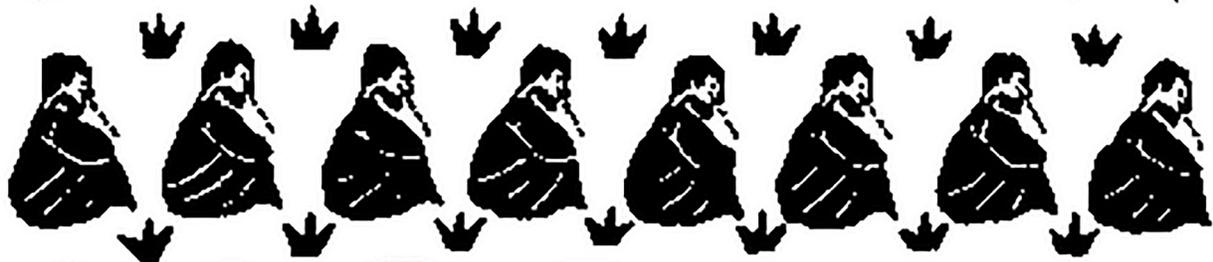


17th of Tammuz

By the rivers of

B A B Y L O N

we sat down and wept



when we remembered





The President's Perspective

Rabbi Tarfon used to say: It is not your duty to finish the work, but neither are you at liberty to neglect it; If you have studied much Torah, you shall be given much reward. (Pirkei Avot 2:16).

Rabbi Tarfon also said: “The day is short, the work is plentiful, and the laborers are indolent, and reward is great, and the master of the house is insistent. (Pirkei Avot 2:15)

I offer these two teachings of the Pirkei Avot as my theme as President of Temple Beth El for the next twelve months. These are not just phrases to ponder, but a charge for each of us to enact in our daily lives as well as our gift to each other as members of our Temple Beth El community. I am asking each of us to open ourselves to greater participation, volunteerism, engagement, and community-building here at TBE. Perhaps, each of us will choose to occasionally “step up” above and beyond in unexpected ways for each other.

We have a few big-ticket items to accomplish, together, this year:

- Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Temple Beth El
- Work to gather as a congregation in our Temple space, while protecting the health of all participants
- Learn how to better offer remote participation to TBE activities through Zoom, Facebook, and other social media options
- Implement the California OES Security Grant that includes constructing a security fence around the synagogue, installing improved lighting and cameras, replacing exterior windows with break-resistant laminate and protecting our stained-glass window, and developing/implementing safety plans and training for our staff, members and the Bright Beginnings community.
- Bring the religious school and adult education back on campus AND offer remote participation for some young and adult students who are not located here in Bakersfield but want to join in our classes.
- Continue to improve our outreach on the TBE website and social media to serve our members and those who are searching for information about our congregation, events, activities, Services, Religious School, education, Rabbi, and Judaica Shop.

I was told that the Nominations Committee asked me to consider being the President this year because I am thought to be a collaborator: a person who works jointly on an activity or project. Thus, “jointly” requires others to also collaborate, together. Each of us has a role and responsibility of Tikkun Olam: to repair and improve the world. Our work here at TBE is to build an inclusive, caring, Reform Jewish congregation that is a partnership among our members, the Bakersfield Jewish community, and our world, at large. Our Temple Board, Sisterhood, Mensch Club, Caring Committee, Adult Education, Building Maintenance, Membership, Fundraising, Religious Practices, Social Justice committees invite you to join in and share your time and talents. Please choose one or a few “works” to collaborate with others here at TBE this year. I’ll also borrow the English proverb from the 1300s: “Many hands make light work”... so let’s join hands and work together!

continued on page 10

The Rabbi's Reflections



Why Israel? Why Temple Beth El in Israel?

Growing up as the child of two parents who lived through the Holocaust (my father joining the Navy to intentionally fight Nazis) and witnessed the birth of the Jewish State, who met one another as part of the Labor Zionist movement known as Habonim (lit. “The Builders”), the Land of Israel figured prominently as an oasis of Jewish hegemony in a hostile world in which time after time, efforts to annihilate Am S’ridei Charev (the Jewish remnant) did not lead to our people’s extinction, despite extreme efforts to erase us from the planet. Never—not for a moment—prior to my first trip to Israel in 1992, did I imagine a world without Israel (I also conceptualized Israel as [a land guided by Jewish values](#), an [Or P’goyim](#), a “light unto the nations,” for others to emulate). It was the [sitz im leben](#)—the setting of life—in the seventies and eighties to have full confidence in Israel’s moral perfection and value added to the world. With the first Intifada in 1987, some confidence has eroded away; Israel’s right to exist no longer places Israel above reproach. This has led to non-Zionist, [post-Zionist](#), and even anti-Zionist thinking within some sectors of the American Jewish community. By contrast, **I am a devoted Zionist**, in the image of my Labor Zionist parents, believing that Israel, while there may be room for improvements, is forever a needed refuge when antisemitism rears its ugly head, or when Jews are caught in the crossfires of war such as in Ukraine. Israel exists so that the phrase “Jewish Refugee” never again exists.

