

SHOFAR

VOLUME 82, ISSUE 3

**In Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr:
Jospel Shabbat
Friday January 17th 7:00 PM**

**With Reb Cantor Lisa Levine
and Ruth Parrish and Friends
Festive Oneg to Follow**

Temple Beth El
Bakersfield, California
2906 Loma Linda Drive



Temple Beth El

Bakersfield, California

*Bring your whole self,
whoever you are*

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LETTER FROM THE RABBI

Moving from a Triple Threat to a Triple Blessing through the Words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day this month. Many of us are familiar with the following words, and perhaps little else:

“...When we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, Black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: Free at last. Free at last. Thank God almighty, we are free at last.”

—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr (1927-1968), at the March on Washington, August 28, 1963

These words, closing out Rev. Dr. King's famous address at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, captured a post-war countercultural optimism that many Americans felt at the possibility of moving far beyond the specter of war and the nuclear threats that still preoccupied Cold War era America. However, Dr. King was an extremely deep thinker who had more radical ideas than his earlier speeches suggest. In August 1967, he gave a far more radical speech, in which he delineated three evils:

“So we are here because we believe, we hope, we pray that something new might emerge in the political life of this nation which will produce a new man, new structures and institutions and a new life for mankind. I am convinced that this new life will not emerge until our nation undergoes a radical revolution of values. **When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, economic exploitation and militarism are incapable of being conquered.** A civilization can flounder as readily in the face of moral bankruptcy as it can through financial bankruptcy.”

Rev. Dr. King understood that the **racism** which dehumanized, the **economic exploitation** (“Plantation Capitalism” according to my friend, the late Rev. James Lawson 7"7) and **militarism** which led to massive losses of life, wasteful spending and more violence, were destructive to the very fabric of a functional society. Thus he devoted his life to ending this **triple threat**, and by the time he was assassinated, a year later on April 4, 1968, many consider his commitment to economic justice, anti-racism, and peace to be the reason he paid the ultimate price.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, my Jewish hero, was also a January baby, born January 11, 1907. Heschel joined King for the third Selma to Montgomery March in 1965 and famously commented that “When I marched in Selma, my feet were praying.” As a close friend of MLK, Heschel preached and joined King's efforts against the Vietnam War, including on April 4, 1967, a year to the day before King was assassinated, at Riverside Church in New York City. A year later, just a few weeks before Passover in 1968, we lost the Dreamer Martin Luther King. King was invited to Heschel's home for a Seder, but he did not live to participate. If I ever wanted to be a fly on the wall, it would have been so that I could listen to that Passover Seder that never happened. What would King have said to Heschel? What did they think of the current events of their era? In what ways did these two modern prophets disagree?



Fifty-six years later, we continue to struggle to make progress in the fight against racism, economic injustice, and the war paradigm. I, for one, carry the spirit of my rabbi, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel (whose *The Prophets* was quite popular among the civil rights leaders of the sixties) with me together with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as I do what I can to bring Jewish values to a fragile, struggling America in 2025. May each of us find inspiration with our teachers, and never lose sight of that which God wants: Only to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8), the triple blessing which will save our fragile crucible from destruction.

Blessings,



Jonathan Klein



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shalom Friends Who are Family,

In a World of Darkness, Be a Light

The final few days of Chanukkah are upon us, as are the final days of 2024. Contemplating the monthly letter for the Shofar when things weigh heavy on my heart, is a process of bringing forth the positive and the hope that is embedded in our tradition, despite the challenges and the pain that we experience. To me, the best part of being part of the Beth El community, is the community. The friendship, care and shared experiences, are gifts we give each other every time we are together.



I deeply value the learning opportunities that occur spontaneously in conversation and by design (really by Zoom). A small group of us logs on every Tuesday morning at 9 AM for ½ an hour of conversation and discussion. We have covered many topics and prayers. There is always more to explore. We also share a lively, weekly Shabbat study at 5 PM on Zoom. My life is enriched by the opportunity. It is free and easy. No tests. We don't even have to keep our cameras on... Learning and discussing IS the Jewish way. We are very lucky to have opportunities to share together. If you have not tried it, I hope you join me in the joy of learning together.

January will bring the commemoration of Martin Luther King's birthday, which this year will be highlighted by a musical Jewish gospel celebration led by Reb. Cantor Lisa Levin and Ruth Parish on January 17. The themes of justice and freedom continue to resonate within our reform Jewish community.

