

# The Shofar

Temple Beth El • Bakersfield, CA

Where Judaism Lives

December 2022 • Kislev-Tevet 5783



*Please share in our joy  
as our daughter*

*Tzipporah Escobedo*

is called to Torah as a

*Bat Mitzvah*

Temple Beth El  
2806 Lima Linda Dr  
Bakersfield, Ca 93305

Saturday | December 3rd | 2022 |  
10 O'clock AM  
Please RSVP by 11/26/22  
Escobedocarol@gmail.com or 661-496-8323

*Raul and Carol Escobedo*

The invitation card features a purple and gold color scheme. It is decorated with several colorful butterflies (blue, purple, and pink) and two shofars (ram's horns) at the bottom. The background has a subtle pattern of trees and stars.

*Luncheon to follow*

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Tzipporah has just turned 15 years old and is in 10th grade. After having participated in gymnastics competitively for almost 10 years she now enjoys being involved in various sports for fun. Her favorite subjects in school are choir and PE (especially on push ups day), and she finds history quite interesting.

Tzipporah has a keen sense of style and you will always find her perfectly coordinated!

She is particularly interested in exploring her genetics and discovering where her ancestors geographically came from and learning her roots, which is a current project we're working on.



# The President's Perspective

It was touch and go for this last week's Shabbat service following Thanksgiving. The "regular" Shabbat service goers were either off to visit family or friends, at home with out of town guests, feeling that queazy turkey feast gluttony, under the early winter weather, grieving a family loss, or otherwise taking a Friday night break. It was questionable whether we'd be able to gather up a minyan for a Torah service. And, no one had offered to host the Shabbat oneg, no less. By Wednesday, **Marc** had cobbled together the honors list, and prayers of hope for Shabbat attendance were offered (no fingers crossed in this house).

Alas, **Esther** volunteered to be our usher and she even made a platter of home-made pumpkin cups. With an Albertsons stop for fruit bowl and lemon cake, along with **Leonard's** challah, and good old Manischewitz wine and grape juice from the kitchen fridge, our Oneg table was set.

As Shabbat service time arrived, **Rabbi Klein** greeted us with guarded optimism, and we soon had a gathering of Temple members and out of town (and state) guests that flat-out filled the sanctuary with full-throated song to the joyous accompaniment of rabbi's lively guitar playing. **Ray** had the zoom attendees linked in. **Sage Russinsky**, visiting **Jeff and Linda** from New Orleans, lit the Shabbat candles, **Tzach** artfully chanted Torah, **Joel** (visiting from Denver) and I had the honor of Torah Blessings. **Etel** zoomed in for the PreKaddish reading, and in a most special treat, **Kathleen's** eight year old granddaughter, **Charlie**, brightened the bimah with a sedur reading and Chagbah assist for her father, **Chris**, as we were treated to an eight year old "Little Orphan Annie" or future rabbi or cantor in the making. Rabbi introduced the Torah parsha by reminding us, as the life of Isaac, we need not be the story "headliner" or have an extensive amount of text devoted to our stories to make a lasting impact in our community or future trajectory of the world. My take-away was: Sometimes, when called to participate in our story, it's just being there that's important.

When Rabbi asked us to think about being thankful on this Shabbat, what came to my mind was how our Thanksgiving Shabbat minyan had both the means and desire to join together for the evening. There were no second-stringers in the room. Just a different mix of our Temple community, with friends and family Temple Beth El



This modern mosaic depicting a menorah surrounded by zodiac imagery is part of a larger installation outside The Oil Press Art Gallery in Jerusalem's Old City Jewish Quarter.

—Photo by Stephen Stookey

# The Rabbi's Reflections



My three children will celebrate Chanukah without us this year, the first time since my oldest was born, 23 years ago. They will be in Israel without us: Three siblings, traversing ancient alleyways, praying at the Western Wall, celebrating Sabbath in Jerusalem, eating falafel, floating in the Dead Sea, climbing Masada where First Century Jews made their last stand against the Roman imperialism that outlawed Torah and ransacked the Temple.

