

January 2023



Chai Times

Temple Beth Emet of Burbank

"The Temple With A Heart"

Mark H. Sobel, Rabbi Ira L. Goldstein, President
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(818) 843-4787 Fax (818) 557-7240
www.TempleBethEmet.com Office@TempleBethEmet.com

"The facts ma'am, just the facts!" Sgt. Joe Friday, Dragnet TV Series

The reports are getting bleaker! Anti-Semitism, really anti-Jewish peopleism, is on the rise. From all corners from classical anti-Jewish rhetoric to the Black Israelite movement, we are being attacked.



By far the most outlandish idea is that we are not true Jews but usurpers who have enslaved the true Jews, those who are Black, Brown or Native American. The other day, I was talking to a congregant who related that those anti-Jewish conspiracy theorists emphatically state that we are not the true chosen people but the people who stole the identity of others, enslaved them and then stole their identity.

I do remember when we left Egypt, some native Egyptians joined us for their chance to be free of Pharaoh, but I daresay they were nowhere near the majority so they could not have been the true children of Israel.

Maybe there is a case for Latinos being Jewish. Our people and the Muslims of Spain controlled most of the intellectual life in Spain until Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand threw us out. Many Secret Jews travelled with Cortez, Coronado, and Pizarro to the New World and when the Conquistadores left, the generals granted large tracts of land, called land grants, to the soldiers who stayed behind. Those soldiers called for women to come to the New World to marry them, most often a cousin or other relative

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EVERY WEDNESDAY AT NOON

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

SHABBAT SERVICE - 7:00 PM

Also streaming on our YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMGJ-6nbjGVT157iUgKFBgQ>

(Also on Zoom, see page 3)

TEMPLE BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 - 7:00 PM

(Zoom link on our website)

CELEBRATION OF LIFE OF YVONNE BETLZER

Sunday, January 15, 2023 - 2:00 PM

(Also on Zoom, see Page 5)

2022-23 ADULT EDUCATION SERIES

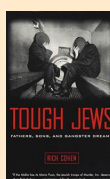
Judaism Prophecy and Practice:

From the Bones of Ezekiel to the Flesh of the Leper

Session 3: - Pekuach Nefesh - how to save a soul (life) and prevent death

January 17, 2023 - 7:00 PM

(See Page 10)



BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, January 25, 2023 - 7:00 PM

Tough Jews: Fathers, Sons, and Gangster Dreams, by Rich Cohen

(See page 8)



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.

2022/23 Officers and Directors

Officers

Ira L. Goldstein, *President*
Ken Watnick, *Vice President*
Eileen Martin, *Treasurer*
Melissa Potter, *Secretary*

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Theida Salazar
Felicia van Dyk

Sisterhood President

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Morris Gold Religious School Faculty

Rabbi Mark Sobel, Education Director
Shirley Kirschenbaum K-3
Laura Goldstein Hebrew 2-3, 4-5 Hebrew
Sarah Emerson 4-5 Social Studies
Robyn Kreisberg Social Studies 6-7, Music
Olivia Goldstein 6-7 Hebrew
Rabbi Mark 7-8 Hebrew, Bar/Bat
Mitzvah Class
Robyn Kreisberg, Music

Religious School Parents Association

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Committee Chairs

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Felicia Van Dyk

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Adult Education

David Goldstein

Book Club

Barbara Harmon

Chai Times Editor

Ira L. Goldstein

Children's Hospital LA Toys

Shirley Abramson

Home Again LA

Kathy Kreans

Library

Shirley Abramson

Marquee

Rabbi Mark Sobel

One Call

Diane Lewis-Goldstein

Reach Out

Rabbi Mark Sobel

Temple Beth Emet Office Hours

Monday - Thursday - 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Friday, 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 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.**

Follow Temple Beth Emet of Burbank

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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



(Continued from page 1)

was asked, most definitely also a secret Jew. So it is possible that some people who identify as Latino may in fact be descendants of those Secret Jews.

What is most upsetting of course is the claim that they and only they are true Jews. We are told that we are descendants of a Tribe of Hungarians called Khazars, who converted from paganism to Judaism.

This is not new! The book "The Thirteenth Tribe" by Arthur Koestler published in 1976 described the same thing. Koestler and the new anti-Jews only talk about Ashkenazi Jews being inauthentic. They don't dare take on Sephardic Jews.

In one of my arguments with Mina, I told her that the Jews lived in Poland for 1,000 years. She responded, "We Persian Jews know where Mordechai and Esther are buried!" Sephardi power! or at least truly authentic Judaism.

