Letter From Temple President Barry Edwards

It seems like only days ago we were together at High Holy Day services, yet somehow it is already January. Before the year ends, I want to share some important news and invite your feedback.

We are continually working to make your experiences with the Temple enjoyable and enriching. Currently, we are reviewing—with the intention of improving—the entire High Holy Day experience, from seating options to the times of the services, parking, and more. We welcome any suggestions you may have to help us rethink the way you experience the High Holy Days at the Temple. Feel free to send an email with your suggestions to Donna Nadel, Executive Chief of Staff, at dndel@wbtla.org.

In addition to Rabbi Karen Fox, whose retirement we celebrated so lovingly on December 7th, three longtime staff members will be retiring soon: Nan Brostoff, Rabbi Leder’s executive assistant, on December 31st, Nancy Levine, our controller, on December 31st, and Nancy Daum, the cantors’ assistant, at the end of February. We are so very grateful for all they have done for our Temple family during their 91 collective years of service. The Temple clergy and staff celebrated Nan and Nancy Levine at their annual Chanukah celebration. On February 20th, we will honor Nancy Daum at Shabbat services followed by a special oneg at the Irmas Campus. All four of these amazing women will forever be a part of Wilshire Boulevard Temple, and we hope to see them often at the Temple in the future.

I invite you to join me at the many and varied opportunities we offer for learning, growing, and enjoyment, such as monthly Torah study sessions with Rabbi Leder and Rabbi Susan Nanus; the high-energy Shabba Dabba family

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As we begin the Book of Exodus we meet Moses, perhaps the single greatest hero in the Torah. But there are two other heroes in Parashat Shemot without whom Moses never would have existed—two midwives named Shiphrah and Puah. The Torah explains that Pharoah ordered the midwives to kill the male Jewish children they delivered in order to reduce the Israelite population. Shiphrah and Puah refused. Moses should have been killed at birth, but Shiphrah and Puah saved his life. As Rabbi Jill Hammer explains in The Jewish Book of Days, “Shiphrah and Puah encounter life at its most fragile and act to save life whenever it is in their power.”

The rabbis of the midrash underscore the heroic nature of the midwives’ refusal to obey Pharoah’s command when they remark that Shiphrah and Puah are considered to be identical to Yocheved, Moses’ mother. All three women are equally responsible for giving Moses life.

It would have been much safer for Shiphrah and Puah to simply obey the Pharoah’s orders. How easily they could have convinced themselves that they could not make a difference. But Shiphrah and Puah decided to do the hard thing. They disobeyed an order and put their own lives at risk to do what they believed was right and just. And because of them Moses survived, and our people survived. Most of us will never have to decide whether to follow orders and murder or disobey orders and preserve life, but sooner or later each of us faces tough moral questions and each of us must decide whether or not to stand up to injustice. May we draw inspiration from the Torah’s heroines Shiphrah and Puah and have the courage to follow our conscience and convictions.

Rabbi M. Beaumont Shapiro
Vote for Religious Freedom in Israel

There’s nothing wrong with being Amish, but if it were the only religion in the world, most people would rather be secular. Unfortunately, without the help of non-Orthodox American Jews, many Israelis will continue to live in a nation where only Orthodox Judaism is recognized as completely valid and therefore feel they must choose secularism. Believe it or not, the most important help you can provide to create a better Israel right now is your vote, and it’s just a click away.

Without our votes, we will leave to the next generation an Israel that offers either Orthodoxy or nothing.

In 2015 the American Zionist Movement (AZM) will hold elections to determine American Jewish representation to the World Zionist Congress. The Congress provides a forum for all the world’s Jews to come together and deliberate issues affecting both diaspora Jews and the state of affairs in Israel.

One hundred and forty-five seats in the Congress are dedicated to American Zionist organizations. The number of seats that ARZA, the Reform Movement’s Zionist organization, gets, will determine the amount of money directed and spent in Israel supporting non-Orthodox Judaism: more seats, greater funds—and less support going to extremist groups who do not believe that Jews like you and me should have religious freedom in Israel.

