of our Jewish community that caused Bobby to be involved with this project.

Bobby's dear friend Jack Berro remarked, "Bobby and I worked on many fund raising projects. We were on the building committee to not only build but raise money for the same. We also helped with funding for new school buses, and various Federation and AJCC events. So, whenever I called him, the first thing he would say is "How much is this phone call going to cost me," or "How much do you want this time?" He was a great guy and will be sorely missed.

Lifetime of Service

Bobby was honored with the Lifetime of Service Award at the Jewish Community Partnership's Legacy of Leadership event on January 22, 2017. This award honors someone who has devoted their lives to Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) and who have been the pillars upon which our community can stand going forward. Bobby is survived by his daughter Jann and grandson Chance (pictured to the left, when he received this award). Bobby told us that he celebrated every day with Jann and Chance. His principles set the bar for family philanthropy and having his family stay involved.



Photo credit: Scott Smeltzer

The shining lights of the leaders we lost still shine bright in the legacies that they left us: the importance of continuity, philanthropy and leadership. In 1999, Bobby explained, "When you live in a community all your life you need to give something back. We want people to know we were here and that we cared." 🕊️

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My Humble-brag and Vision for the New Normal

Rabbi Shmuel Marcus | Rabbinic Contributor

I pulled up to the one-story California style home feeling important and needed. Susan had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer and wanted a Rabbi to visit and pray. What happened next made me feel very much like I do today.

She was in her early sixties with a full career ahead her. Ironically, she found out that her baby girl, Karyn, in Arizona was pregnant the same day she found out she was unlikely to ever meet her grandson. Susan looked me in the eyes and asked me why she was dying?

A few months earlier I had proudly stood to receive my diploma of rabbinical ordination from the Machon Lsmicha of Australia. The certificate was still in its white tube in my garage near pictures of a scuba diving trip in Eilat, Israel, while I was looking into a dying woman's eyes.

She definitely wasn't asking me to explain what cancerous cells do to your body, she wanted to know the big why! Why is there suffering? Why

would G-d bless her with a great life and news of a grandchild only to shut it all down? Why should Karyn and husband simply go on?

I had no idea. I call it my moment of unavoidable humility. When you spend years reading books and listening to philosophical lectures, you convince yourself that you know why. You feel educated, important, and needed. Then, one day, you learn the biggest lesson about life and yourself. You hit the wall of unavoidable humility and learn about the vastness of this world and your place within it.

I had mistakenly thought that my job was to answer the Susans of the world with information I had amassed while studying in yeshiva as a kid. But that's not my job.

I looked her in the eyes and told her the truth. I had no idea why she was dying. I had no real answers to life's big questions. But I was there at her side. I had left my wife and kids in middle of a pasta dinner to run out and be at

her side. That's my job. That's our job.

The Covid-19 pandemic is our collective moment of unavoidable humility.

No one on this planet has the answers. All our schooling, education, self important titles, has left us all speechless and on equal footing. We all feel that unavailable humility of our limitations. But, we shopped for people, handed out masks, checked in with old friends. We were at each other's side. That is our job.

So, here's the good news about humility and what could be the new normal. It's empowering. Humility is not worthlessness, it's knowing that you're limited but G-d isn't. When David faced the mighty Goliath, he said, "I'm smaller, but the G-d of Israel is stronger," David just showed up with a sling shot and 5 smooth pebbles.

Today, doctors should definitely say a prayer and ask G-d to heal people through them.

The great power of Divine



Rabbi Shmuel Marcus
Co-founder of Los Alamitos Hebrew High

comfort can be channeled through each of us, it doesn't matter what you know or how you feel. Your job is to show up.

Years ago, I had said very little to Susan, but Karyn from Arizona told me:

"Rabbi, my mom said you were terrific, thanks."

I remember saying "You're welcome, I'm happy I was able to show up."

So what's next for us all and what's the new normal going to be? I have no idea. Yet, I feel empowered by our unavoidable humility. We can do great things as a community, if we just show up.

