

THE BEACON-ETTE

April 2026



April is here and the energy is building!

We are entering a season rich with meaning and momentum. As we gather for Passover, we are reminded of the meaning of freedom, the strength of community, and the traditions that bring us together year after year. This month, we also pause for Yom HaShoah to honor those we lost. Together, these moments invite us to reflect on our journey and recognize how far we've come, both as individuals and as a community.

This year, that sense of connection and shared history makes our celebration even more meaningful.

Temple Beth Ohr's 70th Anniversary Jewbilation is almost here! The excitement is building as we prepare for a wonderful evening filled with music, laughter, and high-energy dueling pianos, celebrating 70 incredible years of community, tradition, and shared memories.

From our Passover Seder to special Shabbat services, game nights, and Brotherhood and Sisterhood events, April is a time to show up, connect, and celebrate all that makes our Temple so special. With so many meaningful moments and joyful gatherings ahead, there are countless ways to get involved and be part of this vibrant community. We can't wait to celebrate with you.

A banner divided into two sections. The left section features a camera icon, the text 'Went to a TBO event? We'd love to see your photos!', and the email address 'TempleBethOhrMarketing@gmail.com'. The right section features a Passover Seder plate, a glass of wine, and the text 'Happy Passover!'.



Growing Into a Citizen of the World: *Jackson's Bar Mitzvah*

We are thrilled to celebrate Jackson as he becomes a Bar Mitzvah on April 25, 2026! He will proudly become the fourth generation to continue this family tradition, following in the footsteps of his father, uncle, paternal grandparents, and great-grandfather.

Jackson's connection to TBO goes all the way back to his father, who attended Temple Beth Ohr from childhood through confirmation and was a member of the confirmation class of 1991. His grandfather is also an active member of the Temple's Brotherhood. Jackson's own journey at TBO began in 3rd grade. Since then, he has loved building lasting friendships and learning about Judaism.

He is a straight-A, 7th-grade honors student who thrives both in and beyond the classroom. His passion for history connects him to the past, while his love of science, robotics, and animals drives him to understand the future and how the world works.

Jackson isn't just learning about the world—he's already making his mark on it. He was recently elected Patrol Leader for the Boy Scouts Troop 985 in Whittier.

In his free time, Jackson embraces every opportunity to explore. He enjoys going to Disneyland, playing video games, and discovering the outdoors through hiking, camping, and fishing with his Boy Scout troop.

His love for nature is at the heart of his mitzvah project. On April 4th, Jackson will participate in a beach cleanup at Huntington Beach, giving back to his community by helping care for the coastline and environment.

From the classroom to the outdoors, from community service to personal growth, Jackson is already becoming a true citizen of the world.



Mazel Tov, Jackson
We're so proud of you!
Your future is bright, and
your impact is just
getting started.



A Lifelong Journey, Fulfilled

For as long as she can remember, Denise felt a quiet but persistent connection to Judaism—one that began in childhood and stayed with her throughout her life. Though she was raised in a different faith, something never fully aligned spiritually, and that connection remained in the background for many years.

In time, Denise chose to formally embrace what had long been in her heart, converting to Judaism last year. Her journey was met with warmth and support from her family, who have been fully respectful and encouraging of her decision. Her son, already a member of Temple Beth Ohr, helped introduce her to the congregation, where she quickly found a sense of belonging.

Now, at 75, Denise is preparing for her Bat Mitzvah on May 2nd, marking both a milestone in Jewish learning and the continuation of a lifelong spiritual journey. For Denise, the idea of *tikkun olam*—repairing the world—has taken on deep meaning.



“It’s something I can do to make the world better and it becomes more important to me every day.”

As she looks ahead to her Bat Mitzvah, Denise is especially touched by the opportunity to celebrate with her community. “It feels like a privilege,” she says.

In her day-to-day life, Denise enjoys cooking and making cards. Looking ahead, she hopes to find ways to stay connected with the Temple community, even while living out of state. As she prepares for this moment, Denise continues to follow a path that has been in her heart all along.

