

The Shofar

Temple Beth El • Bakersfield, CA
Where Judaism Lives
August 2022 • Av-Elul 5782

Tu B'Av
12-13 August



The President's Perspective

“Keep Moving!” is pretty common advice that many of us older folks receive on a regular basis and we often remind ourselves to work at this as we add more days to our lives. We also pass this wisdom on to our children to be active in sports, the arts, learning, Jewish life, and making friends. Of course, it's not just the physicality of a good walk, playing sports, or some rigorous exercise, it includes the habits of life-long learning, eating well, enjoying life experiences, loving family and friends, scheduling regular health care, paying attention to our physical and mental health... and working at living a full and interesting life. As Temple Beth El is aging up to the big 75 this year, that advice goes for our synagogue structure and our Jewish living and programs, as well.

As our old Temple building and our newer Torah Learning Center add more years, the amount of “health care” pops up periodically, and some self-care by our members and an occasional house call from the professionals is required. We have been fortunate to have saved for the smaller expenses and are even more fortunate to have been able to call of friends and family to pitch in and cover the unexpected, but inevitable, larger ticket items. We are even more fortunate to have an active group of TBE family members and friends who “keep us moving” with our Shabbat and religious observances, life-cycle events, religious school and adult education classes, Caring Committee, Social Justice Committee, Sisterhood and Mensch Club. The Shofar now includes hyperlinks to connect you to URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) and RAC (Religious Action Center) websites and resources and Rabbi's TBE Weekly provides up-to-date, current TBE activities on Thursdays, to keep you informed and connected. For those of you who are into social media, the TBE Facebook group “Mischpecha” is another great tool for connecting.

We are “on the move” with new prayer books Mishkan HaNefesh for the upcoming High Holy Days. These new editions have contemporary poetry and alternative readings, rich commentary drawing from Jewish tradition, easily accessible transliteration, additional Torah readings, new translations that capture the beauty of the Hebrew, and essays from leading Reform Movement thinkers (thanks, CCAR website!). We are ordering one hundred copies of the two-volume sets for the congregation. Can you tell I'm jazzed with something old being new...and the likelihood of in-person services?

So let's join hands, hearts and HaNefesh, and start this new year, our 75th, with continued movement and greater joy...

“Keeping on Moving,” together.

Shalom,

Larry Saslaw
President



artist Romero Britto

The Rabbi's Reflections



The Beginning of our Efforts to Renew

The month of August brings with it the saddest season in the Jewish calendar, the nine days leading up to the saddest day, Tisha B'Av, when we commemorate destruction. The destruction of the First and Second Temples. The day that the Warsaw Ghetto uprising was lost. The first day of the Inquisition. In Jewish imagination, virtually every catastrophic moment in our history is associated with this dreadful day of fasting and deprivation, on one of the hottest, blistering days of the entire year. This is as close to “hell” as we get—heat, misery, damnation—hell being a concept we don't actually embrace (many assume otherwise. There are some who consider it an intervening stop on our way to a next stage, but it's really a Christian concept). The “Three Weeks,” from the 17th of Tammuz (when the city's walls were breached) until Tisha B'av, the day that we have sociologically defined as the nadir of the human condition, an unleashing of the world's worst impulses. Six months ago, we learned that “One who enters Adar increases joy,” a “month in which sorrow is reversed to joy” (Esther 9:22); six months later, it behooves us to remember that “One who enters Av lessens joy” (M. Ta'anit 4:6). Tisha B'av, a day that truly lives in infamy.

And yet...

On Tisha B'av, we learn that the Messiah will be born (Jerusalem Talmud, B'rachot 2:4). On the darkest day, the seeds of redemption will also come to be. If Tisha B'Av is rock-bottom, then the ensuing weeks will raise us up. Liturgically, Tisha B'av begins a cycle of prophetic readings that emphasize *nechemta*, consoling, all the way up to Rosh Hashanah.

So it is with so many of us. We experience painful epochs in our lives, we suffer in unpredictable ways, and we have little to no control over the things happening around us — sometimes to us— which cause us suffering. Destruction. Loss. Grief. And yet out of those ashes, we can be reborn, rejuvenate, reincarnation within our one lifetime. Embracing today as not defined by yesterday. We can reconstruct our lives, continue our forward march, hoping—praying—that we have the wherewithal to take the reins, surpass the sadness, emerge stronger, wiser, more blessed than ever.