These elections are the most powerful way for American Jews to promote and encourage the ideals of justice, equality, and democracy in Israel, as well as to help build the kind of Jewish state and the kind of Judaism we all know are possible. A state that recognizes, respects, and funds all types of Jewish institutions and guarantees the right of every Israeli to practice Judaism as he or she believes. Without our votes, we will leave to the next generation an Israel that offers either Orthodoxy or nothing.

For details regarding how and when to vote, go to www.reformjews4israel.org/about-us.

Please...

Rabbi Steven Z. Leder
Senior Rabbi

Rabbi Heschel and Dr. King

At the first conference on religion and race, the main participants were Pharaoh and Moses. The outcome of that summit meeting has not come to an end.”

With these words, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel opened his address at the 1963 National Conference on Race and Religion in Chicago. There, Rabbi Heschel first met Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The two became friends working together until King was assassinated five years later.

Though from very different backgrounds, both Rabbi Heschel and Dr. King came from prominent religious families and were groomed to take up the mantle of leadership of their forebears. Both believed passionately in a God of compassion and righteousness, who called on humankind to serve as co-creators of a world suffused with these values. And both were masterful at awakening people’s consciousness and stirring them to action, marching arm in arm in Selma, Alabama, as Rabbi Heschel put it, “praying with our feet.”

Though Rabbi Heschel did not live to see a national holiday established in honor of his dear friend, he would have been deeply gratified to see Americans of all backgrounds joining together to renew their great dream of a nation united in justice, peace, and reconciliation.

It is in this spirit that we invite you to join us on Friday, January 16, at 6:00 p.m. at our Irmas Campus for a special Shabbat commemoration of Dr. King, featuring Shabbat prayers, readings, poetry, and a musical celebration by the Central Bible Church Gospel Choir. Please join our African-American neighbors and follow the example of Rabbi Heschel as we pray, sing, and celebrate our shared legacy of peace, love, and understanding.

Rabbi Susan Nanus
Director of Adult Programs
Thanks and Giving

Thanksgiving at Brawerman Elementary School exemplifies our integrated curriculum, combining secular and Jewish values, an important component of the school culture. Not only is the American tradition of Thanksgiving—offering gratitude for blessings we have received—a very Jewish idea, but the holiday also provides a wonderful opportunity to carry out the equally Jewish idea of sharing our bounty with those less fortunate.

For our Thanksgiving observance, students at Brawerman West brought groceries to fill baskets that they then donated to Home-SAFE (Services Aiding Family Equilibrium, established by the L.A. National Council of Jewish Women). Kindergartners with their Grade 6 buddies assembled the baskets—all the fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner, including a decorative tablecloth and a coupon for a turkey—and wrote greeting cards for the baskets’ recipients.

Classroom activities centered around the history of the holiday, the practice of giving thanks, and carrying on family traditions. At West, Grade 1 students compared their celebration to the first Thanksgiving in America, while Grade 3 students wrote letters to a special person in their lives, someone for whom they were particularly thankful. Incorporating this year’s Grade 2 theme, From Generation to Generation, Brawerman East Grade 2 students interviewed their own family members and created “tradition garlands” to decorate tables. East students also prepared for the all-school feast and in order to express their thanks, invited clergy, security staff, and the maintenance crew to share the holiday lunch.

It is clear that Thanksgiving, as celebrated at Brawerman, reflects treasured Jewish values—real experiences of Thanks and of Giving.

