

WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE

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PURIM: IT'S A CELEBRATION! MARCH 8, 2009

I remember the days leading up to Purim when I was a kid. I recall the anticipation I felt before going to the synagogue. What was the shpiel going to be this year? What costume would I wear? Would a ninja outfit be appropriate attire for Purim? When the waiting was over and the reading of the *M'gillah* began, my anticipation dissolved and I was just living in the moment.

Making Purim a time to celebrate and laugh is nothing new. More than 500 years ago in Europe, parading and masquerading became a major part of the Purim festival. However, the tradition of wearing costumes didn't come to the Middle East until the late 1800s. The tradition had children dressing up as the many characters in the story—young girls as Queen Esther, and boys as one of the heroes of Purim, Mordecai. Over time, the tradition stuck. In America, you can see young children coming to religious school and synagogue in costume on the day of the Purim carnival or *M'gillah* reading. We don't see many kids dressing up as the Purim characters today; it's rather like what could be described as a Jewish Halloween. At Purim there is no promise of candy or presents, but for young children the excitement still exists.

It's pretty incredible the way we celebrate Purim with carnivals and funny shpiels filled with music. We create a joyful

atmosphere not seen at any other time of year. We celebrate freedom from oppression many times during the calendar year, but Purim feels like the one time we can just laugh at our oppressors, saying, "Ha, you are never going to get rid of us!" We smile with great confidence that we will have our saviors and rise together as a people. We celebrate how truly unique it is to be Jewish.

This year, anticipate the day and be ready to celebrate. We will come together as a community on Sunday March 8th at the Irmas Campus from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. We are calling this incredible new Purim experience PURIMland! This a chance for your whole family to rejoice in our freedom and our right to exist as a Jewish people. This is our opportunity to say we will never give in to the Hamans who plot against us. We will remember the story, revel in our astonishing ability to survive and, of course, eat. This is Purim. This is our celebration.

■ Eric Nicastro
Associate Director, Youth Programs

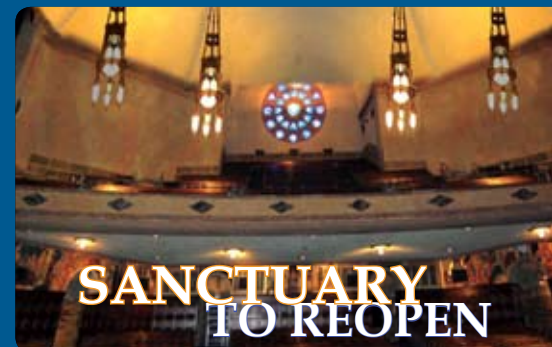


PURIMland
Sunday, March 8, 2009, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
www.wbtl.org/events/item/288/worship_events

In This Issue

In The Garden...

GINDLING HILLTOP CAMP
40th Anniversary
CELEBRATION





Everybody Grab A Brush Shabbat Shekalim

The day before being sworn in as our next president of the United States, Barack Obama spent part of the day painting a wall. Participating in his own call for a national day of service on the birthday of the Reverend Martin Luther King, President-elect Obama helped a group of kids paint the walls of an emergency shelter for homeless teens. Rolling up his sleeves, the next leader of the free world grabbed a pole and a roller and went to work—taking action, in both large and small ways, to help rebuild America.

This week is a special Shabbat known as Shabbat Shekalim. There is an additional reading from Exodus 30:11. It describes a call for every Israelite to contribute a half shekel (currency) to support communal sacrifices.

...where rich and poor alike will feel like true partners in the building and rebuilding of our communities, our country, our world.

The egalitarian nature of this contribution is emphasized: “the rich shall not pay more, and the poor shall not pay less than half a shekel.” The key is the requirement that all individuals contribute equally to the community. This helped develop a sense of unity crucial to the new nation created by the Exodus.

Regardless of our political leanings, our new president's call for service can be our great unifier—where rich and poor alike will feel like true partners in the building and rebuilding of our communities, our country, our world. May we all join together, roll up our sleeves and paint some walls.

