The (Jewish) Value of Curiosity

Children in our nursery schools begin their days with morning meetings in which their teachers ask them questions about the previous day. The group spends time discussing and reflecting, then prepares for the day ahead. Because our curriculum is inspired by the innate inquisitive spirit of each beautiful child, it is a daily practice for our teachers to tailor their programs to meet their students’ needs. It is a core philosophy of the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education.

But how is that also a Jewish approach?

Fruit and vegetables tended in the school garden and harvested by the children are part of their meals and snacks, providing nourishment and a connection between the food we eat and how it gets to our plates. When children set the table and serve our family-style lunches, they learn to take initiative, and begin a lifelong tradition of bonding and conversing with peers and loved ones during mealtimes. When baking challah on Fridays, they learn about the science of baking, as well as the blessings for Shabbat.

When the children are out on the play yard, running around, shaking it off, and getting dirty, they are developing small and gross motor skills by climbing, running, and playing. They test their boundaries, but also learn to be resilient and compassionate to one another, to be mensches.

Children bring Chanukah light to seniors in an assisted living facility in the form of chanukiyahs as well as songs and joy. The Senior Home connections create bonds with elders and the children learn to do a mitzvah by visiting the same group every month.

The students in our Transitional and Developmental Kindergarten classes recently looked in the mirror and drew self-portraits. This led to a deeper discussion about awareness and appreciation of what makes you uniquely you. (See page 10, “Drawing Discoveries.”)

Children learn that asking questions is just as important as receiving answers, which is an integral part of both our Jewish identity and our Reggio Emilia philosophies.

What makes this special? How does this work? How does that make me feel? This is where the building of community starts and the beginning of a lifelong relationship with Judaism is formed.

Our Early Childhood Centers, on both campuses, offer rolling admission, and registration for Baby and Me classes (beginning the week of January 6) is still open.
This month, we begin the second book of Torah, Exodus. The new Pharaoh’s need for power and control increases as he brings harshness and slavery to the Israelites. He becomes so addicted to his greed and selfish ways, that “God hardens Pharaoh’s heart”... five times! This makes it nearly impossible for Pharaoh to let the Israelites go, despite the worsening impact of the plagues. This line has been perplexing for ages, but it might not be as bizarre as we think. Rabbinic commentators suggest that this is a personal attack on Pharaoh, whose resistance would cause more plagues to come, forcing him to recognize God’s great power. Another suggested that God was merely strengthening Pharaoh’s heart so that he could endure the intensity of the plagues as a punishment. However, I do not believe God was personally intervening in Pharaoh’s life. Rather, I think this is an example of how God created each of us. Our actions define our character. Pharaoh continually closed his heart to the harsh conditions he placed on the Jews, and thus by God’s design, his heart was hardened. His character was a result of his own actions. As we prepare for the new year, may we recognize that our actions define us, not merely our intentions. If we aim to spend more time with family, let’s actually show up and be there. If our goal this year is to be healthier, then let’s take the steps to get there. Aleinu, it is upon us to be the people we wish to be. May the year 2020 bring each of us the strength and the commitment we need.

Rabbi Aviva Funke
A BIG SUCCESS: THE BIG GIVE ON 6TH!

With over 20 community organizations and service providers, the support of 500 volunteers, and the participation of over 1,200 community members, the 12th annual Big Give—the first ever to be held on 6th Street—kicked off with a big bang! Closing off 6th Street, the Karsh Family Social Service Center set out to create a street-fair experience hosted by service providers as well as Wilshire Boulevard Temple programs for families in the Koreatown community, offering health and wellness support (free glucose and blood pressure screenings), arts and crafts, and entertainment (including Zumba and a live concert).

Before taking the stage to perform two songs, Naomi Love, a member of the Temple’s Youth Choir, tied knots at the no-sew blanket station hosted by Women of Wilshire. For Love, performing on stage was a way to express her gratitude to the community. “I hope everyone is safe and happy and warm during the holidays,” she said. More than 100 no-sew blankets were donated at the end of the day. A short distance from no-sew blankets was the Cedars-Sinai Bloodmobile, where more than 40 volunteers and guests participated in our annual blood drive.

Karsh Volunteer Thomas Yi was up early to help fill 1,000 grocery bags with Thanksgiving essentials (from turkey to pumpkin pie) that were distributed throughout the day. Ultimately, 4,000 individuals benefited from the distribution of Thanksgiving meals. Living in the neighborhood for four decades, Yi acknowledged a growing homeless population, but he also spoke of the need for support in less-extreme instances that tend to get overlooked. “In my apartment building, there are families who are in need. I know that the Karsh Center is directly impacting these people, because they come here,” he said.

