

NOVEMBER 2025

CHESHVAN • KISLEV 5786

# SHOFAR

VOLUME 83, ISSUE 3



Temple Beth El

Bakersfield, California

*Bring your whole self,  
whoever you are*

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*See,  
What's  
Inside*

# LETTER FROM THE RABBI

## Finding Thanks in the Unfinished Places

Rabbi Jonathan Klein

Dear Friends,

When a friend's grandmother would bake challah, she would leave one small loaf a little underdone. I used to think she'd simply forgotten it in the oven. Reflecting on this, she once said, "We leave something unfinished to remember that gratitude doesn't come from perfection—it comes from noticing blessing even in what's not yet complete." As Thanksgiving approaches, I find myself thinking about unfinished challah, and how hard it is for far too many people to feel thankful when life feels uncertain or painful.

The Midrash (Genesis Rabba 1:4) teaches that when God created the first human being, "the angels were divided into camps—some said, 'Don't create them,'" because they will lie and fight, "and others said, 'Create them'" because they will show kindness and justice. In the end, God went ahead and created us, knowing our faults but also knowing our potential, which includes gratitude. What a radical statement—that our capacity for gratitude is so central to being human that God was willing to risk all our imperfections for it. Gratitude, the Midrash implies, is not the result of a perfect life. It's the sacred act of saying "thank You" in a world that's still being healed.

Since the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, the Jewish way is to start each day with Modeh Ani l'fanecha—"I give thanks before You"—even before we've gotten out of bed, before we've checked the news, or Insta, or Facebook, or...before we know what the day will bring. Gratitude is not a reaction to good news; it's a spiritual discipline that shapes us to see blessing, even amid brokenness.

Rabbi Nachman of Breslov (the great grandson of the Baal Shem Tov, founder of Chasidism; his movement is widespread to this day in Israel) taught that when we search for even the smallest good point (נקודה טובה) within ourselves or our circumstances (Likkutei Moharan 282:2), that spark can expand and illuminate the darkness around it—transforming meitzar (narrowness) into merchav (spaciousness), echoing the Psalmist's words: "From the narrow place I called to God; God answered me with expansiveness" (Psalm 118:5; מִן־הַמֵּצָר קָרָאתִי יְיָ עֲנֵנִי בְמֵרֶחֶב יְיָ).

### Action step:

This month, I invite you to begin a new daily practice: each morning, before coffee or email, write down one thing—just one—for which you are thankful, especially something that feels incomplete. Maybe it's a relationship still healing, a project still in process, or a hope still forming. Give thanks for it not because it's finished, but because it's alive.

In that unfinished gratitude, we meet the Divine—the One who continues to create and re-create the world with us, each day, anew.

**Wishing you and yours a Thanksgiving filled with courage, compassion, and gratitude in all its forms.**



Rabbi Jonathan Klein



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shalom, Temple Beth El family,

The days are getting shorter. The nights are getting longer. Autumn is in the air, with rain and beautiful weather. A big THANK YOU to all who have helped with Honors, Usher, blowing the shofars, building and bringing down the Sukkah, and coming and being part of our Positive Jewish Experience.

We are having some new beginnings this time of year. Rosh Hashanah and the High Holy Days are gone. We have started again with the story of creation in the Torah. To our hope for a good and healthy new year.

Some of us have been with Temple Beth El for many years. Myself, growing up at Temple Beth El, I have had friends who have stayed and some who have moved on. This coming week, I am looking forward to seeing both. Some friends I grew up with at Temple Beth El include Gail Small, Anthony Vengarick, Eric and Sherry Barron, Richard Fish, Greg Broida, Susie Simrin, Steve Magnus, and Phil Rudnick. Pictures and names you will see on the confirmation pictures in the hallway. What a joy it will be to welcome them all and have a chance to share good conversation, laughter, and memories with them. We will be placing Yahrzeit plaques on the wall in Temple Beth El's foyer, so their loved ones who have passed will always be remembered here in their memory. May you sow lifelong friendships and make new ones as I have here at our house of God.