We enter this dark (or should I write “blistering hot”) month of Av with the next month, Elul, just around the corner; soon we will join together with prayers of *t'shuvah* (repentance), seeking *kapparah* (atonement), moving as a community toward self-improvement, *Hishtaprut* (from the same root as *Shofar*).

continued on page 11

Happy Anniversary!

August 9

Selwyn & Cecily Kay
Sarah & Irin Mawhirter

August 16

Barry & Theresa Goldner

August 18

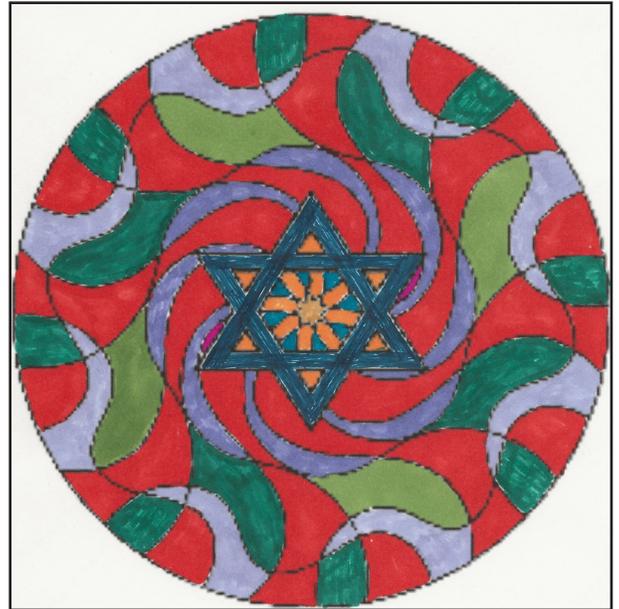
Richard & Indiana Schenkman

August 19

Linda Nadler-Block & Jack Nadler

August 20

Jerrold & Christina Rothberg



Thank you,
Peggie
Soltis-McGraw
for your
lovely
Jewish orb!

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/>

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

Changes?

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

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

Don't Forget!

Simcha Set Luncheon
at Nuestro Mexico on 21st Street.
Monday, August 1, 11:30am

Happy Birthday!

August 1
Ayden Gartenlaub
Epie Rittenberg

August 4
Irvin Pike

August 7
Larry Elman
Libbie Mahan
David Stanton

August 9
David Kessler

August 13
Rose Broida

August 15
Susie Simrin

August 21
Jacob Byrom

August 23
David Brust
Francis Mayer

August 25
Ahron Hakimi

August 26
Jasmin LoBasso-Spencer

August 31
Marc Schulman

Welcome to Bright Beginnings Learning Center

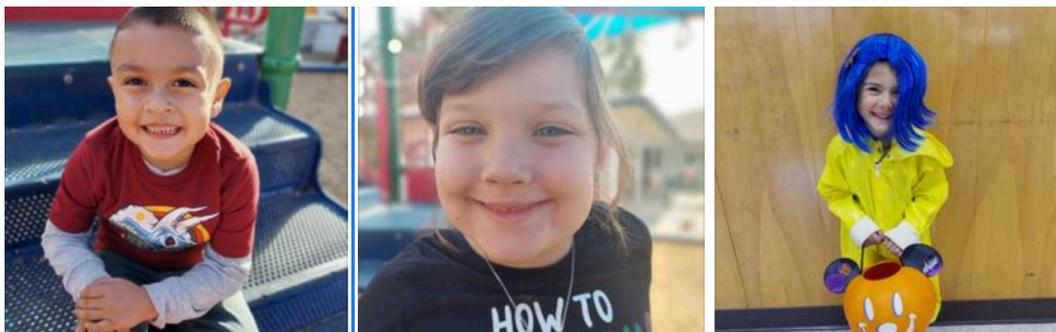
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SISTERHOOD CHAI•LIGHTS

August 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 started at any time and no prior attendance is needed. The following is a list of activities coming up in June and the future!

- **Thursday, August 18th at 4pm** Sisterhood Leadership Meeting
- **Sunday, August 21st at 3pm** General Meeting Via Zoom
- 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 August**. Save the date for the next cooking class on **September 11th**.
- Sisterhood Membership Drive—Please consider joining. Sisterhood Membership dues are \$18 per year and can be paid via the TBE website!!

