The Woolsey Fire that roared through nearly 100,000 acres of the Santa Monica Mountains severely damaged Wilshire Boulevard Temple’s Camp Hess Kramer and Gindling Hilltop Camp but did nothing to diminish the camp spirit. With smoke still rising from the ashes of near-total destruction at Hilltop and Hess Kramer landmarks, including the Chapel, Gildred Hall, Baruh Hall, the GHC dining hall, the climbing wall, and all but two cabins, current campers and alumni across the country and around the world pulled together to remember some of the best years of their lives.

They gathered first on Facebook, where Camp Hess Kramer and Gindling Hilltop pages filled with memories, photographs, and messages of concern both for the camps and for one another. Then, on Saturday night, with the extent of the damage still unknown, Los Angeles–area campers, alumni, and staff gathered for Havdallah in the chapel on our Irmas campus. Arm-in-arm they sang and hugged and smiled; it was a poignant reminder in a bitter moment of loss that camp is really about people.

“Rabbis are not meant to be벧הט,” Rabbi Eshel said to those assembled. “Let me say that again, we are Kramer, we are Hilltop, we are camp...the people in this room, the people streaming [video], the people holding each and every one of us. That is camp...camp is not a building, or a cabin, or a road, or a wall...camp is the love, friendship, and divine connection we have with each other over generations.”

Camp Director Seth Toybes and Assistant Directors Erica Feinman and Ari Kaplan launched the hashtags #KramerNeverStops and #HilltopNeverStops to help spread the word that even though the location of camp will be different, and temporary, there will be camp this summer. We will be together as we have been since 1952, when Rabbi Alfred Wolf founded camp as a “beacon for positive change.”

“God spoke to Moses through the burning bush...and led us through the wilderness with a pillar of fire,” Rabbi Eshel reminded. “This flame will not destroy...rather, this flame will light our way to a bright, bright future.”

continued on page 2
“We Know Who We Are”

Parashat Va-y’chi Genesis 47:28-50:26

I am often asked why we say the second part of the Shema silently. This month we read from Parashat Va-y’chi, which is the basis for my favorite midrash on this fine question: Jacob is on his deathbed and calls his sons to his side to offer blessings. Jacob and his children have been living in Egypt these past many years at the invitation of Joseph and the pharaoh following the famine that plagued the region. Jacob had hesitantly left the promised land with his family and raised his children in Egypt. Jacob (also known as Israel) wrestled with this decision from the moment he left the promised land, worried that his children and subsequent generations would lose their connection to God, assimilate to the point of forgetting their history and birthright. Jacob takes this fear to his deathbed. Knowing and sensing his fear, his children gather around him and say, “Listen Israel (Jacob)! God is our God, and God is One.” They were basically telling him not to worry: We know who we are and where we come from. You did a good job. And with all the strength he can muster, Jacob whispers back, “Baruch Shem Kavod...Blessed is God’s majesty now and forever.”

The same is true for us today. As progressive Jews living as part of a global and diverse community, we strive to maintain our unique and particular identity while simultaneously embracing the diversity surrounding us. I am thankful every day to be a part of Wilshire Boulevard Temple, where we work to teach, inspire, and instill the love of Jewish life. At the same time, we use that love as motivation and inspiration as we actively participate in the greater world around us.

Rabbi David Eshel

#KramerNeverStops #HilltopNeverStops (continued)

For the latest news and information on the Camp recovery effort and ways to participate or donate, please visit wbtcamps.org/recovery.

[L] The Camps’ three Torah scrolls, safely removed by staff when they evacuated, are carried into the Irmars Campus by Rabbi Ben-Naim and two Brawerman students who are also campers. (R) TV news surveys charred chapel.

A Camper’s Voice

Heartfelt stories of camp experiences filled the camps’ social media pages. Former camper and staff member Ziv-Yisrael Haikin wrote a poem, articulating how the spirit of camp is not contingent on a physical place, but in the memories of those who were there:

A boy went to camp, and a sleepaway at that, and they spent their first summer together.

He wrote to his folks, of his fears and his hopes, his friends, his bunk, and the weather.

And as he opened up, played gaga and gumpsh, discovered his love of performance.

He loved all its branches, the prayers and the dances, the meals with too much grilled cheese,

He knew deep inside, there was coming a time, where he’d get on a jet plane and leave.

