Temple Beth El



"Where Judaism Lives"



June, 2018 • Sivan/Tammuz 5778

Volume 74, Issue 10

Tammuz 17 & the 3 Weeks Destruction & Renewal

Friday, June 1 & 22 @ 7:30 PM Shabbat Worship Service

Friday, June 8 @ 6:00 PM Family Night Service

Sunday, June 10 @ 10:30 AM Rosh Hodesh Celebration: What Connects You

> **Sunday, June 10 @ 1:00 PM** Joint Board Meeting with CBJ

Tuesday, June 12 @ 7:00 PM Board Meeting Friday, June 15 @ 6:00 PM Chardonnay Shabbat

Saturday, June 16 @ 10:00 AM Torah Talk

Saturday, June 16 @ 6:00 PM Congregants of the Year Award Dinner

Thursday, June 21 @ 4:00 PM Jewish Storytime @ Southwest Library

Sunday, June 24 @ 12:00 NOON Chevra Kadisha Learning Session

Friday, June 29 @ 6:00 PM Shabbat Tish & Potluck



Rabbi's Ruminations

Annual Meeting, May 6, 2018/ 21 Iyar 5778

(Parashat Behar-Behukotai)

When you enter the land that I assign to you, the land shall observe a Sabbath of the Eternal. Six years you may sow your field and six years you may prune your vineyard and gather in the yield. But in the seventh year the land shall have a Sabbath of complete rest... (Lev.25:2-4)

In our Torah, social justice is a priority Even the; natural world has rights: every seven years, the land is to be untilled and unplanted. In the absence of fancy fertilizer, this was how our people preserved the health of the land in ancient times.

The Torah further prescribes that each farmer work the land for six years – and that every seventh year, every person and every critter, including wild beasts, is entitled to whatever grows on its own during that year of rest. The farmer is not permitted to take more food for his or her family than anyone else. In a just society, everyone ought to have access to food at all times, especially in times of scarcity, because we are not the ultimate owners of the land; God is.

Uncomfortably for our captalist society the Torah carried it even farther: every fiftieth year was proclaimed as a jubilee. In in that year, all land was to revert to its original holders, and all slaves went free.

The biggest industry in ancient Israel was agriculture. And just like today, whenever there were shortages – due to droughts and other poor weather conditions – the poorest farmers were compelled to sell their land. The rich got richer. And the poor, if they were very poor, became sharecroppers, or worse, sold themselves into servitude. In the words of my colleague, the adventure rabbi Mike Comins, it was like Egypt all over again, with Jewish Pharaohs.

The Torah says no to this pattern. Instead, it gives us a reset button – every seven years for the land, every fifty years for the entire economy. Yes, the Torah is counter-cultural – always has been, and ever will be, until we get it right.

Other than the fact that it happens to be in this week's Torah portion, why, you ask, am I droning on about the value of Sabbatical years?

You and I aren't farmers in the traditional sense (ok, with perhaps one exception). But we do attempt to "farm Jews" – not only to help families grow Jewish children into a literate Jewish adulthood, but to cultivate that same Jewish literacy in adults. With an adaptation here and there. we have been doing it the same way, more or less, for the better part of 71st years. To the extent that people have participated in our process, I have to say, we have been pretty successful.

Our challenge is that lately, our population is not magically re-loading as it once did. Fewer people are signing up to participate. So perhaps some sort of "reset" is in order – even if 71 is not a multiple of seven.

What if: each member household made it your business to invite one unaffiliated Jewish person or household to attend services, or Torah class, or any other Temple event, with you?

If none of those things fits you well, what if you organize a Temple outing to a baseball game or bowling alley or ice rink or kosher-hot-dog barbeque to which you might invite someone new?

What if young parents could be energized in turning back the clock, and re-making HaGan as the parent-led cooperative it was at the very start? Who here wants to lead that charge?

What if we made a serious effort to welcome college students from BC and Cal State? Identify the Jewish kids and wanna-bes, feed them some latkes and hamantaschen and challah and matzo ball soup? Who among you would sign up for that?

