

DECEMBER 2025

KISLEV • TEVET 5786

SHOFAR

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Temple Beth El

Bakersfield, California

*Bring your whole self,
whoever you are*

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*See,
What's
Inside*

LETTER FROM THE RABBI

Adding Light, Not Lessening It Rabbi Jonathan Klein

Dear Friends,

I once heard a story about a child whose grandfather would bring out his small brass Chanukiyah (Chanukah menorah) each year—tarnished in places, glowing in others. After lighting the candles, the grandfather would say, “The miracle of Chanukah isn’t only what happened then. It’s whether we choose to add light now.” These words echo those of our sages.

The Talmud records the debate between Shammai and Hillel: Should we start with eight candles and decrease, or begin with one and add each night? We follow Hillel, who teaches,

וְשֶׁמֶא דְּבֵית הַלֵּל דְּמַעְלִין בְּקִדְשׁ וְאִין מוֹרִידִין

“We elevate in matters of holiness and do not diminish” (Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 21b). .

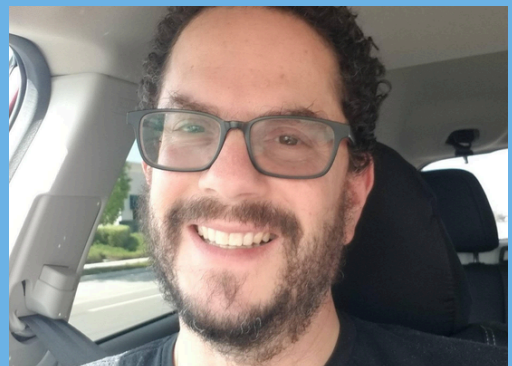
A Midrash deepens this by teaching that God hid a primordial light—or ha-ganuz—within the world, to be revealed slowly through human goodness (Genesis Rabbah 3:6). Every mitzvah, every kindness, uncovers more of that original glow.

Hillel’s practice is more than ritual; it’s a spiritual stance. Life can tempt us toward Shammai’s decreasing flame, especially during difficult seasons. But Hillel insists that holiness grows through steady, hopeful effort. The story above embodies that hope—always lighting that first candle as if believing tomorrow could hold more brightness than today.

So this Chanukah, whether with family, friends, or even joining us at Shabbat Chanukah (Friday night, December 19th at 6pm!), choose one small, concrete act that adds light to someone’s life—a call, a donation, a gesture of kindness. Let it be your “added candle.”

Chag Urim Sameiach: Happy Festival of Lights!

Rabbi Jonathan Klein



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shalom, Temple Beth El family;

How lovely was our “Honor our veterans Shabbat”, we had on Friday, November 14th at Temple Beth El. We honored our members that had served in our military. Also we honored the loved ones of Family that are serving or who had served in the United States and Israel's military. We brought photos of them and had them set up on the Bema. We appreciated their service and all that they had done.

Below are sayings that I have picked up through the years, some are modified. I thought some of you might like them. I post them on my refrigerator.

*Anger is not a result of the circumstances you face in life, but is rather the reaction you have to them. Anger is a choice, try choosing courage, patience or forgiveness.

*Do what you can, with what you have, where you are. In the middle of every difficulty lies an opportunity.

*Today is the oldest you've ever been, yet the youngest you'll ever be, so enjoy this day while it lasts.

*Secret to happiness, Be satisfied, be grateful for what you have, for the love you receive and for what God has given you.

*Things work out best for those who make the best of the way things work out.

*Every day you can choose to be happy, loving and live life to the fullest. Remember you get to make it up.

*Everything will be okay in the end. If it is not okay, then it is not the end.

*It is nice to be important; but it is more important to be nice.

*Tears happen: Endure, grieve and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life is ourselves. Be alive while you are alive.

*To do the best we can and then choose to be happy about our circumstances, whatever they may be, can bring peace and contentment.