I always begin my Introduction to Judaism classes with Avraham Infeld’s [“Five-Legged Table.”](#) He answers “Who is a Jew?” by suggesting that pluralistic Judaism means accepting at least three of five principles, which envisions a pluralistic type of Judaism in which diversity does not undermine us. Three of the principles—Memory, Israel and Hebrew—point back to Israel, a crucible of Jewish creativity, Jewish history, Jewish ingenuity. The other two—Family and Covenant—are also embodied in this special country. Whether you believe Israel to be above reproach or not, it is an undeniable truth that our people’s past, present, and future are tied to this small state no bigger than New Jersey with a Jewish population that has surpassed that of any other nation in the world, which makes it quite relevant to our Jewish journeys. Love it or not, Israel is part and parcel to the modern Jewish experience.

So it is in the spirit of a heartfelt love for the Jewish people and our values and culture and history and culinary blessings and so much more that **we are exploring a Temple Beth El trip to Israel in Summer, 2023!** Partnering with a Jewish Travel agency, [J2 Adventures](#), we hope to begin in Jerusalem and end in Tel Aviv, visiting historic, cultural, and spiritual sites along the way. So, please email Melanie and me to let us know if you are interested! Let us know how many people might be joining you/your family.

Once we assess interest level, we will begin to approximate total costs for participation. Our trip will not include airfare; this will give you flexibility to arrive earlier, stay later, arrive from different US cities, use frequent flyer miles, choose your airline, etc.. Thus, total cost will be international travel plus ground tour; we are assessing the price per person for the tour itself.

We understand there are many details you want to know. For now, we will determine the number of participants and the dates that work best for the majority. After this initial step, we can map out the trip with our competent tour providers.

Thanks to Melanie Rudnick (m_r_rudnick@yahoo.com) for her invaluable assistance with planning. Please respond to her and me with answers to the above questions. I am elated at the prospect of traveling with you

L’shana Haba’ah Biyrushalayim! Next Year in Jerusalem!

Rabbi Klein

Happy Anniversary!

July 2

Amy & John Knight
Cheryl Rosenstein & Richard Shiell

July 4

Rudie & Maria Chavez

July 10

Robert & Patricia Young

July 19

Steve & Janet Newbrough

July 20

Michael & Leora Freedman

July 29

Ronald & Laura Lauria

Babysitter Needed!

Hello All!

Sisterhood is looking for a **babysitter** for Sisterhood in person events!! We have allocated **\$15/hr.** for the service!! The first event is Sunday June 26th beginning at 11:45am. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, please contact Helen Armistead.

Thank you so much!!

**Helen
Armistead**



Own Your Piece of Real Estate for Eternity

Temple Beth El maintains its own dedicated section at Greenlawn Memorial Park on River Blvd. The price of a plot is \$2,875 which can be paid in three installments over a period of two years.

For more info, contact Barry Goldner at (661) 301-9000

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

To contribute online:

<https://templebethelbakersfield.org/donation/>

Changes?

Please notify the Temple office with your membership information — addresses (including email), phone number(s), births, marriage, yahrzeits.

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

Don't Forget!

Simcha Set Luncheon
at Village Grill on F Street.
Monday, July 11, 11:30am

Happy Birthday!

