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BETH SHIR SHALOM

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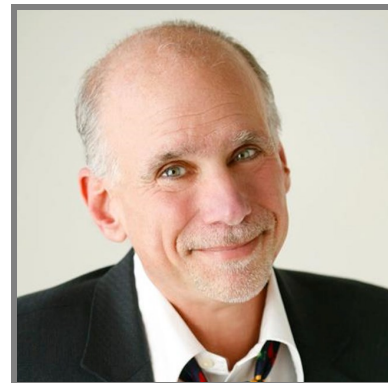
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Brennan Schulweis

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Dear Friends,

I was late in writing this column this month (apologies to our Executive Director, Cynthia Barzilai!) and, unfortunately, it gives me an opportunity to comment on the latest anti-Semitic attack in this country. I was once told by a history professor of mine, Dr. Leonard Kravitz of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, that anti-Semitism in the Western world will always ebb and flow, it will never disappear. In part, this is uncomfortably due to the echoes of ancient tropes in the New Testament that, when read without appropriate commentary and historical context, still damage the image of Jews among some Christians. It was this attitude upon which Hitler capitalized when he conceived of the genocide of the Final Solution. He didn't invent anything new. He gave it a name, a structure and technology.



On the other hand, there are no Christians in my circle of friends and colleagues who adhere to such dark divisiveness. In fact, they are some of the kindest, most universally oriented people I know, literally walking, talking and doing, as they understand Jesus did. I walk beside them in the same protest lines, sing the same songs of love and hope and have the same vision of justice as they do.

In light of the presence in the world of these wonderful people, and I certainly include with them my friends and community leaders from the many other faiths and spiritualities that I have been blessed to know, we must guard our response to anti-Semitic attacks. Besides the fact that we now, sadly, share the target realm with Muslims, Sikhs and many others, we must not let the actions and attitudes of what is still a small minority provoke disabling and isolating fear.

Anti-Semites, like all bigots and the despots they admire and follow, want us to retreat into tribalism. As New York Times columnist, David Brooks, writes in his work "The Second Mountain": "The world is in the midst of one of those transition moments. The individualistic moral ecology is crumbling around us. It has left people naked and alone. For many, the first instinctive reaction is the evolutionary one: Revert to tribe. If we as a society respond to the excesses of "I'm Free to Be Myself" with an era of "Revert to Tribe," then the twenty-first century will be a time of conflict and violence that will make the twentieth look like child's play."

We must resist the urge to retreat and instead be bold and walk forward, hand in hand with our friends from many spiritualities, and build a future worthy for our descendants to inherit.

Rabbi Neil Comess-Daniels

A Message From Our Board Of Directors — Written by Candyce Kornblum

First, a heartfelt thank you to all those who attended and all those who made possible our marvelous Chanukah celebration. Seeing so many chanukiahs alight was indeed a beautiful picture. Topping off the evening was our Coffeehouse Shabbat. For those who have never attended one, this is an intimate service with both music and food. What could be better? We were especially fortunate that evening, as we were able to welcome back Rebecca Itow and her beautiful singing, if only for one-night.

The next months promise to be unlike any others Beth Shir Shalom has experienced. It will be a time of introspection as a congregation. Our work will be to create a pathway to the future, always preserving the special place formed by Rabbi Neil and the entire Comess-Daniels family. At the same time, it will be a joyful time during which we will be able to celebrate Rabbi Neil's place in our communal heart.

We begin this work in the next two months. Be on the lookout for an invitation to the first of our Congregational Conversations. As members of Beth Shir Shalom, you will have lots of opportunities to reflect on our past and help us create ourselves anew. It is our desire to have as many people as our rooms can hold participate in this process. The Steering Committee welcomes volunteers to assist with organizing and crafting the many forthcoming events. If you'd like to help out, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the Board of Trustees or the Steering Committee. We will need all hands on deck to make these months fruitful ones!

