

# WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE

Online Edition  
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## BULLETIN

Volume 95, Number 5 • March 1, 2008

### Turning the Temple Inside Out

Two years ago, before I began working for Wilshire Boulevard Temple, our Development Director Gina Lobaco gave me a tour of the historic Temple campus. During our walk through the 80-year history of this amazing building, Gina led me through a hidden door on the second floor to the choir loft above the bimah. Peering through the wooden columns, standing beside the magnificent old pipe organ, I saw the sanctuary for the very first time. It was so gorgeous—the gleaming lights, the gold details, the fascinating murals, the glowing windows. It was breathtaking. As I stood in awe, I wondered how so much beauty could be concealed inside concrete, steel and stone.

I wonder the same thing now as I look into the programs, community and people of this Temple. How can we, as a Temple family, open up and reveal the beauty inside ourselves and our congregation to the whole world?

It has been six months since I became the Temple's director of communications, and each time I am tasked with a new project, I step back and ask myself that same question: How do I turn "us" inside out? The best way to communicate about something

is to find its true and basic essence, and then show it through words and images.

So we present to you the newly redesigned Temple Bulletin. This is our Temple family turned inside out. Starting today, your Temple news will be delivered twice monthly in a format that reflects the professionalism, community and beauty of our congregation.

We invite you to enjoy our revised content, full-color pictures, tear-out calendar and new layout. Read about how we're growing. See how we shine. And feel how we love. This is your Temple Bulletin—a reflection of your membership in our family. Take a look with us—from the inside out.



The redesign process was a collaborative effort from a committee comprising staff and members of our congregation. I would like to thank committee members Catherine Ettliger, Susan Gordon, Howard Kaplan, Rabbi Steven Leder, Don Levy, Gina Lobaco, Polly Preston and Steve Sugerman for their time and invaluable expertise.

*Director of Communications Jessica Accamando is the editor of this bulletin.*



### In This Issue



*American Judaism*  
THE GREAT OPPORTUNITY

### Career Day

Brawerman Elementary School



### Haman Missing!



## Parashat Vayakhel (Exodus 35:1–38:20)

Sometimes the same thing that got you into trouble can get you out of it. Take, for example, the fact that in last week's Torah portion, our ancestors used their gold jewelry to fashion a golden calf. For this act of idolatry and faithlessness, thousands were killed as God's anger poured down upon them like a river of fire.

This week, just one Torah portion later, the people donate more gold jewelry, this time for building the Tabernacle—the act and the place that ultimately led the people to a true sense of religious faith. Last week it was gold, this week it was gold—but last week brought disaster while this week brought triumph. It's not the gold itself that determined the outcome for our ancestors. It's how they used it.

It's not the tragedy itself that determines the outcome, it's how we use it.

The same is true for a lot of things in life—especially sorrow. I see a lot of pain in my line of work; all rabbis do. Sometimes it's a lost job, sometimes a marriage, sometimes a life. What I've learned time and time again is, like gold in the hands of our ancestors, it's not the tragedy itself that determines the outcome, it's how we use it. For some, adversity marks the end of joy and meaning; it makes them hard and cruel. But there are others to whom trouble comes just as sharply, deeply and darkly, but

who somehow find a way to turn their ache into sympathy, their sadness into love.

Sooner or later, tragedy, sorrow and error come to us all—it's part of what it means to be human and alive. Often, we have no choice but to experience pain. The only choice we have is how to use it.

■ Rabbi Steven Z. Leder



## Adult Opportunities

When Rabbi Alfred Wolf arrived in the United States from Germany and founded Camp Hess Kramer in the 1950s, many Jews looked at America as the land of safety and possibility. It has become that for sure. We have contributed to American society and expanded Jewish communal organizations, synagogues and schools.