There are sponsorships available for Sisterhood membership! Everything is confidential! Please contact a Sisterhood leadership member if you need this assistance or know of someone who does!

Upcoming Events:

Rosh Hashanah Oneg—Helen and Gail will be coordinating. Please contact me via email, text or phone call to tell me what you will bring.

Sisterhood Ta/kitchen shower- Gail and Susie will be coordinating.

Please consider joining some great women!! 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!!

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Sisterhood BOOKCLUB

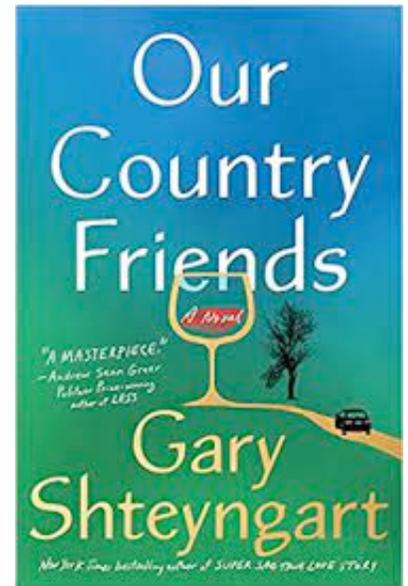
Our next Sisterhood read will be **Our Country Friends** by Gary Shteyngart. Please join us in this read. Sisterhood will meet to discuss this book on **Sunday, August 28th at 1pm**.

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.



Yahrzeit 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 Yahrzeit Memorial Plaque to the walls of the Temple foyer.

Contact Andy Abrams:
aabrams@bak.rr.com

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Temple Contributions

*We would like to thank the following *nadvanim*:*

Memorials/Yahrzeit

Bob & Heidi Allison: in memory of Ann Allison, Lillian Sachs

Joe Fram & Bonnie Birch: in memory of Irene Christenson and Phyllis Fram

Timothy Fromm: in memory of Irene Christenson—teacher, friend, TBE legend

Joshua & Edith Rudnick: in memory of Irene Christenson

Robert & Marcy Smith: in memory of Dorothy Kaliner

Anthony & Courtney Vengarick: in memory of Estelle Vengarick

Elaine & Douglas White: in memory of Irene Christenson

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Andy & Ella Abrams

Avital & Alpha Anders: in memory of Irene Christenson

Daniel & Jessica Klein: in honor of the birth of our daughter, Abigail

Philip Rudnick: in memory of Irene Christenson

Caring Committee

Leonard & Carla Epstein: in honor of the birthday of Matthew Epstein

Melanie Rudnick

Tree of Life

Joshua & Edith Rudnick: Jill Egland for the Shofar

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.

August 2022 Jahrzeits

Shabbat Week of July 29, 2022	
Ann Purcell, friend of Jill Eglan	8/1
Mollie Lande, mother of Rose Blatt, grandmother of Barbara Kessler, great grandmother of David Kessler	8/3, Av 6
Sam Magidow, father of Mary Speare	8/3
Jacob Broida, grandfather of Greg Broida	8/4
Birch Shilkrou, aunt of Judy Strauss	8/4, Av 7
Honey Lita Harris Koster, sister of Billie Bizieff z"l	8/6
Theodore Lamberty, father of Linda Hakimi	8/6
Gertrude Greenberg, mother of Ella Abrams	8/7, Av 10
Helen Schneider, mother of Norma Schwartz z"l, grandmother of Jeff Schwartz and Helen Armistead	8/7, Av 10
Shabbat Week of August 5, 2022	
Evelyn Babins, remembered by TBE	8/8, Av 11
Marie Myers, remembered by TBE	8/8
Robert Cohn, father of Susan Cohn z"l	8/9
Jesus Espinosa, father of Maria Chavez	8/9
Barney Rosenstein, grandfather of Cheryl Rosenstein, father of Neil Rosenstein	8/9, Av 12
Oscar Davis, father-in-law of Pearl Davis	8/10
Vladimir Shnaiderman, nephew of Etel Lewis	8/10
Grace Winnik, mother of Lynne Rosenstein, grandmother of Cheryl Rosenstein	8/10, Av 13
Seymour Bregman, father of Irene Christenson z"l	8/11
Sandy Eglan, sister-in-law of Jill Eglan	8/11
Hans Einstein, remembered by Linda Morales	8/11
Jeffrey Jampel, brother-in-law of Robert and Diane Sincoff	8/11
Anne Levine, grandmother of Andrew Levine	8/11
Shabbat Week of August 12, 2022	
Horty Gordon Weller, remembered by Irvin Pike	8/12
Barnett Denenberg, father of Betty Siegel, grandfather of Sharon Rhodes	8/13
Jean Noble, cousin of Lisa Levine	8/13
Steve Russinsky, brother of Jeff Russinsky	8/13
Milton Schulman, grandfather of Marc Schulman	8/13
Aaron Kennedy Stull, brother of Thomas Stull z"l	8/13, Av 16
William Vekas, husband of Muriel Vekas z"l	8/13
Phillip Glazer, friend of Kathleen Arnold-Chambers	8/14