July 1
Heidi Allison

July 8
Christopher Jacobson
Deborah Rosenthal

July 17
Elliott Magnus

July 24
Michael Broida

July 3
Joshua Rittenberg
Patricia Young

July 13
Theresa Goldner
Ronald Lauria
Donna Schwartz

July 18
William Wolfe

July 26
Ann Diamond

July 6
Lisa Levine

July 22
Debi Hazel
Larry Saslaw
Pamela Stahl
Wynne Waugaman

July 27
Selwyn Kay

July 7
La Zelle Broida
Gene Mawhirter

July 15
Amanda Garza

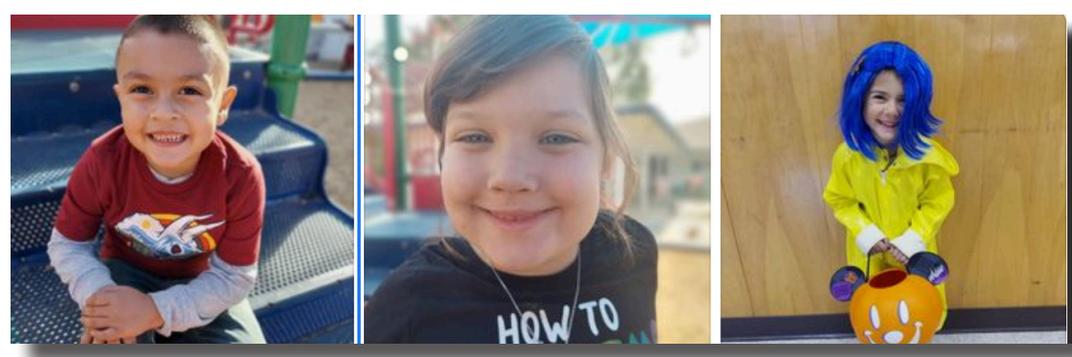
July 30
Randi Hilton

Welcome to Bright Beginnings  Learning Center
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We are a safe, respectful and loving State Licensed Preschool with a qualified staff offering the following:

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- All meals included
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- Online distance learning for school age children

For more detailed information, contact Bright Beginnings at (661) 324-1253 or email Toni Ferguson, Director, at tonibblcdirector@gmail.com.



SISTERHOOD CHAI•LIGHTS

July 2022

Sisterhood members continue to participate in many exciting and interesting activities! We continue to have activities Via Zoom but please note we are now having some in-person events! All activities can be joined without any prior attendance. The following is a list of activities coming up in June and the future!

- **Thursday, July 14 at 4pm**—Sisterhood Leadership Meeting
- **Sunday, July 17th at 3pm** Via Zoom.—Sisterhood Membership meeting
- Book Club meeting is Sunday, **August 28th at 1pm** via TBE Zoom. The book we are reading is **Our Country Friends** by Gary Shteyngart
- **Cooking Class**—There will be no Cooking class in July or August and will resume in September with recipes for the High Holidays!
- **Sisterhood Membership Drive**- Please consider joining some great women! Sisterhood Membership dues are \$18 per year and can be paid via the TBE website!!

Upcoming Events:

Rosh Hashanah Oneg—Helen and Gail will be coordinating. Please expect some emails regarding baking etc.

Sisterhood Ta/kitchen shower—Gail and Susie will be coordinating

Babysitting—We are looking for a babysitter for our events! Please let me know if anyone is interested!!

All Sisterhood activities are via TBE Zoom and in person as noted!! We hope to see you all at future activities and meetings! If you have any questions please feel free to email me!!

Helen Armistead - Secretary; armisteadlmft@gmail.com

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Sisterhood BOOKCLUB

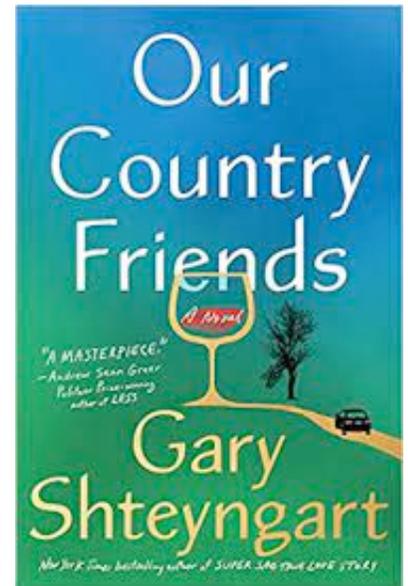
Our next Sisterhood read will be **Our Country Friends** by Gary Shteyngart. Please join us in this read. Sisterhood will meet to discuss this book on **Sunday, August 28th at 1pm.**

Gary Shteyngart's magnificent new novel is many things: a satire of the creative class, a roundelay of romance, a meditation on contemporary America, and an account of COVID quarantine. Above all, it is a deeply humane appreciation of friendship and love. This story takes place in a country house with Russian proprietors, though in this case the Russians are Jews. It's the Hudson Valley estate of Sasha Senderovsky, a one-time professor; Masha Senderovsky, a doctor and therapist; and their adoptive eight-year-old daughter, Natasha. Their four guests are their dearest friends. They've known one another for decades, but it's been a while since they were together.

