

Shofar



Temple Beth El

Bakersfield, CA

*Bring Your Whole Self,
Whoever You Are*



March 2024 • Adar I - Adar II, 5784

Volume 81, Issue 7



Happy Purim

Megillah Reading & Havdalah
3.23.2024 @ 7 pm



Rabbi Jonathan Klein's Reflections

Forward March

March might have been named thus because of the march of time. The earth is showing signs of [awakening](#):

- Blossoms fill the almond trees just east of the I-5 as I wind my way to the wonderland of our community.
- The coldest days are over; the rains are lessening.
- The last of the lingering Chanukkah decorations that we keep forgetting to put away are finally, ridiculously, shoved into the Chanukkah box.
- Weird Pesach memes start to appear in social media:

On March 21st, 2018, I woke up bright-eyed and posted on Facebook "Happy Spring!" 10 hours later, I admitted myself to Cedars-Sinai Hospital at the urging of the urgent care, only to discover that I was having a heart attack. A week later, I was falsely accused by an employee of horrid activity. A downward spiral shifted my reality in multiple ways; how could I have known that my life would change so radically? I should have, indeed, heeded the soothsayer's advice: "Beware the Ides of March."

And yet, the seasons have gone round. That challenging March gave way to so many blessings in my life. Were it not for that upheaval, I would not have found Temple Beth El. I would not have taken on the personal journey of self-discovery that has led me to far more self-actualization than ever before (and as we know, the journey is NEVER over). I would not have come to understand what matters, and what doesn't. I would not have seen so many more possibilities than I had conceptualized for myself, prior to that transitional March in 2018.

Perhaps March is not just another month; perhaps it is a call to action.

Forward! March!

Rabbi Klein



A Greeting from Our President

Shalom friends who are my family,

I am writing today on the 144th day of the war in Israel. Thousands are still displaced within Israel. Citizens of both the north, from towns bordering Lebanon, and the south, from towns bordering Gaza, are not able to stay home for safety reasons. Our hostages are not home yet either. Israeli leadership is not demonstrating interest in a resolution for the conflict and the death toll is mounting on both sides. I follow the IDF page on Facebook and read to myself the name of every Israeli soldier lost. I also continue to follow multiple sources supporting the families of the hostages and attempting to assist in the release of those who are still alive. The Israel fund supported by Temple Beth El continues to see a trickle of donations. I am grateful for the community that continues to support us.



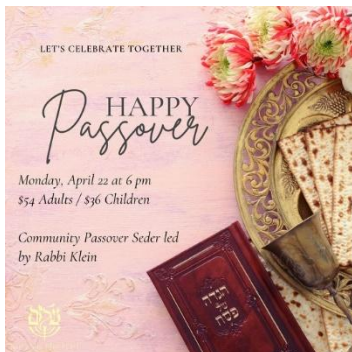
Here we have big events on our Jewish calendar starting with Purim. It has always been my favorite holiday. Rabbi Klein has highlighted to me facts of the story that have me pondering the meaning and the justice inherent in this famous 'they tried to kill us, we won! Let's eat (in this case drink)'. I invite you to join the **Saturday afternoon scrolls class at 4:30 pm on Zoom**. We just started to slowly make our way through Megilat Esther, the story of Purim. We read a few verses and share our understanding of their meanings in light of our personal experiences. It is fun, informative, and maybe even transformative... Our communal Megilah Reading is sure to entertain and give us much joy! This year it is on a Saturday evening. We will gather for Havdalah and then commence with Purim festivities. I will wear a costume. I hope you do too!

The **inaugural movie night will be on March 9 - Crossing Delancey**. I am looking forward to sharing Havdalah and popcorn with you in our social hall.

Passover is around the corner. Rabbi Klein will lead our **community seder on the first night, Monday, April 22**. Lyle Gartenlaub and I are taste-testing our favorite Passover recipes and arguing over which is the REAL traditional dish. Be sure to reserve your spot. This will be a seder to remember! There is a reservation link on the temple's website or access it here - <https://templebethelbakersfield.org/pesach/> \$54 for adults and \$36 for children 6 to 12 years old. Younger than 6 are free. For families with more than one child, Rabbi Klein is picking up the cost of the additional children. We want everyone to participate! If the cost is prohibitive, please, confidentially, let the rabbi, me, or Andy know and we will get you signed up.

יש תמיד סיבה למסיבה

There is always a reason for celebration
Stay strong, שלום
Avital



Moments In our Lives

Happy Anniversary!