Gerald Fried, father of Drina Fried	8/15
Jacob Korman, grandfather of Stan Schwartz z"l, great-grandfather of Helen Armistead and Jeff Schwartz	8/15, Av 18
Helen Slotnick, remembered by TBE	8/15
Gottlieb S. Leventhal, father of Howard Leventhal z"l	8/17
Diane Caplan, niece of Diane Rogers	8/18
Naomi Shiell, mother of Rick Shiell	8/18
Shabbat Week of August 19, 2022	
Ernst Lindeck, father of Miriam Beam	8/19, Av 22
George Beam, father of John Beam	8/22
Fannie Goldberg, mother of Risha Grosberg	8/23, Av 26
David Joseph, father of Bruce Joseph	8/23
Fay Ruth Greenfeld, mother of Beatrice Ramos	8/24
Shabbat Week of August 26, 2022	
Helen Fixel, sister-in-law of Pearl Davis	8/26
Dina Gibson, mother-in-law of John Fried z"l	8/27
Pauline Shinberg, remembered by Laura Lauria and Amanda Garza	8/27, Av 30
Solomon Koval, father of Pearl Davis	8/29
Phil Stevenson, husband of Susan Stevenson	8/29
Paul Adamy, father of Rosemarie Azgour, z"l	8/30
Tom Fromm, father of Tim Fromm	8/30
Jackie Rudnick, mother of Daniel Rudnick, wife of Phil Rudnick, aunt of Libby Mahan, sister-in-law of Diane Rudnick z"l and Miriam Stull	
Mose Nick Bizieff, husband of Billie Bizieff z"l	8/31
Malia Ziser, sister of Etel Lewis	8/31

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.



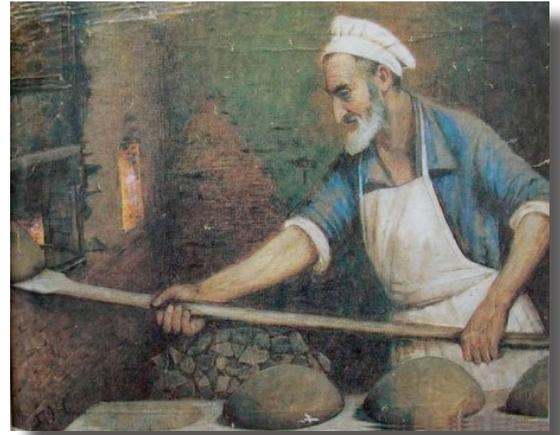
KITCHEN NEWS

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



Jewish Baker, Yehuda Pen, 1921

What is Tu B'av?

The 15th day of Av is both an ancient and modern holiday. Learn more about this Hebrew Day of Love by clicking [HERE!](#)



Jerusalem sculpture spelling out "ahava," Hebrew for "love."

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Don't Forget — **Family Services** are held the first Friday of each month, start at 6pm and last one hour. Bring snacks for Oneg!

Rabbi continued from page 3

As we crank up our air conditioners (side note: you will hear more from me about this, as I am working with the state to encourage energy sustainability as part of their efforts to incentivize better energy practices) during this furnace-season, I hope you will begin to take stock of the ways you can move from mourning loss—Av—to starting anew, reminding yourself of your gifts and improving yourself, hishtaprut, so that 5783, the next year, is cause for celebration.

Chodesh Tov, Have a good month of August/Av!



Men praying at the Western Wall in 1929.

