

Temple Isaiah – Annual Education Report 2019-20

Content:

Preschool

Tamar Andrews, Senior Director of Early Childhood Education

Tamar@TempleIsaiah.com

K-12 Program

Reuben Posner, Senior Director of K-12 Education and Engagement

Reuben@templeisaiah.com

Adult Education

Rabbi Zoe Klein Miles

Zoe@templeisaiah.com

Submitted by: Sharon De Mayo, Vice President of Education

Preschool - Tamar Andrews, Senior Director of Early Childhood Education

Preschool BC: The preschool enjoyed a really strong enrollment this year and many milestones including working towards a full day program from 8 am to 5:30 pm which kicked off slowly but we are encouraged by the interest from new families on tours. We had many many successful programs including but not limited to class coffees, Shabbat dinners at Tamar's home with Rabbi Dara and congregants, Night at Tamar's, Sukkot at Avital's, Purim Spiel by the preschool teachers, Yellers Anonymous Group Meetings, lectures and more. By the end of February, preschool for the fall was 95% enrolled and we had dozens of families lined up for preschool tours.

Preschool DC: The preschool closed Friday March 13th and has remained physically closed since. However, our teaching went into virtual mode immediately and has not stopped. Teachers have been amazing: learning how to use tech, coming up with creative methods for teaching our youngest members and keeping connections with families. Tamar and Avital have been hosting live challah bakes on Fridays with members from across the synagogue community. They have also hosted Pandemic Parenting sessions every Wednesday evening.

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We wish a congratulations to Avital Etehad, Atara Rush, Tasha Medigovich, and Krystal Walsh who all completed their MA in ECE degrees at the AJU this spring.

Preschool AC: We are preparing to open, God willing, on July 6 for a six-week summer program. Many members from across the synagogue community and professionals from across multiple disciplines have been meeting with us to ensure the safest and most efficient opening not only for the preschool but for our community in general. Protocols from the CDC, California Community Care Licensing, medical professionals, LA County Dept of Health and more have been on our team to ensure health and safety protocols of the highest standards and beyond.

K-12 Program – Reuben Posner, Senior Director of K-12 Education and Engagement

Introduction

This past year was a year of great success and significant transition for the K-12 Education and Engagement department. Our Religious School, Camp Isaiah, and Youth Group programming are as strong as they have ever been. And the mere fact that we are reporting to you all the successes and challenges of all three of these program areas together, represents an exciting shift. It is a shift in the way we think about, design and deliver education and engagement as a community. As we boldly experiment with and strengthen our programmatic offerings, our core remains the same – we are committed to building strong relationships at the intersection of tradition and innovation.

Our year in numbers

- 300: the number of campers who participated in Camp Isaiah last summer
- 66: the number of campers who participated in our new Adventure & Leadership Junior Counselor-In-Training Program
- 18: the number of teens who served as CIT's and Madrichim at Camp Isaiah

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- 34: the number of teens who participated in our Rishonim program (our largest group of Rishonim to date)
- 16: the number of teens on the ITY Board (our teen youth group)
- 2: the number of Isaiah teens on the NFTY Regional Board (another first for our community)
- 460: the numbers of students enrolled in our Religious School program (Tot to 12th grade)
- 150: the average number of families that logged into *Tefillah* with Danny on Sunday mornings since we moved from in-person to virtual programming

What our members are saying to us and about us

“As I listen to you teaching the children today about Shavuot and God's rules, I just want to say how fortunate we are to have had you as a teacher. You are truly amazing! You have mastered the art of teaching virtually on zoom while being engaging, natural, fun and having all the kids on target paying attention and participating. Thank you!”

“Thank you for all of your guidance and inspiration throughout the years. Adam has learned so much from you and really grown as a person”

“We appreciate everything you are doing for our children now, in the past and in the future.”

“Thanks for a wonderful year, especially during the crazy last few months. I was so impressed by how much Ethan learned!”