The "anti-Jewish people's" claim of one of the Black Israelite movement's favorite Basketball players led to his being suspended. If it wasn't so serious, it would be humorous. Where does this basketball player play his home contests? Brooklyn! When I heard what he said about us and his subsequent suspension, I was reminded of a comment by Johnny Carson, when the King of Saudi Arabia came to New York in the early 1960's and made disparaging remarks about Israel. Mr. Carson said, "Saying those things in New York City is like setting up a Ku Klux Klan field station in the Congo."

These attacks, while without merit, are scary because some people believe them.

But I appreciate those who choose not to believe the hate.

Right after, Kanye West, or Ye, whatever he calls himself, made his comments, two non-Jewish women here in Burbank, on separate occasions, called me aside and told me how much they detested Kanye's comments and his anti-Judaism in particular.

This is the key! We have allies, people who know the facts, people who know us as good solid citizens. When we talk to those who have doubts about our heritage, we deal with the facts, not just some other people's conspiracy theories. We must talk freely and truthfully about our

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Zoom Information for Shabbat Services

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88306033879?
pwd=dFMxWIBIY09SNUVqSzAycUp0RjZRdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88306033879?pwd=dFMxWIBIY09SNUVqSzAycUp0RjZRdz09)

Meeting ID: 883 0603 3879

Passcode: 144071

Dial in: (669) 900 6833 US (San Jose)

(408) 638 0968 US (San Jose)





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - January 2023



Early in February is Tu BiShvat. The sage Hillel determined the date as the "new year of the trees." Literally, Tu BiShvat is the "fifteenth day of the month of Shvat." As with many things, Hillel's "friendly adversary" Shammai had advanced the first day of Shvat as the new year of the trees, the rabbis, however, favored Hillel's interpretation. The decision had import in determining the agricultural year and calculating the date for certain tithes. While today the distinction has become an esoteric bit of Jewish history, today Tu BiShvat has taken on meaning, especially in Israel, as a day for planting of trees and environmental-awareness programs.

I thought of this recently when a package from Amazon arrived at my house. Like many of us, I often come across something I think would be of benefit to our Temple. One late night browsing the Amazon "lightening deals" I came across some acrylic sign holders, size 8 1/2" x 11", perfect for displaying a flyer or sign without having to trim it to the several 8" x 10" frames we already have. The price was attractive, a two-pack for \$3.63! I ordered two sets.

They arrived in due course. What was delivered was a ridiculously large box measuring 22" x 16" x 8". Inside this box, cushioned by little plastic "pillows" were two smaller boxes. Inside each of those smaller boxes were two of the plastic frames held in place by two pieces of Styrofoam each and wrapped in a plastic bag. I dare say the packaging was worth more than the frames! Most of this packaging will end up in my recycling barrel, but really, this was an ecological disaster.

We all need to do our part to repair the world, *Tikkun Olam*. Our recycling barrel always has more in it than the solid waste barrel and here in California we are supposed to put table scraps and other kitchen waste in our "green barrels" with the grass clippings for composting. To their credit, even Amazon has begun using boxes "made with less materials" and mailers that can be recycled with other plastic bags.

Other things we can do include replacing our regular light bulbs with LED bulbs, as has been done with much of the exterior lighting at Temple. Also, in our Temple parking lot, you will see hybrid automobiles, reducing the use of fossil fuels and reducing tailpipe emissions.

There is a Midrash (interpretation) that says that when God created Adam, he took him around the Garden of Eden and said "Look at My works! How beautiful and praiseworthy they are. Everything that I have created, I created for you. Take care not to damage and destroy My world, for if you destroy it, there is no one to repair it after you."

Keep in mind also the Keynan proverb: "Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children."

Each of us can be mindful of our impact on the environment and hopefully make some positive change to protect it.

-- IRA L. GOLDSTEIN, President



January Birthdays

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Frank Watnick</i> | <i>January 3</i> |
| <i>Brooklyn Bigley</i> | <i>January 14</i> |
| <i>Elyse Sokol</i> | <i>January 22</i> |
| <i>Vicki Margolin</i> | <i>January 24</i> |
| <i>Rebecca Tanner</i> | <i>January 24</i> |

We have no record of anniversaries in January.



Please join us in person and online to celebrate the amazing life of Yvonne Rose Beltzer.

We will gather to share some of our favorite memories and favorite stories and remember the wonderful wife, mother, sister, aunt and friend who is greatly missed.

The celebration of life in honor of Yvonne Rose Beltzer will be held on January 15, 2023 at 2:00 PM at the Temple.

For those who can't attend in person, you can watch live on Zoom. Details are posted below.

