Kol Isha
"Voice of Women"

A publication of the Sisterhood of
Temple Adat Elohim
Learn. Grow. Connect.
2420 East Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
(805) 497-7101

Volume XXVI, Issue IX–X | September/October, 2026 ~ Elul–Tishrei 5786–5787 / Tishrei–Cheshvan 5787

IT'S TIME TO JOIN!!
2026–2027 TAE SISTERHOOD MEMBERSHIP FORM

Hello current and future sisters—We are so excited for you to join us! Your membership in Sisterhood lasts from July 1, 2026–June 30, 2027. All members **MUST** fill out a form every year to ensure we have your most updated interests and information. **We will not be having the temple bill you, so please make payment via check (made out to TAE Sisterhood) or Zelle milavetzcpa@gmail.com.**

Please go to https://forms.gle/wJXjyxwiiX-BUGAjTA to fill out your form online or use this QR code.

If you have any questions or if you need help completing the form, please contact our Co-VPs of Membership, Bonnie Ray at bonkenray@gmail.com or Allyson Spielman at allysonpspielman@gmail.com.

Sisterhood Is Here For You

If you or someone you know in Sisterhood are healing from surgery or dealing with an illness—or would simply like to receive a caring call now-and-again—please contact:

Nickie Dwork at
(805) 551-0629 OR
nickie1970@aol.com.





Sisterhood Movie Group

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to discuss the chosen movie(s) of the month.

Join us on Tuesday, September 15th to discuss "Adolescence," starring Stephen Graham, Owen Cooper & Erin Doherty

Join us on Tuesday, October 13th to discuss "Penguin Bloom," starring Naomi Watts, Andrew Lincoln & Felix Cameron

Questions? Please contact: Barbara Peifer at barbsgr88@aol.com / (805) 375-2436

Women's Torah Study

Thursday mornings ~ 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon
If you are interested, please contact Sharalynn Schulner at sharalynns@aol.com / (805) 231-2338

Calendar

September

3, 10, 17, 24 Women's Torah Study (10:30 am–12 pm)
14 Board Meeting
15 Movie Group
30 Dinner in the Sukkah (see p. 4)

October

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Women's Torah Study (10:30 am–12 pm)
12 Board Meeting
13 Movie Group
18 Sisterhood Membership Luncheon

For more information, contact Patti Zeman at rpzeman@gmail.com / (805) 298-2027.

Spirituality

President's Message

Dear Sisters,

Fun Fact: In 1897, at the First Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, the delegates joined in a rousing rendition of the song "Hatikvah." The beloved Zionist hymn would come to be known among generations of Jews around the world as the Jewish national anthem. Yet it was not until 2004 that the Israeli government officially designated "Hatikvah" as the country's national anthem. Between these two facts lies the curious tale of one of the most important songs in modern Jewish history.

As the weather hopefully cools and the new year is almost upon us, I want to wish everyone a very happy and healthy new year. I am looking forward to a year filled with connections, support, and fun.

Last month's "Mix, Mingle & Merlot" at Elaine Bercy's home brought in new members, incredible food, wine tasting, and games that let us find out more about one another. Thank you to Allyson Spielman and Bonnie Ray, Co-VPs of Membership, for doing an amazing job.

We have a lot of events and plans for this coming year. Thank you to everyone who attended the July get-together, and we look forward to implementing many of the ideas that we shared for programs, fundraisers, and continuing making joining our Sisterhood community, a warm welcoming place for all of the women at Temple Adat Elohim.

If there is an activity, event, or an idea to make Sisterhood more meaningful for you, please let me know. All ideas are welcome.

L' Shanah Tovah—wishing everyone a happy and healthy new year.

Lynne West

Check out our Sisterhood Facebook and Instagram pages:
(https://www.facebook.com/TAESisterhood) and https://www.instagram.com/taesisterhood/IG@taesisterhood

And of course, take a look at our page on the TAE website.

Membership

Please welcome the following new and returning members to TAE Sisterhood.

Hillary Berk (6/16)
(510) 295-9510
hillary@hillaryberk.com

Debby Borovay (6/18)
debbybory@gmail.com

Deej Kerekes (5/16)
(818) 481-8174
djkerekes17@icloud.com

Jill McAnear (8/18)
(818) 631-0416
jmcanear@gmail.com

Welcome!



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING A BOOK GROUP?

