

April 2021



Chai Times

Temple Beth Emet of Burbank

"The Temple With A Heart"

Mark H. Sobel, Rabbi Ira L. Goldstein, President
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"And Jacob went out alone." (Genesis 32)

In the middle of this month we will celebrate Israel Independence Day, the 5th of Iyar. Many of you will say that Israel Independence Day is May 15. That is when the 5th of Iyar was in May, 1948.



Never has a country been so aptly named than Israel. Israel is the name G-D gives to Jacob after he wrestles with, a man, an angel, a demon or G-D. Scholars disagree over the Hebrew text. I personally see the State of Israel as one country that has dealt with demons. To name a few, first demons that Israel had to deal with was the terror of the Holocaust and its effect on the survivors. Next came the refugees from the Arab countries from Algeria to Yemen who were expelled after Israel became a country. Incidentally, the number of Jews Israel absorbed, 600,000 plus equates to the Palestinian Arabs who fled in 1947-49. The next demons Israel has fought with were the countries who denied aid to Israel and stopped being her ally or at least friendly to her. In 1967, right after Israel was victorious and recaptured Jerusalem. One of my Youth group leaders, I was a member of Young Judaea, made a comment then, "Now the world is afraid that we Jews will do to them what they have been doing to us for the last 2,000 years". Soon after that, the vast majority of Liberal or Left leaning countries removed their support and camaraderie with Israel to go to the "Palestinian"

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Watch Shabbat Services on our YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMGJ-6nbjGVT157iUgKFBgQ?pbjreload=10>

*New services posted every week,
watch previous services.*

Shabbat Services Are Now On Zoom!

*Every Friday Night at 7:00 PM
After the service, stay for a "virtual
Oneg!"*

Lunch with the Rabbi Every Wednesday at Noon

<http://www.templebethemet.com/home/upcoming-events/zoom-weekly-events/>

TEMPLE BOARD MEETING

April 6, 2021 - 7:00 PM

via Zoom, meeting information will be on our website.





TEMPLE BETH EMET (HOUSE OF TRUTH) ORGANIZATION

Religious Leadership

Rabbi Mark H. Sobel
Music and Choir Director,
Robyn Kreisberg

Rabbi Emeritus William M. Kramer Z"L*

*His memory will always be a blessing to us.

2019/20 Officers and Directors

Officers

Ira L. Goldstein, *President*
Ken Watnick, *Vice President*
Eileen Martin, *Treasurer*
Marlene Dreyfuss, *Secretary*

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Laura Goldstein- Hebrew 2-3,4-5
Hayley Wood Social Studies
2-3,4-5
Robyn Kreisberg Social Studies 6-7, Music
Joshua Sobel Confirmation 8-10,
Hebrew 6-7
Rabbi Mark Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class
Robyn Kreisberg, Music

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Library

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Rabbi Mark Sobel

Reach Out

Rabbi Mark Sobel

Temple Beth Emet Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Saturday & Sunday - closed

The office is closed in observance of the following holidays:

*New Year's Day, President's Day,
First day of Pesach, Memorial Day,
Independence Day, Rosh Hashanah,
Yom Kippur, Thanksgiving*

Call the Temple office at (818) 843-4787 to
contact Temple Staff/Volunteers.

Your message will be forwarded to the
appropriate person.

CHAI TIMES

Chai Times is the free, monthly
newsletter of Temple Beth Emet
of Burbank, delivered by email to
members and available at
www.TempleBethEmet.com.

Mailed hardcopies are available
for an annual TBE donation
payable through the Office.

**Editable article submissions,
photos and feedback are
encouraged and due by the 15th
of the month and may be emailed
to:**

**chaitimes@TempleBethEmet.com
or delivered to the Temple office.
Submissions will be published
based on space available,
relevant content, and at the
discretion of the Editor, Temple
Officers and Directors.**

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TempleBethEmet?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/TempleBethEmet?fref=ts)



If you have any suggestions or ideas
on how we can better serve our
members, please call the office or
email us at:

office@Templebethemet.com



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camp. I use quotation marks because not all Palestinian Arabs, Christian and Muslim are anti-Israel. Speak to those Palestinian Arabs who remained in Palestine when it became Israel. I know of several, personally, one was my roommate at Tel-Aviv University when I studied there 50 years ago.