Rabbi Marcus and his wife, Bluma, run the Chabad House in Rossmoor.

www.chabadlosal.com

Synagogue Directory

Beit HaLev (I)
P.O. Box 2279
Seal Beach, CA 90740
Contact: Rabbi Galit Levy-Slater
Phone: 562-493-2680
Email: duets@icloud.com
Website: www.galityomtov.com

Beth David (R)
6100 Hefley St.
Westminster, CA 92683
Contact: Rabbi Nancy Myers
Phone: 714-892-6623
Email: tbdavid@templebethdavid.org
Website: www.templebethdavid.org

Chabad of Los Alamitos & Cypress (O)
12340 Seal Beach Blvd. Suite B-219
Seal Beach, CA 90740
Contact: Rabbi Shmuel Marcus
Phone: 714-826-1881
Email: smarcus@jewishcypress.com
Website: www.chabadlosal.com

Chabad of West Orange County/ Congregation Adat Israel (O)
5052 Warner Ave.
Huntington Beach, CA 92649
Contact: Rabbi Aron David Berkowitz
Phone: 714-846-2285
Email: info@chabadhb.com
Website: www.chabadhb.com

Congregation Lubavitch (O)
3981 Atlantic Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90807
Contact: Rabbi Yitzchok Newman
Phone: 562-596-1661
Email: yitzyg@aol.com

Congregation Shir Chadash (I)
6440 Del Amo Blvd.
Lakewood, CA 90713
Contact: Rabbi Mariana Gindlin
Phone: 562-429-0715
Email: csclakewood@dslextre.com
Website: www.CongregationShirChadash.org

Congregation Shalom of Leisure World, Seal Beach (C)
Mail to:
PO Box 2901
Seal Beach, CA 90740
Meet at: Clubhouse 3, Room 9
1421 Northwood Road
Seal Beach, CA 90740
Fridays 7:00 PM, and Saturdays 9:30 AM
Contact: President Carol A. Stern Levine
Phone: Direct - 562-505-3622
Phone: Membership - 562-430-7040
Email: congsholomlwsb@gmail.com

P'nai Or (I)
3955 N. Studebaker Road
Long Beach, CA 90808
Email: info@pnaior.org
Website: www.pnaior.org

Shul By The Shore (O)
3801 E. Willow Street
Long Beach, California 90815
Contact: Rabbi Abba Perelmuter
Phone: 562-621-9828
Email: rabbi@shulbytheshore.org
Website: www.shulbytheshore.org

Surf City Synagogue (C)
Services held at the HB Central Library
7111 Talbert Ave.
Huntington Beach
Phone: 714-596-2220
E-Mail: info@surfcitysynagogue.org

Temple Beth Ohr (R)
15721 E. Rosecrans Ave.
La Mirada, CA 90638
Contact: Rabbi Mark Goldfarb
Phone: 714-521-6765
Email: office@tbolm.org
Website: www.tbolm.org

Temple Beth Shalom (C)
3635 Elm Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90807
Contact: Rabbi David Cantor
Phone: 562-426-6413
Fax: 562-426-7824
Email: office@tbslb.org
Website: www.tbslb.org

Temple Israel (R)
269 Loma Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90803
Contact: Rabbi Scott Fox
Phone: 562-434-0996
Email: info@tilb.org
Website: www.tilb.org

Temple Ner Tamid of Downey (I)
10629 Lakewood Boulevard
Downey, CA 90241
Contact: Rabbi Daniel Mehlman
Phone: 562-861-9276
Email: info@downeytemplenertamid.org
Website: www.downeytemplenertamid.org

(C)=Conservative (I)=Independent
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Jeffrey LaMont Brown © JFNA 2020

Jewish Responses to Crisis

Dr. Jeffrey C. Blutinger | CSULB, Barbara and Ray Alpert Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies



Dr. Jeffrey C. Blutinger
CSULB faculty

The study of Jewish history reveals certain recurring patterns in Jewish culture over time. Many of these things you already know: Jews like to argue, Jews like to analyze, Jews passionately disagree with each other about our arguments and analyses. But there are other, more important patterns too.

Jews respond to crises in two really remarkable ways. The first response is one shared by many cultures, but one Jews specifically emphasize: we organize. We form committees, projects, associations, and initiatives. We donate our energy, our resources, our funds, and sometimes even our lives, to fix the world. Whether

you are a secular Jew with no connection to the tradition, or one who prays every day and goes to synagogue regularly, you know that we only have one world.

