As the original April Bulletin was going to press, the COVID-19 virus and “Safer at Home” orders led us to launch WBT@home. This is our online community, where we gather to play, pray, learn, and connect using a variety of online platforms to provide you (people of all ages) with daily content. Our schools transitioned overnight to online learning; and we have been offering a full slate of programs and services livestreamed and recorded.

Even though our lives and routines have been completely disrupted, we are finding new ways to connect and stay connected with one another.

**Passover@home**

This year, Passover begins on the evening of Wednesday, April 8. There really is no other Jewish holiday that brings families together in quite the way Passover does. But this year, it is not only this night that will be different but the entire Passover experience.

Ironically, as we draw inspiration from our story of freedom, each of us will be confined to the safety of our homes. And yet, nothing will stop us from retelling our history as we have for generations. Over the past several weeks, members of our community and the clergy have discovered ways for us to observe Passover together yet apart.

With Passover@home, the Temple’s webpage at [www.wbtl.org/wbtathome/passover](http://www.wbtl.org/wbtathome/passover), you will find everything you need.

**Highlights include**

- A list of home-delivery caterers that offer special Passover meals
- Two livestreamed seders
  - First-Night Seder: Join Rabbi Elissa Ben-Naim and family for a Passover Seder starting at 4 p.m. We will use a special Haggadah (found on our Passover@home webpage); please consider printing ahead of time and having your own table(s) set for a multigenerational family-friendly experience. You can join us live and share with your families and/or replay our recording later. You will want on hand candles, Kiddush cup, grape juice (enough for four cups), a seder plate with items, matzah, and a pillow for reclining.
  - Second-Night Seder: Rabbi David Eshel and his family invite you to join them for a livestreamed seder from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. We’ll zoom through the passover story as you and your family re-create the exodus from Egypt in ways you’ve never imagined!
- “Play as You Go” Seder experience: Rabbi Susan Nanus and Cantor Don Gurney lead us through the Haggadah and all of the Passover prayers, rituals, stories, and explanations.

In addition to program listings at WBT@home, there are age-appropriate Haggadahs, recipes, instructions, suggestions for connecting friends and family online, craft projects, and the sharing of our recorded and livestreamed Seder experiences.

Whether bringing family together on Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, or Google Hangouts, we have a Passover experience for you to share with friends and families near and far.

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**Apart Yet Together**

**MONDAY**
- Jason Mesches Power Hour
- Jewish Music for Troubled Times

**TUESDAY**
- Jason Mesches Power Hour
- Tikkun Olam Tuesday

**WEDNESDAY**
- Torah Talk with Rabbi Eshel
- Jason Mesches Power Hour
- Love, Marriage and Family in the Torah

**THURSDAY**
- Jason Mesches Power Hour
- Talmud Time
- Free Choice Live

**FRIDAY**
- Shabbat Story Time
- Jason Mesches Power Hour
- Lunch and Learn Torah Study
- Family-Friendly Shabbat Service
- Kabbalat Shabbat

**SATURDAY**
- Shabbat Family Jam
- Shabbat Morning Service
- Havdalah

All events and stream links can be found at [wbtl.org/wbtathome](http://wbtl.org/wbtathome)
Torah is always about our lives, and never more so than right now. In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, this month we read about the first biblical explanation of how our ancestors behaved when someone contracted what they believed was a highly contagious, life-threatening disease. Yes, the person was quarantined “outside the camp.” Interestingly enough, for up to 14 days, much like our own protocols today. Not only was the afflicted person visited regularly by a priest, the biblical equivalent of rabbi and physician, but most important of all, the entire camp hunkered down and stayed put until that person had time to fully recover. The community did not leave anyone behind who was suffering. What a powerful lesson for all of us.

As we move through this crisis together, let it truly be together. Yes, we must keep our distance, but let us not abandon those who are ill as individuals or as a society. Instead, let’s search for the many ways we can help those we know and those we do not. Stay in touch in any and every way you can, send whatever useful and comforting items you can, and give whatever you can to support the front-line healers of today—our medical and first responder professionals who need money, equipment, and a simple thank-you. They are the heroes.

According to the Talmud, Rabbi Joshua ben Levi put this question to no less an authority than the prophet Elijah himself:
“Where,” Rabbi Joshua asked, “shall I find the messiah?”
“At the gate of the city,” Elijah replied.
“How shall I recognize him?”
“He sits among the lepers.”
“Among the lepers?” cried Rabbi Joshua. “What is he doing there?”
“He changes their bandages,” Elijah answered. “He changes them one by one.”

