

The Shofar

Temple Beth El • Bakersfield, CA

Where Judaism Lives

February 2023 • Shevat-Adar 5783



TEMPLE BETH EL'S

75th

ANNIVERSARY

Shabbat Services
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, 7 PM
TEMPLE BETH EL
INSTALLATION OF
RABBI JONATHAN HLEIN

Diamond Jubilee Celebration
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 5 PM
BAKERSFIELD COUNTRY CLUB
4200 COUNTRY CLUB DR



Temple Beth El
Bakersfield, California

The poster features a dark blue background with gold balloons, stars, and confetti. The text is primarily in gold and white, with some elements in a cursive script. The logo at the bottom is a stylized menorah.



The President's Perspective

As I've been helping with the preparations for our Temple Beth El 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration, I've been going through pictures from the 40th and 50th Tribute Books and the several photo albums compiled by the Temple historians over the years.

I came across these four pictures of our religious school that I'd like to share and reflect upon. Whether we look back at the 1961 picture of the robust numbers of Jewish children in the religious school, the 1990's picture of Miss Irene with the Hagan kids, the current children with Mr. Tim and Miss Susie combining the teaching of our few children at a single table, or last year's planting of a tree on Tu Bishvat, our purpose has been the same: teach our children about the rich history of our Jewish people, teach Torah and the values for living a Jewish life to help repair our world, to teach the Jewish traditions in our communities and homes so they will have the knowledge and experience to practice Judaism, and to demonstrate how Temple members give of themselves for our Temple Community.

The theme that Jill and I have been building the 75th Tribute Book around is looking back at Temple Beth El through the years in passing traditions l'dor va'dor to keep them alive: "for all generations, forever."

I hope you will join in our 75th celebration to reflect upon and honor our congregation in this important and sacred work. It has been our Temple Beth El, Bakersfield, California tradition to be the place in the hinterlands of the Southern San Joaquin Valley to live, experience, and teach our Jewish values, history, and traditions from generation-to-generation l'dor va'dor.

May we continue to step up, join in, and be a link in the chain of Jewish history.

Larry Saslaw
President



The Rabbi's Reflections

Eight Rabbis in 75 Years

This month will be a very special one for Temple Beth El. On Friday, February 24th, I will be officially installed as the eighth rabbi of the synagogue since 1947, and the evening will be enhanced with lots of wonderful guests, including two of my closest colleagues, Rabbi David Lazar and Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Zasloff. The immediate past two rabbis, Rabbi Steve Peskind and Rabbi Cheryl Rosenstein, plan to join us as well for the weekend, and I'm hoping my congregational colleague, Rabbi Wynne Waugaman, will also be on hand! Being surrounded by other colleagues warms my heart; I celebrate the gifts of other teachers, my predecessors. Standing on the shoulders of giants.

We began our studies in Pirkei Avot (a collection of aphorisms by the rabbis found within the Mishnah, the first Jewish law code ~200 CE) with a text that speaks of the Shalshet HaKabbalah, "the chain of receiving (the tradition)" that links our evolving tradition back to Moshe Rabbeinu, Our Teacher Moses, at Sinai: "Moses received Torah from Sinai and sent it to Joshua, and Joshua to the Elders, and the Elders to the Prophets, and the Prophets sent it to Members of the Great Assembly. They said three things: Be deliberate in justice, raise many students, and make a (protective) fence for Torah."

I am just a small player in a mighty tradition, one that has made Temple Beth El an important center for Jewish learning and expression. I am the latest custodian of something much bigger than any of us alone, a legacy of learning and a celebration of Jewish values and tikkun (healing, fixing, perfecting) that has been a blessing for Kern County and the entire San Joaquin Valley. How wonderful that both Rabbis Peskind (who served 1979-1982) and Rosenstein (1993-2019) will be joining us! Each of them, in their own ways, along with Founding Rabbi Sanford E. Rosen (Whose installation was September 7, 1947 and who served until 1952), Abraham Haselkorn, Milton Shulman (1953-9), Arthur J. Kolatch (1959-1972), and Stanley I. Robin (1972-1979) have built our sacred foundation for Jewish life in Bakersfield, each contributing their own talents and gifts to building a vibrant community for all.