There is another demon, Israel has to face. The demon of false accusations. To be called an "Apartheid state" by a former President, REALLY? You can tell he has never lived there.

And we must keep in mind that all this was done in the face of those who sought to militarily destroy Israel. Most certainly there are many middle easterners who still do. But the number is increasing of those who see Israel as a beacon of Peace in that troubled region.

Now that we have looked at the demons Israel has wrestled with, let us look at the "tie", ala Jacob and his demon.

Israel settled both large numbers of Holocaust survivors and Jewish Arab refugees. It was not easy and not always totally successful. For a humorous look at early Israel find the movie *Salah Shabbati* with Hayyim Topol.

Further they became custodian of several million Palestinian Arabs who the United Nations saw as refugees and not Jordanian citizens or Egyptian citizens. Israel made a mistake in agreeing with the UN regarding the Palestinians and therefore, giving up the victory direct negotiations with the indigenous leadership of the Palestinians, Mayor *Hamdi Canaan* of Nablus and Sheikh Mohammad Ali El-Jabari of Hebron would have brought.

Now to those who would condemn Israel in the press, even our own *Los Angeles Times* has shown a bent to go for the cheap anti-Israel headline and not revealing the full facts, Israel has not done a great PR job. Interestingly enough, the best "Press Officer" Israel ever had was Benjamin Netanyahu during the Gulf War when on CNN he showed how Israel was sheltering in place and not retaliating to the missiles of Saddam Hussein. Truly the world is more comfortable with Jews as victims and not victors.

Where are we the Jews outside of Israel in this wrestling match? Before Jacob went out to face the threat from Esau, the reason for the wrestling match, he sent his family away to another place to keep them safe. This sums up our role vis a vis Israel. Since the day it was established 73 years ago, Israel has made sure we were in a safe place. Just remember the raid on Entebbe in 1976! I was in Israel then, too!

And as Israel has kept us safe, we are to do the same for her. As we wrestle with American demons, keep in mind we share common anti-Semitism with Israel, coming from both sides of the political fence. Write letters, call your congressmen and /senators, go to protests. Do not support companies that sponsor the Boycott of Israel. If newspapers write anti-Israel articles, write letters to the editor with the facts. We are here at Temple to

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - April 2021

Beginning the second night of Passover we began counting the *omer*. *Omer* means sheaf and refers to a measure of volume of unthreshed stalks of grain. We count 49 days or seven weeks. We can think of it as seven cycles of the Creation. It recounts the time between our leaving Egypt and the giving of the Law at Sinai, which we commemorate at *Shavuot*.



Traditionally, the time of the counting of the omer is a period of semi-mourning during which one is supposed to refrain from haircuts, shaving, listening to instrumental music, or conducting weddings, parties, and dinners with dancing. There is one day these prohibitions are lifted, and that is *Lag B'Omer*, literally the 33rd day of the *Omer*. My parents were married on *Lag B'Omer*. This year, *Lag B'Omer* falls on April 30.

One of the traditional stories of *Lag B'Omer* is that it was the day on which the plague which had afflicted the students of Rabbi Akiva ended, after killing 24,000 of them and leaving just 5. There are other stories and explanations, but this year in particular the vision of a plaguelifting seems to resonate most strongly.

By *Lag B'Omer* this year, all adults in our state and in many places in the country will be eligible to receive one of the three COVID-19 vaccines that will help to lift the plague which has afflicted our lives for more than a year. Although there is still concern over rising numbers which may be attributable to virus variants or the premature lifting of precautions, we can see the end of this pandemic and a gradual progress toward "normal life" (although we're not exactly sure what that will look like).