He cried out his eyes, sobbed out his goodbyes, and waited for his folks on the field,

And they drove him back home, and he watched the waves foam, and started grinning from ear to ear,

“Ziv, why are you smiling?” And he replied, his eyes shining, “I can’t wait to come back next year!”

On Saturday, November 10, camp staff, alumni, and Temple community members joined for a special Havdalah.
As you read this, we are in the midst of Chanukah. Each night as we light the chanukiyah, we bring light to this dark time of the year. Each week we strive to bring this same sense of hope and joyful Judaism to your children in our Religious School. The annual festival commemorates the rededication of the Temple following the destruction caused by the Greeks during their occupation. Today, however, these eight nights of celebration remind Jews to rededicate themselves to stand against forces that would destroy Judaism and to keep alive the flames of Jewish religion, culture, traditions, and peoplehood so that they may be passed on to the next generation.

In Religious School, we celebrate the holiday of Chanukah as an opportunity to formally welcome and bless our newest students with Consecration, as they and their parents affirm their dedication to the words of the V’ahavta—teach our faith diligently to your children! This year, because we have school during Chanukah, we celebrated Consecration and Chanukah together with a Chanukah Maccabiah, a community celebration of family, light, hope, and dedication to our traditions.

And when Chanukah ends this year, 15 of our Brawerman and Religious School families (67 people) will further their commitment and dedication to our faith and to the land of Israel as Rabbi Eshel and Cathy Gordon come together to celebrate their b’nei mitzvah in Jerusalem. Please follow us on social media (#WBTinIsrael) from December 23 through January 2. If this sounds like something you may want to do as a family, join us for an informational meeting to find out more about the 2019 trip and beyond.

Meetings will take place on:
- Thursday, January 10, 8–9 a.m.
- Friday, January 11, 8:30–9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, January 13, 9–10 a.m.
- Sunday, January 13, 11 a.m.–noon

If you plan to attend one of the informational sessions, please be sure to RSVP to Lisa Alpern at alpern@wbtra.org. We hope to see you in Israel!

Chag Chanukah Sameach to everyone, and may your celebrations bring light, joy, and meaning to your lives!

Chuck Feldman, in Memoriam

Chuck Feldman was our very own Music Man. Whether leading songs, producing plays, composing music, conducting the choir, teaching even the most tone-deaf bar mitzvah kid how to chant, he inspired our Jewish souls to melodically march forward. Chuck touched tens of thousands of lives, and I got to be one of the first. I was there when he arrived at Camp Hess Kramer in 1956 where he took our Malibu experiment in living Judaism and made it even livelier.

One reason we so willingly followed our Music Man was because he led us with a rare mixture of joy and earnestness, improvisation and professionalism. He was no laid-back camp song leader; he wasn’t all just fun and games. For Chuck, harmonizing—literally and figuratively—was serious business. He set the bar extremely high for himself, and this inspired us to reach for heights as well.

Just one example: While other synagogues were content to simply put on Purim plays, Chuck created Purim productions. These involved months of rehearsal, lighting, orchestra, costumes, makeup, sets—we had it all. And the results brought in audiences that extended beyond just the participants’ parents. However, most importantly, these productions became milestones in the lives of everyone who worked on them.

Chuck seemed forever young. His expressive arms led singers in the Temple’s choir loft well into his 80s. So it didn’t seem right to learn that our Music Man would be leading us no more. Fortunately, as Chuck knew better than anyone, the music and the memories will live on.

Dan Wolf
On Wednesday, November 14, the Karsh Family Social Service Center was honored to be a community partner at an event hosted by NewGround: A Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change. As a community and interfaith partner, the Karsh Center hosted a table at a mixer before storytelling, introducing who we are and our work to the broader community as well as sharing 200 bags of cookies assembled by the Brawerman East parent volunteers. Roughly 200 individuals from the Jewish and Muslim communities, as well as others from the broader community, gathered for “Taking Risks,” an evening of personal narratives. Leaders in the Muslim and Jewish communities shared the personal risks they have taken in the name of serving and lifting up those around them, as well as protecting, preserving, and growing their own identities.

