Shofar

Temple Beth El

"Where Judaism Lives"

March, 2021 • Adar/Nisan 5781

Volume 78, Issue 7

We cordially invite you to share

With us as

Héber Cruz Berber

Celebrates becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Saturday, the Sixth of March

Two Thousand and Twenty-One

At 11:00 in the Morning

Via Zoom

Read his bio on page 4

Temple Beth El is affiliated with:

UNION *for* REFORM JUDAISM

www.TempleBethElBakersfield.org

Services in our **Zoom Room, 661 322 7607** and by **livestream on Facebook**

Rabbi Jonathan Klein

"The Time of Singing is Come"

Signs of spring are appearing all over. I gaze out of my office window/sanctuary to see a field of green nasturtium petals near the Chinese elm, which will soon produce bright colorful orange, red and yellow flowers with edible petals the spicy seeds that I will harvest to accompany the more traditional *Maror* for our Passover Seder. The apricot tree's buds still intact, Tera records that they had already popped by this day last year. The guava and avocado trees seem ready to pack up for the summer, and the old-new orange trees have a few brightly colored new leaves mixed in with oversized delicious fruits. Bulb flowers are just now peeking through their stalks, in anticipation of the moment when they will adorn our yard with gorgeous colorful flowers. *Ki hinei hastav avar, hageshem chalf halach lo…hanitzanim nir'u ba'aretz*: "The fall has passed, the rains have gone, and the buds are seen in the land.

The biblical name for the Babylonian-titled month of Nisan is "Aviv," which is literally "spring." We have finally reached this season of renewal, leaving the losses and sufferings most acutely felt this year during the pandemic behind. Spring is here! And with it, a new awakening to possibilities! Passover, the festival that hearkens back to our redemption from enslavement, is a season of renewal, *Z'man cheruteinu*, the "Season of our freedom." And boy, the promise of the end of our pandemic, while not here yet, brings with it an all-new meaning to liberation for all of us, as we will soon, Gd-willing, be free to be together again and to celebrate meaningful Jewish life at Temple Beth El…the building will no longer be a ghost town, we can finally get to work on organizing the library, we can once again hear Doug's organ mastery, we will finally fill the pews with joyous Jewish life. We can cast out our enslavement to Zoom, our imprisonment in our isolated homes, we won't have to use InstaCart for groceries again… please, Gd! *E-l Na R'fa na la*! Heal her (Mother Earth) now! So we can be a community together again!

I am excited to begin phase two of my service to the Jewish community of Kern County, one that is pandemic-free and involves more in-person interaction. As a community, we will need to figure out how best to integrate our Zoom-based pluses with our in-person-based pluses and create a meaningful Jewish experience that accounts for all that we have learned along the way. **Please let me know if you have particular thoughts regarding the ways Zoom has been helpful to your Jewish journey,** as we reimagine our offerings to best ensure inclusion and access for all. Drop me an email about it: tberabbiklein@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, until everyone is vaccinated, until all are safe, we must maintain our health vigilance. I know many of you are ready for the winter which has dominated our lives figuratively if not in reality to finally pass. We want to hug, to make Havdalah outside on the patio, to eat at the Oneg, to dance with Torah, to sing to our heart's delights…all this is just around the corner, I am praying. Perhaps by the end of this month, when we celebrate our liberation from enslavement and the fulfillment of Gd's four promises as symbolized by the four cups of wine at the Seder, I will finally know what each of you looks like WITHOUT a mask, in person, and I can't wait! Until then, stay safe!

May this season, of liberation from the darkness of winter and despair, the *Chametz*—the *schmutz*!!—that enslaves us, give way to spring, to the *Nitzanim* (buds) that are beginning to remind us that the earth is alive, that WE are alive, that AM YISRAEL CHAI, The Nation of Israel Lives! In Bakersfield and Beyond!

An Early Zissen Pesach to you!

Rabbi Klein

President Schechter's Perspectives

Dear Chevrei,

Please welcome our newest members, Rachel and Henry Wainwright, and new Associate Members Deborah and Philip Rosenthal and Melanie Rudnick. Rachel was a member previously and is currently taking the Introduction to Judaism class. Deb and Phil are the neighbors of Irvin and Pamela and have attended many of our services. Melanie and Joshua Rudnick are cousins and are the grandchildren of the Rudnick family primogenitor, Oscar and Libbie Rudnick.

As we welcome our new members we also mourn the recent loss of Saralee Rudnick, Joshua Rudnick's mother, and also Ron Lauria's brother Thomas. We also previously lost Virginia McGraw, the mother of Colleen and mother-in-law of Peggie Soltis-McGraw. "Hamakom y'nachem etchem b'toch sh'ar availai tziyon viYrushalayim." May G-d comfort you among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

These last several months have been devastating for many of us with illnesses and losses. Our Caring Committee Chair, Laura Lauria, has made an enormous effort to get in touch with each and every one of the afflicted families. Both she and Carla Epstein have sent out all those thoughtful and beautiful cards. It is very important to notify the Caring Committee with these issues.