Lag B'Omer is traditionally commemorated with outings (during which children traditionally play with bows and arrows), bonfires, parades and other joyous events. Clearly, we cannot indulge in all these activities yet, but we can enjoy some more normal activities with precaution. And of course, after *Lag B'Omer* the counting resumes until *Shavuot*. So while we can rejoice at the expansion of vaccine availability and the recent decline of incidence of serious illness, we still have to be cautious, follow guidelines, and take precautions, until we arrive at our destination, our public health "Sinai," (where we will surely receive a new set of mandates carved in stone!)

Diane is now just about two weeks past her second vaccination, I am about a week past my first. Our son will soon be eligible for his vaccination and we are looking forward to the day, not too far off, when we can again hug as a family for the first time in over a year.

If we all just do what we need to do just a little while longer, we will soon be able to gather together again as a Temple family. We have so much to look forward to! So keep washing your hands, wear a mask when out, maintain social distancing, and get that vaccine. Better days are coming!

-- IRA L. GOLDSTEIN, President



Hello Temple Families,

I hope your Passover celebration has been enlightening, enjoyable, and that you and your family are able to celebrate in good health!



The light at the end of the tunnel just got brighter. Many of our seniors and members who work in health care or who have conditions that make them more vulnerable to complications from covid-19 have already received vaccinations.

BUSD has announced it will start a hybrid model of in-person and distance learning in April. Parents were given the option to sign their children up for some in-person tutoring, and they plan to begin in April. Here is a quote from Superintendent Matt Hill:

"The Burbank Teachers Association and the Burbank Unified School District have come to an agreement that the start of school for all grades will be April 12. We will meet on March 29th to finalize the details, but we have reached an agreement that the morning will stay in Distance Learning and the afternoons will be in-person. At all traditional sites, the students who are opting to participate in the hybrid model will be on campus twice a week in A and B cohorts. The principals will be determining cohorts based on a variety of factors and will be communicating your specific cohort in the future. More details will be shared the week of March 29th. In the meantime, we are excited to return students to campus and still support our students who remain 100% in distance learning." (Superintendent Matt Hill)

Here's a link to Mr. Hill's full statement on the BUSD site:

<https://www.burbankusd.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=5183&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=13199&PageID=1>

Likewise, LAUSD plans to open as well. Superintendent Austin Beutner wrote on LAUSD's site:

"It's been an extraordinary year since COVID-19 forced the closure of school classrooms. A

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TEMPLE BETH EMET - BOOK CLUB



Temple Beth Emet Book Club
Conducted by Fran Bourne-Johnson

Book Club remains on hiatus.

**KEEP
READING!**



Dear Temple Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful gift basket, flowers, cards & gift cards. My family & I were so incredibly touched by your kindness. I miss you all very much but what is really special about TBE, is the friends you make and I am so fortunate to have such wonderful friends in all of you! These friendships are forever which is quite a special gift.