Our group meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

If you are interested, please contact Barbara Peifer at barbsgr88@aol.com / (805) 375-2436.

Save the Date!

Sisterhood Membership Luncheon

Sunday, October 18th at 12:30 p.m.

More info. to follow.

Friendship

MAH JONGG ANYONE?

Are you interested in playing mah jongg during the day at the temple? If so, please contact Lynne West at Lwest@adatelohim.com.

Directory Update

Please note: The following changes should be made to your Sisterhood directory:

Jane Parnes jrparnes@stanford.edu
Lynne West Lwest@adatelohim.com

Tikun Olam

Food Drive

TEMPLE ADAT ELOHIM 2026 | 5787

HIGH HOLY DAYS

As we gather this High Holy Day season, we are reminded that belonging means caring for one another.

While many of us will choose to fast on Yom Kippur, too many of our neighbors face hunger every day. Through our annual High Holy Days Food Drive, we can help provide food and hope to local families, seniors, and individuals served by **Manna Conejo Food Bank**.

Together, we can make a difference.

Make Monetary Donations

Manna's bulk purchasing power makes every dollar go further!
Help us make a noticeable impact! Bring or mail a check payable to Manna Conejo to the temple **by September 21 at 1:45 PM** to be part of our collective donation to Manna.

Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E. Hillcrest Dr.
Attn: Social Action
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362



Donate Food

Support our community by donating much-needed non-perishable items and personal hygiene items.

Most Needed Items

- Canned Meat (i.e., tuna, chicken)
- Dry Rice (one-pound bag)
- Canned Chili
- Hamburger Helper
- Instant Potatoes
- Flavored Rice (i.e., Rice-A-Roni)
- Hot Cereal
- Personal Care Items (i.e., shampoo, soap, toilet paper, toothpaste)
- Baking Items (i.e., mixes, flour, sugar)
- Coffee
- Tea
- Hot Chocolate

▶️ *No glass jars or Passover foods, please. All food must be within the current sell-by dates.*

Food Collection Details

1. Collection Box in the Sanctuary Foyer
Bring food donations to the Sanctuary foyer from September 13 to September 18.

2. Drive-Through, Drop-Off
Drop off items in the front parking lot before High Holy Days services.

Volunteers will be available to assist on:

- Sunday, September 20 | 6:15 PM–7:00 PM
- Monday, September 21 | 9:00 AM–10:15 AM and 1:00 PM – 1:45 PM

Fun

Articles for Kol Isha *may be sent to the editor, Patti Zeman, by email (rpzeman@gmail.com) or call 805.298.2027 for questions. The next* Kol Isha *will be the November/December 2026 issue. The deadline for submissions for that issue will be October 20, 2026.*



E-Mail List Updates

Please send all e-mail address changes and additions to **Patti Zeman** at rpzeman@gmail.com or 805.298.2027.



Sisterhood Sukkot Dinner

Wednesday, September 30th at 6 p.m.

Come have dinner in the Sukkah with your TAE Sisters to celebrate Sukkot!

Mediterranean buffet dinner by Luna Grill—$25 per person

Your choice of chicken or falafel
All dinner choices include a cookie & water, tea, coffee.

RSVP DEADLINE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

Make your payment and send your dinner choice:

— Make check payable to **TAE Sisterhood** and send to:
Diane Milavetz, 847 Newbury Rd., Newbury Park 91320
Make sure you indicate what the check is for.
Email your dinner choice to Jill Marder-Meyer at jill@pilateswlv.com.

OR

— Zelle: milavetzcpa@gmail.com. Make sure you indicate what it's for.
Email your dinner choice to Jill Marder-Meyer at jill@pilateswlv.com.

Bring a sweater or jacket with you to our "cool" Sukkah event! Can get a little chilly!
Can't wait to see you there!

There will be no extra food for purchase at the event, so please send your RSVP, payment, and your MEAL CHOICE by September 25th. Thanks!

Questions? Please contact:
Jill Marder-Meyer (818) 269-8693 / jill@pilateswlv.com



Temple Adat Elohim Holiday Boutique & Vendor Fair

Sunday, November 15th — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SUPPORT



Join us for the 2nd Annual Holiday Boutique & Vendor Fair at Temple Adat Elohim and showcase your products to holiday shoppers looking for unique gifts and seasonal treasures.

Why Participate?