There are several ways to keep us informed of your needs. You can call the temple's phone and leave a clear message. I remote into the phone six days a week. I can give information to whomever needs it. Our Office Administrator, Lorrie Larribas receives those calls when she is there on Tuesdays and Thursdays. That phone number is: 661-322-7607. You can also e-mail the temple at tbebakersfield@gmail.com. Lorrie receives those e-mails and gives to the needed party.

We need to be able to stay in communication with each other. We are a large temple family and everyone needs the kindness, love and caring that a family deserves. So please, reach out!

Our dear Trustee on the Board, Héber Cruz Berber, will be having is Bar Mitzvah via Zoom on March 6th. It will be just lovely if the Congregation tunes in and participates in this blessed event!

Yasher Koach to all the Congregants of Temple Beth El for all you do to keep Us thriving!

"More than the Jewish people have kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept the Jewish people!"

Temple Beth El where Judaism lives!

Shalom,

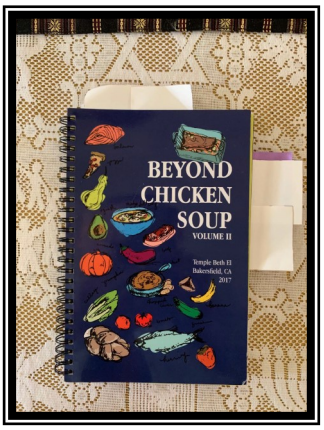
Ilene Schechter

WOMEN OF TEMPLE BETH EL/ SISTERHOOD

Presents

COOKING CLASSES via *ZOOM*

Featuring Cooking From:



A once a month cooking class at **1 pm on a Sunday** through a Zoom meeting room, featuring Legacy recipes from the cookbook **BEYOND CHICKEN SOUP VOL II**, and an additional recipe of the cook's choice. ***Still need a book? Contact Gail Magnus for a time to meet her at the Temple Gift shop to purchase a copy…or whenever the Gift Shop is planning to be open.***

March 7, 2021; ***"What's up Doc? "*** **Carrots** are featured in the Passover meal preparation class! We will include a time proven goodie from **Etta Robin** called **"Carrot Charlotte"** and we will also be talking about **Tzimmes** recipes, which also feature **Carrots** and **Yams**. If you have a family favorite tzimmes recipe to share, bring it, but we will definitely talking about **JCC Tzimmes** from former member **Lynn Rosenstein** on page 155 of the cook book – another Temple Beth El Community Seder favorite. Come and learn more about why these humble vegetables get such honor at the Passover Seder meal (Or as Popeye the Sweet Potato says, "***I Yam what I Yam!***")

TO PARTICIPATE: Send us an **RSVP via email to: wotbesisterhood@gmail.com by March 7 at noon.** We will send you a Zoom link and the ingredient list (if you want to cook along with the cook.) **Questions? wotbesisterhood@gmail.com**

Welcome to our New Members

Rachel & Henry Wainwright

Associate Member: Tricia Berman

Associate Members:
Philip & Deborah Rosenthal

Associate Member: Melanie Rudnick

Associate Member: Sylvia Klein

Héber Tells His Story

Born in Mexico City and immigrated to Central California at a young age where I would grow up. The desire to serve in our military was always a part of me. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks on our nation, that was the moment when I needed to serve and did so for 8 years in the U.S. Army.

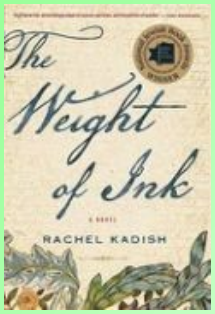
After my time in the military, I attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and earned a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting. Upon graduation, I began my professional accounting career with The Clorox Company in Oakland, CA working roles in cost analysis and international accounting. Eventually I would find my way back to Central California by taking a job in the Oil and Gas industry.

Throughout my life, I have travelled and lived in various locations. From the moment I arrived at Temple Beth El, it felt as if I had made it home. TBE has been the place where I have been able to create my desired Jewish identity. Even now that I have relocated back to the Bay Area, I hold TBE dearly in my heart. Studying for my Bar Mitzvah has allowed me to further my knowledge about Judaism and continued spiritual growth. It is a joy and honor to have it take place with my Temple Beth El family.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1	Esther Brandon
2	John Knight
3	Elaine White
4	Julia Brennan
5	Zoe Zanoff
11	Adam Ray Rodriquez
12	Laura Russinsky
13	Robert Smith
14	Jeffrey Russinsky
15	Linda Hakimi
17	Jill Egland
20	Isabella Rudnick
22	Michael Feldman
25	Amy Knight
26	Irene Christenson
27	Stacey Rodriquez
29	Taylor Feher

BOOK CLUB



Our next Book Club read will be, "*The Weight of Ink*" by Rachel Kadish. Please follow the links to purchase your copy of this book.