The World Zionist Congress convenes every 5 years. We get a chance to support our reform values to be championed in Israel through a voting process that will take place from March 10 through May 4th. It is hard to convey in a few words the importance of every one of us participating in this worldwide election. The World Zionist Congress is our one chance to have a vote in the policy and budget decisions of Israel, the Jewish state. If you participate, you will help ensure that billions of dollars will continue to be allocated for progressive Judaism, for justice and democracy, and even we pray, peace efforts in Israel. If you struggled to answer the question, "What can I really do to make a difference in Israel right now?" this is your answer! We will talk more about this in the coming months.

See you next Shabbat,

יש תמיד סיבה למסיבה

There is Always a Reason for Celebration

Avital Anders

President

Our Contributors:

thank you

Memorials/Yahrzeits

- David Anaya & Celeste Caballero: *in memory of Howard Silver*
- Brent Eastep: *in memory of Hy Davis*
- Ronald & Laura Lauria: *in memory of Janette Gintzler*
- Ilene Schechter: *in memory of Aaron Schechter & Seymour Schechter*
- Robert & Marcy Smith: *in memory of Marilyn Smith and Faith Parris*
- David Anaya & Celeste Caballero: *in memory of Shliach Rabbi Zvi Kogan*
- Kathleen Arnold-Chambers: *in memory of Jay and Barbara Arnold, Tim Samuel Arnold*
- Leonard & Carla Epstein: *in memory of Burton Epstein*

Kol Nidre Donation

- Avital Anders: *for religious school teacher pay*
- Leonard & Carla Epstein
- Lyle & Marianne Gartenlaub: *for 8k bagels*
- Joshua & Edith Rudnick
- Beth Spiegel & Becky Reifenstahl
- William & Laura Wolfe



Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Mary Gerena
- Alen Freisleben

Caring Committee

- Steven & Gail Magnus: *Chardonay Shabbat sponsorship*

Contribute Online:

<https://templebethelbakersfield.org/donation>

We are grateful for all contributions!

MOMENTS IN OUR LIVES

Happy

Greg & Rose Broida

January 17

Ahron & Linda Hakimi

January 23

Anniversary

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

יום הולדת שמח

Lawrence Zanoff	January 2
Joshua Reichert	January 3
Miriam Stull	January 5
La Zelle Broida	January 7
Marissa Marcus	January 8
Jenny Seibert	January 8
Pamela Elisheva	January 11
Gretchen Bloch	January 12
Kathleen Arnold-Chambers	January 13

Julia Pettis	January 13
Charles Rhodes	January 13
Beth Freedman	January 14
Adison Gartenlaub	January 17
Lisa Bryant	January 19
Laura Wolfe	January 26
Douglas White	January 27
Jay Greenstein	January 29
Leah Bank	January 30

Lox Box



Super Bowl Sunday

February 9, 2025



Lox, Bagel, & Works

\$36 per box

Pickup 8 - 11 am



Order by February 2 @

<https://templebethelbakersfield.org/lox-box/>

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- January 19th @ 3:00 pm via TBE Zoom

LEADERSHIP MEETING- January 19th @ 2:30 pm via TBE Zoom

BOOK CLUB- Sunday, January 12th at 1pm via TBE Zoom with the author!!

Three books by Jennifer Wilck: *Home for the Challah Days*; *Matzah Ball Blues* and *Deadlines, Donuts and Dreidels!*

Rosh Chodesh- January 30th @ 6:30 pm via TBE Zoom.

COOKING CLASS- None in January

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

Sisterhood Book Club

We are so excited to announce our next read. Join us with this fun, holiday, romance trilogy. We will meet on Sunday, January 12th at 1 pm via TBE Zoom) 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 One



