In the weeks since the world turned upside-down, the Wilshire Boulevard Temple community has come together in ways no one could have imagined. Despite the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted everyone’s routine, as the weeks have worn on we have all found ways to respond. The stories in this month’s Bulletin begin to paint a picture of how the Temple, its schools, camps, community social service center, and congregation have adjusted to the new normal. Difficult and challenging as this is, the value of community and the concept of helping one another have rarely, if ever, been more evident.

In times of isolation, there is simple joy in conversation. On a recent Friday night, with nowhere to go, more than 50 women got together online. Hosted by Rabbi Nanus and Cantor Peicott, the evening was an opportunity to speak and listen, to express feelings, and to hear that we are not alone. There was laughter and there were tears.

Temple life is about the cycle of life. Babies are born. Sons and daughters become bar and bat mitzvah. People die. The passing of some is unrelated to the pandemic. But the impact of the pandemic on all of these life-cycle events is evident. Yet, as we have for thousands of years, we honor our families, our traditions, and our Jewish values. Whether with joy or sadness, there is comfort in seeing a familiar face and hearing a familiar voice. Rabbi Leder has spoken and written often about being present for people in difficult times. Don’t ask what you can do, just be there. Write the note. Attend the shivah. Make the call.

Passover presented a unique opportunity and challenge. Creativity and imagination were revealed in the many ways our congregation and Jews around the world celebrated this most widely observed Jewish holiday on the calendar. This year, current parallels to the story of our ancestors deepened the meaning and significance of the holiday.

While so many of us have been sheltered at home, a small team at the Karsh Family Social Service Center continues to serve the community and inspire us through their actions. The Karsh Center was established to provide access to vital services in response to the needs
Mr. Rogers famously said, “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’” His mother was right, of course—moms usually are.

The world is a very scary place right now; we’re battling a deadly, microscopic enemy called Covid-19. However, again and again, all over the world, I’ve seen kindness prevail in these uncertain times. People come together to sing from balconies in Italy. Young people offer to buy groceries for their elderly neighbors. And right here at Wilshire Boulevard Temple, our community has come together to learn, gather, and pray via cutting-edge online platforms. It’s really a sight to behold.

In the Torah portion of K’doshim, we learn about the “Holiness Code.” It reads, in Leviticus 19, “Tihyu k’doshim”: “You shall be holy, because I, the lord your G-d, am holy.”

According to Midrash Rabbah, the “Holiness Code” is of equal weight to the Ten Commandments. Unlike many of the laws of Torah that are specifically directed toward elite groups, like priests, the Holiness Code is a command meant for every single man, woman, and child. It directs us all to show kindness to our neighbors, to strangers, and to one another. In other words, we are commanded by our tradition to be “holy helpers.”

The Holiness Code teaches that, as Jews, we have a moral, ethical, and even legal obligation to look out for each other. In these troubled times, I read this as an obligation to stay safe, at home; to honor our grocery clerks, healthcare professionals, and first responders. K’doshim teaches that our human interactions are the purest reflection of our own sparks of holiness, and that those sparks ignite the holiness in those around us, even in the darkest of times.

Delivering Groceries to Seniors in Need

Since mid-March, the Karsh Center has partnered with the Koreatown Youth and Community Center to deliver 100 bags of groceries each week to senior citizens. Earlier this month, we began working with the Sam Simon Foundation to deliver an additional 100 vegan bags. We completed our first grocery pickup with the Foundation on April 10. Thanks to former Wilshire Boulevard Temple Board President Julie Miller for connecting us!
**BES@home, Keeping Us Together**

While schools around Los Angeles and the nation braced for the potential of an educational fallout from Covid-19, teachers and administrators at Brawerman Elementary School began developing **BES@home**, a virtual learning platform geared toward maintaining learning in a way that engages students in a meaningful way, while keeping our community connected, a value at the core of our mission.

As soon as remote learning became a possibility, the staff of both campuses began brainstorming ideas about how to continue learning from home. Teachers gathered supplies, shared ideas of experiential learning, and dove into IT-led professional developments to learn new methods of reaching even the youngest of learners at home on their devices. Administrators along with IT organized technology pick-ups on each campus to ensure all students were properly equipped to begin participating in a virtual classroom.

To ensure the success of this new program, Brawerman has been all hands on deck. To guarantee access to Zoom and Google Classroom, IT has extended their hours and hosted online tutorials. In order to remain connected with our elementary school students, the Clergy in Residence program has expanded as Wilshire Boulevard Temple rabbis and cantors have led programming across the grade levels. Specialists have provided a litany of activities, videos, and live sessions to supplement the day-to-day learning experience.