Gary Shteyngart brilliantly captures the uncertainties and fears during the era of COVID while rejoicing in the possibilities of love in all its unexpected permutations. Ever the masterful satirist, he gently evokes the foibles of the media/intellectual elite while capturing the casual malice in social media. With *Our Country Friends*, he has also revealed an extraordinary sensitivity to the complexities of human vulnerability and love, and portrays them with the depth and verve of the finest novelists.

Purchase this title at [Thriftbooks](https://www.thriftbooks.com), [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com), [Barnes & Noble](https://www.barnesandnoble.com), [Russo's](https://www.russos.com).

Visit <https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/> for a plethora of reading ideas and sign up for their email list.



Memorial Plaques

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 ones who are no longer with us.

One way we honor those who helped shape our lives is by adding a made-to-order bronze Memorial Plaque to the walls of the Temple foyer.

Contact Andy Abrams:
aabrams@bak.rr.com

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Temple Contributions

Memorials/Yahrzeit

Timothy Fromm, in memory of Joan Fromm
Ronald & Laura Lauria, in memory of Tyler Mince
Laura & Ricardo Reyes, in memory of Jim Humphrey
Etta Robin, in memory of Lillian Epstein and Stanley Robin
Larry Saslaw, in memory of Violet Peterson
Ilene Schechter, in memory of Phyllis Schechter

Tree of Life

William & Laura Wolfe, in honor of Rabbi Klein, Linda Hakimi's 20 years of service to the JCC, and Stacy Davis's service to the Religious School

Rabbi Discretionary

Andy & Ella Abrams
Dorise Bitton, in memory of Elise Castiel, George Daha & Jais Bitton
Ann Diamond, in memory of David Irving
Leonard & Carla Epstein, in memory of Helene Davis
Joshua & Edith Rudnick, in honor of Ilene Schechter and Linda Hakimi



Early 20th Century Tzedakah box from the Netherlands

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 wish your name to appear.

Questions? Call the office at (661) 322-7607 or email tbebakersfield@gmail.com.

July 2022 Yahrzeits

7/1 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
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 Espinoza, mother of Maria Chavez	7/2
Socorro Gonzalez, mother of Rose Broida, grandmother of Michael Broida	7/2
Robert Pike, husband of Arline Pike z'l; father of Irvin Pike; brother-in-law of Muriel Vekas z'l	7/3
Guy Robert Tann, husband of Miriam Tam	7/3
Eddie Holt, uncle of William Wolfe	7/4
Ruth Putnam, mother of Mary Grey	7/4
Connie Wellman, wife of Peggie Soltis-McGraw	7/4
Lawrence Brandon, father of Rogers Brandon	7/6
Georges Dahan, uncle of Dorise Bitton	7/6; Tammuz 7
Albert Finklestein, father of Miriam Tann	7/6
7/8 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
Greta Harow, remembered by TBE	7/9
David Jacobson, grandfather of Christopher Jacobson	7/9
Rose Korman, great-grandmother of Helen Armistad and Jeff Schwartz; grandmother of Stan Schwartz z'l	7/10; Tammuz 11
Esther Lewi, grandmother of Janet Blumberg, mother of Ana Genel z'l	7/10

Phyllis Fram , mother of Joe Fram	7/12
Rita Russ Sager , cousin of Jeff Russinsky	7/12
Phyllis Schechter , mother of Ilene Schechter	7/12
John Alan Sheeter , husband of Helen Armistad	7/12
Fay Harris Crafton , sister of Billie Bizieff z'l	7/14
Louise Levine , mother of Andrew Levine	7/14
7/15 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
Susan Perell , aunt of Merrilee Bronstein z'l	7/15
Estelle Vengarick , remembered by Arline Pike z'l; remembered by Irvin Pike; mother of Anthony Vengarick	7/15
Joseph Davis , remembered by Pearl Davis	7/16
Beatrice Brust , mother of David Brust	7/17
John Cothran , remembered by TBE	7/18



Judaism requires those comforting mourners to provide meals following their loved one's funeral. Temple Beth El's Caring Committee provides these Meals of Condolence, Se'udot Havra'ah. Please donate to <https://templebethelbakersfield.org/donation/> to the Caring Committee so that we may continue to support our mourners in their time of need.

