

BIENNIAL 2013: INCLUSIVE, CONNECTIVE, INSPIRING

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR



Five thousand Jews representing 500 of the nearly 900 congregations belonging to the Union for Reform Judaism gathered in San Diego for five days that undoubtedly impacted their lives and North American Jewish life.

We worshipped, studied, learned, met, laughed, danced and sang. We made new connections, embraced old friends, and brought home new ideas to share. It was an exhausting and exhilarating few days that sent us home with renewed vigor, exciting ideas, and a renewal of our connection to our synagogue and to the North American Jewish community.



Attending the Biennial from TAS were Rabbi Lutz and his wife Debbie, Rabbi Shawna and her husband Isaac, as well as many members: Wendy and Barry Krowne, Cheryl and Brian Hatkoff, Carol and Sandy Stern, Phyllis and Bill Bigelson, Joe and Robyn Blachman, Sue Sculler, Erika Barnathan, Ellen Pollack, Ken Bernstein, Jackie Zev, Gail Karlin, Ava

Silver, Ron and Sandy Friedman, Cantor Patti Linksy and Fran Krimston. It was nice to see Bob Ingram representing several temples.

It was great to see two of our Torahs used in the Saturday morning services and Cantor Patti Linsky perform Saturday night with the NFTY tribute.

We were so proud of Mindy Finkelstein who addressed the assembly and shared how the hateful shooting at the North Valley Jewish Community Center in which she was seriously injured has impacted her life. She was passionate about her support and work for more gun control.

We *quelled* over Isaac Brynjegard-Bialik's creations as the Artist in Residence. We celebrated the 100th anniversary for the Women of Reform Judaism and NFTYS's 75th. We welcomed new congregations from Vaughan, Ontario, Marietta, Georgia, Highland Park, Illinois and Cedar Park, Texas. We honored Temple Israel of Paducah, Kentucky and Congregation Oheb Sholom of Reading, PA on their 150th anniversaries.

Themes were clearly about engaging the Millennials, opening our hearts and minds to completely include non-Jewish partners, social justice, how social media is impacting our congregations, transforming congregational life, support of those with illness and substance abuse, and the evolving Caring Community to create enduring ties. And there were new ideas for the "nuts and bolts" issues like financing, leadership development, rabbinic engagement and more.

Following are some inspiring quotes from our attendees:

WENDY KROWNE: Biennial, for me, is one of those experiences that impacts, inspires and teaches in ways that words can't convey. So glad I went and reconnected with old friends. It was such a joy to share experiences with my TAS family!

MAZEL TOV TO OUR JANUARY B'NAI MITZVAH FAMILY

January 4, 2014

Eileen Roseman and Family on the Bat Mitzvah of Morgan Roseman

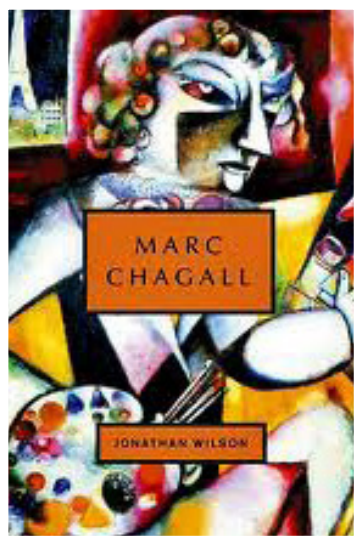
January 11, 2014

Bonnie Weissman and Family on her Adult Bat Mitzvah

Robin and Lee Kleinman and Family on the Bar Mitzvah of David Kleinman



BOOK GROUP WILL DISCUSS "MARC CHAGALL" DECEMBER 12



The next meeting of the TAS Book Group will take place on Thursday, January 9, 2014, in the Library/Chapel. Refreshments will be available at 7:00 pm and the discussion will begin promptly at 7:30 pm.

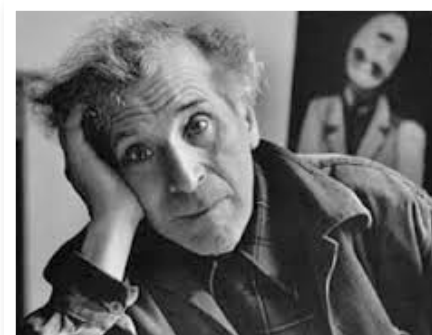
Barbara Vosen will facilitate our discussion of Jonathan Wilson's biography, *Marc Chagall*, a revealing account of the personal and public life of a very complex man.

While he painted nostalgic representations of the shtetl, Chagall evoked controversy among Jews for his depictions of the suffering Jesus and other Christian subjects. Chagall's long and productive life stands out against the broad panorama of 20th century history -- two world wars, the Russian revolution, the Holocaust, and the founding of the State of Israel.

We are excited to announce that the growth of the Book Group and the excellent turnout at our meetings has resulted in a financial surplus, enabling us to disburse funds as follows: \$250 to the Sisterhood Campership Fund and \$500 to the Early Childhood Fund for the purchase of books for our preschoolers.

Please feel free to attend our meetings even if you haven't read that month's selection. We take pride in the fact that our books are chosen to appeal to men and women alike. We request a \$5 contribution per person per meeting. We look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Phyllis & Hal Bass



Marc Chagall

CHERYL HATKOFF: Praying together with 5,000 people with 13 stations of Torah was an amazing high. One workshop I attended focused on attracting people to synagogue. The term “audacious hospitality” was reiterated to encourage people to come to temple and feel welcomed. We are all ambassadors for our congregations, and we need to get out of our comfort zone and really engage with people. It was a pleasure to be a part of the WRJ contingency. It is amazing to learn about the huge contributions our women have made during the past 100 years. We fund the YES (youth, education and special projects) through an endowment program. WRJ developed the NFTY program and continues to fund it and keep our kids connected. The week was amazing. I sang all the way to work in my car this morning, even though I was listening to talk radio! I hope the high continues.

