

Shofar



Temple Beth El

Bakersfield, CA

*Bring Your Whole Self,
Whoever You Are*



December 2023 • Kislev/Tevet 5784

Volume 81, Issue 4

Name Reading and Prayer for Hostages in Gaza



Temple Beth El
Bakersfield, California

Monday, December 4

5:30 - 6:30 PM

Liberty Bell

SE Corner of Chester and Truxtun



Rabbi Jonathan Klein's Reflections

Things I Learned While in Israel During a War

Published in the Bakersfield Californian, November 19, 2023

Returning from Israel with Temple Beth El's President Avital Anders after a week of volunteering, in response to the October 7th murder, rape, torture and kidnappings there, I find myself reflecting on several new insights gained upon witnessing firsthand the terrible anguish Israelis are feeling. Over 1200 people murdered, mostly civilians butchered by Hamas; they continue to pray for the return of roughly 240 hostages. The trip resulted in four epiphanies:

First, Israelis are resilient. This courageous nation of immigrants, bludgeoned by decades of Hamas killing sprees including the ruthless invasion of October 7th, is unified in their resolve to eliminate the Hamas threat, once and for all. Only months ago, hundreds of thousands of Israelis took to the streets to oppose Prime Minister Netanyahu's efforts to reform the Israeli judicial system; now they rally together to confront the Hamas menace, head-on. Posters of the kidnapped are EVERYWHERE; ubiquitous signs exclaim **בחד ננצח**, "Together we shall overcome." Israeli flags adorn nearly every lamppost; supermarkets and banks add their own messages of unity. Israelis reiterate, as the popular song goes, "Ein Li Eretz Acheret:" "I have no other land." This society of Holocaust survivors and Israeli war veterans will fight to the very end for their right to be an **Am Chofshi b'Artzam**, a free nation in their land. Their authentic patriotism surpasses anything I have seen anywhere else in the world. Giving lifesaving blood on our last day there, I am committed to share whatever fate may be Israel's, and I am not alone.

Second, Israelis uniformly reject the rising tide of worldwide anti-Semitism, especially prevalent in the US. Calling Israel's actions "genocide," or its existence "colonization," is toxic, confusing nonsense. Nothing comes close to the systematic attempt at murdering every Jew only 75 years ago, and leveling this ugly trope against citizens of the sole majority Jewish state which everyone knows suffered genocidal efforts is ironic, cruel. Is it any surprise, in the wake of the Holocaust, that Israelis will fight like hell? Nevertheless, the Israelis that I met or know pray for peace even while they are at war. They know the threat from Hamas is an existential one, with communal memories of Auschwitz and Treblinka to boot. Thus, reports of anti-Israel rallies and recent killings of American Jews, including a synagogue President and a SoCal activist, rattle them just as much as Gazan rockets. Jews will forever be perplexed by Jew hatred, but unlike sheep led to slaughter, we will boldly demand "Never again."

Third, the link between Israel and Palestinians is essential to both peoples. Avital and I filled in for Gazans who, until Hamas indiscriminately murdered Jewish, Arab, and Thai field workers, worked fields and groves next to Gaza in Israel proper. Harvesting lettuce, celery, avocados, parsley, and tomatoes, we knew that 20,000 Gazans would enter Israel daily to earn a paycheck but are now prevented from entering Israel due to the war; we volunteered to ensure that Israelis still have food. In fact, the "Michaeli Farm" where we volunteered was originally in Gaza; Israel unilaterally withdrew in 2005 and Michaeli farm thus relocated into Israel but maintained many of its Palestinian workers. In such close range, we heard countless rockets launched or taken down by Iron Dome. We hit the ground immediately in the lettuce greenhouse when the siren went off indicating an incoming rocket attack. Picking cherry tomatoes, we saw smoke rising up from Gaza. Nevertheless, we hope for the reinstitution of all that was working between Israelis and Palestinians, and there was plenty of good prior to October 7th. The interconnectedness of Israelis and Palestinians living in Gaza will remain a fact on the ground; any future peace agreement must include economic partnership between these two peoples.

