The Shofar

Temple Beth El Bakersfield, CA

Bring Your Whole Self, Whoever You Are,

November, 2023

Cheshvan~Kislev 5784





The Rabbi's Ruminations

Why I have gone to Israel as a War Unfolds

By the time this article is published, I will likely be in Israel with our Temple Board President, Avital Anders. Our congregation has already raised over \$27,000 to rescue its residents during this painful time of need, where entire cities have been evacuated, 1400 were murdered, over 200 were taken hostage, and over 3000 were wounded by Hamas terrorists. You are of course invited to contribute as well: www.tinyurl.com/For-Israel.

This is not simply another country; for Jews worldwide, it embodies the aspirations of Jews worldwide, and we will do our part to protect it.

My parents met in the labor Zionist camping movement of the post-Holocaust late forties, both of them committed to creating not only a Jewish refuge; Israel would serve as an "Or L'goyim," a "Light unto the nations" (cf. Isaiah 42:6, 49:6, and 60:3). Not only a place where Jews could live unmolested as Israel's national anthem "Hatikvah" suggests, "to be a free nation in our land;" they would help establish the best possible nation in the world, where "justice rolls down like water," where poverty doesn't exist, a nation of immigrants devoted to the betterment of the planet, a utopian society dedicated to ending all genocides, all massacres, all bloodshed. In short, heaven on earth.

My dad was the camp truck driver, my mother a mere camper child, six years apart in age. My father had been discharged from the Navy a few years earlier; he joined to stop the calamity that would leave 6 million Jews murdered—55 million humans. A bright-eyed idealist, he eyed my mother at camp, and six months later, they started a family. My parents never had a lot of money, so it took until I went to Jerusalem for my year of study in 1992 to become a rabbi, 44 years after modern Israel's birth. It was the fulfillment of a lifelong dream, to see this refuge for the Jewish people, an "oasis for liberty," cultivated into a place where the *Chalutzim* ("pioneers") made the desert bloom. I dragged them all over the country; here's some notable offbeat places that changed us:

- **Beit Ticho** in Jerusalem, where master Russian *Olim* (immigrants) performed classical music. We saw a virtuoso pianist masterfully performed Liszt's <u>Hungarian Rhapsody #2</u>.
- Hadassah Hospital in Ein Kerem, where French artist Marc Chagall's extraordinary windows reside, perhaps the most beautiful stained-glass windows in history. Needlepoint versions adorn a wall at Temple Beth El.

- <u>Kibbutz Lochamei HaGeta'ot</u> in northwest Israel, founded by Holocaust Warsaw Ghetto Uprising fighters, which contains a museum filled with imagery and sounds of the vibrant life of pre-war Europe. I'll never forget my dad's tears—a rare sight--as he gazed at the expression of both what was and what became Jewish reality, the devastation of the Jewish thirst for justice.
- Achzivland, a bizarre self-proclaimed <u>nation-state</u> of "Prime Minister" Eli Avivi located a couple of miles north of Nahariya. Avivi personally stamped our passports with his strange <u>micronation</u> stamp...my parents loved that this eccentric Iranian immigrant had built this little fiefdom, a peculiar expression of the creativity that is quite typical of the ingenuity of the Jewish people when given an opportunity to express itself. As the first Israeli Prime Minister David Ben Gurion once famously said, "When Israel has prostitutes and thieves, we'll be a state just like any other." That a lunatic singlehandedly created a micronation within Israel—that was showcased by the ministry of tourism—suggests a joie-de-vivre by Israelis who have drained swamps, invented critical technologies, and indeed established "a Light unto the nations."

All of this and more is threatened by Hamas, Iran, and a world that with kneejerk pace returns to an underlying hatred of Jews, Jewish contributions to a better world (less than 0.1% of the world population has earned 15% of the Nobel prizes? Unbelievable), and our inherent right to exist.

The situation is dire. Sunni-led Hamas (which started as an armed force within the Egyptian resistance movement and thus is hated by Egypt's leadership) has built a massive network of underground tunnels—bunkers—within the boundaries of Gaza since Israel unilaterally withdrew its occupation in 2005. Meanwhile, in the north, Shiite-led Hezbollah has massive arsenals of weapons, thanks to its Iranian suppliers, their global ambition (stated by the Ayatollah in 1979 and ever since) to destroy the Jewish state. There is little preventing Iran's minions—and Iran itself—from simultaneously attacking Israel. October 7th was the most murderous day for Jews since the Holocaust, but there's every reason to believe that the worst is yet to come. Any day now.