Religious School

Camp Retreat—A Mom’s-Eye View

I f you heard screaming one Thursday night in November, it may have been my 12-year-old declaring that she was absolutely not going to the Religious School retreat at Camp Hess Kramer. None of my sales tactics—“But you’ll have a great time, make friends, eat great food, the chef there can do wonders with a chicken!”—were working. Then my 10-year-old chimed in. Great! I had two disgruntled tweens. I didn’t cave. I put my girls on the bus as scheduled. Rabbi Raff, head of the Religious School, and Jeff Brody, retreat coordinator, assured me that they’d have a great time, an experience they’d long cherish. But as the buses pulled away, I couldn’t help worrying: what if they’re miserable and make no friends?

I spent the weekend with Ben & Jerry’s while time seemed to stand still; finally, Sunday arrived. When the bus doors opened, I immediately spotted my girls, each with a smile bright enough to light up the world. My 12-year-old was covered in purple paint and my freckled-faced 10-year-old was waving a banner that read WBTY Deux and Jr. WBTY

Camp Hess Kramer. After a fabulous five minutes of hugs, their excitement found words: “Mom, I did this ropes course and jumped down—it was awesome! Mom, let me show you this crazy dance we learned! We hiked to the menorah and I spoke to God—I think He was a star! It was so cool.”

My kids, who fought not to go, couldn’t wait to share each precious moment of their weekend. Thank you, Religious School. You were right. It was an experience they’ll never forget.

■ Amy Lord McRae
The teaching of Jewish traditions and values is a primary thread running through the Early Childhood Centers’ program. Each week we have Torah Talk at the Glazer and Mann Family Early Childhood Centers as part of our Jewish learning. One of the rabbis recounts a Torah story for the children, told at their level, and the children are captivated.

The Harim class at the Irmas Campus had their first Torah Talk of the year in the chapel. Rabbi Shapiro began by asking the children why they were all gathered there. Logan’s hand shot up and he responded, “We are here for God.” Thus began the discussion in which Rabbi Shapiro explained that they would be meeting each week to examine the physical Torah as well as hear stories that are written inside it. When the rabbi removed one of the Torahs from the ark and the teachers unrolled part of it, Sam noticed that one side of the Torah was significantly larger than the other. Rabbi Shapiro showed the children that one side was bigger because we had just started reading the Torah from the beginning since it was just after Simchat Torah.

Back in the classroom, Sam pointed out the ark in the dramatic play center, noting that, like the sanctuary’s ark, it too had a Torah inside and that the words in both looked the same, although the classroom’s Torah was much smaller. Questions arose: Does the size of the Torah make a difference? Are Torahs all the same? Does putting it in the ark make it special? Logan had told us that we were in the chapel for God, but do we need to be in the chapel for God? Or read the Torah for God?

As the children meet with a rabbi each week and study the Torah, we will find answers to these questions, and many more.

Tikkun Olam

Legal Aid for Caring Guardians

On October 26, I was lucky enough to participate in a free legal clinic for low-income neighbors of the Temple. I joined a group of 20 other volunteer lawyers, all Temple members, at the Glazer Campus as part of the Temple’s Tikkun Olam outreach, which will expand with the opening of the Karsh Family Social Service Center in 2016. Our goal that Sunday morning was to initiate the legal guardianship process for families in need. A court-ordered guardianship allows an adult other than a parent to care for a child and have the legal rights to make day-to-day decisions for that child. Our partner for the clinic was the Alliance for Children’s Rights, a nonprofit organization that provides free legal services for children.

The day began with introductions. We quickly realized that our varied legal practices included experience in intellectual property, trust and estates, family law, and litigation. Ironically, the one thing we had in common was that none of us had experience in guardianship law. However, the Alliance staff attorneys prepared us well to interview our client families. After our training, and a quick lunch together, we broke into pairs and met with our clients, heroic families seeking to assume care and provide stability for children because their biological parents are unable or unwilling to care for them. As attorneys, we were in a position to assist these families in taking the first step toward a legally permanent relationship with the children in their care. It was a gratifying day for everyone involved.