- Connect with families and community members throughout the day
- Gain exposure to parents dropping off and picking up children attending Sunday school
- Sell directly to shoppers seeking Hanukkah and Christmas gifts
- Be part of a festive community event supporting local artisans and small businesses

Event Highlights

Last year's event featured 34 vendors, including:

- Handmade holiday gifts and décor
- Decorated cookies
- Challah bread
- Specialty candy makers
- Seasonal and artisan products

Vendor Registration

- Early Bird Registration: $50 through October 10
- Regular Registration: $65 after October 10
- Opportunity Drawing
  Each vendor is asked to donate:
  A product from their business or a gift card
  These donations are used for our popular opportunity drawing, which helps increase attendee engagement and excitement throughout the event.

Reserve Your Space Today!

Spaces are limited and fill on a first-come, first-served basis. Don't miss this opportunity to promote your business, connect with new customers, and be part of a festive holiday shopping experience.

For vendor registration and additional information, contact Joni Berger at (805) 377-3576.

HELP WANTED!

We have a great start on creating a fun and festive day, but we need **YOUR** help to make our Holiday Boutique a success!

We are looking for Sisterhood members who can help with:

- ✡ Finding additional vendors to join us
- ❄ Helping the day of the event with setup, welcoming guests, and other activities
- ✡ Spreading the word and helping us get the community excited
- ❄ Sharing ideas, talents, or resources that could make the day even more special

Whether you can help for an hour, make a few phone calls, bring a vendor, or lend a hand on November 15th, every bit of help makes a difference!

Let's work together to create a wonderful Holiday Boutique filled with shopping, fun, community, and holiday spirit! ♥

Interested in helping? Please contact:
JONI BERGER at (805) 377-3576 or
JONIBERGER@ICLOUD.COM

Thank you for helping us make this a day to remember! ✡ ❄



FAMILY





TAE Sisterhood

We have beautiful Tallitot for purchase as you prepare to celebrate your child's or grandchild's Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Call Paula Kraft for an appointment at (805) 341-7665.

Caring

Sisterhood's

See's Candies

Order All Year 'Round!

Let me be your personal shopper for all of your See's Candies gift-giving needs. To place your order, call Myra Lee at (805) 496-5234.

Tribute Cards Payment

Payments for Tribute Cards have changed. Please send your check to:

Diane Milavetz • 847 Newbury Road • Newbury Park, CA 91320-3667 (please indicate what your check is for)

OR

Zelle: milavetzcpa@gmail.com and please make sure you put in the memo "For Tributes"

Tribute Cards

It is so nice to receive a card on your birthday or a thoughtful note on your anniversary. Sisterhood can make it easy for you to recognize your friends in that special way.

For $4, a card will be sent for you to whomever you wish. A Goldengram costs $8.

We do all the work and you get all the credit. What a deal!

A list of monthly birthdays and anniversaries are e-mailed to you each month. Just send us your requests. Our Tributes e-mail is taetributes@gmail.com.

By sending a Tribute Uniongram, you are making a contribution to the Youth, Education and Special Projects (Y.E.S.) Fund of Women of Reform Judaism.

Questions? Please contact Gertie at gertiesanders@gmail.com / (805) 241-2972.

—Gertie Sanders

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any one of our board members.

2026-2027 TAE Sisterhood Board

President:	Lynne West (805) 795-9554 / Lwest@adatelohim.com
Executive Vice President:	Diane Grossman (805) 660-2499 / dianegrossman@me.com
Membership Co-Vice Presidents:	Bonnie Ray (818) 522-8044 / bonkenray@gmail.com
	Allyson Spielman (818) 458-1199 / allysonpspielman@gmail.com
Program Vice President:	Jane Parnes (650) 722-2352 / jparnes@amgen.com
Religion & Education Co-Vice Presidents:	Laura Bardfield (805) 630-7001 / Lseasongood@me.com
	Jill Marder-Meyer (818) 269-8693 / jill@pilateswlv.com
Ways & Means Co-Vice Presidents:	Penny Greenblatt (818) 454-7995 / penny935@aol.com
	Deb Satz (818) 219-0889 / debsatz@aol.com
Corresponding Secretary:	Nickie Dwork (805) 551-0629 / nickie1970@aol.com
Recording Secretary:	Shoshana Lewin Fischer (805) 402-4884 / shoshana.lewin@gmail.com
Financial Secretary:	Diane Milavetz (818) 889-3317 / milavetzcpa@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Joni Berger (805) 377-3576 / joniberger@icloud.com
Immediate Past President:	Elaine Bercy (818) 458-1932 / cyberbercy@aol.com

Dedication

Come Join the Fun!