Fourth and most importantly, the United States remains a critical partner for Israel. Whether it be the US-funded Iron Dome mobile defense system, America's promise to enter the war if Hezbollah or Iran fully attack Israel, or the more subtle "thank you's" we received from Israelis feeling grateful that President Biden has demonstrated commitment to Israel's survival, Israel relies on us. This was true in 1973 during the Yom Kippur War; it remains true in 2023 during this Hamas War. As American Jews worry about Israel's fate and as we fight to protect Israel's reputation as an **Or L'goyim**—a light unto the nations—one thing is clear: Israel remains a priceless partner in the furtherance of worldwide democracy and serves as a land of innovation and blessing not only for Jews, but for the world as a whole.

My community at Temple Beth El will continue to pray for Israel's survival, alongside several churches who we thank for their indefatigable support, and I ask you to do the same: **Join us at the Liberty Bell on Monday, December 4th at 5:30pm** for a reading of Israeli hostages; support Israel with tax-deductible donations (www.tinyurl.com/For-Israel); ask your Jewish friends how they are managing; and consider volunteering in Israel. I'd be happy to join you, too.

Sha'alu Sh'lom Y'rushalayim שְׁאַלוּ שְׁלֹמֹם יְרוּשָׁלַיִם: Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem.

A Greeting from Our President

Being Jewish in the winter of 2023. SO much is happening around us. We are facing a rising tide of antisemitism - again. We are living in the freest country that has ever been constructed. Yet, this is a tale as old as time. Many civilizations have turned against us, ultimately to their detriment. Much has been written about the state of societies that embrace antisemitism, the causes of this and the consequences. It is worrisome that we see the escalating vitriol and violence against us. To me this is a call to action - we must advocate for ourselves!

אם אני לא עושה לעצמי, מי יעשה? ~ If I am not for myself, who will be for me?

We know that we are a peace loving, justice pursuing people. We don't always know how to explain it. We need to become informed of current events and our history. We need to speak up when falsehoods are advanced. It is hard to do, but we can get better at it as we start doing it.

We also need, and can, lean into and onto each other. We are one family! We are fun when we are together, and we ease the worry and pain that we journey through when we are with each other. Those of us who are 'regulars' at Shabbat services experience the soul nourishing connectedness of community every week. I am so grateful to be a part of us. I find that being together sustains me. So, I keep showing up.

The photo attached is from a recent event put on by RiverLakes Community Church in support of Israel. I debated if I should participate, but ultimately, I am glad I did. It is important to use our voice. As we proudly retell the story of Chanukah, we recognize that *our time is now*. This is our time to stand up for ourselves and our people.



Looking forward to our signature Chanukkah events:

Latke Brunch December 3rd at 11:30 at the temple. Also available for takeout.

Communal **candle lighting** will be during Chardonay Shabbat **December 8th at 6 pm.**

8 Krazy Kilometers December 10th at 8:30 am at the Panorama Vista Preserve.

I want to highlight the learning opportunities, by Zoom, with Rabbi Klein:

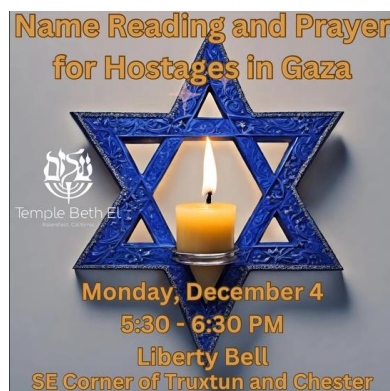
Tuesday mornings at 9 am, 30-minute class and **Saturday afternoons at 4:30 pm.**

These are lighthearted, interactive and informative. Log in to the temple's zoom - 661-322-7607. I find myself being a 'regular' participant in these as well.

No matter what is going on - יש תמיד סיבה למסיבה

שלום,

Avital



Moments In our Lives

Happy Anniversary!

