

WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE

Online Edition
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BULLETIN

Volume 95, Number 8 • April 15, 2008

On This We Can Agree

At least once a week I receive a call from either the right or the left. The most liberal Jewish organizations in the country want to come to the Temple to talk about why Israel should give up land for peace, why we must break the Orthodox stranglehold on the government and why social and political reform are crucial. The most politically conservative Jewish organizations in America want to tell our Temple members why it's wrong to trust the Palestinians, why Jerusalem must never be considered part of a permanent solution for peace and why every concession has led to further violence. By the way, both sides want to solicit our members for money. What's a rabbi to do?

It's pretty simple really; look for Jewish organizations that stay out of politics, do important work to strengthen Israel's economy and social fabric, and actually give money rather than take it. Impossible, you say? Not so. Just come to the Irmas Campus on Sunday, May 4th at 5:30 p.m. to learn more.



That's when we're holding our annual Israel Bonds program and lecture, where you'll not only hear esteemed scholar Dr. Stephen Berk talk about the political reality faced by Israel as she celebrates her 60th birthday, but also learn about investing in Israel's infrastructure (roads, rail systems, water reclamation and more), all at a handsome rate of return.

It's no secret that there are Jews on the political left, right and center—and that they all disagree. But there ought not be a single Jew who doesn't agree that Israel needs our help to thrive. The opportunity to invest in Israel, where half the Jews in the world live, is a precious one. Be there on May 4th.

■ *Rabbi Steven Z. Leder*



Development Corporation for Israel

ISRAEL BONDS

Member FINRA, SIPC



Join us on Sunday, May 4, 5:30 p.m.
www.wbtla.org/events/item/160/adult_events

In This Issue



Let the Sunshine in...
on DARFUR



Rebuilding
The Best
Room in Town
A profile on Brenda Levin



My Dream for
the World is...



Whenever I'm in a new social situation, I refrain from asking people about their jobs, seeing how long we can talk without mentioning work. But if there's a break in the conversation, that void is inevitably filled with, "So what do you do?" When I say I'm a rabbi, the Jews in the group often respond: "Oh, you're a rabbi...wow, uh...that's great...I'm not really such a good Jew." What are they saying? That they treat others poorly or are disrespectful to their family? That they steal, lie or, God forbid, murder? "No! I just mean...uh..." I know what they mean. The real challenge is that we don't realize just how "good" we are.

In this week's Torah portion, *Achrei Mot*, we're reminded not to compromise our identities, either following the ways of the Egyptians or those who dwell in the land of Canaan. We should stay true to the rules of the Torah, to God, to ourselves. Most importantly, we should do so by *living* these rules. For the most part, whether we're

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GOOD JEW? BAD JEW?

conscious of it or not, we are "good Jews" simply by living a moral, ethical life. What we're *not* doing is using our rightful and particular language for such universal actions. It's not that

we're "bad" Jews. We're just not aware that the way we live our lives *is* Jewish. This is our challenge. To see the world, our intentions and our actions through a Jewish lens and language. This isn't a free pass to skip services or religious school, but a call for education, to learn the language of the Jewish particular. We are "good" Jews.

It's important to have the language and perspective to know that—regardless of whether there's a rabbi at the party.

■ *Rabbi David Eshel*



Let the Sunshine in... on DARFUR



The African desert is a land of fiercely hot, dry, almost uninhabitable weather. The conditions are brutal—nowhere more so than in Darfur, where a crisis of epic proportions is raging. When it's time to eat, the women must go out and gather firewood—and when these mothers, grandmothers and daughters forage for kindling, they often are attacked and murdered by the government militia. Tragically, genocide is very much alive in the Sudan. More than two million people have had to flee their homes, and more than 200,000 men, women and children have been murdered by their own government.

There is something you can do to help. Just \$30 buys a Cookit Solar Cooker (see photograph). The cooker converts the desert sun into heat, cooking food, pasteurizing water and, most importantly, keeping women and children out of the killing fields. Each kit feeds four to six people, is safe for kids (because there's no fire or smoke) and can be set up anywhere the sun shines. Just two solar cookers can save 2,000 pounds of firewood each year, and when women aren't out hunting for wood, they can stay with their families, caring for them in a much safer environment.

This Passover, let's be sure not to celebrate our freedom without remembering Darfur—and let the sunshine in, saving lives. Write your check to "Wilshire Boulevard Temple" and mail it to the Temple, or charge your credit card (minimum \$100) by calling (213) 388-2401 (ask for Cristina).