■ Rabbi David Eshel



When the Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary

Rabbi Leder's wonderful book, *The Extraordinary Nature of Ordinary Things*, helps us realize that while life seems to fly by, the unexpected and remarkable are around us daily—if only we can become aware.

After 20 years, the Temple Campus food pantry, important as it is, has become “ordinary”—we can hardly imagine a Sunday morning without the bags of bagels, cases of corn and other goods. Now, we've helped make this “ordinary” service into something extraordinary. Last fall, the Temple entered into a partnership with QueensCare, celebrating its 10th year of providing accessible health care for uninsured and low-income individuals and families in Los Angeles County. Those who come to the food pantry now have free access to pneumonia and flu vaccines, screening for high blood pressure and diabetes, and more. Our nurse liaison, Faye Russell, RN, recently sent us this e-mail:

Dear Rabbi,

Thank you for having us at WBT again. We're still following up on some of the things we found at our first [blood pressure/blood sugar] screening. We helped one man review his meds, which he had been inadvertently taking incorrectly, and I talked to his pharmacy to arrange a refill he had been unable to get. We sent another man to an urgent care clinic for an infection. There are also several people we're trying to work with to get sugar/pressure numbers in line, and we'll contact them by phone during the week. I told a few people I'd be back next week. Could we have the table, six chairs and a wastebasket with plastic liner at 7:45 again?

The Temple is pleased to help provide critical health care opportunities to more than 180 men, women and children every Sunday. We're grateful to the Board of Trustees, our administrative and maintenance staff, and our congregants who volunteer and make this sacred service both ordinary and extraordinary.

■ Rabbi Stephen Julius Stein



For more information about the Food Pantry, visit www.wbtla.org/events/item/110/tikkun_events



In The Garden

Some “dirt” from Joan Borgman,
our Early Childhood Gardening Specialist

Gardening is a big part of the curriculum at the Mann Family Early Childhood Center. All of the things we work on in the classroom are also taught in the garden. For instance, children work on their small and large motor skills when digging or planting seeds. They also practice counting when they plant seeds, and sharpen their reading skills when looking for information on a seed packet.

In gardening, we’re teaching the children through their senses—they see the different colors of the plants and the various sizes and shapes of the seeds, and they smell and feel the different leaves and the soil. They may hear birds, and will taste the vegetables they’ll harvest. They begin to understand where food comes from and how to take care of plants. They might need to work together to carry a watering can. They learn about delayed gratification—the seed they plant today will give us some lettuce for a salad, but it won’t be ready tomorrow.

It’s such a pleasure sharing the wonders of nature and gardening with all of the children!



GINDLING HILLTOP CAMP
40th Anniversary
CELEBRATION
Sunday, May 31



Campers’ voices reverberate throughout the dining hall; Shabbat prayers are heard from the chapel; joyous laughter is shared in the cabin area; songs rise up from the amphitheatre...these are the sounds of Gindling Hilltop Camp.

The second of the Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps, Gindling Hilltop Camp opened in 1968 to provide additional opportunities for young people to attend a Jewish overnight camp. As we prepare for our 41st summer of campers, songs and overnights—of Shabbat, *Havdalah* and *ruach*—we invite alumni, camp

families and the Temple community to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Gindling Hilltop Camp on **Sunday, May 31, from 2-5 p.m.**

