

SEPTEMBER 2025

ELUL 5785 • TISHREI 5786

SHOFAR

VOLUME 83, ISSUE 1

A graphic for Rosh Hashanah services featuring a large, stylized apple with a yellow honeycomb on top and a green leaf. The background is white with yellow and pink floral accents. The text "ROSH HASHANAH SERVICES" is written in bold red letters. Below this, three white cards with green text provide the service schedule.

ROSH HASHANAH SERVICES

September 22 Erev Rosh Hashanah 7 pm
September 23 Children Services 9 am
September 23 Rosh Hashanah Services 10 am



Temple Beth El

Bakersfield, California

*Bring your whole self,
whoever you are*

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*See,
What's
Inside*

LETTER FROM THE RABBI

A New Year, A Fresh Page: The Sound of the Shofar Calls Us
Rabbi Jonathan Klein

Dear Friends,

If you've ever stepped into my office or visited my apartment in Los Angeles, it will become immediately apparent that I love Jewish books. "My cup runneth over:" Books stuffed on top of the top shelf, sandwiched between shelves, crammed tightly in order by topic, some still in boxes because I simply have no space. Thus it won't be surprising to hear that I was flipping through one of my High Holy Day books in preparation for the holidays. Between its pages, I found a slip of paper where I had scribbled notes to myself—plans, reminders, things I hoped to do. As I read them, I LOL'ed: Some goals I had accomplished, some had changed, and some... well, I've got my excuses...

Rosh Hashanah feels a bit like a moment when we turn a page and rediscover where we have been, contrasting it with where we had hoped we'd be. The tekiyah! of the shofar reminds us to pause and notice: What have we written into the Book of our Life this past year? Where are we now? Which choices will we carry forward, and which might we choose—or try to choose—to leave behind?

When we hear the shofar, we might think of a child crying out for their parent. As the High Holy Day liturgy suggests, "We are your children, You are our Parent." Yes, tradition teaches that the shofar emulates the wailing of Sarah upon hearing of Isaac's death, also Sisera's mother's misery after waiting an eternity for her son to return from war, never to arrive. However, this year, **I ask that you hear yourself in the sounds of the Shofar.** Let your inner child manifest. Cry. Cry for your unfulfilled promises. Cry for suboptimal outcomes. Cry for all that you have forgotten were your goals. In the same way, when we stand before God these Yamim Nora'im—Days of Awe—our words may falter, our prayers may stumble—but the sound of the shofar carries the truth of our hearts, knowing that like a loving parent, we can lean in on the godliness within us that allows us to be heard and embraced, that our tears will bring us a more successful and meaningful upcoming year.

Unlike the secular New Year's focus on resolutions, our tradition doesn't demand perfection—it asks for sincerity. "Take words with you and return to A-donai" (Hosea 14:3), and the Talmud reminds us, "The Holy One of Blessing seeks the heart" ([Sanhedrin 106b](#); The Baal Shem Tov, founder of Hasidism [rephrases](#) it as "The Merciful One, seeks the heart," reminding us that God is rooting for us, too!). **Be real, sincere, and authentic in your prayers.** It is not about perfection; it's about Teshuvah—"returning" to your highest self, with honesty and earnestness.

Each blast of the shofar is like a punctuation mark: a full stop, a comma, a dash—inviting us to reflect on how we will shape the sentences of our lives. "On the first day of the seventh month you shall observe a sacred occasion: you shall not work at your occupations. It shall be a day of sounding the Shofar for you" (Numbers 29:1). The sound is not merely ritual—it is a summons to rewrite our lives with intention.



When we gather for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, you are not alone with your reflections. You are surrounded by a community of devoted people who are also turning the page. Together, we remind one another that growth is possible, forgiveness is real, and the year ahead is full of unwritten possibilities.

