

APRIL 2024

ADAR II • NISSAN 5784

SHOFAR

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Community Pesach Seder

Monday, April 22 @ 6 pm



Temple Beth El

Bakersfield, California

*Bring your whole self,
whoever you are*

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LETTER FROM THE RABBI

Contemplating Freedom this Month of Liberation

Passover, deemed “The Season of our Liberation” (זמן חרותינו) by the Rabbis, typically falls in April, mere days after the Spring Equinox, which makes sense since Passover is the 15th of the Hebrew month Nisan, deemed “Spring” (אביב) in the Bible. We know this holiday to celebrate our freedom from enslavement under the persecution of the Pharaoh who “knew not Joseph.” In no time at all—some traditions (Talmud, [Sotah 11a](#)) suggest that it’s the same Pharaoh who both named Joseph second in command and then turned his back on him as if he didn’t know him—our ancestors went from regal status to persecuted minority. The same is said of the sudden reversal of fortune under King Ahasuerus in the Purim story: Despite living peacefully as loyal subjects in Shushan, evil Haman convinces the king to murder all Jews in the kingdom; yet, soon after that reversal of fortune, Esther yet again reverses the edict and the Jewish people are saved.

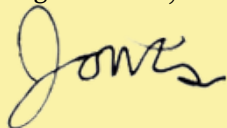
Children typically are taught that Pesach is about physical freedom, reflecting on the liberation from slavery. The rabbis offer a clue to a bigger story when during the Seder we acknowledge moving “from slavery to freedom” (מעבדות לחרות) not only physically but spiritually as well: “My father was a wandering Aramean” (אֲרַמִּי אֹבֵד אָבִי), remembering that Abraham was the first to discover our God. We were idolators, our Haggadah teaches, who then discovered God. This spiritualization of the move from slavery to freedom makes the story of Passover more relevant to our current blessed generation of American Jews who do not face the wrath of a moody, unstable dictator whose whimsical disdain toward Jews could be murderous.

However, there is a next level of discussion about freedom, one that we barely touch (although Counting the Omer can be spiritualized to capture this deeper meaning), namely, the ongoing question of just how free we are? How much of our lives are controlled by commercial forces that have integrated themselves into our social media as advertising algorithms? To what extent can we really claim freedom when we are surveilled physically and digitally 24/7? Was Jeremy Bentham’s 18th Century [Panopticon](#) a societal advancement as it had been touted, or was it the harbinger of the end of privacy, of free will, of complete independence? Are any of us truly free?

I want to explore the question of our “freedom,” free will, and t’shuvah (repentance, return) during our High Holy Days this year. If you have studied Jeremy Bentham, Michel Foucault, or others who have written on these matters, please let me know, I’d love to speak with you.

Meanwhile, as we celebrate Pesach together (have you [signed up yet for our communal seder?](#)), I hope you will not only recognize the good fortune of the Israelites 3000+ years ago, but also will fully embrace that “In each and every generation, one is obligated to see themselves as if they left Egypt” and were liberated from enslavement. Why? Because none of us are truly free unless we imagine something greater than the shackles that hold us back from all of our dreams, visions of self and of the world. May this Pesach mark the commencement of your complete and utter freedom!

Chag Sameiach, I love you all!



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Shalom friends who are family,

Purim has just been celebrated with all the delight and laughter that it brings. We had a wonderful Havdalah circle led by Rabbi Klein followed by inspired, funny and entertaining interpretations of the story. Grateful to all who contributed, particularly Stacy Davis who breathed life into the celebration.

Our focus now is on Passover! We are super excited to return to our community Seder tradition. First night of Passover is April 22 this year. Please RSVP at your earliest convenience.

We continue to pray for the freedom of the hostages held in Gaza. It is beyond comprehension that in our day we are experiencing the true horrors of captivity that seem to befall us in every generation. We know that just as the Haggadah states: in every generation they rise up to destroy us.

But the Holy One, Blessed be He, delivers us... כן יהי רצון (May it be His Will)

The annual congregation meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2024. We will combine it with our 2nd annual picnic this year. If you will not attend in person, please vote by mail. All material will be sent for your consideration.

Movie night April 13th will feature 'When Do We Eat'. Join us at the social hall at 6 pm.