My kids will see many menorahs in Tel Aviv windowsills of religious and secular Jews alike, a national “Pirsuma Nisa,” “advertisement of the miracle” that Jews still exist, despite every despot and tyrant who tried to destroy us. None of them could snuff us out: Pharaoh, Amalek, Haman, Sennacherib, Nebuchadnezzar, Antiochus, Hadrian, Czar Nicholas I, Stalin, Amin al-Husseini, Hitler. Despite these evil forces, Chanukah reminds the world that “Am Yisrael Chai,” the Jewish People Lives! So while I will miss them this Chanukah, I know that they will celebrate with their nationwide Jewish family, who welcome them, unconditionally.

Chanukah is much more than spinning a dreidel, opening presents, eating latkes. Our “Festival of Rededication” not only celebrates the miracle told in the Talmud that one day’s supply of the Temple menorah’s oil lasted eight days; it also “advertises the miracle” that against the odds, Jews continue to thrive wherever they reside, that we are here to stay despite the haters out there. Despite our lachrymose history, in America I need not be afraid to be a proud Jew.

Nevertheless, it is challenging at times to celebrate Chanukah within our largely Christian society. On the Jewish “Festival of Lights” the menorah gets brighter each of the eight successive nights of Chanukah, to counter the darkness of these darkest nights of the year (i.e. during or close to the Winter solstice and coinciding with December’s new moon).

However, the light of the 25th of Kislev is barely noticeable in a month defined by the 25th of December—Christmas, when our neighbors mark the birth of Jesus. All of us, Christian and non-Christian alike, experience our children getting out of school for “Christmas Break” (a change made in poor taste by our local school board years ago from what was previously called “Winter Break,” which now intentionally excludes Jews, Sikhs, atheists, and every other non-Christian), holiday sales cater to Christmas presents, Nativity scenes and ornaments adorn lawns, and there are few if any Menorahs on display. Jews attempt to pour light into the darkness that they feel inwardly, when we become perhaps the least visible.

The United States has been very good to religious minorities. My community has been granted the opportunity to flourish, be counted, feel safe. Religious freedom is an explicit pillar of American values; our right to fully participate in American society is constitutionally guaranteed. In 1793, President George Washington wrote, “We have abundant reason to rejoice, that in this land the LIGHT OF TRUTH AND REASON have triumphed over the power of bigotry and superstition, and that every person may here worship God according to the dictates of his own heart.

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**continued on page 12**

## Happy Anniversary!

**December 2**

Laura & Ricardo Reyes

**December 6**

Ferdinand & Yolanda Aggenbach

**December 11**

Helen & Tom Armistead

**December 14**

Andy & Diane Andrews

**December 15**

Esther & Rogers Brandon

**December 20**

Leonard & Carla Epstein

**December 24**

Martin & Barbara Kessler

**December 27**

Michael & Judy Feldman

**December 29**

Andy & Ella Abrams  
Carol & Raul Escobedo



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

*We have new prayer books.* Consider ordering a commemorative bookplate, which are available for \$54 each. To order, make check payable to Temple Beth El, "attention: Bookplates." You can also place an order on the TBE website.

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](mailto:tbebakersfield@gmail.com).

## 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
- TBE 75th Anniversary Celebration

**Specific Funds:**

- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Camperships

**To contribute online:**

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

## Changes?

Please notify Freyda at the Temple office (661-322-7607 or [tbebakersfield@gmail.com](mailto:tbebakersfield@gmail.com)) 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 Rosemary's on F St.**  
**Monday, December 6, 11:30am**

**Happy  
Birthday!**

**December 1**  
Philip Rosenthal

**December 2**  
Francine Coplan-Avery

**December 5**  
Michael Freedman  
Isla Dulcie Friedman

**December 6**  
Miko Broida  
Etta Robin

**December 13**  
Ilene Schechter

**December 15**  
Jonathan Klein

**December 18**  
Indiana Schenkman

**December 20**  
Bob Allison

**December 21**  
GeorgieAnna Escobedo  
Mario Garza

**December 22**  
Christina Rothberg

**December 23**  
Robert Young

**December 24**  
Héber Cruz Berber

**December 25**  
Carol Escobedo  
Reece Garza

**December 27**  
Robin Feher

**December 29**  
Ross Abarbanell  
Juane Aggenbach

**Welcome to Bright Beginnings  Learning Center**

2906 Loma Linda Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93305

Hours: 6:30a.m. to 6:00p.m.

