

# Shofar



**Temple Beth El**

Bakersfield, CA

*Bring Your Whole Self,  
Whoever You Are*



**January 2024 • Tevet/Shevat 5784**

**Volume 81, Issue 5**



## **TU BISHVAT**

Celebrate with Temple Beth El  
Sunday, January 21st at 10:30 am



## Rabbi Jonathan Klein's Reflections

*G'milut Chasadim: The Jewish Way*

Lyle teaches us what it means to be a Jew.

He deserves our thanks: **Todah Rabbah, Lyle Gartenlaub, for the *Mitzvah* opportunity you generate monthly and for enabling us to perform this *Mitzvah*, too.** You enable all of us to live our Jewish values!

On December 27<sup>th</sup>, notified by **Jana Reichert** of an event organized, orchestrated, and extraordinarily executed by **Lyle** through [Apple Core Project](#) (and who serves on their board and is their Garden Director, among numerous roles), a tremendous nonprofit that feeds struggling families and individuals in Bakersfield, I knew I had to show up and be part of this important event. Apparently, this **monthly food distribution event takes place every fourth Wednesday in the afternoon; volunteer next month!**

I was joined by **Jana and Joshua Reichert** and by **Avital and Talia Anders**, and before long, hundreds of people took home food to provide for their families: chicken, garbanzo beans, rice, raisins, walnuts, peaches, potatoes, canned soups, canned fruit, and bags of additional items, all very healthy, all meant to support community members who for various reasons (which certainly should be discussed; the ethnicities of the clients served at this event doesn't have to look this way!) have struggled to make ends meet. I was so impressed, especially by the disproportionate role that Lyle had in this act of *g'milut chasadim*, the "bestowal of kindness" upon the lives of everyday Bakersfieldians.

Lyle directed the entire operation masterfully, supporting Apple Core Project's founder, Jaclyn Allen in responding to the food insecurity of our city. It is stupendously worthy of commendation. However, in reality, Lyle knows that this is what we do as Jews.

The Torah itself teaches that we must provide food for indigent members of our community. In fact, there is no distinction made between Jewish and non-Jewish poor; everyone is entitled to support:

**One sustains poor Gentiles along with poor Jews, and one visits sick Gentiles along with sick Jews, and one buries dead Gentiles along with dead Jews.** All this is done **on account of the ways of peace**, to foster peaceful relations between Jews and Gentiles ([Gittin 61a](#)).

As part of the Torah service, when we perform a *hakafah* (circuit) with the Torah in our hands, we are reminded with the words of "*Al Shlosha D'varim*" to be kind to others:

**The world stands upon three things: The Torah, worship, and bestowal of kind acts upon others** ([Avot 1:2](#)).

Feeding needy people is a *Mitzvah* not in the western sense of "a good deed," but rather the true meaning of *Mitzvah*: A Commandment, a requirement by God that we care for all those around us.

So in the scheme of things, what we did on December 27<sup>th</sup> was rather unremarkable. It's what Jews do.

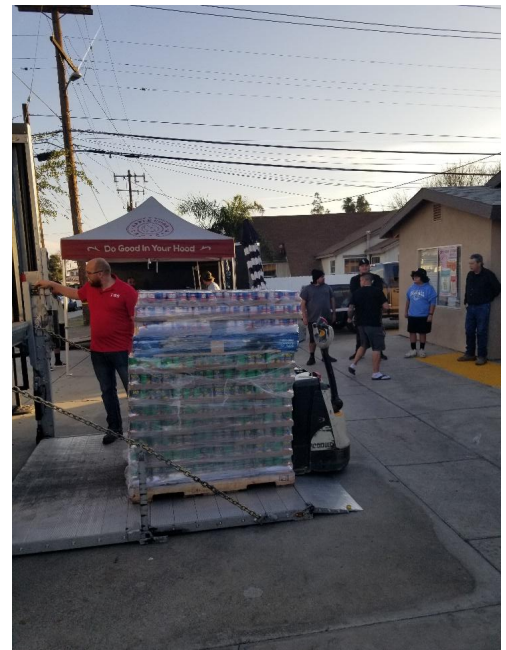
The question becomes: How do we make sure that we, following lessons taught by Lyle, enable more of us to do this *Mitzvah* as a matter of religious obligation to care for the poor in our communities? How do we expand the amazing work that **Larry Saslaw** and **Jill Eglund** do every year with our annual High Holy Day food drive? How do we make sure more of us engage in acts of *G'milut Chasadim*?