יש תמיד סיבה למסיבה

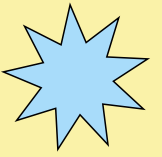
There is always a reason for joy,

Avital Anders





OUR CONTRIBUTORS: THANK YOU



Kol Nidre Donations

- David Anaya & Celeste Caballero: *in honor of Machatzit HaShekel*
- Leonard & Carla Epstein



Memorials/Yahrzeits

- Andy & Ella Abrams: *in memory of Marion Lee Pickens*
- Brent Eastep: *in memory of Hy Davis*
- Laura & Ricardo Reyes: *in memory of Jim Humphrey*
- Melanie Rudnick: *in memory of Milton Rudnick*
- Philip Rudnick: *in memory of Milton Rudnick*
- Ilene Schechter: *in memory of Hannah Somkin*
- Robert & Marcy Smith: *in memory of Marion Lee Pickens*
- Wynne Waugaman: *in memory of Dr. Philip B. Hollander*

Rabbi Discretionary

- Esther & Rogers Brandon: *in memory of Estelle Salnitsky*
- Leonard & Carla Epstein
- Vivian Gonzales: *in memory of Marion Lee Pickens*
- Margot Shinn
- Kathleen Chambers: *in memory of Tim Samuel Arnold*

Contribute Online:

<https://templebethelbakersfield.org/donation>

We are grateful for all contributions!

Happy Anniversary



William & Terry Skinner
Joseph & Jennifer Marcus
Peggie & Colleen Soltis-McGraw
Tom & Robin Feher
Lisa & Andrew Levine
Rebecca & Joseph Ruiz

APRIL 6
APRIL 12
APRIL 13
APRIL 26
APRIL 28
APRIL 29



MOMENTS IN OUR LIVES

HAPPY
Birthday



Laura Reyes	April 4	Gabriel Theron	April 18
Eytan Wallace	April 4	Timothy Fromm	April 21
Ferdinand Aggenbach	April 5	Dorothy Rittenberg	April 23
Ellis Reichert	April 5	Alpha Anders	April 24
Jude Ruiz	April 5	Sidney Freedman	April 24
Leora Freedman	April 6	Michael Weinberg	April 24
Adam Rodriguez	April 7	Abigail Martinez	April 26
Chelsea Zent	April 7	Alexander Yisrael Herndon	April 27
Rebecca Herndon	April 8	Meir Levi Herndon	April 27
John Beam	April 10	Hendrix Mawhirter	April 29
Olivia Marcus	April 10	Marcy Smith	April 29
Beth Spiegel	April 16	Danielle Hayden	April 30



Early bird registration for the Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers and 2K Latke Loops opens on Monday, April 1 at noon. The event will be held in person on December 8th at the Panorama Vista Preserve. There is also a virtual option. Registration available at [RunSignUP](https://runsignup.com).

This is a fundraiser for Temple Beth El, and 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 \$28 for the 2K and \$32 for the 8K. The current cost for the virtual race is \$28 plus \$10 for postage. This year we are including a long-sleeved race shirt. The prices will increase on September 30, 2024.

Don't delay, register today!

You can register at: <https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Bakersfield/8krazykilometers>
Tell all your friends and family about our family friendly event.

For more information about the race visit our website at 8krazykilometers.org or visit our [Facebook page](#) or [Instagram page](#)

The Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers committee is also looking for [sponsors](#), [raffle prize donations](#), and [volunteers](#).

If you are interested in helping, please contact Stacy Davis by phone at 661-319-4069 or by email at 8krazykilometers@gmail.com

Sisterhood: Chailights

Sisterhood members continue to participate in many exciting and interesting activities! All activities can be started at any time and no prior attendance is needed.

GENERAL MEETING- Sunday, April 21st @ 3:00 pm TBE Zoom

LEADERSHIP MEETING- Thursday, April 18th @ 4:30 pm TBE Zoom

BOOK CLUB- Lady at the O.K. Corral by Ann Kirshner;

Sunday, April 14th @ 1:00 pm TBE Zoom

Rosh Chodesh- Sunday, April 7th @ 6:30 pm TBE Zoom



Please consider joining some great women! All Sisterhood activities are via TBE Zoom and in person, as noted.