We are a safe, respectful and loving State Licensed Preschool with a qualified staff offering the following:

- Preschool program, 2-5
- School Age program 5-12
- Full-time and Part-time care available
- Sibling Discounts
- CCCC accepted
- All meals included
- Play-based program
- 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](mailto:tonibblcdirector@gmail.com).



# SISTERHOOD CHAI•LIGHTS

December 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 December and in the future!

- Thursday, December 15th at 4:30pm—**Sisterhood Leadership Meeting**
- Sunday, January 15th at 3pm— **General Meeting. NO DECEMBER MEETING**
- Sunday, January 29th at 1pm (via TBE Zoom!)—**Book Club meeting.** The book is *Unorthodox* by Deborah Feldman
- Friday December 23rd during the day!—**Cooking Class** – More information to come but will be cooking Sufganiyot (jelly donuts)
- Sunday, December 18th—**Latke Brunch!** Please see flyer and order form in this Shofar!!

**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:

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!!

Helen Armistead—Secretary; [armisteadlmft@gmail.com](mailto:armisteadlmft@gmail.com)

## LIZ SHERWYN

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web: [lizsherwyn.wordpress.com](http://lizsherwyn.wordpress.com)

## BLUE STAR TAXI

All Major Credit Cards Accepted



### 661-345-1125

Bakersfield, California

### Hanukkah & Krazy Kilometers VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

...for the race day on Sunday,  
December 11th at the  
Panorama Vista Preserve.

We need people for parking,  
check-in, start/finish area,  
course guides, water station  
and clean-up.

Please contact  
Stacy Davis at (661) 319-  
4069 or  
Linda Hakimi at (661) 303-  
8687 to volunteer!

### 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](mailto:aabrams@bak.rr.com)

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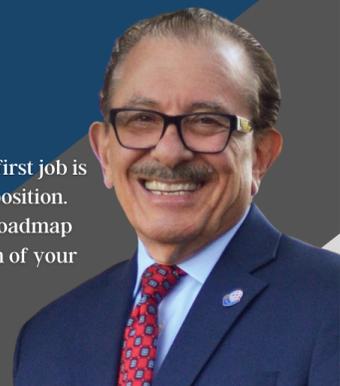
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Website: [www.kern-advisors.com](http://www.kern-advisors.com)

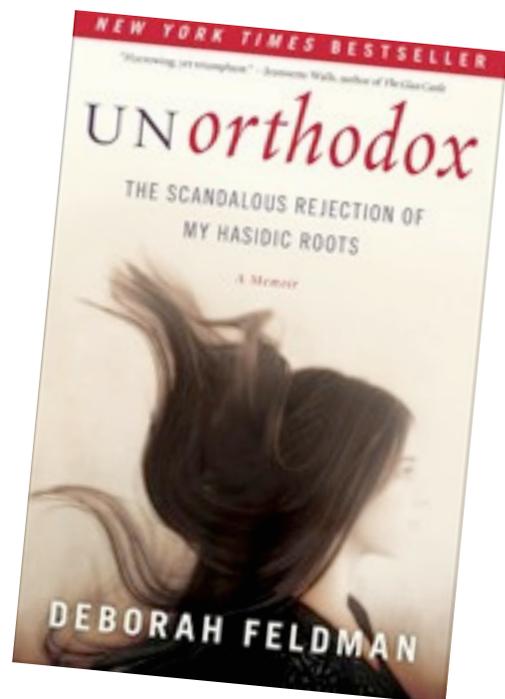
"As your financial professional, my first job is to help you protect your current position. Then I work with you to create a roadmap for the achievement and protection of your full vision."



Our next **Sisterhood Book Club** read is **Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of my Hasidic Roots** by Deborah Feldman. We will meet to discuss on Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 1pm via TBE Zoom.

