

Chronicle

THE
VOICE
OF
JEWISH
LONG
BEACH
PUBLISHED
SINCE 1947

MARCH - APRIL 2021 | ADAR - NISAN - IYAR 5781

Strengthening Our Community • Passover Greetings
• Immersive Israel Experiences Continue During the
Pandemic • Jewish Music and Memory • Because of This
Community • Passover Brings Hope • Honoring Those
Who Perished • Do Not Separate Yourself From the
Community • Why You Should Leave Egypt Today •





Greetings
for a Happy
& Healthy
Pesach

From the
Chronicle
Staff

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

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CORPORATE SPONSORS

We are reimagining our corporate sponsorship program. Stay tuned for details in the next issue of the Chronicle!



SHABBAT CANDLELIGHTING

March 5 5:36 pm	March 19 6:47*pm	April 2 6:57 pm	April 16 7:08 pm
March 12 5:41 pm	March 26 6:52 pm	April 9 7:03 pm	April 23 7:13 pm
	*Daylight savings begins 3/14		April 30 7:19 pm

From the CEO'S Desk – A Time for Action to Guide Our College Campuses

Zachary Benjamin | Chief Executive Officer, Jewish Long Beach



Zachary Benjamin

A common thread of responsibility runs through the varied but complimentary missions of all Jewish agencies, institutions and congregations. Though our objectives as organizations are diverse, we all share the obligation to educate our broader communities about

antisemitism, to identify and define it, and to oppose it with the utmost fervor and resolution.

In 2016, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) authored its official definition of antisemitism, a valuable tool with which organizations such as Jewish Long Beach can educate our broader communities against anti-Jewish bias. The definition identifies various forms of antisemitism, including, “making mendacious, dehumanizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews or the power of Jews as collective,” “holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the State of Israel,” “denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination...by claiming that the existence of the State of Israel is a racist endeavor,” and “applying double standards [to Israel] by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.” Since the creation of the IHRA definition, it has been adopted not only by the United States Departments of State and Education, but also by 29 United Nations member states, as well as by various humanitarian agencies around the globe.

Colleges and universities, perhaps more urgently than any other type of institution, must seek means such as adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism to stem the tide of anti-Jewish bias on their campuses. False narratives on Israel and Jews, cloaked in the language of geopolitical debate and human rights, have found fertile soil in campus environments that fancy themselves intellectually enlightened, yet challenged to draw distinctions between discourse and discrimination – a distinction that the IHRA

definition deftly and eloquently provides.

Jewish students at American colleges and universities find themselves increasingly isolated, with many reporting that they would rather conceal their Jewish identities than face demands from student groups and faculty that they renounce the Jewish state and reject the right of the Jewish people to self-determination.

Examples abound of organized efforts to intimidate Jewish students, faculty, and staff. For instance, at Emory, Vassar, NYU, and other universities, vandals have repeatedly defaced Jewish students' dorm room doors with “eviction notices” designed to mimic notices that groups such as Students for Justice in Palestine falsely claim are arbitrarily assigned by the Israel Defense Forces to Arab homes in Israel and the Palestinian territories. Meanwhile, student governments across the country, including, most recently, at UC Irvine, have called upon their college and university administrations to divest not only from Israeli companies and organizations, but from any entity that conducts business in or with Israel. These calls have, thankfully, been largely ignored or rejected by these institutions' presidents and boards of trustees. However, no such calls to divest from arguably far more insidious and destructive regimes are commonplace, and the activities of these student governments fall squarely within the IHRA's definition of antisemitism.

Jewish communities on campuses are under intellectual and, at times, even physical assault. Colleges and universities must, with purpose, intentionality, and urgency, take measures to protect their Jewish students, faculty, and staff, as well as to educate broadly against the subversive and dangerous brand of antisemitism that has permeated so many campus communities.


Jewish Long Beach and other local Jewish institutions were encouraged when, late in 2020, a resolution was proposed to the Long Beach Community College District (LBCC) Board of Trustees calling for the district to adopt the IHRA definition.

However, consideration of the resolution by the board has been postponed indefinitely while it undergoes review by the Academic Senate and legal personnel.

I met in mid-February via Zoom with LBCC board president Uduak-Joe Ntuk and Long Beach City College interim superintendent-president Lou Anne Bynum to offer the support of our Jewish communal institutions in helping identify and combat antisemitism on LBCC District campuses. I also reiterated our belief that the IHRA definition is among the most effective resources available to help stem the tide of bias against Jews, and that its adoption by colleges and universities is an important step in the process of addressing this increasingly urgent issue.

President Ntuk and Ms. Bynum appeared thoughtful, concerned, and committed to the welfare of vulnerable LBCC community members, including Jewish ones. Ultimately, the actions of any publicly elected deliberative body, including the LBCC District Board of Trustees, should be informed by the needs and concerns of those they represent. Thus, it is imperative that our Jewish community actively encourage the board to demonstrate leadership in combating antisemitism and assuring that LBCC District campuses remain safe spaces for Jewish students, faculty, and staff.

We at Jewish Long Beach ask that you take a moment to encourage the LBCC District Board of Trustees to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism. You can do so by submitting a public comment to boardcomments@lbcc.edu, or leaving a recorded statement with the board's voice mailbox for public commentary, which can be reached at 562.938.4700.

As a convener of Jewish community in our area, it is critically important that Jewish Long Beach continue to engage in advocacy on behalf of the Jewish people. Only through active promotion of Jewish welfare can we and our partner agencies ensure that Long Beach and West Orange County remain environments in which Jewish life thrives and advances, throughout the life cycle, *l'dor v'dor*: from generation to generation. 

Young Adult Immersive Israel Experiences Continue During the Pandemic

Melanie Edwards | Manager of Marketing and Outreach, Jewish Long Beach

In the spring of 2020, when the COVID-19 outbreak upended many lives across the globe, many young adults volunteering abroad in Israel had to make a decision. They were presented with two options: quickly pack up all their belongings and book a return flight home, abruptly ending their volunteer experience; or they could stay in Israel and endure



the ambiguity of a lockdown in a foreign country. Most of the volunteers decided to remain in Israel to assist local Israelis amidst the public health crisis.


As the pandemic endures, many young Americans and young Jewish adults around the world continue

to move to Israel and volunteer in Masa programs. Founded in 2004 through a collaboration between the Jewish Agency, Keren HaYesod, the Jewish Federations of North America, and the Israeli government, Masa Israel Journey has become the leader in immersive Israel experiences for Jewish adults between the ages of 18-30. Masa quickly pivoted their programs to ensure their doors remain open to young adults throughout the pandemic.

One of the many unique aspects of the program is the depth and diversity of opportunities available. Masa participants have the option of participating in study, volunteer or career development programs lasting from two months to a year. Many Masa Fellows are teaching English to Israeli children in the periphery of Israel, areas outside of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv often housing disadvantaged communities, in an effort to improve education inequalities. Other Masa participants are advancing their careers through internships with leaders at some of the most successful



organizations in the Start-Up Nation, as Israel is known. Jewish Long Beach and the Jewish Federations of North America are proud partners of Masa Israel Journey. Young adults interested in joining the Masa community are invited to visit masaisrael.org.

Masa is one of many Israel and overseas programs supported by donations to Jewish Long Beach. For more information about Jewish Long Beach, please visit www.jewishlongbeach.org or contact Melanie Edwards at medwards@jewishlongbeach.org. 

Honoring Those Who Perished

Sharon Kenigsberg | Director of Community Development



Shimon Peres once said, “ Six million people live on in our hearts. We are their eyes that remember.”

It is our custom at the Annual Yom HaShoah Community Observance for the Long Beach Jewish community to join together and honor the memory of those who perished. This important and very moving event will take place on **Sunday, April 11 at 2:00 pm**. This virtual event can be accessed by Zoom or Facebook Live. For details, visit www.alpertjcc.org.

This year’s program will be created by local college students from Long Beach Hillel at CSULB. Beach Hillel Executive Director ChayaLeah Sufrin explained, “Getting Jewish students involved in planning the memorial event is a way to ensure that programs like this continue into the future. These young adults know that it will soon be their responsibility to commemorate the Shoah and to educate the world about the horrific events of the Holocaust. We are training the future Jewish leaders how to create meaningful experiences that make a difference.”