The classroom teachers have worked tirelessly to implement the **BES@home** plan. From their homes, our faculty have been planning and executing live and prerecorded lessons, hosting whole-class reading discussions, small-group math lessons, and providing innovative and authentic instruction for their students. Many of them are parents with their own school-age children, which requires pulling double duty. Their dedicated efforts have garnered the appreciation of students and parents, which is perhaps best summed up by this comment on a recent social media post: “What you guys pulled off in such a short amount of time was beyond words. The kids were all so happy! Thank you @brawermanelementary for the hard work.”

This time of year normally evokes different emotions. The last week of school held on campus was dedicated to celebrating Purim. Traditionally, admissions letters to incoming Kindergarten families and outgoing Grade 6 graduates creates a palpable buzz for what next year will bring. Then comes excitement about Spring Break and Passover spent with extended family and friends. This year, however, the uncertainty of an ever-changing public health pandemic colored the lens through which we viewed ourselves—and our lives—at this time of year. Everyone, in some way or another, has been affected by social distancing. The gratitude of parents does not negate their feelings of frustration as they too navigate working from home while supporting their child(ren)’s learning. But at this moment, when news updates complicate our state of mind as quickly as they show up on our cell phone and tablet screens, Brawerman is committed to supporting our students and families in any way we can. When parents enter Brawerman, we tell them we are entering a partnership and that, while we can’t wait to celebrate the good days together, we are here for the difficult days as well. Last year our theme was *kehilla*, and now more than ever our *kehilla kedosha*, or holy community, stands together, even as we are forced to be apart.
We’re Here for You

What month is it anyway? Some days we aren’t even sure what day it is. Indeed, these uncertain times have warranted unprecedented patience and understanding. Where there is certainty is in the vibrant, strong, caring community of Wilshire Boulevard Temple. Since the early years of the Lincoln administration, this community has remained steadfast in bringing Jewish culture, traditions, values, and meaning to its congregants and the community. This is also true for our Religious School, and we are excited to announce that our 2020/2021 registration is coming soon!

During the pandemic, we continue to thrive and will finish out this school year strong through our final day, May 31.

Most of our Irmas Grade 6 students have completed their tallit project, which culminates with students and parents together tying the tzitzit onto the corners. The pandemic didn’t stop us. We sent home each tallit via USPS in mid-April, and along with Rabbi Eshel and our Irmas Campus art teacher Tracie Waco, students and parents “Zoomed” their way through completion of this beautiful project.

This coming fall, Religious School will resume. Of this, we are certain! What will it look like? Great question. There will be something for everyone, as we continue to learn so much during this pandemic about best practices, as well as opportunities for considering new education models. We are also certain of our commitment to all of you, and can promise that our school program will continue to grow, develop, and address the needs of our wonderful community. In the meantime, please know that Cathy, Rachel, and Rabbi Ashley will offer Hebrew boot camp over the summer for anyone who wants to brush up on their Hebrew skills. And, of course, until we can be together again in person, we are here for you today, tomorrow, and all the years to come.

Remaining Connected

While our schools were “closed” for Passover Break, our Early Childhood Centers provided a variety of virtual programming for families to tune in and participate. Children joined teacher Morgan Kaczor each morning for Fun and Fitness with Morgan to move their bodies and dance, incorporating gross- and fine-motor skills as well as breathing and mindfulness. Administrators led interactive story-time sessions and cooking demos through Zoom. Songleader Jason Mesches continued his live daily Power Hour on YouTube and Facebook. Rabbis Eshel and Nickerson led Torah Talk on Wednesdays and Shabbat Stories on Fridays. Our ECC offered Passover curriculum as well as a child-friendly Haggadah and a Passover-seder video created by our clergy, music specialists, and administrators. Additionally, classroom teachers sent out a variety of activities for parents to do with their children over the break.

Parents shared feedback on the virtual programming and reflected on this time in their lives: “We just wanted to thank you for the thoughtful programming for spring break,” wrote an ECC parent. “Today was great, and the activities were especially nice given the rain. We’re so thankful—we know of no other preschool community that is doing anything approaching what you have put together. It’s amazing. It’s also funny that we have this intense appreciation of the community at a time when we haven’t seen any of you for weeks!”

While we are unable to be together physically, we are proud of the connection our school community is able to maintain with our families. “The kids are probably going to remember this for the rest of their lives, and that’s actually been a really comforting and inspiring outlook for us. I think/hope it’s going to be warm and cozy memories of all of us at home, our home school routine of circle time, morning centers at the kitchen table, all these wonderful new school memories—pen pals, science videos, story-time videos. It’s great, and thank you!!”
Camp Food @ Home

Quarantining is difficult, but eating great food shouldn’t be. Like many of you, over the last several weeks, we here on the camp team have seized the opportunity to cook more meals from scratch. The objective: make classic camp meals with minimal ingredients. You can eat great and reduce your trips to the grocery store! Feel free to make the following camp favorites with your family and, when you post your food pictures on social media (don’t act like you don’t), tag us! @chkmalibu @ghcmalibu. B’ayavon!