Book Two



Book Three



JANUARY

Tevet



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	<p>Services</p> <p>Religious School</p> <p>Adult Education</p> <p>Leadership Meetings</p> <p>Community Events</p> <p>Sister Hood Event</p> <p>Parsha of the Week</p> <p>Jewish Holidays</p> <p>Jewish Date</p>		<p>1 <i>1 Tevet</i></p> <p><i>Rosh Chodesh</i></p> <p>New Year's Day</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Last Day of Hanukkah</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6 pm</p> <p>First Friday Shabbat</p> <p>Family Services</p>	<p>4 <i>Vayigash</i></p> <p>5-6 pm</p> <p>Class on Ecclesiastes (by Zoom)</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9:30-12:30</p> <p>Religious School</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9-9:30 am</p> <p>Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom)</p> <p>6:30 - 7:30 pm</p> <p>(Zoom) Religious Practices Committee</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p><i>Fast of Tevet 10</i></p> <p>6 pm</p> <p>Chardonnay Shabbat</p>	<p>11 <i>Vayechi</i></p> <p>9:30 am</p> <p>Shabbat Morning Service w Cong Bnai Jacob</p> <p>5 - 6 pm</p> <p>Ecclesiastes Class (Zoom)</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:30-12:30</p> <p>Religious School</p> <p>1:00 PM</p> <p>Sisterhood Bookclub</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9-9:30 am</p> <p>Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom)</p> <p>7:00 pm</p> <p>Board Meeting via Zoom</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7 pm</p> <p>Jospel Shabbat</p>	<p>18 <i>Shemot</i></p> <p>5 - 6 pm</p> <p>Class on Ecclesiastes (by Zoom)</p>
<p>19</p> <p>2:30 PM</p> <p>S.H.Leader Meet</p> <p>3:00 PM</p> <p>S.H. Gen Meet</p>	<p>20 MLK Day</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9-9:30 am</p> <p>Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7-8:30 pm</p> <p>Hebrew reading class with Rabbi Klein</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7 pm</p> <p>Shabbat Unplugged</p>	<p>25 <i>Va'eira</i></p> <p>5 - 6 pm</p> <p>Class on Ecclesiastes (by Zoom)</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:30-12:30</p> <p>Religious School</p>	<p>27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day</p> <p>7-8:30 pm</p> <p>Hebrew reading class with Rabbi Klein</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9-9:30 am</p> <p>Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7-8:30 pm</p> <p>Hebrew reading class with Rabbi Klein</p>	<p>30 <i>1 Shevat</i></p> <p><i>Rosh Chodesh</i></p> <p>6:30 PM</p> <p>Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7 pm</p> <p>Social Justice Shabbat</p> <p>7:00 PM</p> <p>Aufruf to celebrate Emma & Heber</p>	

Upcoming Events:



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A wedding announcement card for Emma and Heber. The card features a photograph of the couple smiling, with Emma's arm around Heber's shoulder. The photo is framed by a decorative border of purple and blue flowers and leaves. The text is written in various fonts and colors: 'Tying the Knot' in white script, 'Friday, January 31, 7 PM' in red, 'Aufruf' in large blue letters with a white outline, and 'We Celebrate Emma & Heber's Love' in red at the bottom.

Tying the Knot
Friday, January 31, 7 PM
Aufruf
We Celebrate Emma & Heber's Love

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!!**

YAHREZEITS

January 2025

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

DECEMBER 27 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHREZEITS

+Mark Morris: remembered by TBE	December 27
+Margot Zadik Zellner: remembered by TBE	December 27
Tony Alfred Chavez: father of Rudie Chavez	December 28
Alfonso Gonzalez: brother of Rose Broida	December 28
David Isaac: brother-in-law of Sharon Miller	December 28; Kislev 27
Sol Weiss: grandfather of Sarah Weiss	December 28
+Betty Cohn: mother of Susan Cohn 7"7; sister of Milton Younger 7"7	December 29
Burton Epstein: father of Leonard Epstein	December 29
Aaron Schechter: grandfather of Ilene Schechter	December 29; Kislev 28
Manya Schneider: aunt of Norma Schwartz 7"7; great-aunt of Helen Armistead & Jeff Schwartz	December 30; Kislev 29
Dugan Turner: husband of Denise Turner 7"7	December 30
+Marjorie Joan Atencio: mother of Susie Simrin & Amy Knight 7"7	December 31
+Alter Shrier: remembered by TBE	December 31
Bracha Hayoun-Weiss: sister of Haya Klein	January 1; Tevet 1
Thomas Lauria: father of Ronald Lauria; grandfather of Amanda Garza	January 1
Gerald Lewis: husband of Etel Lewis	January 1
Seymour Schechter: father of Ilene Schechter	January 1; Tevet 1
+Helen Magnus Markson: remembered by TBE	January 1
Bernice Black: mother of Diane Andrews; grandmother of Becka Ruiz	January 2
Judy Pike Garvin: cousin of Irvin Pike	January 2
Rosemary Polland: mother of Laura Lauria; grandmother of Amanda Garza; great-grandmother of Reece Garza	January 2; Tevet 2

