

# WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE



## BULLETIN

Volume 96, Number 6 • March 15, 2009

# HEBREW NAMING

Several years ago while I was the director of the Conejo Valley Jewish Community Center in Agoura, I was chosen as a Brill Fellow. Part of this honor included a 10-day visit to Israel to study. My most vivid memory of the trip was landing at Ben-Gurion Airport and being presented with a necklace bearing my Hebrew name; it was a poignant and meaningful gesture symbolizing my connection with both Judaism and Israel.

Upon returning to the United States, I developed an early childhood Hebrew naming curriculum, and was soon receiving phone calls and e-mails from Jewish schools around the country that wanted to use it in their own programs. When I came to Wilshire Boulevard Temple, I realized it should be a part of our own nursery schools' tradition, and that is the curriculum that we have now used for three years (and counting!).

Designed to strengthen the partnership between school and home, the curriculum culminates with a Hebrew naming ceremony where families join together to celebrate their children—and their Hebrew names. At school, the children learn what each other's Hebrew names are and what their significance is in each family. At home, each child talks with parents, grandparents and great-grandparents who share stories about the people for whom the child is named. Each child

weaves this information into a book that he or she works on at school with teachers and classmates, and at home with family. Hopefully the book becomes a family keepsake.

The concluding celebration of Hebrew names emphasizes the concept of *l'dor va'dor*, or "from one generation to another." We are all part of a chain of history and tradition. This is reflected in the different components of the ceremony: the children singing "Part of a Chain," the parents uniting to bless the children, the chanting of the *Shebecheyanu* to highlight this new beginning with a new name, and a discussion of both the inspiration and merit of a name. This is a public acknowledgment of our dual identities and our membership in a communal past.

As parents and educators, we give our children many gifts, and an important one is a strong sense of who they are and where they come from. We hope your children will remember this experience and pass along the tradition of a Hebrew name to their own children. In this way, the Jewish chain will continue unbroken.

■ Carol Bovill  
*Director, Early Childhood Centers*

## In This Issue



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**BUT SO DO WORDS**

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AUDITORIUM**





# Shabbat: Judaism's Bailout

Moses made a congregation of the whole Israelite community and said to them: "These are the things that God has commanded you to do. On six days you may work, but on the seventh day, you shall have a Shabbat of complete rest, holy to God." And so begins this week's Torah portion, *Vayak'bel*, which concludes the book of Exodus.

If one is searching for a custom based on shared values, experience, culture, language, music and learning, Shabbat is the answer. It is the lasting structure that brings Jews together as a unified community, providing the unique opportunity in time and space to experience the fullness of meaning-

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**The gift of Shabbat is that it comes again and again; perhaps we may think of it as Judaism's eternal bailout!**

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ful Jewish living. The Torah even states that if one does work on Shabbat, the penalty is death! At first thought, this may seem rather harsh. Upon deeper reflection, we realize the Torah teaches that with each missed opportunity for holiness, a small death occurs.

The gift of Shabbat is that it comes again and again; perhaps we may think of it as Judaism's eternal bailout! Every week, we're given the chance to clear off our desks, to re-create ourselves through the prayer, study and relaxation of Shabbat.

■ *Cantor Don Gurney*



## Actions Speak Loudly- BUT SO DO WORDS

It was a quiet Sunday afternoon in February; a lazy, hazy day in the Valley—except at the Cesar Chavez Auditorium of San Fernando High School, where more than 1,800 people came to voice their concerns and demands before a score of elected officials from the Los Angeles Community College District board president to U.S. Congressman Howard Berman. Wilshire Boulevard Temple joined with more than 20 organizations, including churches, elementary schools and other synagogues, in a One LA "direct action" designed to impress our concerns upon local, city, county and federal officials regarding the housing crisis and the challenge of creating 21st-century workforce development opportunities.