FRAN KRIMSTON: As a veteran convention-goer, this could have been a ho-hum weekend, but it was not. A unique Torah service on Shabbat morning brought new insights. When it came time for Kaddish, we wrapped the fringes of our tallitot around our hands, one strand at a time, remembering the children of Newtown, those who died in the hurricanes and our own loved ones...so very moving. And shiru l’adonai: we sang. Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote: “Song...is a way of bringing down the spirit from heaven to earth.” We warmed our spirit as we experienced the Jewish musical treasures that are ours, as they flowed from our mouths, entered our ears and touched our souls.

GAIL KARLIN: Former Biennial attendees told me I was in for an amazing experience, but it far exceeded my expectations. The incredible, stimulating and informative workshops, meetings with 190 other presidents of Reform congregations, listening to informative and inspiring speeches, attending the YES Fund breakfast and enjoying spectacular musical events were among the highlights. The music created a captivating ruach that never left. Erev Shabbat services with 5,000 people from more than ten countries inspired us to dance, pray, and celebrate. Our TAS/WRJ delegates and their families filled three tables at the Shabbat dinner following services. The Saturday morning Shabbat service was one of the most moving spiritual experiences of my life. I felt deeply connected to 5,000 people and to our movement. The energy, compassion, and commitment from the leaders of the Reform movement fill me with hope for our generation and the generations that will follow.

JACKIE ZEV: The workshops, speakers, presentation (and the artist-in-residence) were wonderful and hearing Netanyahu address the assembly was fabulous. But for me, the highlight was the music! Days later, the melodies from the convention are still running through my head.

KEN BERNSTEIN: All too often lately, we’ve been hearing worries about the future of the Jewish people and the decline in affiliation with Jewish institutions. But as I experienced at an unforgettable Shabbat with 5,000 Reform Jews—a Shabbat filled with inspiring music, exuberant dancing in the aisles, enthusiastic NFTY youth, thought-provoking Torah study and commitment to meaningful social action—I kept thinking: Reform Judaism is not only alive and well, it has, perhaps, never been more rich, textured, and vibrant.

Fran Krimston, Editor



Jackie Zev, Ellen Pollack, Robyn Blachman, Phyllis Biegelson, Gail Karlin, front row: Erika Barnathan and Sue Sculler



Rabbi Phil Nadel, a former TAS rabbinic intern, and Fran Krimston

SOCIAL ACTION SHABBAT HIGHLIGHTS TAS' COMMITMENT TO TIKKUN OLAM

The Social Action Committee on Friday, December 6, sponsored a successful kickoff Shabbat dinner for a series of TAS Community Dinners. This event drew over 100 Temple members who sampled the food of Cornucopia Caterers, one of the Temple's new caterers.

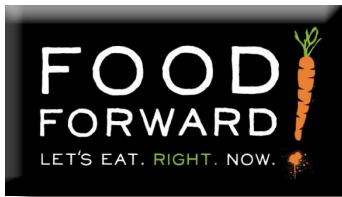
The dinner and Shabbat service highlighted the work of the Social Action Committee to address pressing human needs, both here in Los Angeles and around the world. Fred Summers, Director of Operations for SOVA, a TAS Social Action Partner, was the special guest at the dinner. He shared thoughts on SOVA's work in combating hunger in our community. Rhonda Mayer spoke about TAS' long involvement in addressing gun violence, which began with the tragic 1999 shooting at the North Valley Jewish Community Center and in turn galvanized our community

to play a leadership role in the Million Mom March held in Washington D.C. in 2000.

At the Social Action Shabbat service that directly followed the dinner, Social Action Committee Co-Chair Ken Bernstein, TAS SOS (Sundays of Service) Coordinator Shellie Turer, and TAS Board Member Barry Krowne (co-founder of Knock Foundation, which creates opportunities for underserved populations in Africa) all offered personal reflections on their own involvement with social action through TAS.

Many thanks to the volunteers who made this first Community Dinner such a success: Sarah Londer (Committee Co-Chair), Alyce Caskey, Sue Issler, Jill Cullen, Sheila Reback, and Shellie Turer.

OH WHAT A DAY! TAS SOS KICKOFF EVENT: FOOD FORWARD SUKKOT FRUIT PICK



On a sunny Sunday afternoon in September, sixteen TAS members joined Food Forward's Fruit Pick Leader Team of two, and together gleaned backyard citrus fruit in celebration of Sukkot. For these seven families, this holiday took on a special meaning with over 700 pounds of oranges harvested for the hungry. What a humongous haul in just two hours! And how special we all felt knowing that 100% of the seventeen boxes of oranges we picked were delivered directly to TAS' Social Action Partner, SOVA food pantry. It was wonderful to literally share the fruits of our labor with SOVA's needy clients to provide some nutritious and delicious fresh fruit during the fall harvest festival of Sukkot.

A big squeeze and tree-mendous "thanks" to our wonderful group of dedicated volunteers, who truly define Tikkun Olam by helping to repair our world right here in the valley:

Food Forward Fruit Pick Leaders Shellie and Ethan Turer, with Shane and Nicole Vivian Gee and daughter Ashlan, Tammy Goldenberg and kids, Aidan and Ella Shawn Herman and family, Katie, Matthew, and Daniel

**Marc Zev
Elaine Adelman
Arcy Gesshel and kids, Rylan and Riyanah**

Our next fruit pick is on January 12th in celebration of Tu B'Shevat. Join in the fun!!