I don't have definitive answers, but as we begin 2024, may we find opportunities for all of our TBE Mishpachah to do more *G'milut Chasadim*. It's unquestionably **The Jewish Way**.

*Jones*

Rabbi Klein

p.s. A Shout-Out to **Talia Anders**, who has redesigned the newly beautiful Shofar newsletter with her loving touch!



# A Greeting from Our President

Shalom Friends who are my family,

The war in Gaza is wearing on. My heart continually aches for the consequences and all that has happened to us. The suffering, physically and spiritually, continues. Both our people and the Palestinian people are hurting. We are looking to make sense of it all and make meaningful contributions to the efforts of our people to survive these new, yet as old as time, threats. Many of you have donated funds, both through our Temple's Israel fundraising and independently. Rabbi Klein and I went to volunteer in Israel physically and work the land. It was an incredibly meaningful experience of connecting with our neighbors in Israel and affirming to them and myself that we are one people with a connected destiny of survival while doing our best to make the world a better place.

I noticed that now the JNF, Jewish National Fund, is organizing such trips. Confirmation that it was the right thing to do at the right time. If you have an opportunity to go to Israel, do it! You will be surprised to find that it is not scary to be there. Meanwhile please know that we might be misunderstood and misrepresented, but we do our best to act compassionately and justly as we defend our right to exist in peace. The minute that threats against us will stop, and the hostages returned, so will the war. It is that simple.

Here, at home in Bakersfield, we celebrated Hanukkah with great gusto! The Latke Brunch and the 8 Krazy Kilometers were fabulous! This is how we keep our light shining bright! I am so proud of us and all the hard work put forth by so many. We had fun and an abundance of joy while sharing the holiday with our community.

As the days are slowly getting longer, we have Tu B'Shevat, "The birthday of the trees" to look forward to. We will celebrate a **Tu B'Shevat Seder at 10:30 am on Sunday, January 21** at the temple. Be sure to join! It is great fun and delicious!

Rabbi Klein is offering lots of learning opportunities. Join us on **zoom** as we explore our prayer rituals, **Tuesday mornings at 9 AM**. On **Saturday afternoons at 4:30 pm** we have been studying our 5 scrolls. A **Hebrew class** will start **January 22** in the evenings through BC.

Mark your calendars for the **LOX BOX coming your way on February 4th**. You can order one on the temple's website or here - <https://templebethelbakersfield.org/lox-box/>

**Community Passover Seder will be on Sunday, April 22.** Details will be available soon.

יש תמיד סיבה למסיבה - There is always a reason for celebration  
Stay strong, שלום

Avital





# **Moments In our Lives**

## **Happy Anniversary!**

**Greg & Rose Broida**

**January 17**

**Ahron & Linda Hakimi**

**January 23**

## **Happy Birthday!**

**Lawrence Zano**

**January 2**

**Joshua Reichert**

**January 3**

**Miriam Stull**

**January 5**

**Marissa Marcus**

**January 8**

**Jenny Seibert**

**January 8**

**Maria Chavez**

**January 11**

**Pamela Elisheva**

**January 11**

**Gretchen Bloch**

**January 12**

**Kathleen Arnold-Chambers**

**January 13**

**Charles Rhodes**

**January 13**

**Beth Freedman**

**January 14**

**Adison Gartenlaub**

**January 17**

**Emma Goss**

**January 20**

**Alexis Lukehart**

**January 22**

**Rebecca De Marais**

**January 23**

**Laura Wolfe**

**January 26**

**Douglas White**

**January 27**

**Jay Greenstein**

**January 29**

**Leah Bank**

**January 30**

# Our Contributors: Thank You

Thanks go out to the following *Tormim*

## **Kol Nidre Donations**

Rod and Jeanette Delijani: *From RS teacher pay*

Leonard and Carla Epstein

Irwin and Elizabeth Harris

Philip and Deborah Rosenthal

Jerrold and Christina Rothberg

## **Memorials/Yahrzeits**

Bob and Heidi Allison: *in memory of William Adler*

Dorise Bitton

Ronald and Laura Lauria: *in memory of Morris Gintzler and Milton Gintzler*

Elaine and Douglas White: *in memory of Rosellyn Witer*

## **Tree of Life**

Susie Simrin: *to celebrate the birth of Sierra Mae Simrin*

Susie Simrin: *wishing Peyton Kniffen good luck on her new job*

## **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Mary Gerena

## **Building Fund**

Irvin Pike and Pamela Elisheva: *in honor of Avital Anders, Temple Beth  
El President*

## **Israel Support**

Sylvia Klein: *in honor of Rabbi Jonathan Klein's birthday*

Ilene Schechter

Nancy and Arthur McCombs

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

We are grateful for all contributions!