Shalom Shalom,

Irvin Pike

President Temple Beth El



# Our Contributors:

thank you

## Caring Committee

- Michael and Leora Freedman: Oneg Shabbat 8/26/25
- Rabbi Wynne Waugaman: in memory of Hortense Phillip Strom & Gladys Rysen

## Memorials/Yahrzeits

- Ronald and Laura Lauria: in memory of Ida Gintzler & Joseph Polland
- Nancy and Arthur McCombs: in memory of Jonathan McCombs
- Laura and Ricardo Reyes: in memory of Laura Ann Humphrey
- Laura and Ricardo Reyes: in memory of Kent John Humphrey
- Elaine and Douglas White: in memory of Rosellyn Witer

## High Holy Days Seat

- Irwin and Barbara Pigovat

## Kol Nidre Donations

- Kathleen Arnold-Chambers
- Leonard and Carla Epstein
- Sylvia Klein
- Nancy and Arthur McCombs
- Joshua and Edith Rudnick
- Miriam Stull
- Rabbi Wynne Waugaman



## Rabbi Discretionary Fund

- Luis Enrique Barreras Jr.
- Alan Freisleben: in memory of Rachel Freisleben
- Alan Freisleben: birth of Jordyn J B Prophett
- Barry and Theresa Goldner: support for family in memory of Jack Goldner

## Tree of Life

- Amanda and Mario Garza: in honor of Laura Lauria's 75th birthday

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

**We are grateful for all contributions!**

# 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, November 9th @ 2:30 pm via TBE Zoom

**LEADERSHIP MEETING**- None in November.

**BOOK CLUB**- Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm. Current reads are by Jean Metzler! *Magical Meets Cute* and *Eight Heartbreaks of Hanukkah*!

**Rosh Chodesh**- Sunday, November 16th @ 6:30 pm Via TBE Zoom.

**COOKING CLASS**- None in November.

**Latke Brunch**- Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Please see flyer and order form on page \_\_\_\_! If you would like to help, please contact Helen or Illene.

**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](mailto:armisteadlmft@gmail.com)

# Sisterhood Book Club

We are reading Jean Meltzer's books: *Magical Meets Cute* and *Eight Heartbreaks of Hanukkah*. We will meet on January 4<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm to discuss.



# Anniversary

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

# Birthday

יום הולדת

שמח

|                         |             |                 |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Diane Andrews           | November 3  | Judy Strauss    | November 18 |
| Elias Hogan             | November 8  | Andy Abrams     | November 21 |
| Anita Singer            | November 9  | Andrew Levine   | November 21 |
| Benjamin McCay          | November 11 | Barbara Kessler | November 22 |
| Joseph Ruiz             | November 11 | Stacy Davis     | November 25 |
| Andy Andrews            | November 13 | Linda Morales   | November 27 |
| Tzipporah Escobedo      | November 13 | Cecily Kay      | November 29 |
| Sarah Mawhirter         | November 18 | Tricia Berman   | November 30 |
| Franklin Arthur Seibert | November 18 | Joseph Marcuss  | November 30 |

Moments  
in our  
Lives





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

You must register by November 30th to be guaranteed a race shirt in your size.

**Don't Delay, Register Today at [RunSignUP](#).**



Get a discount when you form a team of three or more. The discount is added after the third member of your team registers. The biggest team will receive extra race swag!