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TIME:

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For directions visit Souplantation.com

*1. All participants must purchase a beverage with their meal in order to receive credit towards the organization. 2. Under no circumstances are flyers to be handed out in the restaurant, parking lot or vicinity. Failure to comply will result in a voided contract. 3. Coupons or discounts will not be honored in conjunction with any approved Fun-Raisers. 4. Must present this flyer at time of purchase. 5. Your receipt will be kept and stapled to this form in order to add up the event's sales.

HOUSEHOLD GUIDELINES: 1. For the safety of our guests, no horseplay, running or climbing at any time, please. 2. Please accompany small children when visiting food bars. 3. It is very much appreciated when a supervisory person is present at a table of children.

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IT TAKES A SISTERHOOD: WRJ AND YOUTH

BY PAUL REICHENBACH

Reprinted from URJ's ReforJudaism.org Ten Minutes of Torah



In May of 1969 I received a phone call (no email, text, Facebook or Twitter... how did we function?) from Doris Locke (of blessed memory) representing the Temple Israel (Boston) youth committee and sisterhood. I was a 17 year old high school junior who had become an actively engaged temple youth group member. I did not have a Bar Mitzvah (the tradition in my Classical Reform congregation) but was a Confirmand along with 120 other kids in my class. I had spent the previous eight summers worshipping Native American deities at a boys' summer camp on Long Lake in Maine. I never had the opportunity to have an "immersive" Jewish experience in a camp or any other setting. While I had the good fortune to come from a comfortable family, Doris, on behalf of the Sisterhood, offered me a scholarship to attend a two week leadership institute at the UAHC Kutz Camp in Warwick, NY. She told me that I had been recommended to attend by our Rabbis and that I would be the congregation's delegate at this event for teens from across North America. My ego having been adequately stoked, I accepted the scholarship award and looked forward to not spending two weeks behind the counter of the dry cleaner in Waban Square. Choosing to go would mean that I would need to give up my tickets for a concert scheduled in August on Yasgur's farm in Bethel, NY. (I wonder what ever happened at that event?) The night before the camp session, my parents took me to see "Midnight Cowboy", very daring given that it was "X" rated. (Barely an "R" by today's standards.) Feeling very grown up, the following morning I flew from Boston to Newark, took the 55 cent bus to Port Authority and then the \$2.80 Maplewood Transit to the Kutz Camp in Warwick. I can't imagine why I remember these details but perhaps the significance of these two weeks provides some rational explanation. I had finally arrived at the place that would change the arc of my life forever. While, unlike our lucky children who have the privilege of enjoying multiple summers at a URJ camp joyfully exploring and experiencing their Judaism, I had but two weeks with 200 likeminded

teens from every corner of the continent. I had discovered a magical, utopian "sanctuary" where being yourself, living intentionally and understanding that your contribution truly mattered, was evident daily. I concluded those two weeks at camp with confidence in myself, proud of Reform Judaism, intensely connected to my peers and inspired to figure out how to make the connection from camp to congregation.

Nothing was ever the same after my camp experience. My marriage, friendships, children and life's work are all products of the call I received from Doris Locke. The \$150 investment of the Sisterhood of Temple Israel transformed my life. Not a day goes by when I don't cherish the opportunity to help enable thousands of other children to have that extraordinary experience, the gift I was given as a 17 year old. We can never underestimate the impact we have on individual kids.

There is an extraordinary story to tell in celebrating the leadership role of the NFTS calling for the establishment of our Union camps. Just as NFTS led the way to inspire the establishment of NFTY in 1939, in 1950 a Sisterhood resolution was passed calling for the creation of residential camps for Reform Jewish youth. That audacious dream was fulfilled in 1952 with the founding of the Olin Sang Ruby Union Institute followed by Camp Saratoga (Swig) in 1953. By 1958 the UAHC was operating five camps with the establishment of Union Camp Institute (Goldman), Harlam, and Eisner. By July 1, 2014, the URJ will operate 14 camps in the USA and Canada. This commitment to powerful immersive Jewish experiences for our young people has been sustained by the allocation of scholarship dollars by local sisterhoods making the dream of camp a reality for so many deserving children. It is estimated that the typical WRJ chapter allocates at least \$2,000 a year for camp financial assistance.

Local and district sisterhoods have been instrumental in developing and enhancing our camps. The funding of expansion, chapels, program endeavors and essential equipment has contributed to the growth and excellence of our sites across North America.

In the past 60 years, countless WRJ events have been hosted by URJ camps, enabling sisterhood members to discover for themselves the "magic" of the camp experience while building community and leadership.

Women of Reform Judaism and local sisterhoods across the continent have understood, since our first camp was established in 1952, that sending children to camp was about creating lifetime connections to Judaism and the Jewish people. Thousands of Jewish journeys haven been launched by URJ camps with the passionate support of Women of Reform Judaism. Every summer, more than 11,000 young people participate in our camp and Israel programs, so many because people like Doris Locke care about kids and our future.

Paul Reichenbach, a proud product of the Reform movement, has been a senior member of the URJ youth staff for many years and supervises the operation of 14 URJ Camps and Programs in Israel.

To learn more about how the TAS Sisterhood and Men of TAS support campers, check out the Scholarship opportunities page on the TAS website.
<http://www.tasnorthridge.org/scholarship/>

GATHERING

REPRINTED FROM ISAAC BRYN JEGARD-BIALIK'S BLOG

What an incredible experience. Five thousand Reform Jews from around the world (mostly from North America) gathering together in San Diego for the **2013 URJ Biennial**, where I was the artist-in-residence.

