

CHESHVAN 5785







Bring your whole self, whoever you are

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LETTER FROM THE RABBI VOTE

Our duty, informed by the longstanding ancestral tradition of civic engagement in America, is to work toward creating a better world for all. Our values inform our decision-making, and it is not only our right but our imperative to use the power of the ballot box to set change in motion that will strengthen our society and make it more just and more sacred. So many partisans have confused, either intentionally or unintentionally, this duty with a false assertion that one should never mix religion and politics; this is utter nonsense and contradicts our religious obligation to fulfill our religious commitments. Of course, some would say that "the devil is in the details."

Maimonides preached a worldview that suggests that the middle pathway is almost always right and that the extremes of philosophical positions tend to negate the validity of the calculus that others hold sacred. Applied to today's political back-and-forth, Democrats are not always right and neither are Republicans, and the opposite can also be said: Democrats are not always wrong and neither are Republicans. Some might conclude from this that voting is futile; Jews have always disagreed with that assessment.

Voting is embodying one's deepest felt beliefs and applying them to the vision of justice that we hold sacred. Almost always, I have bent toward one party's political worldview that the majority of Jews have supported for over a century, even though I have found plenty of imperfections in both parties. Our tradition of "two Jews, three opinions" celebrates our capacity to be independent thinkers, discerning and embodying our Jewish values as we understand them. You must vote, and you must vote your conscience, not based on blind loyalty to one party but rather on a commitment to Tikkun Olam and the vision of the Prophets.

There's much more on the ballot than a Jib-Jab between Harris and Trump, Vance and Walz (yes, that was alphabetical, so as not to offend anyone). Anyone who knows me knows who I support for President (and one candidate has a picture with my name in it, from a march in 2018), and I bring my lifetime of commitment to the Jewish people and a universal vision of justice--economic and social justice--to bear on this choice, as imperfect as I think this candidate is. I will not tell you how to vote; while I have freedom of the pulpit and fully reserve my right to do so, the Jewish people need unity now more than ever in my lifetime in a world more hostile to us than ever in the past 55 years of my life, so I will only tell you that I believe that this election will make or break so many lives worldwide, that **to not vote is a dereliction of duty to Tikkun Olam.**

My positions on the Ballot Measures are available for anyone who wants them. Just email me and I can send them to you. As a 501(c)3, while we cannot endorse candidates, we CAN, and I believe SHOULD, take positions on initiatives that relate to our core values. Nevertheless, my positions are mine alone, not those of TBE, unless the board confirms these positions.



In my previous life, I ran an economic justice organization. Policies that will impact the working poor--food, money, housing, benefits--must be considered through the lens of Jewish values. Notions of Tzedakah and a Prophetic vision of justice make our people great, generous, dedicated to an equitable future for our planet. I hope you will take the time and show your commitment to your civic duty, and **VOTE!**

I conclude with a prayer for voting, written by my esteemed colleague, Rabbi David Seidenberg (Hebrew here):

May You give a listening heart to whomever we elect and may it be good in Your eyes to raise for us a good government to bring healing, justice and peace to all living in this land and to all the world, and upon Jerusalem, a government that will honor the image of God in all humanity and in Creation, for rulership is Yours. Just as I have participated (or: will participate) in the election so may I merit to do good works and to repair the world through all my efforts, and through the act of... [fill in your pledge] which I pledge to do on behalf of all living creatures, in remembrance of the covenant of Noah's waters, to protect and to not destroy the earth and her plenitude. Give to all the peoples of this land the strength and will to pursue righteousness and to seek peace as unified force to uproot racism and violence and to make healing, good life and peace flourish here and throughout the world and fulfill for us the verse (Ps. 90:17): "May the pleasure of Adonai our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us, and make the work of our hands endure."

Blessings,

Rabbi Klein

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shalom Friends who are Family,

What an amazing holiday season we had! Grateful for the opportunity to celebrate with our community.