Jews put very little emphasis on ha'olam haba, the world to come. Take a look sometime at Maurice Lamm's famous book *The Jewish Way in Death and Mourning*. While the book is over 300 pages long, only 17 of those pages concern the fate of the dead in the afterlife. The rest of it concerns the living: the mourners who must cope with loss. "Choose life," the Torah tells us (Deuteronomy 30:19), and Jews do. We understand that the first priority must be to save and preserve life, to comfort and to make whole those who have suffered, and to heal and rebuild our communities.

So, I expect that we will see both Jews come together to support each other during

both this health crisis and its concomitant economic crisis. Even if the problems seem insurmountable at times, the community will persevere. After all, as Rabbi Tarfon taught (Pirkei Avot 2:15): "it is not your duty to finish the work (of repairing the world), but you are not free to neglect it."

But there is a second, less recognized but specifically Jewish response to crisis: the need to record. When a crisis hits, Jews start to write. We do so for a variety of issues: to document what is happening, to make sense of what is going on, and to try to preserve knowledge from being lost. This is how the Torah comes out of the Babylonian Exile. This is how the Mishnah is preserved and redacted after the great revolts against Rome. This is how the Gemara is put down on parchment after persecutions in Galilee and Babylonia.

Again and again in Jewish history, Jews recorded what was happening to them. Even during the Holocaust, the elderly historian of Polish



Photo by Lloyd Wolfe © 2020 JFNA

and Russian Jewry, Shimon Dubnow, is reported to have called out "Yidn, shraybt un farshraybt," ("Jews, write and record"), as the Nazis dragged him away from the Riga ghetto to murder him.

Thankfully, the crisis we face now is nowhere near as dangerous as the ones listed

above, but I do expect a fair amount of Jewish texts to come out of it. The amazing thing is that you, too, can be a part of this project; it's not just for historians or philosophers. When Dubnow said, "Jews, write and record," he wasn't addressing scholars; he meant everyone.

So keep a journal of this plague year; write down how your life is changing. Not just because this will be a wonderful resource for future Jewish historians, but because it will help you understand what is happening, what you have lost, and perhaps also, what you have found. In this way, you are participating in a three-thousand-year-old Jewish tradition. After all, the 613th commandment is to write your own Sefer Torah; keeping a journal is just a secular way of fulfilling it. 🌍



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WE ARE AVAILABLE NOW AS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE!

Dear Alpert JCC Members

Susan Paletz | Director of Development

Deborah Goldfarb | Interim Executive Director

We are thrilled to be part of Long Beach Gives once again this year! On 9.24.20, more than 150 nonprofit organizations will be rallying supporters from every corner of Long Beach to help local organizations thrive.

This year, we are committed to raise funds for our Senior Adult Meal Delivery program. We want to continue to provide our senior adults a healthy and delicious meal who are housebound due to COVID-19.



Before COVID-19, our popular Senior Wednesday Lunches provided the opportunity for seniors in our community to eat a healthy, well balanced meal, and a time to socialize and be part of a group. When COVID-19 hit, we had to close our doors and stop all programming, including our Senior Wednesday Lunch program. We felt it was important to keep this service going through the pandemic and decided to bring the meals to our senior adult community directly to their homes!

LONG BEACH
Gives
SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

Each week our wonderful volunteers from the community, JCC Cares and RSVP deliver a nutritious meal to our senior adults. Due to the financial impact of COVID-19 on the senior population, the lunches are provided to them at no cost. The Grand of Long Beach, has stepped up and partnered with us by providing the lunches at \$5 per meal.

Each month, we are providing more than 600 meals. That is roughly 7,200 meals for the year.

We are asking everyone in the community to help us raise \$36,000 to cover one year's worth of meals for our senior adult community.

Please donate and help us get to \$36,000 by 9.24.20!

Thank you for your support!



How to Donate

Questions? Contact
Susan Paletz at
spaletz@alpertjcc.org

Online: Go to alpertjcc.org/donate/LBGives. Please make sure you note "Long Beach Gives 2020" in the "in Honor of" section.