One speaker spoke of his identity as an Arab-American-Muslim gay man, and his decision to ask a colleague for a second conversation following a fraught first one they had had regarding Israel. Another shared her story of the transformation she experienced at Wilshire Boulevard Temple’s Healing Havdalah service for survivors of sexual assault, which she attended with the support of one of her biggest allies, a Muslim man. Each of the seven storytellers seemed to have come to a common internal moment, one in which they elected to push past fear or doubt in the name of growth and connection. For many, they put their faith in those who are different, sometimes risking their livelihoods and their lives in the process, and always despite history or culture or society having taught them to be wary of the “other.”

Emcees of the evening, Rachel Andres and Halim Dhanidina cautioned us that it’s sometimes easier to choose hate over love and division over dialogue when we feel under attack. As we see every day at the Karsh Center—and most recently, at the #ShowUpForShabbat Service for Pittsburgh, at the Big Give, and with the response to the fires in Southern California—we, as individuals, and collectively, as communities, are strongest when we mobilize to show one another love and support in times of challenge and pain.

Thank you to NewGround and to the “Taking Risks” storytellers for including the Karsh Center in this powerful evening and, most importantly, for sharing their stories!

The Karsh Center Team

Glazer and Mann Early Childhood Centers

Grandparents and Special Friends Go Back to School

On October 25 at Erika J. Glazer ECC, and on October 26 at Mann Family ECC, we hosted our first Grandparents and Special Friends Day. In attendance were grandparents who had traveled from as far as Israel; at Glazer, 49 guests journeyed from other states; and at Mann, more than 300 visited, and they had come from all over the country.

At the delicious breakfast, grandparents were surprised to run into friends and acquaintances, and Rabbi Leder’ and Carol’s warm welcome was followed by sharing some of the exciting things that are happening at both the ECC and the Temple. Then, grandparents and special friends spent time with the children in their classrooms, where they decorated picture frames for the children’s artwork. At Glazer, everyone gathered for a community song session with music specialist Zeke, and at Mann, guests had a chance to experience Shabbat as a community with Rabbi Ben-Naim and music specialist Jason.

The children were honored and proud to welcome their family and friends into their classrooms—and share some school experiences. A memorable day was had by all! A special thank-you to Kate Villasenor, Julie Edelstein, and Andrea Kahn for putting together our first Grandparents and Special Friends Day.
Eve Levenson graduated from Brawerman Elementary School in 2012 and matriculated to the Brentwood School, where Tamara Miller, now Principal here at Brawerman East, had her as a student and served as her community service advisor. Levenson is now attending George Washington University.

I met Eve Levenson when she joined my Women’s Studies class during her sophomore year of high school. Eve was the youngest member of her class but certainly no less wise, and it was apparent early on that Eve’s exposure to activism and human rights would lend itself to her knowledge and understanding of the gendered experience of men and women.

Eve is a passionate, untiring advocate who speaks eloquently, and she is not afraid to ask important questions. Her high school teachers often commented on her enthusiasm, engagement, and courage to speak her mind, as well as her wisdom, maturity, and keen sense of justice. At her high school graduation, Eve was awarded the highest social justice and community service honor given by her school.

As her community service advisor wrote: “This young woman has been visibly engaged in community service and activism throughout her four years at Brentwood, exercising a leadership role on campus through her work with the Brentwood World Watch Club, The Girl Impact, admissions and diversity events, and the Young Women’s Conference. Beyond campus, she had countless volunteer hours as a community organizer, activist, teaching assistant, speaker, and changemaker at events and assemblies for the Jewish World Watch, the Los Angeles Homeless Count, and I-ACT, among others. With a deep concern for social justice and equity issues, Eve puts endless time and care into fundraising, awareness-raising, and community outreach efforts, lending her passionate voice to bring attention to myriad issues. When she encounters injustice, Eve is always quick to rally her peers and her community to take action.

We would like to think that the genesis of Eve’s passion stemmed from her strong foundation at Brawerman Elementary School, where she practiced tikkun olam. Eve noted that synagogue is where she learned the Jewish values that shaped the way she lives her life.

I am so impressed by Eve and thrilled that she will be leading the next generation of change agents.

Dr. Tamara Miller, Principal, Brawerman East

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What are the poor villagers to do? The holiday-hating, hill-dwelling hobgoblins are bound and determined to ruin yet another Chanukah. Every year the nasty creatures snuff out candles, destroy dreidels, and pitch latkes to the floor. But these gruesome goblins never counted on someone as ingenious as Hershel of Ostropol to show up. Using his wits and a few props—pickle, hardboiled eggs, and a dreidel—Hershel manages to outsmart the frightful creatures for eight nights, break the spell, and save Chanukah.

