SHOFAR

VOLUME 82, ISSUE 5





Bring your whole self, whoever you are

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LETTER FROM THE RABBI

Midrash One Nation to Another by Rabbi Yael Vurgan

Yael said: All my days, I grieved over this verse:

And God said to her, two nations are in your belly, and two peoples will go their separate ways from your bowels, and one people another will overpower, and the elder will serve the younger. (Genesis 25, 23)

And I asked: How did Rebecca hear this harsh prophecy while Isaiah heard: no nation will take up a sword against another (Isaiah 2,4)?

And Abraham had already said to Lot: Let there not be conflict between me and you...for we are brethren. (Genesis 13, 8)

And if you will say 'all brothers hate one another,' haven't we found that in every generation, after they hated, they came together and reconciled with one another? Of the sons of Abraham, it is said: And they buried him, Isaac and Ishmael, his sons (Genesis 25, 9)

And of the sons of Isaac, it is said: And Esau ran towards him and hugged him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept (Genesis 33, 4).

And of the sons of Jacob, it is said: And now, be not sad, or angry with yourselves over having sold me, because it was to preserve life that God sent me here before you. (Genesis 45, 5)

Until there came a generation that hated no more. And who are these? Moses and Aaron, of whom it is said: How good and pleasing it is when siblings dwell together (Psalms 133. 1).

And I heard most of the people and the leaders saying: we will live by the sword forever, and I grieved and wept even more, that they prefer that bad prophecy that Rebecca heard over the good one.

Until a poem came into my hands:

"And I shall keep faith in the future,

Though the day be yet far away

Surely it will come - when nations

Will share blessing and peace." (Shaul Tchernikhovsky, "I Believe" Odessa, 1892) I rejoiced a great joy that Tchernikhovsky had come and turned the first prophecy upside down, and made it like the second, better one. And I too, chose to believe in it, with all my heart and all my might.

And I would go about in the city and call out: The two nations can, they can, live on this land in peace, share its blessings and be a blessing to one another!



ום מלאום יעל וורגו

אמרה יעל: כל ימי הייתי מצטערת על מקרא זה:

"וַיֹּאמֶ ר ה' לָ ה שְׁ נֵי גֹויִם בְּ בִ טְ נָך וּשְׁ נֵי לְ אָמִ ים מִ מֵ עַ יְךְ יִפָּרֵ דוּוּלְ אֹם מִ לְ אֹםיֶאֱמָ ץ וֹרַ ב יַעֲבֹּד צָעִ יר"."

וַיאנֶדוֹ דוֹ לָ זוֹ שְׁ בֵּי גוּיִם בְּ בִּ טְ נָן זִישְׁ בֵּי לְ אֻנִּדִים נִּוֹ נֵוֹ עַ יְן יִפְּנֵּ וּוּוֹּלְ בראשית כה, כג(. ושאלתי,הכיצד שמעה רבקה נבואה קשה זו, ואילו ישעיה שמע(:

"לא יִשָּ א גוֹי אַ ל גוֹי חֵ רֶ ב וְלֹא יִל מִ דוֹ עוֹד מִ ל חַ מַ ה')ישעיהו ב, ד?

)וכבר אמר אברהם ללוט: "אַ ל נָא תְּ הִ י מְ רִ יבָ ה בֵ ינִי ּוֹבֵ ינֶרְ... כִי אֲנָשִ ים אַ חִ ים אֲנָחְ נּוּ")בראשית יג,ח ואם תאמרי, 'כל האחים שונאים זה לזה', הרי מצאנו שבכל דור, לאחר ששנאו, באו והתפייסו זה אחדים

על בני אברהם נאמר, "וַיָּקְ בָּ רוּ אֹתוֹ יָצְ חַ ק וְיָשְׁ מַ עֲאל בַ נַיו")בראשית כה, ט.