Laura and Ricardo Reyes	December 2
Ferdinand and Yolanda Aggenbach	December 6
Helen and Tom Armistead	December 11
Andy and Diane Andrews	December 14
Esther and Rogers Brandon	December 15
Carla and Leonard Epstein	December 20
Barbara and Martin Kessler	December 24
Judy and Michael Feldman	December 27
Andy and Ella Abrams	December 29
Carol and Raul Escobedo	December 29
Anita and Glenn Singer	December 30

Happy Birthday!

Philip Rosenthal	December 1
Francine Coplan Avery	December 2
Isla Friedman	December 4
Michael Freedman	December 5
Asher Delijani	December 5
Ilene Schechter	December 13
Rabbi Jonathan Klein	December 15
Karlynn Farber	December 18
Indiana Schenkman	December 18
Bob Allison	December 20
Dave Marcus	December 20
Mario Garza	December 21
Christina Rothberg	December 22
Robert Young	December 23
Barbara Luker	December 23
Héber Cruz Berber	December 24
Carol Escobedo	December 25
Reece Garza	December 25
Robin Feher	December 27
Ross Abarbanell	December 29

Our Contributors: Thank You

Thanks go out to the following *Tormim*

Kol Nidre Donations

Leonard and Carla Epstein
Ronald and Laura Lauria
Wynne Waugaman

Memorials/Yahrzeits

Bob and Heidi Allison: In memory of Etta Robin and Rosellyn Witer
Bob and Heidi Allison: In memory of Ann Allison and Lillian Sachs
Ronald and Laura Lauria: In memory of Jeanette Gintzler
Melanie Rudnick: In memory of Diane Rudnick
Wynne Waugaman: In memory of Leo D. Strom

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Andy and Ella Abrams
Leonard and Carla Epstein

Israel Support: www.tinyurl.com/For-Israel

Tricia Berman
Irene Pursel
Philip Rudnick
Elaine and Douglas White

Norma's Latke Brunch

Bob and Marcy Smith

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

We are grateful for all contributions!

Temple Beth El's Signature Chanukkah Event: Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers And 2K Latke Loop!



The Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers

The race is coming soon. The last day to register is December 9th.

There is **NO** race day registration.

<https://www.8krazykilometers.org/>

Register at:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Bakersfield/8krazykilometers>

Don't run? You can volunteer. If you would like to volunteer at packet pick up or on the race day - sign up at:

For more information about the Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers or 2K Latke Loop go to

<https://www.8krazykilometers.org/>
or use the QR code below.



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.

If you would like to be part of Sisterhood Leadership, please contact [Kathleen Chambers](#)

There is no leadership nor general meeting In December

- LATKE BRUNCH - DECEMBER 3rd. See flyer and order form below.
- BOOK CLUB - Current books are *Miracles and Menorahs* and *Love and Latkes*, both by **Stacey Aagdern**. Date for review will be in January

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 am-1:30pm

www.templebetheevent.org

The meal is served with latkes (potato pancakes), apple sauce, sour cream, a muffin, Ortega cheese soufflé and other garnishments. Other brunch items are available at additional cost. A variety of beverages included with in person order. Chanukah program provided by TBE Religious School!

Eat in person or reserve your meals for pick up at: Temple Beth 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

Additional Norma's Coffee Cake Muffins-\$7 for 2

There are 2 simple ways to place your order:

1. On line at www.templebetheevent.org
2. Email Helen Armistead at armisteadlmft@gmail.com

Latke brunch includes: Latkes, Cheese Soufflé, one 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	_____	_____
Additional Muffins- 2/\$7	_____	_____
Total Due	_____	

