

From the Rabbi's Study: Weekend Teaches Confirmation Students the Legislative Process

In March, the upcoming Confirmation class and I had a wonderful weekend in Sacramento. We attended the L'Taken Seminar organized by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. L'Taken means "to repair." The program is designed to expose students to a variety of public policy issues, explore the Jewish values surrounding these issues, and teach the skills of an effective advocate. Our students were joined by students from Congregation Shearith Israel in San Francisco and by our host congregation, Congregation B'nai Israel.

We arrived on Saturday and began with a review of the Reform movement's involvement in the civil rights movement, as well as the biblical mandate to engage in *tikkun olam*, the repair of the world. Students were then given background on issues of current concern to our state: immigration reform, raising the minimum wage, providing paid sick days to employees, and comprehensive sexuality education. To give them a real sense of what is at stake in legislating these matters, the organizers had the students engage in some role playing. For example, they were given cards with specifics involved in immigration reform, e.g., border security and path to citizenship. The cards had a numerical value and a plus or minus valence representing one side or the other in the immigration debate. The students had to come up with proposed legislation taking into account all these political positions with the sum of their cards equaling zero. This helped them understand the give and take necessary to get a bill through the legislative process.

Sunday afternoon we took a break, spending time walking through old Sacramento, a real old West neighborhood transformed into a tourist spot with many candy shops, restaurants, and tattoo parlors. When we returned that evening, the students picked the issues they felt the most passionate about and prepared presentations for their state legislators. Our students chose immigration reform and comprehensive sexuality education. Their presentations comprised: a paragraph on why this issue is important for California, a paragraph on the Jewish values behind the issue, a personal connection, and the "ask." In our case, on immigration, our "ask" was to thank the legislator for supporting the Trust Act whereby law enforcement can only detain an undocumented immigrant for possible deportation if that person has been convicted of a felony. Our other "ask" was to thank the legislator for supporting comprehensive sexuality education rather than accepting federal money to promote abstinence education.

On Monday we went to the State Capitol. Because B'nai Israel's Rabbi Mona Alfi is also the Chaplain for the State Senate, we were able to visit the Senate chambers and learn about the duties of the Senate Chaplain. We then met with Assemblymember Jose Medina's Legislative Director, Erica Costa, who was very impressed with how our students presented the issues and themselves. At Senator Richard Roth's office, we met with his Director of Operations, but also received a surprise visit from the senator himself. Again, the students conducted themselves in an exemplary fashion.

The students found this weekend to be very inspiring. They even said they wanted to go again next year! I would like to thank the Legacy Fund and the Inland Empire United Jewish Federation for making this trip possible. If you would like to know more about the students' experiences, please join us for Shabbat services on Friday, June 8, when they will speak about the L'Taken weekend.

Rabbi Suzanne Singer

President's Message: A Few Good Menschen

I have been thinking about *mensch*s. My mother was a *mensch*, and still is at age 92. Widowed when she was 41, mom was left to raise three children; a 7-year-old boy and two girls, 10 and 19, on her own. My oldest sister was in her second year of college, and mom insisted Jacque continue her education. You see, both my mother and father dropped out of college during their first years following the deaths of their respective fathers, both at age 42 (coincidentally, the same age that my dad died). They went to work in order to help support their families, and my mother knew that if Jacque was allowed to follow this example, chances were she would never complete her education.

Jacque set the pattern that I followed, which led the way for two generations of college graduates. My mother not only took care of us, but always tried to be there for others in need. Whether it was an elderly family friend who could use help with a shopping trip and company, a friend suddenly unemployed who could use some support, or the teachers at my elementary school who looked forward to the annual Potato Pancake Lunch mom made for them, she always sought to lend a hand. As little as we had in those days, mom believed that others needed a helping hand she could provide.

We at Temple Beth El are endowed with a plethora of *mensch*s, and I would like to take this opportunity to mention a few *mensch*en:

Jory Yarmoff – Jory has been guiding our Sanctuary Renovation Project for the past three years, and we are finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Construction is proceeding and the Board has authorized the purchase of 200 chairs. The congregation has been offered the opportunity of sponsoring some of these chairs, which will free up our limited resources to bring about additional needed improvements to the sanctuary. Jory has spent hundreds of hours on this project, and I appreciate his efforts on behalf of the entire congregation.