That may not seem like much for a messiah to be doing. But, apparently, in the eyes of the sages, it is a mighty thing indeed. Reaching out, one by one, to those who suffer is a holy act. So let us learn from our ancestors, who knew a great deal about how a community ought to behave in the most stressful of times, and reach out in every way we can to everyone we can, leaving no one behind.

Rabbi Steve Leder
BRAWERMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Makers Fair Inspires

For the second consecutive year, Brawerman East hosted the Makers Fair, celebrating the innovative work of students while simultaneously giving them and their parents a chance to create and be inspired by people who have mastered the craft of creative engineering. For weeks in advance, students and teachers prepared for the two-hour event held in Stafford Hall at the Glazer campus. On the night of the event, families packed in and celebrated the achievements of each grade level.

As students and teachers prepared for the Makers Fair, Principal Dr. Tamara Miller sent a letter to families in the weekly newsletter, part of which read, “When I see students complete projects where they have worked with their hands to build, and strategized the design of their prototype, as well as failed in the beginning only to succeed in their subsequent models, 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.”

Brawerman East has begun to differentiate itself from some of the leading private schools in Los Angeles with one unique classroom—the Innovation Lab. In this state-of-the-art Makers Space, students have access to power tools, 3D printers, woodcutters, robotics, in addition to Isai German, the Innovation specialist. Mr. German, who has been an integral part in establishing the yearly Makers Fair, which, he said, “showcases student work that promotes Project-Based Learning in a gathering where students, parents, teachers, and administration participate in the Makers Mindset.”

Following the success of year one, Dr. Miller, Ms. Rosner, and Mr. German set an even higher bar with this year’s featured creations: a smoothie blender powered by a bicycle, video games and original music made by current students using computer applications, a community art loom, sushi making, and dance. Special guest Mike White brought his robot named RAS that stands over six feet tall, dances, and lights up, and Roger Cheng was once again accompanied by his one-quarter-scale Mars Rover “Sawppy” (composed of 3D printed parts). Another big draw was a virtual-reality-experience project created by SONY.

All of these components are meant to inspire our students. In Dr. Miller’s letter, she also referenced one of the nation’s preeminent creative spaces: Jet Propulsion Laboratory. JPL often asks its applicants what they played with as children, what tools they used to take apart household items and put them back together, and what they made with their hands. The answers they’re looking for are those that are made possible by what we provide for our students when they enter any of our classrooms, not just the Innovation Lab. It’s the chance to create, make a mistake, and try again with the knowledge that the connections we make in the process are often more valuable than the final product.

Brawerman Elementary School’s Annual Giving Campaign is thrilled to thank our first ever Brawerman GRANDparents* for their generous support of our 2019–2020 Annual Giving Campaign. Head of School Brandon Cohen hosted a tea in their honor, and they were blessed by Rabbi Ben-Naim at a Brawerman Shabbat celebration. We look forward to continuing this meaningful experience next year. For more information on becoming a Brawerman GRANDparent, please contact Rebecca Spain, Director of Advancement, at (424) 208-8944 or rspain@brawerman.org.

Brawerman GRANDparents

*Brawerman GRANDparents donated a minimum of $1,000 to this year’s Annual Giving Campaign.
Another Purposeful Purim!

Whether you were able to participate in real time or virtual time, thank you to everyone who helped sponsor a bundle for Purim. Sooner than we ever imagined, due to a fire at Alexandria House, the Karsh Center was able to immediately deliver our prepared baby supply bags to families in need!

To everyone who helped make Purim happy, TODAH! THANK YOU!

Food Pantry at the Karsh Center Continues to Serve Our Neighbors in Need

On Sunday, March 19, with Los Angeles under a “Safer at Home” order from Mayor Eric Garcetti, the Karsh Family Social Service Center at Wilshire Boulevard Temple opened its food pantry in Koreatown to serve local residents who rely weekly on the healthy groceries we provide.

Many of our regular clients, uncertain whether the food pantry would be open, were thrilled to see us.

The facilities and security teams were incredibly supportive and we wouldn’t have been able to operate without their help.

In all, more than 150 bags of food were prepared. Our executive director Lila Guirguis led the Karsh Center’s lean crew, greeting clients at the sign-in table. One of Wilshire Boulevard Temple’s Volunteer Food Pantry Coordinators Todd Kaltman was also on hand to help with the flow.

We also want to thank the Los Angeles Police Department officers from the Olympic Division who were nearby to support us. As we were closing, the officers offered to help distribute surplus groceries to other neighbors in need, so we packed their squad car with 20 full bags.