Joshua and Edith Rdnick	March 10
Bill and Laura Wolfe	March 10
Stacy and Mark Davis	March 19
Michael and La Zelle Broida	March 23
Jeff Russinsky and Linda Morales	March 24
Jana and Josh Reichert	March 28

Happy Birthday!

Esther Brandon	March 1
Elaine White	March 3
Rudie Chavez	March 13
Robert Smith	March 13
Jeffrey Russinsky	March 14
Dawn Baron	March 15
Linda Hakimi	March 15
Celeste Caballero	March 16
Peggie Soltis-McGraw	March 16
Tom Armistead	March 17
Jill Eglan	March 17
Lucas Baron	March 18
Jessica Kessler	March 18
Isabella Rudnick	March 20
Rachel Wainwright	March 20
Michael Feldman	March 22
Eli Clark	March 27
Stacey Rodriquez	March 27
Jeanette Delijani	March 29



Our Contributors: Thank You

Thanks go out to the following *Tornim*

Kol Nidre Donations

Leonard and Carla Epstein
Barry and Theresa Goldner

Memorials/Yahrzeits

Bob and Heidi Allison: *in memory of Irma Adler, Arthur Sach, and Bert Kantor*
Brent Eastep: *in memory of Hy Davis*
Ronald and Laura Lauria: *in memory of Thomas Lauria Jr.*
Marcia Rudnick: *in memory of Milton Rudnick*
Anthony and Courtney Vengarick: *in memory of Marion Pickens*

Rabbi Discretionary

Leonard and Carla Epstein: *in memory of Warren Gold*
Alan Freisleben
Irvin Pike and Pamela Elisheva
Linda Porter

Solar Carport

Linda Porter

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

We are grateful for all contributions!

תודה רבה
Thank You

SISTERHOOD CHAILIGHTS

March 2024

Sisterhood members continue to participate in many exciting and interesting activities! We continue to have activities Via Zoom but please note we now have 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 March and the future!

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

GENERAL MEETING- Sunday, March 17th @ 3 pm TBE Zoom

LEADERSHIP MEETING- Thursday, March 14th @ 4:30 pm via TBE Zoom

BOOK CLUB- **New Book** is Lady at the O.K. Corral. No date to review yet!

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 look forward to seeing you all at future activities and meetings!

If you have any questions please feel free to email me, Helen Armistead- Secretary;
armisteadlmft@gmail.com

MENSCH CLUB

Calling all Temple males. The Mensch Club is looking for members to join in FUN activities. Poker Night, Golf, Mother's Day Brunch, Etc.

If interested text, Steve Magnus @ 661-865-8402

March 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6 pm First Friday Shabbat Family Services	2 <i>Ki Tisa</i> 4:30-5:30 pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Megilat Esther
3 9:30-12:30 Religious School	4 11:30 Simcha Set Lunch @Rosa's Italian Restaurant 7-8:30 Hebrew Reading Class via Bakersfield College	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	8 6pm Chardonnay Shabbat with Dinner in the Social Hall	9 <i>Vayakhel / Shekalim</i> 9:30 Shabbat Morning Service w Cong Bnai Jacob 4:30-5:30 pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Megilat Esther 6pm Havdalah / Movie night "Crossing Delancey"
10 <i>Rosh Chodesh Adar II</i> 9:30-12:30 Religious School	11 <i>Rosh Chodesh Adar II</i> 7-8:30 Hebrew Reading Class via Bakersfield College	12 9-9:30am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer Book 7pm Board meeting	13 PM: Midweek Hebrew (via Zoom; time determined by class)	14 <i>π Day</i>	15 7pm Shabbat Service	16 <i>Pekudei</i> 4:30-5:30 pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Megilat Esther
17 9:30-12:30 Religious School Hamantaschen-Baking	18	19 9-9:30am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer Book	20 PM: Midweek Hebrew (via Zoom; time determined by class)	21	22 7pm Shabbat Service	23 <i>Vayikra / Zachor</i> 7pm Megillah Reading & Havdalah 4:30-5:30 pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Megilat Esther
24 <i>Purim</i> Field trip to a Purim Carnival!	25	26 9-9:30am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer Book	27 PM: Midweek Hebrew (via Zoom; time determined by class)	28	29	30 <i>Tzav / Para</i>
31 <i>Spring Break</i>						

CELEBRATION WEAR



ALWAYS A REASON TO CELEBRATE! יש 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