On November 4th, Temple Beth El will be 77 years old! That's double seven! Double the blessings! We will celebrate with cake and song during Chardonnay Shabbat, on November 8th.

We are always praying for the return of the hostages and for lasting peace for Israel and her neighbors.

We hope for a peaceful election here at home. Be sure to vote!

December will bring a flurry of activity starting with the Crazy 8K fun run on December 8th at 8 AM and placing Menorahs at the national cemetery in Arvin at 1:30 PM.

For now, enjoy the calm of November and the arrival of temperate weather.

There is always a reason for celebration, יש תמיד סיבה למסיבה,

avital anders

President





Our Contributors:

Memorials/Yahrzeits

- Greg & Rose Broida: in memory of Jesse J. Reyes
- Brent Eastep: in memory of Hy Davis
- Sylvia Klein: in memory of Etta Robin
- Ronald & Laura Lauria: in memory of Joseph Polland, Shirley Polland & Ida Gintzler

Max & Libbie Mahan

Robert & Marcy Smith

Robert & Patricia Young

Ilene Schechter

• Peggie Soltis

Rabbi Wynne

Cynthia Simonian

Wynne Waugaman

thankeyou

- Michael & Marty Weinberg: in memory of Stan Simrin & Sonia Simrin
- Elaine & Douglas White: in memory of Rosellyn Witer

Kol Nidre Donation

- Andy & Ella Abrams
- Stacy & Mark Davis
- Leonard & Carla Epstein
- Michael & Judy Feldman
- Irwin & Elizabeth Harris
- Debi Hazel
- Selwyn & Cecily Kay
- Etel Lewis

Israel Support

• Max & Libbie Mahan

Caring Committee: High Holidays Oneg

- Esther & Rogers Brandon
- Irvin Pike & Pamela Elisheva

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

• Michael Freedman

Contribute Online:

https:templebethelbakersfield.org/donation We are grateful for all contributions!



Elaine & Douglas White Joshua & Epie Rittenberg Les & Diane Rogers Jeffrey & Donna Schwartz Max & Libbie Mahan November 17 November 18 November 23 November 24 November 30

Anniese

HAPPY . Birthday!

Lucille Leisure Diane Andrews Anita Singer Benjamin McCay Joseph Ruiz Andy Andrews Tzipporah Escobedo Sarah Mawhirter Franklin Arthur Seibert Judy Strauss November 2 November 3 November 9 November 11 November 13 November 13 November 18 November 18 November 18 Leilani Broida Andy Abrams Andrew Levine Barbara Kessler Stacy Davis Linda Morales Cecily Kay Tricia Berman Joseph Marcus



- November 19 November 21 November 22 November 25 November 27 November 29 November 30
- Nevenber 30
- November 30

MOMENTS IN OUR LIVES



The 7th annual Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers and 2K Latke Loop will be here sooner than you think

*You must register by November 6th to be guaranteed a race shirt.

Don't delay register today at <u>RunSignUp</u>







Get a discount when you form a team of three or more. The discount is added after the third member of your team registers. The biggest team will receive extra race swag and a lunch certificate at Rusty's Pizza.

Need a Hanukkah gift for that special someone in your life that you don't know what to get? Consider giving them a race registration for the Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers or 2K Latke loop - in-person or virtual option. Not only will they have fun participating in our event, but they will also have a keepsake Hanukkah shirt, medal, and dreidel game. If you notify Stacy at 8krazykilometers@gmail.com she will send the recipient an email or letter letting them about your special gift.



Did you know that there is a costume contest at the 8 Krazy Kilometers? There are three categories: Hanukkah Costume, Holiday Costume and Group Costume. The winner in each category will receive a \$25 Amazon Gift Certificate along with a surprise.



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- November 17th @ 3:00 pm via TBE Zoom LEADERSHIP MEETING- November 17th @ 2:30 pm via TBE Zoom BOOK CLUB- Three books by Jennifer Wilck: Home for the Challah Days; Matzah Ball Blues and Deadlines, Donuts and Dreidels! We will review in January. No date yet and the author will ioin us!!