Mah Jongg Tournament

Sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim Sisterhood
Sunday, January 17, 2027

Temple Adat Elohim
2420 East Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362 • (805) 497-7101

$50 tournament fee per person includes a
continental breakfast, delicious buffet lunch, and snacks.
Bring your 2026 Mah Jongg card with your name on it.



Schedule

8:30–9:00	Check-in, coffee and bagels
9:00–12:00	Session 1 (3 rounds)
12:00–12:45	Lunch
12:45–3:45	Session 2 (3 rounds)
4:00	Awards

Invite Your Friends!

For more information, please contact
Patti Zeman (805) 298-2027 / RPZEMAN@gmail.com

To register, fill out the form below
and enclose a check for $50 payable to TAE SISTERHOOD

No refunds after January 1st.

Mail to: Patti Zeman
292 Siesta Avenue
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Name: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

❑ I will bring my Mah Jongg set and dice

❑ I am willing to be East and keep score

Playing level: ❑ Intermediate ❑ Advanced

Make checks payable to: TAE SISTERHOOD



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM

August 2026

Dear Temple Adat Elohim Sisterhood,

On behalf of all of us at WRJ, we hope you are having a wonderful summer. Below you will find the **Honor Roll Certificate** representing the level achieved by your sisterhood or women's group, thanks to generous contributions to WRJ's YES (Youth, Education, and Special Projects) Fund. **Your support provides scholarships, funds key programming, and emboldens projects all focused on enriching the lives of Jewish individuals and communities.**

In appreciation of your ongoing support of the YES Fund, we wanted to share an update on the grants awarded for the 2026-2027 year. WRJ will provide $348,500 in grant allocations to **22 programs** that cultivate future Jewish leaders and support the advancement of global Reform Movement institutions. All allocations went to **Reform Movement partners** that support the progressive Jewish movement worldwide. Among these are **Women of the Wall**, **URJ 6 Points Sci-Tech & Arts Academy**, and the **Women's Rabbinic Network**.

Highlighting our mission to ensure the future of Reform Judaism, WRJ is supporting the creation of several new programs. These initiatives include a new Shireinu Chordster with the **American Conference of Cantors**, a new early childhood education curriculum with the **Early Childhood Educators of Reform Judaism**, and a new dedicated professional role to anchor WRJ's work in Israel and steward the partnership with the **Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism**.

As a reminder, Honor Roll is calculated by the total YES Fund donations and YES Fund Uniongram and Goldengram purchases from your women's group and members in your group with three different levels of achievement available. Below you will find a certificate acknowledging your Honor Roll level. *Please note that we have sent this digital certificate to the email we have on file for your sisterhood. If you received this in error or have an updated sisterhood email, please email tshapiro@wrj.org.*