The student committee has been hard at work creating an experience that will include music, a

greater Long Beach community. It is truly exciting to have the engagement of Hillel in this year’s event. Their participation is our insurance policy ensuring that the truth will continue to be told and retold.”

Helping Ensure Community Observances – Gerda Seifer Yom HaShoah Fund

The Yom HaShoah Community Observance has been part of our community life for decades, largely due to the tireless work of Gerda Seifer and other Holocaust survivors and their families.

Jewish Long Beach honored Gerda by naming the Yom HaShoah Fund in her honor. The fund makes possible the annual Community Yom HaShoah Observance Program, as well as other Holocaust education activities and programs.

If you wish to continue the important work of memorializing the Holocaust, please consider a donation to the Gerda Seifer Yom HaShoah Fund. Make your tax-deductible donation payable to Jewish Long Beach and mail to 3801 East Willow Street, Long Beach, CA 90815, or call 562.426.7601 ext. 1314. To make your donation online, visit our website at www.jewishlongbeach.org.

A Tale of Two Days of Remembrance

Many of you may have heard about International Holocaust Remembrance Day, which was commemorated on January 27, and wondered how it differs from the Yom HaShoah events, which take place this year on April 8 (our community observance is on April 11).

International Holocaust Remembrance Day is the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, when we remember those who perished and celebrate those who survived. In 2005, on the 60th anniversary of the liberation, January 27 was designated by the UN General Assembly as International Holocaust Remembrance Day for people around the world to reflect on the lessons of the Holocaust.

Yom HaShoah, the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising which is observed after Passover, has been a day for commemorating the Holocaust since 1951. Some countries also hold their own Holocaust commemorations on other dates. But it is nonetheless an amazing accomplishment to have a worldwide, secular day dedicated to remembering the victims of the Nazis and promoting Holocaust education.

The Federations’ Commitment

Locally, nationally and internationally we have many agencies working tirelessly to make sure that Holocaust survivors receive the dignity and care they deserve. Mark Wilf, chair of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) Board of Trustees recently

remarked in a letter to all federations:

As the son and grandson of Holocaust survivors who instilled in me the critical importance of Jewish community and continuity, I am strongly committed to the cause of Holocaust education. I’m proud of the advocacy work of Federations across North America – including a grassroots effort by Holocaust survivors themselves – on behalf of the Never Again Education Act, which was signed into law in May 2020. This legislation will help ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust are taught for generations to come.

My special passion, though, is for remembering and caring for those survivors who are still among us. Our communities, locally and globally, work hard to ensure that Holocaust survivors receive the care they need. JFNA’s Center on Aging and Trauma, a project of our Holocaust Survivor Initiative, has served over 15,000 survivors and provided nearly 150 grants to agencies around the U.S. to develop innovations in person-centered, trauma-informed care. Through our



Our community home, the Weinberg Jewish Long Beach campus, has two memorials that allow us to reflect and remember. The Schlesinger memorial is pictured above, the Seifer Holocaust Memorial is to the right.

brief memorial service, interviews with survivors, commemorative candlelighting and more. Members of the Jewish Community clergy will participate alongside the students in the event. There will also be a special message from Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia.

The Alpert JCC Yom HaShoah Committee is responsible for planning the annual observance. Committee Chair Ken Schlesinger remarked, “This event is important not just to survivor families,



Yom HaShoah Committee Chair Ken Schlesinger.

but to the greater Long Beach Jewish community as a whole. We have seen dramatic increases in antisemitism both locally and nationally. We must continue to come together as a community in remembrance for ourselves and to educate the



Gerda (in front) and Harold (standing with sunglasses) Seifer along with their family.

international partners The Jewish Agency for Israel and American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), we provide services to tens of thousands of Holocaust survivors in Israel and the former Soviet Union. 🕊️

Yom HaShoah Committee

- Ken Schlesinger, Chair
- Rosecarrie Brooks
- Nina Rajander
- Joan Einstein
- Harriette Ellis
- Lee Shoag
- Ariela Laibson
- Scott Newman
- ChayaLeah Sufrin, Long Beach Hillel
- Ally Levine, Long Beach Hillel
- Susan Paletz, Alpert JCC
- Dana Schneider-Chanzit, Alpert JCC
- Sharon Kenigsberg, Jewish Long Beach

Because of This Community

Lynne Kass | Secretary, Jewish Long Beach Board

My Jewish Long Beach story began in December 1996 when I attended a “From The Beginning” Mommy and Me class at the Alpert Jewish Community Center (AJCC) with my oldest daughter, Sara. I was a transplant from Yonkers, New York, where I was raised Catholic (including 12 years of Catholic schooling!). During my college years at Boston University, I met and fell in love with my husband, Jonathan, who is Jewish. Before marrying, we made a decision that we would create a Jewish household for our children, and when that time came, the AJCC was our gateway into the Long Beach Jewish Community.



Prior to taking time off from work to raise our family, I had been the Fund Development Director for the Coastal Cities Unit of the American Cancer Society. That experience led me to jump in “feet first” as a volunteer in this community. Sara and I became part of the Jewish Family & Children’s Service “Friendly Visitor” program. I was asked to join the Business & Professional Women’s Network of the Jewish Federation (now Jewish Long Beach), and I quickly found myself co-chairing the Parent Support Association for the AJCC’s Early Childhood Education Department (ECE). The AJCC and Federation became our second home – while I learned to sing Ha’Motzi, made Purim Parade decorations and picked out Passover Hagaddahs.

I was inspired by the Jewish values of tzedakah and tikkun olam, and by the amazing community leaders with whom I was privileged to work. I felt fortunate to be part of the Federation Family and to have the opportunity to help build, nurture and enrich my new community. But it wasn’t until a very personal experience in March of 2001 that I truly understood the power of this community. I spoke about that experience at the 2002 Visions Event – and thought I would share that story – my Jewish Long Beach story – with you again.

I’d like to take a moment to share a very personal story with you. It began about a year ago when I arrived home with my 2-year-old daughter on a Wednesday in late March to take my mother, who was visiting from New York to the hairdresser. When I walked inside, I didn’t find my mom downstairs waiting to leave, but rather upstairs, in the bathroom, where she had collapsed in the shower from what I thought at the time was a stroke but turned out to be a

*ruptured cerebral aneurysm. In the moments after I found her, I made three phone calls. The first, of course, to 911. The second to my husband, who was working in Laguna Hills and carools to work (so I had no idea how quickly he could return to Long Beach). And the third to the Alpert JCC preschool. When I made that third call, I immediately knew two things. First, that my older daughter who was attending the preschool would be safe and sound for as long as necessary. And second, that a staff member from the preschool was on her way to my home to pick up my two-year-old and make sure that she, too, was safe and secure. Why that kind of help? Because I am a member of **this community**.*

*An hour or two later, I was joined in the emergency room by a friend I’d met – **through this community**. She was on her cell phone in an instant to find out the name of the best neurosurgeon in town. By the next day, there were a group of women, **from this community**,*




Lynne with her mother, Rita Bruederlein.

*who had set up a meal schedule so my family didn’t have to worry about dinner for the next two weeks, and for the next several months there were dozens of families, **in this community**, who offered to help with babysitting so that I could spend time with my mom each day. When it was time to move my mom to a skilled nursing facility, it was Jewish Family & Children’s Service [JFCS], **in this community**, that guided me in where to look and what questions to ask. And as I struggled with the daunting task of getting a power of attorney and handling financial matters, there were professionals, **in this community**, who answered my calls and steered me through a maze I never dreamed I would have to navigate. All I can say is – this is*

an incredible community!

A few years ago, the Federation had a slogan that struck a chord with me. It said “No Gift Touches More Lives.” But what I’ve learned in the past year is that the slogan should say – “Your Gift Touches A Life.” It may be the life of a family, like mine, that needs help through a crisis and receives that help, thanks to services made possible by our community’s Federation campaign. It may be the life of a young child who is able to attend the AJCC preschool, thanks to a scholarship made possible by our community’s Federation campaign. It may be the life of a teen at risk who receives counseling through a JFCS program, made possible by our community’s Federation campaign. It may be the life of a senior who receives a welcoming hug at a Wednesday lunch, the life of a Hillel student who has a place to celebrate Shabbat, the life of an Ethiopian family airlifted to a “new life” in Israel, or the life of an elderly Russian in the former Soviet Union who receives a much-needed food box – all made possible by our community’s Federation campaign.