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

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

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



Adar 2 •
Nissan

April



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
 1 <i>22 Adar</i>	2 9-9:30 am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer Book 6:30-7:30 pm Religious Practices Committee	3 Midweek Hebrew (via Zoom; time determined by class)	4	5 6pm First Friday Shabbat Family Services	6 <i>Shemini</i> 4:30-5:30 pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Megilat Esther	
7 9:30-12:30 Religious School	8	9 <i>1 Nissan</i> <i>Rosh Chodesh</i> 9-9:30 am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer Book 7 pm Board Meeting	10 Midweek Hebrew (via Zoom; time determined by class)	11	12 6pm Chardonnay Shabbat. Dinner in Social Hall	13 <i>Tazriya</i> 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service w Cong Bnai Jacob 4:30-5:30 pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class
14 9:30-12:30 Religious School	15	16 9-9:30 am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer Book	17 Midweek Hebrew (via Zoom; time determined by class)	18	19 7pm Shabbat Service	20 <i>Metzora</i> <i>Shabbat Hagadol</i> 4:30-5:30 pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Megilat Esther
21 9:30-12:30 Religious School: <i>Model</i> <i>Seder</i>	22 <i>Erev Pesach</i> 6 pm Community Seder	23 <i>Pesach Day 1</i>	24 <i>Pesach Day 2</i>	25	26 7pm Shabbat Service	27 <i>Pesach</i> 4:30-5:30 pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Megilat Esther
28 9:30-12:30 Religious School	29 <i>Pesach Day 7</i>	30 <i>Pesach Day 8</i> 9-9:30 am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer Book	<div data-bbox="755 1785 1315 2089" data-label="Complex-Block"> <p>Services Religious School Adult Education Leadership Meetings Community Events Parsha of the Week Jewish Holidays Jewish Date</p> </div>		 9	

CELEBRATION WEAR



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

**ALWAYS A
REASON TO
CELEBRATE**

**יש תמיד
סיבה
למסיבה!!**

Yahrzeits

April 2024

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

APRIL 5 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Matilde Lewis ; aunt of Janet Blumberg; sister-in-law of Ana Genel ל"י	April 6
+Freda Singer ; mother of Sylvia Neal ל"י	April 8
Abraham Popel ; father of Sonia Simrin ל"י; grandfather of Marty Weinberg; grandfather of Susie Simrin	April 9
Milton Shilkrouit ; uncle of Judy Strauss	April 9, Nissan 1
Ron Deem ; son-in-law of Stan & Norma Schwartz	April 11
David Kosakowski ; husband of Dorise Bitton	April 11, Nissan 3
Harry Nadler ; father of Jack Bloch ל"י	April 11
Sarah Rosenfeld ; Grandmother of Andrew Levine	April 11

APRIL 12 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Tim Arnold ; brother of Kathleen Arnold-Chambers	April 12
Phyllis Swinney ; mother of Nancy McCombs	April 12
Mary Louise Benner ; mother of Patricia Young	April 13
Eva Blumer ; mother of Vivian Gonzales	April 13
Sheldon Freedman ; Husband of Beth Freedman; father of Michael Freedman	April 13
Emily Lepp ; great aunt of Laura Lauria; great-great-aunt of Amanda Garza	April 13
Louis Caplan ; father of Diane Rogers	April 14, Nissan 6
Robert Lawson ; nephew of Michael Farber	April 15
Doug Halpern ; grandfather of Sarah Mawhirter	April 15
Kenneth Harman ; cousin of Daniel Rudnick, Joshua Rudnick, and Libbie Mahan; nephew of Miriam Stull	April 17
	April 18

APRIL 19 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

+Diane Polland Carrete ; aunt of Amanda Garza	April 19
+Sharon Lipco ; sister of Lisa Levine	April 22
Mollie Schwalbendorf ; grandmother of Larry Fish	April 22
Haya Sura Shnaiderman ; sister of Etel Lewis	April 23
Christy Therese Trunec ; daughter of Colleen Soltis-McGraw	April 23
Andrew Davis ; son of Diane & Andy Andrews; brother of Becka Ruiz	April 24
Norma Schwartz ; mother of Jeff Schwartz and Helen Armistead	April 25

APRIL 26 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Marsha Huacuja ; remembered by TBE	April 26
Greta Oppenheimer ; mother of Judy Feldman	April 27, Nissan 19
Simon Lewi ; brother of Ana Genel 7"r; uncle of Janet Blumberg	April 28
Martha Ann Ohe ; mother of Marianne Gartenlaub	April 28
Marie Schulman ; grandmother of Marc Schulman	April 29, Nissan 21
Mark Burgess ; brother-in-law of Peggie Soltis-McGraw & Connie Wellman 7"r	April 30
+Albert Abram Kaplan ; father of Marsha Parr	April 30
Alvin Polland ; uncle of Laura Lauria; great uncle of Amanda Garza	April 30, Nissan 22



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---Jeff Schwartz

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