

The Shofar

Temple Beth El Bakersfield, CA

Where Judaism Lives

August, 2023

Av~Elul 5783





The Rabbi's Thoughts

RebootTBE: Rebooting Temple Beth El after COVID-19 (and -20, and -21, and -22, and -23...)

Rabbi Jonathan Klein

When I began serving TBE in March, 2020, we had gone nearly a year without a rabbi and we were entering a pandemic that would keep us out of the sanctuary for Shabbat for nearly two years. We didn't hold in-person High Holy Day services until two and a half years later! The ability to build community against the headwinds of a worldwide pandemic that prohibited us from seeing one another was nearly non-existent; add on top of that an aging congregation in which some of our longtime stalwarts passed away, individuals such as **Norma Schwartz** and more recently **Irene Christenson**, as well as many centenarians and near-centenarians such as **Rose Blatt**, **Pearl Davis**, and **Charlotte Abrams** hit our community very hard. Sure, we have had an influx of new members, but it has felt a bit like treading water as we experienced a transition in the life of our congregation. TBE getting a new rabbi added to the sense of upheaval; what happened to the reliable, predictable patterns that characterized the synagogue pre-pandemic?

The past year or so has been a time of re-establishing our rhythms and simultaneously creating new ones. We reinstated in-person services, including High Holy Day worship, we once again held in-person religious school, we celebrated in a Sukkah together, enjoyed an 8k communally, held a fundraiser/gala for the first time in years, even creating an Israel trip that I hope will occur every five years or so...moving from the virtual to the real world. In the realm of new patterns, we also held our first annual Lag B'Omer Picnic, we just formalized our Board with an installation ceremony that I hope we will repeat annually, we have made Chardonnay Shabbat a monthly dinner, I have implemented both two TBE weekly classes and Bakersfield College learning opportunities (as an adjunct instructor at BC), and so much more...

With the basics in position, with a new board, we can shift our attention to the higher hanging fruits, the more challenging signature activities that require lots of help. The "Sukkah by the River" event that captivated our youth a decade or so ago needs to be reinstated; **mark your calendars for "Sukkot by the River"** (which will actually be Simchat Torah this year has agreed to **reboot BOoTY**, our Temple Youth Group! More information to follow once we get things moving...

"And your elders dreams they shall dream, your youth shall see visions" (Joel 3:1).

I want to hear from you, [email me](#): As we **RebootTBE**, what are some experiences in the past that you found meaningful that you would like to see reinstated at our *Shtibele*—our precious, sweet, welcoming Shul on Loma Linda? What new inspirations come to mind for ways we can not only return that which has been lost, but also we can reimagine a synagogue that serves as a Center for Jewish Life?

Rabbi Jonathan Klein

Shalom From the President



Shalom friends who are my family,

We are in the midst of the dog days of summer which in our corner of the world manifest in oppressive, life-threatening heat. Nevertheless, we are full of life and energy preparing for the upcoming 5784 year, תשפ"ג.

The new school year coincides with the new Jewish year. This always made sense to me as the natural and proper way to organize life and calendar. So here we go!

September 9th is **EREV SELICHOT סליחות**. It is as always, a Saturday evening. This is a meaningful gathering in which we explore our personal journeys and prepare for the upcoming year. Hope you will join us in the library (or the social hall if we have a great turnout!) We will start at 7 PM with desserts!

Religious school will commence Sunday, **September 10** at 10 am.

Erev Rosh Hashana, the new year, will follow **September 15** with services at 7 PM, a grand Oneg arranged by the Women of TBE, and most importantly, we will be together surrounded by community and tradition. Saturday, **Sept. 16** children services will start at 9 AM, adult services will start at 10 AM. Yours truly will host an open house following services! I am looking forwards to a joyous celebration with our temple family!

Yom Kippur starts Sunday, **September 24th** in the evening. Monday morning services will start at 9 AM for the children and 10 AM adult services. Break the fast on the **25th** is hosted by Temple Beth El's board.

Our busy fall will include the Pastrami King: Two weeks of shvitzing at the Great Kern County Fair. Quintessential Bakersfield fun! Volunteering a few hours includes free admission to the fair and free parking. We will have an early cleanup and painting day on Sunday, **August 6th** prior to the opening of the fair. We will pull this project together for the benefit of our community, and that feels good!

Since the fair coincides with **Sukkot** this year, we will celebrate Sukkot, G-d willing, by the river, on **October 7th**, which will be the time of **Simchat Torah, שמחת תורה**. Dancing with the Torah out in nature? What an experience we are in for!

As Rabbi Klein reiterates – *bring your whole self, whoever you are*, and I will add, *יש תמיד סיבה למסיבה, enjoy community and celebrate Jewish life with us!*

Humbled and excited for the opportunity to serve us,

Avital Anders

Happy Anniversary!

August 9

Selwyn & Cecily Kay
Sarah & Irin Mawhirter

August 16

Barry & Theresa Goldner

August 18

Richard & Indiana Schenkman

August 20

Jerrold & Christina Rothberg

Happy Birthday!!