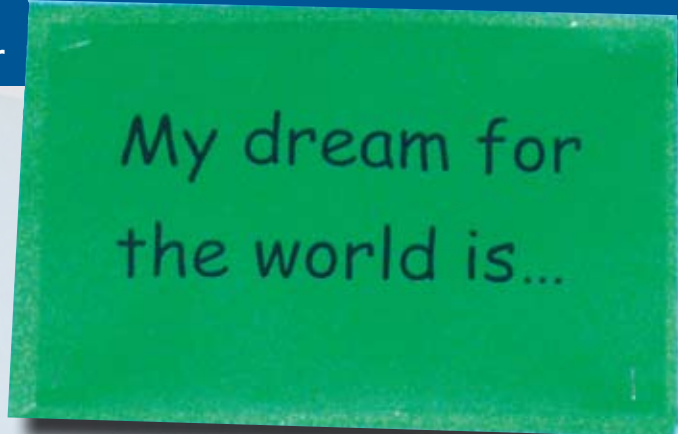


After talking with the children about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, we asked the children to tell us about their dreams for the world. Here are some of their responses. More can be found along the halls of the Mann Family Early Childhood Center.

"My dream is to have more birds flying in the clean sky with the moon and the clouds" - Lana

"My dream is to make the whole city beautiful" - Skylar

"I wish that there were houses for people who do not have any houses. I wish there was water for people who did not have any water. That is my dream" - Talia



"We need to give hungry people more food, and to build new houses for them." - Ethan

"My dream is cleaning up the garbage and buying garbage cans from the store" - Tyler



FAMILY CAMP Our Jewish Home

Just a few weeks ago, forty Wilshire Boulevard Temple families came to Camp Hess Kramer for our annual Family Camp. On Friday evening, we gathered to welcome in Shabbat, and continued to celebrate, learn and play together all weekend long. The retreat gave parents and children an opportunity to relax, reflect and enjoy each other's company. The theme of the weekend was "Our Jewish Home." Each family spent time planning ways to add to their Jewish household and created new traditions to take home with them. On Saturday afternoon, kids and their parents participated in lots of fun camp activities, from tennis to ga-ga to the climbing wall. The Saturday night *Havdalah* and campfire brought the entire group together for s'mores and a wonderful talent show. The families returned home smiling after this incredible weekend, feeling refreshed and counting down the days until Family Camp 2009!





Brenda Levin: Rebuilding L.A.—One Icon (and One Temple) at a Time

During the 20 years that Brenda Levin and her husband, David Abel, have belonged to the Temple, she has become internationally recognized for her preservation and adaptive reuse work on some of our city’s most beloved icons. Brenda has literally restored Los Angeles one building at a time, including the Bradbury and Oviatt buildings, Grand Central Market, Wiltern Theater, City Hall and, most recently, Griffith Observatory. She is currently heading the expansion of the Autry National Center.

Brenda’s next project is her and our own Temple. “Wilshire Boulevard Temple represents not only the hopes, dreams and aspirations of the city’s oldest Jewish congregation, but also the role it will play in interfaith dialogue and the future of our city,” she says. “It’s a great privilege to lead the effort in an architectural role.”

Brenda sees similarities between her work on Griffith Observatory and our Temple: “Both were constructed in the same era with quality materials, with few substantive physical changes made over time. However, each has been loved to death over 70 years of use.” Brenda notes that entering the restored Sanctuary will be at least as dramatic as walking into the newly reopened observatory. One of the most significant features in each building is its murals, designed by artist Hugo Ballin. The Ballin murals in the observatory have been restored and offer a glimpse of the extraordinary impact that conservation of the Warner murals will have on the Sanctuary.

Restoring the Sanctuary and Pines Auditorium is a massive undertaking, requiring many months of documentation, investigation, planning, analysis and testing. One small but vital step was the installation of a new safety ladder to provide access to the dome to replace the original, which had been there since 1929. Extensive inspection and assessment of the dome and rain gutters have been completed and will provide a starting point for preventing further leaks. “All of this study will provide us with important information that we need to move forward with schematic



“Our Sanctuary is the best room in the city, and whether you’re Jewish or not, it’s the most magnificent space in Los Angeles.”

design work,” Brenda notes. And some of the work has already begun.

Over the next nine months, the building will be surveyed and materials testing will commence, including taking samples of concrete and steel for analysis. An art glass conservator will evaluate

the Rose Window and make recommendations on how best to remove and restore it, and the best options for a temporary replacement. Also in the initial phase of the project are design studies of Pines Auditorium and the master planning of the infrastructure required for heating and cooling of the building, including the Sanctuary.