On January 25, 2015, at the Glazer Campus, we will partner with Asian Americans Advancing Justice for a citizenship clinic. If you are an attorney and would like to volunteer, please contact Denise Magilnick at dmagilnick@wbcla.org or (424) 208-8930.

Jody Kasten
Help Build the Karsh Center

Imagine all the activity that will take place on the north end of campus—meeting the needs of our Temple families and our neighbors.

Please help us complete these essential additions—gifts of all sizes are welcome and crucial to our success. Contact Karen Schetina in our Development office at kschetina@wbtlm.org or (213) 835-2153 for more information. Thank you!

Have you visited the Glazer Campus recently? The Karsh Family Social Service Center, occupying the ground floor of the parking pavilion with its rooftop sports complex, is very much underway! We urgently need your help to finish it. Please get in touch.

Community News

Celebrating Rabbi Karen Fox

Here are a few of the special moments captured at the retirement party for Rabbi Fox on December 7.

Sharing Our Lives

We are excited to let you know about a new initiative we are launching to deepen the sense of community for all Wilshire Boulevard Temple members. Starting early in 2015, we will regularly send out email notifications to our entire congregation with news of the births of children and grandchildren and the deaths of immediate family members. The emails will contain as much or as little information as a family chooses to share, including, if desired, funeral and shivah details. If you prefer not to receive these email notifications, you can simply “opt out” by clicking the opt-out link at the bottom of the email.

We are confident that by sharing major life-cycle events with our Temple community, we will be able to support each other better through times of sorrow and more fully celebrate each other’s joys.

If you have any questions about this new effort, please don’t hesitate to contact Jodi H. Berman, Director of Leadership and Engagement, at jberman@wbtlm.org or (424) 208-8970.

Rabbi Fox receives blessings from Temple clergy (right) and from women rabbis and congregants (above).

With dear old friends and colleagues, Steve and Nadine Breuer
TORAH AND LUNCH WITH RABBI LEDER 🌟
Friday, January 9, 12:00 p.m.
Century City
Join Rabbi Leder for lunch and Torah study. Bring your lunch; Rabbi Leder brings the wisdom of our ancestors. No prior knowledge of Torah or Hebrew is necessary. Series, $36. Future Torah study dates: February 6, March 6, April 17, May 1.
 Jamie Geller, jgeller@wbtla.org, (213) 835-2121
 wbtl.org

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SHABBAT 🌟
Friday, January 16 🕒 6:00 p.m.
Don’t miss this special Shabbat commemoration of Dr. King, now a popular tradition at Wilshire Boulevard Temple. With readings, poetry and a musical celebration by the Central Bible Church Gospel Choir and their congregants, followed by an “I Have a Dream” Oneg Shabbat.
 Phil Wallace, pwallace@wbtla.org, (424) 208-8932
 wbtl.org

DEBORAH LIPSTADT SPEAKS ON THE NEW ANTI-SEMITISM 🌟
A Program in partnership with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
Sunday, January 18 🕒 6:30 p.m.
What are the challenges and threats facing the Jewish people today? How different is it in America, Europe, Israel, or the world? Will anti-semitism ever be eradicated? Renowned Holocaust historian Deborah Lipstadt, author of Denying the Holocaust and The Eichmann Trial, discusses and analyzes the situation. Followed by a Q&A with Dr. Lipstadt.
 Phil Wallace, pwallace@wbtla.org, (424) 208-8932
 wbtl.org

MOVIE SCREENING: UNACCEPTABLE LEVELS 🌟
Thursday, January 22 🕒 7:00 p.m.
The Green Team Presents Movie Night: Unacceptable Levels. A film about the chemicals in our bodies, how they got there and what we can do about it.
 Joanna Barra, jbarra@wbtla.org, (424) 208-8949
 wbtl.org/unacceptablelevels