Rosh Chodesh- None in November! December 1st, 6:30 pm via TBE Zoom. (the Jewish calendar this year does not coincide well with the Gregorian calendar.) **COOKING CLASS**- None in November

SISTERHOOD DUES ARE NOW DUE!! \$18 FOR THE WHOLE YEAR!! You can pay online at the TBE website or send a check made out to WOTBE with sisterhood on the envelope!!

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.

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



We are so excited to announce our next read. Join us with this fun, holiday, romance trilogy. We will meet in January (exact date TBD) with the author. Yes, the author, Jennifer Wilck will join our book discussion via Zoom to discuss her stories.

JENNIFER WILCK Love, laughter, and happily ever after

Books

Holidays, Heart and Chutzpah Series Believe in love. Overcome obstacles. Find happiness.



Book Three

Cheshvan





		r <u></u> r				
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Reli Adu Leade Com Siste Parsh Jew	Services gious School Ilt Education Irship Meetings munity Events er Hood Event ha of the Week vish Holidays ewish Date				1 30 Tishrei 6 pm First Friday Shabbat Family Services	2 ^{1 Cheshvan} Rosh Chodesh Noach 4:30-5:30 pm Class on Ecclesiastes (by Zoom)
3 9:30-12:30 Religious School	4 TBE is 77 years old! 11:30 am Simcha Set Lunch @ Zeppo's Pizza	5 9-9:30 am Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom) 6:30 - 7:30 pm (Zoom) Religious Practices Committee	6	7	8 6 pm Veteran's & TBE Birthday Chardonnay Shabbat. Dinner in Social Hall	9 Lech-Lecha 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service w Cong Bnai Jacob 4:30-5:30 pm Ecclesiastes Class (Zoom)
10 No Religious School	11 Veteran's Day	12 9-9:30 am Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom) 7:00 pm Board Meeting via Zoom	13 7-8:30 pm Online class on God, Torah, and Israel*	14	15 7 pm Shabbat Services	16 ^{Vayeira} 4:30-5:30 pm Class on Ecclesiastes (by Zoom)
17 9:30-12:30 Religious School 2:30 pm SH Leadership. Meet 3:00 pm S.H. Gen Meeting	18 7-8:30 pm Online class on God, Torah, and Israel*	19 9-9:30 am Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom)	20 7-8:30 pm Online class on God, Torah, and Israel*	21	22 7 pm Shabbat Unplugged/ Shiur Shabbat	23 ^{Chayei Sarah} 4:30-5:30 pm Class on Ecclesiastes (by Zoom)
24 9:30-12:30 Religious School	25 7-8:30 pm Online class on God, Torah, and Israel*	9-9:30 am Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom)	27 7-8:30 pm Online class on God, Torah, and Israel* *Contact Rabbi Klein for Registration	28 Thanksgiving	29 7 pm Social Justice Shabbat	30 Toldot

UPCOMING EVENTS:



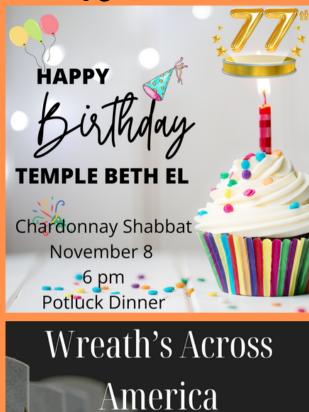
VETERANS SHABBAT 11/8 @ 6 PM

* ★ *

THANK YOU FOR YOUR Service

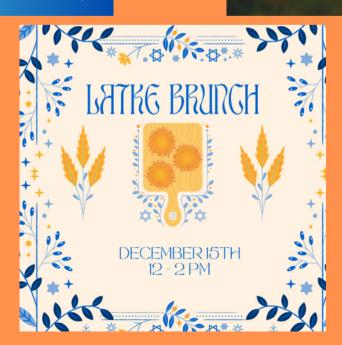






Join us in honoring our Jewish fallen heroes by placing menorahs on their headstones.