When Congressman Berman, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and City Councilman Richard Alarcón saw the extraordinary size and diversity of the citizenry gathered to meet them, they knew we were serious in our demands and responded positively, along with their local colleagues. Los Angeles is now due to host a national conference on the housing crisis, specifically



focusing on the foreclosure challenges, because we have a model in place that could serve to help the nation. We're also going to see a real "uptick" in the ability to study and prepare for the new jobs of this century, thanks to LAUSD and L.A. Community College District officials.

This was our first time participating in a community direct action, and we were excited to be part of such a large and diverse group, make our voices heard and, best of all, get results.

We're looking forward to exploring how we can help ameliorate the homelessness problem in our city and county. For those of you who are interested in making L.A. a better place to live—we need you! To join our community organizing program, please contact me at [rabbisjstein@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rabbisjstein@sbcglobal.net) or (213) 388-2401 x269.

■ *Rabbi Stephen Julius Stein*



## Early Childhood Centers

### First Annual Early Childhood Centers Fundraiser: *A Tremendous Success*

On February 7, the Mann Family and Erika J. Glazer Early Childhood Centers celebrated the tremendous success of their first annual joint Nursery School Fundraiser at the home of Dana and Richard Pachulski. We feel incredibly blessed for the wonderful support and love offered by our dedicated parents, for their generous sponsorships, for the multitude of special auction items that were solicited and for the hard work that everyone contributed to this magical evening. These combined efforts enabled us to raise an unprecedented amount of money for our scholarship fund. One of the highlights of the evening was watching the incredible video of our children, created by Mann Family parents Cathy Yuspa and Josh Goldsmith, which truly captured the spirit of our schools. Everyone enjoyed a warm, inviting evening with our nursery school families in celebration of the children and the special Wilshire Boulevard Temple community we all share.

■ *Tammy Ratner*  
*Parent Association Vice President*  
*of Nursery School Fundraising*



Fundraiser Committee left to right:  
Lori Weisskopf, Heather Dula, Tammy Ratner, Dana Pachulski, Merav Broder, Julie Banks, Lisa Lewin, Andrea Slutkske and Tasha Baum. (Missing: Marina Cohen, Jenna Grosfeld, and Yael Tenenbaum)



## Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps



### STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS BEGINS FOR OUR CAMPS

Members of the Camp Committee, alumni, staff and clergy met with Eric Phelps, our Grinspoon Foundation consultant, at Camp Hess Kramer in late January for a strategic planning retreat to begin identifying improvements and additions needed at Camp Hess Kramer, Gindling Hilltop Camp and The Steve Breuer Conference Center. The retreat was the first step in developing a strategic plan that will be our guide in creating a vision for the future of our camps.

Attendees spent time working together and in small groups discussing goals, measurable outcomes, methods and strategies. While much work was done at the retreat, time was also spent together at Shabbat services, sharing meals and reminiscing. The overall goal of the committee was to explore the future direction of our camps while holding on to what makes Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps a unique community.

■ *Cheri Lauterbach*  
*Alumni and Development Director*





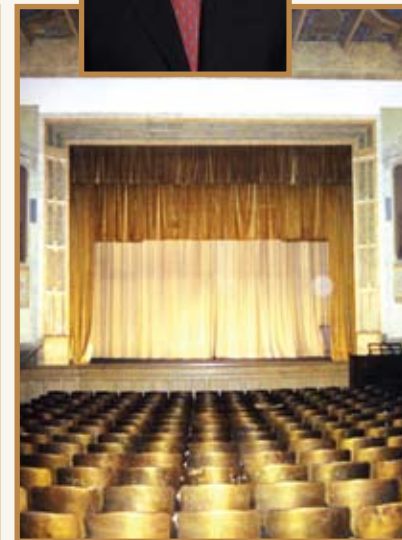
# A LIFELONG COMMITMENT THAT BEGAN IN PINESS AUDITORIUM

It was a memory that stayed with him his entire life. Alan Casden, a young student in the Temple’s religious school some 57 years ago, was introduced to the Holocaust by a series of newsreel images, presented to him in Piness Auditorium by Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin. The camps, the bulldozers, the mass graves, the liberation; these images would later inspire what today is Casden’s internationally recognized philanthropy in the Jewish community.