I do not take this moment lightly; I know that I have big shoes to fill, that this shalshet dorot Rabbanim (chain of generations of rabbis) ultimately goes way, way back, to Moshe Rabbeinu himself...or perhaps even further back to Avraham Avinu and Sarah Imeinu. After all, the text known as Pirkei Avot, referenced above, carries the word Avot, or parents. What an extraordinary notion, that we have spiritual parents, thinkers who have sustained our existence spiritually, in some ways more than our actual parents. The rabbis teach that if your parent loses something or your teacher ("rabbi") loses something, you search for the lost object of your teacher first. It adds both gravitas and perspective regarding our teachers. Perhaps this is why I consider teaching the apex of contribution in this world. Just like Maimonides, who



Rabbi, continued from page 3

his ladder of Tzedakah taught that the highest level of giving is to teach a person a trade.

This emphasis in our tradition on intergenerational learning hearkens to the Kaddish D'Rabbanan, a special Kaddish recited upon learning Torah. Debbie Friedman put it to music:

For our teachers and their students
and the students of the students
We ask for peace and lovingkindness,
and let us say, amen.
And for those who study Torah here and
everywhere:
May they be blessed with all they need and let us
say, amen.
May there be peace and lovingkindness
and let us say, amen!

And so here we are, with 75 years of service to the Jewish community of Kern County, celebrating our continued strength as a centerpiece of Jewish life in the San Joaquin Valley, with hopes that in another 75 years, perhaps Reece and Jamison and Hendrix and Lennon among others will mark the sesquicentennial of Temple Beth El with memories of our celebration, on Saturday night, February 25th at the Bakersfield Country Club. Add your tribute to this Shalshet Kabbalah, this longstanding existence of Torah and proliferation of its priceless values that we pray will continue Midor l'dor, from generation to generation, and serve as "A tree of life to those who grasp it, that all who cling to it will be enriched. Its ways are ways of pleasantness, and all its paths are peace."

See you on the 24th at Shabbat services, on the 25th for the gala! Don't forget to buy your tickets!

B'ahavah, with Love,

**Rabbi Klein,
the 8th BakersfielderRebbe-elect**

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

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/>

Don't
Forget!

Simcha Set Luncheon
at Great Castle
on Union Avenue at 9th Street

**Happy
Birthday!**

February 2, 2023
Ella Abrams

February 8, 2023
Martin Kessler

February 9, 2023
Ali Moore

February 11, 2023
Hunter Rittenberg

February 13, 2023
Karen Briefer


February 15, 2023
Isabel Theron

February 17, 2023
Henry Wainwright
Matthew Wolfe

February 19, 2023
Shelby Rothberg

February 21, 2023
Joshua Rudnick

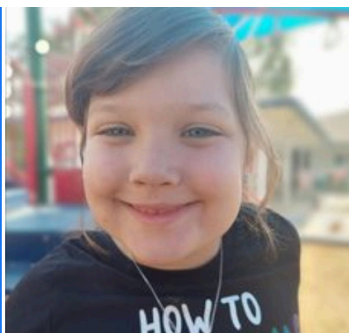
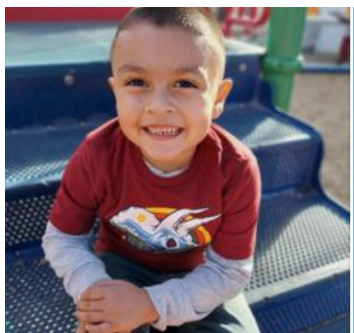
February 24, 2023
Zachary Kay

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.



SISTERHOOD CHAI•LIGHTS

February 2023

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 February and in the future!

Thursday February 16th at 4:30pm—**Sisterhood Leadership Meeting**

Sunday February 19th at 3pm—**General Meeting.**

Book Club meeting—New book needs to be picked will update via email!

Cooking Class—Due to unforeseen circumstances cooking classes have been canceled until further notice.

Oneg for Rabbi's installation—Please let Helen or Ilene know if you can make/bring something for this Oneg on Friday the 24th!

UpComing Events:

Sisterhood Ta/kitchen shower—Gail and Susie will be coordinating Refuat Ha'Nefesh and women's prayer program for May.

Please consider joining some great women!! We are now on Facebook! If you would like an invite to join our group please let one of the leadership team know!! 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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Bakersfield, California

Changes?

Please notify Freyda at the Temple office (661-322-7607 or tbebakfield@gmail.com) with your membership information: addresses (including email), phone number(s), births, marriage, yahrzeits. Please help up keep our membership directory updated.

