

WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE



BUREAU

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Brawerman Students Travel to Israel

Brawerman Elementary proudly participates in the LA Federation's Twinning Program which matches us with the Ussishkin school in Tel Aviv. The 6th grade exchange program allows students to deepen lessons learned in both schools through travel, study and celebrating Israel's national holidays. This year, Brawerman students spent two weeks exploring their spiritual, intellectual, social and academic connections to the land and people of Israel. These journal entries and photos capture a few of our remarkable experiences this, our second delegation, year.

From this trip I have become more independent. I am so much more thankful for the life I have, and I have never had a more meaningful trip. The part that "sparked" me the most was at the kotel when I put/shoved the first note into the wall. I felt this sort of bubble which held only me, the note and the wall. At that moment I really knew who I was and what my purpose was on this once-in-a-lifetime trip. I really want to thank all of my teachers, friends and parents for letting me experience this. The kids and teachers on this trip have become my family for life. – Lizzy P.

Over this trip I realized that Israel really is my home away from home. Before Israel I thought people were telling me that because I am Jewish. Now that I have stayed with an Israeli family, I feel as if Israel is really opening its door to me. Now I realize that I can go and come as I please and I will always be welcome. – Annie D.

In This Issue



Reaching Out and Reaching In

EARTH WEEK in the
Early Childhood Centers



GINDLING HILLTOP CAMP 40th Anniversary



Mine! Mine! Mine!

Behar/Bechukotai (Leviticus 25:1–27:34)

I'm sure that we've all heard out of the mouth of a child, in one form or another, the words, "Mine! Mine!" Right around the age of two, everything seems to be "Mine!" My toy, my blanket, my chair, my shoe, my book...mine, mine, mine!

The thing is, it doesn't really stop with childhood—it continues for the rest of our lives. This is my seat on the plane, my seat at the movies, my seat at High Holy Days. It goes beyond the material. This is my dog. This is my child. This is my life. What is ownership and what does it truly mean for something to belong to us?

We get a not-so-subtle hint in this week's double Torah portion, Behar/Bechukotai (Leviticus 25:1–27:34): "The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for Mine is the land; for you are merely residents with Me." (Lev. 25:23) and "For the Children of Israel are servants, My

“
The land shall not be sold
in perpetuity,
for Mine is the land;
for you are merely residents with Me
”
Lev. 25:23

servants whom I took out of Egypt; I am Adonai your God." (Lev. 25:55)

Ultimately, everything and everyone belongs to God, and therefore everything and everyone is merely on loan. At first glance, this may seem overly simplistic. But how can this inform the way we live?

I personally wouldn't trust just anyone to take care of my daughter. This person would have to be special, kind, gentle, thoughtful. I'd make sure this person knew just how important my daughter is to me. So, too, does this speak to our relationship to God. God has entrusted us with God's most prized possession: everything. This speaks volumes about us and the potential God sees in us. May we all live up to that potential.

■ *Rabbi David Eshel*



Center for Religious Inquiry



Reaching Out and Reaching In

Last month, Wilshire Boulevard Temple members experienced two wonderful multicultural events: African-American and Muslim Pesach model seders, both filled to capacity and emanating joy.

Then, for the first time, the Center for Religious Inquiry and Brawerman Elementary School joined in an interfaith exploration project with our sixth graders that took some of them to the Islamic Center, our Temple Campus, St. James Episcopal Church and the Hsi Lai Buddhist Temple. Rev. Kusala, a Buddhist monk, came to Brawerman to teach about

his tradition and ended up dazzling us with blues music on his harmonica! Each of these opportunities allowed us to learn more about others in our society, and every moment created an opening for us to serve as ambassadors of our people.

Next month, congregants will engage in lively conversation with our new Persian-Muslim friends at IMAN, the Iranian Muslim-American Network, in Culver City.

■ *Rabbi Stephen Julius Stein*



Want to join us in these exciting experiences?
Please contact Rabbi Stein at rabbisjstein@sbcglobal.net



Recycle . Green . Organic . Tikkun Olam . Mitzvot . Natural

EARTH WEEK

in the Early Childhood Centers



Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps

GINDLING HILLTOP CAMP

40th Anniversary CELEBRATION

As we prepare to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Gindling Hilltop Camp, we take a look back to a time when...