I had three things to get done: the first was to create an original artwork inspired by the Biennial, created entirely at the Biennial in the kivar (the “public square”). The second was to share my process with anyone and everyone who came by my mobile studio, and the third was to lead a workshop in papercutting and help people make their own art.

I'd never had to work in public in this way before – and it was certainly a challenge. It's one thing to be working in the safety of my studio, where I can make decisions (and mistakes) on my own and not worry about how messy the process can be. To be exposed like I was, with people watching me sketch and cut and search and paste... it was unnerving at times, but energizing at others. The hardest part might have been finding enough time to keep working on the papercut while talking to so many people who wanted to hear about my process.

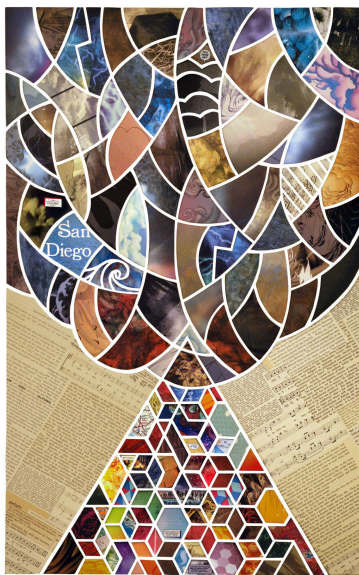
As for the workshop: three dozen people joined me to express ourselves through the cutting of paper. We had four hours together, and I am so proud of the work everyone made.

And somehow it happened; although Wednesday morning I had only a large blank sheet of cold-press watercolor stock, by Saturday night I had completed “Gathering.”

Wednesday I studied and sketched, Thursday I cut paper

to create the top layer, Friday I disassembled and then reassembled pieces from comic books and maps and other ephemera to create the background, and Saturday after my workshop I put the last pieces together.

The idea inspiring the piece is simple, really – I came to see the Biennial as a “Sinai moment,” all of us gathered together to worship and receive Torah and study and learn.



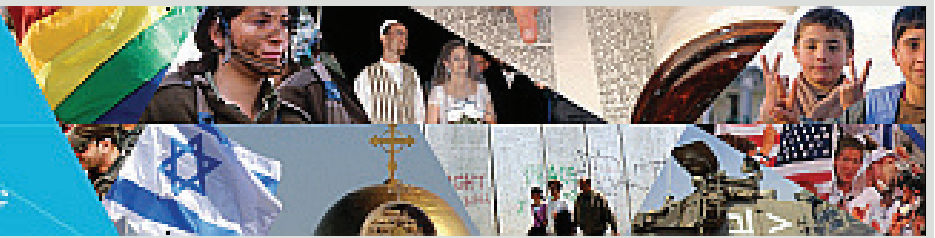
As with all of my work, words from Torah informed the piece. In Exodus 19:18 we read, “Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke, for Adonai descended upon it in fire, and the smoke rose like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled violently.” That's the way I like to think of Revelation – as a kiln. The smoke of God's presence surrounding the top of the mountain reminds us that we are not just gathering, but creating. We came together to discuss strengthening our movement and building a vibrant and relevant Jewish future.

The mountain itself is built out of the honeycomb iconography of the Biennial, with the riot of colors and textures underneath reflecting the content of the sessions, the sanctity of our prayers, and the specific geography of Biennial. The space surrounding the mountain is made of cut-up books and ephemera, including a dictionary and an encyclopedia, with references to Sinai, San Diego, Torah, music, prayer and the Reform movement.

I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve as Biennial artist-in-residence; it was a pleasure and a privilege to study and teach and learn and create with this community.

i Engage

The Engaging Israel Project
at the Shalom Hartman Institute



**9 Sessions this
Winter/Spring
Beginning January
26, 9A.M.**

Beginning January 26th, TAS is pleased to present the world-renowned faculty of the Shalom Hartman Institute, **Engaging Israel: Foundations for a New Relationship**. This course will take you through video lectures, text study, and lively group discussion all led by Rabbi Lutz.

Engaging Israel:

- Goes deeper than the political issues of the day, and also re-frames the discussion about the enduring significance of the State of Israel for contemporary Jews worldwide.
- The course elevates the North American conversation about Israel by rooting it in Jewish values and ideas rather than in a response to crisis.

We will explore questions such as:

- What are the benefits of Jewish sovereignty?
- How should a Jewish state exercise military power ethically?
- How do we create and maintain a Jewish democracy?
- Why should American Jews care about Israel?
- What values should a Jewish state embody?
- What can Israel offer the world?

Each session includes text study and discussion led by Rabbi Lutz, a video lecture by Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman, and a video dialogue between Rabbi Hartman and other top scholars and experts.

Register by January 10, 2014 by contacting the main office at frontdesk@tasnorthridge.org. Class requires a minimum of 10 participants to run.

Cost: \$25 for the Source Book and additional materials. Checks payable to TAS need to be received no later than January 15, 2014.

SHABBAT SHIRAH -- EVERYONE CAN JAM TOGETHER!!

Join us for a Shabbat Jam service Friday, January 10th at 7:30p.m. in the sanctuary.

Calling all musicians...dust off that old instrument, tune it, and come play along during Shabbat services! Bring your guitar, clarinet, drum or violin...or whatever else you might have...we will provide the music to play*.

Optional practice session Thursday, January 9th at 6:00p.m. in the sanctuary.