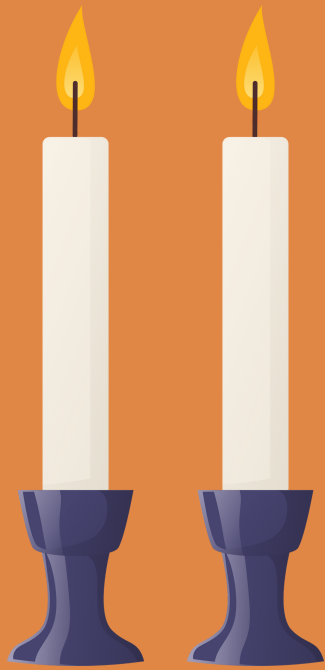
Need a Hanukkah gift for that someone who is hard to shop for? Consider giving them a race registration for the Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers or 2K Latke loop - in person or virtual option. Not only will they have fun participating in our event, but they will have a keepsake Hanukkah shirt, medal and dreidel game. If you notify Stacy at [8krazykilometers@gmail.com](mailto:8krazykilometers@gmail.com), she will send the recipient a special email or letter letting them know about your special gift.



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

Visit our website at [8Krazykilometers.org](http://8Krazykilometers.org) or scan the QR Code:





Shabbat  
Shalom



# Shabbat Service Schedule

- 1<sup>st</sup> Friday: 6 pm - Family Shabbat
  - 1-hour child-friendly Shabbat service followed by Oneg Shabbat
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday: 5:30 pm - Chardonnay Shabbat
  - Pre-service nosh followed by Shabbat service in the Social Hall
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday: 9:30 am - Shabbat Morning Service
  - Conservative Shabbat morning service sponsored by Congregation B'nai Jacob; free lunch to follow
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday: 7 pm - Adult Shabbat Service
  - Includes Torah service, followed by Oneg Shabbat
- 4<sup>th</sup> Friday: 7 pm - Shabbat Shiur/Unplugged
  - Text study, no guitar; followed by Oneg Shabbat
- 5<sup>th</sup> Friday: 7 pm - Social Justice Shabbat
  - Focus on Social Justice; followed by Oneg Shabbat





# NOVEMBER



Cheshvan •  
Kislev

Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs

Fri

Sat



Services  
Religious School  
Adult Education  
Leadership Meetings  
Community Events  
Sisterhood Event  
Parsha of the Week  
Jewish Holidays  
Jewish Date

1 10 Cheshvan  
Lech-L'cha

10:00 am  
Reform-style  
Shabbat  
Morning Service  
followed by  
lunch

2

9:30 am -  
12:30 pm  
Religious  
School!

3

4

9-9:30 am  
Prayers of our  
Siddur (by  
Zoom)  
6:30 pm  
(Zoom) Religious  
Practices  
Committee

5

7 pm  
Learn Hebrew  
with Rabbi  
Klein (Zoom)

6

7

6 pm  
First Friday  
Shabbat  
Family Services  
& Consecration  
of religious  
school  
students

8

Vayeira

9:30 am  
Shabbat  
Morning Service  
w Cong B'nai  
Jacob

9

9:30am -  
12:30pm  
Religious  
School!

2:30 pm  
S.H. General  
Meeting (Zoom)

10

11

9-9:30 am  
Prayers of our  
Siddur (by  
Zoom)  
7:00 pm  
Board Meeting

Veterans Day

12

7 pm  
Learn Hebrew  
with Rabbi  
Klein (Zoom)

13

14

6:00 pm  
Shabbat  
Services

15

Chayei Sarah

5 - 6 pm  
Class on  
Ecclesiastes (by  
Zoom)

16

9:30 am -  
12:30 pm  
Religious  
School!

6:30 pm  
Rosh Chodesh  
(Zoom)

17

18

9-9:30 am  
Prayers of our  
Siddur (by  
Zoom)

19

7 pm  
Learn Hebrew  
with Rabbi  
Klein (Zoom)

20

1 Kislev  
Rosh Chodesh

21

7 pm  
Shabbat  
Services  
(child care  
provided)

22

Toldot

5 - 6 pm  
Class on  
Ecclesiastes (by  
Zoom)

23

9:30 am -  
12:30 pm  
Religious  
School!