With the lessons learned from this experience, we look forward to serving our clients throughout April!
GLAZER AND MANN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTERS

Transitioning to Online Learning

At our Early Childhood Centers, in light of the school closures, our administrative staff and faculty have adjusted to an online-learning model. The staff has been participating in virtual staff training, learning how to run a Synchronous Virtual program for young children. Through trial and error, as well as parent feedback, our virtual program has improved daily.

We know that many of our parents are working from home, many have more than one child, and are balancing responsibilities. Right now, we are supporting our families the best ways that we can. We have added videos, links, and updates on our website. Please go to wbtecc.org/at-home to access these wonderful resources. We have created a flexible daily schedule for young children that parents can use and adjust to make it work for them. Teachers hold daily classroom meetings using Zoom, which supports socialization and routines. Children know the time of day when they can see their teachers and friends. We also host daily online programming, such as music with Jason Mesches, Torah Talk with Clergy, and Art with our atelieristas, for children to tune in and participate. Also through Zoom, we host Monday morning Havdalah with each class and Shabbat programming on Fridays. Additionally, we are offering parent learning opportunities (including a Coffee with Carol discussing toilet learning), as well as evening parent-support talks.

We are sending families many ideas and questions to pose to their children. Teachers are emailing videos, recipes, and science activities, and we have added art suggestions from our atelieristas, too. We are calling, sending letters to children, and FaceTiming or Skyping with them. We are such a special community, and we will remain a community through these nerve-racking times.

CAMPS

Camp@home

Camp never stops, even during this uncertain and difficult time. Sure, we’re navigating the challenges of being homebound, but that doesn’t mean we can’t have some good ol’ camp fun! Camp has started providing weekly content, updates, and activities on our social media pages for kids to engage in with their families. Each weekday comes with a new way to bring camp into your home!

**Mondays: Cabin Cleanup Themes.** Just like at camp, we need to make sure our living spaces are clean and inviting, and we need to be goofy when we do it! Every Monday, we post five “Cabin Cleanup” themes for kids to follow to both clean and decorate their rooms. They can then take a picture or give a video tour of their clean, decorated room and we’ll repost the greatest hits! Past themes include Harry Potter, Jungle, and the Beach!

**Tuesdays: Cabin Activity.** We want to make sure kids are still finding ways to stay entertained WITHOUT USING SCREENS. Every Tuesday, one of our staff members will share a video detailing one of their favorite camp games, so that kids and their families can learn how to play them and then enjoy them together AWAY FROM THEIR SCREENS.

**Wednesdays: Camp Music.** Who doesn’t love a good tune? Every Wednesday we’ll post a classic camp song for everyone to sing along to.

**Thursdays: Free Choice Live.** As always, join the directors and some special guests every Thursday at 4 p.m. There will be live updates on camp, we’ll answer any community questions, and share a bunch of other random goofy stuff. It can really spice up your Thursday afternoon!

**Fridays: T’filah Trivia with Rabbi Eshel.** Participate in a high-energy lightning round of trivia, followed by another lightning round of Jewish knowledge, all with your favorite camp rabbi! It’s under two minutes, yet full of so much for you and your family to talk about around the Shabbat dinner table. Just like with Cabin Activity Tuesdays, this short segment is intended to give families something to discuss AWAY FROM THEIR SCREENS.

Make sure you follow us on our social media pages to participate.

facebook.com/camphesskramer
facebook.com/gindlinghilltopcamp

@chkmalibu
@ghcmalibu
JASON AND TALIA RIMOKH

“It will be as iconic as the Hollywood sign!” exclaimed Jason Rimokh during a recent phone conversation. Rimokh was referring to Wilshire Boulevard Temple’s Audrey Irmas Pavilion. The building itself is bound to be a city landmark, but what makes Jason most proud of the Pavilion is that such an “architecturally relevant building in Los Angeles is also a cultural Jewish community center.”

When Rabbi Leder first told Jason and Talia about the project, they were so inspired by his vision that they knew they wanted to help make the building a reality. “We feel so connected to it, so proud of it,” he said. “We wanted our names to be a part of it.”

The Audrey Irmas Pavilion is especially significant to the Rimokhs because of what the building represents. For them, it’s about continuing the tradition of L’Dor v’Dor. “It’s about lighting the torch for future generations.”

Growing up in Los Angeles, Jason was instilled with a sense of pride for his Jewish identity. His family was instrumental in building two local synagogues, Em Habanim Sephardic Congregation and Etz Jacob. The Audrey Irmas Pavilion is Jason and Talia’s legacy.