This was the first time experiencing a Big Give for George Saez, a Koreatown local. It was also an excuse for the family to get together and ring in an early Thanksgiving. “My son is loving it!” he said. A family outing for Saez, his wife, and two-year-old son, they made the rounds, from the Religious School’s fishing booth, reading at the Early Childhood Center’s booth, crafts and kindness rocks with Brawerman and the Girl Scouts, to connect four at the Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps booth. “I even got job applications,” Saez said, holding up applications for part-time positions he picked up at the Census Bureau 2020 booth.

“The real sense behind this was the opportunity to engage as partners with folks in our community, as opposed to just giving the handout,” said Rabbi Shapiro, reflecting on the Big Give’s new “street-fair” approach. In previous years, the emphasis of the Big Give was the distribution of Thanksgiving-meals-in-a-bag; this year, the emphasis was on community engagement. “I hope we get to know our neighbors a little better than when we woke up this morning,” he added.
As many of you know, two years ago we replaced the Purim Carnival with an event we deeply believe does far more to teach our students about the wonderful values, traditions, and meanings found in this holiday. Our Purim with a Purpose Celebration is dedicated to the value of dignified giving. On Purim there are four mitzvot, or commandments, that the Jewish people fulfill. The fourth, and our inspiration for Purim with a Purpose, is Matanot Le’evyonim, or “Gifts to the poor.”

We are so proud and honored to partner with Wilshire Boulevard Temple’s Karsh Family Social Service Center to help improve the lives of our underserved neighbors. The Karsh Center team lets us know what types of goods and materials are needed by the population it serves, and as part of our fun and silly celebration, our students also put together gift bundles while at Religious School. Our “Baby Bundle” is always a big success. Another favorite last year was the “Mother’s Day Pampering Bundle,” which provided the types of things that struggling families would not have the resources to enjoy. This year, we are adding a “TK/K Learning Readiness Bundle” so families will have the ability to give their children the best chance at school success.

As a family, you are asked to sponsor Purim with a Purpose by purchasing at least one of these gift bundles (the cost for each: $36). The sponsorship dollars raised by your donations help support our efforts in making these bundles possible while also supporting our religious schools’ special programs.

Our goal is to have 700 bundles sponsored and ready for the Karsh Center!

Of course, our Purim celebration wouldn’t be complete without a wonderful Purim speil! We’ll have bounce houses, a costume contest, face painting, hamantaschen for all, and more!

Close your eyes and imagine you’re walking through a quaint, secluded college campus nestled in the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains. Sprawling fields and other natural settings are woven between preserved Spanish-style buildings. Imagine it’s summer—there aren’t too many people around, so it’s pretty quiet. You make your way toward the south side of the campus when, suddenly, you begin to feel a familiar energy. You hear the sound of children playing, the sound of laughter, the sound of people having the time of their lives. You may never have stepped foot on this college campus, but you’ve been here before. You’re at camp.

We’re excited to bring the magic of Camp Hess Kramer and Gindling Hilltop Camp back to Cal State Channel Islands for summer 2020! The campus provided us with much more than a temporary home. It gave us opportunities to revitalize our programs and a blank slate to build out new activity spaces. Where there was once an unused dirt plot next to the dorm buildings, there are now recreational shaded structures, an arts and crafts studio, a gaga pit, and a dance platform. An old courtyard between two administrative buildings is now a rustic chapel populated by our benches and arks that survived the Woolsey Fire. A nine-element ropes course and an archery range now border a large sports field previously used only for soccer. We were also able to take advantage of the existing infrastructure and settings of Cal State Channel Islands—a full test kitchen that comfortably holds 20 kids allowed us to begin a robust cooking program, and the hills and dirt paths around the campus fostered our new mountain biking program.

Most importantly, the same friendships and connections to Judaism were formed this summer. The true power of camp reaches far deeper than the activities you see on the surface—it’s rooted in children from all over the world coming together, discovering who they are as individuals, then forming a loving community that lasts a lifetime. We can’t wait to keep it thriving in summer 2020. You can learn more and register today at wbtcamps.org.
Audrey Irmas Pavilion donors describe their enthusiasm for Wilshire Boulevard Temple and how they envision the Audrey Irmas Pavilion will serve the community.