This year, I invite you to choose just one new mitzvah, act of kindness, or step of Jewish learning, to carry with you into 5786. Maybe it's lighting Shabbat candles more often (Exodus 20:8), visiting a neighbor who could use your love and attention (Leviticus 19:18), or joining our Tuesday or Saturday Torah study (Talmud Torah k'neged kulam—Torah study is equal to them all, Mishnah Pe'ah 1:1). Learn a text with me, one on one, for 15 minutes once a month. A small step, done with sincerity, can bring blessing, far beyond what we can see. Mitzvah goreret mitzvah, ripples of blessing.

As we step into 5786, may we write ourselves into the Book of Life with purpose. And may this year bring sweetness, health, and blessing to you, your loved ones, and to our entire community. L'shanah tovah tikateivu v'teichateimu—may you be inscribed for a good and meaningful year!

Happy New Year,



Rabbi Jonathan Klein

LEARN HEBREW

Taught by Rabbi Klein by Zoom
Free course! Learn the Aleph Bet!

Beginning Wednesday, October 22nd
Email Rabbi Klein,
tberabbiklein@gmail.com, for details

ללמוד עברית



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shalom, Temple Beth El family,

There's something about sounds that stir the soul. Certain sounds bypass logic and reach straight to the heart.

During the month of Elul, we are invited to listen deeply. Each weekday morning, we are invited to hear the sound of the shofar, marking the beginning of our spiritual journey toward the High Holy Days. Elul is a time of preparation. For thousands of years, the shofar's daily call has echoed across Jewish communities.

The shofar's sound is a call to awaken our souls, commanding us to pause and reflect on the year we have had. It is a sound you can feel. We awaken to ask ourselves: Where am I at? What am I being called to change and pay attention to?

The shofar sounds demand that we look within. It compels us to look around and listen. The shofar calls us from complacency, urging us to examine our relations.

To listen to the shofar is to practice a kind of holy attention. We listen for the soul's trembling, for the heart's longing, and for the voices calling out around us.

So this Elul, let yourself hear the shofar. Take a moment to close your eyes and breathe it in. Feel the sound move through your body. Ask yourself: What is this sound awakening in me?

May the shofar's ancient sounds guide us toward the new year. May it open our hearts, awaken our compassion, and prepare us to do the Holy work of God.

(I give credit to Rabbi Kelly Whitehead for these thoughts. I paraphrased from her blog)

This year at Temple Beth El, we are blessed to have a great group of Shofar Blowers to help you have a call to awaken your soul.

May you be inscribed for the coming year with good health and happiness.

L'shanah Tovah,

Irvin Pike
President Temple Beth El



Our Contributors:

thank you

Memorials/Yahrzeits

- Joe Fram and Bonnie Birch: *in memory of Randy Joyce*
- Robert and Marcy Smith: *in memory of Dorothy Kaliner*
- Brent Eastep: *in memory of Hy and Pearl Davis*
- Anonymous: *Sherry Baron memorial plaques Art & Evelyn Kay*
- Elaine and Douglas White: *in memory of Richard Anderson*
- Greg and Rose Broida: *in memory of Socorro Gonzalez & Edna Solomon**

Camperships

- Leonard and Carla Epstein: *birthday of Matthew Epstein*

Kol Nidre Donations

- Leonard and Carla Epstein

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

- Mary Gerena
- Andy and Ella Abrams



Tree of Life

- Amanda and Mario Garza: *The Lauria's 50th Anniversary*
- Nancy and Arthur McCombs: *Bar Mitz Asher Delijani*

Contribute Online: <https://templebethelbakersfield.org/donation>

We are grateful for all contributions!

**correction from August Shofar*



HAPPY Anniversary

Robert and Marcy Smith

September 3

Benjamin and Fermel-Sharmaine McCay

September 14

Adam and Stacey Rodriquez

September 17



BIRTHDAY

Irin Mawhirter

September 1

Jerrold Rothberg

September 1

Marianne Gartenlaub

September 2

Ian Leisure

September 5

Vivian Gonzales

September 6

Melanie Rudnick

September 9

Elijah Ruiz

September 1

Janet Newbrough

September 12

Terry Skinner

September 18

Diane Rogers

September 19

Sylvia Klein

September 20

Chana Ristic

September 24

Brad McConnell

September 25

Carla Epstein

September 26

Isabela Anaya

September 27

Marsha Greenstein

September 27

John Hogan

September 27

יום הולדת שמח

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- Sunday, September 14th @ 1:00 pm in-person and via TBE Zoom.