Unorthodox is a memoir by Deborah Feldman, a former member of the Satmar community in Brooklyn. Feldman describes the deeply religious environment in which she grew up, closed off from the rest of society and kept from any type of secular education and upbringing. Raised by her grandparents after being abandoned by her mother (who leaves Satmar and is no longer religious) and her mentally unstable father, Feldman attends Satmar schools, where only Yiddish is spoken and reading books in English is forbidden.

She writes about her secret trips to the public library, hiding books under her mattress and hoping her grandfather doesn't find out. She describes her regret for lacking the "enlightenment" felt by the other girls in her school and community, and her struggles from a young age with the feeling that this life isn't for her. She is married off at seventeen to a man she meets once, and that's when her rebellion begins. She learns to drive, grows out her once-shaved hair and attends Sarah Lawrence College. After a car accident almost kills her, Feldman realizes what is most important to her. She leaves her husband, takes her son, and starts a new life without the wigs, heavy clothes, and religious restrictions.



# December 2022 Jahrzeits

<b>November 25 Shabbat Services</b>	
Jack Lollar, father of Laura Wolfe	11/26
Rahel Kamali, aunt of Ahron Hakimi	11/27
Molka Ruhl Lekht, mother of Etel Lewis	11/27
+Ros Strauss, mother of Judy Strauss	11/27, Kislev 3
Louis Weisman, brother of William Weisman	11/27
Irma Sachs Adler, sister of Shirley Ann Newman (z"l); aunt of Heidi Allison	11/28
Mildred Frances Andrews, mother of Andy Andrews	11/28
Soledad (Sally) Davis, mother of Mark Davis	11/28
Alexa Rose McDowell, granddaughter of Nancy and Arthur McCombs	11/28
Ann Peterson-Saslaw, wife of Larry Saslaw	11/28
Boris Weisberg, father of Sylvia Neal z"l	11/28
Abraham Kessler, father of Ann Diamond	11/29
Eva Kessler, mother of Ann Diamond	12/1
<b>December 2 Shabbat Services</b>	
+Isabella Pike, mother-in-law of Arline Pike z"l; grandmother of Irvin Pike	12/2
Irene Young, mother of Robert Young	12/2
Nathan Feldman, father of Michael Feldman	12/4
+Stanley H. Fish, father of Larry Fish	12/4
Faith Parris, mother of Marcy Smith	12/4
Marilyn Smith, mother of Robert Smith	12/5
Lillian Waller, great-aunt of Diane Andrews	12/5
+Oscar Lipco, Grandfather of Lisa Levine and Sharon Lipco z"l	12/6
Linnie Pearl McCombs, mother of Arthur McCombs	12/7
Holly Udahl, sister of Helen Armistead and Jeff Schwartz; daughter of Stan z"l and Norma z"l Schwartz	12/7
Mary Ancelet, sister of Andy Andrews	12/8
Bob Christenson, husband of Irene Christenson z"l	12/8
Mitchell Magadow, uncle of Mary Speare	12/8
<b>December 9 Shabbat Services</b>	
Jeanette Gintzler, great-aunt of Laura Lauria; great-great aunt of Amanda Garza	12/9
+Clara Shapiro, great aunt of Steven Magnus; great-great aunt of Elliott Magnus	12/9
Charles Weisberg, friend of Dan z"l and Mary Speare	12/9
John Bridges, uncle of Karen Briefer	12/10
Joseph Felsenfeld, father of Esther Brandon	12/10