By Check: Send a check payable to the Alpert Jewish Community Center and note "Long Beach Gives 2020" in the memo area. Please send the check to: The Alpert JCC, Attn: Susan Paletz, 3801 East Willow St. Long Beach, CA 90815.



Jewish Life Virtual Connection

For questions about programs or events, contact Dana Schneider-Chanzit: dschneider@alpertjcc.org
Go to alpertjcc.org/jewish-virtual-connection to get all ZOOM links and for more info



July Programs

Just Draw- FREE Drawing Class

Every Wednesday at 4:00 pm on Zoom. Register in advance for this meeting.

Alpert Classic Film Club

July 1, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Go to alpertjcc.org/jewish-virtual-connection to get the ZOOM link and for more information.

Love to watch some of the greatest films of all time and then get together and learn more about them. The idea is that whether you've seen the films before or not, you'll get new insights that will deepen your appreciation and understanding of them. We'll discuss "Gentlemen's Agreement" and announce the next film. If you are interested in joining the club and learning more please contact Dana Schneider-Chanzit.

Discussion: High-Risk Stories of Pregnancy, Birth and the Unexpected
With Author Dr. Cavi Eve Karkowsky

July 16, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Topics include stories from her work in women's health, often within some of the most under-served communities in the United States.

Virtual Summer of Fun

July 19, 2020 from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

Join us for our first ever Virtual Summer of Fun Event. Choose from a variety of programs throughout the day including, games, crafts, cooking, yoga, meditation, book club, happiness class, dance party and more. Connect with new and old friends and try something new. We are excited to celebrate a day of Summer of Fun with all of you.

Suggested donation of \$18.

Women's Rosh Chodesh Group

July 22, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Join us for our Women's Rosh Chodesh Group. This group is for women to have some time and space to connect with each other. There will be social time as well as discussion topics facilitated by Dana Schneider-Chanzit.



photo by Benjamin Voros - Unsplash

August Programs

Tu B'Av Celebration

Songs of Love with Kelly Cooper! August 4, 2020 at 4:00 pm
Zoom and Facebook Live!

Cooking class August 4, 2020 at 7:30 pm

Learn how to make chocolate rugelah for Tu B'Av. Yum!

Alpert Classic Film Club

August 5, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Love to watch some of the greatest films of all time? Let's get together and learn more about them. The idea is that whether you've seen the films before or not, you'll get new insights that will deepen your appreciation and understanding of them. The next film to be announced. If you are interested in joining the club and learning more please contact Dana Schneider-Chanzit.



Women's Rosh Chodesh Group

August 20, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Join us for our Women's Rosh Chodesh Group. This group is for women to have some time and space to connect with each other. There will be social time as well as discussion topics facilitated by Dana Schneider-Chanzit.

Vision Board and Intention Setting for the New Year

August 30, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Join Lauren Friedman as we set our intention for the New Year by creating a vision board. Vision boarding is a fun and creative way to clarify your dreams and transform them into reality. We become what we think about. With a collage of words and images we create the vision of who we want to be, to do, or have in our lives! You will need poster board, magazines, scissors, glue stick and a photo of yourself.

Rosh Hashana Cooking Class

August 31, 2020 at 7:30 pm

Learn how to make some Rosh Hashana favorites for the New Year! Advance Registration is required.

L'Hitraot and Thank You

Jeffrey Rips | AJCC Executive Director

With COVID-19 and the recent protests and riots, these past few months have been filled with strong emotions for many around the country. My thoughts and prayers continue to go out to all who were injured, to the families who have lost their loved ones, as well as to those who were affected by the riots.

Every year around Thanksgiving, I take some time to reflect on that for which I am grateful. With all that has been going on, I have found it comforting to take some extra time now to reflect and acknowledge all that I am grateful for.