.)ועל בני יצחק נאמר, "וַיָּרֶ ץ עֵשָ וּ לִ קְּ רָ אתוֹ וַיְּחַ בְּ קָ הּוּ וַיִּפּל עַל צַּוָארָ וּ וַיִּשָׁ קַ הּוּ וַיִּבְּ כִּוּ")בראשית לג,ד

ועל בני יעקב נאמר, "וְעַתָּ ה אַ ל תֵ עָ צְ בּו וְאַ ל יִחַ ר בְּ עֵ ינֵיכֶם כִי מְ כַרְ תֶ ם אֹתִ י הֵ נָה כִי לְ מִ חְ יָה שְׁ לָ חַ נִי אֱ לֹהִ ים

)לִ פְּ נֵיכֶם")בראשית מה, ה

עד שבא דור בו לא שנאו עוד. ומי אלה? משה ואהרון, עליהם נאמר, "הָ נֵה מַ ה טוֹב ּוּמַ ה נָעִ ים שֶ בֶּ ת

אָ חִ ים גַּם יָחַ ד")תהילים קל" ג,א (.

ושמעתי רוב העם ומנהיגיו אומרים: לנצח נחיה על החרב. והייתי מצטערת ובוכה עוד, על שמבכרים. אותה הנבואה הרעה ששמעה רבקה, על פני הטובה.

עד שבא שיר לידי:

"אַ אֲמִ ינָה גַּם בֶּ עָתִ יד,

אַ ף אָ ם יִרְ חַ ק זֶה הַ יוֹם,

אַ ךְ בֹּא יָבֹּא –יִשְׁ או שָ לוֹם

אָז וּבְּרָ כָה לָאם מִ לָאם."

ושמחתי שמחה גדולה שבא טשרניחובסקי והפך הנבואה הראשונה על פיה ועשאה כנבואה השנייה. הטובה ממנה, ובכרתי גם אני להאמין בה בכל לבי ובכל מאודי.

והייתי הולכת ברחובה של עיר, קוראת בקול וזועקת: יכול יוכלו שני העמים לחיות על הארץ הזו בשלום, לחלוק את ברכותיה ולהיות ברכה זה לזה!



Blessings,

Rabbi Jonathan Klein

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shalom Friends who are Family,

Spring, with all its blessings and holidays, is upon us. Passover reminds us that all over the world, including here in the US, people yearn for freedom. Our captors may be vicious like the Hammas terrorists still holding 59 Israelis in Gaza, or metaphorically the panopticons that control our daily lives. Nature experiences rebirth and growth; may we also find growth, freedom and strive to the light.

I recently returned from Ecuador and the Galapagos, where all days are 12 hours of light and 12 hours of night. Our globe is home to remarkable phenomena, creatures, and humans. Experiencing joy and pain are integral to humanity. While snorkeling and hiking with people to whom I found it



easy to connect, it was effortless to simply be happy. I was delighted to be in such a beautiful environment. The place where I also frequently experience joy and connection is with you, our community. Greeting friends on Friday nights, including on Zoom, at Sunday's Religious School, or the occasional Shabbat morning service, has been a reliable source of smiles and good energy. I truly hope that you will join us, in person if possible, so you too can benefit from this quintessential human need of connection, sprinkled with the delights of Torah and our traditions. These are the things that give life a spark of joy and meanings.

A communal Shabbat dinner to celebrate Israel's Independence Day will take place on Friday, May 2, cosponsored by the Jewish National Fund. We are very excited to have the opportunity to break bread together and affirm our connection to the land of Israel. Please RSVP as soon as possible so we can properly plan. All sorts of Shabbat treats are in store! Use this link to sign up:

Speaking of Israel, voting in the World Zionist Congress elections is taking place right now. **Over a billion dollars (!) of funding** for the state of Israel will be distributed according to how Jews worldwide vote. Every Jewish person over the age of 18 who resides in the diaspora and did not vote in Israeli elections is eligible to vote. By voting "VOTE REFORM" (Slate #3), we direct moneys toward projects that reflect our values and priorities within the land of Israel, including religious freedom and democratic ideals. There is a \$5 administrative fee to support the voting process.

