

IYAR • SIVAN 5785



VOLUME 82, ISSUE 6



MAY 31 @10:00 AM

Bring your whole self, whoever you are

Temple Beth El Bakersfield, California

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LETTER FROM THE RABBI

Feedback Regarding Service Length: A Tircha d'Tzibura (Hardship Upon the Community)

Dear Esteemed TBE Members,

For this month's Shofar article, I would like to simply state that I continue to receive feedback from congregants who have been frustrated with the length of services at our sweet synagogue. Many of those sharing their feelings have not been to synagogue services in a while and may be unaware that I have made efforts to shorten service length, to respond to the concerns and to recognize that several of you have felt that it is a <u>tircha dTzibura</u>—a strain on the community, that services have gone longer than desired. This came to a head during Rosh Hashanah services, but the reality is that once a service feels long to a congregant, they believe that it will be immutably long forever afterward.



I want to change this. I want you to attend our Shabbat and Days of Awe services. I miss you!

Here is my service length aspiration:

I will try to shorten adult Friday Night Services from 1 ¹/₂ to 1 ³/₄ hours to 1 ¹/₄ to 1 ¹/₂ hours.

Rosh Hashanah services will be shortened, but not sure just yet because this book is still new for us...probably less reader parts, shorter sermon, and less song.

Yom Kippur services may remain the same, as the feedback I have received was almost entirely regarding Rosh Hashanah, and people are fasting, anyway.

There are several explanations for why there has been a challenge for us on this point, but what matters more than this is the feeling you carry, and I want to remedy any feelings you may carry about service length. First, my background as a Reform Jew led me to Reform synagogues such as Stephen S. Wise Temple, where services are longer than in the history (it seems) of Temple Beth El; I assumed that this is standard fare for Reform synagogues, especially on Rosh Hashanah. Second, while I have years of experience as a rabbi, most of my spaces have been pluralistic spaces such as Hillel, where all the denominations are present and students are accustomed to being surrounded by traditional forms. Third, as a congregational rabbi, I was not accustomed to reading Torah on Friday nights (since my arrival, though, we only read Torah on Friday nights once or twice a month due to other service styles that do not include a Torah service), and of course that adds significant time to the Friday night experience. Fourth, we recently changed Machzors (Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur prayer books) from the single volume Gates of Repentance to the much more elaborate two-volume Mishkan HaNefesh, and this transition has been a learning experience that requires simplification. Fifth but less significantly, there is a marked historical difference in service length between Christian and Jewish services; those raised in churches may have assumptions that simply are different. And finally, guilty as charged—this Rabbi likes to talk! I hope you know that it is out of passion for our traditions, and I so dearly want to share this Torah with you! Still... Nevertheless, I have received feedback, and I hope you feel my humility. Kibalti v'Shamati—I have received, and I have heard. I will endeavor to shorten our worship services so that you can feel that our services speak more directly to you.

There will be times of disappointment, but please know that I am trying!

I love Temple Beth El, and more specifically, I love our Kehillah K'doshah (Sacred Community)—YOU!—with our wonderful cast of fantastic characters and lots of stories from over 77 years of Jewish pride. I recently found in my office the certificate that essentially declares our "charter" with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, from 1947! We have a wonderful community, and more than my needs, I am here to serve you.

As we close out the school year and ready ourselves for summer, I wish you all a wonderful month of May!

L'shalom,

Jowes

Jonathan Klein

p.s. send me feedback via phone: 424.248.5775. Thank you!

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shalom Friends who are Family,

We have a full May/June calendar. Really, it is the IYAR/SIVAN calendar that is jam packed with events! Israeli Independence Day – YOM HaATZMAUT – is celebrated on May 1st. We will mark it with a congregational dinner and a Kabbalat Shabbat starting at 6 PM, Friday, May 2nd. Jewish National Fund is sponsoring the dinner and their representative, Dov Gordon, will spend the evening with us. If you want to learn more about JNF, he will be here all weekend and is very interested in getting to know our community. This is a link to his calendar -

<u>https://calendly.com/dovgordonjnf/bakersfield</u> You are encouraged to schedule some time with him.



We will have a special Mother's Day Shabbat on May 9th at 6 PM. On Saturday, May 10th, B'nai Jacob Shabbat Torah Service returns at 9:30 AM. Sunday, May 18th, will be our annual Lag BaOmer picnic and congregational meeting. This has been a fun, joyful event, an important opportunity to discuss our congregation's plans for the future and vote for a new board of directors. Please plan to attend! The picnic will start at noon and the meeting will take place at 1:30. Ballots and reports have been mailed and emailed. If for some reason, you did not receive the pocket, please let me know so I can get you the information.