- I am grateful to be working with an incredibly hard-working, creative, and caring team who have worked tirelessly to keep connecting with our members, families, and children, as well as to create the path for the J to reopen.
- I am grateful for our passionate, dedicated, and committed Board of Directors, which has guided our vital and vibrant agency through these challenging times and are busy planning for a brighter future.
- I am grateful for the tremendous community partners we have with Jewish Long Beach, JFCS, Hillel, The Hebrew Academy, and all the community synagogues and agencies; together we strengthen our community and make it a truly special place to live.
- I am grateful for all of our community leaders and donors who make possible what we do.
- I am grateful for the wonderfully diverse membership that has, and will once again, fill our building with laughter, love, and friendship.
- I am grateful with all that is happening around the country and the world that the Alpert JCC has always been, and will continue to truly be an oasis

where everyone is special and welcomed warmly into our community.

- I am grateful that the Alpert JCC has been, and will once again become a neighborhood and gathering place that is guided by Jewish values and ideals, and is open to all!
- I am grateful for all of the above, for with all of the pieces working together we have created and will work hard to bring back, what the JCC is all about: a strong, thriving community filled with activity, compassion, health, growth, education, and a sense of belonging.
- I shared in January, that at the end of August I would be moving on to my next dream. As this is my last Around the J message, I have taken some additional time to reflect on what has been a tremendous 12 years.
- I am grateful to have been able to work for an organization that I truly love, that is so deeply part of who I am, that has been part of me since I attended preschool here (and even before) and that I can honestly call my home.
- I am grateful for my incredible family, who give me strength, support, love, and so much joy! To be able to share this time with my parents Bob and Sandy Rips, who are J regulars, and with Lauren, Ellie, Joshua, and Jacob, has been extremely special to me.

Thank you to all who make this community great, and for making such a profound impact on my life. I look forward to seeing and supporting the next chapters in our J's journey.

I also hope, that as all of you reflect on what you are grateful for at this time, you include the Alpert Jewish Community Center, a vibrant place which will always be for you, as it is for me, Your Center For Life. *L'Shalom*



Our Fitness and Aquatics Centers are OPEN!

While we are excited to welcome everyone back to the Center, we are committed to continuing the use of a methodical approach in this process, weighing the pros and cons of each step. This deliberation process is in the best interest of all, as there is nothing more important to us than the health of our members and staff. Please know, that our reopening phases will have capacity limitations on all programs and services.

Visit our website for the latest updates, regulations and procedures or stay connected through social media.

Stay Connected with Us Virtually! Visit alpertjcc.org/fitness

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Full Onsite Program Planned for 2020-21 School Year

Nelli Greenspan | Director of Admissions and Marketing

The transformation in education that has taken place at the Hebrew Academy over the past three months according to a recent internal survey has “met and exceeded expectations.” After the mandated closure, the school swiftly met the challenges posed by the pandemic. Within two days, every student from Kindergarten through 12th grade had digital learning devices in their hands for live classes from 9-3 daily. As a “Google School,” while incorporating blended learning, the teachers and students were ideally prepared for distance learning. Over the last three years, the school has adopted a state-of-the-art curriculum with online components particularly for math and language arts in every grade, so students had access to all core curriculums from the very first day. In addition, utilizing grants provided by Jewish Long Beach, the Academy delivered learning materials every single week and even delivered individual science and art kits so students could participate in hands-on activities.



In addition to teaching core classes every day, and offering enrichment classes such as online physical education, art, computer graphics and coding, the school tended to the emotional needs of students and their families through a collaborative grant with JFCS, also made possible by Jewish Long Beach. Students were able to receive weekly group and individual counseling sessions on a virtual platform. Weekly assemblies and Jewish holiday celebrations involving students, parents, and faculty promoted a sense of community and school pride.



School principal, Dr. Bryn Harari, attributes the swift response to the readiness of parents and teachers to work together to find the right balance for students. “Our parents really trust our teachers. Our teachers earned that trust before COVID, and since then the confidence has only grown stronger.”

Being able to respond quickly to the needs of students of different ages was crucial. The middle school faculty worked closely with parents and students to find the right balance to sustain the same level of learning throughout the crisis. At the same time, the needs of elementary school children and parents were addressed. Teachers were able to cultivate an online classroom community that was just as strong as the one in their physical classrooms! One parent said, “my kindergartener has had an amazing experience. The teachers have worked with him every single day, individually, in small groups and with the whole class. He’s so excited to get up for school every day and see what the ‘Sharing Child’ will bring!” The administration reports that the digital assessments that the students completed at the end of the year have indicated significant progress in their studies.