24

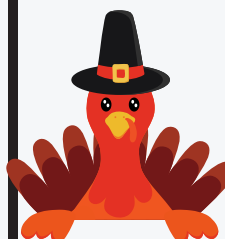
25

9-9:30 am  
Prayers of our  
Siddur (by  
Zoom)

26

7 pm  
Learn Hebrew  
with Rabbi  
Klein (Zoom)

27



28

7 pm  
Shabbat  
Shiur: Jewish  
Learning  
(child care  
provided)

29

Vayeitzei

30

# Upcoming Events:



Placing  
Menorahs

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

December 7  
1:15 pm  
National Cemetery in Arvin

This poster features a dark background with a blurred image of a cemetery. A white star is centered above the text. An American flag is visible on the left side.



Latke  
Brunch

December 21  
12 - 2 pm

Order by December 17 to guarantee your meal  
[www.templebetheevent.org](http://www.templebetheevent.org)

The poster has a light blue background with a watercolor texture. It includes images of latkes, a dreidel, and blue candles.



HANUKKAH  
Shabbat  
December 19

Bring your chanukiah for a fun evening of singing and candle lighting!

This poster has a white background with blue and gold stars. It features a row of lit candles at the bottom.



MAY LOVE AND LIGHT FILL YOUR HEART

Happy Hanukkah

EVENINGS OF DECEMBER 14 - 22

This poster has a dark background. It features a large, lit menorah at the bottom and the text "Happy Hanukkah" in a cursive font.



HANUKKAH

DECEMBER 14  
8:30 AM

8 KRAZY KILOMETERS  
PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE

This poster has a blue background. It features a banner with the word "HANUKKAH" at the top and a group of runners at the bottom.

# NORMA'S LATKE BRUNCH



**Sunday, December 21, from 12 - 2 pm**

**[www.templebethelevent.org](http://www.templebethelevent.org)**

**Order by Wednesday, December 17th, to  
guarantee your meal**

|                            | PICK UP | IN PERSON |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------|
| LATKE BRUNCH, ADULT        | \$18    | \$19      |
| LATKE BRUNCH, CHILD        | \$10    | \$11      |
| CHIPS & ARTICHOKE DIP      | \$10    | \$10      |
| COFFEE CAKE MUFFINS<br>(2) | \$8     | \$8       |

# NORMA'S LATKE BRUNCH – ORDER FORM

Sunday, December 21, from 12 - 2 pm

[www.templebethelevent.org](http://www.templebethelevent.org)

Order by Wednesday, December 17th, to guarantee your meal  
or mail in an order form to join us in person, or pick up your order at Temple Beth El. Email:  
[armisteadlmft@gmail.com](mailto:armisteadlmft@gmail.com)

*Latke Brunch includes: Latkes, cheese soufflé, coffee cake muffin, Sour cream, Apple Sauce, and garnishments. In person also includes a variety of beverages.*

|                                       | # Ordered | Total Amount |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Latke Brunch: Adult, in person (\$19) |           |              |
| Latke Brunch: Adult, pick up (\$18)   |           |              |
| Latke Brunch: Child, in person (\$11) |           |              |
| Latke Brunch: Child, pick up (\$10)   |           |              |
| Chips & Artichoke Dip (\$10)          |           |              |
| Coffee Cake (2 for \$8)               |           |              |
| Total Due                             | \$ _____  |              |

\_\_\_ Check enclosed for total amount made out to WOTBE (Women of Temple Beth El)

\_\_\_ Credit/Debit Card- # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ CSV \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address with Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In Person \_\_\_ Pick up times 11-1:30 \_\_\_ Special need delivery after event:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# 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](mailto:armisteadlmft@gmail.com)