Voting in the World Zionist Congress elections is still open, but only untill May 4th. **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. Don't miss out on the opportunity to make your voice heard. Use this link to vote: <u>https://azm.castiron.votem.net/election/037548cb-4cbb-4a94-aa9a-8aef017d4ddf</u>

Saturday, May 30th, brings us the opportunity to share the Simchah of Asher Delijani as he becomes a Bar Mitzvah. Services will be at 9:30, followed by a luncheon. I for one, can't wait to celebrate! Sunday, June 1st, will be the last day of religious school. We will listen to project presentations of our oldest students who have been studying American Jewish Heroes with the thoughtful guidance of Jeannette Delijani. A celebratory day it will be.

Shavuot, the Festival of Weeks, commemorating the giving of The Torah on Mount Sinai, will be at 6 PM on Sunday, June 1st.

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

Avital Anders President, Temple Beth EL

Our Contributors: thankeyou

Memorials/Yahrzeits

- Selwyn and Cecily Kay: in memory of Reuben Kay
- Nancy and Arthur McCombs: in memory of Phyllis Swinney
- Wynne Waugaman: in memory of Elijah Escobedo
- Nancy and Arthur McCombs: in memory of Alexa Rose McDowell
- Anthony and Courtney Vengarick
- Martin and Barbara Kessler: in memory of Herbert Blatt, Paul Blatt, & Emerick Blatt
- Ronald and Laura Lauria: in memory of Ethel Gintzler
- Ronald and Laura Lauria: in memory of Alvin Polland & Diane Polland Carrete
- Brent Eastep: in memory of Hy and Pearl Davis
- Greg and Rose Broida: in memory of Anastacio Gonzales
- Pamela Stahl: in memory of Etta Robin

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Leonard & Carla Epstein: in memory of Warren Gold
- Mary Gerena

Kol Nidre Donation in • Linda Porter

- Leonard and Carla Epstein
- Larry Saslaw and Jill Egland

Caring Committee

• Lyle and Marianne Gartenlaub: Chardonnay Shabbat cleanup

Tree of Life

Michael & Judy Feldman, Helen & Tom Armistead, Vivian Gonzales, Andy & Ella Abrams:

• in honor of the wedding Kathleen Chambers and Chuck Butler

Building Fund

Irvin Pike and Pamela Elisheva: in memory of Robert and Arline Pike

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

WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS 2025

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

Once every five years, we have a Jewish civic duty – to Israel and to our people – to cast our vote and make our voices heard in the World Zionist Congress (WZC) election. In a few short weeks, on March 10, voting will open for the 2025 WZC and you can vote for our Vote Reform slate.

This is your chance to stand up for democracy, security, and peace in Israel. Our Vote Reform slate will make the safe return of all the hostages their number one priority. They will fight to make sure that your children and your children's children are recognized as Jewish in Israel – a right that our ultra-orthodox opponents in this election are trying to take away.

Please commit here today to casting your ballot for Vote Reform from March 10 through May 4 and sign up for a reminder to vote when the voting period opens.



ANNIVERSARY

Rachel & Henry Wainwright	May 16
Christopher Jacobson & Jasmin LoBasso-Spencer	May 16
Lyle & Marianne Gartenlaub	May 25
Elliott & Breeann Magnus	May 30
Steven & Gail Magnus	May 30



Moments in



Tom Feher	May 01
Miriam Beam	May 04
Max Mahan	May 04
Tim Prince	May 04
Les Rogers	May 05
Edith Rudnick	May 08
Alexander Anaya	May 10
Barry Goldner	May 10

	Eden "Charlie" Chambers	May 11
4	Drina Fried	May 12
4	Sam Baruch Herndon	May 15
4	Glenn Singer	May 15
5	Alrich Aggenbach	May 19
3	Asher Ethan Delijani	May 21
	William Coley	May 22
	Helen Armistead	May 30

יום הולדת שמח



Early bird registration for the 8th annual Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers and 2K Latke Loops is open. The event will be held in person on December 14th at the Panorama Vista Preserve. There is also a virtual option which will be held all 8 days of Hanukkah. Registration is available at <u>RunSignUP</u>.

This is a fundraiser for Temple Beth El, and a portion of each participant's registration fee will be donated to the Kern River Parkway Foundation. This is a local non-profit organization that works to protect, preserve, and restore the natural riparian and wildlife habitat of the Kern River.