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

___ Credit/Debit Card- # _____ Exp Date _____

CSV _____ Name on Card _____

Zip Code of Billing Address _____

___ In Person ___ Pick up times 11:30-1:30 ___ Special delivery after event

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

December 2023 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6 pm First Friday Shabbat	2 4:30-5:30pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Book of Ruth
3 Latke Brunch 11:30-1:30 and a Children's Performance	4 11:30am Simcha Set Zeppo's Pizza 5:30 PM Ceremony and reading of the names of Israeli Hostages in Gaza @The Liberty Bell Southeast Corner of Truxtun and Chester 7-8:30pm The Basics of Judaism	5 9-9:30am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer Book: 6:30-7:30 Religious Practices Committee	6 PM: Midweek Hebrew (via Zoom; time determined by class)	7 Hanukkah begins at sundown 1st candle	8 6pm Chardonnay Shabbat: Hanukkah Candle Lighting at Temple Beth El	9 10am Shabbat Morning Services with Congregation B'nai Jacob 4:30-5:30pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Eicha 3rd candle
10 No Religious School 8 Krazy Kilometers 8:30 AM Panorama Vista Reserve 4th candle	11 7-8:30 The Basics of Judaism Taught by Rabbi Klein through Bakersfield College* 5th candle	12 9-9:30am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer Book 7pm Board meeting 6th candle	13 PM: Midweek Hebrew (via Zoom; time determined by class) 7th candle	14 8th candle	15 7pm Shabbat Service Hanukkah ends at sundown	16 4:30-5:30pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Eicha
17 No Religious School Winter Break	18 7-8:30 The Basics of Judaism Taught by Rabbi Klein through Bakersfield College*	19 9-9:30am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer book	20 PM: Midweek Hebrew (via Zoom; time to be determined by class)	21	22 7pm Shabbat Service	23 4:30-5:30pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Eicha
24 No Religious School Winter Break	25	26 9-9:30am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer Book	27 PM: Midweek Hebrew (via Zoom; time to be determined by class)	28	29 7pm Shabbat Service	30 4:30-5:30 (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Eicha
31 No Religious School Winter Break School Resumes January 7th						

*Rabbi Klein will cover such topics as God, Torah, and Israel

CELEBRATION WEAR



ALWAYS A REASON TO CELEBRATE! !! 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

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Super Bowl
Sunday

Sunday
February 11
2024

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Beth El

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Idea For
Friends

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& W o r k s

Call Steve or Gail

6 6 1 - 3 2 5 - 3 3 5 3
6 6 1 - 8 6 5 - 8 4 0 2
6 6 1 - 8 7 2 - 5 8 7 8



December, 2023 Yahrzeits



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

12/1 Shabbat Service Yahrzeits

Rose Blatt , mother of Barbara Kessler	11/30
+Isabella Sarah Pike , grandmother of Irvin Pike	12/1
Irene Young , mother of Robert Young	12/2
+Harry I. Segel , remembered by Temple Beth El	12/3
+Shel Cohn , remembered by Temple Beth El	12/4
+Stanley Howard Fish , father of Larry Fish	12/4
Faith Parris , mother of Marcy Smith	12/4
+Robert B. Strauss , uncle of Judy Strauss	12/4, Kislev 21
Marilyn Smith , mother of Robert Smith	12/5
Lillian Waller , great-aunt of Diane Andrews	12/5
+Louis Greenberg , remembered by Temple Beth El	12/7
Linnie Pearl McCombs , mother of Arthur McCombs	12/7

12/8 Shabbat Service Yahrzeits

Mary Ancelet , sister of Andy Andrews	12/8
Bob Christenson , father of Jana Reichert and Bailey Christenson	12/8
+David Baumel , remembered by Temple Beth El	12/8
+Clara Stern Shapiro , great aunt of Steven Magnus; great-great aunt of Elliott Magnus	12/9
+Morris Liberman , remembered by Temple Beth El	12/9
Sylvia Miller , mother of Judith Joyce	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
+Ida Isaacson Horwitz , remembered by Temple Beth El	12/10
+Moses Freisleben , remembered by Temple Beth El	12/10
Manya Schneider , great-aunt of Helen Armistead and Jeff Schwartz	12/12
+William Solomon , grandfather of Greg Broida; great-grandfather of Michael Broida	12/12
+Stanley Fram , father of Joe Fram	12/13
Bracha Hayoun-Weiss , sister of Haya Klein	12/13 Tevet 1
Lorraine Goldner , mother of Barry Goldner	12/13
Rita Fromm , step-mother of Tom Fromm	12/14
Anna Rothberg , mother of Jerrold Rothberg	12/14
+Sophie F. Loewenberg , remembered by Temple Beth El	12/14
Bud Simmons , uncle of Bonnie Birch	12/14