What if we made some Jewish soul music happen on a street corner on a summer's eve? Who of you wants to make that happen?

And on the subject of social justice – Reform Judaism's commitment to this Torah ideal is hardly new. And if you were to ask those in this room who were not born into Jewish households but who have deliberately committed themselves to be Jews, they would tell you that our movement's commitment to social justice was a powerful magnet that drew them into our embrace.

Moreover. among the unaffiliated and so-called "nones," sociologists tell us that social justice retains that strong appeal.

If we are going to continue to cultivate this garden full of Jews, I'm going to need some more farmers working beside me.

I want to call out and acknowledge Jenny Hirst. Jenny and her husband Will are fairly new to our enterprise. Now, with her leadership, we are hosting Jewish story hours at the Southwest Branch of the library. And something magical is beginning to happen: it seems we are assisting some Jewish grandparents who are desirous of seeding in their grandchildren (not all of whose parents are Jewish) a curiosity about Judaism and an appreciation for our stories and for the values they teach. Jenny, thank you for your faithfulness, dedication and creativity.

Kathleen Arnold Chambers and Rosa Barrera have committed to reviving Rosh Hodesh, a monthly celebration for the women of our community.

Chief nanny of Bakersfield and Temple Beth El product Julia Brennan has affirmed her interest in helping us revive HaGan.

Now – I ask each of you to think outside our usual box, and ask yourself this question: What would I enjoy doing that would help our Temple to grow some literate Jews? And if necessary – what do I need to learn to become more literate in my own Judaism?

I welcome your ideas, your energy, and your participation in this holy enterprise, as we hit "reset" and renew our commitment to our synagogue community

Livracha,

Rabbi Cheryl Rosenstein

Chevre Kadisha & Tahara

What is tahara? It is among the very last mitzvoth one can perform for another person. It is a way to honor the soul's former home before committing it to the earth. It is the ancient process of preparing a Jewish body for burial

Our friends at Congregation B'nai Jacob have long upheld this tradition by means of the Chevra Kadisha, their burial society.

If you are curious and would like to know more, we invite you to attend "Chevra Kadish and Tahara - Learning Opportunity on Sunday, **June 24th**, **12:00 Noon at Congregation B'nail Jacob**. Details on page 12. We did it! We passed the budget, along with the proposed change to the bi-laws, and approved the new slate of officers. We did this all without even having to make emergency phone calls the day of the meeting. For those of you who were able to attend the congregational meeting, and did in fact come, thank you, thank you, thank you.

Thank you to the board for sponsoring our lunch at the meeting, and special thank you to Linda Morales who coordinated the lunch, and picked it up. Everything was delicious. I think we may have to do something like that again next year, my final year of running the congregational meeting.

For those who missed the meeting and those who simply just don't remember, I will highlight some of the items that were discussed.

As I previously mentioned we passed the tiny surplus budget. In addition we were able to make a change in the bi-laws, so the board has discretion to spend up to \$2,500.00 on unbudgeted items, without getting congregational approval first. This amount has been bumped up from the previous amount of \$1,000.00, which had been the amount since the beginning of time, or at least as far back as anyone could remember.

Hal Friedman suggested that T.B.E. have its own group page on Facebook. Then without delay he created one, right then and there. I know some of you are thinking, "But, T.B.E. already has a Facebook page." This is different, this is a private group page that only members of TBE can access; this particular page is not accessible to the public. This will be a place for members to share ideas, comments, good news, regretful news, and most importantly connect with other members, in a quick and effective way. The name of the group page is "Temple Beth El Mishpacha". So please go and check it out, and post!

This page leads me to another topic Hal brought up, and that is the potential for another fundraiser by again turning the social hall into a stage and watching live performances. <u>Fiddler on the Roof</u> was a great success for us, and we would like to try and recapture that magic. Hal is open to suggestions for such a play or musical, which of course we are trying to keep Jewish themed. The Facebook group page has a number of suggestions, so again, check it out and post.