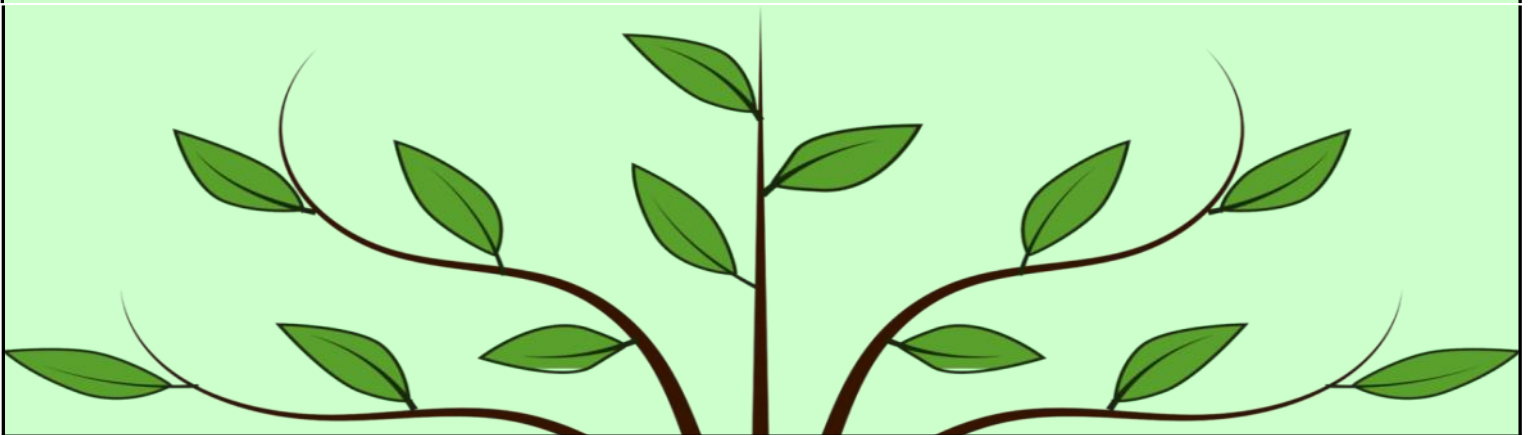
It was quite a difficult feat to move out of state, but we are becoming more accustomed to our new home and town. Although we are in a small town, I was tickled to find a kosher section in my local Albertson's, they also had Seder items in stock! This made me a bit homesick & reminded me of the special times at the Temple. Thank you for the special memories, for always being so kind and all the good times we shared. I will still drop in virtually when I can, to the Rabbi's Lunch & Learn which I think is really fun & educational & any online Shabbat services.

Temple Beth Emet is truly a special place, with very special people and I am thankful for the memories I will always cherish, the friendships that mean so much to me and the ability to remain a part of the Temple in the future.

Let's Stay In Touch!

My email is: Vgaffney19@gmail.com

-- Victoria Gaffney





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provide the Truth about Israel, warts and all. As a teenager in a Zionist youth group, I learned that Israel is a country like any other, with problems sure, but held to a higher authority.

As the story of Israel/Jacob and the demon ends, his brother Esau does come with 400 armed men, his best fighters. They come not to attack but to show honor for Jacob/Israel. We can do no less! We come to Israel, our words are our weapons, our speeches our spears, our votes our victories, our love Israel's shield against baseless hatred. Our knowledge of the truth will defeat the demons Israel continues to face.

When you and those you love and love you wrestle your Demons to a tie, it enables you to face your problems with a confident self-assured way. Israel has done this for us, let us do this for Israel, too.

Happy Birthday, Israel, may you live forever in the world as you do in our hearts.

B'ahava,

Rabbi Mark



YOU'VE GOT MAIL

Join Temple Beth Emet Pen Pal Program and make a new intergenerational friendship!

Temple Beth Emet has older members who are going through this tough time alone, and who may not have access to a community online. We also know there are many families with Religious school kids who would love to brighten someone's day and foster some new friendships.

If you and/or your child would like to join this program, or if you are a Senior interested in a pen pal, please contact Laura Goldstein at lauragoldstein25@gmail.com or call 818-468-1572.

Your contact information will remain confidential.



Temple Beth Emet of Burbank
sisterhood

The Temple Beth Emet Sisterhood focus on serving the Temple and the community. Membership in Sisterhood means making a commitment to living Jewish. By being a member, you become an active link in the history of our people. You serve as a role model for Jewish values. Each member blossoms in their own individual way as they experience the camaraderie of Sisterhood and share in service to the Jewish community.



FROM THE SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT - Marlene Dreyfuss

Although we can't meet or plan events during these times, all our members are always in our hearts and prayers. Please wear your mask, socially distance and STAY HOME as much as possible

This Is Your Personal Invitation to Join Temple Beth Emet's Sisterhood

Sisterhood is a group of friends who work together for our Temple, our children, and our community, in a very tangible way. Our President,

We meet the first Sunday of every month at 10:00 AM in Blum Hall. Please join us. Dues are only \$15 per year (commencing September of every year). Please fill out this form, cut it out and send it with your payment to: TBE Sisterhood, c/o TEMPLE BETH EMET, 600 N. Buena Vista Blvd., Burbank, CA 91505; or just leave it with the Temple Office.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PREFERRED PHONE _____

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CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

Planned Giving is a wonderful and loving way to ensure the legacy of Temple Beth Emet of Burbank and future generations. Planned Giving can be as simple as a bequest or a more complex financial arrangement which can provide many options and possible tax deductions for the donor.