Join us for a musical rendition of the fabulously creative adaptation of the ancient Chanukah story, the 1990 Caldecott Award–winning classic, Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins, written by Eric Kimmel. Based on numerous Yiddish folktales, the character of Hershel represents the poor but clever Jew of the shtetl whose only weapons against his enemies were his intellect and imagination.

Performed by talented students of UCLA’s School of Theater, Film and Television, and accompanied by outstanding musicians of UCLA’s Herb Alpert School of Music, this is a holiday event for all ages. There will be original klezmer music as well as the chance to sing along to popular Chanukah melodies. Afterward, we’ll light candles, eat jelly donuts, and have the opportunity to buy books.

This performance is open to the public, and we invite you bring your family, friends, and every child you know for a delightful afternoon of music, food, and celebration.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Rabbi Susan Nanus

As a special thank you, generous donors to our Each One Help One annual campaign will also receive a copy of the book and a special gift for those that attend.
TORAH AND LUNCH WITH RABBI LEDER 🕊️
Friday, December 7, Century City 12:00 p.m.
Why not mix business and Torah over lunch? You bring your lunch, Rabbi Leder brings the wisdom of our ancestors. No prior knowledge of Torah or Hebrew is necessary. Held at CAA in Century City. RSVP to Samantha Rosen is required to join.

Samantha Rosen, srosen@wbtla.org, (213) 835-2121
wbtlao.org/events

CHANUKAH AGLOW 🕊️
Friday, December 7 6:00 p.m.
A Shabbab Dabba service and holiday sing-along! Join Rabbi Goldberg and Cantor Peicott for a musical Chanukah-themed service and stay after for latkes, jelly donuts, and activities for all ages. Please bring unwrapped/unopened toys to donate to our Karsh Center families—and your chanukiyah to light the night!

cantorsoffice@wbtla.org, (213) 835-2124
wbtlao.org/events

SOUL SOUNDS SHABBAT: A TASTE OF CHANUKAH 🕊️
Friday, December 7 6:00 p.m.
Bring your menorahs to our special Chanukah Shabbat celebration feast; there will be latkes, brisket, chicken soup, and jelly donuts! (Vegetarian options included.) Cost is $36 for dinner for adults and $18 for children 10 and younger.

Hannah Gole, hgole@wbtla.org, (424) 208-8932
wbtlao.org/events

SHABBAT FAMILY JAM 🕊️
Saturday, December 8 9:00 a.m.
Please join us for the second Shabbat Family Jam service on Saturday morning, December 8. Experience the joys of Shabbat with an upbeat musical and interactive service geared toward young children and their families, lead by nursery school music specialists, directors, and clergy. Check-in starts at 9:00 a.m., service starts at 9:15 a.m.

Sydney Spiegel, sspiegel@wbtla.org, (213) 835-2158
wbtlao.org/events

HERSHEL AND THE HANUKKAH GOBLINS 🕊️
Sunday, December 9 4:00 p.m.
The award-winning story comes to life at our musical Chanukah family celebration. Followed by candle lighting and sufganiyot (jelly donuts) for all!

Hannah Gole, hgole@wbtla.org, (424) 208-8932
hanukkahgoblins.eventbrite.com

WOMEN OF WILSHIRE WORLD RELIGION SPEAKER SERIES: DR. SABA SOOMEKH 🕊️
Thursday, December 13 6:30 p.m.
In this session of the Women of Wilshire World Religion Speaker Series (by women and for women over 50), Dr. Saba Soomekh discusses the Hindu belief system, Hindu deities and their significance, and the influence of Islamic religious tradition on Hinduism. A delicious dinner of Indian food will be served. Cost is $30

Hannah Gole, hgole@wbtla.org, (424) 208-8932
wowreligionseries.eventbrite.com

WOMEN’S TORAH STUDY: “THE LAWS OF WOMEN”
Friday, December 14 12:30 p.m.
Jewish perspectives on love, sex, marriage, divorce, adultery, rape, abortion, and women’s rights are explored in “The Laws of Women,” the latest in the Women’s Torah Study series led by Rabbi Nanus. Bring your lunch, we supply the drinks and desserts. Newcomers and friends are welcome!