After the service join us in the Social Hall for a Beit Cafe (Coffee House/Talent Show). Talent show is open to all participants OVER the age of Bar/Bat Mitzvah. To sign up for the talent show please contact Cindy Leshtz at cleshtz@tasnorthridge.org or by calling the Temple office at (818) 360-2258. Space is limited!

*New this year: if you need music in an alternate key/clef be sure to contact the Cantor in advance at cantor@tasnorthridge.org and it will be ready for you! Otherwise all music will be at concert pitch and in treble clef.

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Michael Risman

Will the Wall Come Tumbling Down? An Updated Look at Church and State in Los Angeles and Elsewhere

Sunday, January 12, 10am

Temple Ahavat Shalom

18200 Rinaldi Place, Northridge

Hosted by the Sisterhood & Men of Temple Ahavat Shalom

The 200+ year experiment of separating Church and State in the United States has been a resounding success by most measures. The political model has been emulated since that time in most all modern democracies and adopted by most UN member nations as a universal human right. And yet, as a front line worker for decades on behalf of the preservation and promotion of the First Amendment, the challenges seem only to have grown exponentially in the US in recent years. With presidential candidates and US Supreme Court judges denouncing the principle, religious groups regularly granted special privileges and shielded by law from accountability, and an array of powerful and well-funded organizations actively seeking to use the power of government to promote their religious ideologies, we may now be facing the strongest challenges to church/state separation in the US today in all of that history.

Retired attorney Michael Risman of Santa Monica has been active with Americans United for the 25 years. He currently chairs the Santa Monica working group of the AU Greater Los Angeles chapter. Mr. Risman will cover recent local church-state issues and events in the Los Angeles area and how they tie into the larger national issues followed by Americans United's national office.

Sisterhood & Men of Temple Ahavat Shalom, (818) 360-2258

Americans United for Separation of Church and State – Greater Los Angeles chapter
(<http://www.AU-LosAngeles.org>)

Facebook: [AU.LosAngeles](https://www.facebook.com/AU.LosAngeles)

Twitter: [@AULosAngeles](https://twitter.com/AULosAngeles)

SPOTLIGHT ON SISTERHOOD

A group of very happy women returned from an amazing time at the 2013 URJ/WRJ Biennial in San Diego. We celebrated the 100th birthday of Women of Reform Judaism. We are so proud to be part of the ongoing support of education, youth, and social action through the WRJ YES Fund. Rhonda



London from Congregation Ahavath Chesed in Jacksonville, Florida stated what we all were thinking, "Hearing so vividly and poignantly about our accomplishments reminded me anew how proud I am to be a member of such a vibrant, relevant organization!"

Here is what our Sisterhood members said about their experiences:

JACKIE ZEV: The workshops were superb, the speakers were fantastic, the plenary sessions were well run and the evening activities were spectacular. But, best of all, was the caliber and awesomeness of the people there. As one first-timer put it, "The quality of both the speakers and also of all the people attending the biennial started at impressive and went up from there."

Highlights included: our very own Isaac Brynjegard-Bialik as artist-in-residence, and the spectacular art piece he created during the biennial itself; the YES fund breakfast which raised over \$200,000 for the youth, education, and social action projects; the Thursday night music festival in the Gaslamp District; Shabbat services and dinner for 5,000 people; Saturday morning services where women of WRJ were called for an Aliyah; the WRJ centennial celebration, including the presentation of the Jane Evans Award to Anat Hoffman, Director of the Israel Religious Action Center and founder of the Women of the Wall movement; and lastly, Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech via satellite on Sunday morning.

Attendees came away from the event energized, excited, and exhausted by five days of nonstop incredible activities. Indeed, more than once, people were heard complaining that there were too many great things going on at once. It was impossible to do it all. Seriously, think about joining us for the next one, you will not regret it!

ROBYN BLACHMAN'S TOP FIVE HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Hugging friends I haven't seen in a long time.
2. Pacific District receiving Silver Or Ami Award for banner project that I proposed, and Shari Langer executed beautifully

with all of our Pacific District Sisterhoods.

3. The speeches of Rabbi Rick Jacobs and Rabbi Steve Sacks at the WRJ opening plenary.
4. Having (husband) Joe there to share services and two-hour camp-like sing-a-long session with 5,000 fellow members.

ERIKA BARNATHAN: This biennial was filled with amazing speakers, entertainers, and workshops. The highlight for me is that one of URJ's platforms is Inclusion in the synagogue. It was stated in one of the workshops that inclusion goes beyond access (as in a ramp, a book in Braille, or a hearing device), it is about participation. As a special-education teacher who has worked in inclusive settings my entire career, I am a huge proponent of inclusion. Our temple is very good at including students with disabilities in religious/Hebrew school and in the community. However, I think we can always grow and improve, and I look forward to helping us do just that. I was also excited to see Isaac's gorgeous paper-cut artwork. I am proud and thrilled that I was able to start a lifeline with the YES fund, which trains future leaders of Reform Judaism and supports the youth programs and special projects. It was an inspirational couple of days, and I am so grateful to have had the experience.

PHYLLIS BIGELSON (WRJ PACIFIC DISTRICT, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT):

Two years ago, Julia Weinstein, Lauren Milana, and I were asked to be local arrangement co-chairs for the 2013 San Diego Assembly. Being Sisterhood members and women, of course we said YES. Although this was a major undertaking, we were honored and privileged to work with many Sisterhood volunteers and had an unbelievable experience. The Assembly was fun, educational, and a huge success. We laughed, cried, shared, learned, sang and enjoyed the friendship and camaraderie of many Sisterhood women, new and seasoned. Meeting and sharing with other women from around the world was definitely my favorite part of this week. I have made many new friends that I look forward to seeing at future WRJ events. I can't wait until our District Convention from Oct. 23- 26, 2014, in Pasadena. Please mark this on your calendar now, so that you won't miss this fabulous experience.