Mitzvah of the Month— Beginning of the Fiscal Year Donation

Beginning of the Fiscal Year Donation...to Beth Shir Shalom

Now that the rush is over for non-profits to encourage you to give your last minute tzedakah to their cause – how about beginning 2020 with a gift to Beth Shir Shalom? We're still waiting for you to pledge to our JELLI education program so that we can get the word out about how unique and wonderful the Jewish Experiential Living and Learning initiative really is! It's still not too late to donate \$180 for one, two, three or four months. It's definitely not too late to give any amount you're able. On behalf of our JELLI kids, and all the potential JELLI kids out there, thank you!

INVITATIONS FROM THE RABBI



Beth Shir Shalom and the Macedonia Baptist Church

Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Friday, January 17th at
Beth Shir Shalom at 6:30 PM
AND
Sunday, January 19th at
Macedonia Baptist Church**

**Beth Shir Shalom
Congregational Day Retreat
Camp Tumbleweed
Spring 2020 Date TBD
Information to Follow Soon**

*All the best of our annual weekend retreat activities
PLUS MORE: food, tfillah, gaga, ropes course,
archery, arts & crafts, more food, hiking, inflatable
obstacle course, s'mores . . .*

*For more Info contact Cynthia Barzilai at
310-453-3361 or cynthia@bethshirshalom.org*



*Sasha Cavell
Becomes a
Bat Mitzvah
Saturday,
February 15th
at 4:00 P.M.*

*Mazel Tov to the
Cavell Family!*



BOOK CLUB CHAVURAH

*Come join the Beth Shir Shalom Book Chavurah! It's
free and it's a lot of fun. And there's even no
requirement to have read the book being discussed.
All are welcome! We meet on the
3rd Thursday of each month.*

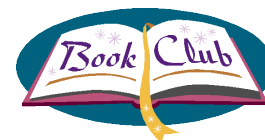
*Thursday, January 16: "The Boys in the Boat" by
Daniel James Brown. Moderated by Andrea King.*

*Thursday, February 20: "In Pieces" by Sally Field.
Moderated by Madeline Taylor.*

The Chavurah will meet at:

*Ken and Andrea's Home
944 18th Street, Unit 3
Santa Monica, CA*

*6:30 pot-luck,
Discussion begins at 7:15 pm*



Saturday, January 25th, 2020

**DINNER WITH A STRANGER
DESSERT WITH FRIENDS**



**Dinner 6:30pm
Dessert 8:30pm**

*A wonderful opportunity to get to know other
Beth Shir Shalom members!
We'll match you with the "perfect" strangers to
share an intimate potluck dinner at the
home of a Temple member.
Following dinner, everyone will meet at the Temple
for delicious desserts and kibitzing!*

Sign Up NOW!

Contact Brennan in the main office at 310-453-3361 or
office@bethshirshalom.org

**Friday Morning Baby and Me
At Beth Shir Shalom**

**Celebrate Shabbat with Song,
Friendship, and Play!**

Friday's from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.



*Join our ECC Director, Robin Masnicoff, in song, play
and celebration of Shabbat. Socialize with other
parents while interacting with your children. Share
and discuss "Hot Topics" on parenting while
developing supportive friendships.*

Come for Challah, Stay for the Chaverim

*Baby and Me Shabbat Classes are designed for older
infants and young toddlers.*

Classes are \$20.00 dollars per individual.

Robin Masnicoff, ECC Director

One of the goals here at the Beth Shir Shalom ECC is to give our children skills that will carry on and grow throughout their lifetime. Some of the skills are academically inclined. We ensure that our children will have the opportunity to engage in activities that will help them succeed in school. We also guide children to be autonomous, being able to wait for their turn and be self-sufficient. We provide an environment for children to socialize and model ways to talk to each other. Our children learn to self-regulate, to solve problems with their peers, and to engage with others before seeking help from an adult. These skills will help them move forward in life and will continue to develop as the child grows.