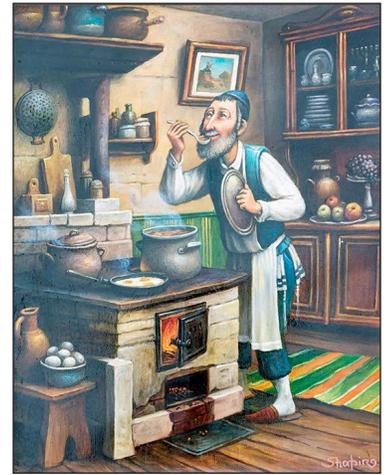
KITCHEN NEWS

REMINDER

When using the Kitchen please make sure it is left the way it was found!! This is a shared space!! Please be courteous of others!! Please clean up after use as we do not have janitors for this service. Please take home any leftover items and DO NOT leave them in the refrigerator!!

We thank you for your cooperation!!

—**Sisterhood Leadership**



The Jewish Cook, Boris Shapiro

President, continued from pg. 2

Please take the time to read, open or download the Shofar each month to become aware of the month's activities. This is no longer a static "newsletter". Not only will you find the TBE Calendar, President's Perspectives, Rabbi's Reflections, activities, announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Yahrzeits, Sisterhood events, and listing of Contributions. This is a digital version on your computer and mobile devices that is a porthole to several links to the Union of Reform Judaism, social justice activities through the Religious Action Center, registration for Temple and community events, email links to committee chairs, and links to our TBE website. ALSO: Watch for Rabbi's TBE Weekly posting for Shabbat Services and participants, Torah parsha overview, the week's TBE events and offerings, Yahrzeits, Upcoming Events, and Learning Opportunities. Rabbi provides links for easy access to information and involvement. Get connected, get involved.

As we start July with a celebration of our Nation's independence from tyranny, may we also celebrate each other as members of Temple Beth El. Perhaps not with the urgency of our Nation's forefathers: "We pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor". This July, we pledge to care for the welfare of each other and our Temple Beth El community.

Temple Beth El, where Judaism lives.

Shalom,

Larry Saslaw

Welcome to Proneg (pre-Oneg) Shabbat!

The term "Proneg" is being adopted as a playful reminder that second Friday services are a bit less formal, with food and beverages available beginning at 6pm and services beginning at 7pm. A more formal Torah service will be held the next morning at Congregation B'nai Jacob beginning at 9:00am, to which all are welcome.



Genia Gross , remembered by TBE	7/18
Dorothy Kaliner , grandmother of Marcy Smith	7/18
Allen Kaplan , brother of Marsha Parr	7/18
Esther Krantz , cousin of Arline Pike z'l; cousin of Irvin Pike	7/19
Hazeltine Nesmith , great-great aunt of William Hoschele	7/20
Kayla Schindler , sister of Etel Lewis	7/21
7/22 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
Ann Allison , mother of Bob Allison	7/24
Heather Tanger Black , cousin of Irvin Pike	7/24
Jacob Hadida , grandfather of Dorise Bitton	7/25; Tammuz 26
David Kalish , remembered by TBE	7/25
Richard Anderson , father of Elaine White	7/26
Ellie Pierce , remembered by TBE	7/27
David Salnitsky , uncle of Esther Brandon	7/27
7/29 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
Lillian Sachs , grandmother of Heidi Allison; mother of Shirley Ann Newman z'l	7/29
Abram Goldberg , father of Michael Goldberg	7/30





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July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>PLEASE NOTE: All temple activities will be conducted using an on-site/ZOOM hybrid model, unless otherwise stated.</p>					1 6:00pm Family Service	2 4:30pm Pirkei Avot
3	4 Independence Day	5 9:00am Prayer Book Study 6:00pm Religious Practices	6	7	8 6:00pm Proneg Shabbat (Services begin at 7pm)	9 9:00am Shabbat Morning Services at CBJ 4:30pm Pirkei Avot
10	11 11:30 Simcha Set at Village Grill	12 9:00am Prayer Book Study 7:00pm Board Meeting	13	14	15 6:00pm Shabbat ShaZoom 7:00pm Shabbat Services	16 4:30pm Pirkei Avot
17	18	19 9:00am Prayer Book Study	20	21	22 6:00pm Shabbat ShaZoom 7:00pm Shabbat Services	23 4:30pm Pirkei Avot
24	25	26 9:00am Prayer Book Study	27	28	29 6:00pm Shabbat ShaZoom 7:00pm Shabbat Services	30 4:30pm Pirkei Avot

excerpt from

By the Waters of Babylon

by Emma Lazarus

Posthumously famous for her sonnet, "The New Colossus," which is engraved on the base of the Statue of Liberty, Emma Lazarus is considered America's first important Jewish poet.