Hannah Gole, hgole@wbtla.org, (424) 208-8932
wbtlao.org/events

WILSHIREREADERS—THE WEIGHT OF INK 🕊️
Thursday, January 3 7:30 p.m.
Join our book club and embark on an exploration of the critically acclaimed novel by Rachel Kadish, led by Great Books facilitator Rochelle Ginsburg. Set in London in the 1660s, The Weight of Ink weaves a tale of two remarkable women—one a scribe for a blind rabbi; the other a historian with a love for Jewish history.

Hannah Gole, hgole@wbtla.org, (424) 208-8932
wbtlao.org/events

Events and times subject to change.
A MODERN MASTERPIECE BEGINS

Hundreds of Temple members, city and county officials, journalists, philanthropists, and two of the world’s greatest living architects gathered on Sunday, November 11, to break ground on the Audrey Irmas Pavilion. Why were we all there, and why would a Temple create such a dramatic and important gathering place? The answer requires only four words—generations yet to come.

The essence of being a Jew, of being a good human being, is to live one’s life as a good ancestor; to be, while alive, what will bring meaning to others when we are gone. That is Torah. That is our generation of leaders. That is Wilshire Boulevard Temple. That will be the Audrey Irmas Pavilion—an inspiring gathering place, among the most inspiring and important of all modern masterpieces, on the most important boulevard in the most diverse city in all of human history.

This is what we owe the future, this is what we are capable of, responsible for, and devoted to—excellence, inspiration, and commitment to uplifting us in a time when there are so many things to weigh us down. In this era when so many forces are trying to pull us apart, we are creating a place that will bring us, and generations yet to come, closer together. Add your name to this great effort. Be a good ancestor for your family, your community, and your city. There is no nobler task. No greater blessing.

■ Rabbi Steve Leder
Cantor Don Gurney and the Wilshire Boulevard Temple Youth Choir

(L-R) Temple President Alberto Valner and past Presidents Rick Powell, Rich Pachulski, and Barry Edwards

(L-R) OMA Architect Shohei Shigematsu, Mayor Eric Garcetti with daughter Maya, and OMA Architect Rem Koolhaas

(L-R) OMA Architect Shohei Shigematsu, Mayor Eric Garcetti with daughter Maya, and OMA Architect Rem Koolhaas

(L-R) Rabbi Steve Leder, Matthew Irmas, Audrey Irmas, and Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

(L-R) Annenberg Foundation Executive Director Cinny Kennard, Audrey Irmas, Rabbi Steve Leder, Erika Glazer, Alberto Valner, City Councilman Paul Koretz, City Council President Herb Wesson, Mayor Eric Garcetti with daughter Maya, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, OMA’s Rem Koolhaas and Shohei Shigematsu
Be a permanent part of Wilshire Boulevard Temple by purchasing a paver for your family.

Two sizes are available. The large paver is 12” x 36” long and can hold 44 characters per line/4 lines max. The half-size pavers are 12” x 18” which hold 22 characters per line/4 lines max. We have a limited amount in each size so please let us know soon. Each family is able to choose their location on the patio. The patio is located on the south side of the Audrey Irmas Pavilion between Wilshire Boulevard and the event space. Access is through the Irmas Patio or the Wilshire Boulevard entrance. Use the enclosed form or order at audreyirmaspavilion.org/pavers.
Paver Order Form

I/we would like to order the following personalized paver.
(Please complete the information below. * We will confirm all orders, wording, payment and
paver placement choices after receipt of this form.)

Name ____________________________________________

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Payment Type: □ Credit Card    □ Check    □ Payment Arrangements

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4 lines/44 characters for each line - spaces, dashes, apostrophes count as a character

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If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Geller at jgeller@wbtlia.org or (424) 208-8969,
or Cheri Lauterbach at clauterbach@wbtlia.org or (213) 835-2135.

Once the form is completed, Jamie will call you to discuss placement and wording.