Peggy Fried, mother of Drina Fried	12/10
+Stanley Fram, father of Joe Fram	12/12
Rita Fromm, stepmother of Tim Fromm	12/14
Bud Simmons, uncle of Bonnie Birch	12/14
<b>December 16 Shabbat Services</b>	
Jack LeMuie, stepfather of Bonnie Birch	12/16
+Robert B. Strauss, uncle of Judy Strauss	12/16
+Melvin Magnus, father of Steven Magnus; grandfather of Elliott Magnus	12/18
+William Solomon, grandfather of Greg Broida	12/18
+Rosemarie Azgour, wife of Max Azgour z"l	12/20
+Shirley B. Lipco, mother of Lisa Levine and Sharon Lipco z"l	12/21
Aaron Schechter, grandfather of Ilene Schechter	12/21
Ruth Briefer, grandmother of Karen Briefer	12/22
<b>December 23 Shabbat Services</b>	
Helen Kolatch, friend of Lisa Levine	12/23
Manya Schneider, aunt of Norma Schwartz z"l; great-aunt of Helen Armistead and Jeff Schwartz	12/23
Edward Schwartz, grandfather of Susie Simrin and Amy Knight z"l	12/23
Arthur Sachs, father of Shirley Ann Newman z"l; grandfather of Heidi Allison	12/24
Neva Benedict, grandmother of Gail Magnus; great-grandmother of Elliott Magnus	12/25
Bracha Hayoun-Weiss, sister of Haya Klein	12/25
Ethel K. Bregor, mother of Jackie Rudnick z'l	12/26
Merrilee Bronstein, grandmother of Julia Brennan	12/26
Ebba Jensen, grandmother of Laura Wolfe	12/26
Seymour Schechter, father of Ilene Schechter	12/26
Jack Vogel, grandfather of Leah Bank	12/26
Katherine Knight, mother of John Knight	12/27
Tony Alfred Chavez, father of Rudie Chavez	12/28
+William Goldberg, father of Risha Grosberg	12/28
Alfonso Gonzalez, brother of Rose Broida	12/28
N. Alexander Potter, husband of Judy Potter	12/28
Sol Weiss, grandfather of Sarah Weiss	12/28
+Betty Cohn, mother of Susan Cohn z"l; sister of Milton Younger z"l	12/29
Burton Epstein, father of Leonard Epstein	12/29
<b>December 30 Shabbat Services</b>	
+Marjorie Joan Atencio, Mother of Susie Simrin and Amy Knight z'l	12/31
Milton Gintzler, great uncle of Laura Lauria	1/1
Thomas Lauria, father of Ronald Lauria; great-great uncle of Amanda Garza	1/1

**yarzeits continued**

<b>Gerald Lewis</b> , husband of Etel lewis	1/1
<b>Ruth Schneider</b> , aunt of Helen Armistead and Jeff Schwartz; sister-in-law of Norma Schwartz z"l	1/1
<b>Bernice Black</b> , mother of Diane Andrews	1/2
<b>+David Davis</b> , remembered by Temple Beth El	1/3
<b>Morris Gintzler</b> , great-uncle of Laura Lauria; great-great uncle of Amanda Garza	1/5
<b>Ruth Morales</b> , mother of Linda Morales	1/5
<b>Samantha Nicole Sacks</b> , grand-niece of Mary Speare	1/5
<b>Esther Siegel</b> , mother of Leon Siegel z"l; grandmother of Sharon Rhodes	1/5

Consider donating an extra meal for a shut-in or someone who cannot afford it. Make a donation [here](#), and then let Helen or Ilene know.

**Norma's Latke Brunch!!**

**December 18, 2022, 11:30 am-1:30pm**

Order at [www.templebethelevent.org](http://www.templebethelevent.org)

Or print and mail order form to, and come join us in person or pick up order at:

Temple Beth El, 2906 Loma Linda Dr, Bakersfield, Ca 93305

Email to [armisteadlmft@gmail.com](mailto:armisteadlmft@gmail.com); fax to 661.399.3813

Latke brunch includes: Latkes, Cheese Soufflé, Coffee cake muffins, Sour cream, Apple Sauce and garnishments. In person also includes variety of beverages.

	# ORDERED	TOTAL AMOUNT
Latke Brunch Adult (in Person)- \$16	_____	_____
Latke Brunch Adult (pick up)- \$15	_____	_____
Latke Brunch Child (in person) \$8	_____	_____
Latke Brunch Child (pick up) \$7	_____	_____
Chips & Artichoke Dip - \$8	_____	_____
Norma's Coffee Cake Muffins- 2/\$6	_____	_____
<b>Total Due</b>		_____

\_\_\_ Check enclosed for total amount made out to WOTBE (Women of Temple Beth El)

\_\_\_ Credit/Debit Card- # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

CSV \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address with Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In Person \_\_\_ Pick up times 11:30-1:30 \_\_\_ Special need delivery after event