II. Treasures.

1. Through cycles of darkness the diamond sleeps in its coal-black prison.
2. Purely incrustated in its scaly casket, the breath-tarnished pearl slumbers in mud and ooze.
3. Buried in the bowels of earth, rugged and obscure, lies the ingot of gold.
4. Long hast thou been buried, O Israel, in the bowels of earth; long hast thou slumbered beneath the overwhelming waves; long hast thou slept in the rayless house of darkness.
5. Rejoice and sing, for only thus couldst thou rightly guard the golden knowledge, Truth, the delicate pearl and the adamant jewel of the Law.

Jewish Woman with Water Pot in Thessaloniki Greece. Engraving c. 1860.



**Looking for other ways to get involved?
Check out some options **HERE**.**

You're URJ!



URJ Vision & Priorities

The URJ builds community at every level, collaborating and connecting with congregations, organizations, and individuals across North America to advance contemporary and inclusive Jewish life.

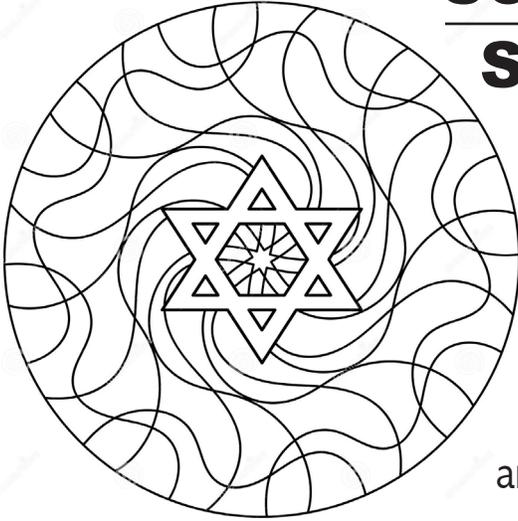


**Are you registered to vote?
Check your status **HERE!****

For more information about various URJ programs, including the Religious Action Center (RAC), contact Larry Saslaw or Jill Egland, co-chairs, Social Justice Committee.

Color the Jewish Orb.

See your work in the August Shofar.



What do you see when you look at this drawing? Do you see the waters of Babylon, in honor of Tammuz? Do you see flames? A Rainbow? Show us what you've got. Simply print out this page (enlarge it, if you like) and go to town! Email to jegland@gmail.com by July 15.

Reclaiming Our Vote in 2022

As part of the 2022 Every Voice, Every Vote Campaign, the Religious Action Center (RAC) and congregations across the country are partnering with the **Center for Common Ground's (CCG) Reclaim Our Vote Campaign** to send postcards to potential voters in communities where there is a significant number of People of Color and low voter participation (often because of voter suppression). **From now till the November election, TBE will be participating in this campaign.**

Campaign Goals

- To strengthen the power of our base through relationship building both within our communities and across lines of difference in partnership.
- To protect democracy by combatting voter suppression to ensure that everyone has access to the ballot box by turning out the vote and centering racial equity. Our goal is to reach 400,000 voters.

Postcards are brief handwritten notes encouraging the recipient to register to vote, and then to cast their vote on November 1, 2022. Polling place information is included. CCG has documented as much as a 64% increase in voter turnout in communities that were engaged in the campaign during the 2020 election... so the strategy works!

This is not a partisan effort. Rather, it is built upon the belief that our democracy can only work when everyone participates, and a myriad of voices are heard.

Temple Beth El will be hosting a postcard party in August—date to be determined. If you are interested in participating (and we hope you are!), please contact Jill at jegland@gmail.com.

The Tent

“Looking up, Abraham saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them and, bowing to the group, he said “My lords, if it please you, do not go past your servant.” Genesis 18:2-3

E-mail Shofar submissions to tbebakersfield@gmail.com

Deadline for the August Shofar is July 15, 2021

Our monthly Shofar is published by:

TEMPLE BETH EL

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Bakersfield, CA 93305

(661) 322-7607 Office

(661) 322-7807 Fax

www.templebethelbakersfield.org

Rabbi Jonathan Klein tberabbiklein@gmail.com

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