You can use this link to vote:

 $\underline{https://azm.castiron.votem.net/election/037548cb-4cbb-4a94-aa9a-8aef017d4ddf}$

The annual Lag BaOmer picnic and congregational meeting will take place on May 18th. This has been a fun, joyful event, an important opportunity to discuss our congregation's plans for the future and vote for the board of directors. Please plan to attend! Esther Brandon and the nominating committee are starting to assemble the slate of candidates. If you have not been contacted and are interested in serving, please contact her, rabbi, or myself.

Calendar of events and celebrations:

World Zionist Congress voting - Now through May 4

Passover - April 12 through the 20th

Counting of the Omer - Starts on Sunday, April 13th, through Shavuot, June 1st, at nightfall

Yom HaShoah - April 24th

Israeli Independence Day - May 1st, we will celebrate with a congregational dinner on Friday, May 2nd

Lag BaOmer - May 15th, we will celebrate Sunday May 18th

Bar Mitzvah of Asher Delijani - Saturday, May 31

Shavuot – Sunday, June 1st

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

Avital Anders President, Temple Beth EL



Full moon over the equator



I can find our people anywhere!

Our Contributors:

thankzyou

Memorials/Yahrzeits

- Ilene Schechter: In memory of Jeanne Moore and Craig Thompson
- Brent Eastep: In memory of Hy Davis
- Ilene Schechter: In memory of Hannah Somkin
- Nancy and Arthur McCombs: In memory of Linnie Pearl McCombs
- Anthony and Courtney Vengarick: Memorial plaque for Brucha "Birdie" Leah Vengarick

Religious School Donation

• Ilene Schechter: in honor of Mark and Stacy Davis, renewal of vows



Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

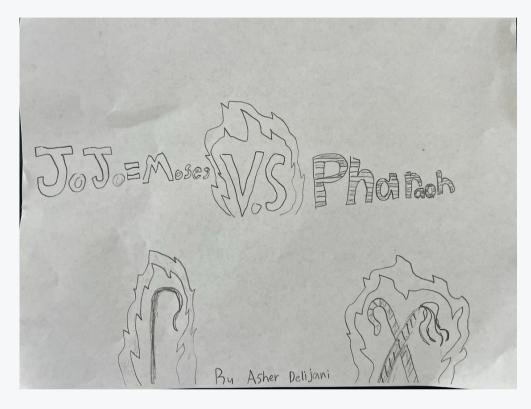
- David Anaya and Celeste Caballero: Machatzit HaShekel
- Leonard and Carla Epstein
- Stacy and Mark Davis: Wedding of Sloan Kanter & Maverick Eason

Caring Committee

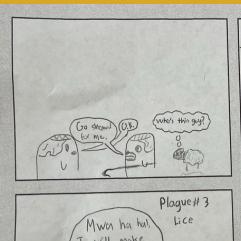
• Ilene Schechter: Wedding of Heber & Emma Cruz Berber

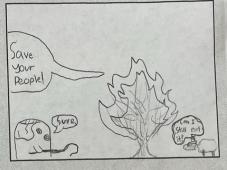
Contribute Online: https://donation We are grateful for all contributions!

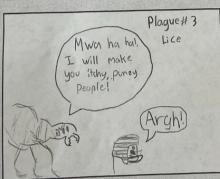
A Passover Comic by Asher Delijani

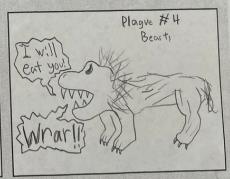


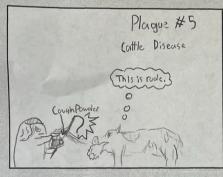


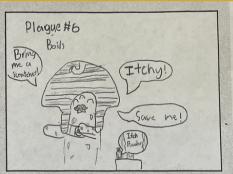




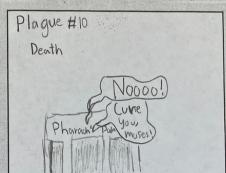


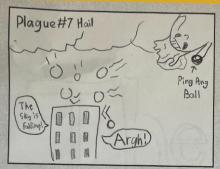


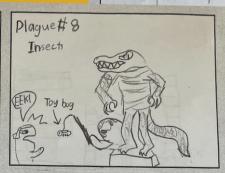




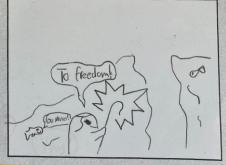














WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS 2025

US WZC elections will take place March 10 - May 4, 2025.