Recently, however, the Rabbi Alfred Wolf Memorial Lecture at Wilshire Boulevard Temple raised some important questions about our successes. This dialogue on “American Judaism: The Great Opportunity,” held on February 6, 2008, was led by Rabbi David Ellenson, Ph.D., and president of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Rabbi Ellenson referred to questions framed by the great sociologist Peter Berger in addition to posing some of his own queries: If our generation in some ways needs to be heretical to its Jewish traditions, what is it that we preserve? If we also wander aimlessly in American society, where do we find our home and our hope? That balance is the challenge of American Judaism.

In what ways can we continue to carve out a form of Jewish religious life that links us to our ancestors, yet creates an area of growth



Rabbi David Ellenson; Rabbi Karen L. Fox; and Mrs. Miriam Wolf, wife of Rabbi Alfred Wolf (z'l, may his memory be for blessing) enjoyed the lecture.

## American Judaism: THE GREAT OPPORTUNITY

and opportunity for each generation? Our learning environments—for the youngest of babies to the oldest of the wise—are the key venues for the exchange of ideas and practices. Whether you accompany your toddler to “Tot Shabbat” or drive your parents to Torah study, you carve a future and preserve a value that is American Jewish life. Whether you hold a neighbor's hand at a Shiva service or stand in the parking lot and wave goodbye to your children as they embark on a summer at Camp Hess Kramer, you carve a future and preserve a value. Whether you *kvell* when your

children sing with full hearts in the Youth Choir or congratulate a friend for chanting Torah at the Shabbat Morning Minyan, you carve a future and preserve a value.

Each of those poles reflects aspects of the Jewish continuum that are great opportunities for American Judaism. Choose an aspect of Jewish learning or practice that you preserve on a weekly basis and, in that way, carve out hopes for continuing to create a Jewish home within our society.

■ Rabbi Karen L. Fox



## Actor? Lawyer? Movie Mogul? Judge?

**A**ction! Cut! Guilty! Order in the court! All of this and more was part of an incredible Career Day planned by parents Kirsten Shirken, Linda Blauner, Ann Freund and Peter Greene for Brawerman students. A team of amazing volunteers created an experiential opportunity for students to learn about careers in law and entertainment. Some students served on a jury and had to decide whether Frank Fisher was guilty of polluting the bay. Others worked as the production team and actors to create Heat Wave, an original Career Day film. Not only did the students have a great time, but may also have come one step closer to answering the eternal question “What do you want to be when you grow up?”



Visit our new Brawerman Elementary School website  
[www.brawerman.org](http://www.brawerman.org)



## Center for Learning & Engagement

**T**he news seems as dire as it is true. After last year’s highly successful Purim Carnival ended, all the booths and games and sundry supplies were carefully packed away in the Carnival Closet, a little-known area located in the catacombs beneath the Main Sanctuary.

Recently, preparations began for the upcoming Wilshire Boulevard Purim Carnival, to be held at the Temple Campus on March 16 between 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

A rock-climbing wall, a Eurobungee and other games of skill were rented, and magicians, balloon artists and face-painters were booked. In addition to preparations for the various rides and games, plans for more sophisticated events were made, among them the bake sale and the “Chai-lent” Auction.

It was only after these arrangements were finished that volunteers went down to the Carnival Closet. One worker, who

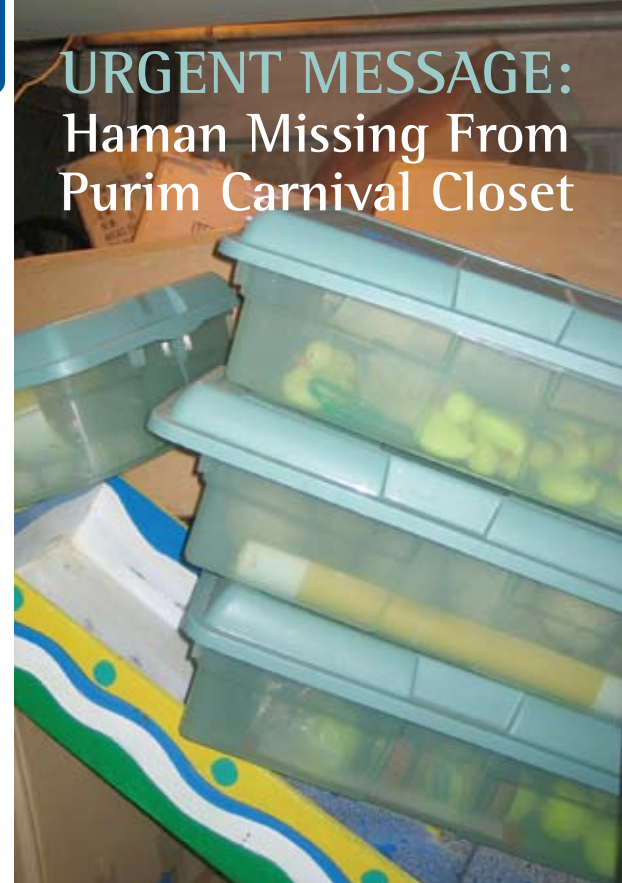
asked to remain unidentified, said the only concern at the time was to inventory the rubber ducks.