There were some comments about the caring committee, phone tree, outreach or a hybrid thereof. Members who were present wanted to know if there was anyone who called and checked up on other members who have started to withdraw from the synagogue. We all seemed to agree that it is everyone's responsibility to reach out to a fellow member who has been noticeably absent and let them know you miss them. I can tell you from my view on the bema, it is much more invigorating to see the sanctuary full, and hearing all of the voices reading responsively and singing. No one at Temple takes attendance, thank goodness for me, but it is always pleasant to worship with our fellow members, after all Judaism is about community.

All-in-all, it was a quick, efficient meeting, and there were more than a few laughs. I feel that everyone walked away a little reinvigorated and excited. I hope you feel that way too.

See you soon! Elliott Magnus

	June		July
1	Jill Egland Vivian Gonzales	6	William & Terry Skinner Mark & Stacy Davis
8	Max & Libbie Mahan	13	Volunteer(s) needed.
15	Marc Schulman Rosa Barrera Etel Lewis	20	Selwyn & Cecily Kay
22	Ahron & Linda Hakimi	27	Andy & Ella Abrams
29	Shabbat Tish Potluck		

If you are unable to host your scheduled night, please **find a replacement; then call the office** at 322-7607 so that our Shabbat Worship Service cards are updated accordingly.

Reminder: Clean-up includes washing and putting away dishes and utensils. Thank you for your cooperation.







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Shofa	r!	

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Business Card	\$ 50
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1/2 Page	\$200

Service & Pulpit Honors

Friday, June 1 @ 7		Parashat -	Haftarah	
Shabbat Worship		Numbers 8:1-12:16	Zechariah 2:14-4:7	
	Candle Blesser	Torah Bearer	Torah Blesser	
	Diane Sincoff	Steve Magnus	Tim Fromm	
SermonKiddushBill WolfeFrancis Mayer		Oneg Hosts Vivian Gonzales Jill Egland	Usher Linda Hakimi	
Friday, June 8 @ 6 Family Night Serv				
Candle Blesser	Kiddush	Oneg Hosts	Usher	
Catherine Mahan	Linda Morales	Max & Libbie Mahan	Josh Rudnick	
Friday, June 15 @ 6:00 pm		Parashat -	Haftarah	
Chardonnay Shabbat Service		Numbers 16:1-18:32	I Samuel 11:14-12:22	
D'var Torah Tim Prince	Kiddush Stacey Rodriquez	Oneg Hosts Marc Schulman Rosa Barrera; Etel Lewis	Usher Roy & Amy Snyder	
Friday, June 22 @ 7:30 pm		Parashat -	Haftarah	
Shabbat Worship Service		Numbers 19:1-22:1	Judges 11:1-33	
	Candle Blesser	Torah Bearer	Torah Blesser	
	Leora Freedman	Larry Saslaw	Benji Shiell	
Torah Reader	Kiddush	Oneg Hosts	Usher	
Karen Briefer-Gose	Michael Freedman	Ahron & Linda Hakimi	Andy Abrams	
		une 29 @ 7:30 pm at Tish Potluck		

Temple Beth El Special Funds

Tree of Life, Memorials, Prayer Book Plates, Rabbi's Discretionary, Vision Committee, Caring Committee, Shirley Lipco Social Justice Fund, Building (Torah Learning Center), Camperships, Library, Paul Bregor Music Endowment, Kol Nidre (High Holy Days).





- 1 Karen Klein
- 5 Bruce Joseph
- 5 Catherine Mahan
- 5 Cheryl Rosenstein
- 6 Raul Escobedo
- 6 Becca Green
- 6 Beatrice Ramos
- 6 Philip Rudnick
- 7 Holley Arbeit
- 7 Lyle Gartenlaub
- 7 Sage Russinsky
- 10 Richard Schenkman
- 11 Rogers Brandon
- 11 Steven Magnus
- 11 Hillary Neumeister
- 13 Theresa Goldner
- 13 Jeffery Schwartz
- 15 Judy Feldman
- 15 Etel Lewis
- 16 Amelia Egland
- 17 Gail Magnus
- 18 Connor Preciado
- 19 Joe Fram
- 20 Susan Cohn
- 20 Shepard Palitz
- 21 Echo Kniffen
- 23 Benji Shiell
- 24 Connie Sedacca
- 28 Larry Fish
- 28 Terri Stanton
- 29 Mikayla Escobedo 19th
- 29Carter Friedman9th

