

THE BEACON-ETTE

January 2026



HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2026

Welcoming 2026 Together: Gratitude, Tradition, and Community

A new year brings fresh energy, new possibilities, and the chance to come together in meaningful ways.

Grounded in gratitude and guided by tradition, our community continues to be strengthened by connection, compassion, and shared purpose. From moments of celebration to opportunities for learning and service, we are strongest when we show up for one another and move forward together.

The year ahead holds meaningful milestones, gatherings, and opportunities to engage — and we invite you to **be part of it!** Join us to learn, to celebrate, to support one another, and to

help shape the next chapter of our community.

Whether you are joining us regularly or finding your way back, your presence matters. We look forward to all that Temple life has to offer in the months ahead.

Let's make 2026 a year of connection, purpose, and community.





Message from Rabbi Muroff:

You Are Not Alone

Mental health challenges and mental illness are not new. For hundreds of years people have felt overwhelmed by life and have had difficulty coping. In the past, it was primarily immediate family who bore the brunt of the responsibilities of helping their loved ones and themselves. We are fortunate to be living at a time when many resources exist to help those experiencing the crisis and their families and loved ones. **YOU ARE NOT ALONE.** These organizations and I are here to help. Please reach out to me and to them when life challenges threaten to overwhelm your coping mechanisms.

If you're having thoughts of self-harm, please reach out for immediate crisis support. You can connect with a crisis counselor 24/7, day or night, all year round—via text, chat, or phone, from anywhere in the U.S. It's completely free and fully confidential.

Call: 988; Text 988

NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

<https://www.nami.org/>



We are dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. Our Alliance includes more than 650 NAMI State Organizations and Affiliates who work in your community to raise awareness and provide support and education to those in need.



Find Support Now:

Call: 1-800-950-6264

Text "NAMI" to 62640

In a crisis? Call or Text 988

D.D. Hirsch (Los Angeles-based agency)

Didi Hirsch provides compassionate mental health, substance use, and suicide prevention services to individuals and families, especially in communities where discrimination and injustice limit access.



<https://didihirsch.org/suicide-prevention/>



Happy New Year from our Co-Presidents!

During 2026 there will be lots of changes to the outside of our Temple. We appreciate all the work that Doug, Donna, and the entire Security Grant Subcommittee have done to ensure the correct process and usage of our grant. Please read Doug's letter on page 10, which explains much more.

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to our toy drive, food drive, and clothes for our Veterans. Your kindness to our greater community is so appreciated!

2026 looks to be another year full of great programs and activities, including celebrating our Temple's 70th anniversary on April 18th. Keep reading the Beacon-ette, eblasts and our website.

Wishing everyone the very best in 2026!



Joe Telles & Sharon Kravitz
Co-Presidents, TBO

Joe Telles: j.telles263@gmail.com

Sharon Kravitz: slkravitz@hotmail.com

Message from Brotherhood President – Howard Lavoot

Congratulations to
Ryan Jackson
as TBO Brotherhood Man of the Year!

A celebratory dinner program will be held on Saturday, March 21st, at Temple Beth Hillel in Valley Village. The cost is \$50 per person.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the football pools that are set up in the social hall and the Superbowl party on February 8th.

Thank you for your ongoing support and participation in our recent and future Brotherhood events. For more information, please see the flyers that are posted in the weekly e-blasts, Beaconette and on the counter in the social hall.

Upcoming Brotherhood Events

January

1/21/26	Brotherhood general meeting/dinner/program
1/28/26	Brotherhood dine out at Black Bear Diner in La Habra

February

2/6/26	Brotherhood-sponsored Congregational Dinner
2/8/26	Superbowl game party and football pool
2/18/26	Brotherhood general meeting/dinner/program

March

3/18/26	Brotherhood general meeting/dinner/program
3/18/26	Yom HaShoah candle packaging (for Apr 13-14)
3/21/26	Shabbat prayer, torah study & potluck lunch
3/21/26	Man of the Year at Temple Beth Hillel in Valley Village
3/25/26	Brotherhood dine out at Silver Palace Chinese in Whittier

Chance Stastny's Bar Mitzvah

From the Dance Floor to the Bimah

We are excited to celebrate the upcoming Bar Mitzvah of Chance Stastny, who will be called to the Torah on January 17th. Chance is 13 years old and lives in Brea with his parents, Cynthia and Michael, and his older sister, Alexandria. He is a seventh grader at Orange County School of the Arts, where he is part of the Commercial Dance Program.