The work will require a team of architects, engineers and conservators who will develop the plans for the restoration and rehabilitation of the entire historic building. As Brenda notes, “Our Sanctuary is the best room in the city, and whether you’re Jewish or not, it’s the most magnificent space in Los Angeles.”

It is our responsibility to ensure that the Temple, our priceless treasure, endures for centuries to come.

■ *Gina Lobaco*
Director of Development

Workers erect scaffolding outside the Rose Window to begin inspection.





Our Temple Family

Welcome to new Temple members...

Paul and Marnie Altman and their children, Ryan and Madeline... Brad and Barbara Ballard and their daughter, Morgan... Mitch and Sarah Brown and their son, Noah... Gil and Lizzie Harari and their daughter, Romy... Steven and Hillary Hartman and their children, Jamie, Casey and Hayden... Dr. Jeff and Rabbi Sherre Hirsch and their children, Emet, Eden and Alia... Michael and Marla Kantor and their children, Anthony, Kimberly and Alexander... Elliot Matloff... Kevin and Danielle Misher and their son, Griffin... Jeff and Lauren Polak and their son, Ethan... David and Raina Rosenblum and their son, Caleb... Derek and Amy Stoops and their children, Tyler and Ruby... Steve and Alyssa Weinberger and their son, Hudson

Congratulations to...

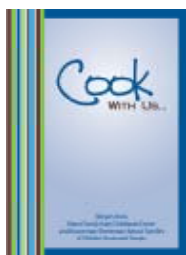
Merle and Arnie Weiner on the engagement of their daughter, Sharon Weiner to Jason Fisher and to grandmother, Relba Imerman... Tasha and Andy Baum on the birth and b'rit milah of their son, Holden Alexander and to big brother Wilson and big sister Rowan... Suzy Thalheimer Gluck and H. Robert Gluck on the birth of their triplet great grandchildren, Roy Jr., Conner and Jared Munn... Cindy and Johannes Rheinheimer on the birth of their son, Leo Samuel... Sharon Fielder Shimanovsky and Boris Shimanovsky on the birth of their son, Miles...

Condolences to...

Gloria Brodie on the death of her husband, Dr. Julius Steve Brodie and to daughter, Betty and Ross Winn and to grandchildren, Briana and Ryan... Diane and Lawrence Dresser on the death of their son, Mitchell Dresser and to grandmother Florence Kulwin and to brother, Bruce and Jill Dresser and to nephews, Jessica, Joseph and Scott and to sister Julie and Faramarz Ajakh and to their children Madeline and Daniel... Rabbi Karen Fox and Mickey Rosen on the death of her mother, Senta Fox and to grandchildren, Avi and Benjy Fox Rosen and to son, Rabbi Steve Fox and Vicki Reikes Fox and grandchildren, Bailey and Adam... Jack and Leslie Kavanaugh on the death of his mother, Selma Konitz and to grandchildren, Ryan and Matthew... Belle Landa on the death of her husband, Ed Landa... Michael and Emily Laskin on the death of his mother, Betty Laskin and to grandchildren, Joe and Nick... Friends and family of Estelle Morris... Diane and Mark Rudolf on the death of her mother, Betty Strawgate and to grandchildren, David and Rachel... Todd and Laurie Okum on the death of his great uncle, Richard Weissman and their children, Eli, Jonah and Sara...

And to all immediate and extended family.





COOK WITH US... COOKBOOK SALE OPENS

Tuesday, April 1 - Friday, May 9

Join the schools this month as they begin sale of a collection of wonderful recipes from Mann Family Early Childhood Center and Brawerman Elementary School families. Order forms available online or in school offices.

www.wbtla.org/events/item/189/youth_events

EARTH DAY AT WILSHIRE CENTER

Tuesday, April 22, 2008
10:00 a.m.
Temple Campus

Along Wilshire Boulevard between Western and Harvard, the Wilshire Center Business Improvement Corp. will host a festival with 100 exhibit booths and three stages.

www.wbtla.org/events/item/179/events



A MUSLIM-JEWISH SEDER

Saturday, April 26, 2008
6:00 p.m.
Temple Campus

Every year this event is "Standing Room Only" as we celebrate Pesach with an extraordinary haggadah, great music, and the friendship of like-minded Muslim families – don't be left out!

www.wbtla.org/events/item/164/adult_events



FLASHPOINTS

WILL EUROPE BECOME RELIGIOUS AGAIN?