What no one expected was that Haman had escaped. “He was kept in back, pinned down under the snow cone machine,” the volunteer explained. “We all thought this was precaution enough, especially since he’s made out of cardboard.”

While officials have attempted to put a good face on the situation, one admitted concern: “Haman is one slippery dude—and malicious and evil, to boot.”

In response to this, one rabbi urged calm: “Everyone should remember—with all the kids’ noise, there’s no chance he’ll show. He can’t handle it.” When pressed to guess where Haman might be, the rabbi shrugged. “The catacombs are deep. I think he has burrowed as far down as he can. Come March 16, he’ll be trembling like mad—even though he’s made of cardboard.”

## URGENT MESSAGE: Haman Missing From Purim Carnival Closet



More about the Purim Carnival  
[www.wbtla.org/events/item/167/youth\\_events](http://www.wbtla.org/events/item/167/youth_events)



## RABBI EDGAR F. MAGNIN FUND

Jason Grosfeld

*In Honor Of:*

The 55th Birthday of Hannah Heineman by Larry, Justin & Scott Heineman

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Pauline Adelman by Gail & Joe Lowenstein

Lucy Armel by Merle Galindo

Jack Armel by Merle Galindo

Jack Jacobson, Bertha Tabach, Jacob Tabach & Belle Jacobson Winograd by Julius Tabach

Robert Carp by Bertha Carp

Caryl Cohen by Hannah, Larry, Justin & Scott Heineman

Mr. & Mrs. J. Cohen's mother by Paula Hoffman

Joseph Copeland by Edie Schuman

Barbara Drabkin by Robert Drabkin

Meredith Fishman by Jordan Fishman

Dear sister, Regina I. Friedman by Dorothy & Alan Weinberger

Richard George by Gloria B. George

Beloved grandfather, Harold Getz by Lisa & Bradley Small

Simon Grant by Arthur Gardner

Barney Greenberg by Alison & Jerry Greenberg

Erna Gross by Anna & Michael Adelson

Sadye Gruskin by Pearl Lindheim

Louis Horwitz by Louise & Paul Greenberg

Beloved brother, Alfred Hyman by Janice & Arthur Gerry

Flora Israel by Dr. Robert Kositchek

Toni Lewis by Hilda Hochberg

Sassi Lonner by Janet & David Lonner

Timothy Magnin by Gayle & Harold Leventhal

Peggy Penchinar by Ronnie Shapiro

Adrienne Ratner by Alisa & Kevin Ratner

Sylvan Rosenthal by Deana & Alvin Rosenthal

Ruth Savin by Mark Savin

Louis Schneider by Arline Susswein

Neenah Schwartz by Salli & Bernard Harris

Albert Serlin by Blaire & Aaron Kaplan

David Shaffer by Polly, Jayson & June McBade

Mollie Sider by Harriet Freund

Beloved brother, Nathan Solomon by Rachael & Dr. Norman Hoffman

David Strumpf by Irma Strumpf

Aaron Tucker by Nancy Ellin

Maurice Wilczyk by Erika Glazer

## CLERGY FUND

*In Honor Of:*

Rabbi Karen Fox for officiating at the service of Louise Kopulsky by Rhonda & Michael Kopulsky and Belle & Andrew Kopulsky