In the 20 years since that day in March 2001, I’ve never lost my passion for this amazing Jewish community, and I’ve continued to volunteer my time to make sure that those here today, as well as generations to come, will have the opportunity to be part of this very special Jewish Long Beach family. All three of my children are proud graduates of the ECE program at the AJCC, and I can’t express how important the warm, welcoming and inclusive atmosphere of the AJCC was for me – especially as the non-Jewish member of an interfaith family. I was honored to be part of the AJCC Board for 14 years and to serve as its President from 2009-2011. My family also became active members of Temple Israel and it was there that I continued my personal Jewish story – officially converting to Judaism in 2009 and then celebrating my B’nai Mitzvah (with nine other incredible women) in January 2018.

As we begin to emerge into a post-COVID world, I look forward to serving on the Board of Jewish Long Beach and to writing the next chapter in my Jewish Long Beach story. And I invite all of you to join me – as we work to guide our community to a strong and sustainable future, and as we continue to build our legacy as a warm and welcoming Jewish community that helps to nurture and enrich the lives of others – both here in Long Beach and throughout the world. 

Yom Ha’atzmaut – April 15

**Jewish Long Beach salutes
the 73rd anniversary of
Israel’s Independence.**

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Strengthening Our Community

Zachary Benjamin | CEO Jewish Long Beach and Deborah Goldfarb | Interim Director, Alpert Jewish Community Center

Like the Jewish people, Jewish agencies and institutions must continuously adapt to the ever-changing environments in which they operate. The impact on Jewish communities from social, economic, and geopolitical shifts has historically served as a bellwether for how these conditions will effect broader populations. Thus, the Jewishly-rooted organizations that serve us must also be designed to evolve along with our needs, challenges, and opportunities.

Indeed, while the mission of federations and Jewish community centers (JCCs) has always focused on ensuring the continuity of Jewish peoplehood, their character in 2021 has necessarily changed dramatically from their founding in the early-mid 20th century. JCCs were born of the necessity to create social gathering places for Jews in an era during which we were unwelcome at country clubs, health clubs, and other community organizations. Meanwhile, the roots of federations such as Jewish Long Beach lie in the effort to fund the migration of European Jewish refugees escaping pogroms, and later the Holocaust, to British Mandate-era Palestine, the United States, and eventually to the State of Israel.

Today, while Jewish Long Beach and other Jewish federations across North America continue to provide significant support to Israel and overseas Jewish communities, our primary focus is local, ensuring that Jewish life can thrive here in our area, throughout the life cycle, from generation to generation. JCCs have also evolved as American society has become more egalitarian, still providing social opportunities, education, and access to Jewish life for Jews of all ages, but also serving largely as a bridge between the Jewish and broader communities. JCCs offer a Jewishly-rooted physical space in which community members of all cultural backgrounds and faiths are welcome to engage in recreation, education, and socialization, demystifying and normalizing Judaism by exposing the broader

community to Jewish life and culture.

Perhaps most significantly, JCCs and federations have become increasingly symbiotic, with federations not only providing financial support, but also setting the community priorities that, in many cases, drive JCC programming and outreach. In fact, almost one-third of communities around the country that house both a federation and a JCC have chosen to integrate their agencies, creating a single, seamless organization positioned to serve the Jewish and broader communities for generations to come.


In October 2019, members of the Alpert JCC (AJCC) board established the Future Visions Committee, a working group initially comprised of Jewish Long Beach and AJCC lay leaders, and later joined by the organizations' respective chief executives, charged with exploring the possibility of an integration between the two agencies. The committee spoke with board leaders and senior staff from communities

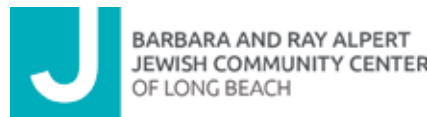
across the country whose federations and JCCs had joined, learning how these integrated organizations have served their communities more effectively and with greater impact than was possible as separate agencies.

In April 2020, the two boards voted to move from an exploratory process to a preparatory one, instructing the Future Visions Committee to create integrated governance and financial models, as well as new mission and vision statements reflecting the agencies' shared goals. This month, after nearly a year-and-a-half of intensive exploration, due diligence, and deliberation, the committee will present its final recommendations to both boards, which are expected to vote on integration at their March meetings.

If integration is approved, it will signal the dawn of an exciting and unprecedented new era for our Jewish community and its agencies. Jewish Long Beach and the AJCC will, for the first time, become uniquely positioned to seamlessly set and adjust community priorities while creating impact-driven programming, education, grant funding, leadership development, and advocacy opportunities designed to advance Jewish life in a manner that is not only deeply effective, but also efficient and sustainable for the long term.

We realize that this news will generate significant questions and curiosity. Should the boards vote to integrate, we will hold a community town hall meeting in April to unveil the integrated structure, mission and vision, and process for carrying out the consolidation of two long-standing agencies with distinct but complimentary identities.

We and our lay leadership are energized by the possibilities that lie ahead, which will undoubtedly bring the Long Beach and West Orange County Jewish and broader communities from strength to strength. 



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YOM HaShoah

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Passover Brings Hope

Rabbi Yitzchok Newman | Head of School, Hebrew Academy Orange County



The history of Passover reminds me of COVID-19. Not because the pandemic has the makings of the ten plagues in Egypt, but rather, because the takeaway from the holiday is an inspirational message, which resonates in our present situation.

My experiences of the pandemic revolve mostly around my daily interactions within my community as Head of School at the

Hebrew Academy. The Academy was forced to close in March, like most other schools, for the rest of the year. We retooled and converted to distance learning with impressive results. At the same time, with the assistance of our remarkable staff, we kept in touch through innovative points of contact with the hundreds of families we serve. But it could not replace live face-to-face interaction. We recognized that families felt isolated and lonely. It was especially true for the children, who normally require a heightened personal level of interaction, who were now hurting and increasingly feeling lonely and depressed.

A meeting a parent requested in order to discuss the difficulty drove home the gravity of the situation. She relayed how, as an officer in a large police department deployed in the school division, she had been observing the gradual deterioration of societal norms of positivity and optimism with young people. "I can't let my own children fall into the same abyss," she said. "You've got to help me keep up my children's spirits and give them the opportunity to interact with others. Your distance learning program is great but it does not cover their main needs of positive interaction with their friends." I recognized that she was actually calling out in desperation. "I will be grateful for whatever you can do," she concluded. I had recognized the situation even before she brought it to light, but this conversation accentuated the need to do something for the hundreds of families in our school who shared her sentiment.

And then I thought about Passover. Passover is always

scheduled to take place in the springtime. In fact the entire Jewish lunar calendar is constructed so that Passover falls in the springtime. While the standard calendar adds a single leap day in February, the Jewish calendar has the entire leap month of Adar almost every three years. The purpose is to regulate the calendar so that Passover always falls during the Spring. Springtime is when the dormant trees and plants suddenly spring to life. It is a time of hope and optimism that despite the darkness and a cold Winter, a better time is arriving soon.

There is no reason to be depressed by the present situation if we have hope of a better future. And, that hope is anchored in faith – faith that the G-d of goodness will ultimately redeem us even in the harshest of times. The first verse of the Haggadah, as a reply to the famous Four Questions states, "We were enslaved in Egypt and G-d redeemed us from that place with powerful strength." And much of the rest of the Haggadah talks about the beauty of the new opportunity we encountered. It sounds familiar that from the pods of Egypt, described as "each person quarantined in their homes" the night of Passover, they were redeemed to forge a new Jewish nation. Moses provided that hopeful message, and today we witness the vibrant effects of that message of hope.

I urged the distraught mom to have faith and keep her hopes high that the school was going to provide positive social contact and lift the spirits of her children. And, we pulled through for her. The school has provided uninterrupted education every day from the beginning of the school year. We have fulfilled our commitment to her children together with hundreds of others who have thrived under the program. As we conduct classes every single day it has been an inspiration to witness the hope and cheer on the students' faces.

There is no doubt that we will get out of this pandemic. And that hope, right now, will join with the actualization of the ultimate hopeful message of Passover when we proclaim, in the last passage in the Haggadah, "Next year in Jerusalem!" Happy Passover to all!