The current cost for the in-person race is \$35.42 for the 2K and \$39.66 for the 8K. The current cost for the virtual race is \$35.42. This year we are including a long-sleeved race shirt. The prices will increase on September 30, 2023

Don't delay, register today!

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

For more information about the race visit our website at <u>8krazykilometers.org</u> or visit our <u>Facebook page</u> or our <u>Instagram page</u> Please follow our TikTok page TBE Krazy 8k

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





		Mag		/ar • Si	van 💐	
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	Services Religious School Adult Education Leadership Meeting Community Events Sister Hood Event Parsha of the Wee Jewish Holidays Jewish Date	5		1 Omer Count 18 Day 19 <i>3 lyar</i> Yom Ha'atzmaut Israeli Independence Day	2 Omer Count 19 Day 20 6 pm Congregational Dinner sponsored by JNF	3 Omer Count 20 Day 21 <i>Tazria-Metzora</i> 5 -6 pm Class on Ecclesiastes (by Zoom)
4 Omer Count 21 Day 22 9:30-12:30 Religious School World Zionist Congress Voting Ends	Day 23 11:30 am Simcha Set @ Asian Vegan Bistro	6 Omer Count 23 Day 24 6:30 - 7:30 pm (Zoom) Religious Practices Committee	7 Omer Count 24 Day 25	8 Omer Count 25 Day 26	 9 Omer Count 26 Day 27 6 pm Mother's Day Shabbat 	10 Omer Count 27 Day 28 Acharrei- Kedoshim 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service w Cong Bnai Jacob
11 ^{0mer Count 28} Day 29	12 Omer Count 29 Day 30	13 Omer Count 30 Day 31 9-9:30 am Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom) 7:00 pm Board Meeting	14 Omer Count 31 Day 32	15 ⁰ Day 33 Lag Ba Omer	7 pm Shabbat Services	17 Omer Count 34 Day 35 <i>Emor</i> 5 - 6 pm Class on Ecclesiastes (by Zoom)
18 ^{0mer Count 35} Day 36 9:30-12:30 Religious School 12:00 PM Lag Ba Omer Picnic 1:30 PM Meeting	19 Omer Count 36 Day 37	20 ^{Omer Count 37} Day 38 9-9:30 am Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom)	21 Omer Count 38 Day 39	22 ^{0mer Count 39} Day 40	7 pm Learning Shabbat	24 Omer Count 41 Day 42 Behar- Bechukotai 5 - 6 pm Class on Ecclesiastes (by Zoom)
25 ^{°mer Count 42} Day 43 6:30 PM Rosh Chodesh, via zoom	26 Omer Count 43 Day 44 Memorial Day	27 Omer Count 44 Day 45 9-9:30 am Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom)	28 Omer Count 45 Day 46 <i>1 Sivan</i> Rosh Chodesh	29 ^{0mer Count 46} Day 47	30 ^{Omer Count 47} Day 48 7 pm Social Justice Shabbat	31 ^{Omer Count 48} Day 49 Bamidbar 10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Asher Delijani 10

Upcoming Events:





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 in May) LEADERSHIP MEETING- Sunday, June 8th @ 2:30 pm via TBE Zoom (note no meeting in May) BOOK CLUB- Current Book is Unorthodox Love by Heidi Shertok. Will review in June with the author! Date TBD

Rosh Chodesh- Sunday, May 25th @ 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!

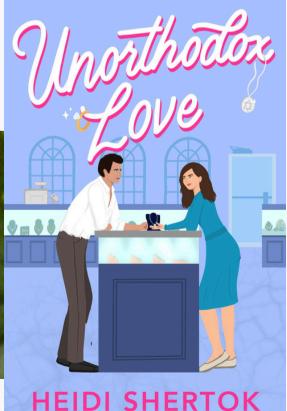
All Sisterhood activities are via TBE Zoom and in person, as noted.

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



Our next read will be Unorthodox Love by Heidi Shertok. We will meet in June over Zoom to discuss this unapologetically Jewish, romance novel with the author!





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 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

יש תמיד סיבה למסיבה!!