Christine Leapman and the TBE Sisterhood – Under Christine's leadership as the Sisterhood President, this important auxiliary organization continues to support a variety of programs of importance to our congregation. They recently made a very generous contribution to the Sanctuary Renovation Project that will allow us to move forward and get us back in the

Sanctuary sooner than would have otherwise been possible. My deep appreciation goes out to Christine and the entire Sisterhood. Keep up the good work, ladies!

Jordan Lund – Have you visited the TBE website lately? I know, this is a foolish question, since you are probably reading this from that very website. Much of the design, structure and format is the result of Jordan’s efforts. He is knowledgeable, talented, and generous with his time and energy. He is also a great cook! A *mensch* if there ever were one, thank you, Jordan, for all that you do to make TBE function in the digital age.

These are but a few of the *menschen* worth mentioning. I hope to highlight different individuals who help make TBE a central part of our lives. I know that I will not be able to write about all who add to the whole of who we are, but know this – I appreciate all that you do and am proud to be part of this institution.

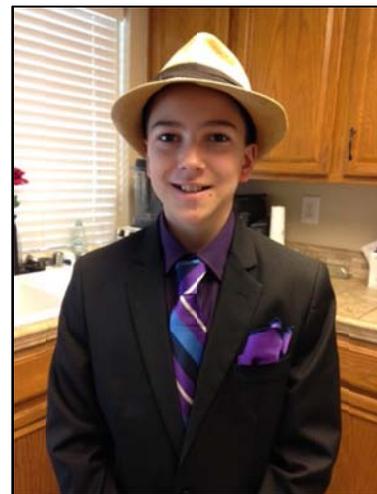
Until next time, Shalom.

Jerry Sturmer

Isaac Rubin Bar Mitzvah

Isaac Rubin will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah at Temple Beth El on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at 9:30 am. Isaac is the son of Margaret and Todd, fabulous brother to his sisters, Katie, Anne, Haley and Victoria, and lucky to finally have a brother (in law), Caleb. Isaac is a fun-loving, caring, and super helpful uncle to Callan.

Isaac has been homeschooled his whole life and enjoys studying history and geography, and he particularly enjoys studying maps. He loves watching the History Channel, Military Channel and, during football season, NFL Network and ESPN. He played flag football for five seasons and last year started tackle football. His newest sport is rugby, which he is playing to keep in shape in the football offseason. In his spare time he likes to play basketball and Xbox.



His mitzvah project has been to visit elderly members of the temple. Isaac has learned a lot about the temple’s history and Riverside history as well as how things have changed in the world.

Jaden Karger Bar Mitzvah

Jaden Karger will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah at Temple Beth El on Saturday, May 17, 2014, at 10 a.m. He is the son of Jason and Krista Karger and brother of Bryce.



Jaden is a seventh-grader at Riverside STEM Academy. He enjoys playing football and basketball, playing video games and hanging out with friends. He is very active in ASB at school and attends meetings twice a week. He also loves family time, frequent trips to the river and his vacations every year with his Nana and Papa. Jaden's perfect day would be to shoot hoops with his friends and then watch football the rest of the day with his dad.

For his mitzvah project, Jaden has spent time at Calvary Presbyterian Church helping with feeding the homeless. This has been a family effort as his father and brother have gone to help him as well. It has been a profound experience for him as he has seen the needs of others that he was unable to grasp just hearing about before. He has had some meaningful conversations with the people there. This has helped him to

truly understand how blessed he is and to be thankful.

Jaden feels very honored that his family and friends are traveling to spend this momentous occasion with him. Some are coming from out of state and have been looking forward to this day for quite some time. This day is very special to his family as he will be the first grandson to be called to the Torah. His commitment to his Jewish studies is in honor of his grandmother Gwenn Karger, who passed away in 2006.

Sisterhood News

Spring is always my favorite season: fresh air, light rain, bulbs blooming and Pesach! Pesach was my entry into the Jewish year and my immersion into the tribe. When I lived abroad, this was the holiday that brought me into the community of friends and family.