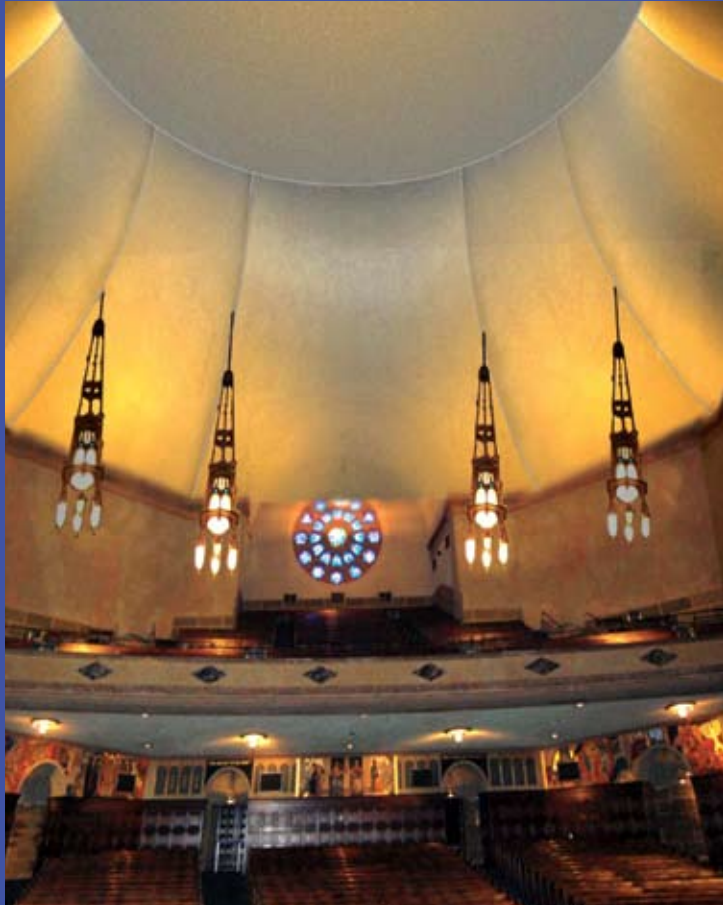
Return to camp for the afternoon, see camp friends and show your kids all that you remember. Join in the song session and Israeli dancing, try out the ropes course and spend time in the arts and crafts area. Or simply find a shady spot to reconnect and reminisce. Save the date—invitations will be mailed in early April.

■ Cheri Lauterbach
Alumni and Development Director



SANCTUARY TO REOPEN

FABRIC DRAPING WILL PREVENT FALLING PLASTER



This photographic rendering illustrates how the Sanctuary will look after fabric draping is hung.

Since the closure of the Temple Campus Sanctuary in October because of falling plaster, Temple leadership and the Board of Trustees have spent considerable time consulting with various architectural, engineering and construction experts concerning the problem. The inspections revealed that although the structural frame of the dome is sound, the potential for more falling plaster remains. A wood shim left behind during the 1929 construction became swollen from water leakage and exerted pressure on the plaster, causing it to break off.

While repairs will be made in due course with the entire renovation of the Sanctuary, safety is the paramount and immediate concern. Therefore, the Temple Trustees

evaluated various proposals to close the Sanctuary indefinitely (meaning that High Holy Day services would be relocated elsewhere for the next few years) or to take measures to drape the ceiling to ensure that any plaster that breaks away does not fall to the ground.

After careful examination of the two options, the Board of Trustees has decided to apply for a permit to drape the Sanctuary and reopen it sometime later this year, but certainly in time for the High Holy Days. President Julie Miller explains that “relocating High Holy Day services proved unworkable, as the few venues that are large enough to accommodate our full congregation are either already rented or would cost nearly as much as covering the ceiling.”

This temporary solution will enable us to continue to worship and hold services in our historic Sanctuary while we move forward on multiple fronts to restore our historic buildings and redevelop our Temple Campus.

-Rabbi Leder

Pie-shaped wedges of a Teflon®-fiberglass fabric—finely woven, nonflammable and impact-resistant—will be attached to a metal ring encircling the dome. The wedges will cover the entire ceiling, from the oculus to the base of the dome. The accompanying photographic illustration approximates the effect. The spice box chandeliers will be visible as well as the Warner Murals.

“This temporary solution will enable us to continue to worship and hold services in our historic Sanctuary while we move forward on multiple fronts to restore our historic buildings and redevelop our Temple Campus,” remarks Senior Rabbi Steve Leder.