Rabbi Steve Leder by Courtenay Edelhart

Rabbi Steve Leder for officiating at the service of David Shaffer by Leila, Leslie & Daniel Shaffer

Paul Schulman's 60th Birthday by Jill & Paul Schulman

Gerry Watkins's 20th Leap Year Birthday by Evon & Jerry Gotlieb

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Regina Friedman by Susan & Morris Savin

Dorothy Kellner by Evon & Jerry Gotlieb

Mollie Rosenbaum by Jean Rosenbaum-Katz

David Shaffer by Dayle & Charles Dolgier

Norman Stern by Helen Stern-Ross

## SISTERHOOD PULPIT FLOWER FUND

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Beloved mom and grandma, Ethel Hoffer by Helene Hoffer Klein

## ANN AND SAM BERNSTEIN CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Thelma Checel by Marlene Larson

## TIKKUN OLAM SOCIAL ACTION FUND FOOD PANTRY

Jeanne Gerson

Marjorie Lee

*In Honor Of:*

Rachel & Emil Olguin's 20th Wedding Anniversary by Pat & Carl Feldstein

Brenda & Phil Bubar's 20th Wedding Anniversary by Pat & Carl Feldstein

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Fannie Blatt by Jerome Blatt

Richard Godessoff by Anna & Eric Suddleson

Rita Hartz by Michelle Hartz, Bob & Joe Burgess

Marcus Labe by Ann Labe

Norman Reisman by Louis Reisman

Florence Soref by Laurel & Jeffrey Wruble

## PRAYER BOOK DEDICATION FUND

*In Loving Memory Of*

Arnold Cane by Ann Rubin

Our dearest friend, Arnold Cane by Suzanne Rubin & Family

Beloved father, Barney Greenberg by Margery & Arthur Schwartz

Beloved father, Lionel Harrison by Joan Harrison & Michael Janofsky

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

Philip Covitz

## ANAT BEN-ISHAI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Jill & Perry Haberman

## MUSIC PUBLICATION FUND

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Arthur Nadel by Donna & Paul Nadel

## WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE CAMPS

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Fannie Blatt by Marjorie Blatt

## RABBI ALFRED WOLF CAMP FUND

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Beloved parents, Arnold & Mathilda Bernstein by Sheila & Donald Bernstein

Harriet Hauser by Plotnik Family

Ethel Hoffer by Katherine Hoffer Switzer & Family

Chayim Kurtsman by Zoya & Efim Rudin

Peter Melcer by Doris & Samuel Engelman

Raymond Norton by Rita Norton

Irving Reder by Gloria & Rudy Diamond

Rifka Spector by William Spector

Brother & uncle, Ron Weinberg by Plotnik Family

## EVELYN K. KRAMER MEMORIAL CAMP FUND

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Hal Cutler by Harriet Burton & Family

## ALAN A. SIENER MEMORIAL SPORTS CENTER

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Raul Rubel by Anne Rubel

## CHARLES BENDIT CAMPERSHIP FUND

*In Honor Of:*

May Bendit's Special Birthday by Irene Saltzman

The birth of Ella Sophie Mei-Tal by Nadine & Stephen Breuer

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Harold Held by Nadine & Stephen Breuer

## YONI LICHT CAMPERSHIP FUND

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Regina Tarica by Dr. Samuel & Miryam Tarica & Family

## THE CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS INQUIRY FUND

*In Honor Of:*

Rabbi Stein on the occasion of our son Spencer Haberman's Bar Mitzvah by Jill & Perry Haberman

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Arnold Cane by Elizabeth Brainard

Arnold Cane by Bobbie & Ivan Finkle

Arnold Cane by Molly Greenberg

Arnold Cane by Marvin Gross

Arnold Cane by Carolyn, Gary, Debbie & Greg Fine

Arnold Cane by Betsy Kaplan

Arnold Cane by Sally & Robert Shafon

Sunday, March 7, 2008

## FOOD PANTRY

Underwritten by

Felicia Ann Rosenfeld

and David Linde



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@wbtla.org](mailto:globaco@wbtla.org).