12/15 Shabbat Service Yahrzeits

Jack LeMuie , stepfather of Bonnie Birch	12/16
+Hylda Bailin , remembered by Temple Beth El	12/16
+Melvin Walter Magnus , father of Steve Magnus and Margaret Medaris; grandfather of Elliott Magnus	12/18
Milton Gintzler , great uncle of Laura Lauria; great great uncle of Amanda Garza	12/20
Ruth Schneider , aunt of Helen Armistead and Jeff Schwartz	12/20
+Shirley Baker Lipco , mother of Lisa Levine and Sharon Lipco z'l	12/21
Aaron Schechter , grandfather of Ilene Schechter	12/21

12/22 Shabbat Service Yahrzeits	
Rurh Briefer , grandmother of Karen Briefer	12/22
Helen Kolatch , friend of Lisa Levine	12/23
Edward Schwartz , grandfather of Susie Simrin and Amy Knight z'l	12/23
Morris Gintzler , great uncle of Laura Lauria; great-great uncle of Amanda Garza	12/24, Tevet 12
Arthur Sachs , father of Shirley Ann Newman z'l; grandfather of Heidi Allison	12/24
+Abraham Horowitz , remembered by Temple Beth El	12/24
+Benjamin Stein , remembered by Temple Beth El	12/24
Neva Benedict , grandmother of Gail Magnus; great-grandmother of Elliott Magnus	12/25
Dorothy Ernst , aunt of Esther Brandon	12/25
Raymond Katzell , father of Ellyn Widelock; grandfather of Jenna Odlin	12/25
Ethel K. Bregor , mother of Jackie Rudnick z'l	12/26
Marilee Bronstein , grandmother of Julia Brennan	12/26
Ebba Jensen , grandmother of Laura Wolfe	12/26
Carolyn Larks , aunt of Anita Singer	12/26
Seymour Schechter , father of Ilene Schechter	12/26
Jack Vogel , grandfather of Leah Bank	12/26
+Margot Zadik Zellner , remembered by Temple Berh El	12/27
+Mark Morris , remembered by Temple Beth El	12/27
Herman Schneider , uncle of Helen Armistead and Jeff Schwartz	12/27, Tevet 15
Tony Alfred Chavez , father of Rudie Chavez	12/28
Alfonzo Gonzalez , brother of Rose Broida	12/28
12/29 Shabbat Service Yahrzeits	
+Betty Younger Cohn , remembered by Temple Beth El	12/29
Burton Epstein , father of Leonard Epstein	12/29
+Rosemarie Azgour , remembered by Temple Beth El	12/30
Ezatollah Anav , grandfather of Rod Delijani	12/31, Tevet 19
Marjorie Joan Atencio , mother of Susie Simrin and Amy Knight z'l	12/31
Celia Fingeroff Aronson , grandmother of Kathleen Arnold-Chambers	12/31, Tevet 19
Danny Benjamin Lipco , brother of Lisa Levine and Sharon Lipco z'l	12/31, Tevet 19
+Alter Shrier , remembered by Temple Beth El	12/31
Thomas Lauria , father of Ronald Lauria; grandfather of Amanda Garza	1/1/2024
Gerald Lewis , husband of Etel Lewis	1/1
+Judy Pike Garvin , cousin of Irvin Pike	1/2
Bernice Black , mother of Diane Andrews; grandmother of Becka Ruiz	1/2
+Sybil O. Landson , remembered by Temple Beth El	1/3
William Schacter , grandmother of Sharon Miller	1/4



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---Jeff Schwartz

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