I am especially happy to welcome the new members, and first-year sisterhood members, Stacey Aldstadt, Rachel Cohen, Nancy Farbowich, Michelle Gardner, Maggie Johnson, Judy Joseph, Judy Kronenfeld, Dalia Martinez, Lucie Ramsey, Randi Rubin and Felicia Schwab. I hope they make many friends at Temple Beth El.

During 2014, as Sisterhood President, I hope to offer many opportunities for friend-making. The Sisterhood Board will be meeting each 4th Sunday during Religious School, and once the renovations are complete, we will also have a Sisterhood General Meeting from 11 a.m. to noon on the same day. Sisterhood is taking part in the TBE Jewish Cultural Faire in October and

organizing a Chanukah party in December. Look for your copy of *Chai Line*, the Sisterhood newsletter, coming in June.

Sisterhood is vital to Temple Beth El, and our activities raise funds to sponsor our *Onegs*, give personally engraved *Tanakhs* (Hebrew Bibles) to *b'nai mitzvah*, we support the Religious School, the Break the Fast refreshments at the end of High Holy Days and other bits and pieces. Most recently, Sisterhood donated \$10,000 to the temple sanctuary furnishings. Join us, and you are joining a tradition of friendship and *zedakah*. More than philanthropy, Sisterhood provides temple women with a network of support, a gathering of *Mavens*, a place for *Eshet Chayil* (women of valor).

Christine Leapman

Open Arms News

Thank you to the new members who could join us for our annual New Member Dinner. We had a great time and were so happy to get to know you a bit better.

We wish to thank all of you who helped us put together a fabulous evening to welcome the congregants who joined us in 2013.

Thanks to Rabbi Singer and Cantor Bob for leading our pre- and post- services. Judy Lehr, Gina Maduro and Christine Leapman did a wonderful job – as always – preparing a most scrumptious dinner. Thanks also to the Open Arms committee for helping with the set-up and clean-up and for contributing side dishes and desserts.

It was great to have some Board members join us, including our Temple President, Jerry Sturmer.

Thanks also to Ilene Stein and Paula Hermann for setting up the special *Oneg*.

Diane Kwasman and Sheri Cruz

Co-Chairs, TBE Open Arms Committee

Lox and Bagels Brunch on May 4

Come one, come all to the annual Junior Youth Group Lox and Bagel Brunch on Sunday, May 4, 2014 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

We serve scrambled eggs and omelettes , bagels with cream cheese and lox, fruit, vegetables, juice and dessert , coffee and tea. All this with entertainment, a raffle, and a silent auction.

Buy your tickets from a Youth Group Member (they get credit for a prize) or at the door. Come support our youth, eat well and have a good time!

All in the Family

Congregant Michael Goldware received the "Captain Leland F. Norton Award" as part of the Stater Bros. Heroes Challenge.

Thank You

With gratitude and appreciation, I would like to thank Rabbi Singer, The Caring Community and all those TBE congregants for their thoughtfulness, gifts and support during my recent surgery.

Barbara Droutman

Thank you to Judy Wall for coordinating, putting together and donating the contents of the Purim bags.

Yahrzeits

APRIL 4: James Marcus, Freda P. Siegel, Yetta Rosen, Gloria Rudolph, Minnie Kaplan, Susan Jacobs, Margarita Ramirez, Dora Sikov, Philip Farber, Herman Kuperberg, Esther Rockowitz, Murray Lucas, Fannie Baum, Mark Wilkerson, Josef Schwarz, Tillie Hosch, Herman Burke

APRIL 11: John Usack, Charles Band, Margy Sherman, Ann Rivers, Tim Rosenbloom, Claire D. Wolf, Jennie Elkin, Rae Kustner, Marvin Goffman, Nicole Silberkleit, Stanley Karp, Sylvia Shapiro, Samuel Blacher

APRIL 18: Bernard Siegel, Herbert Brown, Shirley Schnyder, Irving Stillerman, David Ramek, Jack Menahem, Ida Ramek, Ben Meltzer, Michael Gilman, Ellen Kleiger, Harry Sherman,

Marion Edwards, Bertram Eckmann, Philip Chernack, Jerome Palmer, Sadie Zeiger, Minnie Nedler