*Paver order forms can be accessed and filled out digitally at audreyirmaspavilion.org/pavers
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Leonard Leder by Mr. and Mrs. Bernd Givon
Holaine Malvin by Mr. Susan Romick
Richard B. Motley by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Motley
Irving Stoller by Mrs. Irving Barshap

KARSH FAMILY SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER FUND

In Loving Memory of:
Carrie Hayden Gerson by Mrs. Jeanne Gerson
Rammon Gerson and Herbert Lindenbaum by Jeanne Gerson
Leonard Leder by Dr. David Bluestone
Evelyn Tuch by Mrs. Marilyn Brown

WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE CAMPS

In Loving Memory of:
Leonard Leder by Linda and Eugene Weiss

KEHILLAH COMMUNITY FUND

Judith Applebaum
Mark Bobrosky and Sherrin Fisher
Mara Lopez Nishita

In Loving Memory of:
Charles “Chuck” Feldman by Mr. and Mrs. William Binkrant
by Wendy and David Cohen
by Marlene White Lenard
by Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Wallace
by Merle and Arnie Weiner
Milton Hoffman by Mr. and Mrs. Allan Tuchman
Carl Imerman by Merle and Arnie Weiner

RABBI ALFRED WOLF CAMPSHIP FUND

Samuel Mayerson

In Honor of:
Rabbi Karen Fox by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Friedman

In Loving Memory of:
Charles “Chuck” Feldman by Dr. and Mrs. Paul Kelson
by Mr. and Mrs. Myron Roberts
Rammon Gerson by Linda Delaney
Stella Goren by Mr. and Mrs. Jared Breuer
Leonard Leder by Dr. and Mrs. Paul Kelson
by Mr. and Mrs. Myron Roberts
Joe Pollock by Mr. and Mrs. Jan Goren
Becky Zigman by Samuel Mayerson

Continued on page 13

We appreciate your generous donations. An $18 minimum donation is required for each acknowledgment card.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Food Pantries  
Nefesh Torah Study  
Chanukah | Spousal Bereavement Support Group  
Adult B’nei Mitzvah  
Chanukah | Spousal Bereavement Support Group  
Adult B’nei Mitzvah  
Chanukah | Women of Wilshire World Religion Speaker Series: Hinduism  
Chanukah | Torah and Lunch with Rabbi Leder  
Chanukah Aglow Shabbat Dabba  
Soul Sounds: A Taste of Chanukah Shabbat  
Nefesh  
Chanukah | Torah Study  
Shabbat Family Jam  
Shabbat Shacharit  
Chanukah |
| 9      | 10     | 11      | 12        | 13       | 14     | 15       |
| Food Pantries  
Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins  
Chanukah | Spousal Bereavement Support Group  
Adult B’nei Mitzvah  
Chanukah | Women’s Torah Study  
Youth Choir Shabbat Services  
Chanukah | Women’s Torah Study  
Youth Choir Shabbat Services  
Chanukah | Women’s Torah Study  
Youth Choir Shabbat Services  
Chanukah | Torah Study  
Shabbat Shacharit  
Chanukah |
| 16     | 17     | 18      | 19        | 20       | 21     | 22       |
| Food Pantries  
Chanukah | Spousal Bereavement Support Group  
Chanukah | Monthly Mah Jongg Game  
Nefesh  
Chanukah | Shabbat Services  
Nefesh  
Chanukah | Shabbat Services  
Nefesh  
Chanukah | Torah Study  
Shabbat Shacharit  
Chanukah |
| 23     | 24     | 25      | 26        | 27       | 28     | 29       |
| Food Pantries  
Chanukah | Spousal Bereavement Support Group  
Chanukah | Torah Study  
Shabbat Shacharit  
Chanukah | Torah Study  
Shabbat Shacharit  
Chanukah | Torah Study  
Shabbat Shacharit  
Chanukah | Torah Study  
Shabbat Shacharit  
Chanukah |
| 30     | 31     |         |           |          |        |          |

For more information, including time and location, on all of the events in this calendar, visit [wbtl.org/events](http://wbtl.org/events)

Events and times subject to change.
Tributes (continued)

AARON JOSHUA SIMMONS MEMORIAL FUND
In Loving Memory of:
Adele Pollock by Mark and Shari Pollock

ANNE AND NATHAN SPILBERG ANNUAL LECTURE ON JEWISH LIFE FUND
In Loving Memory of:
Bernard Basch by Susan and Bruce Levin
Leonard Leder by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Porter

FOOD PANTRIES
Thank you to those individuals and families who have chosen either to underwrite ($1,000) or sponsor ($500) a week of food. If you are interested in joining this effort, please contact Rabbi M. Beaumont Shapiro at (424) 208-8930 or email dmagilnick@wbbla.org.