LEADERSHIP MEETING- Sunday, September 14th @ 1:30 pm in-person and via TBE Zoom.

BOOK CLUB- Sunday, October 12th @ 1:00 pm. Current reads are by Amanda Elliot! Love You A Latka; Best Served Hot and Sadie on a Plate! We will be joined by the author!

Rosh Chodesh- None in September.

Rosh Hashanah Oneg- Please mark your calendars for Monday night, September 23rd!! I will be looking for people to bake very soon!!

COOKING CLASS- Sunday, September 14th @ 9 am at TBE to make High Holiday Challahs! Please join us to make and take home your challah for the holidays! Ingredients are provided by Sisterhood, but donations are always appreciated.

SUKKOT RETREAT- Sunday, October 12th! Mark your calendars! Everything will be provided by Sisterhood! Will only need to bring yourself! More information to come!

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!!

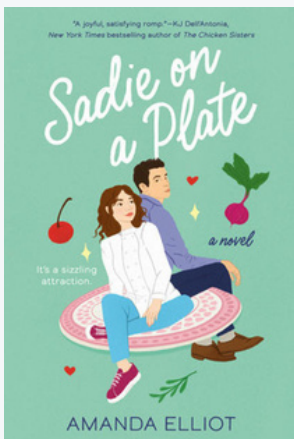
Please consider joining some great women! We are now on Facebook. If you would like an invite to join our group, please let one of the leadership team know!

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

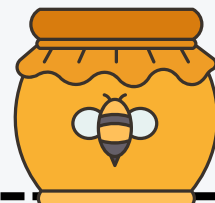
We will read Amanda Elliot's books next. We will meet on October 12 at 1 pm **with the author** via Zoom to discuss Best Served Hot, Sadie on a Plate, and Love You a Latke.





September

Elul •
Tishrei



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>8 Elul</i>	2 9-9:30 am Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom) 6:30 pm (Zoom) Religious Practices Committee	3	4	5 6 pm First Friday Shabbat Family Services	6 <i>Ki Teitzei</i> 5-6 pm Class on Ecclesiastes (by Zoom)
7 9:30 am - 12:30 pm Religious School! 2:30 pm S.H. Lead Meeting (Zoom) 3:00 pm General Meeting	8 Sept 7 @ 10 am Sandra Boaz headstone unveiling. @Home of Peace Cemetery	9 9-9:30 am Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom) 7:00 pm Board Meeting	10	11	12 5:30 pm pre-oneg 6 pm Chardonnay Shabbat	13 <i>Ki Tavo</i> 6:00 pm Selichot 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service w Cong B'nai Jacob
14 9:30 am - 12:30 pm Religious School!	15	16 9-9:30 am Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom)	17	18	19 7 pm Shabbat Services	20 <i>Nitzavim</i> 5-6 pm Class on Ecclesiastes (by Zoom)
21 9:30 am - 12:30 pm Religious School! 12:30 pm Tashlich Mill Creek Park	22 7 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah	23 <i>1 Tishrei</i> 9 am Children Services 10 am Rosh Hashanah Services. <i>presidents lunch to follow</i>	24	25	26 7 pm Shabbat Shiur: Jewish Learning	27 <i>Vayelech</i> 5-6 pm Class on Ecclesiastes (by Zoom)
28 9:30 am - 12:30 pm Religious School!	29	30 9-9:30 am Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom)			Services Religious School Adult Education Leadership Meetings Community Events Sister Hood Event Parsha of the Week Jewish Holidays Jewish Date	

Upcoming Events:

Honoring the life of
Sandra Michelle Boaz
Alexandra bat Avraham v'Sarah

In the Tradition of our Ancestors, we ask that you join Buel Boaz for the Unveiling Ceremony honoring his beloved wife, Sandra

September 7, 2025
at 10:00 a.m.