JANUARY 3 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHREZEITS

+Sybil O. Landson: remembered by TBE	January 3
+William Goldberg: father of Risha Grosberg	January 4; Tevet 4
Ruth Morales: mother of Linda Morales	January 5
Samantha Nicole Sacks: grand-niece of Mary Speare	January 5
Esther Siegel: mother of Leon Siegel 7"7; grandmother of Sharon Rhodes	January 5
Richard Harvey Hecht: father of Dave Hecht	January 6
Milton Gintzler: great-uncle of Laura Lauria; great-great-uncle of Amanda Garza	January 8; Tevet 8
Marie Lasseur: mother of Rosemarie Azgour	January 8
+Moe S. Nestle: remembered by TBE	January 8
Ruth Schneider: aunt of Helen Armistead & Jeff Schwartz; sister-in-law of Norma Schwartz 7"7	January 8; Tevet 8
Nathan J. Goldman: uncle of Marsha Parr	January 9
Ruth Satzman: grandmother of Brad McConnell	January 9
+Nathan Strauss: remembered by TBE	January 9

JANUARY 10 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

+Betty Brucke: remembered by TBE	January 10
Debbie Friedman: friend of Lisa Levine	January 11
Bernard Levy: brother-in-law of William Wolfe	January 11
Morris Gintzler: great-uncle of Laura Lauria; great-great-uncle of Amanda Garza	January 12; Tevet 12
+Allen Harris: brother-in-law of Arline Pike 7"7; uncle of Irvin Pike	January 12
Alan Hershey: remembered by TBE	January 12
Claude Denis Neuman: step-brother of Heidi Allison; son of Maxwell Newman	January 12
7"7	January 13
Fishel Lekht: father of Etel Lewis	January 13
+Louis M. Lewis: father of Beverly Weisman 7"7	January 13
Arthur Rich: uncle of Andy Abrams; brother-in-law of Charlotte Abrams 7"7	January 13
Richard Allen Rudnick: sister of Libbie Mahan	January 13
+Sherman W. Schwartz: remembered by TBE	January 14
Ilene Levy: sister of William Wolfe	January 14
Rebecca Noble: aunt of Lisa Levine	January 14
+Daniel Benjamin Lipco: remembered by TBE	January 15
Esther Halpren: grandmother of Sarah Mawhirter	January 15; Tevet 15
Herman Schneider: brother of Norma Schwartz 7"7; uncle of Helen Armistead & Jeff Schwartz	January 15
Richard Schulman: father of Marc Schulman	January 15
Mildred Solomon: aunt of Jackie Rudnick 7"7	January 16
Louis Grosher: uncle of Sonia Simrin 7"7; great-uncle of Marty Weinberg	January 16
Edward Hartley: father of Gary Hartley	January 16
Harriett Wolfe: mother of William Wolfe	January 16
Raymond Zanoft: father of Larry Zanoft	January 16; Shevat 15

+Nathan Stern: remembered by TBE

JANUARY 17 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

George Carl Shattenburg: uncle of Pamela Elisheva	January 17
Margaret Anne Christenson: mother of Bob Christenson 7"7	January 18
+Lillian Teplitz: sister of Mary Speare	January 18
Ezatollah Anav: grandfather of Rod Delijani	January 19; Tevet 19
Celia Fingeroff Aronson: grandmother of Kathleen Arnold-Chambers	January 19; Tevet 19
Danny Benjamin Lipco: brother of Lisa Levine	January 19; Tevet 19
Craig Rich: cousin of Andy Abrams; nephew of Al 7"7 and Charlotte Abrams 7"7	January 19
Mary Jewel Yates: mother of Alpha Anders	January 19
+Mary Moss: remembered by TBE	January 19
+Donald Y. Broida: remembered by TBE	January 20
Michele Kleiman: sister of Etta Robin 7"7	January 20
+Dennis David Shapiro: remembered by TBE	January 20
Louis Schwalbendorf: grandfather of Larry Fish	January 21
+Hanna Sheffel: remembered by TBE	January 21
Jay J. Arnold: father of Kathleen Arnold-Chambers	January 22
Henry Black: uncle of Diane Andrews	January 22
Harry Kay: remembered by TBE	January 22
+Nathan M. Krevitz: remembered by TBE	January 22
David Biegel: grandfather of Joe Fram	January 23
+Bonnie K. Johnson: sister of Marsha Parr	January 23
+Hulda Magnus: mother of Steven Magnus and Margaret Medearis; grandmother of Elliott Magnus	January 23
William Schacter: grandfather of Sharon Miller	January 23; Tevet 23