Mitzvah go’revet mitzvah—doing a mitzvah leads to doing more.

Thank you to Canter’s Deli, Brooklyn Bagel, Noah’s Bagel Larchmont, and Western Bagel West L.A., for their weekly donation of bread to our Food Pantries.
One of the largest non–High Holy Days crowds in memory filled Wilshire Boulevard Temple’s Sanctuary November 2 for an interfaith #StandUpForShabbat service to honor love, compassion, shared humanity, and the eleven Jews murdered the week before in Pittsburgh.

Reflecting the theme of “community,” the full contingent of Temple clergy shared the bimah with representatives of neighboring religious organizations, including Dr. R. Scott Colglazier, Senior Minister of the First Congressional Church of Los Angeles; Aziza Hasan, Executive Director of NewGround: A Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change; and singers from Faithful Central Bible Church.

In his remarks, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, a Temple camp Alum, stressed the need for spiritual strength in the face of tragedy and urged all of us to stay connected to our friends, family, and communities beyond. “I ask you, my fellow Jews, to stay engaged and connected,” he said. “At this moment, do not retreat. Be brave and bold to be out in this city, in this nation, and in this world.”

The service drew a near standing-room-only audience of more than 1,000, a rare crowd that Senior Rabbi Leder noticed immediately. “It’s amazing how quickly time flies; it’s hard to believe Rosh HaShanah is here again already!” he said, eliciting waves of laughter.

However, the crowd differed from the customary High Holy Days congregants—throughout the Sanctuary were visitors from around the city, many of them members of other religious congregations. Men wearing turbans sat beside men wearing kippahs. Nor did the service resemble a typical Friday night Shabbat service in its musical form. The Temple’s choir and Nefesh Band were joined by the Central Bible Church singers and accompanists playing organ, cello, saxophone, flute, and drums.

Throughout the service, Temple clergy and their guest speakers delivered comforting words in mini-sermons, all of which reflected the need to stem the rising tide of racism, anti-Semitism, and hatred through acts of kindness, civility, and humility. The collective, unifying theme was “love conquers hate.”

As a stirring conclusion, speakers took turns at the podium, naming each of the Jews killed in Pittsburgh and the two African-Americans murdered in Kentucky, and offering a few words about their lives. Then, a rousing and moving encore from the Church singers, a song insisting “I Need You, You Need Me,” brought the audience to its feet. People locked arms in a shared gesture of unity, community, and love. It was a night to remember—on so many levels.

You can revisit the entire service online at wbtl.org/showupforshabbat.
Welcome to new Temple members...

Ariel and Nicholas Barnhart and their son, Jackson...Amanda and Felix Bernshteyn and their sons, Gregory and Miles...Madison and Matthew Cohen and their son, Leo...Talia and Tyler Friedman and their children, Olivier and Lillian...Barel and Udi Greenberg and their son, Adam...Rachel Malamed and Steven Kroll and their daughters, Mila and Ally...Daniela and Jon Lieberberg and their daughter, Akira...Barbara Palley and Dan Nishimoto and their son, Ezra...Wendy and Joshua Popkin and their children, Francesca and Seth...Lindsey and Robert Simon and their children, James and Charlotte...Juliia Syelsky and her daughter, Sofia...

Babies – Congratulations to...

Jeanie and Joshua Bertman on the birth of their son, Barrett Bertman and to big brother and sister, Bradley and Blair...Sabrina and Adam Daneshgar on the birth of their daughter, Stella Jolie Daneshgar and to big brothers, Dylan and Lucas...Jessica and Daniel Dubelman on the birth of their daughter, Shalem Menachem Potok...Rachel and Jacob Saperstein and to big brother and sister, Bradley and Blair...Sabrina and Adam Daneshgar on the birth of their daughter, Miriam Rose Saperstein and to grandparents, Joan and Harry Saperstein...

Condolesences to...