SUE SCULLER: This was my first Biennial, and at first it was a little overwhelming. There were so many people in one place, but then I decided to start in with the nuts and bolts.

Workshops: WRJ (and the URJ) had many workshops to choose from, and I wanted to clone myself to be able to be everywhere at once. I met with different leaders in WRJ and was reminded why we do what we do for both TAS and the greater community. Plenaries: listening to the President of WRJ (Lynn Magid Lazar and then Blair Marks) and then

getting to hear Rabbi Rick Jacobs was enlightening. Going to dinner and services with people I love to be with from TAS increased my joy of the experience. Song Sessions: Attending the Friday night song session was so amazing, and “storahtelling” was so wonderful at the Saturday Shabbat service (with 5000 of my closest friends). If you have an opportunity to go to a Biennial, take it!

PROGRAMS

On December 19, we enjoyed an illuminating discussion with Rabbi Dalia Samansky on how to raise a Jewish child or grandchild in a secular world. We shared our ideas and experiences on what we have done, and learned some new ideas as well. Did you know there is a group that will send Jewish books to your preschool child every month free of charge? You can find more information at PJ library, pjlibrary.org.

Now, we look forward to our January meeting on the 23rd, featuring author Maggie Anton. She will be speaking to us about her latest book, *Rav Hista's Daughter*. Anton is a well-respected author of Jewish historical fiction featuring women. Her earlier trilogy, *Rashi's Daughters*, is interesting and educational. Her new novel is a novel of love and the first in an anticipated series.

Mel Birken and Arlene Stone
Programming Co-Vice Presidents

JOIN US IN JANUARY FOR A STIMULATING SPEAKER

Sisterhood and the Men of TAS invite you to a very special presentation by Michael Risman on Sunday, Jan.12, at 10 a.m. in the Social Hall.



Mr. Risman, from Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, is “your voice in the battle to preserve religious liberty.” This national organization defends our constitutional rights, provides expert testimony for Congress and fights threats to the separation of church and state in the courts.

As Jews, we are a religious minority. Our American democracy was founded on the premise of religious liberty, that is to say, not the endorsement of any particular religion. We read about the placement of the Ten Commandments in courthouses and schoolrooms. We hear about controversy with city councils, school pep rallies, and athletic games opening with prayers. Americans United, closely watching that afterschool religious programs operate within the law, is monitoring some of our neighborhood public schools. This is a topic you want to be a part of. Mr. Risman will shed light

on local church-and-state issues in the Los Angeles area and how they tie in to the national issues that Americans United face all the way to the Supreme Court.

WAYS AND MEANS

Save Sunday, January 26, for Sisterhood's Chili Cook-off. This event is not just for Sisterhood members. It starts just as religious school ends, so for those with kids in religious school, park your cars rather than getting in the carpool line. We hope the whole temple turns out to help us decide who the supreme chili cook is. A nominal fee earns you the opportunity to try a variety of home-cooked chilis and vote on your favorite.

Attention Mah Jongg players: We are once again selling cards for 2014. Please support our Sisterhood by ordering your cards through us. You get all of the same benefits as if you ordered them directly, and they will be mailed to you. Please note the price increase from the National Mah Jongg League. The deadline is Jan. 24 to turn in the form. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions about our fundraiser, please contact Jackie Zev at tas.jackiez@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MAH JONGG

Don't miss out on our monthly Mah Jongg games. We play on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:15 p.m. at the Temple. We always have a teacher to give lessons, but you can't learn if you don't show up! Every level of play is accommodated. There is a \$5 donation to play. Contact Anita Hoch for more information anitapearl47@gmail.com.

EDUCATION

Has your child attended a Jewish camp, or gone to Israel this past year? Did you know that every year our Sisterhood and the Men of TAS give camperships to help support these activities? All you have to do is download the application off the TAS website and follow the directions. Your child will need to do some volunteer hours prior to the due date, so download the application now so you will be able to plan accordingly. Giving your child the experience of Jewish camp has been proven one of the best ways to ensure that they continue to live a Jewish life into adulthood, and we are here to support your efforts. If you have any question contact Jennifer Kosoy, VP of Education at jmkosoy@gmail.com, or call (818) 427-2720.

CELEBRATE A SIMCHA

Do you want to honor a special birthday, anniversary, baby naming or an auf ruf? How about honoring a special someone or accomplishment? Has someone in your family recently graduated, retired, or would you like to honor the memory

of a loved one? You can honor someone by becoming a co-sponsor at a Friday Night Oneg? For a \$125 donation to TAS Sisterhood, your name and the reason for the simcha will be included in the Shabbat Shalom pamphlet. Contact Cindy Spoon in the Temple office at (818) 360-2258 if you have any questions.

COUPONS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

TAS Sisterhood is pleased to announce that this month we were able to send two boxes of coupons to overseas bases.



The coupons went to Japan, to the Air Force/Marine Unit and to the Navy. The families appreciate the coupons, as prices are very high overseas.

Thank you for cutting and sorting your coupons. They should be sorted into envelopes and labeled "FOOD" and "NOT FOOD" This makes it more convenient for the recipients to find what they need.

The boxes sent are the very largest Flat Rate. These go to an APO, therefore we pay domestic postage. The boxes are stuffed as full as possible, and several pounds of coupons make their way to those who need them.