PRO-BONO LEGAL CLINIC: ADVANCING JUSTICE CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP
Sunday, January 25 🕒 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Tikkun Olam teaches us to share responsibility in transforming the world. As part of our ongoing outreach efforts, we are proud to partner with Asian Americans Advancing Justice, the nation’s largest legal and civil rights organization for Asian-Americans, to host a free citizenship clinic for the neighbors in our community. If you are an attorney and would like to volunteer your time for this special event, please contact Denise Magilnick.
 Denise Magilnick, dmagilnick@wbtla.org, (424) 208-8930
 wbtl.org

THE JEWISH WOMEN’S THEATRE PRESENTS: HE SAID...SHE SAID 📚
Sunday, January 25 🕒 2:00 p.m.
A provocative show full of surprises and laughs as men and women bare all about food, family and fooling around. This nationally acclaimed theatre company makes us laugh, cry, and look at life from new perspectives. Come early for coffee and dessert, and meet the actors and writers after the show.
 COST: $18.00
 Phil Wallace, pwallace@wbtla.org, (424) 208-8932
 wbtl.org

NANCY DAUM RETIREMENT CELEBRATION
Friday, February 20 🕒 6:00 p.m.
Please join us for a Youth Choir Shabbat service, followed by a special oneg shabbat honoring Nancy Daum, long-time cantors’ assistant, upon her retirement from Wilshire Boulevard Temple.
 Jamie Geller, jgeller@wbtla.org, (213) 835-2121
 wbtl.org

For our complete calendar of events, please visit wbtla.org/events

GUARDIAN CAMPUS
CALL/EMAIL REGISTRATION REQUIRED
ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED
CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION
FREE OF CHARGE
### CALENDAR OF EVENTS - January 2015

**Sunday**
- Food Pantries
- Judaism by Choice
- Spousal Bereavement Support Group
- Spousal Bereavement Support Group
- Spousal Bereavement Support Group

**Monday**
- Food Pantries
- Judaism by Choice
- Religious School Resumes
- Food Pantries
- Judaism by Choice
- Pro-Bono Legal Clinic
- Jewish Women’s Theatre
- Religious School Conferences—After School

**Tuesday**
- Torah Study
- Shabbata Dabba
- Shabbat Service

**Wednesday**
- Shabbat Study
- Shabbat Shacharit
- Jewish Women’s Theatre
- Religious School K-7 Conferences Instead of Classes
- Religious School-WNP-Regular Day

**Thursday**
- Torah and Lunch with Rabbi Leder
- Women’s Torah Study with Rabbi Nanus
- Shabbat Services
- Jewish Women’s Theatre
- Religious School—New Orleans Trip

**Friday**
- Shabbat Service
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Salon Shabbat
- Shabbat Shacharit
- Religious School Conferences—After School

**Saturday**
- Shabbat Study
- Shabbat Shacharit
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Salon Shabbat
- Shabbat Shacharit

**For more information, including time and location, on all of the events in this calendar, visit [wbtla.org/events](http://wbtla.org/events)**
We appreciate your generous donations. An $18 minimum donation is required for each acknowledgment card.
BERKELEY LEVIN GOLDSCHMIDT
January 10, 2015
Berkeley, a graduate of Brawerman Elementary School at Wilshire Boulevard Temple, is the son of Cari Levin and Guy Goldschmidt; the grandson of Lynda and Phillip Levin; Barbara Goldschmidt and the late Gunther Goldschmidt.
Tikkun Olam Project: Berkeley volunteers at the Wilshire Boulevard Temple Food Pantry, feeding those in need every Sunday. He started at age six.

RYAN BENJAMIN BAER
January 10, 2015
Ryan is the son of Amy and Matthew Baer; the grandson of Diane Baer and the late Richard Baer; Patricia Bosley and the late Tom Bosley.
Family Welcomer: Ethan Baer, brother.
Tikkun Olam Project: Ryan volunteers at No Kill Los Angeles Animal Shelter (NKLA), where he cares for many dogs by walking and playing with them, as well as raising money for the organization by holding lemonade stands and donating the proceeds.

