

# At Temple Menorah: *we live our values*

Temple Menorah has been a joyous place this past year with new staff, new members and many innovative programs from which to learn, enjoy and strengthen our sense of community. Below are a few of the outstanding accomplishments we have realized this past year as a result of the extraordinary partnership between our lay leaders and our senior staff: Rabbi Silver, Jessica Hutchings, Robin Franko, Randi Sher and Leah Ackermann. I want to extend a special thank you to Shelly Rocker, my predecessor, whose devotion to Judaism and the Temple is boundless.

Cathleen Richland  
President

## COMMUNITY



- Our sense of community and involvement in all our program offerings continues to strengthen. Our warmth and openness are the hallmark of Temple Menorah as we welcomed 35 new member families.
- Programmatically, we kicked off the year with the Barechu & BBQ with 250 members in attendance. During Sukkot Rabbi Silver welcomed new members with a dinner in his Sukkah. Community Shabbat dinners continue to be well received with a variety of speakers, programs and delicious cuisine. Potluck dinners at Shabbat and holiday services encourage families of all ages to share in the dining and worship experience. The congrega-

tion embraced the Purim spirit and braved the rain in record numbers.



*Even rain didn't stop the Purim Carnival*

## SANCTUARY

- High Holy Day services developed under the guidance of Rabbi Silver included our Mishpacha Minyan Family Service, Tot Service, Tashlich with Congregation Tikvat Jacob and our Meditations of the Heart panel.
- Welcomed Jessica Hutchings as our Cantorial Soloist and have enjoyed her enthusiasm and creativity on the Bimah. Our kids also love Jessica as seen by our new Youth Choir
- with 28 children participating. Jessica shared her talent on Purim with a Beate's-inspired service along with our Musical Director Dan Spector.
- Welcomed Rick Muller back as our weekly Torah educator.
- Past president, Shelly Rocker, hosted the Tikkun Hanefesh healing service with over 250 members in attendance to bring

our community together in strength. And... we were treated to a delicious meal!

- Friday nights: Created a new family Shir Shabbat service with an average attendance of 275; our 6pm nosh before our 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat service continues to receive high marks; Family Tot Shabbat services have experienced a 35% increase in attendance with an average of 130 people monthly.

## TUVIA SCHOOL

- Enrollment: Tuvia Kindergarten already fully enrolled for 5772; 50% of our expected Tuvia preschool students have already pre-registered as Tuvia continues to maintain its reputation of excellence in the South Bay.
- Expanded our Tuvia Kids Club (afterschool program) to include the Tuvia Homework Club with 17 students enrolled.



*Preschooler, Molly, with her grandparents during the 2nd Annual Grandparent's Day*

- Tuvia's 2nd Annual Grandparent's Day was filled to capacity and raised \$15,000 towards the new Tuvia playground project. Evy Jacobson, Chair of the Playground Committee, has been working to design and fund the new outdoor environment for our children.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Temple Menorah, a Reform Jewish Congregation, is to create and enhance positive Jewish identity for the individual, the family and the community by embracing God, Torah and Israel within an environment that values and promotes religious exploration, Jewish education, ethical action, communal celebration and the development of lifelong relationships.

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & CAMP

- Director of Education Randi Sher received the BJE Lainer Award for her extraordinary ability to motivate students to achieve their highest potential. Religious School with 186 students has seen an increase of 17 students from last year.
- B'nai Mitzvah program enhanced to include online access for parents and the ability to download melodies for songs and prayers. Jessica Hutchings and Rick Muller team teach the b'nai mitzvah students.
- Camp Menorah, under the direction of Daniel Sher, is averaging 140 campers every summer.
- Kids Night Out continues to grow as both children and parents alike enjoy the opportunity for quality kid programming on Saturday nights while the parents enjoy some adult time together.



*Campers at the Los Angeles Zoo*

## CONTINUING JEWISH EDUCATION AND TIKKUN OLAM



*Temple Menorah 'Walk to End Genocide' Team*

- Adult Learning: Rabbi Silver and Rabbi Deborah Goldmann have 14 adult students enrolled in the Introduction to Judaism Class; Rabbi Silver's Hevrat Torah class is in its 23rd consecutive year; Jessica Hutchings has 10 adult B'nai Mitzvah students.
- Tikkun Olam Social Action Committee's (TOSAC) growing presence at Temple

Menorah is evident: quarterly American Red Cross Blood Drives, Michael Mitzvah Day, JWW Walk to End Genocide, and the Feed the Hungry program.

- Cultural Arts: Reel Shabbat, where award-winning Israeli movies are shown following Shabbat services on both Fridays and Saturdays.

## LEADERSHIP

- Temple Board of Trustees, under the leadership of Les Latner, held a Board retreat that focused on governance and team building. With the guidance of Trustee Lorrie Levine, the Rabbi Advisory Committee was established to develop and implement systems to strengthen our organization and provide better care to our members.
- Temple website continually improved; have gained a stronger presence on the internet.

Did you know that Tuvia can be found on Yelp?

- Our clergy took a leading role in the South Bay Interfaith Thanksgiving service held at the Mormon Stake.
- With funds from our Homeland Security Grant, we have constructed a lighted brick wall to secure the Tuvia playground. We also raised the height of the fence around the playground and added a chain link

fence to the back perimeter of the synagogue.

- Fundraising: Members Helping Members appeal raised \$23,000 to ensure that every person – regardless of financial ability - is able to be a member of Temple Menorah and that every child can receive a Jewish education. Our Atid For our Future Reception raised \$24,000 to help secure our financial success in 5771.

## SISTERHOOD

- Programs: membership lunch featuring a Taco Bar, Margaritas and a "Get to Know your Sister" Bingo, Community Chanukah Party, Women's Retreat and Women's Seder
- Community: prepared traditional foods for Purim Carnival; sponsored the Kugel Kiddush on the 2nd Day of Rosh Hashanah; provided cake and juice for the Yom Kippur Break-the-fast.



*Tuvia Students perform for the Rosenberg Cultural Center at the 2nd Annual Grandparent's Day*

## ROSENBERG CULTURAL CENTER

- The Rosenberg Cultural Center's name has changed to more accurately reflect the character of the educational and cultural programs offered and Temple Menorah. Adults of any age are invited to join these activities which include field trips, concerts, movies, lectures and, of course, great food!