Chance has been dancing since the age of three and has studied a wide variety of styles, including ballet, hip hop, jazz, contemporary, modern, and lyrical. He previously trained in the Cecchetti Method of Ballet, but his favorite style is hip hop. Over the past two years, Chance has competed as a soloist at dance competitions throughout Southern California. He currently dances and competes at Stage One Dance Studio in Brea.

When he's not dancing, Chance enjoys another favorite pastime: collecting Pokémon cards. He also loves being outgoing and helping people. Chance shared:



"I want to make a difference directly to my community plus I love talking to people."

For his mitzvah project, Chance visits homebound seniors to bring companionship, conversation, and a little extra joy to their day. He chose this project because it combines what matters most to him: helping others and building relationships. One of the seniors he regularly visits is Fran, with whom he spends time listening to stories about her life and sharing meaningful conversations about her experiences and memories.

TBO has always been a place where Chance feels welcomed. He and his family have been Temple members since 2014. From a very young age, Chance has loved being on the bimah and helping to lead services with Rabbi Mark Goldfarb, and he continues to enjoy doing so with Rabbi Len Muroff.

Chance is grateful for the patience, encouragement, and support he has received throughout his Jewish learning and Bar Mitzvah preparation. He is especially thankful to Alyssa, who taught him to read Hebrew, and to Mrs. Millhander, who helped him learn the Hebrew prayers. As he looks ahead to his Bar Mitzvah, Chance shared, "I would like to thank Rabbi Muroff, Alyssa and all my religious schoolteachers for their patience and teachings to prepare me for my Bar Mitzvah."



This Month's Events at TBO

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 5							
Date	Time	Event	OS	Z	YT	Other	
1/1	Thu	All Day	Office Closed: New Year's Day	OS			
1/2	Fri	6:00pm	Bring Your Own Shabbat Dinner	OS			
1/2	Fri	7:30pm	Erev Shabbat Worship	OS		YT	
1/3	Sat	10:00am	Shabbat Prayer, Torah Study & Potluck Lunch	OS	Z		
1/4	Sun	2:00pm	Adult Ed: Jerrold Rishe on Biblical Joseph	OS			
1/5	Mon	7:00pm	Ways & Means Committee		Z		
1/6	Tue	10:30am	Knotty Ladies		Z		
1/6	Tue	1:00pm	House Committee Meeting	OS			
1/6	Tue	7:00pm	Sisterhood Board		Z		
1/7	Wed	7:00pm	Religious Committee		Z		
1/8	Thu	10:00am	Mah Jong Club	OS			
1/8	Thu	7:00pm	A&A Finance Meeting		Z		
1/9	Fri	7:30pm	Erev Shabbat Worship	OS		YT	
1/12	Mon	7:00pm	Finance Committee		Z		
1/13	Tue	10:00am	Mayor's Community Breakfast Subcommittee Meeting	OS			
1/13	Tue	10:30am	Knotty Ladies	OS	Z		
1/13	Tue	7:00pm	Safety & Security Meeting		Z		
1/14	Wed	10:30am	Adult Education Committee	OS	Z		
1/14	Wed	12:00pm	Brown Bag & Books		Z		
1/14	Wed	6:30pm	Sisterhood Soup, Sip & Paint	OS			
1/16	Fri	7:30pm	Erev Shabbat Worship: Chance S. Bar Mitzvah	OS		YT	
1/17	Sat	10:00am	Chance S. Bar Mitzvah	OS			
1/19	Mon	7:00pm	Board Meeting	OS	Z		
1/20	Tue	10:30am	Knotty Ladies		Z		
1/20	Tue	7:00pm	Siddur Study		Z		
1/21	Wed	10:30am	ICR/Social Action Committee		Z		
1/21	Wed	6:15pm	Brotherhood Dinner Program & Meeting	OS			
1/22	Thu	10:00am	Mah Jong Club	OS			
1/23	Fri	7:30pm	Erev Shabbat Worship	OS		YT	
1/27	Tue	10:30am	Knotty Ladies	OS	Z		
1/27	Tue	7:00pm	Membership Committee		Z		
1/28	Wed	6:00am	Brotherhood Dine Out at Black Bear Diner				X
1/29	Thu	10:00am	Mah Jong Club	OS			
1/30	Fri	7:30pm	Erev Shabbat Worship: 2nd-3rd Grade Class Shabbat	OS			