December 8 1:30 pm National Cemetery in Arvin





Not a Runner?-You can still support the Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers Ways you can help:

- Volunteer at packet pick up or at the race You can sign up at: <u>https://Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers and 2K Latke Loop Fun Run</u>
- Donate a raffle prize i.e.Temple Script: Contact Ilene
- Tell your friends and family about the race and share our race link
- Make a donation at
 <u>https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Bakersfield/8krazykilometers</u>
- Buy race merchandise (you don't have to be a participant) at <u>https://runsignup.com/Race/Store/CA/Bakersfield/8krazykilometers</u>

Check out and share our posts on your social media accounts sites (<u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, <u>TiKTOK</u>, or <u>X</u>) You can even create a post that we can share.









NORMA'S LATKE BRUNCH! To celebrate Chanukah (Hanukkah) Sunday, December 15, 2024

12pm-2pm

The meal is served with latkes (potato pancakes), apple sauce, sour cream, muffin, Ortega cheese soufflé, and other garnishments. Other brunch items are available at an additional cost. Variety of beverages included with in-person order. Chanukah program provided by TBE Religious School!
 Eat in person or reserve your meals and pick up at: Temple Bethe El 2906 Loma Linda Dr, Bakersfield, CA. 93305 (drive through pick up will begin at 11 am)

Order at www.templebethelevent.org or mail in the order form

Email: <u>armisteadlmft@gmail.com</u>

	# 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		
Norma's Coffee Cake Muffins- 2/\$7		
Total Due:		

Check enclosed for total amount ma	de out to WOTBE (Women of Temple Beth El)
Credit/Debit Card- #	Exp Date
CSV Name on Card	
Billing Address with Zip Code	
In Person Pick up times 11-1:30	Special need delivery after event
Address	Phone

13

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 tshirts 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 September 2024

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

NOVEMBER 1 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Sylvia Plotkin-Russinsky: mother of Jeff Russinsky	November 1
F.A. Rippee: father of Nancy McCombs	November 1
Ken Ragsdale: friend of Arline Pike z'l	November 2
Armaund K. Strauss: father of Judy Strauss	November 2; Heshvan 1
+Hannah Bailin: remembered by TBE	November 3
Joyce Abbas: sister of Vivian Gonzales	November 4
Erna Englander: friend of Kathleen Arnold-Chambers	November 4
+Mary B. Prince: Mother of Tim Prince	November 4
Darrel Hildebrand: friend of Kathleen Arnold-Chambers	November 5
Al Miller: father of Michael Miller	November 5; Heshvan 4
Diane Rudnick: mother of Melanie Rudnick	November 5
Jose Anaya: Grandfather of David Anaya	November 6; Heshvan 5
+Doris Fish: mother of Larry Fish	November 6
Murray Louis Singer: father of Glenn Singer	November 7
Thomas Stull: husband of Miriam Stull	November 7

NOVEMBER 8 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

+Irene Harris: aunt of Irvin Pike; sister-in-law of Arline Pike z'l	November 8
+William R. Jacobs: remembered by TBE	November 8
Charlotte Beam: mother of John Beam	November 9
Pauline Snider: sister-in-law of Pearl Davis z'l	November 9
+Dr. Martin Zellner: remembered by TBE	November 9
+Ralph Klein: husband of Haya Klein	November 10
+Valiant Stull: son of Tom (z'l) & Miriam Stull; cousin of Joshua Rudnick & Libbie	November 10
Mahan; nephew of Phil Rudnick, Milton Rudnick z'l, & Marcus Rudnick z'l	
Sam Gintzler: great-grandfather of Laura Lauria; great-great-grandfather of	November 11; Heshvan 10
Amanda Garza	
Ann Saslaw: aunt of Larry Saslaw	November 11
Abraham Stern: great-uncle of Steven Magnus; great-great uncle of Elliott	November 11
Magnus	
+Lura Kramer Strauss: remembered by TBE	November 11
+Donald James Sheffel, II: remembered by TBE	November 12
Sylvia Katz: mother of Larry Saslaw	November 13
Robert Newbrough: father of Steve Newbrough	November 13
Ruth Marcus Joseph: mother of Bruce Joseph	November 14