The Rimokhs officially joined Wilshire Boulevard Temple’s community in 2008, after they enrolled their oldest daughter, Gabrielle, at the Mann Early Childhood Center. They immediately fell in love with the Temple. Hailing from a Modern Orthodox background, Jason said that being part of a Reform congregation made him, his wife, and their four kids feel at home. “The philosophy of Wilshire was right for our family,” he said.

If the timing is right, congregants Jason and Talia Rimokh are hoping their 11-year-old daughter Olivia’s bat mitzvah will coincide with the opening of the Audrey Irmas Pavilion. “We’re hoping she’ll be one of the first simchas at the Pavilion,” Jason said excitedly.

SHIRIN AND PEYMAN YADEGAR

As members of Wilshire Boulevard Temple for nearly two decades, Shirin and Peyman Jacob Yadegar view the synagogue and Brawerman Elementary School as their second home. “It’s more than a synagogue or a school—it’s a community,” Shirin said.

Since before their first daughter was born more than 16 years ago, WBT has played an increasingly important role in the couple’s lives as well as their four daughters—Eden, who is 16, Bella, 14, Lily, 10, and Camille, 8. “All of our children attended the preschool and Brawerman,” she continued. “Being part of the community here has taught our family the importance of empathy, kindness, and a sense of belonging to something greater than ourselves.”

Perhaps no one at Temple has had a more profound influence on the Yadegars than Rabbi Elissa Ben-Naim. “Since we created our family,” Shirin said, “Wilshire Boulevard Temple has been our spiritual home, and Rabbi Ben-Naim has been the moral compass for our daughters’ Jewish identity.” So it was a natural decision when Rabbi Leder approached Shirin and Peyman about the new Audrey Irmas Pavilion. It was a perfect match: dedicated Temple members who love the work WBT does for the greater good. “Supporting the Pavilion is about getting people together and sharing the sense of community we feel,” Peyman explained. “Wilshire Boulevard Temple doesn’t just focus on its members; there’s a focus on humanity. The idea of giving access to the broader community is helping to change the landscape of L.A.”

He continued: “L.A. is multicultural, so we see the Pavilion as bridging the gap. With diversity within the Jewish community and beyond, we hope it will be a place where we will find ways to celebrate each other.”

The Yadegars give as much as they can back to the community. Peyman is the former Los Angeles Chairman for Gen Next. Shirin is an active board member of WIZO (Women’s International Zionist Organization) and Yemen Orde, an organization that supports at-risk immigrant youth in Israel. As a family they support the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), StandWithUs, and several other organizations.

PAVER UPDATE

Half-size pavers are now sold out and only 12 large pavers are still available. To be part of our history and secure a paver, please reach out to Jamie Geller at jgeller@wbtla.org.
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SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT WORSHIP & STUDY

Throughout April and “safer at home” orders, all services and Torah study sessions will take place online.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3
Torah Study
12:00 p.m.
Family Shabbat
Rabbi Ben-Naim and Jason Mesches
1:00 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Peicott
6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4
Shabbat Morning Service
Rabbi Nickerson and Cantor Peicott
10:00 a.m.
Havdalah
Cantor Peicott
7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8
Love, Marriage, and Family in the Torah
Rabbi Nanus
12:00 p.m.
First Night Seder
Rabbi Ben-Naim
4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9
Talmud Tales
Rabbi Nickerson
1:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10
Torah Study
12:00 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Rabbi Nanus and Cantor Gurney
6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11
Shabbat Morning Service
Rabbi Eshel and Cantor Gurney
10:00 a.m.
Havdalah
Cantor Peicott
7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15
Love, Marriage, and Family in the Torah
Rabbi Nanus
12:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16
Talmud Tales
Rabbi Nickerson
1:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17
Torah Study
12:00 p.m.
Family-Friendly Shabbat
Rabbi Ben-Naim and Jason Mesches
1:00 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Rabbi Nanus and Cantor Gurney
6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18
Shabbat Morning Service
10:00 a.m.
Havdalah
Cantor Peicott
7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22
Love, Marriage, and Family in the Torah
Rabbi Nanus
12:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23
Talmud Tales
Rabbi Nickerson
1:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24
Torah Study
12:00 p.m.
Family-Friendly Shabbat
Rabbi Ben-Naim and Jason Mesches
1:00 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Rabbi Nanus and Cantor Gurney
6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25
Shabbat Morning Service
10:00 a.m.
Havdalah
Cantor Peicott
7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29
Love, Marriage, and Family in the Torah
Rabbi Nanus
12:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30
Talmud Tales
Rabbi Nickerson
1:00 p.m.

All services and Torah Study sessions can be found at wbtl.org/wbtathome