★ **Please note that dates are subject to change**, check the website **tbolm.org** for updates.

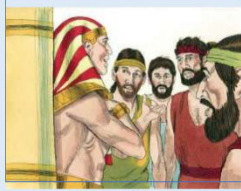
★ Event Location: OS (On-Site), Z (Zoom), YT (YouTube), JCC (Alpert JCC, Long Beach), X (other: check website)

★ If an RSVP is required, go to the TBO website and click on the calendar or event flyer link.



Temple
Beth Ohr

Adult Education/Activities Program Biblical Joseph - Villain or Hero?



*Returning by popular demand -- Jerrold
Rishe, Past President of SAGE (Study,
Activity, Growth and Enrichment)*

Time: 2:00 PM, Sunday, January 4, 2026

RSVP at <https://tboldm.shulcloud.com/event/adult-ed-010426>

Attend in person or watch it on Zoom with this link

[Rishe Zoom link](#)

For further information contact Rita Rubin ---
rita.rubin943@gmail.com

Temple Beth Ohr

15721 Rosecrans Ave | La Mirada, CA 90638
tboldm.org | office@tboldm.org | 714.521.6765



Dine & DONATE

FUNDRAISING EVENT

Dine In • Carryout • Delivery*

SUPPORTING

Temple Beth Ohr - Brotherhood

Wednesday JAN 28

From open to close
La Habra Diner | 1000 S. Beach Blvd.

Present this code at the diner or enter the 9-digit number
online at BlackBearDiner.com to credit 20% of your food
order to this organization. Delivery orders must be placed
through BlackBearDiner.com.



533-537-330

SAVE THE DATE

**FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 27, 2026**

for a dinner before the...

**Purim Spiel
and
Megillah**

The Membership Committee is putting together a
celebratory dinner with hamantaschen before
shabbat services.
More information to follow!



We are gearing up for a stupendous
Purim service and spiel/play on
February 27th. Rena Strober is
returning to lead the festivities.

We need a cast of about 12-15 people
including children and young adults.
Please email Rabbi Len to express
your interest at
rabbimuroff@tboldm.org.

Looking forward to the shared hilarity.



January Anniversaries

3rd Neil & Iris Tessler

6th Alan & Carol Volen

24th Robert Block & Dr. Sandra Madrid

January Birthdays

4th Devora Lowenstein

8th Robin Fox

8th Ryan Jackson

10th Marlene Fink

12th Laurie Kudler

13th Jay Silverman

14th Shaul Saulisbury

15th Don Ford

15th Alan Volen

16th Peggy Horwitz

18th Sandy Strauss

19th Ellis Porter

24th Debbie Holland

26th Quinn Lieb

27th Derek Johnson

27th Howard Lefton

28th Julian Pino

30th Devora Lemus

31st Jacob Kudler



*Want to send a special birthday or anniversary greeting
in next month's issue? Email: izydfregoso@gmail.com*

THANK YOU!

The Stastny Family would like to sincerely thank the entire congregation of Temple Beth Ohr for their acceptance, love, and friendship for our family. You have always been a stable and dependable presence in our lives since we became members, and we are forever grateful.

thank you!

To all Members of TBO,

Sometimes there are no words to express the thank you that we feel as we look at the names signed, the faces that shared our sorrow and feelings expressed that have been a comfort to us.

Many mentioned the lives and organizations Ted touched as well as his proud Navy service, he was our love and HERO. Leaving us with lasting memories.