The Hebrew Academy is already doing extensive scenario planning to make sure that the school opens in August with full classes and a rigorous educational program. With large classrooms and small class sizes on its 11-acre campus, the school is in an ideal position to provide uninterrupted learning that will meet the rigorous standards of its comprehensive program. “The Hebrew Academy is uniquely positioned to deliver a stimulating educational program for the coming year,” said Rabbi Newman, head of school. “While other schools are talking about staggered schedules and continued distance learning next school year, we are confident that we will continue our individualized program for every student, every school day, on our spacious campus.”



JFCS Helps Others During COVID-19 Closures

Pattie Davidson | JFCS Director of Development and Communications

When mandatory closures for offices, retail businesses, and other workplaces in Los Angeles County were ordered, JFCS went to work. Knowing that the need for counseling and social services would not only continue but would likely grow, the agency shifted its service delivery model to providing services remotely. Technology played a major role in transitioning counseling clients and support group participants to the use of videoconferencing and phone. Students and their parents in the Downey Unified School District and The Hebrew Academy, where JFCS is contracted to provide counseling, also made the shift to telehealth to continue working with their clinicians.



JFCS school-based clinicians use videoconferencing for their weekly supervision sessions with Lisa Honsberger (top row, second from left), manager of community-based services. Supervision is an essential part of their professional development as each clinician has the opportunity to review their cases and gain feedback from peers as well as professional staff.

A new support group, “Coping in the Time of COVID-19,” was formed for those who felt they could benefit from a supportive environment where they could share their thoughts and feelings and gain meaningful feedback. This group continues to meet weekly via videoconference on Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and is accepting additional members.

The JFCS social work team developed an action plan whereby seniors using the agency’s services receive a phone call each week from a social work team member to check in with them to see if they need groceries, medicine, or other essentials. Volunteers assist with shopping and delivering needed items to the seniors, all while masked and maintaining recommended social distancing.

“Our Board of Directors, who believes so passionately in our mission, understood that keeping our team intact during this time was key to providing these services. The less glamorous but very important part of the story is that with the change in service delivery method, we had to completely revamp all office procedures,” said JFCS Executive Director Kathryn Miles. She added, “Our entire clinical team rose to the occasion and accepted the challenges that came along with making these changes.” In all, JFCS has helped well over 500 people—many of them on a weekly basis—to better cope with the change that the coronavirus pandemic has brought to their lives.

What does the future hold? Miles muses, “While administrative functions have started to move back into the office, client services will continue to be provided remotely for the foreseeable future. The health and safety of our clients and team are our top priority. We believe that the need for our services will grow and change as the community evolves out of the pandemic, and our goal is to remain nimble to respond to that change.”

B'Nai Mitzvah

Beth David

Hayden Nguyen



Hayden will be called to the Torah at Beth David as a Bat Mitzvah on August 15, 2020. She is a straight A Honor's Student at Oak Middle School. Hayden plays club soccer in the Cal South Region. When choosing her jersey number, she chose the number 18 to combine her love of soccer and her faith. Hayden loves all things soccer, running and baking. For her mitzvah project, she used her baking skills. Hayden baked for various school and temple fundraisers, and made over 150 "Apples and Honey" muffins for Beth David's morning Rosh Hashana service.

Benjamin Gamarnik

On August 1, 2020, Benjamin will be called to the Torah at Beth David. Benji will be an 8th grader next fall at McAuliffe Middle School. He enjoys doing show choir at his school and hanging out with his friends. Benji plays goal keeper on his club soccer team and enjoys all sports. He has achieved the level of 3rd degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. For his Mitzvah project, Benji volunteered at Grateful Hearts, a charity that prepares and provides food for the needy in the local community.



Congregational Announcements

Beth David – Thursdays, July 9 and August 13 at 12 noon

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Myers. The Rabbi will present a teaching and then offer the opportunity to discuss. Go to www.templebethdavid.org the week of the event to obtain the Zoom link.