March 2024 Yahrzeits



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

March 1 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
Adolph Bernstein; father of Stacy Davis	3/1
Ruth Broida Harter; mother of Greg Broida	3/1
Moshe Eliezar Neuman; grandfather of Heidi Allison, father-in-law of Shirley Ann Newman z'l	3/1, Adar-I 21
Shifra Neuman; grandmother of Heidi Allison, mother-in-law of Shirley Ann Newman z'l	3/1, Adar-I 21
Rifka Rubenstein Sprung; grandmother of Maxwell Newman z'l, great-grandmother of Heidi Allison	3/1, Adar-I 21
March 8 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
Michael Calvin Brust; father of David Brust	3/2
Harold Greenstein; father of Jay Greenstein	3/2
Estelle Salnitsky; aunt of Esther Brandon	3/3
Fay Berger; Greatgrandmother of Leah Bank	3/4
David Kohn; uncle of Arline Pike z'l and Muriel Vekas z'l, great-uncle of Irvin Pike	3/4
Rae Cherry; aunt of Helen Armistead	3/4, Adar-I 24
Hyman Krute; uncle of Jackie Rudnick z'l	3/5
Sheila Overture; cousin of Irvin Pike, niece of Arline Pike z'l	3/5
Marie Redding; mother of Jeanne Moore	3/6
Noah Todd Widelock; brother of Jenna Odlin	3/6
Stanley Schwartz; father of Helen Armistead and Jeff Schwartz, husband of Norma Schwartz z'l	3/6, Adar-I 26
Melvin Adelstein; brother of Sylvia Katz z'l	3/7
Hannah Somkin; grandmother of Ilene Schechter	3/7, Adar-I 27
Esther Schwartz; grandmother of Diane Andrews	3/8
Anne Caplan; mother of Diane Rogers	3/8, Adar-I 28
Tom Bettis; husband of Susan Bettis	3/11
William Fish; grandfather of Larry Fish	3/11
Loraine Baranowicz; Sister of Alexis Lukehart	3/11, Adar-II 1
Barry Schwartz; father of Stacey Rodriguez	3/12
Mike Scott; foster son of Stan z'l & Norma Schwartz z'l	3/12
Esther Flaxman; aunt of Larry Saslaw	3/14
+ Bessie Kaplan; mother of Marsha Parr	3/14
March 15 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
+ Marilyn Greenlee; mother of Marilyn Press and Arnold Reed	3/15

Sarah Kasse; great-aunt of Steven Magnus, great-great aunt of Elliott Magnus	3/15
Sam Saslaw; uncle of Larry Saslaw	3/15
Elijah Escobedo; son of Carol and Raul Escobedo, grandson of Rabbi Winn Wagaman	3/17
Samuel J. Young; father of Robert Young	3/18
Samuel Epstein; father of Etta Robin z'l	3/19
Peter Perez; step-brother of Joshua Rudnick	3/19
Allen Wolfe; father of Willam Wolfe	3/19
Zelda Baron; friend of Dan (z'l) & Mary Speare	3/20
Bradley Dillon; grandson of Peggie Soltis-McGraw	3/21
Dr. Ralph Franklin; friend of Dan z'l & Mary Speare	3/21
Ida Kruger; great aunt of Sarah Mawhirter	3/21
Amram Sheriki; father of Haya Klein	3/21, Adar-II 11
March 22 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
+ Arline Pike; mother of Irvin Pike	3/22
+ William Pike; father-in-law of Arline Pike z'l, grandfather of Irvin Pike	3/22
Ann Silver; wife of Howard Silver	3/24
Mazal Hadida; grandmother of Dorise Bitton	3/24, Adar-II 14
Peter Golombek; remembered by Carla and Len Epstein	3/25
Geitel Stern; great-grandmother of Steven Magnus, great-great grandmother of Elliott Magnus	3/25
William Greenberg; father of Ella Abrams	3/25, Adar-II 15
Max Gruber; father of John Fried z'l	3/26
Jim Humphrey; father of Karlyn Farber and Laura Reyes, grandfather of Kari Aguilar	3/26
Tony Rodriquez; father of Adam Rodriquez	3/26
March 29 Shabbat Services Yahrzeits	
Hyman Hoffman; grandfather of Steven Magnus, great-grandfather of Elliott Magnus	3/30
Bruce Pagni; friend of Connie Wellman z'l & Peggie Soltis-McGraw	3/30
Florence Burstein Goldy; mother of Lynne Joseph	3/31
Jay Leopold; brother-in-law of Judy Strauss	3/31, Adar-II 21

Welcome to Bright Beginnings Learning Center

2906 Loma Linda Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93305

Hours: 6:30 am to 6:00 pm

We are a safe, respectful and loving State Licensed Preschool with a qualified staff offering the following:

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For More detailed information, contact Bright Beginnings at (661) 324-1253 or email Toni Ferguson, Director, at tonibblcdirector@gmail.com



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---Jeff Schwartz

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