We will be meet **March 14th at 1:00 p.m.** on the TBE Zoom to discuss this book. If you should have any questions or need any assistance with Book Club, please contact Amanda Garza.

To order a copy, click on the vendor name below to see the available formats (paperback, hardback, electronic, audio), prices and condition (new or used). Choose the copy that is right for you.

Amazon
Barnes & Noble
Target
Thrift Books
eBay

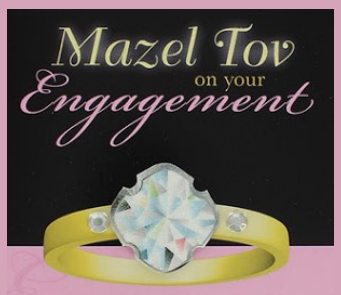
-- Amanda Garza

February

2	Vickie & Mark Hugo	37th

March

10	William & Laura Wolfe	31st
19	Stacy & Mark Davis	15th
23	Michael & LaZelle Broida	9th
24	Jeffrey Russinsky & Linda Morales	30th



Elliott Magnus
&
Breeann Schwecke

Support Temple Beth El

Help us sustain our robust vision for Jewish life by contributing to any of the following funds:

General Contributions:

- Tree of Life
- Prayer Book Plates
- Memorials
- Memorial Book
- Kol Nidre
- High Holy Day Seats
- Caring Committee

Specific Funds:

- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Camperships

https://templebethelbakersfield.org/donation/ provides these options for your contribution.

Thank you!

March 2021 Yahrzeits

03/05 Shabbat Service Yahrzeits	
Hyman Krute, uncle of Jackie Rudnick z"l	**3/05**
Jay Leopold, brother-in-law of Judy Strauss	**3/05-Adar 21**
Moshe Eliezar Neuman, father-in-law of Shirley Ann Newman z"l; grandfather of Heidi Allison	**3/05-Adar 21**
Shifra Neuman, mother-in-law of Shirley Ann Newman; grandmother of Heidi Allison	**3/05-Adar 21**
Sheila Overture, niece of Arline Pike z"l; cousin of Irvin Pike	**3/05**
Rifka Rubenstein Sprung, great-grandmother of Heidi Allison	**3/05-Adar 21**
Marie Redding, mother of Jeanne Moore	**3/06**
Melvin Adelstein, brother of Sylvia Katz; uncle of Larry Saslaw	**3/07**
Rae Cherry, sister of Norma Schwartz z"l; aunt of Jeff Schwartz	**3/08-Adar 24**
Esther Schwartz, grandmother of Diane Andrews	**3/08**
Naum Genel, father-in-law of Ana Genel z"l	**3/10**
Stanley Schwartz, husband of Norma Schwartz z"l; father of Jeff Schwartz	**3/10-Adar 26**
William Fish, grandfather of Larry Fish	**3/11**

03/12 Shabbat Service Yahrzeits	
Anne Caplan, mother of Diane Rogers	**3/12-Adar 28**
Barry Schwartz, father of Stacey Rodriquez	**3/12**
Mike Scott, foster son of Stan & Norma Schwartz z"l	**3/12**
Esther Flaxman, aunt of Larry Saslaw	**3/14**
Marshall Harris, brother of Billie Bizieff z"l	**3/14**
Bessie Kaplan, mother of Marsha Parr	**3/14**
Milton Shilkrout, uncle of Judy Strauss	**3/14-Nisan 1**
Sarah Kasse, great-aunt of Steven Magnus; great-great-aunt of Elliott Magnus	**3/15**
Sam Saslaw, uncle of Larry Saslaw	**3/15**

03/18Shabbat Service Yahrzeits	
David Kosakowski, husband of Dorise Bitton	**3/18**
Salome Pincoski, daughter of Sheryn Pincoski z"l	**3/18**
Samuel Epstein, father of Etta Robin	**3/19**
Emily Lepp, great-aunt of Laura Lauria	**3/19-Nisan 6**
Allen Wolfe, father of William Wolfe	**3/19**
John Nichter, father of Sheryn Pincoski z"l	**3/22**
Arline Pike, mother of Irvin Pike	**3/22**
William Pike, father-in-law of Arline Pike z"l; grandfather of Irvin Pike	**3/22**
Samuel J. Young, father of Robert Young	**3/22**

03/25 Shabbat Service Yahrzeits	
Peter Golombek, remembered by Carla & Leonard Epstein	**3/25**
Geitel Stern, great-grandmother of Steven Magnus; great-great-grandmother of Elliott Magnus	**3/25**
Mickey Wayne, mother of Wendy Wayne z"l	**3/25**