Cheese Enchiladas (12 count, serves 4)

**Ingredients:**
- Cooking oil
- 12 large corn tortillas
- Shredded Mexican cheese
- 16-oz. jar of your favorite salsa or enchilada sauce

**Cooking Steps:**
- Preheat oven to 300 degrees
- Spray cooking pan with cooking oil of your choice
- Sprinkle each tortilla liberally with cheese
- Microwave each tortilla individually for 15–20 seconds (so it doesn’t break when you roll it)
- Roll each tortilla loosely into a tube shape, then place in cooking pan
- Cover each enchilada with salsa/enchilada sauce
- Sprinkle more cheese on top of each enchilada (as much as you want!)
- Bake for 20 minutes
- Let stand for 5 minutes before serving

Chicken Tenders (Serves 4–6, but make more so you have leftovers)

**Ingredients:**
- Cooking oil
- 2 lbs. chicken breast filets or boneless chicken breast
- medium/wide bowl lined with all-purpose flour
- medium/wide bowl of egg wash (4 whisked eggs or 1 cup liquid eggs)
- Salt, pepper, seasonings to taste
- medium/wide bowl of seasoned bread crumbs

**Cooking Steps:**
- Preheat oven to 425 degrees
- Place a cooling rack on a medium-size, rimmed baking sheet; spray cooling rack with cooking oil of your choice
- Cut chicken breasts into 1-inch-thick strips, trimming excess fat/tendons
- Season flour and egg wash with salt, pepper, and any other seasonings to taste
- Dip chicken strip in flour mixture and coat; shake off excess flour
- Dip chicken strip in egg wash and coat both sides; shake off excess egg wash
- Dredge chicken strip in bread crumbs and coat evenly
- Place chicken strip on cooling rack and repeat process for remainder of chicken strips
- Bake for 20 minutes, or until golden brown, and serve with your favorite dipping sauces!

AUDREY IRMAS PAVILION DONOR PROFILE

CELEBRATING FAMILIES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

*In the coming months, we will be sharing stories revealing why families have purchased a paver at the Audrey Irmas Pavilion.*

Lexie, Michael, Hudson, and Aiden Messinger

“We are proud to support Wilshire Boulevard Temple’s new Audrey Irmas Pavilion. Our family is committed to Jewish continuity, ensuring a vibrant future for the Jewish people, and teaching our children the importance of tikkan olam. This new gathering place will be the hub of religious and cultural activities for the entire community, a place where our children will learn and grow and can celebrate their Judaism. The paver will be a reminder of our family’s dedication to philanthropy and will inspire our children to continue in our footsteps.”

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.
Welcome to new Temple members...

Alexandra and Steven Nelson and their sons, Winston and Ryder...Michelle and Michael Nourmand and their children, Vincent, Kennedy, and Valerie...Monique Rad-Stein and Jacob Stein and their children, Jasper and Eveleigh...Juliette Steinberg and her sons, Hunter, Blake, and Tyler...Masha and Alexander Tikhman and their children, Lev, Micah, and Mischa...Leslie Berger and Paul Williams...

Congratulations to...

Janet White Jonas and Tony Jonas on the recent marriage of their daughter, Annie Jonas, to Brad Heller...

Congratulations to...

Nancy and Fred Rosenfelt on the birth of their granddaughter, Rose Judith Crowley, and to aunt and uncle, Stacey and David Lubliner, and cousins, Andrew and Molly...Rabbi Aviva and Yosef Funke on the birth of their son, Amitov Funke...Dahlia and Andy Haas on the birth of their granddaughter, Olive Kaye Haas...Laura and Karl Hussey on the birth of their daughter, Harper Ivy Hussey...Sally and Omid Sakhi on the birth of their son, Aaron Noah Sakhi, and to big sisters, Avah and Ella...Erika Glazer on the birth of her granddaughter, Sophia Rose Shabati...Lee and Barbara Wagan on the birth of their grandson, Benjamin Paul Wagan, and to cousins, Sarah and Andrew Ellenbogen, and their children, Max, Sadie, and Sophie...

Condolesences to...

Laurie and Todd Okum on the death of her father, Marty Feldman, and to grandchildren, Sara, Jonah, and Eli...Ed Goldberg and Myra Model on the death of his father, Paul Goldberg, and to grandson, Gideon...Suzanne Goldman Rubin on the death of her brother, Fred Stanley Goldman, and to niece, Ann Rubin...Laura Grover on the death of her grandmother, Beverly Jacobs, and to great-grandchildren, Spencer Martin Grover, and to granddaughter, Esther...Elija Glazer on the birth of her granddaughter, Sophia Rose Shabati...Lee and Barbara Wagan on the birth of their grandson, Benjamin Paul Wagan, and to cousins, Sarah and Andrew Ellenbogen, and their children, Max, Sadie, and Sophie...