NOVEMBER 15 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Jess Diamond: husband of Ann Diamond z'l Jeanne Joyce: mother of Randy Joyce Evelyn Kutz: great-grandmother of Karen Briefer +Morris Goldberg: remembered by TBE +Sadie R. Silver: remembered by TBE Gerald Schwartz: brother of Stan Schwartz z'l; uncle of Helen Armistead & Jeff Schwartz	November 15 November 15 November 15 November 15; 16 Heshvan November 16; Heshvan 15
Barney Shilkrout: grandfather of Judy Strauss Vera Strauss: aunt of Susan Cohn z'l Teresa Torres: aunt of Linda Morales Hyman Abrams: brother of Al Abrams z'l; uncle of Andy Abrams Ofra Shipman: moother of Avital Anders +Ella D. Lipco: remembered by TBE Marilyn Schwartz: aunt of Helen Armistead & Jeff Schwartz: sister-in-law of Stan Schwartz z'l	November 16; Heshvan 15 November 16 November 16 November 17 November 17; Heshvan 16 November 17; 24 Heshvan November 18; Heshvan 17
 +Nina Stein: remembered by TBE Ruth E. Cronkhite: mother of Gretchen Bloch Jack Story: friend of Stan & Norma +Barney Shilkrout: remembered by TBE Janie Goldfarb: remembered by TBE +David Cody: remembered by TBE +John H. Rosen: remembered by TBE 	November 18 November 19 November 19 November 20 November 20 November 21

NOVEMBER 22 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Frederick Briefer: grandfather of Karen Briefer	November 22
Otto B. Egland, Jr.: father of Jill Egland	November 23
Lura K. Strauss: grandmother of Judy Strauss	November 23; Heshvan 22
John F. Andrews: father of Andy Andrews	November 25
Ella Divera Lipco: grandmother of Lisa Levine & Sharon Lipco z'l	November 25; Heshvan 24
Maxwell Herbert Newman: husband of Shirley Ann Newman z'l; father of Heidi	November 25; Heshvan 24
Allison	
Jack Lollar: father of Laura Wolfe	November 26
Morris Goldberg: brother of Risha Grosberg	November 27; Heshvan 26
Rahel Kamali: aunt of Ahron Hakimi	November 27
Molka Ruchel Lekht: mother of Etel Lewis	November 27
+Louis Weisman: brother of William Weisman	November 27
Irma Sachs Adler: sister of Shirley Ann Newman z'l; aunt of Heidi Allison	November 28
Mildred Frances Andrews: mother of Andy Andrews	November 28
Soledad (Sally) Davis: mother of Mark Davis	November 28
Alexa Rose McDowell: grand-daughter of Nancy & Arthur McCombs	November 28
Ann Peterson-Saslaw: wife of Larry Saslaw	November 28
+Oscar S. Lipco: remembered by TBE	November 28; 12 Kislev

NOVEMBER 29 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Shirley Abarbanell: mother of Ross AbarbanellNowAbraham Kessler: father of Ann Diamond z'lNowLotte Lindeck: mother of Miriam BeamNowRose Blatt: mother of Barbara KesslerNowAnne Kunitz: friend of Stan & NormaNow+David S. Schwartz: remembered by TBENowEva Kessler: mother of Ann Diamond z'lDec+Isabella Pike: grandmother of Irvin Pike; mother-in-law of Arline Pike z'lDecLeo David Strom: husband of Wynne WaugamanDecIrene Young: mother of Robert YoungDec+Harry I. Segel: remembered by TBEDecStanley H. Fish: father of Larry FishDecFaith Parris: mother of Judy StraussDec+Stanley Howard Fish: remembered by TBEDec