So why am I going to Israel in the middle of such a volatile moment? The answer is simple: My life is tied to the fate of the Jewish people. It is what I signed up for when I became a rabbi. It was a fate established by my Zionist parents and grandparents' belief that Israel was central to their destiny. It's my father's legacy that I have been raising money, it's my mother's legacy that the multitudinous expressions of Jewish culture expressed in Israel is worth my contribution.

I am mad that Israel's Prime Minister left Israel vulnerable to these wretched civilian killers hellbent to maim and murder Jews. I am infuriated that Israelis are forced to protect Israel when its government failed to do so. I am enraged that Hamas intentionally embeds itself in civilian populations and steals fuel and other resources from their families, demonstrating their truly evil disregard of even their own mothers and children. I am resentful of the fact that Israelis will likely engage in a ground war that will litter Gaza with dead Palestinians as well as dead Israelis.

As I go to my ancestral homeland, volunteering during these maddening days, I know there are dangers, and yet there's things more important to me than my comfort. Israel MUST exist. If only others understood why this sole Jewish-dominated nation-state of less than 10 million surrounded by 400 million Arabs (1.8 billion Muslims) must survive, perhaps they would volunteer as well.

"My heart is in the east, and I am in the furthermost west" (Yehuda Halevi, 12th Century)

A Greeting from Our President

Shalom Friends who are my family, SO much has happened in October...

Our Jewish world is unified as we stand strong in the face of hatred, brutality and inexplicable antisemitism. I am in Israel on a short trip with Rabbi Klein. The trip is a demonstration of our commitment to our brothers and sisters, to our people and our land. We are set to volunteer on an organic farm associated with a kibbutz in southern Israel that was impacted by the horrific crimes of October 7. We will

spend time with friends and I will hug my family in person. Through Temple Beth El we raised over \$26,000 in support of Israel. We will continue to distribute funds in the near future. Shout out to our religious school kids who wrote letters to the soldiers that we are taking with us.

Hope we root out evil quickly and with minimal casualties. May November be a quiet and peaceful month.

We are gearing up to the signature events of December. The Latke Brunch will be on December 3rd. This year will include the return of performances by our religious school kids. Be sure to enjoy **warm latkes in person** and marvel at our young ones. The Krazy 8K will take place December 10th. It gets better and funner (I know that's not a word) every year. Looking forward to continuing to share the light that is Temple Beth El.

יש תמיד סיבה למסיבה שלום Avital



Happy Anniversary!

November 17

Elaine and Douglas White

November 18

Joshua and Epie Rittenberg

November 23

Les and Diand Rogers

November 24

Jeffrey and Donna Schwartz

November 30

Max and Libbie Mahan

Happy Birthday!!

Diane Andrews November 3 Colleen Soltis-McGraw November 5 November 8 **Randy Joyce Anita Singer** November 9 November 11 **Benjamin McCay** November 11 Joseph Ruiz November 13 **Andy Andrews Sarah Mawhirter** November 18 **Judy Strauss** November 18 **Andy Abrams** November 21 **Andrew Levine** November 21 **Barbara Kessler** November 22 **Stacy Davis** November 25 **Linda Morales** November 27 November 29 **Cecily Kay** Tricia Berman November 30 Joseph Marcus November 30

Temple Contributions

We would like to thank the following nadvanim

Kol Nidre Donations

Rosa Barrera

Esther and Rogers Brandon

Leonard and Carla Epstein

Ahron and Linda Hakimi

Debi Hazel

Nancy and Arthur McCombs

Les and Diane Rogers

Joshua and Edith Rudnick

Lawrence and Karen Zanoff

Memorials/Yahrzeits

Andy and Ella Abrams: in memory of Etta Robin and Roselynn Witer

Brent Eastep: in memory of Hy Davis

Ronald and Laura Lauria: in memory of Sam Gintzler and Shirley Polland

Nancy and Arthur McCombs: in memory of F.A. Rippee

Nancy and Arthur McCombs: in memory of Jonathan McCombs

Laura and Ricardo Reyes: in memory of Kent John Humphrey

Beth Spiegel and Becky Reifenstahl

Tree of Life

Ronald and Laura Lauria: in honor of Irvin Pike

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Alan Freisleben: in memory of Moses and Fannie Freisleben