The Home of Peace Cemetery
730 E Potomac Avenue
Bakersfield, California



ROSH HASHANAH SERVICES

September 22
Erev Rosh Hashanah
7 pm

September 23
Children Services
9 am

September 23
Rosh Hashanah Services
10 am



October Events

01 6 PM Kol Nidre	02 9 AM Children Services	02 10 AM Yom Kippur Services
02 7:16 PM Break the Fast	06 Erev Sukkot	10 5:30 PM Shabbat Sukkot Potluck and Service in the Sukkah
12 9 AM - 3PM Sisterhood retreat in the Sukkah	13 6 PM Erev Simchat Torah Consecration of Religious School Students	14 6 PM Simchat Torah Celebration in Pico Robertson (Los Angeles) w/Rabbi Klein



LEARN HEBREW

Taught by Rabbi Klein by Zoom
Free course! Learn the Aleph Bet!

Beginning Wednesday, October 22nd
Email Rabbi Klein,
tberabbiklein@gmail.com, for details

ללמוד עברית



Not a runner? There are other ways you can support Temple Beth El's Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers:

The Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers race store will open in September. You do not need to register for the race to purchase an item.



*Check out the "Krazy" merchandise in our race store! We have caps, beanies and sweatshirts for sale. Open to both registrants and non-registrants! Purchase at <https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Bakersfield/8krazykilometers>

*Tell your friends and family about our fun run and share our media posts on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), or [X](#).

*Sponsor the race, donate a raffle prize, or make a donation
(If Interested, email the 8K committee at 8krazykilometers@gmail.com)

***You can also volunteer at packet pick-up or at the race.**

Sign up at: <https://Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers and 2K Latke Loop Fun Run>

*****Early bird registration is ending soon** for our Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers and 2K Latke Loop. Early bird prices end on September 30, 2025. Take advantage of our discounted prices and register now at [RunSignUP](#). For an additional discount, you can form a team of 3 or more people. After the third member of your team registers, all participants will receive the discount. There is even a prize for the biggest team. All participants will receive a long-sleeved race shirt, medal, and swag bag. Don't forget we have a virtual option where you can walk, run, roll... anywhere during all 8 days of Hanukkah and still get in on all the fun! You can register at [RunSignUP](#) for the virtual option. Visit our website at 8Krazykilometers.org or scan the QR Code:



Pastrami King-Kern County Fair

Wed Sep 17, 2025 – Sun Sep 28, 2025

Volunteer with Us at the Kern County Fair!
Pastrami King Booth 2025 – Sign Up Now!

It's that time again! We're gearing up for another amazing year at the Kern County Fair and the Pastrami King Booth is calling all volunteers!

Whether you've helped in years past or this will be your first time—we promise:

It's fun

It's fulfilling

You'll make new friends

And you'll be part of something exciting!



Help us serve up smiles (and pastrami!) while making unforgettable memories.

Click the link below to sign up, grab your preferred shifts, and join the crew!

Let's make this the best year yet.

<https://signup.com/go/sHPVVrw>

You can change the wording, but this link is golden!!! We need it on every email we send going forward



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!!**

Yahrzeits

September 2025

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

AUGUST 29 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Anna Berman: grandmother of Lisa Levine	September 1; Elul 8
Louis Rosenfeld: Grandfather of Andrew Levine	September 1
Edward Bard: uncle of Marc Schulman	September 2
Martin Black: father of Diane Andrews, grandfather of Becka Ruiz	September 2
Peter Pickens: father of Pamela Elisheva	September 2
Jack Goldner: father of Barry Goldner	September 2
Mozelle Epstein: mother of Leonard Epstein	September 4
Jonathan McCombs: son of Arthur and Nancy McCombs	September 4