Speak with your legal and financial advisors as to the best way to structure your wills and estate planning to include the Temple in your current and future plans.

Information on Planned Giving can also be found on our website at:

<http://www.templebethemet.com/social-action/donations/>



April Birthdays

Brody Cooper	April 3
Sophia Dorfman	April 4
Samatha Gura	April 6
David Zollman	April 7
Alex Gordon	April 8
Barbara Harmon	April 9
Martha Sousa	April 9
Marlene Dreyfus	April 16
Eileen Martín	April 16
Philip Davis	April 21
Robin Faeber	April 24
Owen Gersh	April 25
Isaac Flores	April 27
Charlie Constatine	April 28

April Anniversaries

Deb S. Cohen & Bryna P. Schreier April 8



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time of sacrifice and determination, pain and suffering, and moments of hope and optimism – sometimes all in the same day. I'm pleased to share we see light at the end of the tunnel and plan to reopen school classrooms in April." (Superintendent Austin Beutner)

Here is a link to Superintendent Austin Beutner's complete statement:

<https://achieve.lausd.net/Page/17553>

LA County has started to schedule appointments for persons 50+, in addition to those currently qualified (seniors, healthcare and essential workers, persons with health conditions that put them at a higher risk.) If you are a resident of LA County, I encourage you to sign up:

<https://coronavirus.lacity.org/VaxInfo>

California's Governor has also announced plans to start vaccinating persons 16+ by mid-April, so fingers crossed that many of our adults will be able to receive vaccines soon.

Until we can safely be together in person again, hang in there! Know that time will be soon! In the meantime, wishing you a blessed Pesach!

-- Cherie

Remember the sick, recovering and bereaved with cards, calls and visits.

Please say prayers of *Refuah Sh'leimah* for:

Fran Bourne Johnson

Bailey Harrison

Orven Schanzer has been ill for some time now, may G-d grant him comfort and complete recovery.

Stuart Friedman has been ill. Let's join together in prayer for his improved and continued good health.

We pray for Maya Lee & wish her good health

Please call the Temple Office at (818) 843-4787 if a Temple Member is sick, recovering or hospitalized.



Havurah Happenings **Havurah Simcha L'Chaim**

Havurah Simcha L'Chaim members are mainly retired people. If you would like to join, please let me know. If you would like to be in a new Havurah, please let me know and we can try to get a new group started.

Please call me to discuss it.

Ruth Glick [818 780 9134](tel:8187809134)



APRIL Yahrzeits






NAME:	REMEMBERED BY:	DATE:	NAME:	REMEMBERED BY:	DATE:
Shabbat Services April 2, 2021			Shabbat Services April 16, 2021 (cont.)		
Phyllis Mehlman	Congregation	April 1	Sonja Murez	Herbert Murez	April 17
Phyllis Mehlman	Congregation	April 1	Paz Montalvo	Jodessa Bayer	April 17
Margot Palmer	Marlene Dreyfuss	April 1	Jan Burns	James P. Small	April 18
Charles Jones	Lois Jones	April 2			
Matilda Bayer	Fred Bayer	April 2	Shabbat Services April 23, 2021		
Shabbat Services April 9, 2021			Doris Linger	Diane Linger	April 19
Edith Lapidus	Barry Verdi	April 5	Elisa Gally	Congregation	April 19
Fred Ditter	Jeff Oseas	April 5	Joseph Friedman	Congregation	April 20
Philip Levinson	Congregation	April 6	Anna Osbaum	Marjorie Jacobs	April 21
Hanne Elaine Basskin	Congregation	April 7	Anthony Mendez	Elizabeth Postal	April 21
William Saunders	James P. Small	April 9	Suzanne Galland	Pamela Franklin	April 21
David Levinson	Congregation	April 10	John Manocchia	Mary Manocchia	April 22
Pauline Zober	Congregation	April 11	Al Canter	Gail Arce	April 23
Roberto Rachilewski	Silvia Berger	April 11	Miriam Dubinsky	Bennett Kayser	April 23
Shabbat Services April 16, 2021			Alvin M. Toffel	Dorothy Matzkin	April 24
Fannie Zimmer	Congregation	April 12	Mario Guzman	Lila Tepper	April 25
Stanley Altman	Rabbi Mark & Mina	April 15	Arthur Fields	Susan Fields	April 25
			Miriam Grunner	Shirley Abramson	April 25