## **SISTERHOOD CHAILIGHTS**

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 January and the future!

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

**GENERAL MEETING-** Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 3 pm – TBE Zoom

**LEADERSHIP MEETING-** Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm – TBE Zoom

**CHALLAH BAKE-** Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 9 am – at TBE!!

**BOOK CLUB-** Current books are *Miracles and Menorahs* and *Love and Latkes* both by Stacey Aagdern. Date for review will be in February!!

**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

# COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE SECOND CHALLAH BAKE

Sponsored by Sisterhood! All ingredients provided! Open to all regardless of skill level or experience!!

**WHEN:** Sunday, January 14th

**TIME:** 9 AM

**WHERE:** Temple Beth EL

We will be making challahs to stock up the freezer for Friday nights!

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!!





# January 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2  9-9:30am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer Book  6:30-7:30 Religious Practices Committee	3  PM: Midweek Hebrew (via Zoom; time determined by class)	4	5  <b>6 pm First Friday Shabbat</b>  <b>Family Services</b>	6  4:30-5:30 pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Book of Lamentations
7  9:30-12:30 Religious School <i>Tikun Olam</i>	8  11:30am Simcha Set Old River Grill Hageman Road	9  9-9:30am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer Book  7pm Board meeting	10  PM: Midweek Hebrew (via Zoom; time determined by class)	11  <b>Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat</b>	12  <b>6pm Chardonnay Shabbat with Dinner in the Social Hall</b>	13  4:30-5:30 pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Book of Lamentations
14  No Religious School	15  Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16  9-9:30am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer Book	17  PM: Midweek Hebrew (via Zoom; time determined by class)	18	19  <b>7pm Shabbat Service</b>	20  4:30-5:30 pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Book of Lamentations  10am Shabbat Morning Worship in the Conservative Tradition
21  9:30-12:30 Religious School <i>10:30 am TuBishvat Seder</i>	22  7-8:30 Hebrew Reading Class via Bakersfield College	23  9-9:30am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer book	24  PM: Midweek Hebrew 7-8:30 Hebrew Reading Class via Bakersfield College	25  Tu BiSh'vat (New Year for Trees)	26  <b>7pm Shabbat Service</b>	27  4:30-5:30 pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Book of Lamentations
28  9:30-12:30 Religious School	29  7-8:30 Hebrew Reading Class via Bakersfield College	30  9-9:30am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer Book	31  PM: Midweek Hebrew  7-8:30 Hebrew Reading Class via Bakersfield College			

# CELEBRATION WEAR



**ALWAYS A REASON TO CELEBRATE! ייש תמיד סיבה למסיבה!!** 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](mailto:armisteadlmft@gmail.com)