APRIL 25: Irwin Luchs, Sophie Singer, Charlotte Mann, Fannie Miller, Rebecca Nagorsky, Rella Braun, Arthur Youngerman, Herschel Wallace, Jack Marks, Richard Archibeque, Sigmund Kohn, Grace Gilman, Ruth Clark, Sarah Rebecca Winger, Sarah Reznick

MAY 3: Sue Rosenbaum, Bertha Goldeck, Esther Ashwal, Solomon Gershon, Simon Ramek, Dr. Stephen Fink, Marshall Jacobs, Mildred Kurland, Louise Canter, Roslyn Freeman, Abraham Kurland, Thelma Elkin, Jeanette Freedman, Johnny McColley, Dovid Richards, Mollie Weintraub, Dr. Joseph Gropen, Loyal E. Keir, Aaron Harris, Mortimer Spitzer, Sylvia Rosenblum, Joseph Einzig, Sara Friedman, Lilian Kemeny, Lester A. Olsan

MAY 10: Rose Falk Sohn, Nancy Silverman, Grace Gordon, Philip Gordon, Lillian Warwick, Fritz Lehr, Jenny Farber, Sam Metsch, Esther Naar, Arnold Sherman, Bernard Mechanick, Max Frankel, Wilford Sklar, Anna Stawiskowsky, Robert Shanklin, Henry L. Wolf, Rachel Menahem, Abraham Sikov, Samuel Z. Stein, Charne Schwartz

MAY 17: Blanche Urbach, Patrick Smith, Mary Roussell, Pauline Lowenstein, Darlene Jones, Helen Rosenberg, Gertrude Ruth Bauman, Ruth Caron, Daniel Dion Ramirez, Amy Kurland-Dorn, Samuel A. Sher, Debra Leah Reisner, Katherine Holland, Isidor Fendell, Roger Kanel

MAY 24: Arnold Benton, Rae K. Hepps, Chuck Shanklin, Betty Frankel, Sarah Wall, Joseph Goldware, Morton Oppenheim, Annette Abrams, Grace Spiegel, Stanley Brown, Charles Hunt, Louis Bockman, Betty Kellner, Gary Herman, Mo Parsi, Nina Weiss, Rhoda Nurick, Harris Kanel, Rabbi Joseph Isaac Atkin, Benjamin B. Sklar, Marvin Blackman

MAY 31: Relda Goldberg, Rose Stein, Wilma Dahan, David Mains, Bessie Rubin, Daniel Archibeque, Yoine Stawiskowsky, Philip A. Kustner, Verne Barnett, Jerry Cartin, Renato E. Cassani, Bessie Sherman, Sophie Mekler, Miriam Diskin, Gunter Sultan, Adolf Baumuel, Ben Boasberg, Arthur Goldberg, Sam Miller, Adelaide Selma Goodman, Edward Harris, Charlotte Kohn

CONDOLENCES AND TRIBUTES

The Temple Beth El community extends its condolences to:

Selma Kardos, on the loss of her brother-in-law, **Howard Harris**

The Wolf Family, on the loss of congregant **Richard Wolf**

The Sussman Family, on the loss of former congregant **Florence Sussman**

George and Michelle Hicks and Family, on the loss of her father, **Martin Zuckerman**

May their memories be for a blessing and the beauty of their lives abide among us as a loving benediction.

GENERAL FUND:

In memory of his father, Maxwell H. Haus – The Haus Family

In memory of her mother-in-law, Lillian Sokolsky – Sally-Ann Sokolsky

In memory of Temple Member and Friend Shirley Boasberg – Sally-Ann Sokolsky

In memory of her friend, Betty Goldbloom Westerman – Sally-Ann Sokolsky

In wishing a speedy recovery to Barbara Droutman – Paul and Diane Eskritt

In memory of her mother-in-law, Helen Gilbert – Blair Gilbert

In honor of Larry Loeb achieving the Men's 60 Singles tennis title at the World Senior Classic in Rancho Mirage – Elise Haton, Diane Eskritt and Susan Tenenbaum

In memory of his mother, Elisabeth Magnus – Bernd and Lore Magnus

In wishing Mazel Tov to Christine Geerlings Leapman on becoming TBE Sisterhood President – Bernd and Lore Magnus

In honor of the birth of Maxwell William Gutman, grandson of Marc and Roslyn Jones – Bernd and Lore Magnus