Tuesday, April 29, 2008
7:30 p.m.
Temple Campus

Is the Pope's assessment of the importance of religion in Europe correct? How might the values of religion impact the new European Union?

www.wbtla.org/events/item/146/tikkun_events

A CELEBRATION OF ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, May 4, 2008
5:30 p.m.
Irmias Campus

Wilshire Boulevard Temple and State of Israel Bonds present a celebration with special guest speaker, Dr. Stephen M. Berk, Professor of History at Union College, New York.

http://www.wbtla.org/events/item/160/adult_events



BIG SUNDAY '08

Sunday, May 4, 2008
1:30 p.m.
Irmias Campus

A mitzvah-filled afternoon for the whole family!

www.wbtla.org/events/item/161/tikkun_events



5TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

Monday, May 5, 2008
El Caballero Country Club

Join us for a day of great golf, great food and loads of fun in support of a wonderful cause. Your day of golf will benefit the Temple's Camps and Youth Programs!

www.wbtla.org/events/item/169/youth_events



A WILD FAITH: JEWISH WAYS INTO WILDERNESS, WILDERNESS WAYS INTO JUDAISM WITH RABBI MIKE COMINS

Monday, May 12, 2008
7:30 p.m.
Irmias Campus

As an ordained rabbi, Comins felt suffocated by books and buildings until he returned to the source of his first spiritual experience: The Wilderness. He finds God in open spaces and infuses hiking, skiing and kayaking with spiritual openness.

http://www.wbtla.org/events/item/156/adult_events





RABBI EDGAR F. MAGNIN FUND

In Honor Of:

Rabbi David Eshel on the occasion of my daughter, Annie's Bat Mitzvah by Susan Wasserman

In Loving Memory Of:

Ida Adelson by Anna & Michael Adelson
Moses Armel by Merle Galindo
Minnie Ceazan by Anne & Bernie Ceazan
Jennie Chortek by Richard Perelman
Sam Chortek by Richard Perelman
Lela Cohn by Phyllis Kassel
Lela Cohn by Betty & Bob Miller
Dear father, George Epstein by Margaret Epstein
Annie & Bernard Greenwald by Lynda & William Leisner
Sally Grodsky by Lillian & Joseph Grodsky
Edith Kahn by Dr. Ruth Hochberg
Rose Karatz by Bruce Karatz / Karatz Family Foundation
Morris Kurtz by Lyn Heller
Raymond Kurtzman by Janet & David Lonner
Beloved mother & grandmother, Clara Lichtenstein by Rachael & Dr. Norman Hoffman
Gilbert Lindheim by Pearl Lindheim
Renee Motley by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Motley
Helen Morris by Ron Fields
Harry Perelman by Richard Perelman
Ellie Rotenberg by Michael Rotenberg
Sydney Shore by Jennifer & Noah Shore
Helen Spector by Phyllis & Joseph Weiss
Jean Tabach-Bank by Julius Tabach
Ben Weimer by Diane Weinstein
Rose Weissstein by Bradley Mindlin

CLERGY FUND

In Honor Of:

Rabbi Leder & Cantor Gurney on the occasion of our daughter, Rebecca's Bat Mitzvah by Barbara & Lee Wagman
Rabbi Steve Leder for officiating at the baby naming of our granddaughter, Mya Rose Berger by Ann & Bernd Givon
Rabbi Laurie Phillips by Laura Ullman & Mark Epstein
Elan Shevah's Bar Mitzvah by Sheryl Shevah
Rabbi Stein for officiating at the service of Maurice Singer by Stephanie Singer

In Loving Memory Of:

Our mother & grandmother, Ann Epstein by Laura Ullman & Mark Epstein and Family
Senta Fox by Deb & Richard Powell and Family
Ed Landa by Sandra Ringer
Husband, Gilbert Lizer by Ruth Lizer
Cesia Ullman by Laura Ullman & Mark Epstein

SISTERHOOD PULPIT FLOWER FUND

In Loving Memory Of:

Betty Levy by Shirley Haiman

TIKKUN OLAM SOCIAL ACTION FUND FOOD PANTRY

In Honor Of:

Philip and Alyce De Toledo by Francine E. Sanders
Rabbi Leder for officiating at the unveiling of Irving Kolpas by Katherine & Norman Kolpas

Rabbi Leder for officiating at the unveiling of Irving Kolpas by Laurie & Dr. Sidney Kolpas
Sarah Raful & Josh Whinston's wedding by Nancy & Steve Levine

In Loving Memory Of:

My beloved father, Jacob Becker by Jane Hirsch
Lottie Cohen by Richard Eisendrath & Family
Dear brother, George Epstein by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Brown
Senta Fox by Ann & Bernd Givon
Senta Fox by Nancy & Steve Levine
Sophia Goldman by Ann Rubin
Minnie Levinson by Richard Eisendrath & Family
Edythe Miller's daughter, Denise by Flo & Mayo Stark
Jack Weisman by Elaine Lipton