*We cannot change the wind, but we can adjust the sails. For maximum happiness, peace, and contentment, may we choose a positive attitude?

*One thing leads to another.

Shalom Shalom,

Irvin Pike

President Temple Beth El



Our Contributors:

thank you

Kol Nidre Donations

- David Anaya and Celeste Caballero
- Buel Boaz
- Greg and Rose Broida
- Leonard and Carla Epstein
- Barry and Theresa Goldner
- Vivian Gonzales
- Elias and Jessica Hogan
- Ronald and Laura Lauria
- Etel Lewis
- Max and Libbie Mahan
- Dave and Marissa Marcus
- Sarah and Irin Mawhirter
- Laura and Ricardo Reyes
- Peggie Soltis

High Holy Days Seat

- Harold Baer

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

- Leonard and Carla Epstein
- Mary Gerena

Building Fund

- David Anaya and Celeste Caballero

Memorials/Yahrzeits

- Andy and Ella Abrams: in memory of Albert and Charlotte Abrams
- Greg and Rose Broida: in memory of Jesse J. Reyes
- Brent Eastep: in memory of Hy and Pearl Davis
- Ronald and Laura Lauria: in memory of Sam Gintzler & Shirley Polland
- Nancy and Arthur McCombs: in memory of Alton Swinney
- Miriam Stull: in memory of Thomas Stull and Valiant Stull



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/LEADERSHIP MEETING- Sunday, January 11th @ 2:30 pm via TBE Zoom

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

Rosh Chodesh- None in December. Sunday, January 18th @ 6:30 pm Via TBE Zoom.

COOKING CLASS- None in November.

Latke Brunch- Sunday, December 21st. Please see flyer and order form on page ____! If you would like to help, please contact Helen or Ilene.

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



Moments in our Lives

Anniversary



Laura and Ricardo Reyes	December 02
Ferdinand and Yolanda Aggenbach	December 06
Helen and Tom Armistead	December 11
Andy and Diane Andrews	December 14
Esther and Rogers Brandon	December 15
Leonard and Carla Epstein	December 20
Martin and Barbara Kessler	December 24
Michael and Judy Feldman	December 27
Andy and Ella Abrams	December 29
Glenn and Anita Singer	December 30

BIRTHDAY

Philip Rosenthal	December 01	Dave Marcus	December 20
Francine Coplan-Avery	December 02	Mario Garza	December 21
Michael Freedman	December 05	Christina Rothberg	December 22
Isla Friedman	December 05	Héber Cruz Berber	December 24
Miko Broida	December 06	Carol Escobedo	December 25
Ilene Schechter	December 13	Reece Garza	December 25
Jonathan Klein	December 15	Robin Feher	December 27
Indiana Schenkman	December 18	Ross Abarbanell	December 29
Bob Allison	December 20		

יום הולדת שמח



December 13th is the last day to register for the Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers or 2K Latke Loop. There is NO race day registration. Register at [RunSignUp](#).

Don't run? You can volunteer! If you would like to volunteer at packet pick up or on the race day - sign up at:

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

Need a Hanukkah or Holiday 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, she will send the recipient a special email or letter letting them about your special gift. Register at:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Bakersfield/8krazykilometers>



You can still order a Hanukkah 8 Krazy Kilometers sweatshirt in our race store. You do not need to be registered in the race to purchase merchandise. Order now at