- ♦ The first summer, there wasn't any running water—everyone had to walk down to Camp Hess Kramer to take a shower in the leadership cabin and were brought back up to Hilltop in a cattle truck.
- ♦ There wasn't a kitchen, so Sam Tarica brought all the meals up from Camp Hess Kramer.
- ♦ Campers, counselors and staff had to use outhouses!
- ♦ Horseback riding was a featured activity.
- ♦ Campers would call out "The coast is clear!" and Pioneer Pete would appear to start the campfire.
- ♦ Gindling Hilltop Camp held a summer Olympics called "Pioneer Days."

Join us on Sunday, May 31, to reminisce and reconnect with camp friends. Bring your family and share in the *ruach* that is found at Gindling Hilltop Camp.

■ *Cheri Lauterbach*
Alumni & Development
Director



Gindling Hilltop Camp 40th Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, May 31, 2009

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

www.wbtla.org/events/item/297/youth_events

For reservations and information, please contact the camp alumni and development office at (213) 388-2401 or email cheri@wbtcamps.org



Donor Circle Sustains Temple Community

Our history has shown us that when times get tough, our community bands together to support one another. During the past few months, I've received many calls from Wilshire Boulevard Temple members who are concerned about their ability to afford their annual contribution to the Temple.

"I'm embarrassed to have to make this call. I've been a member of the Temple for more than 20 years. I'm one of those people who is usually able to pay my Temple dues upfront each June, but I don't know how I'll even be able to afford membership this year. My wife and I have our own business, and we live in a modest home with a reasonable mortgage, but we're having trouble making ends meet. We've had to lay off some of our employees and have had to dip into our savings for months now, and we're afraid we just can't afford to be Temple members anymore."

~

"I've never had to do this before and I'm not sure where to begin. I was just laid off and my wife is taking a severe pay cut. I would like to remain a Temple member and be able to continue to send my children to religious school, but I can't afford to make my full contribution this year. I think I need to ask for your help."

Because of the economic downturn, I've been receiving more and more calls like these over the past few months. Thanks to our Donor Circle contributors, however, the Temple can make it possible for our community to continue membership for those experiencing economic hardship.

■ *Rebecca Nudel*
Membership Director

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For more information about how to join the Donor Circle, please contact Rebecca Nudel at the membership office (213) 388- 2401 x502 or email her at nudel@wbta.org



Upcoming Events



PARENTING SPEAKER SERIES WITH FRANCINE R. KAUFMAN, M.D.

Thursday, May 21, 2009
7:30 p.m.
Irmas Campus

Don't miss Dr. Francine Kaufman, author of *Diabetesy* and one of the world's leading authorities on the link between obesity and diabetes.

www.wbtla.org/events/item/259/youth_events

JUDSON STUDIOS TOUR FOR ROSE WINDOW RESTORATION

Sunday, June 14, 2009
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Judson Studios, Highland Park

Founded in 1890, Judson Studios has operated for five generations as a family-run business and is world-renowned for its exquisite stained glass, tile and mosaic creations. Join Judson Studio Manager Mark Levy for an informative tour of the famed studios and learn about the ancient process of stained glass. Bagels, juice and coffee will be served. *Shuttles will leave the Temple Campus parking lot at 9:30 a.m.; those wishing to drive will be provided directions.* Space is limited to 40 attendees and reservations are required.

www.wbtla.org/events/item/317/events



CLE CONFIRMATION

Friday, May 29, 2009
7:00 p.m.
Temple Campus

www.wbtla.org/events/item/320/worship_events

GINDLING HILLTOP CAMP 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sunday, May 31, 2009
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Gindling Hilltop Camp

Forty years of campers, songs and overnights... forty years of friendships, Shabbat and Havdalah... forty years of ruach.

Join us in celebration of the 40th anniversary of Gindling Hilltop Camp. Return to camp for an afternoon of reconnecting and reminiscing.

www.wbtla.org/events/item/297/youth_events

It's ALL online at www.wbtla.org/events. Check it out!



Temple Family

Welcome to new Temple members...