Between March 10 and May 4, 2025, American Jews can vote for their vision of the Jewish people in Israel and around the world.

Make sure your point of view is represented in the next World Zionist Congress. By voting you will be able to choose one of the many slates representing diverse political beliefs, religious denominations and cultural traditions. The 152 delegates elected from the United States will join hundreds from Israel and around the world at the 39th World Zionist Congress in October 2025, the international "parliament of the Jewish people", to make decisions and set policies regarding key institutions that support global Jewish life and which allocate over \$1 billion annually to support Israel and world Jewry (including the World Zionist Organization, Jewish National Fund and the Jewish Agency for Israel). With more slates and candidates than ever before, American Jews have a rare opportunity to make a direct impact on the future direction of Israel and diaspora affairs.



https://azm.castiron.votem.net/election/037548cb-4cbb-4a94-aa9a-8aef017d4ddf







William & Terry Skinner

Joseph & Jennifer Marcus

April 6

April 12

Tom & Robin Feher

April 26

Reb Cantor Lisa & Andrew Levine

Rebecca & Joseph Ruiz

April 29

Happy Birthday

Laura Reyes	April 4	Beth Spiegel	April 16
Ferdinand Aggenbach	April 5	Cameron McConnell	April 22
Eliana Reece Marcus	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	Abigail Martinez	April 26
Adam Rodriquez	April 7	Meir Levi Herndon	April 27
Chelsea Zent-Coley	April 7	Alexander Yisrael Herndon	April 27
John Beam	April 10	Hendrix Mawhirter	April 29
Olivia Marcus	April 10	Marcy Smith	April 29

			Jel V		Nissai	
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Religio Adult E Leadersh Commu Sister H Parsha o Jewish	rvices us School Education ip Meetings nity Events ood Event of the Week Holidays sh Date	1 3 Nissan 6:30 - 7:30 pm (Zoom) Religious Practices Committee	7-8:30 pm Jewish Life Cycle Class	3	6 pm First Friday Shabbat Family Services	5 Vayikra 5 - 6 pm Class on Ecclesiastes (by Zoom)
9:30-12:30 Religious School	7 11:30 am Simcha Set @ Zeppo's Pizza 7-8:30 pm Jewish Life Cycle Class	7:00 pm Board Meeting, in person	7-8:30 pm Jewish Life Cycle Class	10	6 pm Chardonnay Shabbat	12 Tzav Shabbat HaGadol Erev Pesach - First Seder tonight
Pesach - Second Seder Omer Count 1	14 Omer Count 2 Day 1 7-8:30 pm Jewish Life Cycle Class	15 Omer Count 3 Day 2 9-9:30 am Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom)	7-8:30 pm Jewish Life Cycle Class	17 Omer Count 5 Day 4	18 Omer Count 6 Day 5 7 pm Shabbat Services	19 Omer Count 7 Day 6 Passover 5 - 6 pm Class on Ecclesiastes (by Zoom)
20 ^{Omer Count 8} Day 7	21 Omer Count 9 Day 8 7-8:30 pm Jewish Life Cycle Class	22 Omer Count 10 Day 9 9-9:30 am Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom)	23 Omer Count 11 Day 10 Yom Hashoah 7-8:30 pm Jewish Life Cycle Class	24 Omer Count 12 Day 11	25 Omer Count 13 Day 12 7 pm Shabbat Unplugged	26 Omer Count 14 Day 13 Shemini 5 - 6 pm Class on Ecclesiastes (by Zoom) 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service
27 Omer Count 15 Day 14 9:30-12:30 Religious School 6:30 PM Rosh Chodesh	28 Omer Count 16 Day 15 7-8:30 pm Jewish Life Cycle Class	29 Omer Count 17 Day 16 1 lyar Rosh Chodesh 9-9:30 am Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom)	30 Omer Count 18 Day 17 7-8:30 pm Jewish Life Cycle Class			12