Mary Gerena

Cynthia Simonian: in honor of Irvin Pike and the Shofar Blowers

Caring Committee

Joshua and Edith Rudnick

Israel Support

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Michael and Judy Feldman Alan Freisleben

Irwin and Elizabeth Harris Rabbi Jonathan Klein

Sylvia Klein Debbie Launer

Etel Lewis Steven and Gail Magnus
Dave and Marissa Marcus Joseph and Jennifer Marcus
Nancy and Arthur McCombs Dian and Lon Olmstead
Irwin and Barbara Pigovat Irvin Pike and Pamela Elisheva

Joshua and Edith Rudnick Ilene Schechter

Lawrence and Karen Zanoff

To Contribute online: https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://htt

Coming in December

Our Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers and 2K Latke Loop event will be held in person on December 10th at







the Panorama Vista Preserve. A virtual option has been added where you will be able to participate anywhere during any of the eight days of Hanukkah (December 8 - December 15). Registration available at RunSignUP.

Our races include the following:

In Person Event:

- *Race T-Shirt
- *Participation Medal
- *Swag Bag
- *ChipTiming for 8K
- *Awards for Fastest 8K Finishers -

1st - 3rd in age group)

- *Team discounts
- *Prize for

biggest

team

*Costume

contest

- *Raffel Prizes
- *RaceDay Refreshments and Entertainment

Virtual Event

- *Race T-Shirt
- * Medal of

Participation

- *Swag Bag
- *Team discounts
- *Printable Custom Race Bib
- *Printable Certificate of Completion
- *Able to to Post Times on
- *RunSignUp

Able to Submit Race Pictures to be included on our website and social media

This is a fundraiser for Temple Beth El and in addition 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 current cost for the in-person race is \$35 for the 2K and \$40 for the 8K.

The current cost for the virtual race is \$28 plus \$10 for postage. T-shirt, medal, and swag bag will be mailed to you. Don't delay, register today! You can register at: https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Bakersfield/8krazykilometers
Tell all your friends and family about our upcoming fun holiday event.

For more information about the race visit our website at <u>8krazykilometers.org</u> or visit our <u>Facebook page</u> or <u>Instagram page</u>.





Temple Beth El. We will be painting ceramic menorahs. (See above) Corks and Strokes will provide the instruction and supplies. The cost is \$45 per person. Please call or text Stacy Davis for more information. My phone number is 661-319-4069. You will need to sign up and pay for the event by Friday, November 10 th in order for Corks and Strokes to order the Menorahs in advance. Please use the following link to sign up: https://www.corksandstrokes.com/hanukkah

I hope you will be able to join us at this fun Hanukkah event.

SISTERHOOD CHAILIGHTS

November 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 November and in the future. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF SISTERHOOD LEADERSHIP PLEASE CONTACT KATHLEEN CHAMBERS!!

Thursday November 16th at 4:30pm Sisterhood Leadership Meeting

Sunday November 19th 3pm via TBE Zoom

LATKE BRUNCH IS DECEMBER 3RD!! See flyer and order form in Shofar!!

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!!

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



NORMA'S LATKE BRUNCH! To celebrate Chanukah (Hanukkah) Sunday December 3, 2023 11:30-1:30pm www.templebethelevent.org

The meal is served with latkes (potato pancakes), apple sauce, sour cream, muffin, ortega cheese soufflé and other garnishments. Other brunch items available at additional cost. Variety of beverages included with in person order. Chanukah program provide by TBE Religious School! Eat in person or reserve your meals and pick up at: Temple Bethe El 2906 Loma Linda Dr, Bakersfield, Ca. 93305

PICK UP/ IN PERSON

Latke Brunch- Adult \$17 \$18 Latke Brunch- Child \$9 \$10 Chips &;Artichoke Dip \$9 \$9 Norma's Coffee Cake Muffins (2) \$7

Norma's Latke Brunch!! December 3, 2023, 11:30 am-1:30pm

Order at www.templebethelevent.orgOr 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

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

	# ORDERED	TOTAL AMOUNT
Latke Brunch Adult (in Person)- \$18		
Latke Brunch Adult (pick up)- \$17		
Latke Brunch Child (in person) \$10		
Latke Brunch Child (pick up) \$9		
Chips & Artichoke Dip - \$9		
Norma's Coffee Cake Muffins- 2/\$7		
Total Due		
Check enclosed for total amount ma	ade out to WOTBE (Women of Temple Beth El)
Credit/Debit Card- #		Exp Date
CSV	Name o	on
Card		
Bil	ling Address with	
ZipCode		
In PersonPick up tim	es 11:30-1:30 S	pecial delivery after event
Name		
Address		
Phone		