Mazel Tov, Denise! We are proud to celebrate this meaningful milestone with you and honored to have you as part of our community.

Flowers

Celebrating a special occasion?
Sponsor flowers for you or your loved ones!




Two levels of fresh flower sponsorships available:



- 🌸 \$50 classic arrangement 🌸
- 🌸 \$90 deluxe arrangement 🌸

One flower sponsorship is available per Erev Shabbat service. For more information, please contact Ellie at (858) 923-6898 or ellieurcis17@gmail.com.



Shabbat Greetings

Spread a little cheer and support your Temple by sending Shabbat Greetings to your Temple family on Friday nights, for   only \$18 per week.  

Your name(s) will be mentioned and shown on the screen during our  livestream service on YouTube. 

Message from our Co-Presidents

Mazel Tov to Ryan Jackson, Co-VP of Membership, on being honored as Brotherhood Man of the Year! It was a great event with over 25 Temple members coming out to honor him.

On April 14th, Temple Beth Ohr is being honored with a proclamation from the City of La Mirada on our 70th Anniversary. It is taking place at City Hall at 6:30pm. If you would like to attend, please let us know.

It is not too late to RSVP to our 70th Anniversary Jewbilation, on Saturday, April 18th. The Ways & Means Committee has worked very hard to celebrate in style!

On April 20th at 7:30 at the Temple and on Zoom, we are having a General Membership Meeting where we will be selecting a nominating committee and voting on Rabbi Muroff's new contract. Be on the lookout for our letter and contract, giving specific details on how to vote in case you can't make the meeting.

Hope you all have a wonderful and meaningful Passover,



Joe Telles & Sharon Kravitz
Co-Presidents, TBO

Joe Telles: j.telles263@gmail.com

Sharon Kravitz: skravitz@hotmail.com



Brotherhood Reflection:

Yom HaShoah

As we approach Yom HaShoah, our hearts turn toward remembrance, reflection, and responsibility. At Temple Beth Ohr, this sacred day is more than a date on the calendar—it is a solemn gathering of memory and resilience.

Yom HaShoah calls us to remember the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, along with the millions of others who suffered under Nazi persecution. We remember not only the unimaginable loss, but also the individual lives—the children, parents, grandparents, scholars, artists, and dreamers—each with a name, a story, and a future that was stolen. In remembering them, we restore a measure of dignity and humanity that hatred tried to erase.

This day also reminds us of the courage of survivors who rebuilt their lives with extraordinary strength, carrying both trauma and testimony. Their voices have shaped our understanding and deepened our empathy.

For our community, Yom HaShoah is a moment to gather across generations. As candles are lit and prayers are recited, we reaffirm that memory is an active responsibility. We teach our children not only what happened, but why it matters. We confront antisemitism and all forms of hatred with clarity and moral courage. We commit ourselves to standing up for human dignity wherever it is threatened.

May this Yom HaShoah strengthen our resolve to live as proud Jews, to build compassionate communities, and to ensure that “Never Again” is not merely a phrase, but a promise—honored through remembrance, education, and action.



L'Taken 2026: Washington DC *Rabbi Muroff*

The goal for this program was to ensure that our students made new friends, experienced dynamic prayer services, and learned about the lobbying process and how impactful their actions can be. In that regard the trip to our nation's capital was a smashing success for the teens and chaperones (Sammy Kotkin and me). They were engaged in dynamic and meaningful Jewish activities with teens from around the country. They participated in Havdalah in front of the Jefferson Memorial and visited the Holocaust and African American Museums.

What also matters to me is that they got to know each other more deeply, that we could bond with one another, and that they learned that their voices matter in a very impactful way.

This was a life-changing and eternally memorable experience for us all.

Thanks to all the parents of the students for supporting their teens. We owe a deep sense of gratitude to Joann Kotkin, Cindy Tessler, Donna Bergles-Hess and Alyssa Freedman-Finch. We could not have done this without you.

I'd also like to thank Tyler Porter, who took two hours out of his busy workday on Capitol Hill to give us an eye-opening, informative and memorable tour of the Capitol. We experienced and learned so much. He even arranged for us to visit the floor for the House of Representatives.