Jewish Music and Memory

Cantor Ken Jaffe | Temple Beth Ohr

As a new member of the clergy team at Temple Beth Ohr (TBO) in La Mirada, I am excited to begin connecting with my new community and to share with them my great love for Judaism and, in particular, Jewish music. A new program I am very enthusiastic about bringing to TBO, and to the larger community, is a Havdalah in Song event, occurring on the third Saturday of each month, focusing on the introduction to our community, the diversity of Jewish musical composers and songwriters right here in Southern California.

For our inaugural event, it was suggested by my colleague, Rabbi Dr. Mark Goldfarb, that I introduce myself to the congregation by presenting a number of melodies I penned just for the synagogue. What was so interesting, was that soon into

our program, our congregants were voicing request after request for beloved Yiddish melodies they grew up hearing during their youth. I happily obliged, even if this wasn't the intended thrust of the program.

This incident only reinforced my belief in the great power music has in grounding us to our faith and heritage. Along with the smells from our grandmothers' kitchens of freshly baked challah, and the warmth of the relationships that shine brightly in our memories, it is the melodies from our past that evoke such strong connections to our Jewish identity. And just like the period movies and television shows that anchor us with a sense of time and place through an old Big Band tune or Rock and Roll hit, once someone hears the familiar strains of the Kol Nidrei, Rock

of Ages, or Dayenu, we too are immediately transported to another time and place from our past. This connection to that unbroken chain of tradition ties us to our ancestors who wandered in the desert millennia ago.

Music has always been one of the most powerful vehicles a people has to transmit its values, knowledge, beliefs, and dreams from one generation to the next. As a Cantor who has served the Jewish community for a quarter century, I have had the privilege to play a role in not only helping to transmit these values to new generations, helping people to forge new memories for themselves, but in building up these relationships between Jews, and between Jews and our God.

This sacred task, to be a faithful transmitter of this great

culture/
religion/
civilization,
continues
to animate

me. It impels me to teach the well-loved old melodies of the past to our youngest children, to connect to our more senior members with the melodies they so much identify with from their youth, yet to also introduce them to fresh and new melodies, as well. It is all-too-often that I feel the burden and duty to uphold the great and deep heritage of Jewish music we have all been bequeathed from generations past, as well as breathing fresh life into our ancient prayers, fulfilling the injunction from Psalm 100 to "Sing to God a new song." I, for one, feel so blessed to be given this burden – and opportunity – to serve those in my community, to



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: 714-892-2623
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: 714-828-1851
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: 562-596-1681
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
1421 Northwood Road
Seal Beach, CA 90740
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

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


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

honor those who have paved the way for me, to teach those who will follow me, and to give honor to the Divine. 

Do Not Separate Yourself From the Community

Sharon Amster Brown | Educator, Temple Israel Long Beach



As we approach the one-year anniversary of the COVID-19 Pandemic, many of us are taking the opportunity to reflect on this past year. What have we accomplished? What, or who, have we lost? What were our priorities? How did our families fare during this unprecedented time?

Last Spring, we were all shocked by the sudden nature of having to cease in-person programs, family gatherings, and holiday celebrations. Propelled by a desire to stay connected, we set up Zoom reunions, Zoom seders, and Zoom education. We drew messages of support on our sidewalks, organized drive-by caravans, and put teddy bears in our windows. At that time, it was impossible to imagine the number of months that we would be separated from one another or the loss that we would feel almost a year later.

And yet, here we are in the Spring of 2021 faced with a continued quarantine of sorts, still preventing us from returning to life as we once knew it. Having somewhat accepted this new normal, it seems that we have settled into a routine and therein, perhaps lost that sense of urgency to maintain connections with one another.

Hillel teaches us in Pirkei Avot, "Do not separate yourself from the community." Over this past year, we have been forced to think about what it means to

not separate one's self from others when we have a legal mandate to do just the opposite. Although there is a hopeful sense of optimism as we look toward the year ahead, we realize that there will still be many months of online programming, a lack of in-person gatherings, and a sense of isolation for many.

As a Jewish community, we are obligated to continue to forge those connections even when at times, it would just be easier to start another TV series or only be in conversation with our closest family and friends. We must seek opportunities to



both reach out to others and accept those invitations or offers when someone reaches out to us. This responsibility is upon all of us, as we help to lift spirits and remind one another that we are a stronger community when we come together even in the smallest of ways.


There are so many ways that we can restore that sense of urgency to connect with one another that we felt last spring. People of all ages, in all stages of life's diverse journey, still need to know that people care about them, miss them, or simply crave a personal outreach. The time is now to take that action. A phone call to someone that you haven't seen in a long time

or a note of encouragement to someone who may be feeling isolated. A short "thinking of you" text or a freshly baked cookies dropped-off at someone's door. Perhaps this is the year that you could send

mishloach manot (small Purim gifts) to those in our community whom you are missing or those that could use a

restored sense of connection. And for those of you who are spending many hours a week attending programs, classes, services, etc. online, you may want to try inviting someone to join you in that virtual space. Just a personal invitation can go a long way.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks taught, "Community is the human expression of Divine love. It is where I am valued simply for who I am, how I live and what I give to others. It is the place where they know my name."

May our renewed commitment to and enthusiasm for that sense of communal connection buoy us up and allow us to emerge with a sense of pride for what we were able to accomplish during this unique time in history. May we eventually look back upon this time that required us to be physically apart but inspired us to become even closer at heart. 



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WE ARE AVAILABLE NOW AS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE!

33rd Annual Race With A View Goes Virtual Again in 2021

Pattie Davidson | JFCS Director of Development & Communications



Due to the continued serious impact of the coronavirus pandemic, JFCS' 33rd Annual Race With A View will once again be a virtual event. "At no time in the 60+ years of JFCS has it been more apparent that our agency's services are essential to our community. Since the onset of COVID-19, JFCS has helped our community deal with stress and other mental health issues, isolation, food insecurity, and issues of domestic violence and personal safety. We served over 1900 people in 2020 and with no end in sight to this public health crisis, we are asking our loyal Race With A View participants and sponsors to support our event and to invite your friends and family to join you," said JFCS Executive Director Kathryn Miles.

Normally held on the first Sunday of May, the event will run the entire month of May. "May is National Mental Health Awareness Month, and since the event is virtual, participants have through May 31 to move with us for mental health awareness. There is more time to spread the message far and wide about the importance of access to professional, affordable counseling and support for everyone in our community," she continued.

Virtual events have become normalized since gatherings with large numbers are discouraged to help tame the spread of COVID-19. For Race With A View, participants will register as usual at racewithaview.com any time before May 31 at 11:59 p.m. On their choice of dates, they can walk, run, roll,

bike, or roller blade as far as they wish, following the route of their choice, whether it is walking from the house to the mailbox or taking a day-long bike ride to Laguna Beach and back. Treadmill and stationary bike sessions count as well. You do not need to be a local resident to support this important cause as participation in Virtual Race With A View can be done anywhere.

"We plan to maintain many of the traditions of



Team Nomad's Dee Abrahamse, Susan Redfield, and Barbara Shoag moving for mental health awareness at Domingues Gap. Their ace photographer: Lee Shoag.

Race With A View, even in a virtual environment. Participants are invited to form teams, and each team member can choose their distance, date of participation, and means of moving for mental health awareness," said Gael Libby, race committee co-chair. Co-chair Raymond Cervantez added, "We will also have some new and user-friendly website features which will allow all participants to upload their finish times and photos to our site." All participants are encouraged to observe current CDC-recommended guidelines around social distancing and the wearing of masks.

Online registration opened February 15. Early Bird registration for individuals is \$30 and ends on April 15. Regular individual registration is \$35 from April 16 – May 31. Students ages 18-22 pay \$20, and teams of 3 or more members pay \$25

whenever they register. The popular Family Plan is back, with children 17 and under free with a paying adult. Register online at racewithaview.com. or call 562.427.7916 for more information.

All participants of 2021 Virtual Race With A View are fulfilling their first step in earning a Long Beach Trifecta Series for Good medal. Participation in two additional month-long virtual events—USVETS – Long Beach "Storm the Beach" in June and Meals on Wheels of Long Beach Run/Walk/Roll in July—means that you will receive a unique Long



JFCS Clinician Monica Mittal and her family take a break from their walk in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Beach Trifecta commemorative medal. For more information, visit the website at lbtrifecta.org.



Maren Separa never misses Race With A View, and Rock the Vets' Katherine McIlquham joined her last year. Here is their victory pose.



The Dressner-Davis family selfie put the Virtual Race With A View in the Long Beach Press Telegram.