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



**Norma's**  
**Latke Brunch!**  
**to Celebrate Chanukah (Hanukkah)**

**Dec. 18, 2022 11:30 am - 1:30 pm**

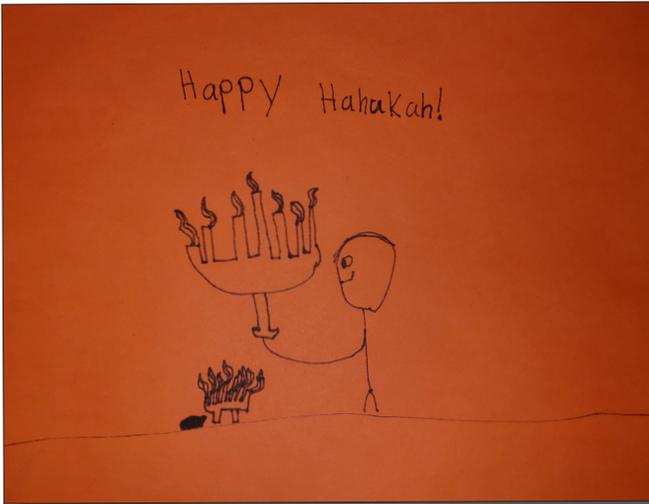
**[www.templebetheevent.org](http://www.templebetheevent.org)**

**The meal is served with Latkes (potato pancakes), applesauce and/or sour cream, muffin, Norma's Ortega Cheese Souffle and other condiments. Other brunch items may be available at an additional cost.**

**Eat in Person or Reserve Your Meals and Pick Them Up at  
 Temple Beth El 2906 Loma Linda Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93305**

	<b>Pick up *</b>	<b>In Person</b>
<b>Latke Brunch - Adult</b>	<b>- 15.00</b>	<b>16.00</b>
<b>Latke Brunch - Child</b>	<b>- 7.00</b>	<b>8.00</b>
<b>Chips &amp; Artichoke Dip</b>	<b>- 8.00</b>	<b>8.00</b>
<b>Coffee Cake Muffins (2)</b>	<b>- 6.00</b>	<b>6.00</b>





In this enlightened age and in this land of equal liberty, it is our boast, that a man's religious tenets will not forfeit the protection of the laws, nor deprive him of the right of attaining and holding the highest offices that are known in the United States." Words like these remind minority groups that there is light, joy, gladness, and honor for us in this country (cf. Esther 8:16). In fact, we have been invited to contribute to our nation's desire "to form a more perfect union" for all.

However, we are frequently sidelined during the holidays, and as horrid anti-Semitic incidents make

headlines these days, we could use more allyship with our Christian neighbors—fellow Americans—so that all of us can have a meaningful holiday season. Some suggestions:

- Visit "Jewish Virtual Library" online, a resource for understanding Judaism through a Jewish lens, to learn about Chanukah.
- Wish Jewish friends a Happy Chanukah! Let's CELEBRATE diversity, a core American value.
- Use "Happy Holidays" whenever there is the smallest doubt as to someone's worldview.
- In charge of holiday activities? Create space for non-Christmas holidays such as Chanukah, Kwanzaa, or "Festivus for the rest of us."

The Talmud teaches "The Merciful One requires the heart." Surely, all of us would benefit from more heart, more acknowledgement, more light. Rabbi Klein says, Bring Light to All. Have a Happy Holiday, however and wherever you wish!

**Rabbi Jonathan Klein**



**Here are some  
epically  
funny  
Hanukkah fails!**

**And now for  
something  
completely  
different...**



(above) Happy HahnuKah!  
Art by Elijah Delijani, 8 years old

# Temple Contributions

*We would like to thank the following nadvanim:*

## **Kol Nidre Donation**

Helen & Tom Armistead  
Héber Cruz Berber & Emma Goss  
Mary Gerena  
Sylvia Klein  
Ronald & Laura Lauria  
Nancy & Arthur McCombs  
Joshua & Edith Rudnick  
Ilene Schechter  
William & Terry Skinner  
Lawrence & Karen Zano

## **Memorials/Yahrzeit**

**Bob & Heidi Allison:** in memory of Maxwell Newman  
**Ronald & Laura Lauria:** in memory of Sam Gintzler  
**Ilene Schechter:** in memory of Aaron Schechter and Seymour Schechter

