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IYAR ▪ SIVAN 5784

SHOFAR

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Temple Beth El

Bakersfield, California

*Bring your whole self,
whoever you are*

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LETTER FROM THE RABBI

Return to Who You Are...But Who Are You?

Scholar and rabbi, Daniel Boyarin, tells the story of the time he had Shabbat dinner with lifelong friends. There he saw grainy photos of their now-grown fraternal twins who pursued vastly different professions...twice: The taller one was into sports in his youth but became a singer as an adult, whereas the shorter twin had been a passionate boy soprano in elementary school but later coached his son's little league team as an adult. How remarkable! These twins radically switched identities! In his book, *The Jewish Gospels*, he relates this to the Jewish self-understanding of who we were in the days of King Herod, when there were "Judaisms," i.e. diverse approaches and sects within our kahal. Ultimately, as a community we came to believe ourselves to hold a particular identity which, in reality, is only part of the story of who we are. Who are we? Our rabbinic Sages, whose lineage is directly tied to the Pharisees, imagined us to be like Yeshiva-attending Jacob, a scholar and mama's boy (i.e. Rebecca's favorite), who lived in stark contrast with his twin brother, the hunter known as Esau, later associated with the EDOMites who were ADOM--ruddy, fleshy, brutish and ogre-like. Our people's self-image developed early on as soft, vulnerable, peaceful, perhaps a polemic to counter the image of the Sadducean lineage which emphasized hierarchy and power as Jews. This soft identity is further reinforced through emphasis on story after story--we are David not Goliath, we are the Prophets not a corrupt king, "Not by might, not by power, but by your spirit....says A-Donai,.." we are gentle giants of justice, not brutish warmongers. Forever underdogs. But how true is this? We also conquer the land, rid Canaan of its peoples. We utterly destroy Amalekites as revenge for their brazen attacks. Haman and thousands of his supporters are killed in the Book of Esther. Ezra demands that men rid themselves of foreign women.

In the tale of the scapegoat, my teacher Rabbi David Ingber noted that the two goats--one slaughtered and the other sent off to "Azazel" to fall off a cliff--look and act like twins, both ultimately suffering the same fate despite their different experiences in the world. Perhaps distinctions without difference. And early Zionist scholar Leon Pinsker noted that in order for form a Jewish state, we needed to reconsider our workforce, invert it; instead of the longstanding tradition Yeshiva-dwellers who sit and learn/teach Torah all day (Remember: Teyva's ultimate dream, "if he were a rich man," is to have a prime seat next to the eastern wall of the synagogue--closest to God--in which he would learn all day, even better than the staircase leading to nowhere "just for show"), we needed to work the land, build the high rises, create the defense systems, and otherwise use our brawn, first and foremost, to build a brand-new society for Jews to safely escape the anti-Semitism that engulfed them. Ben Gurion famously quipped that, "When Israel has prostitutes and thieves, we'll be a state just like any other." Jews (and specifically Israelis) had to reinvent themselves. Perhaps Pinsker had a premonition of Boyarin's experience of witnessing the flipping of identities that his friend's sons embodied when he had that Shabbat dinner.



Individually, we, too, pick our own adventure, leaving behind pieces of our skills sets and perhaps underdeveloping our gifts in one area so that we have something to say in another, a way to differentiate ourselves. We make "decisions;" like all other "-ides," like suicide and homicide, when we "decide," we kill something off inside ourselves, or make dormant a piece of us. Allowing our other gifts to wither, we sculpt something special about ourselves. However, We cannot do it all, so hopefully our decisions do the greatest good for ourselves and for the world around us.

Who are you? Who did you become? Did you choose this pathway, or was it handed to you? Are you happy with who you have become? I bless all of us with finding our best realities and yet reminding ourselves that we are much, much more than who we have become. And if you find yourself trapped in an identity that does not serve you, may you have the strength, the courage, to remember that which has layed dormant within you, perhaps for years, and reboot your life. Mo matter how old you may be, may your Second Act--or third, fourth or tenth--nourish your soul and bring out the best within you, a manifestation of the dusty embodiment of Divine Image within you, brain AND braun, kindness and power, Jacob and Esau, David and Goliath...all manifestations of the E-lohim Chayim, the living God."

Happy counting!
Rabbi Klein

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jones' or 'Klein' with a stylized flourish at the end.

p.s. On WhatsApp? [Get daily Omer reminders](#) from our very own venerable Pamela Elisheva, former President and amazing teacher. Click [here](#).

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shalom friends who are family,

Peace. Security. Hope. Blessings.