COVID Challenges: Engaged Students Produce Happy Scholars During Pandemic

Ilene Schneider | Hebrew Academy Orange County

As COVID-19 shut down California schools in Spring 2020, the Hebrew Academy in Huntington Beach utilized a data-driven curriculum that enabled remote classes with mechanisms for instruction and feedback. When the state allowed for on-campus learning in September, the award-winning Jewish day school continued the distance-learning option for families who preferred it while offering a comprehensive COVID-19 prevention plan. This plan includes on-site classes while meeting all of the criteria for facial coverings, physical distancing, screening, and sanitation.

The Hebrew Academy asked its teachers for input as the school prepared to “create a new vision for getting back to normal while meeting state guidelines,” said Rabbi Yitzchok Newman, Head of School. He emphasized that the school strives for “happy scholars.”

Principal Dr. Bryn Harari added, “Continuity has mitigated the impact of this blip in time [glitch in our normal practices]. “Staying within the structure, being in the classroom community, and getting back into the routine is important, but challenging, in these unprecedented times. Using the proper tools, we were able to do it.”


Seamlessly, the Hebrew Academy began to offer on-site instruction and distance learning synchronously, thanks to data-driven technology. While students at the Hebrew Academy were warmly

welcomed back on campus for a full in-person program, students at home were engaged and made to feel as if they were part of the action. The school redesigned the campus for non-contact sports and added physical equipment while providing support specialists to help teachers to cope with an increased workload and their child care needs. At the beginning of each school day, an itinerant teacher calls parents and students learning from home to make sure that the families have access to the technology and materials, know what the assignments are, and get the additional tutoring or instruction they need.

Before the pandemic, the Hebrew Academy had been using online data to put the curriculum online. This enabled distance learning when needed, and how teachers can use multiple screens and monitors to teach concurrent classes on a daily basis. Meanwhile, parents and students can retrieve learning materials, students can take tests remotely or in-person, and teachers can view the pupil’s work from any location. Using this data-driven curriculum allows for an uninterrupted learning and evaluation process. In addition, parents have access to open communication to stay in the loop.

Equally important to the Hebrew Academy’s learning process is the concept of social-emotional learning, which takes the whole child into account, thus allowing the emotional needs of the entire community to be taken into account. Rabbi Newman

shared, “social-emotional learning is a big part of how the challenges of this pandemic have been mitigated. The network of support that has been created helps overcome the interruptions and has enabled the school to persevere through difficult times. Students in the classroom, or in their homes, can still interact with teachers, socialize with other students and perform mitzvot.”

While some students have suffered from the effects of the pandemic, most of them have endured and continued without issues or have returned to their levels of learning and participation before the shutdown. Most students have progressed with no loss of momentum. The school’s enrollment has increased as well because families “have seen that we deliver excellent education and meaningful community experiences under any circumstances,” Rabbi Newman said. 

Grants from Jewish Long Beach and the Jewish Community Foundation of Orange County have helped defray some of the costs of retrofitting the school to cope with COVID-19. Jewish Long Beach has also provided a grant that enables Jewish Family & Children’s Service of Long Beach and West Orange County to send counselors to work with Hebrew Academy students assisting them with their social-emotional well-being.



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Scaling Small for Deep Impact

Rabbi Benjamin Berger | Hillel International Vice President for Jewish Education

This piece is an excerpt from an article that originally appeared in eJewish Philanthropy on January 6, 2021.

While it will take a multi-pronged response to this mental health crisis amongst college age students, Hillel, from day one, and long before, has been deeply concerned with and attending to the emotional and spiritual needs of their generation. Over this period, we've come to an evolving understanding of the type of response that will be most effective. We understand that despite the distance we can create communities of friends learning together with an effective educator. To address this need Hillel has expanded its investment in small group learning through our popular program the Jewish Learning Fellowship (JLF).

Building on the strength of that model, over the course of the month of January we'll be running Hillel Winterfest, a global initiative that will

feel very local. This initiative evolved out of the growing sense that the need is to scale small rather than large. Hillel Winterfest, which has been launched through the support of the Jewish Community Impact and Response Fund will seed nearly 170 small campus-based groups in seven countries for a few weeks of deep and meaningful cohort based Jewish learning.

To move from a model of meeting many students with a large one size fits all type experience, we've built this out so local campuses will be responsible for building their own cohorts where they can provide for long term connections. But we've provided the resources to do so on a large scale. We've re-mixed several curricula that speak to the types of questions, concerns, and interests that college students have. We've developed a centralized platform for campuses and students to register. And we've curated intentional learning kits that will be sent to all


participants, meant to send a message of care and continued connection.

Why turn to Jewish learning in groups at a time like this? It always comes back to Hillel. In this case, Hillel the Elder, whose origin story informs moments like this one. The well told story of Hillel being brought in from the cold, snowy roof to be thawed by the hearth of the Beit Midrash within speaks to the ways the rabbis imagined that Torah could warm the mind, the soul, and the body. The Beit Midrash, the place where learning happens, has always been understood as a place that conveys warmth. With Hillel Winterfest, we can create cozy environments of learning that also bring light to a cold and dark time. While the moment doesn't allow students to be together in the ways they need and we wish, we recognize that there are still ways to break through the isolation.

While seeking to reach a

large scale, we understand instinctively that meaning making mostly happens in small groups. The model we have is *minyan* – a gathering of 10 with a distinctive purpose. The mishna in Avot teaches us that when ten sit together and occupy themselves with Torah, God's divine presence dwells amongst them. At this moment, students need to be held in a space where they feel the care of mentor-educators, peers facing the same anxieties they are, and that feeling of the loving presence of the divine that comes from purposeful gathering. That mishna brings its proof from the Psalms which says "God stands in the spaces where people are witnessing God's presence." Being seen, and witnessed for who they are, their dreams, fears, and desires is what moves people to connection. Gen Z'ers are looking to be seen by each other, by society for who they are, who they strive to be, and what they can give to the

world. We know that happens in spaces like those we're creating through Winterfest.

Winterfest seeks to find the middle ground between highly compelling content, but led by local educators in a way that engages people in the ways they need right now. We're simultaneously scaling small – with the goal of creating many small opportunities for learning while reaching high, trying to reach a large audience that is seeking these types of points of connection. Gen Z'ers are asking us for these types of deep connection points and our responsibility is to see them in this moment and address their urgent needs as growing, aspiring adults. Like the Beit Midrash that Hillel is invited into, we hope the invitation into a community of Torah and the warmth of friends and educators, brings meaning and uplift to them throughout the long winter ahead. 

Bob Baldwin Memorial Fund

Grants Available for Students and Young Adults for Travel and Study Programs in Israel



Who May Apply:

- Teens (ages 13 – 19) who wish to go on a mission/trip to Israel sponsored by an approved 501 (c)3.
- Young adults (20 – 30) for volunteer/graduate programs in Israel sponsored by approved organizations.

Requests not to exceed \$1,000. Grant checks are issued directly to the sponsoring organization.

For further information or a grant application, contact Sharon Kenigsberg at 562.426.7601 ext 1008, or by email sharonk@jewishlongbeach.org.

So Much to Choose From – Connect With Your Community Today!

Beth David

Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 10:30 am

Tot Shabbat Passover – An engaging service for the little ones. templebethdavid.org/worship/live-stream/

Thursday, March 18 at 7:30 pm

Virtual Women's Seder – Grab and Go Boxes of Seder plate foods and desserts available for \$10, pickup on Wednesday March 17, between 5:00 and 6:00 pm, or between 10:00 and 12 noon on Thursday, 3/18. Participation is free without the Seder food. Email sisterhood@templebethdavid.org to register.

Sunday, March 21, 2021 at 11:00 am

Holocaust Remembrance Day: The Jews in Shanghai. Sponsored by Brotherhood and Adult Education. Register at www.templebethdavid.org Free admission.

Friday, March 26, 2021 at 7:30 pm

Refugee Shabbat – Chris Olsen, director of Public Policy and External Affairs, JFS of San Diego, will speak to the current refugee and asylum seeker situation at the border.

Sunday, March 28, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Virtual Second Night Passover Seder with Rabbi Myers, Cantor Linder and the virtual choir. templebethdavid.org/worship/live-stream/

Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Holocaust commemoration with survivor Stella Ungar. Stella will share her story of her life in Germany as the Nazis began their persecution of the Jews.