03/25 Shabbat Service Yahrzeits (cont'd)	
Max Gruber, father of John Gruber z"l	**3/26**
Jim Humphrey, father of Laura Reyes	**3/26**
Tony Rodriquez, father of Adam Rodriquez	**3/26**
Anna Goodman, mother of Vickie Hugo	**3/28**
David Shroder, uncle of Shulamit Shroder	**3/29**
Hyman Hoffman, grandfather of Steven Magnus; great-grandfather of Elliott Magnus	**3/30**
Rudolph Cohn, father of Ethel Cohn Katz	**3/31**
Ione Lollar, mother of Laura Wolfe	**4/01**
Greta Oppenheimer, mother of Judy Feldman	**4/01-Nisan 19**

The Temple Beth El community mourns the passing of:

- Virginia Ann McGraw, mother of Colleen Soltis-McGraw and mother-in-law of Peggie Soltis-McGraw, who dies on January 25th.
- Saralee Rudnick, husband of Robert Rudnick, father of Joshua, Jonathan, Joel & Elizabeth; grandfather of Isabella Rudnick, who dies of COVID on February 7th.
- Thomas Lauria, brother of Ron Lauria and brother-in-law of Laura Lauria; Amanda Garza's uncle, Reece Garza's great-uncle, who dies of COVID on February 9th.
- HaMakom y'nachem etchem b-toch sh'ar aveilei Tziyon Viyrushalayim

May the Omnipresent One comfort you among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

Own Your Piece of Real Estate for Eternity

Temple Beth El maintains its own dedicated section at Greenlawn Memorial Park on River Blvd. New plot price is $2,875. Plan ahead and buy yours today. Contact Barry Goldner through the TBE office at (661) 322 -7607 or tbebakersfield@gmail.com.

Prayer Book Bookplates In Honor or In Memory of...

Bookplates are available for only $18 each. To order, make check payable to Temple Beth El, "attention: Bookplates".

Please include any special wording and the manner in which you want your name to appear.

Questions? Contact Lorrie at the office:
(661) 322-7607 or tbebakersfield@gmail.com

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Ilene Schechter @ ilene.joy2011@gmail.com

Contributions (1/29-2/11)

Kol Nidre

Avital & Alpha Anders

Memorials/Yahrzeit

Rudie & Maria Chavez
In memory of Christopher Chavez
Brent Eastep
Etta Robin
In memory of Samuel Epstein

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Andy & Ella Abrams
Ann Diamond
In memory of Rose Diamond
Leonard & Carla Epstein
In memory of Warren Gold
Diane Rogers
Melanie Rudnick
Ilene Schechter

Tree of Life

Andy & Ella Abrams
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Héber Cruz Berber
Esther & Rogers Brandon
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Héber Cruz Berber
Timothy Fromm
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Héber Cruz Berber
Jonathan & Tera Klein
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Héber Cruz Berber
Irvin Pike & Pamela Elisheva
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Héber Cruz Berber
Ilene Schechter
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Héber Cruz Berber

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March, 2021 Adar/Nisan 5781

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Hebrew School **6:00 PM** Religious Practices Meeting	4 Intro to Judaism	5 **6:00 PM** Shabbat ShaZoom **6:30 PM** Schmooze **7:00 PM** Shabbat	6 **11:00 AM** **Bar Mitzvah Of Héber Cruz Berber** (via Zoom) **5:30 PM** Text Study **6:30 PM** Havdalah
7 **11:00 AM** Religious School **1:00 PM** Sisterhood Cooking Class	8	9 **7:00 PM** Board Meeting	10 Hebrew School **7:00 PM** Preparing for Passover Class	11 Intro to Judaism	12 **6:00 PM** Shabbat ShaZoom **6:30 PM** Schmooze **7:00 PM** Shabbat	13 **5:30 PM** Text Study **6:30 PM** Havdalah
14 **11:00 AM** Religious School Rosh Chodesh Nisan 	15	16 **7:00 PM** Religious School Committee	17 Hebrew School	18 Intro to Judaism	19 **6:00 PM** Shabbat ShaZoom **6:30 PM** Schmooze **7:00 PM** Shabbat	20 **6:30 PM** Text Study **7:30 PM** Havdalah
21 **11:00 AM** Religious School	22	23	24 Hebrew School	25 Intro to Judaism	26 **6:00 PM** Shabbat ShaZoom **6:30 PM** Schmooze **7:00 PM** Shabbat	27 **Passover 1st Night (Zoom info Forthcoming)**
28 **Community Zoom Seder** **Passover 1st Day (2nd Night)**	29 **Passover 2nd Day**	30 **Chol Hamoed Passover**	31 **Chol Hamoed Passover**	**All worship via Zoom and Facebook Live**		

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Deadline for the April Shofar is March 15, 2021

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