Topic: Yvonne's Memorial Service

Time: Jan 15, 2023 2:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89205320509>

Meeting ID: 892 0532 0509 Passcode: 806376

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,89205320509#,,, *806376#

+14086380968,,89205320509#,,, *806376#

Dial in numbers: (669) 900-6833

(408) 638-0968



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

Thank you, everyone who supported our Hanukkah Boutique sale in December. We had a lot of business, as did our vendors selling jewelry and "Miss Fortune" cookies. Our baked goodies were very popular and the Religious School Parents Association even sold some Krispy Kream donuts. Stay tuned for our next event.

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. 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 _____

E-MAIL _____



Temple Beth Emet Book Club



Conducted by Barbara Harmon.

Book Club was founded by Fran Bourne Johnson Z"L*

*Her memory will always be a blessing to us.

Where:

Blum Hall at Temple Beth Emet of Burbank

When:

January 25, 2023 - 7:00PM to 8:30 PM at Temple and on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88422348913?pwd=V1QrY1ZYV05VYzdNejJoK0VCcHUxZz09>

Meeting ID: 884 2234 8913 Passcode: 388498

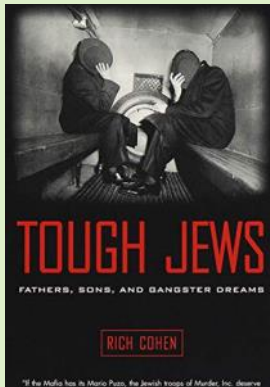
Dial in Phone Numbers:

(669) 900-6833 US (San Jose) (346) 248-7799 US (Houston)

What book will we be reading?

Tough Jews : Fathers, Sons, and Gangster Dreams, by Rich Cohen

Synopsis



In an L.A. delicatessen, a group of Brooklyn natives gets together to discuss basketball, boxing, the weather back east, and the Jewish gangsters of yesteryear. Meyer Lansky. Bugsy Siegel. Louis Lepke, the self-effacing mastermind of Murder, Inc. Red Levine, the Orthodox hit man who refused to kill on the Sabbath. Abe "Kid Twist" Reles, who looked like a mama's boy but once buried a rival alive. These are just some of the vibrant, vicious characters Rich Cohen's father reminisced about and the author evokes so pungently in *Tough Jews*.

Tracing a generation of Jewish gangsters from the candy stores of Brownsville to the clubhouses of the Lower East Side--and, occasionally, to suites at the Waldorf--Cohen creates a densely anecdotal and gruesomely funny history of muscle, moxie, and money. Filled with fixers and schlammers, the squeal of tires and the rattle of gunfire, his book shatters stereotypes as deftly as its subjects once shattered kneecaps.

Synopsis courtesy of Amazon.

Book is available from Amazon and others in both print and e-book formats.

N95 masks will be available if needed.



Shop at Ralphs? Register your reward card at [ralphs.com](https://www.ralphs.com) and add TBE as your organization. We will receive a donation when you shop!



Sign up for AmazonSmile and TBE will receive a donation when you shop.

Go to: smile.amazon.com



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experiences in history and how we have been open to people choosing to join our communities, our people's experiences with slavery, both classical and modern. And we personally must learn more about our people's history to make intelligent conversation with both friends and adversaries

We stand tall when we speak about who we are with knowledge behind it!

If you still have problems combatting those who would take away our 'Yichus' (pedigree) invest in one of the DNA discovery programs.

I have! I am:

93 %Ashkenazi Jewish (No News There)
3% DNA of the Middle East (Me and Moshe Rabbenu)
3% Persian (Made Mina So Happy)
1% Scandinavian (Yumpin Yimani)

Seriously, Sweden invaded the Russian Empire in the 1500s all the way to Odessa!

Learn about your DNA! Ask others to do the same!

Facts don't lie. Conspiracy theories conspire!

B'ahava,

Rabbi Mark



Yahrzeit Donations - Honoring the Memory of Loved Ones

Yahrzeit Donations

Jerry Dash, in memory of Moishe Marco

Jerry Dash, in memory of Anna Vineberg

Jodessa Bayer, in memory of Bruce Bayer

Jerry & Adrienne Everakes, in memory of Miraim Everakes

Marva & Peter Felchlin, in memory of Albert Lassoff

James Levin, in memory of Joseph Steinmetz

Gail Arce, in memory of Alan Matays



ADULT EDUCATION SERIES 2022-2023

Presented by RABBI MARK H. SOBEL



JUDAISM PROPHECY AND PRACTICE:

FROM THE BONES OF EZEKIEL TO THE FLESH OF THE LEPER

**JANUARY 17, 2023 - PEKUACH NEFESH - HOW TO SAVE A SOUL (LIFE)
AND PREVENT DEATH**

FEBRUARY 14, 2023 - ELIJAH'S FIERY CHARIOT: DO WE REALLY DIE?