August 1

Epie Rittenberg

August 4

Irvin Pike

Rebecca Ruiz

August 5

Marty Weinberg

August 7

Larry Elman

Libbie Mahan

David Stanton

August 12

Rod Delijani

August 13

Rose Broida

Susie Simrin

August 17

Happy Birthday!!

August 23

David Brust
Freyda Hensley

August 25

Ahron Hakimi

August 26

Jasmin LoBasso-Spencer

August 31

Marc Schulman

Temple Contributions

We would like to thank the following nadvanim:

Kol Nidre Donation

Leonard and Carla Epstein

Memorials/Yahrzeit

Tricia Berman: Memorial plaque in the memory of Dr. Barry Berman

Greg & Rose Broida: In memory of Socorro Gonzalez, Edna Solomon, and Henry Solomon

Brent Eastep: In memory of Hy Davis

Joe Fram & Bonnie Birch: In memory of Charlotte Abrams

Ronald & Laura Lauria: In memory of Tyler Anthony Mince

Irvin Pike & Pamela Elisheva: A memorial plaque for Judy Pike Garvin

Etta Robin: In memory of Rabbi Stanley Robin and Lillian Epstein

Ilene Schechter: In memory of Phyllis Schechter

Elaine & Douglas White: In memory of Charlotte Abrams

Tree of Life

Helen and Tom Armistead: In Honor of Pamela Elisheva's counting of the Omer

Larry Saslaw and Jill Eglund: In Honor of Pamela Elisheva's counting of the Omer
William & Laura Wolfe: As thanks to Pamela Elisheva's counting of the Omer
Vivian Gonzalez: To honor our friend Etta Robin
Larry Saslaw and Jill Eglund: Welcoming Tricia Berman "to the Tribe"
Ilene Schechter: Welcoming Tricia Berman "to the Tribe"
William & Laura Wolfe: Welcoming Tricia Berman "to the Tribe"

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Andy and Ella Abrams
Avital and Alpha Anders

To contribute online:

<https://templebethelbakersfield.org/donation>

Temple Beth El Appreciates All Contributions

**The Simcha Set Luncheon: Thursday, August 10th at
11:30AM**

**Mamma Mia Restaurant and Buena Vista Museum
contact Ilene Schechter for information**

SISTERHOOD CHAILIGHTS

August 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 July and in the future!

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF SISTERHOOD
LEADERSHIP, PLEASE CONTACT KATHLEEN CHAMBERS!!**

Thursday August 17th at 4:30pm Sisterhood Leadership Meeting

Sunday August 20th 3pm TBE Zoom
Rosh Chodesh - Postponed until after High Holidays

First Annual Challah Bake – Sunday August 20th at 9am at TBE
**COME ONE COME ALL TO THE FIRST ANNUAL CHALLAH
BAKE**

Sponsored by Sisterhood! All ingredients provided!

Open to all regardless of skill level or experience

WHEN: Sunday August 20th

TIME: 9AM

WHERE: Temple Beth EL

We will be making challahs to stock up the freezer for Friday nights
as well as for the high holidays!

We have a special children's recipe and children will take their
challah's home!!

Norma Schwartz's challah recipe will be provided!

If you have a recipe you would like to use please contact Helen
Armistead so she can make sure the

Ingredients are available

Hope to see you all there

Helen and Ilene



Book Club meeting- Sunday August 27th 1pm Via TBE Zoom! There
are 2 summer reads. The books are *Lift and Separate* and *Husbands and
Other Sharp Objects* both by Marilyn Simon Rothstein.

Rosh Hashanah Oneg- Helen and Ilene will be contacting members
for baking etc. for the Oneg on Friday night September 15th. We
need baked goods, fruit, honey, apples, drinks and ice.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:

Please consider joining Sisterhood! Cost is only \$18 per year! You can pay on the TBE website under donations or send in your check made out to WOTBE and send to the temple office with Linda Hakimi's name on the envelope.

Up- Coming Events:

Latke Brunch- December 3rd!

Please consider joining some great women. We are now on Facebook. If you would like an invite 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**

August 2023 Calendar

PLEASE NOTE: All Temple activities will be conducted using an on-site/ZOOM hybrid model unless otherwise stated.

Tuesday, August 1, 9-9:30am: Prayers of Our Prayer Book – **Only zoom**

Friday, August 4th, 6pm: Family Service

Saturday, August 5th, 4:30pm: Scrolls Class Song of Songs – **Only zoom**

Sunday, August 6th, 8am: Pastrami King clean up day at the fair grounds

Tuesday, August 8th, 9-9:30am: Prayers of Our Prayer Book – **Only zoom**

Thursday, August 10th, 11:30am: Simcha Set at Momma Mia's; 1pm Buena Vista Museum