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



## Our Temple Family

### Welcome to new Temple members...

Todd and Susanna Beck and their daughter, Willa...Todd and Kimberly Greene and their son, Jacob and Grady...Justin Meltzer...Lisa Barkin Oxley and her daughters, Vivian and Charlotte...Kevin and Lauren Scher and their daughter, Milly...

### Congratulations to...

Deborah Wallach and Robert Kleinman on their marriage and to parents, Dorothy and Chuck Royce and to children Brittany and Jacqueline Wallach...Lauren and Brian Baumwoll on the naming of their daughter, Lily Scarlett...Laura and Ronnie Kahan on the birth of their daughter, Zoey Elisheva and to uncle and aunt, Scott and Tali Diamond and cousins, Olivia, Jack and Henry...Maryam and Josh Lieberman on the birth of their son, Jordan James and to big sister, Lauren...Rebecca and Gilad Mei-Tal on the birth of their daughter, Ella Sophie and to grandparents, Linda Friedman, Bruce and Makiko Friedman and to aunt, Rachel Friedman...Sima and Marc Ostrick on the birth and naming of their daughter, Mitzi Rose...Lorey and Steven Zlotnick on the birth of their son, Jonah Sky and to big brother, Asher...

### Condolences to...

Joe and Lacine Held on the death of his father, Harold Held and to grandchildren, Eric and Rebecca...Dana Ostroff on the death of her mother, Maggie Ostroff...Deborah Siegel and Craig Weinstein on the death of her father, David Siegel and to grandchildren, Camille and Rachel...Dorit Levy and John Hernandez on the death of her grandfather, Alberto Soler and to great grandson, Tyler...Randye Soref and Michael Abrams on the death of her mother, Florence Soref and to granddaughter, Jolie...Etta Weisman and Lynn Weisman on the death of their cousin, Etta Sugarman Mehlinger...Gustavo and Michelle Sztraicher on the death of his father, Daniel R. Sztraicher and to grandson, Jude...

*And to all immediate and extended family.*



## GROOVE FUNDRAISER

Saturday, March 1, 2008  
7:00 p.m.

Step inside GROOVE. Feel the vibe. Music surrounds you as you mingle and dine in this extraordinary club setting. *Parents' Association Event. Invitation Only.*

[www.wbtl.org/pages/groove](http://www.wbtl.org/pages/groove)



## NATIVE REGIONS NEAR AND FAR

Wednesday, March 26, 2008  
7:30 p.m.  
Temple Campus

They are some of our favorite destination regions, but what do we know of the great indigenous faith traditions of these lands? *Three part series.*

[www.wbtl.org/pages/cri](http://www.wbtl.org/pages/cri)



## 2ND ANNUAL TZEDEK RUN

Sunday, March 2, 2008

While the LA marathon runners are making their way through the 26 mile course, we will be "running" around LA doing acts of social justice.

[www.wbtl.org/events/item/171/youth\\_events](http://www.wbtl.org/events/item/171/youth_events)



## JEWISH POLITICAL AUTHORITY: WHO, HOW AND WHY WE GOVERN

Thursday, March 27, 2008  
7:30 p.m.  
Irmis Campus

Find out how our history is being used to guide—or perhaps, misguide us – today, here in America as well as in Israel.

[www.wbtl.org/events/item/147/tikkun\\_events](http://www.wbtl.org/events/item/147/tikkun_events)



## SPRING RETREAT AT CAMP HESS KRAMER

Friday, March 7-9, 2008

Back by popular demand, Spring Retreat is the cousin of Retreat HaGadol! Spend an exciting weekend up at Camp Hess Kramer.