**MARCH 14, 2023 - THE FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER, THE GOLEM'S
PROGENY**

All sessions begin at 7:00 PM—Open to the public.

There is no charge for this series, donations accepted.

Also available via ZOOM, meeting information on our website.



JANUARY Yahrzeits

| NAME | REMEMBERED BY: | DATE: | NAME | REMEMBERED BY: | DATE: |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| At Temple January 6, 2023 | | | At Temple January 20, 2023 | | |
| Elmer Jacob | Phyllis Shear | January 1 | Maurice Rosenthal | Gail Arce | January 15 |
| William Naythons | David Naythons | January 1 | Naoma Goodman | The Congregation | January 15 |
| Stella Shear | Phyllis Shear | January 1 | Moshe Marco | Jerry & Tzipy Dash | January 15 |
| Sol(Sheik)Rosenthal | Gail Arce | January 2 | Maurice Rosenthal | Betty Canter & Gail Arce | January 15 |
| Morris Yaras | Fran Bernstein | January 2 | Michael Liebgot | Howard Liebgot | January 16 |
| Joan Kramer | The Congregation | January 3 | Carmel Feinsilber | Barri Bucknam | January 20 |
| George Davis | Phil Davis | January 5 | Susan Werner | Dan & Flora Mendoza-Werner | January 20 |
| At Temple January 13, 2023 | | | Miriam Everakes | Jerry Everakes | January 21 |
| Sylvia Becker | Gerald Becker | January 9 | Anna Sobel | Rabbi Mark and Mina Sobel | January 24 |
| Mayer Nudell | The Congregation | January 9 | Celia Kaufman | Barry Kaufman | January 24 |
| Tillie Friedman | Bonnie & Stuart Friedman | January 9 | At Temple January 27, 2023 | | |
| Nathaniel Millman | Congregation | January 10 | Louis Bigley | Bruce Bigley | January 26 |
| Ben Zober | Marlene Lipman | January 12 | Herman Sandelman | Barri Bucknam | January 26 |
| Edward Zimmer | The Congregation | January 13 | Lena Rosenthal | Gail Arce | January 28 |
| Rosalind Avrashow | Marlene Dreyfuss | January 13 | Theodore Leibowitz | Geraldine Leibowitz | January 29 |
| Rosalind Avrashow | Eileen Martin | January 13 | At Temple February 3, 2023 | | |
| Edward Zimmer | The Congregation | January 13 | Anna S. Vineberg | Jerry & Tzipy Dash | January 31 |
| Ethyle Greenberg | Scott & Elaine Fishman | January 14 | | | |
| Toni Mattis | The Congregation | January 14 | | | |
| Freda Murez | Herbert Murez | January 14 | | | |
| Shirley Wolf | The Congregation | January 14 | | | |

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/>



JANUARY 2023

TEVET/ SH'VAT 5783

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|---|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 No Religious School - Winter Break  | 2 | 3 | 4 12:00 - Lunch with the Rabbi on Zoom | 5 | 6 7:00PM Shabbat Services | 7 |
| 8 Religious School 9:00 AM - Noon | 9 | 10 7:00 PM Temple Board Meeting | 11 12:00 - Lunch with the Rabbi on Zoom | 12 | 13 7:00PM Shabbat Services | 14 |
| 15 Religious School 9:00 AM - Noon 2:00 PM - Yvonne Beltzer Celebration of Life | 16  Martin Luther King Jr. Day | 17 7:00 PM Adult Education | 18 12:00 - Lunch with the Rabbi on Zoom | 19 | 20 7:00PM Shabbat Services | 21 |
| 22 Religious School 9:00 AM - Noon | 23 | 24 | 25 12:00 - Lunch with the Rabbi on Zoom 7:00 PM - Book Club  | 26 | 27 7:00PM Shabbat Services | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

COMING IN FEBRUARY: **Lunch With the Rabbi** - Every Wednesday at Noon via Zoom. **Shabbat Services** - Every Friday at 7:00 PM.
Monday, February 6 - Tu B'Shvat - **Tuesday, February 7** - 7:00 PM - Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 14 - 7:00 PM - Adult Education - **Wednesday, February 22** - 7:00 PM - Book Club



NoHo Mailboxes

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Blvd.
N. Hollywood, CA
91601

818-506-7744
*Scott & Ezra
Bergstein*

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and DHL
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Members.**

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BROWSE OUR TEMPLE BETH EMET GIFT SHOP

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MEN, WOMEN,
BAR & BAT MITZVAH
All with matching bag and
kipot.
All at reasonable prices.**



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 \$18 (*Chai*) will be added to your bill each time a card is sent in your name.

Contact the Temple Office at: 818 843-4787