Where we are headed

We are thrilled to be rolling out bold and exciting changes in the coming year in the K-12 Education and Engagement department. As we have said for the past few weeks, because a one size fits all approach is no longer what is best or needed, we must design flexible and fresh opportunities for our youth to engage in Jewish life and learning. Our menu of options (attached) is our initial attempt at a redesign. And as with all new things, we are excited to see what works for our community and integrate learnings into future program planning. Ultimately, we

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believe that by moving forward and taking these ambitious and exciting new steps our traditional programs will benefit from our commitment to innovation, and our innovative programming will benefit from the incredible foundation laid by our traditional programming.

Adult Education - Rabbi Zoe Klein Miles

The year 5771 has been a trying year for all of us on many levels. Between September and the beginning of March, we had a plethora of opportunities for adults of all ages. When you look at the offerings in list form, it is exciting what our community was able to share and experience, along with our holiday and multi-generational programming. It is amazing, seeing how the world has changed, to think that the first half of this year included temple trips to Israel and Spain.

September – March 10

“Disturbing the Peace” Movie Screening

80’s+ Group: Learning Series

A Conversation about Gov. Newsom’s Historic California Master Plan for Aging

A Conversation with Joe Goldman, Community Engagement Director for HIAS

Adult Sukkot Mingle at Avital’s

Albert Lewis Lecture: Bill McKibben

Amazon Fulfillment Center Tour -- ChaiVillageLA

Art Talk with Julie Grass

Book Club - Salt in My Soul: An Unfinished Life by Mallory Smith

Book Discussion with Lori Gottlieb, Author of Maybe You Should Talk to Someone

Breaking the Israeli/Palestinian Cycle of Violence with Combatants for Peace

Brown Bag Short Stories – ChaiVillageLA

Casino Night at Tamar’s

Challah Bake with Tamar

Crypto Jews

Dad’s Challah Bake

Daughters of Torah

Dinner and Discussion with Lee Winkelman

Discussion and Dessert: Sexual Harassment - ChaiVillageLA

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Discussion with Jordan Reimer on The Middle East
Dr. Brenda Stevenson on the History of Jewish – African American Relationship in America
Dr. Leonard Kleinrock and the Birth of the Internet
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Shabbat with First A.M.E. Church Choir
Fireworks in the Brain: How Music Affects Your Mind and Emotions
Flavors of Israel
Fort Gansevoort Art Gallery Tour – ChaiVillageLA
Friday Night Shabbat Speaker: Peter Curtis on Jews and Xmas Music
Half Hour of Happiness
Hebrew for Adults
IMG (Isaiah Men’s Group) Scotch & Steaks
Isaiah Men’s Group (IMG) Hosts a Night of Learning with Rabbi Danny Bouskila
Isaiah Men’s Group Poker Night
Isaiah Women Book Club
Isaiah Women Hanukkah Celebration
Isaiah Women Rosh Hodesh Celebration
Isaiah Women Social Justice with The Giving Spirit
Isaiah Women Sukkot Dinner
Isaiaans Take a Hike with Shira Kline
L’Dough v’Dough with Isaiah Women
League of Women Voters Presents: March 3 Primary and 2020 Census
Lee Bycel on Refugees in America
Light Up Your Life with the ChaiVillageLA Hanukkah Party
Men’s Torah Study with Rabbi Bob Gan
Mohammed Al Samawi: A Refugees’ Memoir of Coming to America
Morning Services at First A.M.E. Church
Movie Screening: WASTED! The Story of Food Waste
Music: A Main Character in Classic Yiddish Films
Parent Discussion Series: Are You a Yeller
Parent Discussion: ADHD in Children: Signs, Myths, and Evaluation of Attention Disorders
Parent Lecture: Raising Healthy Eaters Without the Food Fight
PG-13: Decoding the Teen Brain
PG-13: Mental Health First Responder with Rose Levenson