AMANDA GABRIELLE SWARTZ
January 17, 2015
Amanda is the daughter of Danielle and Michael Swartz; the granddaughter of Regine and Alan Weinberg; Laurel Swartz and Robert Swartz.
Family Welcomers: Natalie Swartz and Zachary Swartz.
Tikkun Olam Project: Amanda collects clothes and basic necessities for Baby2Baby, an organization that helps children of low-income families.

TALIA JUSTINE GLAZER
January 17, 2015
Talia, a graduate of Brawerman Elementary School at Wilshire Boulevard Temple, is the daughter of Sandra Barrientos and Russell Glazer; the granddaughter of Richard Glazer and the late Judith Glazer; Jesus and Clementina Barrientos.
Family Welcomers: Jacob Glazer and Samantha Glazer.
Tikkun Olam Project: Talia, with the help of family and friends, is cleaning up her neighborhood, picking up trash surrounding her school and local park.

AIDAN SAMUEL FREEDMAN
January 31, 2015
Aidan is the son of Debra Diamond and Jeffrey Freedman; the stepson of Karen Silagi; the grandson of Marilyn and Michael Diamond; Marion and Dr. Michael Freedman; Debbie and Gerald Goldfaden; the step-grandson of Andrea and Moshe Silagi.
Family Welcomer: Benjamin Freedman.
Tikkun Olam Project: Aidan has been volunteering at Grand View Boulevard Elementary School, teaching young kids “brain games.” The program was designed to support critical thinking practices with the young students and teach them new ways of thinking.

ETHAN HARRISON FREEDMAN
January 31, 2015
Ethan is the son of Debra Diamond and Jeffrey Freedman; the stepson of Karen Silagi; the grandson of Marilyn and Michael Diamond; Marion and Dr. Michael Freedman; Debbie and Gerald Goldfaden; the step-grandson of Andrea and Moshe Silagi.
Family Welcomer: Benjamin Freedman.
Tikkun Olam Project: Ethan is volunteering at his local ASPCA, helping them with abandoned animals. Ethan loves animals and cares very much about making sure that they are safe, have good homes, and are happy.

ALEXA AVA ZOHAR
January 31, 2015
Alexa is the daughter of Erica and Lior Zohar; the granddaughter of Tova and Uzi Zohar; Nicole and Dr. Herbert Wertheim.
Family Welcomer: Elan Wertheim Zohar, brother.
Tikkun Olam Project: Alexa is volunteering at the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust and participating in the museum’s Remember Us program, a Holocaust B’nei Mitzvah project, by incorporating the name and story of a lost child into her d’var Torah.
Friday, January 2
Shabbat Dabba
Rabbi Goldberg and the Band
6:00 p.m.

Shabbat Service
Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Ettinger
6:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 3
Torah Study
Genesis Vayechi 47:28 - 50:26
Rabbi Goldberg
9:00 a.m.

No Shabbat service at either Campus

Friday, January 9
Shabbat Services
Rabbi Goldberg and Cantor Ettinger
Youth Choir
6:00 p.m.

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

Saturday, January 10
Torah Study
Exodus Shmot 1:1 - 6:1
Avi Cohen
9:00 a.m.

Shabbat Services
Bat Mitzvah of Amanda Gabrielle Swartz
Rabbi Leder and Cantor Gurney
10:30 a.m.

Bat Mitzvah of Talia Justine Glazer
Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Ettinger
10:30 a.m.

Friday, January 16
Shabbat Services
Rabbi Leder and Cantor Ettinger
6:00 p.m.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Salon Shabbat
Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Gurney
6:00 p.m.

Nefesh “Food for the Soul”
Rabbi Goldberg and the Band
7:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 17
Torah Study
Exodus Vayera 6:2 - 9:35
Student Rabbi Sarah Rensin
9:00 a.m.