JANUARY 24 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

+Lena Pearlmutter: remembered by TBE	January 24
William Adler: uncle of Heidi Allison; brother-in-law of Shirley Newman ז"ל	January 24; Tevet 24
Bernice Katzell: mother of Ellyn Widelock; grandmother of Jenna Odlin	January 24
Saul David Larks: father of Anita Singer	January 24
Leonard Mansky: brother-in-law of Pearl Davis ז"ל	January 25
Patricia Thorley: sister of Ann Peterson-Saslaw	January 25
+Phillip Rubin Jacobson: remembered by TBE	January 25
Irving Steelman: uncle of Terry Skinner	January 26
Stanley Witer: step-father of Elaine White	January 27
Nathan Strauss: grandfather of Judy Strauss	January 28; Tevet 28
Lois Hale: grandmother of Jeanette Delijani	January 30; Shevat 1

JANUARY 31 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Harvey Abarbanell: father of Ross Abarbanell	February 1
Lillian Bridges: aunt of Karen Briefer	February 1
Barnett Larks: uncle of Anita Singer	February 2
Francisco Reyes: father of Ricardo Reyes; remembered by Michael & Karlyn Farber	February 2
Ira Schenkman: father of Richard Schenkman	February 2
+Stacia Hoffman: remembered by TBE	February 2; 5 Shevat
Dr. Barry Berman: husband of Tricia Berman	February 3
Bessie Jenkins: grandmother of Terry Skinner	February 3
John Obermeyer: grandfather of Leah Bank	February 3
Frances Bregman: step-mother of Irene Christenson ז"ל	February 4
Rosa Maria Cohen Arazi: aunt of Janet Blumberg; sister of Ana Genel ז"ל	February 4
Milton Rudnick: husband of Diane Rudnick ז"ל; father of Melanie Rudnick; brother of Phil Rudnick and Miriam Stull; uncle of Daniel Rudnick, Joshua Rudnick, and Libbie Mahan; brother in law of Marcia Rudnick ז"ל	February 4
Sylvia Rudnick: sister of Phil Rudnick, Miriam Stull, Marcus Rudnick ז"ל, and Milton Rudnick ז"ל; aunt of Daniel Rudnick, Joshua Rudnick, and Libbie Mahan	February 4
Lois Schulman: mother of Marc Schulman	February 4; Shevat 6
+Shel Cohn: remembered by TBE	February 4
+Celia Sarah Younger: remembered by TBE	February 4
Warren Gold: friend of Leonard and Carla Epstein	February 5
Marty McNeill: friend of Karen Briefer	February 5
+David H. Pike: Brother of Robert Pike ז"ל uncle of Irvin Pike	February 5
Selma Meyer: sister of Ella Abrams	February 6

I Have a Dream*

JOYOUS DAYBREAK TO END THE LONG NIGHT: *Rabban Gamliel would say that anyone who has not explained three things on Passover has not fulfilled his obligation. These are they: Pesach, Matzah, Maror. Pesach, because the Omnipresent passed over our ancestors houses in Egypt (and did not slay*

our first born). Matzah, because our ancestors were redeemed from Egypt. Maror, (bitter herbs) because the Egyptians embittered our ancestors lives in Egypt. Therefore, we are obliged to thank, to sing, to praise, to glorify, to exalt, to beautify, to bless, to offer, and to magnify the One who performed these miracles for our ancestors and us—who brought us from slavery to freedom, from despair to joy, from mourning to feasting, from darkness to great light and from bondage to redemption, and let us say before the One, Hallelujah! (The Passover Haggadah)

THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW: *Hillel would say: If I am not for myself who will be for me? If I'm for myself alone, what am I? If not now, when?*

Shammai answered: Set time for Torah study. Say little and do much. Receive everyone with grace. (Pirkei Avot 1:15).

GOD'S CHILDREN: *[When Israel was crossing the Red Sea], the ministering angels wanted to sing praises. God chastised them saying: The works of my hand (i.e. the Egyptians) are about to be drowned, and here you are singing praises?!! (Talmud, Megilla 10b)*

Rabbi Akiva would say: Beloved is the human

I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation. Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a **joyous daybreak to end the long night** of their captivity. But 100 years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. And so we've come here today to dramatize a shameful condition.