<https://runsignup.com/Race/Store/CA/Bakersfield/8krazykilometers>



December

Kislev •
Tevet

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>11 Kislev</i>	2 6:30 pm (Zoom) Religious Practices Committee	3 7 pm Learn Hebrew with Rabbi Klein (Zoom)	4	5 6 pm First Friday Shabbat Family Services	6 <i>Vayishlach</i>
7 9:30 am - 12:30 pm Religious School! 1:15 pm Menorah Placement (Bakersfield National Cemetery)	8	9 9-9:30 am Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom) 7:00 pm Board Meeting	10 7 pm Learn Hebrew with Rabbi Klein (Zoom)	11	12 6:00 pm Early Evening Shabbat	13 <i>Vayeishev</i> 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service w Cong B'nai Jacob
14 <i>1 Tevet</i> 8:30 am 8 Krazy Kilometers (Panorama Vista) 	15 <i>Chanukkah</i> 	16 <i>Chanukkah</i> 9-9:30 am Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom) 	17 <i>Chanukkah</i> 	18 <i>Chanukkah</i> 	19 <i>Chanukkah</i> 6 pm Chanukkah Shabbat 	20 <i>Chanukkah</i> <i>Mikeitz</i> 5 - 6 pm Class on Ecclesiastes (by Zoom) 
21 <i>Chanukkah</i> <i>1 Tevet</i> <i>Rosh Chodesh</i> 9:30 am - 12:30 pm Religious School! 12 - 2 pm Latke Brunch 	22 <i>Chanukkah</i>	23 9-9:30 am Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom)	24	25	26 7 pm Shabbat Unplugged (child care provided)	27 <i>Vayigash</i> 5 - 6 pm Class on Ecclesiastes (by Zoom)
28	29	30 9-9:30 am Prayers of our Siddur (by Zoom)	31 7 pm Learn Hebrew with Rabbi Klein (Zoom) New Years Eve	Services Religious School Adult Education Leadership Meetings Community Events Sisterhood Event Parsha of the Week Jewish Holidays Jewish Date		

Upcoming Events:

HONORING JEWISH VETERANS



DECEMBER 7TH 2025 AT 1:15 PM

YOU'RE INVITED :
HELP US PLACE MENORAHS ON APPROXIMATELY
80 **JEWISH VETERANS' HEADSTONES**
TO HONOR, RESPECT, AND REMEMBER THEIR SERVICE

30338 EAST BEAR MOUNTAIN
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BAKERSFIELD NATIONAL CEMETARY

Latke Brunch

December 21
12 - 2 pm

Order by December 17 to guarantee
your meal

www.templebethelevent.org



HANUKKAH
Shabbat
December 19

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



MAY LOVE AND LIGHT FILL YOUR HEART

Happy Hanukkah

EVENINGS OF DECEMBER 14 - 22



8 KRAZY KILOMETERS

DECEMBER 14
8:30 AM

PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE



NORMA'S LATKE BRUNCH



Sunday, December 21, from 12 - 2 pm

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 (2)	\$8	\$8

NORMA'S LATKE BRUNCH – ORDER FORM

Sunday, December 21, from 12 - 2 pm

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

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

**יש תמיד
סיבה
למסיבה!!**

Yahrzeits

December 2025

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

NOVEMBER 28 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Ann Peterson-Saslaw: wife of Larry Saslaw	November 28
Irma Sachs Adler: aunt of Heidi Allison	November 28
Mildred Frances Andrews: mother of Andy Andrews	November 28
Alexa Rose McDowell: granddaughter of Nancy & Arthur McCombs	November 28
Soledad "Sally" Davis: mother of Mark Davis	November 28
+Oscar S. Lipco: grandfather of Lisa Levine	November 28; 12 Kislev
Nathan Feldman: father of Michael Feldman	November 30; Kislev 10
Rose Blatt: mother of Barbara Kessler	November 30
+David S. Schwartz: remembered by TBE	November 30
+Isabella Pike: grandmother of Irvin Pike	December 1
Holly Udahl: sister of Jeff Schwartz & Helen Armistead	December 3; Kislev 13
+Harry I. Segel: remembered by TBE	December 3
+Stanley H. Fish: father of Larry Fish	December 4
Faith Parris: mother of Marcy Smith	December 4