But the most important goal we have as educators is to help an egocentric young child progress on the path to becoming a mensch. Not an easy task as children are born in survival mode and being egocentric enables them to be taken care of. As they grow, we guide them to realize they are not the center of the universe. Again, this is not an easy accomplishment. We encourage children to listen and respond in kind. We want them to be truthful, yet know when not to be too forward. These are social skills that are learned by doing. It is a simple task for a parent to model, at least in theory. To educate a mensch has many facets to it. We must reflect the behavior we want to see in our child. Helping others, doing the right thing, striving to be a better person. These are all great qualities. Yet do we carry these traits out daily, weekly or even monthly? Are we respectful and kind to others and show thoughtfulness and everyday kindness to strangers? Do we speak of others with respect, or disdain? A simple please and thank you to a server or cashier goes a long way in the education of respect to your child. We must show our children that entitlement is not powerful, it is powerless. To begin with respect for others is the foundation for a mensch in the making. From here, we build the leaders of our community.

Bailee Goodman, Youth Group Director

Hello! Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! BeSHTY and Club 78 have been busy bonding and learning more and more about our Jewish Identities through activities like painting, cooking, watching movies and playing games. The bond our kids share is so special. They know that the second they walk into our temple doors and see their friends, they are safe, they are accepted and most importantly they can be their own true selves. I remember that feeling when I was in BeSHTY and let me tell you, it is amazing.

Going into the new year, I as a Youth Group leader want to challenge the kids to really look at themselves and the world around them and assess their part. What they are doing that is good, what they can improve and most importantly, what those first steps are to improve. Together we can accomplish anything and with the special bond they have built, their anything is going to really make a difference. Here is a picture of the kids this past semester.



JELLI, Club 78 and BeSHTY Highlights

JELLI

- 4th grade sock baby naming ceremony
- Kindergarteners making Chanukiahs
- JELLI Chanukah Fun Day



BeSHTY

- Club 78 and BeSHTY went out to ice cream and made cookies.
- Club 78 and BeSHTY participated in team building activities.
- Club 78 and BeSHTY had fun movies nights.
- Club 78 and BeSHTY discussed our identities as Jewish teenagers and young adults.



JANUARY/FEBRUARY PROGRAMMING CALENDAR

ADULT EDUCATION

Saturday	January 11, 25	9:00 AM	Torah Study
Saturday	February 1, 8, 22, 29	9:00 AM	Torah Study

COMMUNITY

Monday	January 6, 13, 27	7:30 PM	Israeli Dancing
Thursday	Jan. 16 & Feb. 20	6:30 PM	Book Club Chavurah *
Monday	February 3, 10, 17, 24	7:30 PM	Israeli Dancing

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Monday	January 6	8:00 AM	ECC Back in Session
Tuesday	January 7	8:00 AM	Parent Board Meeting
Friday	January 10, 17, 24, 31	9:30 AM	Baby & Me
Friday	January 10, 17, 24, 31	10:45 AM	Tot Shabbat
Saturday	January 11	5:30 PM	ECC Pajama-Rama Havdalah
Monday	January 20	ECC CLOSED for Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
Tuesday	February 4	8:00 AM	Parent Board Meeting
Friday	February 7, 14, 21, 28	9:30 AM	Baby & Me
Friday	February 7, 14, 21, 28	10:45 AM	Tot Shabbat
Sunday	February 9	11:00 AM	Tu B'Shevat Beautification Day
Monday	February 17	ECC CLOSED for President's Day	
Saturday	February 22	6:00 PM	ECC Annual Fundraiser

JELLI & YOUTH GROUP

Sunday	January 12, 26	9:00 AM	JELLI
Tuesday	January 14, 21, 28	4:00 PM	Hebrew Enrichment
Tuesday	January 14, 21, 28	5:45 PM	Club 78
Tuesday	January 14, 28	6:00 PM	BeSHTY
Sunday	January 19	JELLI CLOSED for Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
Sunday	February 2, 9, 23	9:00 AM	JELLI
Tuesday	February 4, 11, 18, 25	4:00 PM	Hebrew Enrichment
Tuesday	February 4, 11, 18, 25	5:45 PM	Club 78
Friday	February 7	5:30 PM	2 nd & 3 rd Grade Shabbat Celebration
Tuesday	February 11, 25	6:00 PM	BeSHTY
Sunday	February 16	JELLI CLOSED for President's Day	