KEN AND TERI HERTZ

Husband and wife—Ken and Teri Hertz—are no strangers to construction. “We have always been attracted to ‘fixer-uppers,’” admitted Teri, who sells and manages real estate. It’s no coincidence that Teri was on the Temple Board of Trustees throughout the Magnin Sanctuary restoration; as Chairman of the Camp Committee, she oversaw the long-term planning for renovation of the camps; and Ken and Teri helped initiate the corresponding capital campaign. So it should come as no surprise that the Hertzes have chosen to support yet another construction project—the Audrey Irmas Pavilion.

Members of our Wilshire Boulevard Temple community for almost five decades, Ken and Teri consider the Temple to be an extension of their family. Although his parents were members of Stephen S. Wise Temple, Ken, along with his sister, Joan Siler, spent many summers at Camp Hess Kramer, first as a camper (Leadership ’74) and eventually as a CIT, Junior, and Senior Counselor. In fact, while courting Teri as undergraduates at UC Berkeley, Ken convinced her to become a counselor and spend her summers with him in Malibu. As the saying goes: The rest is history.

Now married for over 35 years, Ken and Teri continue to weave camp into their lives. Teri once spent a summer as an “artist-in-residence” at Camp Hess Kramer; both of their daughters—Danielle and Cori—attended the camps; and they have often been spotted wearing their “Red Jackets” to “Leadership Night” or the random Shabbat Dinner at Camp.

When the opportunity to help make the new Audrey Irmas Pavilion a reality, Ken and Teri didn’t have to think twice. “We are inspired by Rabbi Leder’s vision for the Glazer Campus, and we want to do our small part to help bring it to life,” explained Ken. “The clergy and staff of the synagogue have always shown up for our family—in times of joy and in times of loss—in such a caring and beautiful way,” added Teri.

To Teri and Ken, the Audrey Irmas Pavilion is another important opportunity to reciprocate by supporting the community that has supported their family for so many years.

Ken and Teri’s philanthropy—their Tikkun Olam—does not start and end with Wilshire Boulevard Temple. Concerned with matters such as homelessness, mass incarceration, lack of clean water, tolerance, and civil liberties, the Hertzes are active supporters of dozens of charities addressing these problems on a local, national, and global basis.

Ken and Teri believe the Audrey Irmas Pavilion will be an important architectural landmark in our city. It is their hope, however, that it will also become a meaningful venue for both our Temple family and for the greater Los Angeles community; that it will host many important celebrations and charitable events; and that it will support Rabbi Leder’s vision that Wilshire Boulevard Temple might become an even greater platform for thought leadership and a beacon for positive change in our neighborhood, our country, and the world.

Welcome to new Temple members...

Leore and Adrian Berger and their son, Ari…Julie and Jonathan Bobb and their daughter, Stella…Amy Guiss and Jenova Chen and their daughter, Aura…Michelle and Daniel Cousineau and their son, Oliver…Elizabeth Merwether and Alex Guthbertson and their daughter, Harriet…Jessica and Robert Enyati and their son, Samson…Jessica and Daniel Flesh and their daughters, Charlotte and Alexandria…Caren and Dan Gilin and their sons, Caleb and Shane…Romy and Jeff Gluck and their daughter, Liv…Danielle Jagoda and Ari Goldman and their daughter, Olivia…David Golubchik and his children, Leah and Alex…Deborah Laub and Edward Israel…Melissa and Matthew Lewitz and their daughter, Sophia…Dianne Mandell-Miller…Jennifer Mann and Eric Schiffer and their daughters, Quincy and Mendez…Peery and Payam Shahnaz and their children, Kyle, Leah, and Jadon…Pamela Wohl and her son, Hudson…

Congratulations to...

Dina and Daniel Aspen on the birth of their daughter, Cleo Noa Aspen, and to big brothers, David and Liam…Kelly and Joe Dacorsi on the birth of their grandson, Buddy Dacorsi…Maxine Keith on the birth of her grandson, Ryan Thomas Keith Greene…Jennifer and David Kass on the birth of their son, Walker Fairbanks Kass, and to brother, Elliot…Cantor Lisa and Joseph Peicot on the birth of their son, Joseph Herbert Peicot…Elyse and Andrew Rosenfield on the birth of their son, Jamie Alexander Rosenfield, and to big brother, Sebastian…

Condolences to...