Alan Casden, with his company Casden Properties, LLC, based in Beverly Hills, is one of the most successful real estate developers in the United States. That success has translated into far-reaching philanthropy for the Jewish community and relationships with some extraordinary people.

Alan first met Simon Wiesenthal in 1979 and a long friendship evolved, with Casden serving 25 year as a Co-Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Alan also served as Building Chairman for the center’s \$65-million world renowned Museum of Tolerance. His contribution earned him a special tribute from the prime minister of the state of Israel for his leadership role in the worldwide fight against anti-Semitism and bigotry.

With his wife Susan, he made a significant gift to endow the Alan Casden Dean’s Chair at the USC Leventhal



Casden's 1961 confirmation class with Rabbi Magnin

School of Accounting; create a major real estate forecast study within the USC Lusk Center for the Real Estate, and also endow the Casden Institute for the Study of the Jewish Role in American Life. Casden proudly notes that his alma mater, is “much more involved with the Jewish community than any other institution of higher learning in Southern California,” citing reciprocal fellowship programs and joint research with Technion and other leading Israeli universities.

Alan has received multiple awards for his philanthropy and civic leadership. He sits on several boards including—and perhaps most significant to that fateful experience in Piness Auditorium many decades ago—the Board of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council. He was a recent

presidential appointee to this board which oversees the U.S. Holocaust Museum and is dedicated to Holocaust remembrance and education.

Alan’s parents were members of the Temple, his father active in the Temple’s Men’s Club, his mother in the Temple Sisterhood. Alan became a Bar Mitzvah with Rabbis Magnin and Dubin. Alan remembers how Rabbi Magnin called him and his parents to the Torah, and when Magnin asked him if he could hold the heavy scroll, Alan assured him he would never drop it. He didn’t then and continues to uphold Torah’s values in his philanthropy.

■ Gina Lobaco

*Development Office Director*





## THIRD SALON: COMMUNITY PREPARATION FOR SEDER: WHO WAS THE WICKED SON IN THE HAGGADAH?

Thursday, March 26, 2009  
7:00 p.m.

Enter a dialogue with Rabbi Karen L. Fox and wonder aloud: Do we still need the wicked son? Do we write him out of the Haggadah or widen the tent and welcome him/her in? What is your view now?

[www.wbtla.org/events/item/273/adult\\_events](http://www.wbtla.org/events/item/273/adult_events)

## PARENTING SPEAKER SERIES WITH FACILITATOR PATTIE FITZGERALD

Thursday, March 26, 2009  
7:00 p.m.  
Irmas Campus

Pattie Fitzgerald, Founder of Safely Ever After, Inc and a former employee of Parents for Megan's Law will be speaking this Thursday night as part of Wilshire Boulevard Temple's parenting speaker series. She is passionate about keeping kids safe with her common sense strategies and technical expertise. This lecture is not just about how to protect your children, but more importantly, it is about how to teach your children how to protect themselves. Pattie is recognized as a leading expert in the field of sexual abuse prevention education.

It's not too late to sign up in advance. Tell your friends and family-not to miss this highly informative lecture on protecting your children.

[www.wbtla.org/events/item/259/youth\\_events](http://www.wbtla.org/events/item/259/youth_events)



## 5TH ANNUAL MUSLIM-JEWISH SEDER

Saturday, April 11, 2009  
6:00 p.m.  
Temple Campus

Our evening of recalling the Exodus through the words of the Qur'an, blending with all the wondrous Jewish elements of a Pesach Seder, are nationally renowned for innovation and bridging cultural and interfaith communities.

[www.wbtla.org/events/item/290/worship\\_events](http://www.wbtla.org/events/item/290/worship_events)



## AFRICAN-AMERICAN/JEWISH SEDER

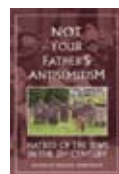
Tuesday, April 14, 2009  
6:30 p.m.  
Temple Campus



The African American experience is one with deep resonance in the Exodus tale; now celebrate it as we weave the poetry and songs of black America with that of our own Jewish Seder tradition.