Bring our brothers and sisters home. I start every day checking the news. We continue to stand with the country that is our ancestral homeland. We may assess some decisions and actions as wrong with the information available to us. We may applaud actions and decisions that are reported. We are not the decision-makers, although at times Jews are attacked as if we each are responsible for the course of the war in Gaza. Please continue to stand tall. Remember that the way things are reported may not be accurate. "Facts" are reversed and declarations are waked back, usually quietly. We pray that Israel finds a way to survive this excruciating period. We pray that we continue to thrive as a people deeply connected to humanity and the commitment to make our world a better place.

In our corner of the Jewish world, things are happening. Coming up is our annual congregational meeting. It is the formal reporting of, and voting for the board and the budget. Len Epstein is preparing brisket for a picnic we will hold before the meeting. Please bring a dish to share and let us enjoy each other's company. Shavuot, one of the biblically ordained pilgrimage holidays, will be celebrated around the world and at Temple Beth El on Tuesday, June 11th. It is celebrating the giving of our Torah as well as a harvest festival. It is also the conclusion of counting of the Omer which we communily did with the help of daily reminders by Pamela Elisheva. A sumptuous dairy buffet will precede services at 6 pm. Be sure to come and enjoy a great cheesecake and bring something to share.

The Solar installation is complete, we are making electricity and sharing it with the state. As time goes on we will benefit from the reduced cost of this utility.

Security cameras, fencing, and window protection were installed. We are applying for another round of funding to continue improving our safety as we gather. Rock Harbor Church has offered resources in terms of security personnel and training. We now have a security committee chaired by Helen Armistead that will develop and implement additional steps to enhance our preparedness.

Religious School is out for the summer. Jeanette Delijani, Rabbi Klein, and I are meeting frequently to adopt, develop, and implement a curriculum that will be engaging, stimulating, and fit the resources we have. Members who stepped up to teach are Pixie Friedman, Joesph Marcus, Susie Simrin, Irvin Pike, Pamela Elisheva, Stacy Davis, Jeanette Delijani, Sarah Mawhirter, Brook

Taylor, myself, and of course Rabbi Klein. A few will teach 'full time', most will teach occasionally. I am listing the names here because I would like to add YOUR NAME! We need more teachers to fill in for specific subjects occasionally or take on a longer commitment. Our school community is vibrant and joyful. You will enjoy this way of connecting with our next generation and our young families. We will support you with resources and lesson plans. This is our future and truly a fun way to spend a few hours on a Sunday morning.

About 10 percent of our membership responded to the congregational survey. I am heartened that all the responders who commented on our services and community rated both highly. Some acknowledged not being very involved and there were comments about improving our physical structure (which we would love to do!). Thank you for taking the time to let us know how we are doing. The effort is worth it and thankfully embraced. It is commonly discussed that connecting with others is important for happiness and mental health. I know this from personal experience. The last months have been particularly challenging for me. Sharing Shabbat with community brings me joy every time! I don't know how else to say it. I encourage you to show up, give, and get a hug and a smile. We are meant to be connected to others. Come see for yourself.

יש תמיד סיבה למסיבה

There is always a reason for joy,

Avital Anders



1995-1996 First Grade Class taught by Avital Anders

From Left to Right: David Neal, Joel Saslaw, Evan Abarbanel, William Zimmerman

happy anniversary

Miriam & John Beam June 7
Jay & Marsha Greenstein June 8
Bob & Heidi Allison June 13
Rod & Jeanette Delijani June 13

Charles & Sharon Rhodes June 13
Dawn & Ron Baron June 23
David & Terri Stanton June 30

MOMENTS IN OUR LIVES

Happy Birthday

Catherine Mahan June 5
Jennifer Marcus June 5
Raul Escobedo June 6
Philip Rudnick June 6
Lyle Gartenlaub June 7
Richard Schenkman June 10
Rogers Brandon June 11
Steven Magnus June 11
Jeffrey Schwartz June 13
David Anaya June 15
Judy Feldman June 15

Etel Lewis June 15
Elijah David Delijani June 16
Mary Helen Barro June 17
Gail Magnus June 17
Linda Porter June 18
Jennifer Skinner June 20
Lola Baron June 27
Larry Fish June 28
Selah McCay June 28
Terri Stanton June 28
Carter Friedman June 29

יום הולדת שמח

Our Contributors:

thank you

Memorials/Yahrzeits

- Nancy & Arthur McCombs: *in memory of Al Swinney*
- Brent Eastep: *in memory of Hy Davis*
- Catherine Mahan: *in memory of Marcia Rudnick*
- Ilene Schechter: *in memory of Rose Schechter*
- Bob & Marcy Smith: *in memory of Leonard H. Smith*
- Ronald & Laura Lauria: *in memory of Diane Polland Carrete, Alvin Polland & Ethel Gintzler*