Yahrzeit Donations - Honoring the Memory of Loved Ones

*Yahrzeit Donations Are Missing This Month
We Will Acknowledge This Months Donation in Our Next Issue*

APRIL 2021 NISSAN/IYAR 5781

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 7:00 PM Shabbat Services on Zoom and YouTube	3
				Passover V	Passover VI	Passover VII
4 No Religious School Spring Recess	5	6 7:00 PM Temple Board Meeting on Zoom (Meeting information posted on our website prior to the meeting)	7 12:00 - Lunch with the Rabbi on Zoom	8  Yom HaShoah	9 7:00 PM Shabbat Services on Zoom and YouTube	10
Passover VIII						
11 9:30 AM - Noon Religious School	12	13	14 12:00 - Lunch with the Rabbi on Zoom  Yom HaZikaron (Israel Memorial Day)	15 	16 7:00 PM Shabbat Services on Zoom and YouTube	17
18 9:30 AM - Noon Religious School	19	20	21 12:00 - Lunch with the Rabbi on Zoom	22  Yom HaAtzma'ut (Israel Independence Day)	23 7:00 PM Shabbat Services on Zoom and YouTube	24
25 9:30 AM - Noon Religious School	26	27	28	29	30  Lag BaOmer	

Due to the current Covid-19 emergency, all on-campus events are “on-hold.”



Do You Have a Son and/or Daughter In College?



Temple Beth Emet has started a program to connect with our students attending a College. We would like to help them to continue their Jewish way of life and offer them additional support. This way, they will always have an open line of communication with our Rabbi, should they have questions or need direction; and we will remind them of their link to Israel and to keep connected to the Jewish Community. After college, we hope to have them join our Temple, as an adult.

Please send an e-mail to office@templebethemet.com and give the following information:

**The name of the Student;
Class Level;
Address;
Name of the University, and;
If the Student is a member of any organization or club on campus.**

The Temple will send a care-package for each holiday, as a gift to the Student with a calendar of events at the Temple for each month. The Student will be invited to all events sponsored by the Temple. We would like to encourage the Student to return to the Temple as often as they wish; as the Temple would like to offer itself as a second home and place of Jewish learning. We look forward hearing from you!



You can support Temple Beth Emet with a contribution to our ongoing gofundme™ campaign. Your generosity will help us maintain and improve our facilities and help with our outreach and membership development programs.

[Simply click here online!](#)

Tribute Cards

Tribute cards are always in order for happy or sad occasions. These cards are a wonderful way to remember or honor someone.

Did you know that you can get on an automatic mailing to those in need of well wishes by contacting the office?

A card will automatically be sent from you in your name to those in need of healing and an amount of \$10 will be added to your bill each time a card is sent in your name.

**Contact the Temple Office at:
818 843-4787**



Shop at Ralphs? Register your reward card at ralphs.com and add TBE as your organization. We will receive a donation when you shop!



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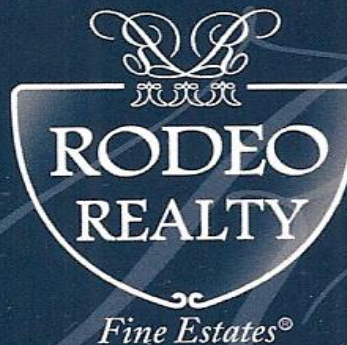
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