Beit HaLev – Fridays at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

Live, interactive services. We have now transitioned from Facebook to Zoom, and we will continue to livestream on our YouTube channel – Shabbat Shalom LIVE! To attend the Zoom service, the invitation, ID# and passwords will be posted on Facebook; to receive the invitation personally, contact Rabbi Galit Shirah at 562.715.0888 or duets@icloud.com.

Community Announcements

Orange County Jewish Genealogical Society Sunday, July 26 at 10 a.m.

Jewish Records in Ukraine is the topic of speaker Alex Krakovsky. Using the freedom of information laws and the courts, he has been able to scan legal records as never before permitted. Register in advance for this virtual meeting by contacting us at info@ocjgs.org.

Sunday, August 23 at 10 a.m.

Jewish Records in 19th Century Belarus is the topic of this month's speaker: Yuri Dorn. Yuri is a well know genealogist who founded the Jewish Heritage Group in 2002. He has also worked on the restoration of Jewish heritage in Belarus. Register in advance by contacting us at info@ocjgs.org.

APPLY NOW for the 2020-2021 Alpert New Leaders Forum and be a part of the future that Jewish Long Beach offers



"The Alpert New Leaders Forum gave me an opportunity to learn about my own community. It gave me the skills, courage and empowerment to go and make my community the best it can be."
Beth Sterling

"The ANLF has been a valuable experience. I've learned so much – personally and professionally. I highly recommend the program for aspiring Jewish leaders."
Joel Perler



Are YOU, or do you know a future leader?

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Contact Sharon Kenigsberg to apply or to recommend someone.
sharonk@jewishlongbeach.org
562.426.7601 ext. 1008.



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- Sharon Lassers Kushner to Rob Lassers & Family
From Binnie & Jack Berro

IN MEMORY OF

- Diane Guest to Lisa Guest & Family
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IN MEMORY OF

- Gene Lentzner to Ann Lentzner & Family
From Cookie Sieger



JFCS

IN MEMORY OF

- Gene Lentzner to Ann Lentzner & Family
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JFCS

IN MEMORY OF

- Bobby Kronick to Jann & Chance Gath
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- Nancy Slusher

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To make a JFCS tribute, please call: 562.427.7916





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- IN MEMORY OF**
- Lanny Warren
Beloved Son
to Elaine Warren
From Gerda & Harold Seifer
- IN MEMORY OF**
- Carol Brook
Beloved Daughter
to Eleanor Brook
From Gerda & Harold Seifer & Family

COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

- Barry Borkin
- Rosecarrie & Alan Brooks
- Karen Calechman & Jerry Prell
- Ettie Councilman
- Marilyn Day
- Elaine Dovgard
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- Barbara & Leon Shoag
- Joan Smith
- Heidi & Joseph Solymar
- Rachel Suojanen
- HAPPY BIRTHDAY**
- Nancy Linden
From David Tillman & Karen Zoller



GIVING TUESDAY Senior Adult Meal Delivery Program

- Amy Guy & Family
- Andree O'Brien
- Binne & Jack Berro
- Barry Borkin
- Cristina Vegas
- Dan & Karen Rosenfeld
- David Leib
- Edie Rosen
- Eileen Braeman
- Jane Levinson
- Jeanne Powell
- Linda Offenberg
- Marcia Senteno & Family
- Marie Flowers
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- Michael & Ann Martin
- Olga Mavritskiy
- Penny & Kurt Bayless
- Ray Brown
- Rebecca Benudiz
- Sandy & Bob Rips
- Steve & Julie Kinsbursky
- Stuart & Lauren Friedman
- Wendi Rosenblatt

IN APPRECIATION OF

- Susan Paletz & Jeffrey Rips
From Jim & Nancy Linden
- Susan Paletz
From Larry & Paula Blum
- IN MEMORY OF**
- Sharon Kushner
Beloved Mother
to Robbie Kushner & Family
From Jessie Butler



IN MEMORY OF

- Bobby Kronick
Beloved Father & Grandfather
to Jann Kronick-Gath & Chance Gath
From Jessie Butler
From Nancy & Thane Brown
From the Miller siblings, Nancy, Janie & Rich

STEVEN GUEST MEMORIAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF

- Diane Guest
Beloved Mother
to Lisa Guest & Family
From Jessie Butler
From Michelle Berro & Family