Building Fund

- Rod & Jeanette Delijani
- Rebecca & Joseph Ruiz



Tree of Life

In honor of Kathleen Arnold Chambers WOTBE president:

- Andy & Ella Abrams
- Andy & Diane Andrews
- Helen & Tom Armistead
- Esther & Rogers Brandon
- Michael & Judy Feldman
- Steven & Gail Magnus
- Ilene Schechter
- Wynne Waugaman

Caring Committee

- Andy & Ella Abrams: *for all the hard work done by the committee*

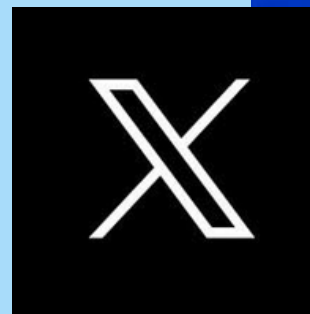
Rabbi Discretionary

- Leonard & Carla Epstein: *in memory of William E. Davis*
- Alan Freisleben

Contribute Online:

<https://templebethelbakersfield.org/donation>

We are grateful for all contributions!



Help Promote Temple Beth El's Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers and 2K Latke Loop

...by following us on social media and sharing our posts with your friends and family.

Facebook: [Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers and 2k Latke Loop](#)

Facebook group: [Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers](#)

Instagram: [Hanukkah8kbakersfield](#)

TikTok: [TBE Krazy 8k.](#)

X: [Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers and 2K Latke Loop](#)

Not Registered Yet? Early bird registration is open for our Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers and 2K Latke Loop. Take advantage of our discounted prices and register now at [RunSignUP](#) For an additional discount you can form a team of 3 or more people. After the third member of your team registers, all participants will receive the discount. There is even a prize for the biggest team. This year all participants will receive a long-sleeved race shirt.



Check out the "Krazy" merchandise in our new race store! We have caps, beanies and sweatshirts for sale. Open to both registrants and non-registrants! Purchase at

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

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.

The New Sisterhood Board: *President-* Ilene Schechter; *Co-Vice Presidents-* Amanda Garza and Helen Armistead; *Treasurer-* Linda Hakimi

GENERAL MEETING- Sunday, June 9th @ 3:00 pm TBE Zoom

LEADERSHIP MEETING- Sunday, June 9th @ 2:15 pm TBE Zoom

BOOK CLUB- The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride;
Sunday, June 23rd @ 1:00 pm TBE Zoom

Rosh Chodesh- Sunday, June 2nd @ 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, Etc.

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



Iyar •
Sivan

JUNE



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Services Religious School Adult Education Leadership Meetings Community Events Parsha of the Week Jewish Holidays Jewish Date						1 <i>24 Iyar</i> <i>Bechukotai</i>
2 12:00 pm Community Picnic 1:30 pm Congregation Meeting	3	4 9-9:30 am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer Book 6:30-7:30 pm (Zoom) Religious Practices Committee	5	6	7 <i>1 Sivan</i> <i>Rosh Chodesh</i> 6pm First Friday Shabbat Family Services	8 <i>Bamidbar</i> 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service w Cong Bnai Jacob 4:30-5:30 pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class
9	10	11 9-9:30 am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer Book 5:30 pm Board Meeting 6:00 pm Shavuot	12 <i>Shavuot</i>	13 <i>Shavuot</i>	14 6pm Chardonnay Shabbat. Dinner in Social Hall	15 <i>Naso</i> 4:30-5:30 pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Megilat Esther
16 <i>Father's Day</i>	17	18 9-9:30 am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer Book Midweek Hebrew (Zoom) time TBD	19	20	21 7pm Shabbat Service	22 <i>Behaalotecha</i> 4:30-5:30 pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Megilat Esther
23 30	24	25 9-9:30 am (Zoom) Prayers of our Prayer Book Midweek Hebrew (Zoom) time TBD	26	27	28 7pm Shabbat Unplugged	29 <i>Shlach</i> 4:30-5:30 pm (Zoom) Scrolls Class: Megilat Esther 11

UPCOMING EVENTS:



CELEBRATION WEAR



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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