[www.wbtla.org/events/item/291/worship\\_events](http://www.wbtla.org/events/item/291/worship_events)

## "NOT YOUR FATHER'S ANTI-SEMITISM": HATRED OF THE JEWS IN THE 21ST CENTURY THE ANNE AND NATHAN SPILBERG LECTURE ON JEWISH LIFE



Sunday, April 19, 2009  
5:00 p.m.  
Irmas Campus

Michael Berenbaum, Ph.D., argues that contemporary hatred of the Jews is not a throwback to the 1930s, but a unique manifestation of 21st-century humanity and the post-modernist crisis. Berenbaum is currently director of the Sigi Ziering Institute and a professor of Jewish Studies at the American Jewish University. He is the former director of the United States Holocaust Research Institute of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

[www.wbtla.org/events/item/292/adult\\_events](http://www.wbtla.org/events/item/292/adult_events)

## ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION: AN ISRAEL BONDS EVENT THE RABBI ALFRED WOLF MEMORIAL LECTURE

Thursday, April 30, 2009  
7:00 p.m.  
Irmas Campus

Celebrate the depth and breadth of Israel on her 61st Birthday and look forward to a thoughtful analysis of Israel under the leadership of a new Prime Minister. Our dynamic speaker will be Martin Indyk, former United States Ambassador to Israel.

[www.wbtla.org/events/item/225/adult\\_events](http://www.wbtla.org/events/item/225/adult_events)



## GOLF CLASSIC

Monday, May 4, 2009  
El Caballero Country Club

Funds raised will benefit Jewish youth by providing camperships to Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps, scholarships for the NFTY Israel Program and summer Leadership programs. Sponsorships, four-somes and individual golf spots are available.

[www.wbtla.org/events/item/299/youth\\_events](http://www.wbtla.org/events/item/299/youth_events)



## Our Temple Family

### Welcome to new Temple members...

Jeffrey and Suzanne Cornell and their son, Elias...Eric and Susan Fleiss and their son, Theodore...Steven and Nina Freund and their son, Jordan...Page and Sheila Nazarian and their daughter, Joelle...Andrew and Laura Wasser...Daniel and Joni Weiss and their daughter, Evyn...

### Congratulations to...

Joanie and Lou Reisman on the marriage of their daughter, Julie Reisman to Scott Feldman and to grandmother, Lillian Evans and to sister and brother in law, Lauren and Jeff Polak and nephew Ethan Polak...

### Congratulations to...

Dena and David Kaplan on the birth of their daughter, Sadie Jordyn Kaplan and to big sister, Emily...Stacey and Barak Lurie on the naming of their daughter, Sasha Sandra Lurie and to grandparents, Sandra and Mel Peters...Leslie and Brad Sobel on the naming of their daughter, Emma Madison Sobel...

### Condolences to...

Aner and Nicole Ben-Artzi on the death of his grandmother, Esther Ben-Artzi and to great granddaughter, Ayelet...Brad and Valerie Cohen on the death of his father, Benjamin Cohen and to grandchildren, Gordon and Natalie...Danny and Sarah Grover on the death of his father, David Grover and to grandchildren, Jeremy and Madeline...Carolyn, Robert, Elliott and Natalie Kipper on the death of their cousin, Eva Lane...Anita Mason on the death of her husband, Joseph Mason...

*And to all immediate and extended family.*



# Schedule of Shabbat Worship & Study

## FRIDAY, MARCH 20

### Soul Sounds Shabbat

Rabbi Eshel, Cantorial Soloist  
Ellen Sugerman and the Band  
Temple Campus - 6:00 p.m.

### Shabbat Service

Rabbi Stein and Cantor Caro  
Irmas Campus - 6:00 p.m.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 21

### Torah Study

EXODUS Vayahkel/Pekude 35:1 - 40:38  
Avi Cohen  
Temple Campus - 9:00 a.m.

### Shabbat Services

Rabbi Eshel and Cantorial Soloist  
Ellen Sugerman  
Temple Campus - 10:30 a.m.