ECE FRIENDS & FAMILY

IN MEMORY OF

- Judy Shima
to Daniel Feldman & Family
From Joanne Feldman

AJCC FILM FESTIVAL

- Bernard Natelson

PAULA BLUM SENIOR ADULT FUND

IN MEMORY OF

- Charlotte Moskowitz
to Louis Moskowitz
From Linda Krugman

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- IN MEMORY OF**
- Lanny Warren
Beloved Son
to Elaine Warren & Family
From Jessie Butler
From the Levinson Family
- IN MEMORY OF**
- Allison Chasin
Beloved Daughter
to Laura & Neil Chasin
From Jessie Butler

SENIOR ADULT MEAL DELIVERY PROGRAM

- Jewish Long Beach
- Eva Velez
- Network for Good
- Jo Anne Charmack
- Susan & Mark Paletz
- IN APPRECIATION OF**
- Susan Mathieu
From Gerald Finstein
- IN APPRECIATION OF**
- Penny & Kurt Bayless and Susan Mathieu
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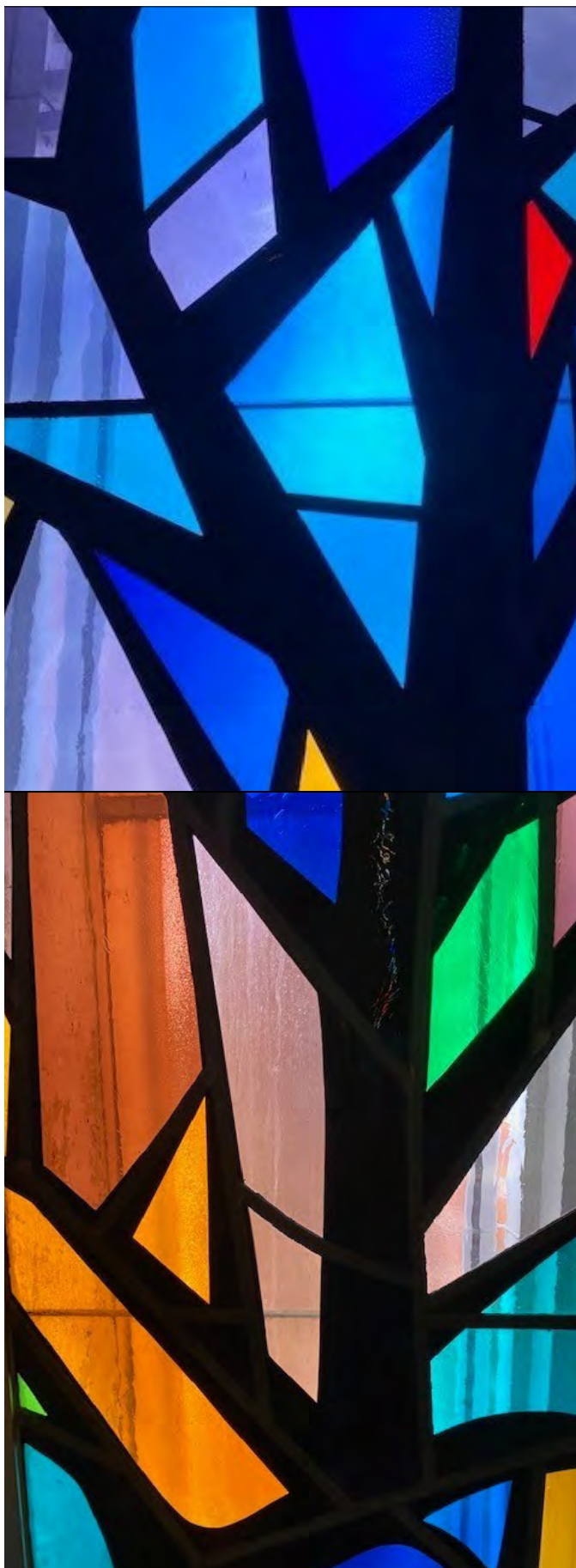
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We extend our condolences to the families and friends of those who have recently lost a loved one.

If you know of someone who has recently passed and would like them recognized in our publication, please send your request to: chronicle@jewishlongbeach.org



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&
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