Welcome to new Temple members...

Caroline Becker...Jill Dove...Karen Gold and Bradley Fisher and their children, Olivia and Leo...Alexandra and Lawrence Freiman and their son, Blake...Edeltraud and Anotoly Fur and their son, Leon...Carly and Scott Goldman and their son, Beau...Ilana and Alex Grodnik and their daughter, Elle...Alexander Jokinsky and his daughter, Belleza...Joella Kudron...Alejandra Amarilla and Bobby Sarraf and their children, Gabriella, Isabella, Lourdes, and Matteo...Camille Schroeder...Stacy and Philip Schwartz and their children, Brady and Sophia...Gimena and Benhour Soleiman and their children, Benhour Junior and Ella...Erin and Simon Tikhman...Jessica Weatherup...Lana Zakocela...

Congratulations to...

Lili Weiner and Josef Jonathan on their recent marriage...

Congratulations to...

Lindsey Rosin and Josh Passman on the birth of their daughter, Helen Bea Passman, and to aunt, Maxine Rosin, and grandparents, Charles and Karen Rosin...

Condolesences to...

Friends and family of Margot Daniel...friends and family of Marsha Kramer Keller...Neil Leventhal and Amanda Levin on the death of his mother, Leslie Leventhal, and to granddaughter, Isabel...Ross and Betty Wynn on the death of his brother-in-law, Marshall Mintz, and to nephew and niece, Ryan and Briana...Alexander Gantz on the death of his cousin, Andrea Lynn Pennington...Julie and Fredrick Reitz on the death of her brother, Marc Steven Schwarz, and to niece and nephew, Raquel and Eli...Stephen and Diana Shragar on the death of his father, Nelson Shragar, and to grandchildren, Olivia and Lindsey...

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!

20 Years...Margaret Epstein...Gary Jones and Stacey Snider...Fred and Susan Kunik...Nina B. Weinstein...Richard and Candace Weitz

15 Years...Mark DeVriete...Peyman and Juliana Tofer

10 Years...Benjamin and Laurie Fox...Stuart and Amy Graiwer...Alfred Hamburger and Judy Redel...Sue Revitz...Keith and Michelle Richman

5 Years...David and Leila Brown...Gary S. Cohn...Sandy and Bobbie Heck...Sean Lubens and Amy Andelson...Abram and Gillian Nalibotsky...Edward and Mollie Share...Emilio Smeeke and Joanne Nabielsky...Benjamin and Jessica van der Fluit

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!

40 Years...Stephen B. Barash

30 Years...Alan and Janet Kupchick

25 Years...Jerome Schwartz and Ruth Stoch

20 Years...Jill Greenwald...Nancy Silberkleit...Alexander R. Zinberg

15 Years...Daren and Sharon Lewin...Mark and Claudia Schwartz...Arthur and Debora Valner

10 Years...Robert and Shari Friedman...Russell and Julie Greenman

5 Years...Gil and Elizabeth Cates...Ted and Stacy Cohan...Michael and Michelle Lalezarian...David and Diana Makkabi
We appreciate your generous donations. An $18 minimum donation is required for each acknowledgment card.
SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT WORSHIP & STUDY

Throughout the "safer at home" orders, all services and Torah study sessions will take place online.

FRIDAY, MAY 1
Lunch and Learn Torah Study
12 p.m.
Family-Friendly Shabbat
Rabbi Ben-Naim and Jason Mesches
2 p.m.
Shabbat Services
6 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 2
Shabbat Morning Service
10 a.m.
Havdallah
7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 8
Lunch and Learn Torah Study
12 p.m.
Family-Friendly Shabbat
Rabbi Ben-Naim and Jason Mesches
2 p.m.
Shabbat Services
6 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 9
Shabbat Morning Service
10 a.m.
Havdallah
7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 15
Shabbat Morning Service
10 a.m.
Lunch and Learn Torah Study
12 p.m.
Family-Friendly Shabbat
Rabbi Ben-Naim and Jason Mesches
2 p.m.
Shabbat Services
6 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 16
Shabbat Morning Service
10 a.m.
Havdallah
7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 22
Lunch and Learn Torah Study
12 p.m.
Family-Friendly Shabbat
Rabbi Ben-Naim and Jason Mesches
2 p.m.
Shabbat Services
6 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 23
Shabbat Morning Service
10 a.m.
Havdallah
7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 29
Lunch and Learn Torah Study
12 p.m.
Family-Friendly Shabbat
Rabbi Ben-Naim and Jason Mesches
2 p.m.
Shabbat Services
6 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 30
Shabbat Morning Service
10 a.m.
Havdallah
7:30 p.m.