ふえべり

2 Michael & Marty Weinberg 27th 7 Miriam & John Beam 50th 8 Jay & Marsha Greenstein 49th 9 Larry Saslaw & Ann Peterson-Saslaw 33rd 13 Bob & Heidi Allison 54th 13 Charles & Sharon Rhodes 40th 19 Al & Charlotte Abrams 69th 20 Jess & Ann Diamond 70th 30 Roy & Amy Snyder 6th 30 David & Terri Stanton 55th

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15th

June 2018 Yahrzeits

6/1 Shabbat Worship Service	
Rose Gousman, cousin of Mary Speare	6/2
Edith Borisoff, aunt of Michael Greenberg	6/3
Rigel Locke, remembered by Irvin Pike	6/4
Keith Boyer, Jr., remembered by TBE	6/5
Jacob Schneider, father of Norma Schwartz; grandfather of Jeff Schwartz & Helen Armistead	6/5-Sivan 22
Charles Knupp, friend of Sharon Lipco z"l	6/6
Guy Parr, husband of Marsha Parr	6/6
Cathy Potter, daughter-in-law of Alexander z"l & Judy Potter	6/6
Muriel Vekas, sister of Arline Pike z"l; aunt of Irvin Pike	6/6
6/8 Family Night Service	
Joan Fromm, mother of Tim Fromm	6/10
Leah Schenkman, mother of Richard Schenkman	6/10
Harry Davis, brother-in-law of Pearl Davis	6/11
Tyler Anthony Mince, nephew of Laura Lauria	6/11
Goldie Bernstein, sister-in-law of Pearl Davis	6/12
Etta Goldman, aunt of Marsha Parr	6/12
Robert Hindin, mother of Carla Epstein	6/13
Saul Gottesman, husband of Rebecca Gottesman z"l	6/13-Sivan 30
6/15 Shabbat Worship Service	
Shirley Chemnitzer, remembered by TBE	6/15
Lillian Epstein, mother of Etta Robin	6/15
Arie Reich, cousin of Sylvia Neal z"l & Laurie Henderson	6/15
Marian Timm, grandmother of Dave Hecht	6/15
Miriam Buck, grandmother of Beth Spiegel	6/16
Tsolik Lekht, brother of Etel Lewis	6/17
Karen Patricia Stevens Reep, mother of Susan Reep	6/17
Wendy Wayne, remembered by TBE	6/17
Raymond Hoffmeyer, father of Gail Lipton	6/18
Dr. Milton Bronstein, cousin of Sylvia Neal z"l & Laurie Henderson	6/19
Howard Leventhal, husband of Rebecca Leventhal	6/19
Kendall R. Peterson, father of Ann Peterson-Saslaw	6/19
Lewis Vengarick, father of Anthony Vengarick; remembered by Irvin Pike	6/19
Ester Wainbuch, mother of Sally Nighbert	6/19