Thank you again for being with us and to Rabbi Muroff for all his support.

- Terri, Howard and Penni Lavoot and the beloved pups Misty and Sammi.



With your support, we were able to donate all of the following to the Long Beach VA. Thank you for your amazing contributions!

46 Jackets

46 Pants/Shorts

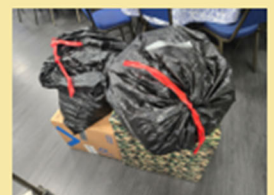
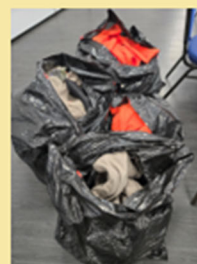
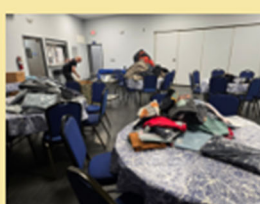
65 Shirts/Sweaters

117 Underwear

20 Pairs of Shoes

12 Gloves

78 Miscellaneous Toiletries





The ICR/Social Action Committee invites you to learn about:

AB 715, Law Targeting Antisemitism in California Schools



AB715 is California's landmark antisemitism prevention law for K-12 schools. It's being challenged before it takes effect. This law requires schools to respond swiftly to incidents and build safer, more inclusive school environments for **all** students.

JPAC, (Jewish Public Affairs *Committee*), the largest single-state coalition of Jewish organizations in the nation, supports AB-715. To learn more about this bill, click on the link below.

<https://jpac-cal.org/>

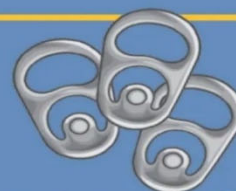


Giving Back to our Community

- ☆ Sponsor erev Shabbat flowers (email ellieurcis17@gmail.com)
- ☆ Sponsor an Oneg (email ellieurcis17@gmail.com)
- ☆ Shabbat Greetings (email fundraising@tbolm.org)
- ☆ Tree of life (email office@tbolm.org)
- ☆ Framed Torah portions (email office@tbolm.org)
- ☆ Donation to general or specific fund
(<https://tbolm.shulcloud.com/payment.php>)

Pull together

POP TABS



Make a difference

Collecting pop tabs is one of the easiest ways to support the **Orange County Ronald McDonald House!** The little flips from soda, soup, or beer cans will make a big difference. It's easy, ongoing, and impactful.

Drop them off anytime at the entry table or gift shop counter. Every tab counts!

Contact Terri Lavoot for more info.

Security Fence Project Update

From Co-chairs of Safety and Security: Douglas Kotkin & Sergio Sanchez-Gutzman

We would like to share an update on the proposed security fence project that we introduced earlier this year.

In 2024, Temple Beth Ohr applied for the California Non-Profit Security Grant (CSNSGP), which provides funding to help religious organizations enhance security. In March 2025, we were awarded \$250,000 through this program. Following the award, we were required to wait for a second approval letter authorizing us to spend the funds. During this period, we were permitted to gather bids and documentation, but not to expend grant funds.

In July, the City of La Mirada approved a variance for the wrought iron portion of the fence, including the necessary height adjustment required by the grant. On November 4, 2025, we received the second approval letter, officially authorizing us to proceed with spending the grant funds. We were also notified that we may be reimbursed for contracted security services used beginning in January 2025.

We recently engaged an engineering firm to prepare the required documentation for construction approval from the City of La Mirada and to support the bidding process with five construction firms. We are also obtaining bids from multiple vendors to replace the exterior kitchen and storage room doors.

Demolition work is tentatively planned to begin in early May 2026, with the goal of completing the project before the High Holidays of 2026.

A rendering of the planned fence, along with required sample materials, is currently on display in the TBO foyer. All grant-related decisions are reviewed by a five-member grant subcommittee, with the TBO Board kept informed throughout the process.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns regarding this project. Thank you for your patience and support as we move through this important and detailed process.



Check out tboldm.org for more information or contact us at office@tboldm.org for more information on Temple Beth Ohr committees, clubs, and other groups.