Rabbi Stein and Cantor Caro  
Irmas Campus - 10:30 a.m.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 27

### Shabbat Services

Rabbi Eshel and Cantorial Soloist  
Ellen Sugerman  
Temple Campus - 6:00 p.m.

Rabbi Fox, Cantor Susan Caro  
and Adult Choir  
Irmas Campus - 6:00 p.m.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 28

### Torah Study

LEVITICUS Vayikra 1:1 - 5:26  
Avi Cohen  
Temple Campus - 9:00 a.m.

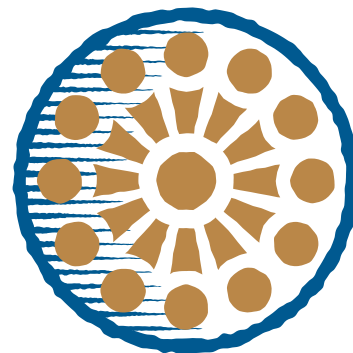
### Shabbat Morning Minyan

Rabbi Fox and Cantor Caro and  
Rabbinic Intern Erin Mason  
Irmas Campus - 9:15 a.m.

### Shabbat Services

Rabbi Eshel and Cantorial Soloist  
Ellen Sugerman  
Temple Campus - 10:30 a.m.

Rabbi Fox and Cantorial Soloist  
Lonee Frailich  
Irmas Campus - 10:30 a.m.



**WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE**  
**3663 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD**  
**LOS ANGELES, CA 90010**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

#### Clergy

Rabbi Steven Z. Leder, *Pritzker Chair of Senior Rabbis*  
Rabbi Karen L. Fox, M.F.T.  
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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## RABBI EDGAR F. MAGNIN FUND

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Pauline Adelman by Gail & Joseph Lowenstein  
 Mordo Ben Altabet by Lynette Kurtzman  
 Bernard Brown by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Brown  
 Gerald Elkins by Diana Elkins  
 Rebecca Engel by Phyllis Kassel  
 Father, Isadore Goodwin by Madeline & Eugene Goodwin  
 Brother, Marvin Goodwin by Madeline & Eugene Goodwin  
 Simon Grant by The Gardner Family  
 Barney Greenberg by Alison & Jerry Greenberg  
 Erna Gross by Anna & Michael Adelson  
 Nina Habert by Aviva & Carl Covitz  
 Louis Horwitz by Louise & Paul Greenberg  
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 Mollie Rosenberg by Jean Rosenbaum  
 Jennie Rosenberg by Ilene & Donald Berkus  
 Ruth Savin by Mark Savin  
 Neenah Schwartz by Salli & Bernard Harris  
 Albert Serlin by Blaire & Aaron Kaplan  
 Helen Spector by Phyllis & Joseph Weiss  
 Bertha & Jacob Tabach by Julius Tabach  
 Regina Tarica by Lynette Kurtzman  
 Shirley Weinstein by Nina Weinstein  
 Belle Winograd by Julius Tabach  
 Samuel Wittlin by Celinda & Gil Wittlin  
 Martin Zelcer by Karen, Gary, Rachel & Hannah Zelcer

## WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE REDEVELOPMENT FUND

*In Honor Of:*

Corinna Cotsen by Taylor Cockerham

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Louise Sprecher by Peter Sprecher  
 Louise Sprecher by Lucy Suzar  
 Louise Sprecher by Janet & Jerry Zonis

## CLERGY FUND

*In Honor Of:*

Rabbi Karen Fox by Bonnie Davis  
 Birth & b'rit milah of Quincy Robert Levine by Dr. Samuel Kunin  
 Rabbi Stein & Polly Preston for the funeral service of  
 Helen Reingold by Stephen Leroy Reingold

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Miriam Adler by Patti & Bruce Benjamin  
 Alfred Hyman by Janice & Arthur Gerty  
 Lillian Mark by Vera & Steven Mark, grandchildren and great grandchildren  
 Betty Strawgate by Diane & Mark Rudolph  
 Hymen Winn by Betty & Ross Winn