David and Sharon Akhtarzad on the death of her grandmother, Sara Nazarian Akhtarzad, and to great-grandchildren, Blake, Pierce, and Dean…Jennifer Glick Pearlman on the death of her father, Cantor Maurice Glick, and to grandchildren, Joshua and Carly…Wendy Goldberg on the death of her husband, Leonard Goldberg, and to daughter, Amanda Goldberg and Philip Raskind…Melinda Lozano on the death of her mother, Ruth Green, and to grandchildren, Miles and Zoe…Mollee and Edward Share on the death of their mother, Lillian Koslow…Esther and Jack Cohen on the death of her father, Manny Mochry, and to grandchildren, Noa and Arieh…Anneliese Morris on the death of her husband, Myron Morris, and to sister, Ronnye Greuber…Jacqueline and Todd Rosen on the death of her mother, Dorothy Osman, and to grandchildren, Richard, Robert, and William…Janine Reglan and Ian Liebman on the death of her father, Edward Maurice Reglan, and to grandchildren, Aaron and Daniel…Dete and Paul Meserve on the death of her father, Arnold Rosenzweig, and to grandchildren, Benjamin, Jacob, and Lauren…

And to all immediate and extended family.

Wilshire Boulevard Temple Anniversary Milestones

Each month we recognize the milestone anniversaries of Wilshire Boulevard Temple congregants. The years represent adult membership and do not include time as a child under a family membership. Congratulations, and thank you for being part of this community!

45 Years…Ned and Linda Cowan
35 Years…Michael Rosen and Karen Fox
30 Years…Kenneth and Teri Hertz
25 Years…Betty Andelson
20 Years…Daniel and Stephanie Heyman…Brad and Karen Snaberg
15 Years…Mitch and Abby Feinman…Mitchell and Mari Heikel…Karnoorz Hoorman and Yasamin Srai
10 Years…Shahin and Katayoun Bina…Mark and Stephanie Clements…Brad and Amy Connover…David and Felicia Feltenthal…Michael and Nathalie Huddleston…James Kohn and Maria Rabassa…Barry and Lea Porter…Roy and Meredith Silver
5 Years…Aram and Abby Mandell…Fran B. Pilgreen…David and Julia Ramin…Gregory and Shana Richling…Evan and Michelle Sroka…Ashley D. Sullivan
In Loving Memory of:

Dr. Julius and Celia Adler by Claire Landsbaum
Bernard Friedman by Nathaniel Friedman
Leon Wallace by Janice and Daniel Wallace

Clergy Fund

In Honor of:
The birthday of Rabbi Elissa Ben Naim by Gretchen and Jonathan Klein
Rabbi Leder for officiating at the memorial of Dolph Kornblum by Ellen Kornblum
Rabbi Leder for officiating at the memorial of Robert Markowitz by Joel Markowitz
Rabbi Nickerson by Ron, Sue, and Paul Friedlander
by Steven Tullin and Sydney Kaplan
Cantor Pesco by Flora and Ari Bulbo

In Loving Memory of:

Ted Arnel by Merle Galindo
Helen Epstein by Monte S. Gordon
Nathan Fleischer by Leland and Miriam Green
Nathaniel Goldstein by Jared, Sydnee, Jordan, and Samantha Breuer
Dory Getlieb by Jerry Getlieb
Fredric Paskiewicz by Margaret Paskiewicz
Jeffrey Rosen by Linda Rosen

Music Publication Fund

In Loving Memory of:

Franzine Farman by Edene Sadelain
Dorothy J. Forman by Barry Forman and Adina Plugh
Julian Kleinman by Robert and Deborah Kleinman
Pat Malamud by Gerald Malamud

Pulpit Flowers Fund

In Honor of:
Andrea Gardner by Steven and Andrea Gardner

In Loving Memory of:

Aron I. Dresner by Janet and Herbert Rappaport

Tikkun Olam Social Action Fund

In Honor of:
Ann Baracco by Julie and Steve Cramer
Jordan M. Ehlich by Jared, Sydnee, Jordan, and Samantha Breuer
Seymour Markowitz by Ann Markowitz and Richard Waldow
Barry Weintraub by Patti and Dan Stein

Temple Fund

Nadene and Barry Alexander
Nadene Benidet Breuer and Stephen Breuer
Niki Kosmal
Trevor and Alexandra Miller
Brad and Lisa Minzlin
Donna and Paul Nadel
Eri and Nancy Kitter
Thomas and Robbi Schor
John and Toni Schulman

In Honor of:

Jamie Geller and all WBT Professionals by Bruce D. Prentman and Janis Fla
Grant Hamilton by Peter Zuckov
Veterans by Donald and Susan Levy

In Loving Memory of:

Lawrence Adelman by Joseph and Gail Lowenstein
Sam Bailey by Blair and Aarom Kaplan
Beth Benson by Joye R. Powell
Samuel and Thelma Berkowitz by Kenneth Berkowitz
Benjamin and Janice Block by Stephen and Julie Block and family
Maxine and Dr. Ralph Bookman by Frank K. Kwag
Gene Brussel by Daniel and Mary Brussel
Charles Engler by Myrna Engler
Melanie Freistadt by Lana and Jeffrey Melman
Lawrence Gluckin by Dina and Jeffrey Tosen
Jean Gordon by HilIard and Valerie Gordon
Naomi Howard by Dayle Dzigner
by Dana and Eric Futorn
Harry Kaplan by Elaine and Aaron Kaplan
David Kohn by Arthur Kohn
Cassie Kenton by Ronald and Beth Saul
Joseph Kirschen by Helen Shewin
Harman Klein by May Bendit
Dolph Kornblum by Ernest Glazer
by Lee Tashoff
Karl Kosnow by Anita K. Mason
Ema Louisa by Ona, Mascot and Gary Schiller
Barbara McDermott by Jill Jacobson and Dr. Saul Bloch
Bracie J. Meyers by Natalie Stein
Manny March by Elaine Berman
Edward Regal by Donna and Paul Nadel
Dorothy Rosen by Jill Jacobson and Dr. Saul Bloch
Sanford Rosenbaum by Jean J. Rosenbaum
Ruth Rosenberg by Kenneth Berkowitz
Arnold Rosenzweig by Donna and Paul Nadel
Alma Marie Russell by Michael B. and Linda Heichman
Stuart Sachtler by Edmond Sachtler
Lisa Schiller by Frank Schiller
Pauline Schultman by Richard and Diane Friend
Tyra Sheitz by Helen Shewin
Edna K. Stein by Natalie Stein
Benjamin Tuch by Richard and Shelley Breyer
Wally Weisenberg by Bernd Grun
Mollie Zuckerhuck by Frank Schiller

Harvey J. and Sybil Fields Educational Scholarship Fund

In Loving Memory of:
Ulrich Furst by George and Ruth Furst
Bernard Kenton by Mitchell and Marcie Heskel
Arie Ravid by Gretchen and Jonathan Klein
Harry Rosenberg by Dorothy E. Royce

Klein Family Fund for Early Childhood Centers

In Honor of:
Carol Boigel by Gary and Jennifer Kleinman
In Loving Memory of:
Cynthia Pearlman by Carol and Daniel Boigel

Ben-Ishai Religious School Fund

Joanne Rosman

Food Pantries Fund

Jeanne Gerson

In Honor of:
Isabelle Mattolli becoming a bat mitzvah by Phyllis Versick
the birthday of Pamela Salzman by Gretchen and Jonathan Klein

In Loving Memory of:
Alma and Morris Abrams by Mark and Robin Vogel
Steve Brody by Caron Brody
Ruth Farb by Helen Shewin
Shirley Glick by Robert A. Wolf
Beloved father and grandfather Joseph Charles Goldfinger by Suzanne Rubin
Jean Hartman by Ruthie and Stephen Loeb
Rose Honakober by Jared, Sydnee, Jordan, and Samantha Breuer
Tillie Kevin by Helen Lewis
Aaron Kurtz by Malcolm Orland
Izad Pasquay by Mark and Robin Vogel
Samuel Shemans by Helen Shevin
Jack Storch by Ruth Storch
Julius Tylfof by Ruth Storch
Frederick Wolf, M.D., by Robert A. Wolf

Karsh Family Social Service Center Fund

Norman Chanes and Ronnie Shapiro
Susan and Scott Edelman
Linda and Sean Foley

In Honor of:
Isabelle Mattolli by Tami Kagan and Michael Abrams
by Rabbi David and Stephanie Eshel
by Bina Liebton
by Joel Levine
by Margaret Pashkow
by Amy Robinson
by Aline and David Yarover

Diasaster Response Fund

In Honor of:
Rabbi Shapiro for officiating at the baby naming of Olivia Bransky by Howard Bransky