Upcoming Events:



Counting Omer











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, June 8th @ 3:00 pm via TBE Zoom (note no meeting for April & May)

LEADERSHIP MEETING- Sunday, June 8th @ 2:30 pm via TBE Zoom (note no meeting for April & May)

BOOK CLUB- Sunday, April 6th at 1pm via TBE Zoom with the author!!

The current book is *The Goldie Standard* by Simi Monheit.

Rosh Chodesh- Sunday, April 27th @ 6:30 pm via TBE Zoom.

COOKING CLASS- None

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 enjoying our current read, *The Goldie Standard*. We will meet on Sunday, April 6th at 6:30 pm (via TBE Zoom) with the author. Yes, the author, Simi Monheit will join our book discussion via Zoom to discuss her funny novel.



CELEBRATION WEAR



ALWAYS A 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!!



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

MARCH 28 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Anne Caplan: mother of Diane Rogers	March 28; Adar 28
+Minnie Meyers : remembered by TBE	March 28
+Emile Stein : remembered by TBE	March 29
Hyman Hoffman: grandfather of Steven Magnus; great-grandfather of Elliott	March 30
Magnus	
Bruce Pagni: friend of Peggie Soltis	March 30
Milton Shilkrout: uncle of Judy Strauss	March 30; Nissan 1
+Harry Gilfenbain : remembered by TBE	March 30
+Hyman Hoffman : remembered by TBE	March 30
Rudolph Cohn: father of Ethel Cohn Katz	March 31
Florence Burstein Goldy: mother of Lynne Joseph	March 31
+H. Oscar Drasin : remembered by TBE	March 31
+Heidi Rozanne Mailman : remembered by TBE	March 31
+Anna Solin Shewach : remembered by TBE	March 31; 9 Nisan
David Kosakowski: husband of Dorise Bitton	April 1, Nissan 3
Ione Lollar: mother of Laura Wolfe	April 1
+Marvin David Teplitz : brother-in-law of Mary Speare	April 1
+Albert Klakoff : remembered by TBE	April 1
Craig Backer: friend of Shyanne Southern	April 2
Esther Bernstein: mother of Stacy Davis	April 2
Pierre Laborde: father of Fanny Jacobs	April 2
Abraham Levey: great-grandfather of Irvin Pike	April 2
+Sam Rudnick : brother of Phil Rudnick and Miriam Stull; uncle of Daniel Rudn	ni Al pril 2
Libbie Mahan, & Joshua Rudnick	
Tommy Uhacz: son-in-law of Muriel Vekas ז"ל	April 2
Susan Ferguson: wife of Stan Ferguson	April 3
Virginia Ferguson: mother of Stan Ferguson	April 3

APRIL 4 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Etta Flanders: grandmother of Nancy Brennan; great-grandmother of Rebecca	April 4
Roldan	
Emily Lepp : great aunt of Laura Lauria; great-great-aunt of Amanda Garza	April 4, Nissan 6
+Phil Levey : grandfather of Irvin Pike	April 4
+Freda Singer: mother of Sylvia Neal ז"ל	April 8
Abraham Popel: grandfather of Marty Weinberg and Susie Simrin	April 9
+Betty Sue Carlin : remembered by TBE	April 9

APRIL 11 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Ron Deem: son-in-law of Stan & Norma Schwartz	April 11
Harry Nadler: father of Jack Bloch ז"ל	April 11
Sarah Rosenfeld: grandmother of Andrew Levine	April 11
Tim Arnold: brother of Kathleen Arnold-Chambers	April 12
Phyllis Swinney: mother of Nancy McCombs	April 12
+Sarah Brown: remembered by TBE	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
+Mina Weimer: remembered by TBE	April 13
+Gietel Stern: remembered by TBE	April 13; 13 Nisan
+Rose S. Cohn: remembered by TBE	April 14
Louis Caplan: father of Diane Rogers	April 15
+Charles Resnick: remembered by TBE	April 16
Doug Halpern: grandfather of Sarah Mawhirter	April 17
Greta Oppenheimer: mother of Judy Feldman	April 17, Nissan 19