## ANN AND SAM BERNSTEIN CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Libby Wolf by Joy Wolf

## TIKKUN OLAM SOCIAL ACTION FUND FOOD PANTRY

Felicia Rosenfeld & David Linde  
 John Stewart  
 Sema Tarlov

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Fannie Blatt by Jerome Blatt  
 Valerie Eisendrath by Richard Eisendrath & Family  
 Lilly Hirsch by Marjorie Blatt  
 Moran Kaplan by Edith & Joseph Fischer  
 Mary Kaye by Marilyn & Max Herstein  
 My beloved husband, Marcus Labe by Ann Labe  
 Julius Rosenthal by Phoebe & David Rosenthal

## PRAYER BOOK DEDICATION FUND

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Bernard Basch by Susan & Bruce Levin  
 Howard Jay Basch by Susan & Bruce Levin  
 Ethel Hoffer by Katherine Fenning-Switzer & Family  
 Michael Mazza by Melissa Mazzei  
 Anne Basch Spilberg by Susan & Bruce Levin

## GERI AND RICHARD BRAWERMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Robin & Elliott Broidy

*In Honor Of:*

Robin & Elliott Broidy by Jessica, Emma & Jack Limor  
 Gary Schiller's 50th Birthday by Dr. Vicki Schiller

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Jack Becker, William Becker, Frances Fenton, Jack Gard & Etta Gradowitz by Linda & Peter Rhein

## RABBI HARVEY J. & SYBIL A. FIELDS EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*In Honor Of:*

Carl & Aviva Covitz by Philip Covitz

## ANAT BEN-ISHAI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Charles Rosen by Tom O'Byrne & Gail Benun  
 Frieda Scheiber by Susan & Scott Edelman

## MUSIC PUBLICATION FUND

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Ann Epstein by Laura Ullman Epstein & Mark Epstein

## THE CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS INQUIRY FUND

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Baird Jones and Jean Jones by Abigail Jones & Jeffrey Mandell

## WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE CAMPS

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Mordo Ben Altabet by Janet & David Lonner  
 Fannie Blatt by Marjorie Blatt  
 Jack Herz by Karin & Douglas Schaer  
 Lilly Hirsch by Jerome Blatt  
 Beloved father, Dennis Price by Madeline & Michael Price  
 George Simon by Rosalie Appel  
 Regina Tarica by Janet & David Lonner

## RABBI ALFRED WOLF CAMP FUND

*In Honor Of:*

Mike Robert's Birthday by Harvey & Sybil Fields  
 Mike Robert's Birthday by Flo & Mayo Stark

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Byron Brandt by Lee & Gordon Gelfond

Our mom & grandmother, Helen Coleman by Laurie & Paul Kelson; Amanda Kelson; Deborah Kelson & Elliott Brown  
 Benjamin Gelfond by Lee & Gordon Gelfond  
 William Polep by Charles Polep  
 Irving Reder by Gloria & Rudy Diamond  
 Mother, Pauline Rose by Norma & Earl Bubar  
 Rifka Spector by William Spector  
 Brother and uncle, Ron Weinberger by The Plotnik Family

## ALLAN CHATKIN CAMBERSHIP FUND

*In Honor Of:*

Mimi & Don Gittelsohn's Anniversary by Sandi Chatkin

## CHARLES BENDIT CAMBERSHIP FUND

*In Honor Of:*

The birth of Miles Gregory Rubens by Nadine & Stephen Breuer

## LOIS JEANNE LEVY MEMORIAL CAMBERSHIP FUND

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Lois Jeanne Levy by J. Lampert Levy

## YONI LICHT CAMBERSHIP FUND

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Sid Matorin by Ruth & George Furst

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**Sunday, March 22, 2009**  
**FOOD PANTRIES**  
 Underwritten by  
**Nancy Berman and Alan Bloch**

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](mailto:globaco@wbta.org).

*Mitzvah Goreret mitzvah—Doing a mitzvah leads to more.*