**יש תמיד  
סיבה  
למסיבה!!**

# Yahrzeits

November 2025

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

## OCTOBER 31 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

|                                                                                                 |                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>+Paul Bregor:</b> father of Jackie Rudnick z'l                                               | October 31             |
| <b>Claude Pierce:</b> father-in-law of Irvin Pike                                               | October 31             |
| <b>Sylvia Plotkin-Russinsky:</b> mother of Jeff Russinsky                                       | November 1             |
| <b>F.A. Rippee:</b> father of Nancy McCombs                                                     | November 1             |
| <b>Sam Gintzler:</b> great-grandfather of Laura Lauria, great-great-grandfather of Amanda Garza | November 1; Heshvan 10 |
| <b>+Hannah Bailin:</b> remembered by TBE                                                        | November 3             |
| <b>Erna Englander:</b> friend of Kathleen Arnold-Chambers                                       | November 4             |
| <b>Joyce Abbas:</b> sister of Vivian Gonzales                                                   | November 4             |
| <b>+Mary B. Prince:</b> mother of Tim Prince                                                    | November 4             |
| <b>Darrel Hildebrand:</b> friend of Kathleen Arnold-Chambers                                    | November 5             |
| <b>Gloria Rudnick:</b> mother of Melanie Rudnick                                                | November 5             |
| <b>Gerald Schwartz:</b> uncle of Jeff Schwartz & Helen Armistead                                | November 6; Heshvan 15 |
| <b>+Doris Fish:</b> mother of Larry Fish                                                        | November 6             |
| <b>Barney ShilkROUT:</b> grandfather of Judy Strauss                                            | November 6; Heshvan 15 |

## NOVEMBER 7 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

|                                                                                                                                    |                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Ofra Shipman:</b> mother of Avital Anders                                                                                       | November 7; Heshvan 16  |
| <b>Murray Louis Singer:</b> father of Glenn Singer                                                                                 | November 7              |
| <b>Thomas Stull:</b> husband of Miriam Stull                                                                                       | November 7              |
| <b>Marilyn Schwartz:</b> aunt of Jeff Schwartz & Helen Armistead                                                                   | November 8; Heshvan 17  |
| <b>+Irene Harris:</b> aunt of Irvin Pike                                                                                           | November 8              |
| <b>+William R. Jacobs:</b> remembered by TBE                                                                                       | November 8              |
| <b>+Dr. Martin Zellner:</b> remembered by TBE                                                                                      | November 9              |
| <b>Charlotte Beam:</b> mother of John Beam                                                                                         | November 9              |
| <b>+Ralph Klein:</b> remembered by TBE                                                                                             | November 10             |
| <b>+Valiant Rudnick Stull Esq.:</b> son of Tom z'l & Miriam Stull, nephew of Phil Rudnick, cousin of Libbie Mahan & Joshua Rudnick | November 10             |
| <b>Abraham Stern:</b> great-uncle of Steven Magnus, great-great uncle of Elliott Magnus                                            | November 11             |
| <b>Ann Saslaw:</b> aunt of Larry Saslaw                                                                                            | November 11             |
| <b>+Donald James Sheffel, II:</b> remembered by TBE                                                                                | November 12             |
| <b>Sylvia Katz:</b> mother of Larry Saslaw                                                                                         | November 13             |
| <b>Robert Newbrough:</b> father of Steve Newbrough                                                                                 | November 13             |
| <b>+Lura K. Strauss:</b> grandmother of Judy Strauss                                                                               | November 13; Heshvan 22 |

## NOVEMBER 14 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

**Evelyn Kutz:** great-grandmother of Karen Briefer  
**Maxwell Herbert Newman:** father of Heidi Allison  
**+Ella Divera Lipco:** grandmother of Lisa Levine  
**+Morris Goldberg:** remembered by TBE  
**+Sadie R. Silver:** remembered by TBE  
**Lotte Lindeck:** mother of Miriam Beam  
**Teresa Torres:** aunt of Linda Morales  
**Hyman Abrams:** uncle of Andy Abrams  
**+Nina Stein:** remembered by TBE  
**Shirley Abarbanell:** mother of Ross Abarbanell  
**Ruth E. Cronkhite:** mother of Gretchen Bloch  
**+Barney ShilkROUT:** remembered by TBE  
**+David Cody:** remembered by TBE