Honi and Dennis Greenwald on the death of her mother, Paula Almond and to grandchildren, Austin...Jonathan and Lisa Bloch on the death of his father, Richard Bloch and to grandchildren, Jordan, Caroline and Alexis...Elizabeth Naftali, Jennifer Hirsh; and Steve and Pamela Hirsh on the death of their mother and step-mother, Anita Hirsch and to grandchildren, Noa, Eden, Kobe and Aaron Naftali...friends and family of Ruth Hochberg...Deena Eberly Feiner and Adam Feiner on the death of her grandfather, Bart Rivin and to great-grandson, Alexander Feiner...Patti Rosenthal on the death of her husband, Marv Rosenthal and to cousin, Margie Blatt...Frank Schiller on the death of his wife, Lisa Schiller and to son, Gary and Maskit Schiller and daughter, Vicki Schiller and grandsons, Aiden and Adam Schiller...Shirley Weidman on the death of her husband, Ralph Weidman and the children, Randi and David...

Marriage - Congratulations to...

Eric Klappholz and Alyssa Olans on their recent marriage and to parents, Wendy and Steven Klappholz...Rachel Higier and Noam Rubin on their recent marriage and to parents, Wenda and Steven Klappholz...Erica Roth has myriad memories of Wilshire Boulevard Temple, Isabel Roth has myriad memories of Temple events she has attended. “Many important things in my life have taken place there, including my bat mitzvah. It truly is a special place for me,” she said. “I’ve been there so many times with my parents and my grandparents. Every time I walk into the synagogue, it touches me.”

Over the years, Isabel, like many Temple members, developed a strong rapport with Rabbi Leder. While Isabel and her then fiancé, Jake Stein, were meeting with the rabbi to prepare for their wedding, they were able to view the model and the iPad renderings for the Audrey Irmas Pavilion. She was hooked immediately. “It is architecturally beautiful, and we were very excited about it,” she enthused. “It will be an important place for Jewish life for many years to come. I’m proud to be a part of it.

“I also loved the idea of continuing on,” she explained, “tying together the old and the new. The way [the designers] envision the light coming through the new building...I studied art history in college, and I know how important light is to religious ceremonies. I love the modern architecture, which is not something you associate with religion. So I think it’s pretty cool.

“The Pavilion will be a great place for anyone to use. I think about having events for my own kids there someday—their bar and bat mitzvahs for sure. It’s a great way to continue the tradition,” finalized Isabel, who recently celebrated her first wedding anniversary and is currently studying for the Bar exam.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1
Torah Study
Vayeishev
Rabbi Gellman
9:00 a.m.

No services at Glazer and Irmas Campuses

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2
Nefesh Torah Study
Rabbi Goldberg
9:00 a.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7
Channukah Aglow Shabba Dabba
Rabbi Goldberg and Cantor Peicott
6:00 p.m.

Soul Sounds: A Taste of Channukah Shabba
Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Gurney
6:00 p.m.

Nefesh
Rabbi Goldberg and the Nefesh Band
7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8
Torah Study
Mikeitz
Rabbi Fox
9:00 a.m.

Shabbat Family Jam
Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Peicott
9:15 a.m.

Shabbat Service
Bat Mitzvah of Charlie Bliss Atzmon
Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Gurney
10:00 a.m.

No service at Irmas Campus

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14
Women’s Torah Study
Rabbi Nanus
12:30 p.m.

Youth Choir Shabbat Services
Rabbi Leder and Cantor Peicott
6:00 p.m.

Nefesh
Rabbi Nanus and Cantor Gurney
6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15
Torah Study
Va-yigash
Rabbi Brody Slome
9:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service
Bar Mitzvah of Ravi Joseph
Rabbi Leder and the Nefesh Band
10:00 a.m.

No service at Irmas Campus

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21
Shabbat Services
Rabbi Goldberg and Cantorial Soloist
Emma Maier
6:00 p.m.

Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Gurney
6:00 p.m.

Nefesh
Rabbi Goldberg and the Nefesh Band
7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22
Torah Study
Va-yich
Rabbi Brody Slome
9:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service
B’nei Mitzvah of Reese and Owen Fishman
Rabbi Goldberg and Cantor Gurney
10:00 a.m.

No service at Irmas Campus

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28
Shabbat Services
Rabbi Shapiro and Cantorial Soloist
Scott Senior
6:00 p.m.

Rabbi Nanus and Cantorial Soloist
Emma Maier
6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29
Torah Study
Sh’mot
Rabbi Shapiro
9:00 a.m.

No services at Glazer and Irmas Campuses