In memory of Bess Wilkerson, wife and mother of Leslie and Hannah Wilkerson – Bernd and Lore Magnus

In wishing a speedy recovery to John Cruz – Bernd and Lore Magnus

In memory of Shel Bockman, husband of Sherry Bockman – Bernd and Lore Magnus

In memory of Temple Member and Friend Arthur Ramek – Bernd and Lore Magnus

In memory of his sister-in-law, Lillian Gerson – Eugene Elkin

In memory of her grandfathers, Morris Perlmutter and Harry Bodofsky, her great-aunt, Fannie Hockman Scordia, and her cousin, Brandon Whitelaw – Marc and Roslyn Jones

In memory of her grandmother, Rose Singer – Rabbi Suzanne Singer

In memory of her aunt, Esther Rockowitz – Marcia Gilman

In thanking Diane Eskritt for keeping us up to date on all Temple functions – Heshy and Norma Glick

In wishing Alice Marks a special 100th Birthday Celebration – Heshy and Norma Glick; Marc and Roslyn Jones

In wishing Jean Mains a special 90th Birthday Celebration – Heshy and Norma Glick; Marc and Roslyn Jones

In memory of her grandmother, Rose Weiss and her aunts, Edith Lurie and Miriam Conklin – Joan Pasternak

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND:

In wishing a speedy recovery to Barbara Droutman – Susan Tenenbaum

In memory of his father, David Tenenbaum – Max and Susan Tenenbaum

In honor of the 100th Birthday of Alice Marks – Susan Tenenbaum

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND:

In memory of his father, Simon Coppel, and her father, Bernard Mann – Werner and Suzanne Coppel

In memory of her husband, Lloyd Alberga – Loraine Alberga

In memory of her father, Samuel Baum, and her daughter, Vicki Schechtman – Marilyn Schechtman

In wishing a speedy recovery to Barbara Droutman – Werner and Suzanne Coppel

In memory of her father, Samuel Zahler – David and Judy Kronenfeld

In memory of her father-in-law, Benjamin Lifschitz – Ruth Landis

In memory of her husband, Kermit Baumoel – Anita Baumoel

In thanking TBE for bringing the Guardian Scholars Program to the Temple Community – The Marmor-Haydu Family

In memory of Howard Harris, brother-in-law of Selma Kardos – Werner and Suzanne Coppel

In honor of Larry Loeb achieving the Men's 60 Singles tennis title at the World Senior Classic in Rancho Mirage – Arnie and Ruth Geller

In memory of his mother, Sadie Hermann – Ron and Paula Hermann

In honor of Helen Gropen's Birthday – Jerry and Susan Gordon

In thanking Gina Maduro, Judy Lehr and Christine Leapman for their hard work serving lunch to the Religious School on Sundays – Jerry and Susan Gordon

In appreciation of Rabbi Singer – Patricia Mintz

In memory of her husband, Joseph Marks, her brother, Albert Spiegel, and her sister, Hilda Kaler – Alice Marks

In honor of the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Alice Marks – The Entire Marks and Hodges Family; Werner and Suzanne Coppel

In honor of Rabbi Singer – Sonia Lilly Cody

In memory of her father, Herman Burke – Sy and Dee Rosenblum

In appreciation of Rabbi Singer chaperoning the ninth graders on the trip to Sacramento – Joan Pasternak

RAE KUSTNER CHILDREN'S LIBRARY FUND:

In honor of the 95th Birthday of her cousin, Esther Rumaner – Sally-Ann Sokolsky

CHOIR FUND:

In memory of her brother-in-law, Howard Harris – Selma Kardos and Family

M'LAMEDET FUND:

In memory of his mother, Anne Jaspan, and his aunt, Helen Kriedberg – Robert and Carolee Jaspan

In wishing a speedy recovery to Barbara Droutman – Robert and Carolee Jaspan

In wishing a Happy Birthday to Rusty Russell – Robert and Carolee Jaspan

GERTRUDE BAUMAN WOMEN OF VALOR FUND:

In memory of her brother, Harold Bauman, her grandmother, Fannie Bauman, and her grandfather, Nathan Bauman – Marjorie Bauman

DONATIONS:

Thank you to Galo Kosta for donating the book "Sarah's Key" to the TBE Library