6/15 Shabbat Worship Service (cont'd)	
Sheryn Pincoski, remembered by TBE	6/19
Robert H. Soren, grandfather of Sharon Miller	6/21-Tammuz 8
Shirley Steinberg, mother of Irene Christenson	6/21
6/22 Shabbat Worship Service	
Alton Swinney, father of Nancy McCombs	6/22
Irene Broida, grandmother of Greg Broida	6/23
Jonas Hakimi, father of Ahron Hakimi	6/23
Gregory Solomyania, remembered by TBE	6/23
Cheryl Gottesman, daughter-in-law of Rebecca Gottesman z"l	6/24
Rose Korman , grandmother of Stan Schwartz z"l; great-grandmother of Jeff Schwartz & Helen Armistead	6/24-Tammuz 11
Robert Seeds, step-father of David Neumeister	6/25
Joshua Raymond Escobedo, nephew of Raul Escobedo	6/26
Juana Genel, mother-in-law of Ana Genel; grandmother of Janet Blunberg	6/26
Manuel Genel, husband of Ana Genel	6/26
Doug Fletcher, friend of Stan z"l & Norma Schwartz	6/27
Henry Solomon, uncle of Greg Broida	6/27
6/29 Shabbat Worship Service	
Sylvia Kohan, friend of Jeffery Russinsky & Linda Morales	6/29
Bert Everett Davis, father of Mark Davis	7/1
Edna Solomon, grandmother of Greg Broida	7/1
Beulah Davis, remembered by TBE	7/2
Cleotilde Espinosa, mother of Maria Chavez	7/2
Socorro Gonzalez, mother of Rose Broida; grandmother of Michael Broida	7/2
Dana Robin Jacobs, sister of Steven Jacobs	7/2-Tammuz 19
Michael Gerard Moylan, father of Roy Snyder	7/3
Robert Pike, husband of Arline Pike z''l; father of Irvin Pike; brother-in-law of Muriel Vekas	7/3
Guy Robert Tann, husband of Miriam Tann	7/3
Eddie Holt, uncle of William Wolfe	7/4
Ruth Putnam, mother of Mary Grey	7/4
Connie Wellman, wife of Peggie Soltis	7/4

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Contributions (4/13 - 5/15)

Memorials/Yahrzeits

Brent Eastep Ruth Klein In memory of Rachel & Alia Linder, Leola Lee & Ozias Leib Gross Etta Robin In memory of Lillian Epstein

Caring Committee

Al & Charlotte Abrams In memory of Andrew Davis Andy & Ella Abrams In memory of Andrew Davis Andy & Diane Andrews In memory of Andrew Davis Philip Rudnick In memory of Andrew Davis Peggie Soltis & Colleen McGraw In memory of Christine Trunec

Building Fund

William & Laura Wolfe

Stan Schwartz Camper

Norma Schwartz In memory of Stan Schwartz, Rae Cherry, Jake Beeber, Mike Scott & Ron Deem

Rabbi's Discretionary

Andy & Diane Andrews In memory of Andrew Davis Gretchen Bloch Jess & Ann Diamond In memory of Andrew Davis & In honor of Steve & Gail Magnus

In Memory

We mourn the loss in recent days of

Andrew Davis April 24, 2018 - Iyar 9 5778 Son of Diane & Andy Andrews **Christine Trunec April 23, 2018 – Iyar 8 5778** Daughter of Peggie Soltis

תודה רבה Thank You

The recent untimely and unexpected loss of our dear Andrew will forever be unbearable.

The outpouring of love, support, comfort, assistance and food provided by so many of you brought great comfort. There simply are not enough words to express our appreciation.

Since we are not in town these days as often as in years past, we do not get to see many of you. Temple Beth El will always be with us as a source of peace and comfort. We would love to have you come and stay with us at the coast when you can get away.

Thank you for the bottom of our hearts.

Very fondly, Andy & Diane Andrews

Thanks So Much!

Vivian Gonzales and I would like to thank those of you who contributed to either Andrew's or Christine's meals of condolence. We would not be able to do what we do without your help. It means a lot to the families too.

I would especially like to thank Etel Lewis, because she always makes a great fruit/veggie platter, and because she is there with us every time working hard. I would like to thank Irvin Pike because he is always generous with contributions and time. He is never too busy to help with tables or set-up or clean-up. I would like to thank Susie Easley for all of her décor touches. She shops for paper goods, sets up the lovely tables and even makes flower arrangements. Special thanks also to Esther Brandon. She stepped right in and helped coordinate at the Davis' home when I was out of town, and Vivian was busy with her volunteer work. She and Etel and Irv saved the day!

I especially want to thank my co-chair, Vivian for all the support she gives me in all of this. I couldn't face it without her.

Please, if there are any of you under the age of 70 who would be willing to help with the committee, we would so appreciate it. We could use some younger blood!