November 15  
November 15; Heshvan 24  
November 15; Heshvan 24  
November 15  
November 15; 16 Heshvan  
November 16  
November 16  
November 17  
November 18  
November 19; Heshvan 28  
November 19  
November 19  
November 20

## NOVEMBER 21 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

**Leo David Strom:** husband of Wynne Waugaman  
**+John H. Rosen:** remembered by TBE  
**Frederick Briefer:** grandfather of Karen Briefer  
**Otto B. Eglan, Jr.:** father of Jill Eglan  
**Ros Strauss:** mother of Judy Strauss  
**John F. Andrews:** father of Andy Andrews  
**Jack Lollar:** father of Laura Wolfe  
**Molka Ruchel Lekht:** mother of Etel Lewis  
**Rahel Kamali:** aunt of Ahron Hakimi  
**+Louis L. Weisman:** remembered by TBE

November 21; Kislev 1  
November 21  
November 22  
November 23  
November 23; Kislev 3  
November 25  
November 26  
November 27  
November 27  
November 27

## NOVEMBER 28 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

**Ann Peterson-Saslaw:** wife of Larry Saslaw  
**Irma Sachs Adler:** aunt of Heidi Allison  
**Mildred Frances Andrews:** mother of Andy Andrews  
**Alexa Rose McDowell:** granddaughter of Nancy & Arthur McCombs  
**Soledad "Sally" Davis:** mother of Mark Davis  
**+Oscar S. Lipco:** grandfather of Lisa Levine  
**Nathan Feldman:** father of Michael Feldman  
**Rose Blatt:** mother of Barbara Kessler  
**+David S. Schwartz:** remembered by TBE  
**+Isabella Pike:** grandmother of Irvin Pike  
**Holly Udahl:** sister of Jeff Schwartz & Helen Armistead  
**+Harry I. Segel:** remembered by TBE  
**+Stanley H. Fish:** father of Larry Fish  
**Faith Parris:** mother of Marcy Smith

November 28  
November 28  
November 28  
November 28  
November 28  
November 28; 12 Kislev  
November 30; Kislev 10  
November 30  
November 30  
December 1  
December 3; Kislev 13  
December 3  
December 4  
December 4



## ★ WELCOME TO BRIGHT BEGINNINGS LEARNING CENTER

2906 LOMA LINDA DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305

HOURS: 6:30 AM TO 6:00 PM

We are a safe, respectful, and loving State Licensed  
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- School age program, 5-12
- Full-time and Part-time care
- Sibling discounts
- CCC accepted
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For more information, contact Bright Beginnings at  
(661) 324-1253 or email Toni Ferguson, Director, at  
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PROTECT YOUR LEGACY



# JEFF SCHWARTZ

FINANCIAL ADVISOR

☎ 661-861-9791

📍 5401 Business Park South Suite 223

✉ jeffschwartz@kern-advisors.com

🌐 www.kern-advisors.com

“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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All Major Credit Cards Accepted



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Bakersfield, California

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2906 Loma Linda Drive Bakersfield, CA 93305

(661) 322-7607 Office

[www.templebethelbakersfield.org](http://www.templebethelbakersfield.org)

Rabbi Jonathan Klein [tberabbiklein@gmail.com](mailto:tberabbiklein@gmail.com) (424) 248-5775

Freyda Hensley, Office Administrator [tbebakersfield@gmail.com](mailto:tbebakersfield@gmail.com)

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Barry Goldner

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**Sisterhood Representative--**

Rabbi Wynne Waugaman

**Mensch Club Representative--**

Elliot Magnus

**TEMPLE BETH EL**

2906 Loma Linda Drive

Bakersfield, CA 93305



Temple Beth El  
Bakersfield, California