While they do accept expired coupons, all coupons must be cut. Sheets of uncut coupons cannot be sent out and will be recycled. Volunteers who can cut coupons are welcome. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to cut coupons, please call Mel Birken at (818) 366-2397.

SAVE THE DATE:

Guest Speaker, Michael Risman, Jan. 12
Guest Speaker, Maggie Anton, author, Jan. 23
Chili Cook-off, Jan. 26

Erika Barnathan and Sue Sculler
Temple Ahavat Shalom Sisterhood Co-Presidents.



Save the Date

TAS Annual Gala Honoring

Mindy & Dave Free

and

Debbie & Scott Weiss

May 31, 2014

Will be held at
Hilton - Universal City

DETAILS ON TICKET SALES & SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES, COMING SOON



TASTY SUPERBOWL LOX BOX...OR SNACK PACK? PICK YOUR FAVORITE! CAN'T DECIDE? GET BOTH!

Superbowl Sunday is approaching!

TASTY is bringing Lox Boxes & Snack Packs back! We just couldn't decide which we loved more!

Lox Boxes: bagels, cream cheese, lox, juice, coffee, tea, fruit, onion and tomato and variety of other breakfast items. (Can be enjoyed by up to 4 people)

Snack Packs: A variety of tantalizing and mouth watering snacks! (Can be enjoyed by 2-3 people)

Prices are as follows--

-Lox Boxes:

Early Bird \$35 by 12/18;
\$40 from 12/19 to 1/22

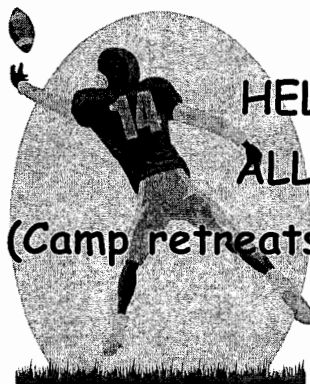
-Snack Packs:

Early Bird \$25 by 12/18;
\$30 from 12/19 to 1/22

January 22nd is the last day to buy lox boxes & Snack Packs!!!

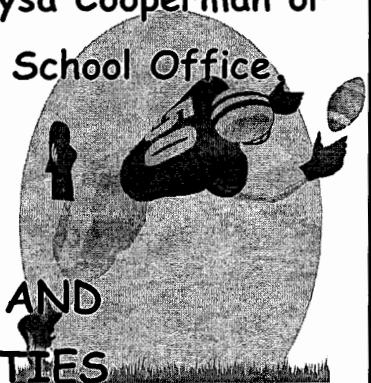
They will be hand delivered right to your front door on Superbowl Sunday, February 2, 2014

Please fill out the order form and turn it in to Ilysa Cooperman or the Religious School Office



HELP SUPPORT TEMPLE YOUTH AND ALL OF THE FABULOUS ACTIVITIES

(Camp retreats, social gatherings, Shabbat house, trips and much, much more!!!!)



TASTY Lox Box/Snack Pack
ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Gated Community: Yes/No

Name of community _____

(Please indicate any special instructions)

City _____ Zip Code _____

Main Cross-streets _____

Phone Number: Home _____ Cell _____

Payment Type: **(please circle)**

Check Cash Credit **(Visa or MasterCard Only)**

CC# _____

Zip _____

Security Code _____

Exp. Date _____

_____ Lox Box (\$35 by December 18th; \$40 from December 19th thru January 22nd)

_____ Snack Pack (\$25 by December 18th; \$30 from December 19th thru January 22nd)

(please initial your selection)

\$ _____ x _____ = \$ _____

price

amount

Drop Off _____

+

Pick up _____

TASTY Donation- \$ _____

=

Total-\$ _____

Thank you for supporting TASTY—Enjoy!!

GENEROUS GIFTS

ALUMNI OUTREACH FUND

Arnold and Judy Alban to support the College Students' Basket Program
Sheldon and Lila Snow

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Stephanie, Rodger, Alex and Adam Howard in honor of the Roher-Smith Family

EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND

Shirley and Gene Kirschenbaum for Sheila Reback in memory of her wonderful husband, Clay Yancy
Judy Cohen in memory of Clay Yancy
The TAS Book Group takes pleasure in donating \$500 to the Early Childhood Fund for the purpose of purchasing books for our preschoolers
Cynthia Spoon in memory of Kelly Pollack
Sophia Redondo in memory of Sylvia Arnold, mother of Lynn Doner

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY FUND

Rhonda, Michael and Carly Mayer in memory of Smadar Sciutto

GENERAL FUND

Deborah Weissman

MITZVAH NETWORK FUND

Phyllis and Hal Bass, in memory of Sylvia Arnold, mother of Lynn Doner

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Elaine and Kenneth Wolfe, "Welcome to the world little Josephine "Josie" Lila Wolfe. Daughter of Gregory Wolfe and Jennifer Singler M.D., granddaughter of Elaine and Kenneth Wolfe

DriveWise Auto on behalf of Isaac Brynjegard-Bialik Aaron and Debby Weissman - Thank you to Rabbi Lutz for a wonderful service for the wedding of our daughter Robyn Weissman and Aaron Wyner

Sue Miller and Daryn Pakcyk in memory of Sylvia Arnold - Beloved Wife, Mother, Grandmother and Friend
Nancy Rubin, Kookie Peak-Marder and Betty Rubin in memory of Sylvia Arnold