Friday, August 11, 6pm: Chardonnay Shabbat; **6:30pm service**

Saturday, August 12th, 4:30pm: Scrolls Class Song of Songs – **Only zoom**

Tuesday, August 15th, 9-9:30am: Prayers of Our Prayer Book – **Only zoom**

Thursday, August 17th, 4:30pm: Sisterhood Leadership meeting

Friday, August 18th, 7pm: Shabbat Services

Saturday, August 19th, 4:30pm: Scrolls Class Song of Songs – **Only zoom**

Sunday, August 20th, 9am: [First Annual Challah Bake at TBE](#)

Sunday, August 20th, Rosh Hodesh postponed until after the High Holidays

Tuesday, August 22nd, 9-9:30am: Prayers of Our Prayer Book – **Only zoom**

Friday, August 25th, 7pm: Shabbat Services

Saturday, August 26th, 4:30pm: Scrolls class Song of Songs – **Only zoom**

Sunday, August 27th, 1pm via Zoom: Book Club Meeting


Tuesday, August 29th, 9-9:30am: Prayers of Our Prayer Book – **Only zoom**

August, 2023 Yahrzeits

8/4 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits + Memorialized on the Yahrzeit plaques on the wall in the foyer	
+Jacob Frank Broida, grandfather of Greg Broida	8/4
Jacob Korman, grandfather of Stan Schwartz z'l; great grandfather of Helen Armistead and Jeff Schwartz	8/5, Av 18
+Frank Wolfe, remembered by Temple Beth El	8/5
+Walter J. May, remembered by Temple Beth El	8/6
Theodore Lamberty, father of Linda Hakimi	8/6
+Frances Clendenney, remembered by Temple Beth El	8/6
+Birch Robert Shilkrou, remembered by Temple Beth El	8/7
Jesus Espinoza, father of Maria Chavez	8/9
Ernst Lindeck, father of Miriam Beam	8/9, Av 22
+Robert Cohn, remembered by Temple Beth El	8/9
Oscar Davis, father-in-law of Pearl Davis z'l	8/10
Vladimir Shnaiderman, nephew of Etel Lewis	8/10
8/11 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
Ann Levine, grandmother of Andrew Levine	8/11
Sandy Egland, sister-in-law of Jill Egland	8/11
Hans Einstein, remembered by Linda Morales	8/11
Seymour Bregman, father of Irene Christenson z'l, grandfather of Jana Reichert	8/11
+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

+Aaron Kennedy Stull, brother of Thomas Stull z'l	8/13
William Vekas, husband of Muriel Vekas z'l	8/13
+Mina Jawor, remembered by Temple Beth El	8/13
Phillip Glazer, friend of Kathleen Arnold-Chambers	8/14
Gerald Fried, father of Drina Fried	8/15
+Estelle Vengarick, mother of Anthony Vengarick; remembered by Arline Pike z'l, and Irvin Pike	8/15
Pauline Shinberg, remembered by Laura Lauria and Amanda Garza	8/17, Av 30
8/18 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
Diane Caplan, niece of Diane Rogers	8/18
Naomi Shiell, mother of Rick Shiell	8/18
Bruce Staffin, friend of Mike and Sharon Miller	8/20
+Anna Berman, grandmother of Lisa Levine and Sharon Lipco z'l	8/20, Elul 3
George Beam, father of John Beam	8/22
Eddie Cherry, brother-in-law of Stan z'l and Norma Schwartz; uncle of Helen Armistead and Jeff Schwartz	8/23
David Joseph, father of Bruce Joseph	8/23
+Fay R. Greenfield, remembered by Temple Beth El	8/24
8/25 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
Helen Fixel, sister-in-law of Pearl Davis z'l	8/26
+Samuel Baumel, remembered by Temple Beth El	8/26
Dina Gibson, mother-in-law of John Fried z'l	8/27
+Solomon George Koval, father of Pearl Davis z'l	8/29
+William A, "Bill" Davis, remembered by Temple Beth El	8/29

Paul Adamy, father of Rosemarie Azgour z'l	8/30
Tom Fromm, father of Timothy Fromm	8/30
Roberta Rudnick Parson, sister of Libbie Mahon	8/30
Jackie Rudnick, wife of Phil Rudnick; mother of Daniel Rudnick, aunt of Joshua Rudnick and Libbie Mahan, sister-in-law of Miriam Stull and Diane Rudnick z'l	8/30
Charles Schwartz, father of Stan Schwartz z'l; grandfather of Helen Armistead and Jeff Schwartz	8/31
Malia Ziser, sister of Etel Lewis	8/31
+Eva Lipcowitz, great aunt of Lisa Levine and Sharon Lipco z'l	8/31, Elul 14



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---Jeff Schwartz

CELEBRATION WEAR



ALWAYS A REASON TO CELEBRATE!

Temple Beth El is always ready to celebrate! You can now show everyone that you are ready to celebrate with us and help support TBE at the same time. We have t-shirts for the hot summer weather and sweatshirts for the cooler winter Months.

Please go to the TBE website to order yours today! We have both youth and adult sizing!!

If you would like to order by check, please call or email Helen Armistead so she can help you.

Reach Helen at 661- 472-1758 or at armisteadlmft@gmail.com

E-mail Shofar Submissions to tbebakersfield@gmail.com

Our monthly Shofar is published by:

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