■ Gina Lobaco
Development Director





HARD HAT TOUR OF THE SANCTUARY & NOSH WITH RABBI STEVE LEDER



Sunday, February 22, 2009
10:30 a.m.
Temple Campus

Is it true that the Sanctuary dome is suspended by horsehair? Where did Rabbi Magnin write his sermons? How many pipes are on the Temple organ? Who cleans the 6,000-piece stained glass windows? How are the lightbulbs changed in the chandeliers? And what in the world is preventing us from turning on the air conditioning? Most important of all, we'll be sharing the plans for revitalizing the Temple Campus.

Find the answers to these questions and much more by joining Rabbi Leder for a Tour of our historic Temple Campus.

Bagels & coffee will be served.

Reservations are required & space is limited.
RSVP to Mike at (213) 388-2401 or globaco@wbtda.org

www.wbtda.org/events/item/307/events

SPRING RETREAT AT CAMP HESS KRAMER 2009: GRADES 3-7

Friday - Sunday, March 6 - 8, 2009
3:30 p.m. Friday - 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Camp Hess Kramer

The youth of our community will join together at camp! All third through seventh graders from our Center for Learning and Engagement and Brawerman Day School are invited to celebrate Shabbat in the natural world of camp.

www.wbtda.org/events/item/293/youth_events



PURIMLAND

Sunday, March 8, 2009
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Irmas Campus

Join us for the Center for Learning and Engagement's new celebration of Purim at the Audrey & Sydney Irmas Campus.

www.wbtda.org/events/item/288/worship_events

ADULT PURIM "THE BEATLES DO PURIM"

Monday, March 9, 2009
7:00 p.m.
Irmas Campus



Join us for a rock'n'roll Beatles sing-a-long Purim lead by your clergy and congregants who think they're famous.

www.wbtda.org/events/item/289/worship_events

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF BLESSINGS

Saturday, March 14, 2009
7:00 p.m.
Irmas Campus

Brawerman Elementary School celebrates its 10th anniversary with a party at the Irmas Campus for parents, faculty and supporters, both past and present.

www.wbtda.org/events/item/298/youth_events

SECOND SALON: THE STRUGGLE: RACE VS. PEOPLE VS. FAITH VS. TRADITION

Sunday, March 15, 2009
7:00 p.m.
Private Residence



Continue the conversation with facilitator Rochelle Ginsburg as we grapple with the second half of the book, exploring the chapters "Ritual" through "Children of Kings and Queens" and watching David Mamet turn an incredible cultural corner. Where are you in this dialogue?

www.wbtda.org/events/item/272/adult_events

BAILA OY!

Sunday, March 15, 2009
8:00 p.m.
The Mint
6010 W. Pico Blvd.
\$18.00 (\$36 at the door, if available)



Wilshire Boulevard Temple's **the blvd** presents Baila Oy! Purim event supporting Argentinean Jewish communities featuring Argentina's and Los Angeles' own Los Pinguos.

For more information contact Rabbi David Eshel.
RSVP to Phyl at (213) 388-2401 ext. 269

www.wbtda.org/events/item/305/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.wbtda.org/events/item/299/youth_events



Welcome to new Temple members...

Jeff and Victoria Gillis...Gregory Harrison and April Alderiso...
Dr. Arkady Kagan and his son Alexander...Lawrence and
Jennifer Kuklin and their daughter, Hannah...Shahbod and
Ziba Mansoury and their son, Tyler...Henry Orren...

Congratulations to...

Evan and Carrie Rifkin on the birth and naming of their
daughter, Dylan Marley Rifkin and to big brother, Gavin...
Steven and Claudia Seizer on the naming of their son, Andrew
Victor Seizer and to big brothers, David and Daniel... Gail
Benun and Tom O'Byrne on their marriage and to their
daughters, Nicole, Olivia, Kayla, and Michele...

Condolences to...