Caring Community Fund

In Loving Memory of:
Francine and Frank Saltier by Arthur and Judith Saltier

Camp Recovery Fund

Darren Ballas
Cheryl Gelbord

In Honor of:
The 70th birthday of Merle Weiner by Jeanne Gerson

In Loving Memory of:
Samuel Mayerson by Eva Weichberg

Schusterman Fund

In Honor of:
Zoe Gittelson by Linda and David Gittelson

In Loving Memory of:
Eli Schuster by Rabbi David Leach and Bruce Newman

Silas Family Campership Fund

In Honor of:
David J. Golden by Robin and Robert Sils

Rabbi Alfred Wolf Campership Fund

In Loving Memory of:
Sam Breithart by Jared, Sydnee, Jordan, and Samantha Breuer
My brother Michael Coleman by Laurie and Paul Nelson
The love of my life, Sylvia David, by Eric David
Dolph Kornblum by Rhea Cosek
Hanna Wolf by Larry and Linda Wolf

Wilsire Boulevard Temple Camps

In Loving Memory of:
Ari Leonardi by Linda and Eugene Weiss
Samuel Mayerson by Deborah Balfu
Adelle Pollock by Beth and Jan Green

Sauer Family Camp Fund

In Loving Memory of:
Jennie Sauer, a great mother and nanny, by Steve, Micki, Jonathan, and Molly Sauer, Angie, Mike, Robert, and Joey Comrie; Dana, Jonathan, Andrew, and Micah Goldstein

Al Goodman Memorial Fund

In Loving Memory of:
Samuel Meyerson by Bruce D. Prentman and Janis Fla

Camp Operations Fund

Robin and Alan Rosen
Elaine Aza
Michelle and Jeff Bader
Julie and Tony Berkus
Nechama and Tal Bernard
Lori Bernstein
Shahin and Katayoun Bina
Harvey and Elizabeth Blau
Timothy and Gale Boonstra
Nadine Benidet and Stephen Breuer
Norma Bubur
Maxwell Cohen
Gary Cohn
Hugo de Castro
Bill and Susan Elrlich
Stacy R. Fischer
Jason and Sharon Fisher
Jessica Frankel
Heather Frenster
Daniela and Stephanie Heyman
Larry and Kim Israeli
Adam Kosper
Robert Kryman and Dana Bloom
The Lester family
Linda Elkan and Gary Mandrich
Richard Meyer and Gail Hoffman
Julianne H. Miller
Joye R. Powell
Norman and Debra Rosenberg
Nancy and Fred Rosenfelt
Ann H. Saltman
Beth Kenyon and Ronald Saul
Alexandra Slakter

In Honor of:
Ezekiah David by Rabbi David and Stephanie Eshel
Sybil A. Fields by Debra Fields and Jonathan Silberman
Jacob Gluckman by Rabbi David and Stephanie Eshel
Michael, Emma, and Goddard Mathew by Michael Ellenbaum
Our grandson Euan Speed, a camper of many years, by Myra and Abram Newman

In Loving Memory of:
Rabbi Harvey Fields by Debra Fields and Jonathan Silberman
Lillian Kossow by Robert and Barbara Shaw

Susan and Meredeth Fishman Memorial Fund

In Loving Memory of:
El Fishman by Richard and Jordan Fishman

Food Pantries

Thank you to those individuals and families who have chosen to either underscribe ($1,000) or sponsor ($500) a week of food. If you are interested in joining this effort, please contact Rabbi M. Beaumont Shapiro at (242) 208-8930 or email dmgs@lkbta.org.

We appreciate your generous donations. An $18 minimum donation is required for each acknowledgment card.
GLOBAL BRIEFING ON ANTI-SEMITISM 🌟 🌟
Begins Thursday, January 9 🕒 7:30 p.m.

Please join AJC Los Angeles and Wilshire Boulevard Temple for a thought-provoking dialogue on contemporary anti-Semitism, its origins, and what is being done to combat it. The Global Briefing Series includes four sessions, and the first, “Anti-Semitism on the Right: Christian Anti-Judaism, White Supremacy, & Holocaust Denial and Distortion,” is led by the Honorable Stefan Schneider, Consul General of Germany.

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

WILSHIRE READERS: IF ALL THE SEAS WERE INK: A MEMOIR 🌟
Thursday, January 9 🕒 5:30 p.m.

Join our book club and embark on an exploration of critically acclaimed books that have achieved national recognition. This month, we explore Ilana Kurshan’s impressive memoir detailing her life from childhood days to her daily practice of studying the Talmud, her aliyah to Israel, and parenthood. Organized in a loosely chronological fashion, the memoir is arranged by Talmud tractates, showing the powerful connection between Kurshan’s personal life and the Talmudic anecdotes. This month, a light dinner will be served to attendees.