**יש תמיד
סיבה
למסיבה!!**

YAHREZEITS

June 2024

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

MAY 31 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHREZEITS

Rose Gousman: cousin of Mary Speare	June 2
Jose Peralta: uncle of Rosa Barrera	June 2
Marco Rosa: brother of Indiana Schenkman	June 2
+Barney Shinberg: remembered by TBE	June 2
Edna Solomon: remembered by TBE	June 3
+Ben Cohn: remembered by TBE	June 4
+Florence Pearl Tevins: remembered by TBE	June 4
+Rabbi Jack A. Levy: remembered by TBE	June 4
Eleanor Strauss: aunt of Judy Strauss	June 4, Iyar 27
Hortense J. Strom: mother of Leo Strom ז"ל	June 5, Iyar 28
+Guy Parr: husband of Marsha Parr	June 6
+Muriel Vekas: sister of Arline Pike ז"ל, aunt of Irvin Pike	June 6

JUNE 7 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHREZEITS

Katrina Anne Ruiz: niece of Libbie Mahan	June 8
Debra Vice: sister of Marc Schulman	June 8
+Samuel Brown: remembered by TBE	June 8
+Joan Fromm: mother of Tim Fromm	June 10
Leah Schenkman: mother of Richard Schenkman	June 10
+Harry Davis: brother-in-law of Pearl Davis ז"ל	June 11
Tyler Anthony Mince: nephew of Laura Lauria, cousin of Amanda Garza	June 11
+Pauline Kamin: remembered by TBE	June 11
+Goldie Bernstein: sister-in-law of Pearl Davis ז"ל	June 12
Etta Goldman: aunt of Marsha Parr	June 12
+Faige Stein: remembered by TBE	June 12
Al Abrams: Father of Andy Abrams, husband of Charlotte Abrams ז"ל	June 13
Dianne Barrath: mother of Debra Barrath	June 13
Helene Davis: mother of Carla Epstein	June 13

JUNE 14 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

+Robert Luis Atencio: remembered by TBE	June 14
Lillian Epstein: mother of Etta Robin 7"7	June 15
Sadye Axler Soren: grandmother of Sharon Miller	June 16, Sivan 10
Miriam Buck: grandmother of Beth Spiegel	June 16
Tsolik Lekht: brother of Etel Lewis	June 17
+Wendy Wayne: remembered by TBE	June 17
Kathryn White: mother of Doug White	June 17
Kendall R. Peterson: father of Ann Peterson-Saslaw 7"7	June 19
+Lewis Vengarick: father of Anthony Vengarick, remembered by Arline Pike 7"7 & Irvin Pike	June 19
Julius Bard: grandfather of Marc Schulman	June 20, Sivan 14

JUNE 21 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Sheryn Pincoski: remembered by TBE	June 21
Stanley Robin: husband of Etta Robin 7"7	June 21
Shirley Steinberg: mother of Irene Christenson 7"7	June 21
Alton Swinney: father of Nancy McCombs	June 22
+Irene Broida: grandmother of Greg Broida	June 23
Jonas Hakimi: father of Ahron Hakimi	June 23
Irene Christenson: mother of Jana Reichert & Bailey Christenson	June 24
Joshua Raymond Escobedo: nephew of Raul Escobedo	June 26
Juana Genel: grandmother of Janet Blumberg, mother-in-law of Ana Genel 7"7	June 26
Doug Fletcher: friend of Stan & Norma	June 27
+Henry Solomon: uncle of Greg Broida	June 27

JUNE 28 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Jacob Schneider: father of Norma Schwartz 7"7, grandfather of Helen Armistead & Jeff Schwartz	June 28, Sivan 22
+Rebecca Sophie Rudnick: remembered by the Rudnick Family	June 28
Sylvia Kohan: friend of Russinsky family	June 29
+Barnett Henry Magnus: remembered by TBE	June 29
William Palmer: father of Deborah Rosenthal	June 30
Bert Everett Davis: father of Mark Davis	July 1
+Edna Solomon: grandmother of Greg Broida	July 1
Beulah Davis: remembered by TBE	July 2
Socorro Gonzalez: mother of Rose Broida, grandmother of Michael Broida	July 2
Michael Gerard Moylan: Father of Roy Snyder	July 3
Robert Pike: husband of Arline Pike 7"7, father of Irvin Pike, brother-in-law of Muriel Vekas 7"7	July 3
Maurice Marcus: remembered by TBE	July 3
Phil Rositzky: remembered by TBE	July 3
Annabelle Levy Greenberg: remembered by TBE	July 3
Jenny Gilfenbain: remembered by TBE	July 4
Eddie Holt: uncle of William Wolfe	July 4
Connie Wellman: wife of Peggie Soltis-McGraw	July 4



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---Jeff Schwartz

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