SHABBAT & HOLIDAYS

Friday	January 3	Shabbat at Home *	
Friday	January 10, 24, 31	6:30 PM	Shabbat Celebration
Friday	January 17	6:30 PM	Martin Luther King Jr. Shabbat Celebration
Monday	January 20	Temple Office CLOSED for Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
Friday	February 7	5:30 PM	Families w/Young Children Shabbat Celebration
Friday	February 7	5:30 PM	2 nd & 3 rd Grade JELLI Family Shabbat Celebration
Friday	February 7, 14, 21, 28	6:30 PM	Shabbat Celebration
Monday	February 17	Temple Office CLOSED for President's Day	

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday	January 19	10:00 AM	MLK Celebration at Macedonia Baptist Church *
Saturday	January 25	6:30 PM	Dinner with a Stranger, Dessert with a Friend *
Saturday	February 15	4:00 PM	Sasha Cavell Becomes a Bat Mitzvah

WEEKLY/MONTHLY EVENTS

Thursday	Jan. 9 & Feb. 13	7:00 PM	Board Meeting
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* Denotes Event is Held Offsite

JANUARY

YAHREZEITS

<u>January 3rd</u>	<u>January 10th</u>	<u>January 17th</u>	<u>January 24th</u>	<u>January 31st</u>
Eva Arreola	Sara Ben-Yehuda	Mildred Avidon	Alfred Traxler Baum	Marian Baum
David M. Cohen	Debbie Friedman	Isaac Levin	Amy-Rose Bloch	Sally Chasin
Paul Gismondi	Jack Horowitz	Matthew Mezza	Fern Brumfield	Gerald Cohen
Pauline Dubin	Eric James Johnson	Louis Moot	Ruth Friedman	Sidney Friedman
Natalie Tulchin	Edward Oppenheim	Baudin Preston	Henriet Nathan	Esther Levitan
Betty Rosenstein	Rehla Schneier	Frank Quentin	Mary Reyes	Abraham Schoenberg
Irving Schneider	Joan Lam Schwartz	June Squier	Mary Village	Rebeca Katz Seidman
	George Cap" Squier"	Mira Stavchanskaya	Jeanne Wasserman	Zina Susser
	Renee Wiener	Anita Taylor		Bess White
		Anita Taylor		
		Max Wasserman		
		Joseph White		

BIRTHDAYS

Wendy Amster	Ken Kofman	Stacy Penner
Cynthia Barzilai	Anita Landecker	Aiden Pfaff
Dani Durkin	David Lepes	Dylan Pfaff
Ethan Feldman	Vivien Lepes	Alan Pick
Barbara Gartner	Miles Li	Ilana Radin Segall
Dorothy Grisham	Jennifer Lynn	Lauren Singer Shapiro
Mae Halperin	Ken Machida	Hiromi Sinder
Kara Hirsch	Sara Machida	Mike Stearn
Rebecca Itow	Lyor McGrellis	Liana Termechi
Jersey Jordan	Andrew Mollner	Irina Stavchanskiy
Jim Jusko	Isaac Mollner	Annie Volovik
Michael Kadish	Gracie Neuman	Emily Volovik
Jolie Kaner	Bill Oppenheim	Benjamin Ira Zak

ANNIVERSARIES

33rd	Charles & Diana Axilbund
33rd	Marilyn & Steve Wiener
42nd	Gary & Leanne Domnitz



TRIBUTES

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Bacon, Michael & Schuster Bacon, Susan in Memory of Irwin Weinstock, Louis Schuster, Jean Ratner
 Grossman, Joan in Appreciation of Yom Kippur Services
 Oliva, Audrey & Tony in Memory of Elizabeth Hill
 Rothman, Juliet & Leonard in Memory of Maurice S. Rothman