Rabbi Jonathan Klein



**Do you need a directory?
Contact Freyda!
Her temple office hours are
Tuesday and Friday,
10am-3pm.
661-322-7607**



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August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 11:30 Simcha Set at Nuestro Mexico, 716 21st St.	2 6:00pm Religious Practices	3	4	5 6:00pm Family Service	6 4:30pm Pirkei Avot study class
7 10:00am Social Justice Postcard Party in Social Hall	8	9 9:00am Prayer Book Study 7:00pm Board Meeting	10	11	12 6:00pm Chardonnay Shabbat (Services begin at 7pm)	13 9:00am Shabbat Morning Services at CBJ 4:30pm Pirkei Avot study class
14	15	16 9:00am Prayer Book Study	17	18 4:00pm Sisterhood leadership meeting	19 6:00pm Shabbat ShaZoom 7:00pm Shabbat Services	20 4:30pm Pirkei Avot study class
21 3:00pm Sisterhood General Meeting via Zoom	22	23 9:00am Prayer Book Study	24	25	26 6:00pm Shabbat ShaZoom 7:00pm Shabbat Services	27 4:30pm Pirkei Avot study class
28 1:00pm Sisterhood Bookclub	29	30 9:00am Prayer Book Study	31	<div style="background-color: #c8e6c9; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> <p>PLEASE NOTE: All temple activities will be conducted using an on-site/ZOOM hybrid model, unless otherwise stated.</p> </div>		

It's nearly here...

Religious School!

Temple Beth El will launch the 2022-23 Religious School year on **Sunday, September 11, 2022**. We will be using a hybrid, in-person/online model of instruction, beginning at 9:30am, with a 30-minute gathering of students, parents and teachers. Coffee (for the parents) and art projects (for the students) will be on hand.

Tuition is \$180 per student and includes all materials. It can be paid the morning of September 11. Please speak to the Rabbi if you have extenuating financial circumstances.

We're looking forward to continuing with the URJ's **Chai Curriculum**, and its emphasis on **Torah, Avodah (worship), and G'milut Chasadim (lovingkindness)**.



See you on the 11th!

You're URJ!

You are 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.

**Looking for other ways to get involved?
Check out some options [HERE](#).**



**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.



Rosh Hashonah Oneg

Rosh Hashonah is around the corner and we need volunteers for baking as well as the other goodies related to the New Year such as mixed nuts, fresh fruit, honey, apples and drinks. Please email Helen Armistead at armisteadlmft@gmail.com or call or text her at 661.472.1758 with what you will be able to provide!!

Reclaiming Our Vote in 2022

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.

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

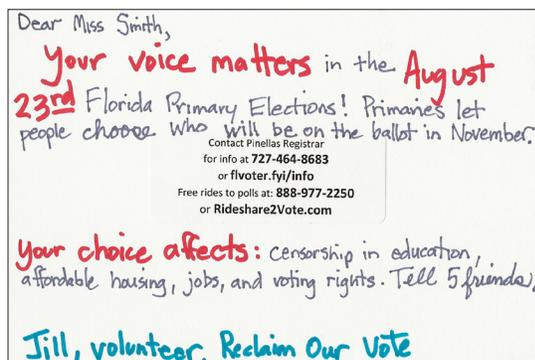
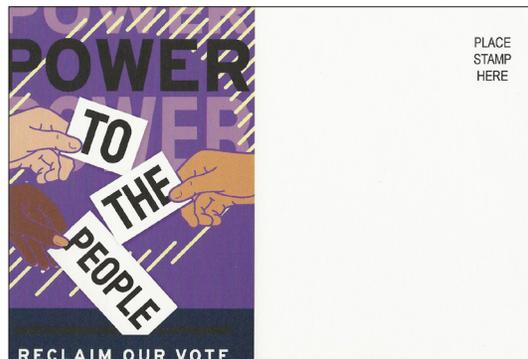
Postcard Party

Sunday, August 7
10am-noon
TBE Social Hall

Temple Beth El is joining forces with URJ communities around the country to turn out the vote! Join us on Sunday, August 7 at TBE for a creative couple of hours as we crank out **ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY** postcards to potential voters in St. Petersburg, Florida! Let Jill know if you're coming. You can do as many as you like. You can do just one, even.

We can do this!

[There will be caffeine.]



E-mail Shofar submissions to tbebakersfield@gmail.com
Deadline for the September Shofar is August 15, 2021

Our monthly Shofar is published by:

TEMPLE BETH EL

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Bakersfield, CA 93305

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