## **Tree of Life**

**Andy & Ella Abrams:** in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Tzipora Escobedo  
**Helen & Tom Armistead:** in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Tzipora Escobedo

**Esther & Rogers Brandon:** in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Tzipora Escobedo

**Timothy Fromm:** in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Tzipora Escobedo

**Ilene Schechter:** Bat Mitzvah of Tzipora Escobedo

## **Rabbi Discretionary**

**Andy & Ella Abrams**

**Erin Berry**

**Leonard & Carla Epstein**

**Steven & Shelley Simrin:** Amy Knight funeral officiant

**Eytan Wallace:** in honor of Irvin Pike and Pamela Elisheva, in honor of Rabbi Klein, Tim Fromm, Ilene Schechter, Marc Schulman

## **Caring Committee**

**Andy & Ella Abrams:** Speedy healing for Vivian Gonzales

**Andy & Diane Andrews:** in memory of Amy Knight Erin Berry

**Steven & Shelley Simrin:** meal of condolence for Amy Knight

## **Social Action Comm**

**Esther & Rogers Brandon:** in memory of Morgan Patten

## **An Update on TBE's Food Policy**

The Women of Temple Beth El/ Jewish Child Center Committee consisting of Helen Armistead, Kathleen Chambers and Ilene Schechter met to discuss a Temple Beth El Kitchen Policy. Kathleen reviewed various notes from the Religious Practices Committee from 1963-1990s. She found an entry from the committee on November 17, 1987 when the committee was chaired by Stan Simrin. The entry states the following:

"A request has been made by a congregant that the Religious Practices committee formulate a policy regarding the food served on the premises. After considerable discussion; it was decided that the following policy be presented to the board: To forbid pig products, shell fish or a look alike substitutes so that people viewing the food are not offended." The Food Policy Committee recommends that the policy remains the same. It is evident that the policy has been in practice for many years and seems to have worked.

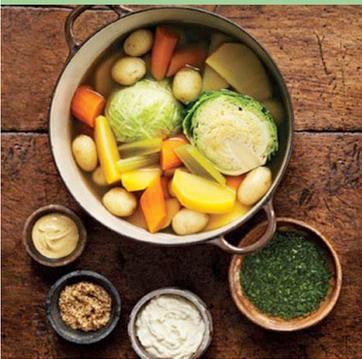
The committee believes that further restrictions would be difficult to implement as there are limited resources in Bakersfield. It is noted that Bright Beginnings Learning Center will also follow this policy. Board Meeting convened on November 8, 2022, all members concurred to accept the Food Policy.

Respectively submitted by Ilene Schechter, Parliamentarian.

# KITCHEN NEWS

## REMINDER from Sisterhood Leadership

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!!



TEMPLE BETH EL'S

# 75<sup>th</sup>

## ANNIVERSARY

*Diamond Jubilee Celebration*

SAVE THE DATE

**FEBRUARY 25, 2023**

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING  
RABBI JONATHAN KLEIN FOR HIS  
OFFICIAL WELCOME TO BAKERSFIELD

# ATOM

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# December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>PLEASE NOTE: All temple activities will be conducted using an on-site/ZOOM hybrid model, unless otherwise stated.</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Family Services	<b>3</b> 10am Bat Mitzvah of Tzipora Escobedo
<b>4</b> 9:30am Religious School	<b>5</b> 11:30am Simcha Set at Rosemary's	<b>6</b> 9:00am Prayer Book Study (via zoom)  6:00pm Religious Practices (via zoom)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6:00pm Chardonnay Shabbat (Services begin at 6:30pm)	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:30am Religious School  Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers at Panorama Vista Preserve	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:00am Prayer Book Study (via zoom)  7:00pm Board Meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 4:30pm Sisterhood leadership meeting	<b>16</b> 7:00pm Shabbat Services	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:30am Religious School  11:30am Latke Brunch  First Night of Hanukkah	<b>19</b>  Second Night of Hanukkah	<b>20</b> 9:00am Prayer Book Study (via zoom)  Third Night of Hanukkah	<b>21</b>  Fourth Night of Hanukkah	<b>22</b>  Fifth Night of Hanukkah	<b>23</b> 6:00pm Hanukkah Menorah Lighting Shabbat Services  Sixth Night of Hanukkah	<b>24</b>  Seventh Night of Hanukkah
<b>25</b> NO Religious School  Eighth Night of Hanukkah	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00am Prayer Book Study (via zoom)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00pm Shabbat Services	<b>31</b>  New Year's Eve