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

APRIL 25 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Max Rockoff: father of Art Rockoff ז"ל	FApril 25, Nissan 27
Jewish Community of Sambor, Poland: remembered by TBE	April 25, Nissan 27
Norma Schwartz: mother of Jeff Schwartz and Helen Armistead	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	April 30, Iyar 2
Kessler	
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	May 1, Iyar 3
Denise Turner : wife of Dugan Turner ז"ל	May 1

MAY 2 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Rose Bard: grandmother of Marc Schulman	May 2, Iyar 4
Charles Schwartz: grandfather of Diane Andrews	May 3
Rose Schechter: grandmother of Ilene Schechter	May 3, Iyar 5
Marcia Rudnick: mother of Libbie Mahan, grandmother of Catherine Mahan	May 4
+Addie L. Marks: remembered by TBE	May 4
+Gussie Simrin: grandmother of Susie Simrin	May 5
+Wayne S. Baron: remembered by TBE	May 5
+Anastacio Gonzalez: father of Rose Broida, grandfather of Michael Broida	May 6
Bertha Popel: grandmother of Susie Simrin	May 6
Barbara Arnold: mother of Kathleen Arnold-Chambers	May 7
Emerick Kessler: father of Martin Kessler	May 8, Iyar 10

MAY 9 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Edna Dulcer: grandmother of Janet Newbrough	May 9
Ila Shively: grandmother of Brad McConnell	May 10
James W Prince: father of Tim Prince	May 11
+Abe. D. Klein: remembered by TBE	May 11
+James W. Prince: remembered by TBE	May 11
Marilyn Singer Matty: mother of Glenn Singer	May 12
Elaine Goodman: mother of Marsha Greenstein	May 13
Don Reifenstahl: father of Becky Reifenstahl	May 13
Wiliam Davis: father of Carla Epstein	May 13
+Fannie Shapiro: remembered by TBE	May 13
+Louis Frank: remembered by TBE	May 14
+Charles Klein: remembered by TBE	May 14
+Elenor S. Strauss: remembered by TBE	May 15
Alice Feldman: mother of Michael Feldman	May 15, Iyar 17

MAY 16 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

May 16
May 17
May 17
May 17
May 19
May 19
May 20, Iyar 22
May 20
May 20
May 22
May 22

MAY 23 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Irving Jenkins: father of Terry Skinner	May 24
Roberta Shaw: mother of Karen Briefer	May 24
Elynor Rudnick Falk: sister of Phil Rudnick and Miriam Stull, aunt of Libbie	May 25
Mahan and Joshua Rudnick	
Hortense J. Strom: mother of Leo Strom z'l	May 26, Iyar 28
Violet Peterson: mother of Ann Peterson-Saslaw z'l	May 26
Jean Bishop: mother of Linda Hakimi	May 26
Sonia Vayner: sister of Etel Lewis	May 28
Natalie June Dyer: grandmother of Connie Wellman z'l	May 28
+Irma Weill: remembered by TBE	May 28
Sarah Kohn: great-grandmother of Irvin Pike	May 29

MAY 23 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

IFrancis Wheeler: aunt of Andy Andrews Louis Blumer: father of Vivian Gonzales +Anne Cuccia: remembered by TBE Michael Krute: cousin of Jackie Rudnick z'l Jose Peralta: uncle of Rosa Barrera Marco Rosa: brother of Indiana Schenkman +Barney Shinberg: remembered by TBE +Edna Solomon: remembered by TBE Genaro Sarmiento: grandfather of David Anaya Rigel Locke: remembered by Irvin Pike +Ben S. Cohn: remembered by TBE +Florence Pearl Tevens: remembered by TBE +Rabbi Jack A. Levy: remembered by TBE

May 30 May 30 May 30 May 31 June 2 June 2 June 2 June 3 June 4, Sivan 8 June 4 June 4 June 4 June 4; 25 Sivan



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

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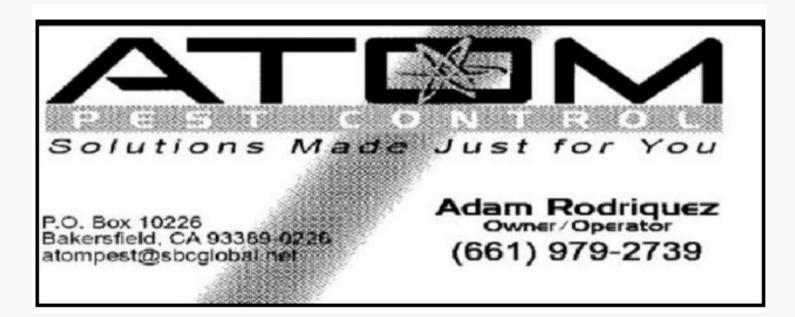
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