Saturday, April 24, 2021 at 9:00 am

Body, Mind, and Spirit Shabbat 

Temple Israel

Friday, March 26 and Friday, April 23 at 6:00 pm

Join Temple Israel clergy, in partnership with Jewish Family and Children's Service, for a new monthly Healing Service. These deeply spiritual experiences will include meditation, prayer, and music. They are designed to build a community of healing; to bring well-being and wholeness to those facing challenges, and offer others the opportunity to help those in need feel supported.

Service Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87165332931> 

Congregation Shir Chadash

Fridays at 7:00 pm

Join us for Shabbat services with a theme: Meditation Shabbat, Kol Shira (a musical) Shabbat, Shabbat with a Drash, and Contemporary Writings Shabbat.

Saturday Shabbat Services at 10:30 am.

Wednesdays at 1:30 pm

Torah Text Studies with Rabbi Gindlin.

Sunday, March 28 at 10 am and Sunday, April 4 at 10 am Pesach services

Contact for Zoom info: Carol Klein, 562.429.0715 or email csclakewood@dslextrême.com. 

National Council of Jewish Women of Greater Long Beach and West Orange County

NCJW's Linda Calderón Memorial Scholarship Fund is now accepting applications for 2021 scholarships. The application form can be accessed at www.ncjwlongbeach.org/scholarship.

A student is eligible based on satisfaction of all three of the following criteria:

1. The applicant is a Jewish student who has already completed a minimum of 12 undergraduate units or 8 graduate units at an accredited college, university or trade school.

2. The student's permanent residence is in greater Long Beach or West Orange County. (If in doubt, inquire about specific location.)

3. Completed application, personal statement and necessary recommendations must be received by May 1, 2021. Word format preferred, via email to info@ncjwlongbeach.org or in one envelope to: NCJW Scholarship Committee, 6216 E. Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach, CA 90803.

Selection of recipients will be based on financial need, academic standing, Jewish involvement, personal motivation and past achievements. Awards are dependent on the number of qualified submissions as well as the organization's annual fundraising for this purpose. Recipients will be notified by June 1, 2021. Previous scholarship recipients are not eligible for additional awards.

Virtual Events for March and April

Sunday, March 7, 2021 at 3:00 pm

HIAS Refugee Shabbat panel – *Welcoming The Stranger 2021: Time for a New Start*.

2nd Thursday: March 11 at 4:00 pm

Virtual Game Day.

3rd Thursday: March 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Zoom informal discussion group – Status of the ERA in the current administration; what did you do in the 1970s about the ERA issue?

4th Thursday: March 25, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Movie Discussion – *Suffragettes* (watch on Amazon at your leisure and discuss on Thursday night).

Sunday, March 21, 2021 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm


Homelessness 411: Resources and Opportunities in Greater Long Beach and Orange County. A community event on the topic of housing/homelessness co-sponsored by NCJW and League of Women Voters Long Beach Area. Speakers include representatives from the United Way of Long Beach and Orange County, providers of affordable housing and community services.

Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 12:00 pm

Virtual tour of the 19th Amendment exhibit honoring Women's Right to Vote at the Constitution Center in collaboration with Beth David Sisterhood. Send a check for \$10 per person, payable to *Beth David Sisterhood* to: 6100 Hefley St., Westminster, CA 92683. Register at <https://bit.ly/3tgZ3Gh>

Sunday, April 25, 2021 from 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Recognizing Members for our NCJW 75th Anniversary: Activism is All In The Family with Sylvia Manheim and Family.


For more information and to register for our free events: info@ncjwlongbeach.org or call 657.235.2511. 

Hadassah Southern California Long Beach/Orange County with the Sharon Carmel Group

Sunday, April 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Entebbe: The Rescue that Stunned the World featuring Sassy Reuven, Elite Commander, Israeli Special Forces. A veteran of the Israel Defense Forces elite paratrooper brigade, Commander Reuven participated in the famed operation, Entebbe, a counter-terrorist mission considered by many to be the greatest hostage rescue in history. Forty-three years later Reuven's story is still Israel's story – one of courage, perseverance, survival and resilience. Cost is \$25 for members and \$30 non-members.



Register online: hadassah.org/events/entebberescue2021. Zoom link will be sent out prior to the event. Contact lbochsc@hadassah.org 562.430.5055 for further info. 

Orange County Jewish Genealogy Society

Sunday, March 21, 2021 at 10:00 am

Todd Knowles: What's New at FamilySearch? Anyone who has researched their genealogy eventually found themselves ordering microfiche and microfilms from the "Mormon Library" in Salt Lake City. Today, the Church provides all of their genealogical records and tools for free at FamilySearch.org. Todd currently serves as a Deputy Chief Genealogical Officer at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.




Register for this Zoom meeting at www.ocjgs.org. Free for members and \$5 for non members.

Sunday, April 25, 2021 at 10:00 am

Ellen Kowitz: Strategies for Ukraine Research 2021. Online access to collections for researching Ukraine continues to grow at an astonishing rate due to efforts by Alex Krakovsky, FamilySearch, Ukraine National Archives, and others. This lecture explores challenges in language, developing a research plan, and an overview of current available sources.



Register for this Zoom meeting at www.ocjgs.org. Free for members and \$5 for non members. 

Bat Mitzvah - Michelle Alpern



Michelle Alpern is a musical theater-loving 8th grader at Stanford Middle School who lights up any room she enters. She has been studying for her Bat Mitzvah for more than a year, and has been a part of Temple Israel's Torah School since 3rd grade. She previously attended Hebrew School at Temple Beth Shalom. Michelle's Mitzvah Project was working with Long Beach Animal Care Services where she dedicated many volunteer hours during 2019 and 2020 (pre-COVID) to be with the homeless and lonely animals that were residing there. Michelle celebrated her COVID-delayed Bat Mitzvah on December 12, 2020, via video conferencing. 

Virtual Arlene Solomon Visions Event Coming to a Screen Near You – April 29, 2021

Linda Waltzman | Chair, Women’s Philanthropy, Jewish Long Beach



A full year has passed since we last hugged, laughed, and recognized our special honorees at the 2020 Arlene Solomon Visions dinner. I can still conjure up the excitement and energy of that event. Ours was one of the last local, in-person events before the

pandemic shut down our world.

This year will be different, as is true with many things that we previously took for granted. As much as our entire community of Jewish women has looked forward to this annual celebration, Jewish Long Beach Women’s Philanthropy Cabinet has vowed to persevere with an exciting new approach and to do our utmost to keep the Visions tradition alive. This year’s virtual event will take place on Thursday, April 29 at 6:30 pm.

There will be no admission charge this year. There will, however, be the opportunity for each of you to make your pledge to Jewish Long Beach for 2021. Through your yearly pledge you support Jewish life and those in need, locally, in Israel and around the globe through impact grants.

In 2020, a year that created urgent and unprecedented needs throughout our Jewish community, your investment fueled:

- Nearly \$500,000 in Impact Grants to Jewish agencies, congregations, and organizations for collaborative programs enhancing Jewish education, engagement, and expansion of access to Jewish life.
- More than \$75,000 in COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grants, providing food, medication, and basic supplies to isolated seniors and the unemployed; remote learning tools and technologies for Jewish educational institutions; counseling services for Jewish high school and college students through Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Long Beach and West Orange County; programming for Jewish college students through Long Beach Hillel; lunches for frontline medical workers; food aid for needy Jews in India, and more.

In 2021, we count on you to continue your investment. The amount you pledge does not need to be paid all at once. You can pay in installments throughout the year via check or credit card. We encourage donors to think in terms of what they can contribute each month.

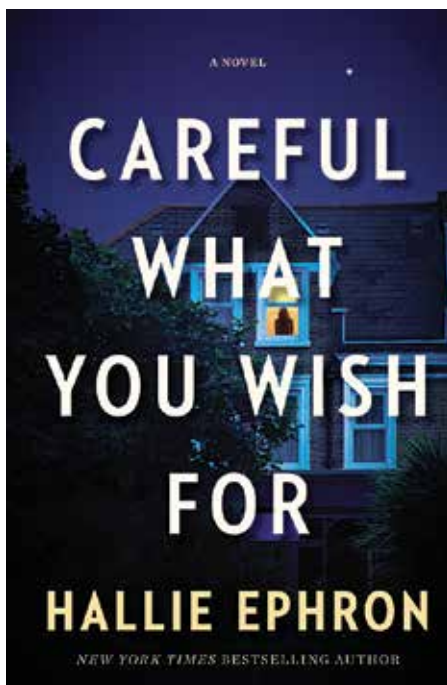
Watch your email for more details on how to register and receive your link. You can also visit jewishlongbeach.org/visions2021 for more details.