# Religious School Update

Greetings from the TBE Religious School! This month has whizzed by, hasn't it? Because of the way the holidays aligned on the calendar, we only had two sessions in November. But they were filled with creativity, study, and prayer.



Mr. Tim introduced a new game to the Little Ones around the letter Chai. To help students achieve that most desirable "old man gargling in the morning" sound, he got out his bag of M&Ms. VERY effective. Nice and phlemmy. The Middles and BOoTY are continuing to work together to create an multimedia want ad to recruit new prophets. They're interviewing everyone and anyone who comes by. There's a pattern emerging: People are interested in the job until there's mention of the fact that you could possibly die. Then, enthusiasm about the position wanes. (We're rethinking our interview questions...lol!)

We plan to have a tzedakah project ready in time for the Latke Brunch (December 18th) so that everyone coming to the brunch can participate. Our unscientific poll suggests it will be in the area of animal care and food insecurity. Stay tuned!

## December/January Religious School class schedule

**December:** 4th, 11th, 18th.

**January:** 8th, 22nd, 29th.

We assemble at 9:30 in the Social Hall. T'filah begins at 10:00 with the Rabbi. Class resumes at 10:30 and continues until it's time to leave at 11:30.

Jill Egland, Principal



## Hanukkah

## Shabbat

On **Friday, December 23rd** Shabbat service, families are invited to attend our communal menorah lighting in the Synagogue at **6pm**. After the menorah lighting, there will be a family-oriented, Hanukkah Shabbat service. Please attend service with the entire family. For questions, contact Amanda Garza.



Our **Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers and 2K Latke Loop** event will be back in person on **December 11th** at the Panorama Vista Preserve. It is a 938-acre natural habitat preserve situated along the Kern River in Bakersfield, California.

We're expecting over 200 participants at this year's run. A portion of each participant's registration fee will be donated to the **Kern River Parkway Foundation**. This is a local non-profit organization that works to protect, preserve, and restore the natural riparian and wildlife habitat of the Kern River.

The run will include a raffle for all participants. The cost for the 2K is \$30 and the 8K is \$34.00. Create a team of 3 or more and each team member will receive a registration discount (\$3 for the 8K -- \$2 for the 2K). Register here: <https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Bakersfield/8krazykilometers>



Click [HERE](#) to view a comprehensive list of issues that the Religious Action Center advocates for:



## An Update from RAC-CA

### Save the Date: Regional Gatherings!

The upcoming **Regional Gatherings** will include time to connect and share questions, ideas and successes (and flops!) in the work of organizing for justice in our congregations, as well as training and resources specific to the RAC-CA Climate Tzedek Campaign, and updates on the campaign and how our congregation can be involved.

**Our Regional Gathering is in Los Angeles** – Sunday, Jan. 22, 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. at Temple Israel of Hollywood

These gatherings will be in-person, with a virtual option for parts of the program. Please let Larry Saslaw or Jill Egland know if you are interested in participating. It would be great to have a strong contingent of Kern County Jews!

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

# 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](mailto:tbebakersfield@gmail.com)  
Deadline for the January Shofar is December 15, 2022

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**TEMPLE BETH EL**

2906 Loma Linda Drive  
Bakersfield, CA 93305  
(661) 322-7607 Office  
(661) 322-7807 Fax

[www.templebethelbakersfield.org](http://www.templebethelbakersfield.org)

Rabbi Jonathan Klein [tberabbiklein@gmail.com](mailto:tberabbiklein@gmail.com) | (424) 248-5775  
Freyda Hensley, Office Administrator

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**TEMPLE BETH EL**

2906 Loma Linda Drive  
Bakersfield, CA 93305