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

JEWS AND THE 2020 ELECTIONS
Thursday, January 16 🕒 7:30 p.m.

With the 2020 presidential election fast approaching, congregants are invited to attend a panel discussion at the Irmas Campus with former Jewish Journal columnist Danielle Berrin, the Wall Street Journal’s national religion reporter Ian Lovett, and author Steven Windmueller. Their knowledge and perspectives will provide a greater understanding of the issues important to our community and the country, as well. A Q&A session will follow the panelists’ discussion.

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

HIP-HOP SHABBAT 🌟
Friday, January 31 🕒 7:00 p.m.

This contemporary and creative spin on Shabbat with a service featuring hip-hop, R&B, and EDM (electronic dance music) includes samples of music by Dr. Dre, The Fugees, P. Diddy, and more. Rabbi Nickerson and songleader Jason Mesches lead this eclectic, high-energy, mind-expanding service. Open to all ages and especially for those who want to experience Shabbat services in a completely new way.

Hannah Gole, hgole@wbtla.org, (213) 835-2124
wbtla.org/events

For our complete calendar of events, please visit WBTLA.ORG/EVENTS
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For more information, including time and location, on all of the events in this calendar, visit wbtlaproject.org/events

Events and times subject to change.
In our Early Childhood Centers, the Atelier, or “art studio,” is a place where children come to explore, create, and express themselves through multiple mediums. It is a magical space, filled with natural light and soft music, and set up with intentionality.

While working in the Atelier, children discovered the different properties of various types of charcoal, including charcoal sticks, natural occurring willow charcoal, and black and white charcoal pencils. While investigating the materials, the children explored and created different types of lines and two-dimensional designs and shapes. “I’m making all kinds of lines, like straight lines, droopy lines, swirly lines, squiggly lines, cirly lines, wiggly lines, and twirly whirly lines!” exclaimed a child, grasping the infinite possibilities of line work.

On black, brown, white, and gray drawing paper and tracing paper, the children made line drawings, changing out charcoal drawing tools and introducing manipulation tools such as blending stumps, rubber, and much needed erasers, as well as their hands. They blended black and white charcoal to make different shades of gray and noticed the intensity and depth of charcoal on different types of paper. While blending, it was observed, “When you use the white on the black, it makes gray!” and “It turns a different color when I blend it. See, look! It turns lighter!” While exploring high-contrast materials, drawing with white charcoal on black paper, a child said, “Look at the white charcoal! It is beautiful!”

The idea of transferring material from one place to another fascinated the children, who noticed that the charcoal could move from the paper to their hands and back while making marks and patterns out of their hand- and fingerprints. “I’m making a print,” said a child, who understood the process of printmaking discovered last year. Many children were completely engaged in the idea of erasing to subtractively alter their work and invite an opportunity to add more charcoal. “I erased it with my finger,” a child declared as she smeared her drawing away. Erasing became a conceptual provocation, eliciting such questions as, “When I draw something and erase it, it goes away. Where did it go?” Working in a circular fashion, the children began to understand various materials, expand their understanding of phenomena, and strengthen fundamental drawing skills.
Brawerman Elementary School’s Annual Report highlights many of the school’s achievements. The complete report is available for you to read and/or download at brawerman.org/support-our-school/annual-giving. Here are some excerpts:

“Attending Brawerman provides our students a chance to grow up a little before determining where they want to spend their secondary school years. Our kids get accepted to selective secondary schools, and excel in them...Our success rate continues beyond secondary schools. We have started tracking the colleges and universities our graduates are attending. I really believe that some of the college matriculation success is a credit to the Brawerman community. At these schools our graduates are appreciated for the quality of their thinking and the caliber of their character.”

Brandon Cohen, Head of School

BRANDON’S BOOK CLUB
One of the strongest values at Brawerman is community and partnership. Aligned with this ethos, we had our very first parent book club facilitated by Head of School Brandon Cohen. Our school is committed to basing our best practices on research and mirroring our conversations with hot topics taking place in the public forum. Brandon was particularly inspired by Jessica Lahey’s *The Gift of Failure* because it felt balanced and practical. We look forward to this being a new Brawerman tradition.