[www.wbtl.org/events/item/170/youth\\_events](http://www.wbtl.org/events/item/170/youth_events)

## PURIM CARNIVAL 2008

Sunday, March 16, 2008  
9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Temple Campus

Come celebrate Purim with Megillah reading and a carnival. There will be food, great prizes, a tasty bake sale, fabulous rides, and activities for all ages.

[www.wbtl.org/events/item/167/youth\\_events](http://www.wbtl.org/events/item/167/youth_events)



## FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN THE CHARLES FELDMAN ANNUAL CONCERT KEYBOARD CONVERSATIONS® WITH JEFFREY SIEGEL

Saturday, March 29, 2008  
7:30 p.m.  
Irmis Campus

Jeffrey Siegel returns as pianist and host in an evening featuring the romantic music of Chopin, Rachmaninov and Debussy among others.

[www.wbtl.org/events/item/158/adult\\_events](http://www.wbtl.org/events/item/158/adult_events)

## BE A STAR! CELEBS, SALSA & SANGRIA

Thursday, March 20, 2008  
7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
Irmis Campus

Join us for a seductive night of ballroom dancing, megillah reading and drinks. Learn how to light up the dance floor with the Dance Doctor John Cassese.

[www.wbtl.org/events/item/157/adult\\_events](http://www.wbtl.org/events/item/157/adult_events)



For all Temple events, including ongoing events, please visit [www.wbtl.org/events](http://www.wbtl.org/events)



WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE

# March 2008

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

## Tear It Out!

This calendar has been prepared for Temple families who want to know what's going on all month long. So tear it out and enjoy!

2

2nd Annual Tzedek Run



3

9

10

16

Purim Carnival



17

23

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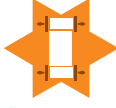
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Introduction to Judaism



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Introduction to Judaism

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Introduction to Judaism

Be a Star: Celebs, Salsa & Sangria



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Native Regions Near & Far



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Torah & Lunch w/ Rabbi Leder  
Shabbat Services & Soul Sounds Shabbat  
Spring Retreat at Camp Hess Kramer



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Torah & Lunch w/Rabbi Fox



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# Schedule of Shabbat Worship & Study

## FRIDAY, MARCH 7

**Torah & Lunch with Rabbi Leder**  
Century City Series  
*Registration required*  
12:00 p.m.

**Shabbat Services**  
Rabbi Eshel and Cantor Caro  
Temple Campus - 6:00 p.m.

**Soul Sounds Shabbat**  
Rabbi Leder, Cantor Gurney and the Band  
Irmas Campus - 6:00 p.m.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 8

**Torah Study**  
EXODUS Pekude 38:21 - 40:38  
Avi Cohen  
Temple Campus - 9:00 a.m.

**Shabbat Morning Minyan**  
Rabbi Fox and Cantor Caro  
Irmas Campus - 9:15 a.m.

**Shabbat Services**  
Rabbi Eshel and Cantor Gurney  
Temple Campus - 10:30 a.m.

Rabbi Leder and Cantorial Soloist  
Jacqueline Rafii  
Irmas Campus - 10:30 a.m.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 14

**Torah & Lunch with Rabbi Leder**  
Downtown Series  
*Registration required*  
12:00 p.m.

**Women's Torah Lunch &  
Learn with Rabbi Fox**  
*Registration required*  
12:30 p.m.

**Shabbat Services**  
Rabbi Eshel and Cantorial Soloist Jacqueline  
Rafii  
Temple Campus - 6:00 p.m.

Rabbi Leder, Cantor Gurney and  
Youth Choir  
Irmas Campus - 6:00 p.m.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 15

**Torah Study**  
LEVITICUS Vayikra 1:1 - 5:26

Joanthon Freund  
Temple Campus - 9:00 a.m.

**Tot Shabbat**  
Rabbinic Intern Gersh Lazarow  
Irmas Campus - 9:00 a.m.

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

Rabbi Leder and Cantor Gurney  
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 Laurie Phillips  
Rabbi David Eshel  
Cantor Don Gurney  
Rabbi Harvey J. Fields, Ph.D., *Emeritus*

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