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. One way we honor those who helped shape our lives is by adding a bronze Yahrzeit Memorial Plaque to the walls of the Temple foyer. Contact Andy Abrams: aabrams@bak.rr.com

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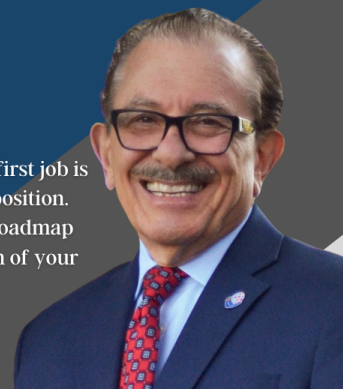
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Temple Contributions

We would like to thank the following nadvanim:

Kol Nidre Donation

Timothy Fromm

Marc Schulman

Wynne Waugaman & Leo Strom

Memorials/Yahrzeit

Bob & Heidi Allison: in memory of William Adler

Selwyn & Cecily Kay: in memory of Valerie Segil

Martin & Barbara Kessler: in memory of Rose Blatt

Ronald & Laura Lauria: in memory of Milton Gintzler, Thomas Lauria, Morris Gintzler

Etta Robin: in memory of Michele Kleiman

Ilene Schechter: in memory of Aaron "Harry" Somkin

Marc Schulman: in memory of Ann Diamond

Elaine & Douglas White: in memory of Stanley Witer

Tree of Life

Marc Schulman: in honor of the Bat Mitzvot of Tziporah Escobedo & Dorothy Rittenberg

Elaine & Douglas White: in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Tziporah Escobedo

Rabbi Discretionary

Andy & Ella Abrams

Leonard & Carla Epstein

Martin & Barbara Kessler: memorial and shiva for Rose Blatt

Wynne Waugaman: in memory of Leo David Strom

Caring Committee

Etta Robin: Meal of Condolence

Religious School Donation

Ahron & Linda Hakimi: Bakersfield Pet Food Pantry

February 2023 Yahrzeits

1/27 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
Harvey Abarbanell, father of Ross Abarbanell	2/1
Lillian Bridges, aunt of Karen Briefer	2/1
Francisco Reyes, father of Ricardo Reyes	2/2
Ira Schenkman, father of Richard Schenkman	2/2
Yehudit Sheriki, mother of Haya Klein	2/2, Adar-1 1
Bessie Jenkins, grandmother of Terry Skinner	2/3
2/3 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
Milton Rudnick, brother-in-law of Marcia Rudnick; husband of Diane Rudnick z"l; uncle of Joshua Rudnick and Libbie Mahan; brother of Phil Rudnick and Miriam Stull; father of Melanie Rudnick, Husband of Diane Rudnick z"l	2/4
Sylvia Rudnick, sister of Marcus Rudnick, Milton Rudnick z"l, Phil Rudnick and Miriam Stull, aunt of Joshua Rudnick and Libbie Mahan	2/4
+Shel Cohn, remembered by Temple Beth El	2/4
+Celia Younger, mother of Milton Younger z"l; grandmother of Susan Cohn z"l	2/4
Warren Gold, friend of Leonard and Carla Epstein	2/5
Marty McNeill, friend of Karen Briefer	2/5
+David Pike, uncle of Irvin Pike; brother-in-law of Arline Pike z"l	2/5
Gertrude Gubits, aunt of Lynne Rosenstein, great-aunt of Rabbi Cheryl Rosenstein	2/6, Adar-I 5
Selma Meyer, sister of Ella Abrams	2/6
Saralee Rudnick, mother of Joshua Philip Rudnick	2/7
Barry Berman, husband of Tricia Berman	2/7
+Betty Ida Blum, remembered by Temple Beth El	2/7
Yvonne Bitton, mother of Dorise Bitton	2/8, Adar-I 7
Kenneth Carraway, step-father of Connie Wellman, z"l	2/8
Clarence Dorris, father of Gail Magnus, grandfather of Elliott Magnus	2/8
Louis Krute, grandfather of Jackie Rudnick z"l	2/8
+Joseph Louis Baron, remembered by Temple Beth El	2/8
Jennie Bregor, grandmother of Jackie Rudnick z"l	2/9
Mary Egland, mother of Jill Egland, grandmother of Amelia Egland	2/9
Thomas G. Lauria Jr., brother of Ronald Lauria, uncle of Amanda Garza	2/9
Sherman Klein, father of Rabbi Jonathan Klein	2/10, Adar-I 9
2/10 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
Rabbi Israel Neuman, brother-in-law of Shirley Ann Newman z"l, uncle of Heidi Allison	2/11 Adar-I 10
Ellen Abrams, daughter of Al z"l and Charlotte Abrams, sister of Andy Abrams	2/12
Harold Berman, uncle of Lisa Levine	2/12
Edward Bishop, father of Linda Hakimi	2/12