Tributes/Yahrzeits

Gans, Nancy in Honor of Hudson Lewitzke's Bar Mitzvah
 Michaels, Esther in Memory of Sylvia Horowitz & May Michaels

Annual Giving

Diamond, Paul & Susan
 Ellis, Seth & Sbeglia, Josetta
 Stearn, Mike & Jane



FEBRUARY

YAHRZEITS

February 7th

Leonard Davidson
Morton Friedman
Pauline Ginsburg
Howard Heller
Stella Phillips Holman
David Kleiman
Robert Pollah
Harold Siegel
Judy Stearn
Robin Michele Stegall

February 14th

Dave Bauman
Rita Cadeau
Russell Everett Davis
Meyer Fisher
Olympia Johnson
Patricia Layton
Rose Newman
Sheila Ostrow
Candida Palmer
Sadie Ress
Carl Sbeglia
Jacob Seifert
Irwin Stambler

February 21st

Jerry Arakawa
Lillian Block
Baruk Geuron
Doris Lehds
Morris Lepas
Leonard Taylor

February 28th

Rachel Albaum
Victor Barzilai
Ben E Beil
Morris M Cohen
Nicholas Victor Findler
Harold (Hal) Friedman
George Hirsch
Leon Katz
Virginia King
Donald Layton
Fred Lemberg

February 28th - Cont'd

Allen B. Rosenstein
Pearl Rothenberg
Judith Temkin Garber

BIRTHDAYS

Phil Ansell

Steve Barzilai

Terry Blecher

Nelly Blustajn

Eli Brooks

Nancy Brown

Kevin Brumfield

Sasha Cavell

Albert Courey

Shari Davis

Michael Dubin

Michele Findler-Buchalter

Robert Ginsburg

Gabriel Halperin

Gayle Handler

Rachel Handler

Gloria Heller

Juliet Johnstone

Hannah Kleiman

Micah Levin

Rachel Levin

Jenny Machida

Dean Meyers

Marsha Newstat

Freddie Olague

Mya Painter

Shai Painter

Justin Pfaff

Mitchel Resnick

Susan Reznick

Jessica Rishe

Ted Roth

Natalie Rothenberg

Aya Shaul

Manny Silverman

Satomi Sinder

Jack Susser

Joseph Ryan Zak

ANNIVERSARIES

14th Jeffrey & Brennan Schulweis

18th Mitchell & Jessica Rishe

30th Logan Palmer & Terry Blecher

42nd Barbara Siegel & Robert Elliott



TRIBUTES

IFLLI Donations

Comess-Daniels, Neil & Toby

Eagle, Rita & Morris in Honor of Rabbi Neil & In Memory of "Baba"

Lepas, Layne & Jeff

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Grossman, Gerry

Landecker, Anita in Memory of Gary Squier

Moscovitch, Eugene & Kless, Nancy in Memory of Irving
& Eve Moscovitch

Roth, Ted & Lillian in Memory of Milton Roth

Stegall, Benjamin in Memory of Benjamin I. Stegall Sr.

Wolfenstein, Judy

Tributes/Yahrzeits

Feldman, David & Alla

Goldstein, Robert & Tong, Olivia

Kadish, Michael & Novak, Deborah in Memory of Rick Cigel

Tributes/Yahrzeits - Cont'd.

Kornblum, Candyce & Rosenstein, Adam

Lepas, Layne & Jeff in Memory of William Johnson,
brother of Janice Cole

Pollack, Andrew & Kasumi

Sonshine, Rena in Memory of Victor Sonshine

Stavchanskiy, Alex & Irina in Memory of Isaak Stavchansky

Annual Giving

Kornblum, Candyce & Rosenstein, Adam

Safier, Joe & Avidon Safier, Fern



Visit www.BethShirShalom.org

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Home of the Song of Peace

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