RONNA AND LEW EDGERS MEMORIAL ISRAEL PROGRAMS

The Alban Family in memory of Smadar Sciutto

VI AND DAVID LIEBER MEMORIAL MUSIC FUND

Rhonda, Michael and Carly Mayer in honor of Gabriel Max Roher-Smith

Fran Krimston in memory of Clay Yancy
Fran Krimston in honor of the birth of Gabriel Roher-Smith
Fran Krimston remembering Monte on his birthday

Yahrzeits

Sandy Tilsen in memory of Ernestine Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Noah Saxe in memory of Belle T. Saxe
Kathleen Barker in memory of Olga Englova
Mel and Les Birken in memory of Sam Brown
Mel and Les Birken in memory of Manny Birken
Anita and Steven Hoch in memory of Rose Schwarz
Isabelle and James Wiefel in memory of Sally Neiman
Isabelle and James Wiefel in memory of Jerome Goldstein
Sherry and Ira Kaplan in memory of Billie Joan Bronson
Marge Dallis in memory of Jennie Dallis
Dr. Alan Morgenstein, Jill and Family in memory of Leonard Morgenstein
Edwin Lucks in memory of Pauline Lucks
Ed and Joyce Edelson in memory of Harry Edelson
Rochelle and Marvin Skolnick in memory of Nathan Satz,
Rebecca Gennis and Alfred Gennis
Shelly and Philip Trop in memory of Pearl Zelanka
Tammy Kent in memory of Larry Lichtenstein
Alan and Melissa Kassan in memory of Shirley Koran
The Rofe Family in memory of our dad and zeide, Meyer Rofe
Aaron and Debby Weissman in memory of Muriel Weissman
Aaron and Debby Weissman in memory of Roselyn Weissman
Terry and Bruce Hatkoff in memory of Louis Smith

*Thank you all for your
generous donations!*

Condolences

Lynn Doner and Family on the death of her mother,
Sylvia Edith Arnold.

May their memory be a blessing

Congratulations to:

Congratulations to Elaine and Kenneth Wolfe on the birth of their granddaughter Josephine "Josie" Lila Wolfe. The proud parents are Gregory Wolfe and Jennifer Singler, M.D.

Congratulations to Jaimee Wellerstein and Laura McLane on the birth of their daughter Bailey Yael. Jacob Wellerstein is the proud brother.



TEMPLE AHAVAT SHALOM/HILLSIDE MEMORIAL PARK AND MORTUARY PRE-NEED PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Taking time to plan for the future so that no unexpected costs arise during a time of loss is the greatest gift you can give your loved ones. Our thoughtful PRE-NEED PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM enables you to make all the arrangements in advance. Give your family peace of mind, knowing that you have made the right decision.

Temple Ahavat Shalom members will receive a Pre-Need Partnership Program savings on selected properties and special financing. In addition, each purchase will generate a \$500 per space donation to Temple Ahavat Shalom from Hillside. This program is offered to better serve the Jewish Community and to provide additional support for the temple.

For more information call:

Fran Krimston

Family Advisor and Liaison to Temple Ahavat Shalom

310.641.0707 x 272

fran@hillsideMemorial.org



HILLSIDE ★

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HILLSIDEMEMORIAL.ORG

FD 1358

JANUARY 2014 AT TEMPLE AHAVAT SHALOM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day - Temple and School Offices Closed	2	3 7:30p - Erev Shabbat Service	4 4:45pm - Bat Mitzvah of Morgan Roseman
5 No Religious School	6 ECEC Resumes	7 No Torah Study No TAS High/Dalet	8 No Hebrew School 7:15pm - JNET	9 10:00am - Melton Class 7:00pm - Book Group Meeting 6:30pm - Sisterhood Board Meeting - Away	10 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat Service -Shabbat Shirah	11 10:15am - Adult Bat Mitzvah of Bonnie Weissman 4:45pm - Bar Mitzvah of David Kleinman
12 8:45am - Men of TAS Meeting 9:00am - Schmooze and Schmeer 9:00am - Adult Ed: Adult Hebrew 10:00am - Sisterhood and Men of TAS Speaker 10:15am - Adult Ed: Conversational Hebrew 11:00am - Facts of Life: Girls and Parents	13 5:00pm - Dine for TAS at Souplantation	14 9:30am - Torah Study	15 7:30pm - TAS Board Meeting	16 Tu B'Shvat 10:00am - Melton Class 11:00am - ECEC Tu B'Shvat Seder	17 7:00pm - Erev Shabbat Service + January Birthday Blessing	18 10:30am - Chapel Minyan
19 Martin Luther King Weekend No Religious School	20 Martin Luther King Holiday - Temple School and Offices Closed	21 9:30am - Torah Study	22 6:15pm - Sisterhood Monthly Mah Jongg	23 10:00am - Melton Class 7:00pm - Social Action Meeting - Away 7:00pm - Sisterhood - Craft Project 7:00pm - Budget and Finance Committee 7:30pm - Purim Committee Meeting	24 6:15pm - Community Shabbat Dinner presented by the Men of TAS 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat Service featuring the Men of TAS	25 9:00am - Shabbaton
26 8:30am - ECEC Bake Sale 9:00am - Smooze and Schmeer 9:00am - Adult Hebrew 10:00am - Facts of Life - Parent Meeting 10:00am - Adult Ed: Making Prayer Real 11:00am - Sisterhood Chili Cook Off	27	28 9:30am - Torah Study 5:00pm - Food Truck Fundraiser at TAS	29 6:00pm - ECEC Pizza Night - Chuck E. Cheese	30 10:00am - Melton Class 7:30pm - Purim Committee Meeting	31 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat Service	

The Menorah is . . .

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