Herbert Blatt , father of Barbara Kessler, husband of Rose Blatt z”l, grandfather of David Kessler	2/12, Adar-I 11
Esther Fenig , grandmother of Barry Goldner, great-grandmother of Rachel Goldner	2/13
Zina Lekht , niece of Etel Lewis	2/13
+Dorothy Levey , mother of Muriel Vekas z”l and Arline Pike z”l, grandmother of Irvin Pike	2/13
+Sophie Rudnick , stepmother of Marcus Rudnick z”l, Milton Rudnick z”l, Miriam Stull and Phil Rudnick, grandmother of Joshua Rudnick and Libbie Mahan	2/14
Valerie Segil , sister of Selwyn Kay	2/14
+Louis Pearlmutter , remembered by Temple Beth El	2/14
Yetta Davis , mother-in-law of Pearl Davis	2/15
+Gayle Nestle , remembered by Temple Beth El	2/15
Elbert (Bert) Kantor , brother of Bob Allison	2/16
+Lester Makoff , remembered by Temple Beth El	2/17
2/17 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
Harvey W. Goodman , father of Marsha Greenstein	2/18
Joseph Levey , uncle of Muriel Vekas z”l and Arline Pike z”l, great-uncle of Irvin Pike	2/18
Harold Redding , father of Jeanne Moore	2/19
Irwin Lewis Sacks , brother-in-law of Dan z”l and Mary Speare	2/19
Suzanne Shelton , friend of Irvin Pike	2/19
Daniel Speare , husband of Mary Speare	2/20
+Henry A. Horwitz , remembered by Temple Beth El	2/20
Jess Leighton , father of Jan Rockoff z”l	2/21, Adar-I 20
Fannie Rosenberg , mother of Dan Speare z”l	2/21
+Lillian Graves Schwartz , remembered by Temple Beth El	2/21

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 the Caring Committee so that we may continue to support our mourners in their time of need.

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



Frank Russinsky , father of Jeff Russinsky, grandfather of Sage and Laura Russinsky	2/22
Loraine Baranowicz , sister of Alex Likehart	2/22
Moshe Eliezar Neuman , father-in-law of Shirley Ann Newman z"l, grandfather of Heidi Allison	2/22, Adar-I 21
Shifra Neuman , mother-in-law of Shirley Ann Newman z"l, grandmother of Heidi Allison	2/22, Adar-I 21
Rifka Rubenstein Sprung , grandmother of Maxwell Newman z"l, great-grandmother of Heidi Allison	2/22, Adar-I 21
+Henry Eggar , remembered by Temple Beth El	2/22
Libbie Berman Rudnick , mother of Miriam Stull and Phil Rudnick; grandmother of Libbie Mahan, Libbie Stull, Susan Stull, Victor Stull, and Joshua Rudnick	2/23
+Irving Weisman , father of William Weisman	2/23
+Hyman Lionel Klackoff , remembered by Temple Beth El	2/23
+Stan Simrin , husband of Sonia Simrin z"l, great-uncle of Adam Rodriquez, father of Susie Simrin and Amy Knight z"l	2/24
+Oscar Katz , remembered by Temple Beth El	2/24
2/24 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
Christopher Chavez , son of Rudie and Maria Chavez; brother of David, Jacob and Rachel Chavez	2/25
Rae Cherry , aunt of Helen Armistead and Jeff Schwartz, great-aunt of Rachael Sheeter, sister of Norma Schwartz z"l	2/25, Adar-I 24
Edward Dyer , grandfather of Connie Wellman z"l	2/25
Celia Herowitz , aunt of Sonia Simrin z"l	2/25
+Leo Frank , remembered by Temple Beth El	2/25
+Leo Soren , remembered by Temple Beth El	2/26
Ralph Farbman , great-uncle of Debi Hazel	2/27
+Bruce Stephen Helfert, M.D. remembered by Temple Beth El	2/27
Stanley Schwartz , father of Helen Armistead and Jeff Schwartz, husband of Norma Schwartz z"l	2/27, Adar-I 26
Harriet Hershey , remembered By Temple Beth El	2/27
Adolph Bernstein , father of Stacy Davis	3/1
Ruth Broida Harter , mother of Greg Broida, grandmother of Michael Broida	3/1
Anne Caplan , mother of Diane Rogers	3/1, Adar-I 28
Michael Calvin Brust , remembered by David and Lillian Brust	3/2
Harold Greenstein , father of Jay Greenstein	3/2
Estelle Salnitsky , aunt of Esther Brandon	3/3