David and Elishia Bolour...Zachary and Pamela Brown and their daughter, Noa... Scott and Julie Feldman...Carole Gaba and her daughters, Elizabeth and Lauren...Jason Goldberg and Soleil Moon Frye and their children, Poet and Jagger...Bruce Green and Mercedes Taha and their children, Noah, Adrian and Diego...William and Karen Hobbs and their son, Oliver...Jason and Aviva Levin and their children, Zeke, Mya and Cole...David Pullman and Virginia Overholser...Jonathan and Gina Rudnick and their daughter, Delilah...Craig and Stephanie Rutenberg and their son, Jonah...David and Galite Shafer and their daughter, Ella...Michael Sheresky and Alissa Vradenburg and their son, Harrison...Craig and Shannon Soller and their son, Cooper...Dennis Vlessing and his son, Daniel...

Congratulations to...

Julie and Brad Burstin on the birth of their son, Cole Louis Burstin and to big sister, Alia...Alexis and Randy Miller on the naming of their daughter, Talia Elena Miller...Jessica and Marc Rabkin on the naming of their daughter, Lola Sophia Rabkin...Stephanie and Craig Rutenberg on the birth of their son, Jonah...

Condolences to...

Friends and family of Marguerite Heller...Friends and family of Dr. Wayne Hilton...Lauri and David Martin on the death of her father, Larry Kritt and to grandchildren, Rebecca and Sabrina...Gary and Maggie Maier on the death of his mother, Irma Maier and to granddaughter, Emma...Gary and Helen Mayer on the death of his mother, Ruth Mayer...

And to all immediate and extended family.



RABBI EDGAR F. MAGNIN FUND

In Honor Of:

Scott Allen Heineman's 21st Birthday by Larry, Hannah & Justin Heineman

In Loving Memory Of:

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David Wolf by Jolie & Jon Jashni

WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE REDEVELOPMENT FUND

In Honor Of:

Randi Grant's upcoming Bat Mitzvah by Ellen Greenberg

In Loving Memory Of:

Lynette Kurtzman by Randi & Warren Grant

CLERGY FUND

In Honor Of:

Rabbi Leder on the occasion of our 10th Anniversary by Nicole & Andrew Gumpert
Our son Edward Kropf's upcoming Bar Mitzvah by Katherine & Jeffrey Kropf
Rabbi Elissa Ben-Naim by Elaine Lerner Schreiber
Rabbi Eshel for officiating at the funeral service of Eva Lane by The Lane Family

In Loving Memory Of:

Craig Berkus by The Feder Family
Grandmother, Toni Bloch by Andrea & Michael Mohr
Esther Feldman by Bette, Adam & Abbie Feldman
Regina Fleischer by Miriam & Leland Green
Minna Grodin by Carol Krasne
Brother, Jonathan Mohr by Andrea & Michael Mohr
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SISTERHOOD PULPIT FLOWER FUND

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ANN AND SAM BERNSTEIN CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

In Loving Memory Of:

Lynette Kurtzman by Lynn Bernstein

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In Loving Memory Of:

Rose Blatt by Marjorie Blatt
Mare D. Cohen by Grace & Ira Grossman
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My cousin, Rose Kanner by Iris Kanner

Dear father, Irwin Kulwin by Diane & Lawrence Dresser
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All my loved ones by Iris Kanner
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Philip Weiner by Edith Weiner
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In Loving Memory Of:

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Beloved mother, Sylvia H. Levin by Beth Singer & Family
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Pamela Holtzman's mother by MFECC NS - Geffen PM Class

ANNE AND NATHAN SPILBERG ANNUAL LECTURE ON JEWISH LIFE

In Loving Memory Of:

Sylvia Levin by Susan & Bruce Levin

ANAT BEN-ISHAI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Honor Of:

Anat Ben-Ishai by The Hadassah Group / Simi Valley
Our son, Guy and Laura Ben-Ishai's Wedding by Anat & Nechmad Ben-Ishai & Family

In Loving Memory Of:

Lynette Kurtzman by Donna & Paul Nadel

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In Honor Of:

Our friend, Marshall Grossman's 70th Birthday by Karen & Michael Gilbert

THE CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS INQUIRY FUND

Zeinab & Mahmoud Abdel Baset

WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE CAMPS

In Loving Memory Of:

Iris Baer by Aline & Gary Baer
Rose Gaines by Barbara & Frederic Gaines
Beloved parents, Florence & George Goldstein by Sheila & Donald Bernstein
Frida Jarcho by The Aftergood Family
Rose and Al Kantor by Debra & Kenneth Orgel
Lynette Kurtzman by Cynthia & Neal Baseman
Lynette Kurtzman by Terry & Lionel Bell
Lynette Kurtzman by Nancy & Avi Bernstein
Lynette Kurtzman by Tracy Brennan
Lynette Kurtzman by Donna & Michael Broder
Lynette Kurtzman by Linda & Steven Brown
Lynette Kurtzman by Ruby & Jerry Bubis
Lynette Kurtzman by Elaine Chaisson
Lynette Kurtzman by Rita Creagh
Lynette Kurtzman by Creative Artists Agency c/o Michelle Kydd Lee
Lynette Kurtzman by Francean & Howard Davine
Lynette Kurtzman by Dr. Neil Einbund
Lynette Kurtzman by Nancy, Mike, Victoria & Bryan Eisenstadt

Lynette Kurtzman by The Fields Family
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Lynette Kurtzman by Marc Gurvitz
Lynette Kurtzman by Susie & Larry Newman
Lynette Kurtzman by Joyce & Lawrence Powell
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Lynette Kurtzman by Mare & Steve Smooke
Lynette Kurtzman by Jennifer Stanley
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In Loving Memory Of:

Rose Blatt by Jerome Blatt
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Dear husband, Irwin Kulwin by Florence Kulwin
Lynette Kurtzman by Rachael & Dr. Norman Hoffman
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David Office by Miriam Wolf

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In Loving Memory Of:

Harry Bearman by G. Jane Lancet
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Nadine Breuer's "Big" Birthday by Aunt, Mildred Bendit

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In Loving Memory Of:

All my dear ones by Pauline Greenstein

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In Loving Memory Of:

Lynette Kurtzman by Adele & Ben Habibi

KEHILLAH COMMUNITY CAMP FUND

Chad E. Brown
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FOOD PANTRIES

Sunday, May 24, 2009
Underwritten by
Banky La Rocque Foundation

Thank you to those individuals and families who have chosen either to underwrite (\$1,000) or sponsor (\$500) a week of food. If you are interested in joining this effort, please contact Gina Lobaco at (213) 388-2401 or globaco@wbta.org.

Mitzvah goreret mitzvah – doing a *mitzvah* leads to doing more.



Schedule of Shabbat Worship & Study

THURSDAY, MAY 21

Rabbi Leder and Cantor Gurney
Temple Campus - 10:00 a.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 22

Shabbat Services

Rabbi Leder and Cantorial Soloist
Pam Simmons
Temple Campus - 6:00 p.m.

Rabbi Eshel and Cantor Gurney
Irmas Campus - 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 23

Torah Study

NUMBERS Bemidbar 1:1 - 4:20
Jonathan Freund
Temple Campus - 9:00 a.m.

Shabbat Services

Rabbi Leder and Cantor Gurney
Temple Campus - 10:30 a.m.

Rabbi Eshel and Cantorial Soloist
Marshall Voit
Irmas Campus - 10:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 28

Shavuot

Adult B'nei Mitzvah
Irmas Campus - 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 29

Shabbat Services

Rabbi Fox and Cantor Susan Caro
Temple Campus - 6:00 p.m.

Rabbinic Intern Erin Mason and
Cantorial Soloist Jacqueline Rafii
Irmas Campus - 6:00 p.m.

Shavuot Confirmation Service

All Clergy
Temple Campus - 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 30

Torah Study

SHAVUOT/YIZKOR
DEUTERONOMY 15:19 - 16:17
Avi Cohen
Temple Campus - 9:00 a.m.

Shavuot/Shabbat Services

Rabbi Fox and Cantor Caro
Temple Campus - 10:30 a.m.

Rabbi Eshel and Cantor Gurney
Camp Hess Kramer - 10:30 a.m.



WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE
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**WILSHIRE
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Rabbi Elissa Ben-Naim
Rabbi Stephen Julius Stein
Rabbi David Eshel
Cantor Don Gurney
Rabbi Harvey J. Fields, Ph.D., *Emeritus*

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