SEPTEMBER 5 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

+David H. Roth: remembered by TBE	September 5
Leon Siegel: Father of Sharon Rhodes	September 6
Lillian Pacht: mother of Terri Stanton	September 6
Charles Schwartz: grandfather of Jeff Schwartz & Helen Armistead	September 7; Elul 14
Sharon Madson: friend of Peggie Soltis	September 7
Michelle Christine Munoz: niece of Steven & Gail Magnus, cousin of Elliott Magnus	September 9
Yetta Shilkrou: grandmother of Judy Strauss	September 11; Elul 18

SEPTEMBER 12 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Sidney Karren: father of Janet Newbrough	September 12
Nannie Parr: mother-in-law of Marsha Parr	September 13
Chaya Schneider: great-aunt of Jeff Schwartz & Helen Armistead	September 13; Elul 20
Bertha Beeber: grandmother of Jeff Schwartz & Helen Armistead	September 14; Elul 21
Terry O'Sullivan: uncle of Kathleen Arnold-Chambers	September 15
Benjamin Hass: grandfather of Glenn Singer	September 16
+Yetta Shilkrou: remembered by TBE	September 16
+Sallee Slepian: remembered by TBE	September 16
Bea Shilkrou: aunt of Judy Strauss	September 17; Elul 24
Candace Goldwater: friend of Kathleen Arnold-Chambers	September 18
Karyn Serros: niece of Phil Rudnick & Miriam Stull, cousin of Libbie Mahan & Joshua Rudnick	September 18
+Sonia Simrin: mother of Susie Simrin, great-aunt of Adam Rodriquez	September 18
+Oscar Shapiro: remembered by TBE	September 18

SEPTEMBER 19 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Laura Ann Humphrey: mother of Laura Reyes	September 19
Renee Kupferstein: mother of John Fried z'l	September 19
Jeanette Berman: Aunt of Lisa Levine	September 19
Donna Lee Carpenter: friend of Irvin Pike & Pamela Elisheva	September 19
+Jules Greenberg: remembered by TBE	September 19
+Rose Cohen Seide: remembered by TBE	September 19
+Blanche Pearlmutter: remembered by TBE	September 20
Jerry Stein: brother of Beth Freedman	September 21
Frances Singer Elliott: aunt of Glenn Singer	September 22
+Oscar Rudnick: father of Phil Rudnick & Miriam Stull, grandfather of Libbie Mahan & Joshua Rudnick	September 23
Saul Lande: grandfather of Barbara Kessler	September 23; Tishrei 1
Ida Gintzler: great grandmother of Laura Lauria, great-great-grandmother of Amanda Garza	September 24; Tishrei 2
+Joseph Polland: grandfather of Laura Lauria, great-grandfather of Amanda Garza	September 24; Tishrei 2
Morris Rothberg: father of Jerry Rothberg	September 24
+Marcia Golgberg: remembered by TBE	September 24
Ludwig Oppenheimer: father of Judy Feldman	September 25; Tishrei 3
John Carnahan: father of Donna Schwartz	September 25
Joyce Jacobson: Grandmother of Christopher Jacobson	September 25
+Emilio Gonzalez: brother of Rose Broida	September 25
+Louis Meyers: remembered by TBE	September 25
Julia Morantz: aunt of Irvin Pike	September 25

SEPTEMBER 26 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

+Else Bachenheimer: remembered by TBE	September 27
+Sandra Laibman: aunt of Larry Fish	September 28
Rosellynn Witer: mother of Elaine White	September 28
+Hyla Ruth Goldman: remembered by TBE	September 28
+Leonard Simrin: grandfather of Susie Simrin	September 29; Tishrei 7
+Ida Gintzler: remembered by TBE	September 29
+Irving Pevar: remembered by TBE	September 29
+Benjamin Klein: remembered by TBE	September 30
+Marvin E. Lipco: father of Lisa Lipco Levine	September 30
+Rebecca Schwartz Rosen: remembered by TBE	September 30
+David Pacht: father of Terri Stanton	October 1
+Max Greenberg: remembered by TBE	October 2; 21 Tishri



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“I help people have guaranteed income after retirement so their lifestyles are in a better position to remain the same or better than when they were working.”



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Bakersfield, California

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Bakersfield, California