Thanks again, Marsha Parr



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RESTAURANTS

Applebees Burger King; Carl's, Jr. Chili's/Macaroni Grill Coco's/Denny's El Pollo Loco Jack-in-the-Box KFC Mimi's Cafe Olive Garden/Red Lobster Outback Restaurant Panera Bread Papa John's Pizza Quizno's; Subway Red Robin; Carrow's Starbucks Black Angus Taco bell Wendy's

GROCERY STORES

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STORES

ports (3) Sign up using either our group name (Temple Beth El) or our number (136559159) (4) Enter your information (5) Finish following the instructions. It just takes a few minutes. Below is just a sampling of some of the participating merchants.

Barnes & Noble Bath & Body Works Bed Bath & Beyond Claire's Gap/Old Navy Home Depot Long's/CVS Pharmacy Lowe's Macy's; Kohl's Michael's Office Depot/Office Max

When you are out shopping and using your debit or credit card, you can still Help HaGan & Bright Beginnings even though you do not have scrip with you. Just register your debit/credit cards online: (1) Go to http://WWW.escrip.com (2) Click on members and sup-

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--Norma Schwartz, Scrip chairperson, 472-1759

MISCELLANEOUS

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forms or to offer your assistance at making this event a huge success.

June, 2018

Sivan/Tammuz 5778

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 7:30 PM Shabbat Worship Service	2
3	4	5	6	7	<i>8</i> 6:00 PM Family Night Service	9
10 10:30 AM Rosh Hodesh Celebration: What Connects You 1:00 PM Joint Board Meeting w/CBJ	11	12	13	14	<i>15</i> 6:00 PM Chardonnay Shabbat	<i>16</i> 10:00 AM Torah Talk 6:00 PM Congregants of the Year Award Dinner
17 HAPPY Helis	18	19	20	<i>21</i> 4:00 PM Jewish Story Time @ SW Library	<i>22</i> 7:30 PM Shabbat Worship Service	23
24 Chevra Kadisha Learning Session	25	26	27	28	29 6:00 PM Shabbat Tish Potluck	30

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Questions? Call the TBE office: (661) 322-7607.

Temple Beth El

Provides a sanctuary for your sacred prayers, a social hall for special celebrations, a library to study our heritage, a school to teach our eternal values and ways to remember loved ones who are no longer with us. One of the traditional ways we honor those who helped shape our lives is by placing a made-to-order bronze Memorial Plaque which will be added to the walls of the Temple foyer.

For more info, contact Andy Abrams at

(661) 328-6426 or email him at aabrams@bak.rr.com





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4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

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Jewish tradition prescribes that a meal be provided for the family following the burial of a family member. To that end the Caring Committee of Temple Beth El is prepared to provide a Meal of Condolence for temple families who experience the loss of a loved one. Please consider making a donation in memory of your loved one to the Caring Committee so that we may continue to provide this Mitzvah to others!

Thank you, Vivian Gonzales Marsha Parr

Publish Your News In The Shofar



Your items of interest are welcomed for publication. **Deadline is 12 noon on the 15th of the month.**

Call Lorrie at 322-7607 or email at tbebakersfield@gmail.com



When you make a donation to the temple honoring someone, sending condolences, or wishing someone well, Charlotte Abrams, Tribute Chairperson, will mail a tribute card to the recipient in your name.

After you have sent your donation to the temple, notify her of the name, address of the recipient and to which fund the donation was made.

Call Charlotte at 587-7706 Email at bubichar@aol.com

Changes?

Please notify Lorrie in the Temple office with your membership information -- addresses (including email), phone number(s), births, marriage, yahr-zeits.

Please help up keep our data base and membership directory updated.

E-mail your Shofar submission to the Temple at tbebakersfield@gmail.com Deadline for the June Shofar is May 15, 2018

Our monthly Shofar is published by:

TEMPLE BETH EL

2906 Loma Linda Drive Bakersfield, CA 93305 Tel: (661) 322-7607 Fax: (661) 322-7807 Website: www.templebethelbakersfield.org

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