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	The Five Scrolls Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, and Esther		1	2	3 6 pm First Friday Shabbat	4 4:30-5:30pm (Zoom)
SA	ATURNAYS & 4:30PM Rabbi Klein via TBE Zoom tberabbiklein@gmall.com No Experience Necessary!					Scrolls Class: Book of Ruth
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30am-12:30pm Religious School Noah's Ark	7-8:30pm The Basics of Judaism: The Jewish Holidays Taught by Rabbi	9-9:30am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer Book: Shir Shel Yom	PM: Midweek Hebrew (via Zoom)		6pm Chardonnay Shabbat	4:30-5:30pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Book of Ruth
	Klein thru <u>Bakersfield</u> <u>College</u> *	6:30-7:30 Religious Practices Committee				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30am–12:30pm Religious School Hanukkah	7-8:30pm The Basics of Judaism: The Jewish Holidays Taught by Rabbi Klein thru Bakersfield College*	9-9:30am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer7pm (Zoom) 7pm Board meeting	PM: Midweek Hebrew (via Zoom)		7pm Shabbat Service	4:30-5:30pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Book of Ruth
19 9:30am–12:30pm	20 7-8:30pm The Basics of Judaism: The	9-9:30am (Zoom) Prayers of our	22 PM: Midweek Hebrew	23 Thanksgiving Day	24 7pm Shabbat Service	25 4:30-5:30pm (Zoom)
Religious School Hanukkah	Jewish Holidays Taught by Rabbi Klein thru Bakersfield College*	Prayer Book	(via Zoom)			Scrolls Class: Book of Ruth
26	27	28	29	30		
No Religious School	7-8:30pm The Basics of Judaism: The Jewish Holidays Taught by Rabbi Klein thru Bakersfield College*	9-9:30am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer Book	PM: Midweek Hebrew (via Zoom)			
	<u>conege</u>					

^{*}Rabbi Klein will cover such topics as Shabbat, Passover, The High Holidays, and other holidays

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 weather!

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! She can be reached at 661.472-1758 or armisteadlmft@gmail.com

November, 2023 Yahrzeits

11/3 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
+ Memorialized on the Yahrzeit plaques on the wall in the foyer	
+Hannah Bailin, remembered by Temple Beth El	11/3
Joyce Abbas, sister of Vivian Gonzalez	11/4
Erma Englander, friend of Kathleen Arnold-Chambers	11/4
+Mary B. Prince, mother of Tim Prince	11/4
Darrel Hildebrand, friend of Kathleen Arnold-Chambers	11/5
Diane Rudnick, remembered by the Rudnick Family	11/5
Gloria Rudnick, mother of Gloria Rudnick	11/5
+Doris Fish, mother of Larry Fish	11/6
Lura K. Strauss, grandmother of Judy Strauss	11/6
Murray Louis Singer, father of Glenn Singer	11/7
+Thomas Stull husband of Miriam Stull	11/7
+Irene Harris, sister-in-law of Arline Pike z'l, aunt of Irvin Pike	11/8
Ella Divera Lipco, grandmother of Lisa Levine and Sharon Lipco z'l	11/8, Cheshvan 24 11/8, Cheshvan 24
Maxwell Herbert Newman, husband of Shirley Ann Newman z'l; father of Heidi Allison +William R. Jacobs, remembered by Temple Beth El	11/8, Cheshvan 24
Charlotte Beam, mother of John Beam	11/9
+Dr. Melvin Zellner, remembered by Temple Beth El	11/9
Pauline Snider, sister-in-law of Pearl Davis z'l	11/9
11/10 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
+Ralph Klein, husband of Haya Klein	11/10
+Valient Rudnick Stull , son of Tom z'l and Miriam Stull; nephew of Marcus Rudnick z'l, Milton Rudnick z'l, and Phil Rudnick; cousin of Libbie Mahan and Joshua Rudnick	11/10
Ann Saslaw, aunt of Larry Saslaw	11/11
Lura Kramer Strauss, remembered by Judy Strauss	11/11
Abraham Stern, great-uncle of Steve Magnus; great-great-uncle of Elliott Magnus	11/11
Shirley Abarbanall, mother of Ross Abarbanall	11/12
+Donald James Sheffel II, remembered by Temple Beth El Lotte Lindeck, mother of Miriam Beam	11/12 11/12, Cheshvan 28
Sylvia Katz, mother of Larry Seslaw	11/12, Cheshvan 20
Ann Kunitz, friend of Stan z'l and Norma z'l Schwartz	11/13, Cheshvan 29
Robert Newbrough, father of Steve Newbrough	11/13
+Ruth Marcus Joseph, mother of Bruce Joseph	11/14
Leo David Strom, husband of Rabbi Wynne Waugaman	11/14
Jess Diamond, husband of Ann Diamond z'l	11/15
Jeanne Joyce, mother of Randy Joyce	11/15
Evelyn Kutz, great-grandmother of Karen Briefer	11/15
+Ros Strauss, mother of Judy Strauss	11/16, Kislev 3