Finally, kudos to the students: Eli, Zoe, Miranda, Jude, and Rodney. You stayed engaged and involved despite jet lag and inclement weather. I'm very proud of the effort you expended to make your lobbying efforts fruitful.

What I enjoyed most was seeing the broad smiles on your faces throughout our time in DC. Kudos to you all.



*Change will not come if we wait for
some other person or . . . some other time.
We are the ones we've been waiting for.
We are the change that we seek.*
BARACK OBAMA



*The past is of value only as it
aids in understanding the present;
and an understanding of the
facts of the problem . . . is the
first step toward its solution.*
**CHICAGO COMMISSION ON
RACE RELATIONS**
*I am the dream and
the hope of the slave.*
MAYA ANGELOU



Important Notice

Office Closed

- Thursday, 4/2
- Wednesday, 4/8

ZOOM ONLY

No in-person Erev Shabbat Service

Friday, April 17th

Adult Education Presents

"Every Family Has a Story - Discoveries Through Genealogy"



Laura Gold, ESQ, is the President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles with over thirty years of experience in genealogical research

**Sunday April 12, 2026
2:00 PM**

RSVP here by April 8th:
<https://tboldm.shulcloud.com/event/adult-ed-lauragold.html>

Temple Beth Ohr Brotherhood invites you to our...

**Yom HaShoah
Shabbat Service**

Erev Shabbat Service

**Friday April 10, 2026
@ 7:30 PM**



Everyone is encouraged to attend and share your relatives' names who perished in the Holocaust.

Cannot attend in person? Join us on Youtube
<http://www.youtube.com/@tboldm>

On the evening of April 13, please light your candles.

Please consider making a donation to Brotherhood in honor of Yom HaShoah.

MRJ Men of Reform Judaism



Brotherhood Sponsored Oneg to follow service

15721 Rosecrans Ave La Mirada, CA 90638. 714-521-6765, office@tboldm.org



TBO Brotherhood Presents

"Game Night"



All are invited to join TBO Brotherhood.

ENJOY THE EVENING AND SOCIALIZING on April 22, 2026 at 6:15 p.m. At TBO Social Hall

Cost: \$10.00

Poker, Monopoly, Backgammon, Chess, Checkers, Yahtzee & Ping Pong, Bring your own game

Music, Big Screen Viewing

food, salad, chips & salsa, soft drinks & beer will be served

RSVP by April 15, 2026
Contact: Howard Lavoot
Email: hlavoot@gmail.com
714-401-8397

The Temple Beth Ohr Social Action Committee invites you to participate in:

SHELTER'S RIGHT HAND



30TH ANNUAL

5K WALK - APRIL 25, 2026
[SHELTERSRIGHTHAND.ORG](https://sheltersrighthand.org)

Central Park, Uptown Whittier at 6532 Friends Ave (& Bailey St), Whittier, CA 90606
6:30am Sign-In & Same-Day Registration Opens
7:30am Welcome Ceremony & Warm Up
8:00am Walk Starts Promptly at 8am

Shelters Right Hand is a non-profit auxiliary of the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter. Their annual contribution to WCCS is possible by the dedication of volunteers from the Thrift Shop, 5k Walk, and YOU, the faithful community supporters

<https://www.sheltersrighthand.org/5k-walk>

SAVE THE DATE

ANGELS BASEBALL



TBO BROTHERHOOD PRESENTS
A NIGHT AT ANGEL STADIUM

Phillies vs Angels

Saturday, August 29, 2026
Game starts at 6:30 pm

Cost per ticket is \$36
If you are a TBO Brotherhood member
Cost per ticket is \$18

RSVP's WITH PAYMENT BY MAY 15, 2026
To: TBO BROTHERHOOD
ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT Howard Lavoot -
HLAVOOT@GMAIL.COM
NO REFUNDS