Guest Speaker Hallie Ephron

We are most thrilled to announce that the guest speaker will be New York Times bestselling author Hallie Ephron. Hallie is an Edgar Award finalist and five-time finalist for the Mary Higgins Clark Award and writes books that readers just can’t put down.

Shari Nemirow, Jewish Long Beach Board member and former National Women’s Philanthropy Board member, heard Hallie speak in October at a joint conference of the National Women’s Philanthropy and the Jewish Book Council, and was impressed with her presentation.

“Hallie Ephron was the first author to participate in the Zoom conversation. She spoke about her family and her life growing up, as well as how she came to write her newest suspense novel, “Careful What You Wish For.” This book is an easy read with a delightful story.



I thoroughly enjoyed her presentation last October and I’m looking forward to her conversation with us at our Visions event.”

With its echoes of Marie Kondo’s life-changing decluttering tips, Ephron explores the relationships built by professional

organizers and their clients – showing just how easily the lines between professional and personal can be blurred. The main character, Emily Harlow, is a professional organizer who helps people declutter their lives, yet she is married to a man who can’t drive past a yard sale without stopping. Sometimes she finds herself wondering if he sparks joy.

In a review, Publisher’s Weekly called it “outstanding.” Reviewing it for TIME magazine, Jamie Lee Curtis wrote, “Careful What You Wish For” is not scary—it’s thrilling and suspenseful . . . And I found a compelling companion to Emily, a modern-day

grown-up Nancy Drew in a s***y car and a ponytail, as she searches for her own purpose while hunting down the perpetrator of the emerging crime. She is a friend we would all want to keep – messes included.”

The author of 16 books, Hallie was born in Los Angeles to a family of writers (her parents were Hollywood screenwriters Phoebe and Henry Ephron, along with her sisters, Nora and Delia) and currently lives near Boston. She blogs daily on Jungle Red Writers (www.jungleredwriters.com), and offers writing workshops.



Photograph by J.S. Touger

Author and Visions guest speaker, Hallie Ephron

Women Make a Difference

The Arlene Solomon Visions event, organized by Jewish Long Beach Women’s Philanthropy Cabinet, draws women from across our community. Our accomplishments, as noted in the beginning of this article, illustrate the power of women to make a difference.



Arlene Solomon of blessed memory

Each year, the collective gifts given by the women in our community – including those given at this event – account for more than half the total dollars raised in support of our community’s needs. For many years, Arlene Solomon, of blessed memory, was an integral part of Women’s Philanthropy. She recognized the importance of having women of all ages around the table and was inspired to endow this yearly event.

The Arlene Solomon Visions Dinner is always an inspiring and uplifting time to gather with hundreds of women in our community who are committed to the shared values of tzedakah and tikkun olam. And so it shall be this year, as well. We shall do our very best to welcome and inspire everyone who joins us on April 29. We are *Lighting the Way Forward* with our strength and dedication shining through. I look forward to “seeing” you soon.

For more information please call Yolanda Placencio at 562.426.7601 ext. 1314 or by email at yplacencio@jewishlongbeach.org



Thank you to all who have subscribed to the Chronicle for 2021!

If you have yet to do so, now is your chance.

By subscribing to the CHRONICLE you support our efforts to bring you the latest community news. You can subscribe two ways.

- 1 On our website: <https://jewishlongbeach.org/jewish-community-chronicle>
- 2 Call 562.426.7601 ext. 1314

Why You Should Leave Egypt Today!

Rabbi Shmuel Marcus | Director of Chabad of Los Alamitos and founder of the Hebrew High of Orange County

You can't celebrate Passover without talking a whole lot about a country in the Middle East famous for pyramids and mummies. It's not that Jews are fascinated with history or geography, but it is actually very relevant and helpful in dealing with our own personal spiritual issues.

Egypt is both a place on the map and, of course, a symbol for a terrible psychological condition called Mitzrayim (the Hebrew word for Egypt). As we approach Passover, it's the perfect time to review this condition and remind ourselves why we don't want to be there anymore.

Chabad philosophy, known as Chabad Chasidut, is a philosophy based on the deeper dimension of Torah. Its Chasidic commentary seeks to illuminate the "soul" of every aspect and tradition of your Judaism. By shedding new light on basic words like "Egypt" and "Exodus" the Chasidic teachings


compel us to experience Passover in a profound and practical way.

The Hebrew word for Egypt and the Hebrew word for limitation are very similar. As I've mentioned the word for Egypt is Mitzrayim, sharing the same consonants as the word meitzarim—boundaries or limitations. This is by no means coincidental. Mitzrayim is not just a geographical region; it is also an idea. Mitzrayim represents any boundary that limits our ability to be our real selves and reach our true potential. Each day, as we strive to break free of our own limitations, we relive the Exodus from Egypt.

"Leaving Egypt" in this context means to break free of our natural tendencies and throw ourselves wholeheartedly into doing the right thing, whether or not it comes easy to us.

How do we do this? What's the remedy for

someone who is stuck is a self-imposed Egypt? The answer is matzah. The flat, tasteless cracker, that represents humility. It will take a few doses of this food of faith on the night of the Passover Seder to connect us to our purest self. The matzah awakens the Divine spark within each of us that cannot be imprisoned by Pharaoh or our bad habits, we can be free to serve our G-d.

So, this year, as we sit down to the Seder of 2021, let's think about what is holding us back, what limitations have we imposed on our Jewishness? What imaginary boundary is holding us back from reaching out in love to our neighbors? And then, recite the blessing on the matzah, which allows the food of faith to work its magic, and just like that, we are free to make that call, to sign up for that class, and to forgive that aunt who hasn't called you since this pandemic started. 



STREAMING SERVICES

You can watch our services from the comfort of your home on our streaming channel.

The live streaming of services is partially funded by a grant from Jewish Long Beach.



ZOOM EVENTS

✧ Weekly Havdalah service & Social Hour Saturday nights after Shabbat. ✧

✧ A Masterpiece in Context: Michelangelo's David presented by ✧
Jeremy Glatstein, PhD—March 14, 2021 at 11:00 AM

✧ Passover Learning Session on Zoom with ✧
Rabbi David Cantor—Mar 21, 2021 at 10:00 AM

**THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO CONNECT
WITH TEMPLE BETH SHALOM**

For more information about our services and programming and for the livestream and zoom links, please visit us at tbslb.org or call (562) 426-6413.



3635 Elm Avenue—Long Beach, CA 90807

*Wishing You
and Your Family
a Happy Passover*



BARBARA AND RAY ALPERT
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
OF LONG BEACH

Board and Staff

*Wishing You and
Your Family
a Happy Passover*

**Jeffrey, Lauren,
Ellie, Joshua,
and Jacob Rips**

*A Happy
& Healthy
Pesach*

**Mathieu Family
Susan, Pam,
Joseph, Terri,
Daniel &
Nicole**

*Wishing You and
Your Family
a Happy Passover*

Shirley Ross

*Wishing You
and Your Family
a Happy Passover*

**Marc, Sybil, Rachael,
David, Deborah, and
Lillian Tamaroff**

*Wishing You
and Your
Family a Happy
Passover*

**Jan & Norma
Stein**

A Happy Passover!
Jonathan Falk & Family

Chag Pesach Sameach
Temple Beth Ohr of La Mirada

*Happy
Passover!*

Chag Pesach Sameach
Bob & Sandy Rips

*Wishing You and Your
Family a Happy Passover*
Cecelia & Danny Danziger

**Yolanda &
Victor
Placencio**



*Happy
Passover*

**Barbara,
Mark & Keith
Wolfe**

*Wishing You
and Your Family
a Meaningful,
Healthy and Happy
Pesach*

**Rosecarrie & Alan
Brooks**

*Chag
Pesach
Kasher
V'sameach
A Happy,
Safe and
Healthy
Passover*

**Lauren,
Aaron,
Jakob,
Nathan
and Stuart
Friedman**

*Wishing You and Your
Family Joy for a
Happy and Healthy
Passover*

**Laurie & Robert
Raykoff**

*Chag Pesach
Sameach*

**Daryl & Sandy Phillips
Sara, Rich, Max, Isla Brown
Jamie, Joshua, Thea
Holzman**

Chag Pesach Sameach
Carol Klein & Family

Happy Passover!
Susan & Mark Paletz

*Chag Pesach
Sameach*

**The
Kenigsberg
Family**

Happy Passover!
Aaron & Leslie Kern

*Wishing You and Your
Family a Happy Passover*
**David & Sadie Sacks
& Family**

Happy Passover!
Linda Waltzman



We Wish You and Yours a Safe and Happy Passover!