+Vera Strauss, aunt of Susan Cohen z'l	11/16
Teresa Torres, aunt of Linda Morales	11/16

11/17 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits

1/1/ Shabbat Services Tamzens	T
Hyman Abrams, brother of Al Abrams; uncle of Andy Abrams +Nina Stein, remembered by Temple Beth El Ruth E. Cronkhite, mother of Gretchen Bloch Barney Shilkraut, grandfather of Judy Strauss	11/17 11/18 11/19 11/19
Jack Story, friend of Stan z'l and Norma z'l Schwartz	11/19
+David Cody, Remembered by Temple Beth El	11/20
+John H. Rosen , remembered by Temple Beth El Frederick Briefer ,grandfather of Karen Briefer	11/21 11/22
Otto B. Egland Jr., father of Jill Egland	11/23
Nathan Feldman, father of Michael Feldman	11/23, Kislev 10
11/24 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
John F. Andrews, father of Andy Andrews	11/25
Oscar Lipco, grandfather of Lisa Levine and Sharon Lipco z'l	11/25, Kislev 12
Jack Lollar, father of Laura Wolf	11/26
Holly Udahl , daughter of Stan z'l and Norma Schwartz z'l; sister of Helen Armistead and Jeff Schwartz	11/26, Kislev 13
Rahel Kamali, aunt of Ahron Hakimi	11/27
Molka Ruchel Lekht, mother of Etel Lewis	11/27
+Louis Weisman, brother of William Weisman	11/27
Irma Sachs Adler, sister of Shirley Ann Newman; aunt of Heidi Allison	11/28
Mildred Frances Andrews, mother of Andy Andrews	11/28
Mildred Frances Andrews, mother of Andy Andrews Soledad (Sally) Davis, mother of Mark Davis	11/28 11/28
Mildred Frances Andrews, mother of Andy Andrews Soledad (Sally) Davis, mother of Mark Davis Jeanette Gintzler, great aunt of Laura Lauria; great-great-aunt of Amanda Garza	11/28 11/28 11/28, Kislev 15
Mildred Frances Andrews, mother of Andy Andrews Soledad (Sally) Davis, mother of Mark Davis Jeanette Gintzler, great aunt of Laura Lauria; great-great-aunt of Amanda Garza Alexa Rose McDowell, granddaughter of Nancy and Arthur McCombs	11/28 11/28 11/28, Kislev 15 11/28
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Welcome to Bright Beginnings

Learning Center

2906 Lbma Linda Drive, Bakersfied CA \$305 Hours: 6:30a.m. to 6:00p.m.

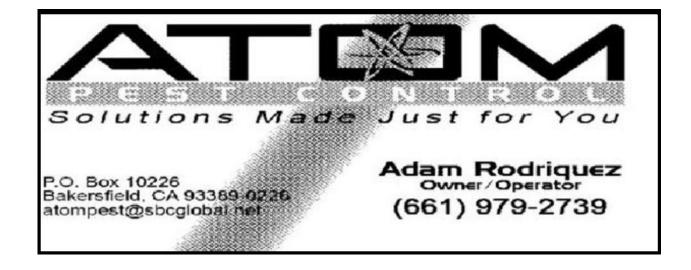
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- School Age program 5-12
- Full-time and Part-time care available
- Sibling Discounts

- 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.



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"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 achievements and protection for your full vision.

---Jeff Schwartz



E-mail Shofar Submissions to tbebakersfield@gmail.com

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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

Rabbi Jonathan Klein tberabbiklein@gmail.com (424) 248-5775

Freyda Hensley, Office Administrator

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