PRAYER BOOK DEDICATION FUND

In Loving Memory Of:

Senta Fox by Elaine Lipton
Ben Weimer by Suzanne Rubin & Family

GERI AND RICHARD BRAWERMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In Loving Memory Of:

Jack Becker, William Becker, Tille Becker & Etta Gradowitz by Linda & Peter Rhein
Raymond Fine by Muriel & Neil Sherman

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

In Loving Memory Of:

Stanley Kaufman by Lisa & Robert Goldstein
Reva Sandler by Debra Fields & Jonathan Silberman
Evelyn Weissman by Laurie & Todd Okum

ANAT BEN-ISHAI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Honor Of:

Sophie Binenfeld's Bat Mitzvah by Nancy Gurney

MUSIC PUBLICATION FUND

In Honor Of:

Cantor Gurney, Cantorial Soloist Ellen Sugerman, Pam Simmons & Nancy Daum on the occasion of my daughter, Annie's Bat Mitzvah by Susan Wasserman

In Loving Memory Of:

Senta Fox by Nancy & Hal Daum
Ethel Schatz by Marty Schatz, Nancy and Hal Daum

JORDAN EHRLICH FUND FOR PROGRAMS IN BUSINESS ETHICS

In Loving Memory Of:

Rabbi Karen Fox's mother, Senta Fox by Susan & Bill Ehrlich
Rabbi Karen Fox's mother, Senta Fox by Shirley & Tony Kouffman

WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE CAMPS

In Loving Memory Of:

Dr. Steve Brodie by The Goren Family
Mitch Dresser by Sheila & Don Bernstein

RABBI ALFRED WOLF CAMP FUND

In Loving Memory Of:

Father, Sam Cooper by Marcia Markowitz
Maurice Creamer by Frances Creamer
Mitchell Dresser by Nadine & Stephen Breuer
Mitch Dresser by Norma & Earl Bubar
Old camp buddy Mitch Dresser by Eric Fruithandler
Ann Epstein by Judi & Larry Walley
Lillian Ginsburg by Carolyn & Rob Carlson
Beloved parents, George & Florence Goldstein by Sheila & Don Bernstein

ALLAN CHATKIN CAMBERSHIP FUND

In Honor Of:

Betty Rinnig on a speedy recovery by Sandra Chatkin

CHARLES BENDIT CAMBERSHIP FUND

In Loving Memory Of:

Julius Steve Brodie by Nadine & Stephen Breuer
Senta Fox by Nadine & Stephen Breuer
Ed Landa by Nadine & Stephen Breuer
Elinor Marks by May Bendit; Nadine and Steve Breuer; Esther, Joel, Sami and Zach Saltzman

YONI LICHT CAMBERSHIP FUND

In Loving Memory Of:

Senta Fox by Miryam & Dr. Samuel Tarica

THE CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS INQUIRY FUND

Barbara McDermott
Sidney Stern Memorial Trust

THE DARFUR PROJECT

Rabbi Elissa & Gal Ben-Naim
Rabbi Karen Fox & Michael Rosen

BIKUR CHOLIM FUND

In Loving Memory Of:

Senta Fox by Gina Lobaco
Senta Fox by Francine Peterman

.....
Sunday, April 20, 2008
FOOD PANTRY

Underwritten by
The Banky LaRocque
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 more.





Schedule of Shabbat Worship & Study

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

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

Erev Shabbat Services
Rabbi Eshel and Cantorial Soloist
Elisa Waltzman
Temple Campus - 6:00 p.m.

Rabbi Leder and Cantorial Soloist
Jacqueline Raffi
Irmas Campus - 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

Torah Study & Service Combined
LEVITICUS Acharei Mot 16:1 - 18:30
Rabbi Eshel and Cantorial Soloist
Lonee Frailich
Temple Campus - 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

No service at the Irmas Campus

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

First Day Passover Service
Rabbi Eshel, Cantor Gurney and
Cantor Caro
Irmas Campus - 9:00 a.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

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

Rabbi Leder, Cantorial Soloist
Jacqueline Raffi and Youth Choir
Irmas Campus - 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2008

Torah Study
PESACH EXODUS 13:17 - 20:23
Rabbinic Intern Gersh Lazarow
Temple Campus - 9:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service

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

No service at the Irmas Campus

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

Passover/Last Day Yizkor Service
Rabbi Stein, Cantor Gurney and
Cantor Caro
Irmas Campus - 9:00 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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