DECEMBER 5 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Lillian Waller: great-aunt of Diane Andrews	December 5
Marilyn Smith: mother of Robert Smith	December 5
Jeanette Gintzler: great-aunt of Laura Lauria, great-great-aunt of Amanda Garza	December 5; Kislev 15
Linnie Pearl McCombs: mother of Arthur McCombs	December 7
+Louis Greenberg: remembered by TBE	December 7
Mary Ancelet: sister of Andy Andrews	December 8
+David Baumel: remembered by TBE	December 8
+Clara Shapiro: great-aunt of Steven Magnus, great-great aunt of Elliott Magnus	December 9
+Morris M. Liberman: remembered by TBE	December 9
John Bridges: uncle of Karen Briefer	December 10
Peggy Fried: mother of Drina Fried	December 10
Joseph Felsenfeld: father of Esther Brandon	December 10
+Moses Freisleben: remembered by TBE	December 10
+Ida Issacson Horwitz: remembered by TBE	December 10

DECEMBER 12 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

+Robert B. Strauss: uncle of Judy Strauss	December 12; Kislev 22
+William Solomon: remembered by TBE	December 12
Lorraine Goldner: mother of Barry Goldner	December 13
+Stanley Fram: father of Joe Framm	December 13
Anna Rothberg: mother of Jerrold Rothberg	December 14
+Sophie E. Loewenberg: remembered by TBE	December 14
+Hylida Bailin: remembered by TBE	December 16
+Melvin Magnus: father of Steven Magnus, grandfather of Elliott Magnus	December 18
Aaron Schechter: grandfather of Ilene Schechter	December 18; Kislev 28
William Solomon: grandfather of Greg Broida	December 18

DECEMBER 19 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Manya Schneider: great-aunt of Jeff Schwartz and Helen Armistead	December 19; Kislev 29
+Rosemarie Azgour: remembered by TBE	December 20
+Shirley Lipco Baker: mother of Lisa Levine	December 21
Seymour Schechter: father of Ilene Schechter	December 21; Tevet 1
Ruth Briefer: grandmother of Karen Briefer	December 22
Rosemary Polland: mother of Laura Lauria, grandmother of Amanda Garza, great-grandmother of Reece Garza	December 22; Tevet 2
Helen Kolatch: Friend of Lisa Levine	December 23
Edward Schwartz: grandfather of Susie Simrin	December 23
Arthur Sachs: grandfather of Heidi Allison	December 24
+Abraham Horwitz: remembered by TBE	December 24
+Sam Bailin: remembered by TBE	December 24
Neva Benedict: grandmother of Gail Magnus, great-grandmother of Elliott Magnus	December 25
Dorothy Ernst: aunt of Esther Brandon	December 25
+Benjamin Stein: remembered by TBE	December 25; 28 Kislev

DECEMBER 26 SHABBAT SERVICES YAHRZEITS

Ethel K. Bregor: mother of Jackie Rudnick z'l	December 26
Carolyn Larks: aunt of Anita Singer	December 26
Ebba Jensen: grandmother of Laura Wolfe	December 26
+Samuel Messerman: remembered by TBE	December 26; Tevet 14
Jack Vogel: grandfather of Leah Bank	December 26
+Mark Morris: remembered by TBE	December 27
+Margot Zadik Zellner: remembered by TBE	December 27
Ruth Schneider: aunt of Jeff Schwartz and Helen Armistead	December 28; Tevet 8
Alfonso Gonzalez: brother of Rose Broida	December 28
Milton Gintzler: great-uncle of Laura Lauria, great-great-uncle of Amanda Garza	December 28; Tevet 8
Burton Epstein: father of Leonard Epstein	December 29
+Betty Younger Cohn: remembered by TBE	December 29
+Marjorie Joan Atencio: mother of Susie Simrin	December 31
+Alter Shrier: remembered by TBE	December 31
Gerald Lewis: husband of Etel Lewis	January 1
Morris Gintzler: great-uncle of Laura Lauria, great-great-uncle of Amanda Garza	January 1; Tevet 12
Thomas Lauria: father of Ronald Lauria, grandfather of Amanda Garza	January 1
+Helen Magnus Markson: remembered by TBE	January 1



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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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