A P R I L 2 0 2 5

Date		Time	Event	OS	Z	YT	Other
4/2	Thu	All Day	Office Closed - Passover	OS			
4/2	Thu	6:00pm	2nd Night Seder at TBO	OS			
4/3	Fri	7:30pm	Erev Shabbat Worship	OS		YT	
4/6	Mon	7:00pm	Ways & Means Committee		Z		
4/7	Tue	10:30am	Knotty Ladies		Z		
4/7	Tue	7:00pm	Sisterhood Board		Z		
4/7	Tue	7:00pm	Outreach Sub-Committee Meeting		Z		
4/8	Wed	All Day	Office Closed - Passover	OS			
4/8	Wed	10:30am	Adult Education Committee	OS	Z		
4/8	Wed	6:30pm	Sisterhood Craft Night	OS			
4/9	Thu	10:00am	Mah Jong Club	OS			
4/10	Fri	7:30pm	Erev Shabbat Worship: Yom HaShoah Candle Service	OS		YT	
4/11	Sat	10:00am	Shabbat Prayer, Torah Study & Potluck Lunch	OS	Z		
4/12	Sun	2:00pm	Adult Ed: Laura Gold, Esq. on Genealogy	OS	Z		
4/14	Tue	10:30am	Knotty Ladies	OS	Z		
4/14	Tue	1:00pm	House Committee Meeting	OS			
4/14	Tue	6:30pm	City of La Mirada City Council Recognition				X
4/14	Tue	7:00pm	Safety & Security Meeting		Z		
4/15	Wed	10:30am	ICR/Social Action Committee		Z		
4/15	Wed	12:00pm	Brown Bag & Books		Z		
4/15	Wed	6:15pm	Brotherhood Dinner Program & Meeting	OS			
4/15	Wed	7:00pm	Ways & Means Committee		Z		
4/16	Thu	10:00am	Mah Jong Club	OS			
4/17	Fri	7:30pm	Erev Shabbat Worship		Z		
4/18	Sat	5:30pm	70th Anniversary Celebration	OS			
4/20	Mon	6:00pm	Board Meeting & Dinner	OS	Z		
4/20	Mon	7:30pm	General Membership Meeting	OS	Z		
4/21	Tue	10:30am	Knotty Ladies		Z		
4/22	Wed	6:15pm	Brotherhood Game Night - All are Welcome	OS			
4/23	Thu	10:00am	Mah Jong Club	OS			
4/24	Fri	7:30pm	Erev Shabbat Worship: Jackson R. Bar Mitzvah	OS		YT	
4/25	Sat	9:00am	Jackson R. Bar Mitzvah	OS			
4/28	Tue	10:30am	Knotty Ladies	OS	Z		
4/28	Tue	7:00pm	Membership Committee		Z		
4/29	Wed	11:00am	Sisterhood Dineout at DeLuca's Italian Restaurant				X
4/30	Thu	10:00am	Mah Jong Club	OS			

Celebrate

April Anniversaries

- 3rd Ted & Noelle Singer
5th David & Karen Yungman
7th Lynda & Danny Morris
7th Linda & Kenneth Selander
9th Douglas & Joann Kotkin
14th Dena & Gilbert Delgado
18th Izzy Fregoso & Sergio Argumedo

April Birthdays

- 4th Stephan Weisel
7th Sandra Gelmini
14th Eliana Kudler
15th Michelle Sivertsen
16th Olivia Rosenberg
18th Peggy Roman
22nd Ben Liepe
23rd Rhona Gewelber
25th Joann Kotkin
26th Leila Fenton-Strauss
27th Jeff Strauss
28th Kimberly Gimbel-Johnson
28th Fred Malkin
28th Michele Pino
30th Jan Dezen
30th Suzanne (Shoashanah) Tobias



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

MITZVAH CORNER

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

The Assistance League



The goal of the Assistance League is to strengthen communities nationwide. Volunteers are driving real change through “hands-on programs tailored to local needs.” The Assistance League of Whittier supports children and adults with programs addressing school clothing, shoes, dental services and resources for families. As the Assistance League says, **“Together, we’re not just meeting needs—we’re changing futures.”**

If you are looking for an opportunity to make a difference in someone’s life through volunteering or donating, click the link and explore the website.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUugrNjWPck>



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.



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>)

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