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Religious School Parent Lights, Latkes and Libations Party
Shabbat Morning Torah Study
Special Shabbat: Mary Poppins Sing-a-Long Movie & Dinner
Spine Tingles Book Club
Taste of Talmud
Temple Isaiah Adult 2.0 Trip to Israel with Rabbi Dara
Temple Isaiah Business Networking Group (T.I.N.G.)
Temple Isaiah Jewish Learning Trip to Spain
Theater: Under the Jello Mold with Jennie Fahn
Understanding World News
Walk with a Rabbi

Of course, between mid-March and June, we had to reshape all of our Adult Education and Engagement opportunities into a new format. Not only were we able to do this, but many people who previously had not attended workshops and gatherings now were zooming in from the comfort of their homes.

Sherri Germann and I worked together to organize the congregation to call every member and also to send cards to members over 70 years old.

Perhaps one of the most exciting things about this period has been the incredible generous collaboration between Jewish communities throughout Southern California on the platform www.Jewitathome.com. The removal of so many boundaries has allowed us to know and care for the greater Jewish community in unprecedented ways.

I had written to the community at Isaiah that when one door closes, a thousand windows open. People who may have always wanted to learn a little Torah, but worried everyone in the Saturday morning class would be more knowledgeable, now could pop into a class while having breakfast at home. People could attend services, workshops and gatherings wrapped in their favorite blanket, or while walking their dog, or just about anywhere doing anything.

Below are just some of the events we held during quarantine. This list does not include the numerous gatherings for Zoom cocktail hours by class, trivia and game

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nights, ChaiVillageLA teas, chats, and workshops, Isaiah Women cooking workshops and reading groups, etc.

Virtual Adult Education and Engagement, Mid-March – June

Annual Iftar Celebration with Pacifica Center

Backyard Chats with Cantor Tifani

Beit Café

Chanting and the Mystical Shruti Box with Cantor Tifani

Daughters of Torah with Elaine Diamond

Fact vs. Fiction about US-China Relations with Jonathan Pollack

Havdalla

Jewish Cooking Workshop with Sherrie Berlin

Kabbala with Cantor Tifani and Rabbi Zoe

Mindfulness and Yoga with Cantor Tifani

Mindfulness with Rabbi Jaclyn

Parents of High School Seniors Sharing Graduation Ideas

People Who are Isolating Alone Sharing Coping Strategies

Pirkei Avot with Reuben Posner

Professor Stanley Goldman, Yom HaShoah Speaker

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

Shabbat Oneg

Sleep Workshop with Isaiah Women

Spouses of First Responders Sharing Coping Strategies

Taste of Talmud with Rabbi Zoe and Michael Tolwin

Temple Isaiah Talks about FASTER Care

The Biggest Little Farm Screening

The Nosh with Rabbi Jaclyn

This Sacred Earth with Professor Jeremy Kagan

Virtual Challah Making with Tamar and Avital

We pray for a vaccine for our health, a moral booster shot for our country in addressing racism, and economic turnaround for the tens of millions who now find themselves out of work. We have a lot of work to do, and we will do it together.

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The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting titled "Virtual Service of Blessing - Shared screen with speaker view". The main video displays a man in a dark suit speaking. Behind him is an American flag and a red banner with the text "FIRST AFRICAN". To the right, a chat window is open with the following messages:

- Temple Isaiah Clergy** 45:09: Exodus 25:15 "The poles shall be in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it"
- Karna Ruskin** 48:19: <3
- Temple Isaiah Clergy** 48:35: Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart; who does not lift up his soul to falsehood, who does not swear deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from the God of his salvation... (Psalm 24:3-5)
- Temple Isaiah Clergy** 49:02: Place the washbasin between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water in it. (Exodus 40:7)

The bottom of the screenshot shows the Windows taskbar with several open browser windows and the system clock displaying 10:11 AM on 5/27/2020.