November 29; Heshvan 28 November 29 November 29; Heshvan 28 November 30 November 30; Heshvan 29 November 30 December 1 December 1 December 2; Kislev 1 December 2 December 3 December 3 December 4 December 4 December 4 December 4



Thirteen Monday and Wednesday Nights, 7 - 8:30pm, in November and December Brought to you by Bakersfield College's Levan Institute <u>Register Here (https://levan.asapconnected.com/#CourseGroupID=52245</u>)

> Six sessions through Bakersfield College, Taught by Rabbi Klein. Mondays and Wednesdays 7-8:30pm, \$157

How do Jews understand their own religious tradition? In this course, you will learn Jewish perspectives on a Jewish triad: God, Torah, and Israel, in a manner that welcomes you to understand Judaism on its own terms. We will answer many questions you may have, divided into three sessions:

- God (November 13 & 18): What do Jews believe? How does it contrast with other faith traditions? What is the centrality of belief in Judaism? Is the Jewish God the same as the Christian, Muslim, or any other God?
- Torah (November 20 & 25): How is Judaism a law-based religion? What is included in Jewish sacred writings? What is not? Which parts of the bible are most central to the Jewish story? What is the essence of the Jewish story? How do Jews understand creation, revelation, and redemption?
- Israel (November 27 & December 2: What is Jewish peoplehood? Are Jews a religion, culture, or ethnicity? How and why did the State of Israel become the central project of 20th Century Jews? What is the relationship between Jews and the land of Israel?

Students can bring their own questions about Judaism to class as well, in concert with a Jewish ideal: "Questioning is more important than the answer."

An optional post-class welcome to Temple Beth El is provided (This course is not intended to proselytize students to Judaism.)

Highly Recommended for this Course:

- Telushkin, Joseph. Jewish Literacy: The Most Important Things to Know About the Jewish Religion, Its People, and Its History. William Morrow, 2008. <u>Ebay</u> or <u>Amazon</u>; all editions are acceptable
- Sonsino, Rifat and Daniel Syme. Finding God: Selected Responses, Revised edition. Behrman House, 2002. Essays on significant Jewish thinkers' responses to the questions: Is there more than one way to perceive of God? How can we know God? What does God "want" from us? <u>Ebay</u>, <u>Amazon</u> (Behrman House version) or <u>Amazon</u> (URJ or Behrman House version)



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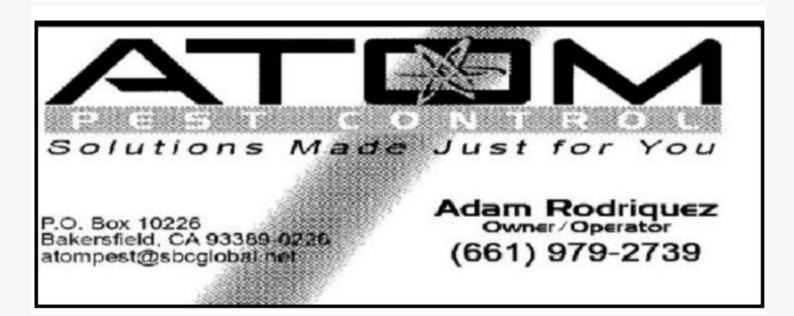
We are a safe, respectful, and loving State Licensed Preschool with qualified staff offering the following

Preschool Program, 2-5

- School age program, 5-12
- Full-time and Part-time care
- Sibling discounts

- CCC accepted
- All meals included
- Play-based program
- Online distance learning for school-age children

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





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Our monthly Shofar is published by: **TEMPLE BETH EL** 2906 Loma Linda Drive Bakersfield, CA 93305 (661) 322-7607 Office <u>www.templebethelbakersfield.org</u> Rabbi Jonathan Klein<u>tberabbiklein@gmail.com</u> (424) 248-5775 Freyda Hensley, Office Administrator

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