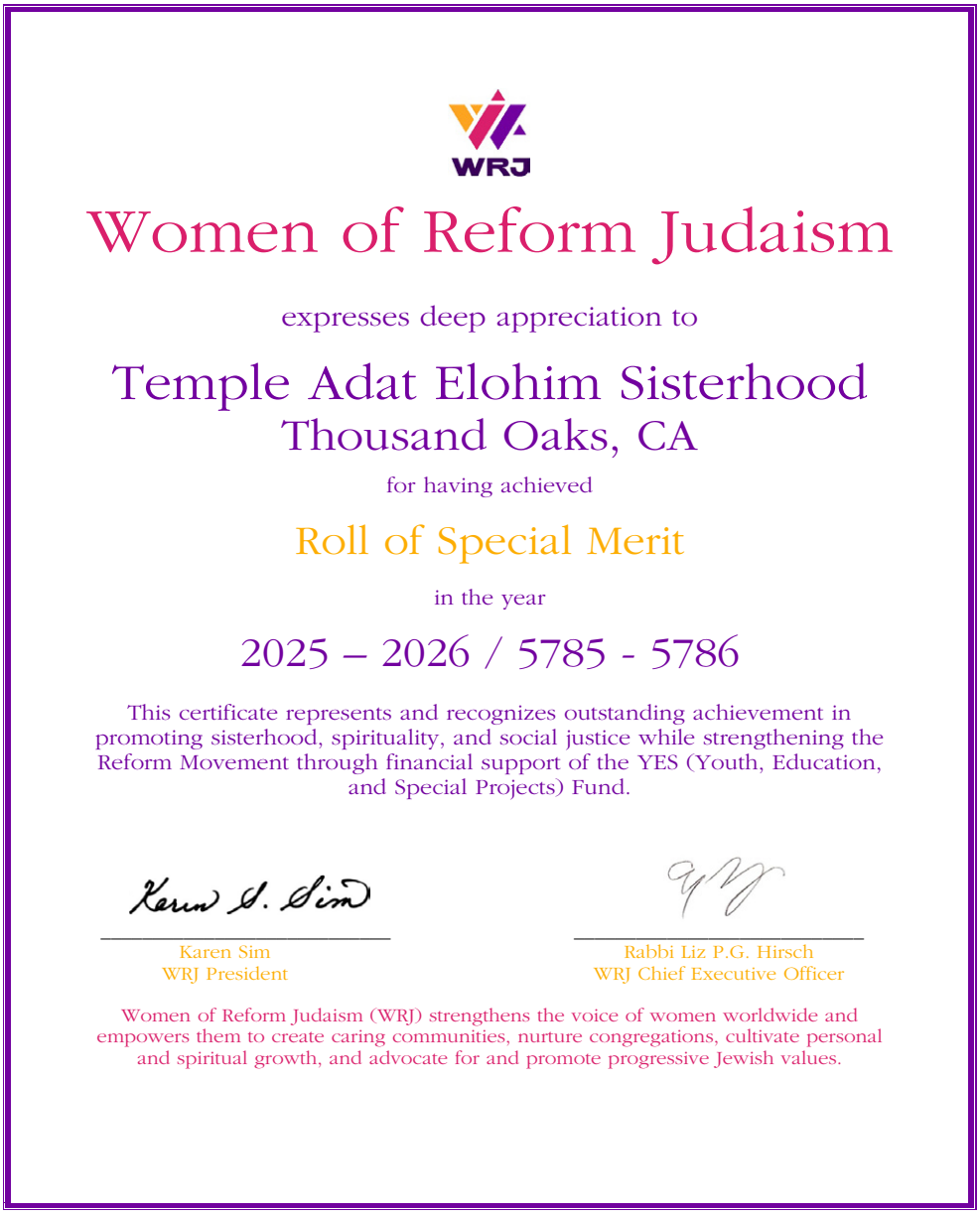
Together with you, WRJ is shaping a vibrant future for the Reform Movement. Thank you for helping build sacred, supportive spaces where women, girls, and all members of our community can thrive.

Warmly,

Judy Wexler
First Vice President

Deborah Lelchuk
YES Fund Chair

Tess Shapiro
Philanthropy Manager



WRJ

Women of Reform Judaism

expresses deep appreciation to

Temple Adat Elohim Sisterhood
Thousand Oaks, CA

for having achieved

Roll of Special Merit

in the year

2025 – 2026 / 5785 - 5786

This certificate represents and recognizes outstanding achievement in promoting sisterhood, spirituality, and social justice while strengthening the Reform Movement through financial support of the YES (Youth, Education, and Special Projects) Fund.

Karen Sim
WRJ President

Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch
WRJ Chief Executive Officer

Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) strengthens the voice of women worldwide and empowers them to create caring communities, nurture congregations, cultivate personal and spiritual growth, and advocate for and promote progressive Jewish values.

Dear Sisterhood Leaders,

Mazel tov on this wonderful recognition from Women of Reform Judaism. Your generosity and commitment to the YES Fund are making a real difference, supporting Jewish education, developing future leaders, strengthening Reform Judaism in Israel and around the world, and investing in programs that will shape our movement for years to come.

We are very proud of our Temple Adat Elohim Sisterhood and grateful for all that you do, both within our congregation and throughout the broader Reform Jewish community.

Congratulations on this well-deserved honor, and thank you for representing TAE with such dedication and generosity.

Warmly,
Rabbi Barry Diamond

Mix, Mingle & Merlot!!



Thank you, Bonnie Ray and Allyson Spielman (Co-VPs, Membership), for a wonderful Sisterhood membership get-together. Good food, good company and getting to know one another made the day a big success. Thank you to Elaine Bercy for volunteering her lovely home for the event!



Wishing you and your families a Happy and Healthy New Year!