MAKERS FAIR
Brawerman East hosted its first Makers Fair as an opportunity for students to showcase their creative work from across the curriculum. Students completed hands-on projects where they designed prototypes, learned from their failed attempts, and ultimately found success in their subsequent models. The evening was filled with engaging activities including a virtual reality room with ocular glasses, deconstruction and reconstruction booths, and musical fruit circuits. The evening allowed for students and their families to explore crafts and technology while enjoying “do-it-yourself” sushi and pizza. Dr. Miller, when reflecting on the value of the event, shared, “I am reminded of the purpose of schooling. Yes, literacy and numeracy are important, learning a second language and playing an instrument are also integral, but the skills that students gain from designing, tinkering, failing, and redesigning are vital and instrumental in their ability to problem solve throughout their lives.”

BOSTON
From local to overnight trips, field trips not only help contextualize the learning happening in the classrooms, but also build independence. This year we added a Grade 5 weeklong trip to explore one of the 13 colonies, Boston, Massachusetts! Students walked through history as they saw the birthplace of the Revolutionary War and other historical sites. As one student remarked, “It’s like being inside my social studies textbook.” This trip also helps prepare students for their two-week journey to Israel the following year.

Why Fish?

*July 24 - 27*

Irwin, Idaho

“Many...go fishing all of their life without knowing that it is not the fish they are after,” wrote Henry David Thoreau.

That may be true for many but not anyone who has gone fishing with Rabbi Leder on the magnificent South Fork of the Snake River. This is a special place for him and you are invited to make it one of yours.

Imagine one of the most naturally beautiful places in all of the United States. Now imagine yourself there for 3 glorious nights in a 5-star, very private lodge where you occupy one of only nine guest cabins. This is The Lodge at Palisades Creek, regarded as the best destination on the finest dry-fly fishing river in North America. Experts will guide you on the river for 2 or 3 days of fishing and Lodge staff show you why over 99% of their reviews are perfect fives. Beginners and pros welcome.

Finally, imagine the big sky and open space of Irwin, Idaho as the Temple dome and sanctuary. There you will spend a remarkable Shabbat with old and new friends and learn a little Torah in a setting you will never forget.

To register, call the Lodge directly at (208) 483-2222 or e-mail palisades@tlapc.com To learn more about the Lodge, visit tlapc.com

For questions and/or to notify us of your registration, please contact Samantha Rosen at srosen@wbtla.org or (213) 835-2121.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 3
Soul Sounds Shabbat Service
Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Gurney
6:00 p.m.

Shabbat Service
Rabbi Eshel and Cantorial Soloist Scott Senior
7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4
Torah Study
Vayigash
Rabbi Brody Slome
9:00 a.m.

No morning services at Glazer and Irmas Campuses

Hineni Bat Mitzvah
Bat Mitzvah of Naomi Love
Rabbi Shapiro and Cantorial Soloist
Ellen Sugerman
4:30 p.m.

Bat Mitzvah of Talia Boren
Rabbi Eshel and Cantor Gurney
4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10
Women's Torah Study
Rabbi Nanus
12:30 p.m.

Youth Choir Shabbat Services
Rabbi Eshel and Cantor Gurney
6:00 p.m.

Rabbi Eshel and Cantorial Soloist Scott Senior
7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11
Torah Study
Vay'chi
Rabbi Fox
9:00 a.m.

Shabbat Services
Bat Mitzvah of Maddy Rothman
Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Gurney
10:00 a.m.

Hineni Bat Mitzvah of Beth Davids
Rabbi Leder and Cantor Gurney
4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17
Shabbat Services
Rabbi Leder and Cantor Gurney
6:00 p.m.

Rabbi Shapiro and Cantorial Soloist Scott Senior
7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18
Torah Study
Sh'mot
Rabbi Gellman
9:00 a.m.

Shabbat Services
Bat Mitzvah of Jay and Margaret Pritzker
Rabbi Leder and Cantor Gurney
10:00 a.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24
Hip-Hop Shabbat
Rabbi Nickerson and Jason Mesches
7:00 p.m.

Shabbat Services
Rabbi Leder and Cantor Gurney
6:00 p.m.

Rabbi Nickerson and Cantorial Soloist
Ellen Sugerman
7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
Torah Study
Sh'mot
Rabbi Eshel and Cantor Gurney
9:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service
B'nei Mitzvah of Jay and Margaret Pritzker
Rabbi Leder and Cantor Gurney
10:00 a.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31
Shabbat Services
Rabbi Eshel and Cantor Gurney
6:00 p.m.

Rabbi Nickerson and Cantorial Soloist
Ellen Sugerman
7:00 p.m.