Gudrun and Daniel Brock on the death of her mother, Ilse
Clauss and to grandchildren, Clarissa and Aaron...Friends
and family of Robert Hyman...Dr. Robert and Deborah
Kleinman on the death of his father, Julian Kleinman and to
step grandchildren, Brittany and Jacqueline Wallach...Adele
and Ben Habibi, Miryam and Dr. Samuel Tarica, Daniel Tarica
and Joshua Bobrowsky, Erin Tarica and Deborah Tarica on the
death of Sidney R. Matorin...

And to all immediate and extended family.



Schedule of Shabbat Worship & Study

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Soul Sounds Shabbat

Rabbi Leder, Cantor Gurney and the Band
Temple Campus - 6:00 p.m.

Shabbat Service

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Torah Study

EXODUS Mishpatim 21:1 - 24:18
Rabbinic Intern Erin Mason
Temple Campus - 9:00 a.m.

Tot Shabbat

Rabbi Eshel
Irmas Campus - 9:00 a.m.

Shabbat Services

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

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Shabbat Services

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

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Torah Study

EXODUS Terumah 25:1 - 27:19
Rabbinic Intern Gersh Lazarow
Temple Campus - 9:00 a.m.

Tot Shabbat

Rabbi Leder
Temple Campus - 9:00 a.m.

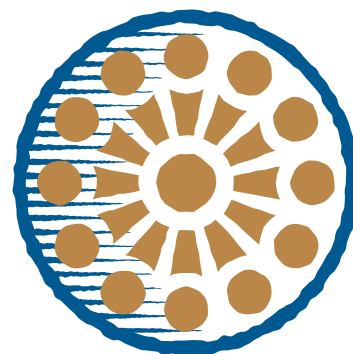
Shabbat Morning Minyan

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

Shabbat Services

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

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



WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE
3663 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
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WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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 Steve Leder for putting up the m'zuzah at our new home by Fred Kunik & Susan Greenberg Kunik
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 Dr. Isa Aron's Special Birthday by Grace & Ira Grossman
 Benjamin de Toledo's Bar Mitzvah by Francine E. Sanders
 Rabbi Stephen Julius Stein by Alan Fogelman & Family

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Rabbi Stein for officiating at the service of Maury Getz by Arleen & Sheldon Klasky

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In Loving Memory Of:

Barnet Grossman by Grace & Ira Grossman

WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE CAMPS

In Loving Memory Of:

Herman Garden by Linda & Stuart Lubitz
 Beloved father, Milton Malin by Madeline & Michael Price
 Sonia Rosenbloom by Beth & Barry Rosenbloom
 Florence Soref by Randye, Michael & Jolie Abrams

AL GOODMAN MEMORIAL CAMPSHIP FUND

In Honor Of:

Phyllis & Bill Axelrod's 60th Wedding Anniversary by Goodman Family- Rhoda, Robert, Jackie, Steven, Ashley & Max

In Loving Memory Of:

Velvet Hwang's Father by Goodman Family- Rhoda, Robert, Jackie, Steven, Ashley & Max
 Mrs. Mark Williams's father, Lloyd by Rhoda Goodman & Family

EVELYN K. KRAMER MEMORIAL CAMP FUND

In Honor Of:

Arnold Luster on a speedy recovery by Harriet Burton & Family

SILLS CAMPSHIP FUND

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Beloved uncle, Shol Friedman by Robin & Robert Sills
 Eva Golden by Robin & Robert Sills
 Sarah Gordon by Robin & Robert Sills

YONI LICHT CAMPSHIP FUND

In Loving Memory Of:

Maurice Getz by Miryam & Sam Tarica
 Sidney Matorin by Laurie & Paul Kelson
 Morris Tarica by Miryam & Sam Tarica & Family

KEHILLAH COMMUNITY CAMP FUND

Gary & Holly Chohn

Sunday, February 22, 2009
FOOD PANTRIES
 Sponsored by the following:
 Peter and Svetlana Eliot
 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.