NCJW

Greater Long Beach & West Orange County

Wishing You and Your Family a Happy Passover

Jann Kronick-Gath & Chance Gath

In Memory of Bobby Kronick

Wishing One and All a Chag Pesach Sameach!

Zach, Taina & Zoe Benjamin

Wishes for a Happy Passover and a Peaceful Year

Lee and Barbara Shoag

From Our Family to Your Family, Wishing You a Happy Passover

Don & Andrea Kaiser

Wishing You and Your Family a Happy Passover

Steve, Michelle, Jeff, Rachel & Jessa Gordon

*Chag Pesach Sameach
Wishing Our Jewish Community, Here, in Israel and Around the World, a Joyful, Peaceful and Healthy Passover*

From the Board, Leadership, and Staff of Jewish Long Beach

Happy Passover!

**The Zavatsky Family
Jenny & Marvin**




FROM JEWISH LONG BEACH BOARD, LEADERSHIP & STAFF
IN MEMORY OF

Beloved Mothers
Lisa & Steve Chatterl

IN MEMORY OF

- Carol Cooperman
Beloved Mother
to Kay Cooperman Jue

IN MEMORY OF

- Edward Karabenick
Beloved Husband
to Florine Karabenick

IN MEMORY OF

- Renee Dorfman
Beloved Mother
to Edie Mino

MAZEL TOV

- Connor Levi Shenhav
On the birth of your Grandson
to Margaret Locke & Bill Giser

MAZEL TOV

- Elias Jackson Talvy
On the birth of your Grandson
to Cindy & Jonathan Gotz

IN MEMORY OF

- Harold Fine
Beloved Father & Father-in-law
to Steven & Marla Fine

MAZEL TOV

- Lily Kaufman
On the birth of your Granddaughter
to Dr. Bryna Kane & Mr. Jerry Kaufman

IN MEMORY OF

- Sandra Paskus
Beloved Mother
to Eileen Mignella

IN MEMORY OF

- Barbara Roberts
Beloved Aunt
to Alexis Rabenn

IN MEMORY OF

- Barbara Roberts
Beloved Great Aunt
to Jessica Rabenn Roberts

*Jewish Long Beach tributes:
562.426.7601 ext. 1314*


FROM JEWISH LONG BEACH BOARD, LEADERSHIP & STAFF
IN MEMORY OF

Beloved Father
to Leslie Smith

IN MEMORY OF

- David Ruimy
Beloved Son-in-law
to Jessie Butler

IN MEMORY OF

- Judy Namak
Beloved Mother & Mother-in-law
to Dana & Harvey Harmatz

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to Miriam Carr

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to Harriette Ellis

GET WELL

to Dr. Leslie Kern

GENERAL FUND
IN MEMORY OF

- David Ruimy
Beloved Son-in-law
to Jessie Butler
From Linda & Sanford Simmons

ISRAEL RELIEF FUND
IN MEMORY OF

- Linda Barbour
Beloved Sister
to Harriet Danufsky
From Netta Roberts

LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD
IN HONOR OF

- Sharon Kenigsberg
From Doug Blakey

BIRDIE'S KIDS CAMPSHIP FUND
IN MEMORY OF

- Victor Cohn
Beloved Husband
to Susan Cohn & family
From IBM Ring 96

IN MEMORY OF

- Victor Cohn
Beloved Husband
to Susan Cohn & family
From Juha Saukkonen


THANK YOU! CHRONICLE SUBSCRIBERS

Nancy Alterman
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Paula & Dr. Lawrence Blum
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Arlene & Wally Spatz
Diane & Howard Speilman
Diane & Bruce Switzky
Basil Tokar
Stella Ungar
Dr. Arthur Ungerleider
Barbara Wolfe
Jenny & Marvin Zavatsky


SENIOR ADULT MEAL DELIVERY PROGRAM
IN MEMORY OF

- David Ruimy
Beloved Son-in-law of Jessie Butler
From
Jessie Butler
Diane & Bruce Switzky
Paula & Larry Blum

IN MEMORY OF

- Judy Namak
to Dana Harmatz & family
From Paula & Larry Blum

Mel Marcus & Eric Shatzkin
Susan Paletz
Maria Giegerich
Marshall Martell
Miriam Mashadi
Marcia Harris
Joyce & Hank Feldman
Iris Faulkner
Shlomit Jackson
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Lauren & Jeffrey Rips
Sydelle Pomi
Sharon & Rod Brodsky
Lisa & Howard Brass
Doreen & Irv Shuldiner
National Council of Jewish Women
Virginia Devine-Melville

*For AJCC tributes please call:
562.400.7545*


GENERAL FUND
IN MEMORY OF

- Jay Leff
Beloved Father
to Karin Polacheck
From Ronni & Bob Kaplan

IN MEMORY OF

- Derek Sidley
Beloved Father
to Jonathan Sidley
From Heather Newman

IN MEMORY OF

- David Ruimy
Beloved Son-in-law
to Jessie Butler
From Binnie & Jack Berro & family

IN MEMORY OF

- David Ruimy
Beloved Son-in-law
to Jessie Butler
From Myrna & Leonard Simon

IN MEMORY OF

- Howard Gilman
Beloved Husband
to Erica Gilman
From Myrna & Leonard Simon

IN HONOR OF

- Dan Lasker
From Ashley Model

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Kathy Walsh
From Curtis Gibbs

MARCIE BALAN BLAKEY FUND
IN MEMORY OF

- Ed Karabenick
Beloved Husband
to Florine Karabenick
From Renee Simon

IN MEMORY OF

- Bob & Jean Blakey & Marcie Balan Blakey
Beloved family members
to Doug Blakey, Charles Blakey & Bruce Balan
From Marie & Paul Brindze

For JFCS tributes call: 562.427.7916.

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE A BLESSING


Burrell Ross
Edward Karabenick
Renee Dorfman
Harold Fine
Sylvia Koretz

Judy Namak
Sandra Paskus
Cynthia Telem-Silvers
David Ruimy
Barbara Roberts

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

TEMPLE ISRAEL LONG BEACH

PROVIDING SAFE AND MEANINGFUL REFORM JEWISH SERVICES, EDUCATION
AND PROGRAMMING DURING THESE CHALLENGING TIMES

TILB LIVE

Temple Israel's
Online Congregation



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**WE ARE PHYSICAL DISTANCING...
NOT SOCIAL DISTANCING!**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN OUR
ONLINE "VIRTUAL" COMMUNITY**

Temple Israel understands the value of maintaining community during these challenging times. We are currently offering programming for all ages, including Shabbat and holiday services, online adult education classes, religious school, and family and tot programming.

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!

"We strive for Temple Israel to be like Abraham's tent, open on all sides, welcoming to all. In keeping with that philosophy, everyone who wishes to be a supporting member of our community is welcome, regardless of the amount they are able to contribute." Temple Israel Board of Directors



TOT SHABBAT
WITH RABBI FOX & CANTOR HASS
Fridays at 5:15 pm
March 19 and April 16

Tot Shabbat is a fun, informal, child-centered Shabbat Service, designed especially for children, ages newborn to early elementary school age and their loved ones. Through songs, prayers, stories, and Torah time, children love this Service.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87165332931>



PASSOVER UNIVERSITY
Tuesday and Thursday
March 16 and 18 at 7:00 pm

Looking for new ideas, new recipes, or new inspiration for Passover this year? Join us for this unique opportunity to get ready for the Festival of Freedom. Each evening will offer multiple workshops that will be taught concurrently with a time to socialize in between the sessions.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81677633443>



PASSOVER
FESTIVAL SERVICES

Sunday, March 28
and
Saturday, April 3
Yizkor will be observed

10:30 am

<https://zoom.us/j/987542891>



WE ARE A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE REFORM CONGREGATION INSPIRING JEWISH LIFE IN LONG BEACH FOR OVER 97 YEARS!

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