In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men - yes, black men as well as white men - would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check that has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and security of justice. We have also come to his hallowed spot to remind America **of the fierce urgency of now.** This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of **God's children.** It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end but a beginning. Those who hoped that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges. But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force. The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny. And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality. We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their selfhood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating "for whites only." We cannot be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied and we will not be satisfied until **justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.** I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that **unearned suffering is redemptive.** Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair. I say to you today my friends - so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification - one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, **the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight,** and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together. This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up

UNTIL JUSTICE FLOWS DOWN LIKE WATERS: *"And justice and righteousness will rejoice like water, like the river of Eitan" Amos 5:24. "Rabbi Eliezer said: One who performs acts of righteousness and justice is greater than one who brings sacrifices to the Temple, as it is written: and what is just*

is more desired by the Lord than sacrifice." (Proverbs 21:3) He also said: Acts of compassion are greater than acts of justice, as it is written: 'Plant your seeds justly but reap them with compassion.' (Hosea 10:12) When one plants, he may or may not eat [from what he planted], but once he reaps, he will certainly be able to eat. (Talmud Succah 49b)

THAT UNEARNED SUFFERING IS REDEMPTIVE: *(O Lord, you know—*

Remember me and take thought of me, Avenge me on those who persecute me; Do not yield to your patience, Do not take me away! Consider how I have suffered on your account. (Jeremiah 15:15-16) Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai said: Three great gifts were given to Israel for their suffering, The Torah, The Land of Israel and the World to Come, (Talmud Brachot 5a.)

THE ROUGH PLACES WILL BE MADE PLAIN: *Let the rugged ground be made level, and the ridges become a plain, (Isaiah 40:4) "Let the rugged ground be made level—This is referring to the evil inclination [in everyone] "and the crooked places will be made straight, Rabbi Shimon Ben Menasya says: A crooked person had to be straight to begin with, and now has become crooked. (Midrash Bereshith)*

"And the Crooked will not be made straight, and that which is missing will not be counted." (Ecclesiastes 1:15)

LET FREEDOM RING: *Where does the word Dror (Liberty, or freedom) come from? It comes from the word for transient (Dayyar) for he goes and sells his wares wherever he pleases.) (Midrash Yalkut Shimoni*

*Beloved is the human
for he was created in
[God's] image.
Excessive love is
bestowed upon him
because he was
created in the image,
As it is written, 'One
who spills the blood of
another, his blood
should be spilled, for
In the image of God
was the human made.'
(Genesis 9:6) (Pirkei
Avot Chapter 3
Mishnah 14)*

able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day. This will be the day, this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning "My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my father's died, land of the Pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, **let freedom ring!**" And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. And so let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado. Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee. Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi - from every mountainside. Let freedom ring. And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring - when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children - black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics - will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: "**Free at last!** Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

Martin Luther King (August 28th, 1963)

(Midrash Yalkut Shimoni
Chapter 25: 659)
FREE AT LAST: *Rabbi
Shimon the son of Gamliel
said: The world stands on
three things: On justice,
on truth and on peace. As
it is written: Judge with
truth justice and peace
within your gates.
(Zachariah 8).
(Pirkei Avot 1:17)
Sleep is one sixtieth of
death.*

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***A DREAM** is one sixtieth of Prophecy.
(Babylonian Talmud,
Berachot 57b)



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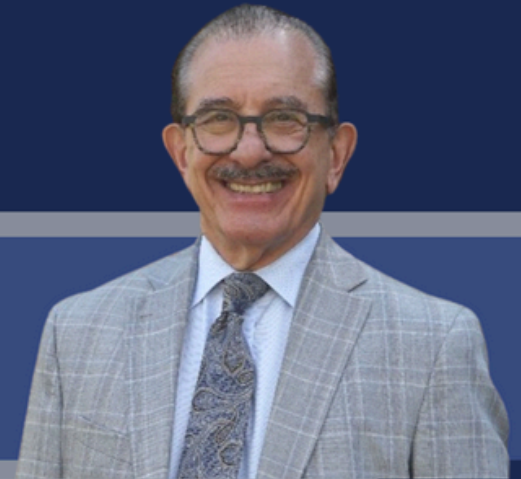
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