APRIL 18 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Kenneth Harman: cousin of Daniel Rudnick, Josh Rudnick, and Libbie Mahan; April 18 nephew of Miriam Stull +Louis Hoffman: remembered by TBE April 18; Iyar 1 +Diane Polland Carrete: sister of Laura Lauria; aunt of Amanda Garza April 19 Marie Schulman: grandmother of Marc Schulman April 19, Nissan 21 Alvin Polland: uncle of Laura Lauria; great uncle of Amanda Garza April 20, Nissan 22 +Mollie Black: remembered by TBE April 19 +Robert Levine: remembered by TBE April 21 Sharon Lipco: sister of Lisa Levine April 22 Mollie Schwalbendorf: grandmother of Larry Fish April 22 +Lillian Soren: remembered by TBE April 22 Haya Sura Shnaiderman: sister of Etel Lewis April 23 Christy Trunec: step daughter of Peggie Soltis April 23 +Sharon Faye Lipco: remembered by TBE April 23 +Ina Claire Taylor: remembered by TBE April 23

David Bitton: father of Dorise Bitton April 24, Nissan 26

Andrew Davis: son of Diane & Andy Andrews; brother of Becka Ruiz April 24 +Ricka Frank: remembered by TBE April 24

APRIL 25 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Max Rockoff: father of Art Rockoff ז"ל	April 25, Nissan 27
Jewish Community of Sambor, Poland: remembered by TBE	April 25, Nissan 27
Norma Schwartz: mother of Jeff Schwartz	April 25
Ethel Gintzler: great-aunt of Laura Lauria	April 27, Nissan 29
+Morris Berman: remembered by TBE	April 27
Martha Ann Ohe: mother of Marianne Gartenlaub	April 28
+Samuel Taylor : remembered by TBE	April 28
Ruben Kay: father of Selwyn Kay	April 29, Iyar 1
+Fanny Gordon : remembered by TBE	April 29
+Richard D. Loewenberg M.D. : remembered by TBE	April 29
Paul Blatt: son of Rose Blatt; brother of Barbara Kessler; uncle of David Kessler	April 30, Iyar 2
Mark Burgess: brother-in-law of Peggie Soltis	April 30
+Albert Abram Kaplan: father of Marsha Parr	April 30
+Bertha Krasnow: remembered by TBE	April 30
Violet Kessler: grandmother of David Kessler; mother of Martin Kessler	April 1, Iyar 3
Denise Turner: wife of Dugan Turner ז"ל	April 1

18



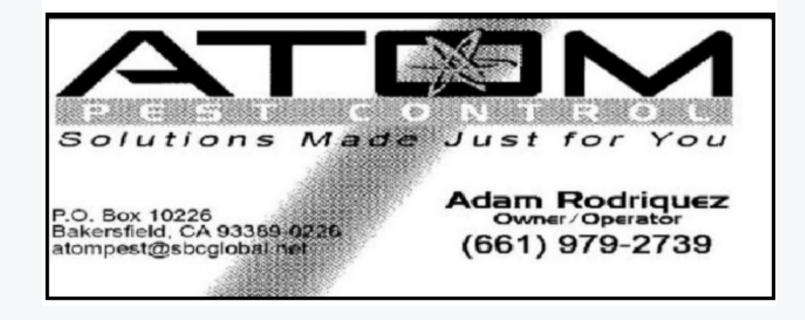
Retirement Sale Continues! Globe Loan Jewelry Co is saying "goodbye" after 60 years.

Sale! Sale! Sale!
On Everything: Jewelry,
Musical Instruments,
Tools & Stuff

Steve & Gail

1130 19th St, Bakersfield, CA 93301





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