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# January 2024 Yahrzeits

+ Memorialized on the Yahrzeit plaques on the wall in the foyer



1/5 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
<b>+Helen Magnus Markson</b> , grandmother of Steven Magnus	1/2
<b>William Adler, uncle of Heidi Allison</b> , brother-in-law of Shirley Newman z'l	1/5, Tevet 23
<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, mother of Leon Siegel z'l</b> ; grandmother of Sharon Rhodes	1/5
<b>+Moe S. Nestle</b> , remembered by Temple Beth El	1/8
<b>Marie Levasseur</b> , mother of Rosemarie Azgour z'l	1/8
<b>Nathan J. Goldman, father of Freyda Hensley</b> , uncle of Marsha Parr	1/9
<b>+Nathan Strauss</b> , grandfather of Judy Strauss	1/9, Tevet 28
<b>+Betty Brucke</b> , remembered by Temple Beth El	1/10
<b>Debbie Friedman</b> , friend of Lisa Levine	1/11
<b>Lois Hale</b> , grandmother of Jeanette Delijani	1/11
<b>Bernard Levy</b> , brother-in-law of William Wolfe	1/11
1/12 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
<b>+Allen Harris</b> , brother-in-law of Arline Pike z'l; uncle of Irvin Pike	1/12
<b>Claude Denis Neuman</b> , son of Maxwell Newman z'l; step-brother of Heidi Allison	1/12
<b>Fishel Lekht</b> , father of Etel Lewis	1/13
<b>+Louis M. Lewis</b> , father of Beverly Weisman z'l	1/13
<b>Arthur Rich</b> , brother-in-law of Charlotte Abrams z'l; uncle of Andy Abrams	1/13
<b>Richard Allen Rudnick</b> , brother of Libby Mahan	1/13
<b>Ilene Levy</b> , sister of William Wolfe	1/14
<b>+Daniel Benjamin Lipco</b> , brother of Lisa Levine	1/14
<b>Rebecca Noble</b> , aunt of Lisa Levine	1/14
<b>Esther Halpren</b> , grandmother of Sarah Mawhirter	1/15
<b>+Stacia Hoffman</b> , remembered by Temple Beth El	1/15, Shevat 5
<b>Richard Schulman</b> , father of Marc Schulman	1/15, Shevat 5
<b>Mildred Solomon</b> , aunt of Jackie Rudnick z'l	1/15
<b>Louis Grosher</b> , uncle of Sonia Simrin z'l	1/16
<b>Lois Schulman</b> , mother of Marc Schulman	1/16, Shevat 6
<b>Harriett Wolfe</b> , mother of William Wolfe	1/16

<b>Raymond Zanoﬀ</b> , father of Larry Zanoﬀ	1/16
<b>George Carl Shattenburg</b> , uncle of Pamela Elisheva	1/17
<b>Margaret Anne Christenson</b> , mother of Bob Christenson z'l	1/18
<b>+Lillian Teplitz</b> , sister of Mary Speare	1/18
<b>+Sherman W. Schwartz</b> , remembered by Temple Beth El	1/18
<b>1/19 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits</b>	
<b>Craig Rich</b> , cousin of Andy Abrams; nephew of Al z'l and Charlotte Abrams z'l	1/19
<b>Mary Jewel Yates</b> , mother of Alpha Anders	1/19
<b>Michele Kleiman</b> , sister of Etta Robin z'l	1/20
<b>+Donald Y. Broida</b> , father of Greg Broida	1/20
<b>+Dennis David Shapiro</b> , remembered by Temple Beth El	1/20
<b>+Mary Moss</b> , remembered by Temple Beth El	1/20
<b>John Gruber</b> , husband of Drina Fried	1/21
<b>Louis Schwalbendorf</b> , grandfather of Larry Fish	1/21
<b>+Hanna Sheffel</b> , remembered by Temple Beth El	1/21
<b>Jay J. Arnold</b> , father of Kathleen Arnold Chambers	1/22
<b>Henry Black</b> , uncle of Diane Andrews	1/22
<b>+Nathan M. Krevitz</b> , remembered by Temple Beth El	1/22
<b>Davis Biegel</b> , grandfather of Joe Fram	1/23
<b>+Bonnie Kaplan Johnson</b> , sister of Marsha Parr; cousin of Freyda Hensley	1/23
<b>+Hulda Ruth Magnus</b> , mother of Steven Magnus; grandmother of Elliott Magnus	1/23
<b>Bernice Katzell</b> , mother of Ellyn Widelock; grandmother of Jenna Odlin	1/24
<b>Saul Davis Larks</b> , father of Anita Singer	1/24
<b>+Lena Pearlmutter</b> , remembered by Temple Beth El	1/24
<b>+Samuel Messerman</b> , remembered by Temple Beth El	1/24
<b>Leonard Mansky</b> , brother-in-law of Pearl Davis z'l	1/25
<b>+Phillip Rubin Jacobson</b> , remembered by Temple Beth El	1/25
<b>+Nathan Stern</b> , remembered by Temple Beth El	1/25
<b>Irving Steelman</b> , uncle of Terry Skinner	1/25



## 1/26 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits

<b>+Yetta Davis</b> , remembered by Temple Beth El	<i>1/27</i>
<b>Stanley Witer</b> , step-father of Elaine White	<i>1/27</i>
<b>Melvin Wallace</b> , grandfather of Eytan Wallace	<i>1/27</i>
<b>Aaron “Harry” Somkin</b> , grandfather of Ilene Schechter	<i>1/30, Shevat 20</i>
<b>Harvey Abarbanell</b> , father of Ross Abarbanell	<i>2/1</i>
<b>Lillian Bridges</b> , aunt of Karen Briefer	<i>2/1</i>



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---Jeff Schwartz

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