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!!

The Religious School is collecting tsedakah for the **Bakersfield Pet Food Pantry**, an organization that helps owners continue caring for their family pets despite economic hardship.

Did You Know?

A record number of dogs and cats are taken to shelters or abandoned because their owners can no longer afford to feed them.



“Bakersfield Pet Food Pantry knows that our strength lies not only in the words we stand by, but most importantly through the actions of our initiatives.”

Making A Difference

“We started in April of 2009, donating pet food to folks who were receiving food from a local church and soup kitchen in Oildale. Quickly we saw a need far broader in this town than imagined. Bakersfield has a high unemployment rate along with overcrowded animal shelters.

“Many community members don’t have enough money to feed their beloved four-legged companions. They often have to make a choice between feeding themselves or their pet.

“To date, over 700,000 pounds of pet food has come through our pantry to be given to those in need. Hardship continues for many in our community and the need seems to grow each year.

“We get calls everyday from desperate pet owners asking for help. Many of our pet food recipients frequent food banks themselves. We are solely dependent on public support of monetary contributions, pet food, and volunteer work.

“Our goal is no family pet goes hungry.”

Please donate! Go online to templebethelbakersfield.org/donate



February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 6:00pm Family Services	4
5 9:30am Religious School	6 11:30am Simcha Set at Great Castle	7 9:00am Prayer Book Study (via zoom) 6:00pm Religious Practices Meeting	8	9	10 6:00pm Chardonay Shabbat (Services begin at 6:30pm)	11
12 9:30 Religious School	13	14 9:00am Prayer Book Study (via zoom) 7:00pm Board Meeting 7:15pm Hebrew Language Class via zoom	15	16 4:30pm Sisterhood leadership meeting	17 7:00pm Shabbat Services	18
19 9:30am Religious School	20	21 9:00am Prayer Book Study (via zoom) 7:15pm Hebrew Language Class via zoom	22	23	24 7:00pm Shabbat Services Installation of Rabbi Klein	25 5:00pm 75th Anniversary Gala
26 9:30am Religious Schoo	27	28 9:00am Prayer Book Study (via zoom) 7:15pm Hebrew Language Class via zoom	PLEASE NOTE: All temple activities will be conducted using an on-site/ZOOM hybrid model, unless otherwise stated.			



Religious School Update



This month, we said goodbye to the **Klein Family**. Of course, we wish them all the best in their next adventure, but it broke everyone's heart to see those wonderful kids go (and their amazing parents).

Meanwhile... we continue on our own journey exploring **G'milut Chasadim**: acts of lovingkindness. It's tricky—because acts of lovingkindness are things we do without any expectation of even a thankyou. They're the acts we commit because it's just the right thing to do. A heavy topic, but one everybody seems to be both excited and able to talk about. You can watch the progression of our conversation on the bulletin board in the Social Hall.

Tu B'Shevat is coming up! We are planning on having a special Seder on Sunday, February 4th during Religious School, and hopefully plant a tree in the afternoon. We'll keep you posted!

A reminder: There will be **NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL** on March 26th, due to a special Regional Gathering all the teachers will be attending in Los Angeles, hosted by the Religious Action Center-CA. Parents are also welcome—let us know if you are interested.

L'Dor Vador

Jill Egland
Religious School Principal



An Update from RAC-CA

Change of 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, March 26, 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!



E-mail Shofar submissions to tbebakersfield@gmail.com

Deadline for the March Shofar is March 15, 2023

Our monthly Shofar is published by:

TEMPLE BETH EL

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