

December 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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www.TempleBethEmet.com Office@TempleBethEmet.com

"To Jerusalem, to celebrate the dedication, both with Thanksgiving and with singing." (Nehemiah 12:27)



Hanukkah means Rededication. In the past 2 months, there has been a rededication to Israel. Alas, it has come due to a war. Like Hanukkah, it was not without prior attacks on Judaism that led up to its outbreak. Israel finally, had had enough of Hamas/Gaza and felt it had no other alternative. This was the situation with the Maccabee civil war. Yes there were Jews who sided with the Greek Seleucid rulers against our own people led by Mattathias, Judah and his brothers. All these factors remind me of the US Jewish community before the Six Days War. We were not as united behind Israel as we are today.

As was a few weeks ago there was a giant rally in front of the White House, it was Thursday June 8, 1967. I was 2 weeks shy of 17. I still remember the Bus ride from Somerset, Franklin Twps. New Jersey to Washington. I was amazed at the gigantic crowd with its support of Israel. From that time on, American Jewry changed. The American Council for Judaism, long a believer that we are Jews of the American persuasion with no spiritual ties or otherwise to Israel, saw its membership dwindle from thousands nationally to maybe hundreds. Today, even those Jews who are not in favor of Israel and its government acknowledge the centrality of Israel to Jewish life. Many of the posters next to

(Continued on page 3)



EVERY WEDNESDAY AT NOON

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

SHABBAT SERVICES - 7:00 PM

Also streaming on our YouTube Channel

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

(Also on Zoom, see Page 12)

SISTERHOOD HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

December 3, 2023

10:00AM - 1:00 PM

TEMPLE BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 - 7:00 PM

(Zoom link on our website)

HANUKKIAH LIGHTING

BURBANK TOWN CENTER

Thursday, December 7, 2023 - 6:00 PM

PIZZA NIGHT!

Friday, December 8, 2023 - 6:00 PM

Shabbat Services - 7:00 PM

TBE "Members of the Tribe" Choir and Hanukkah Lighting



TEMPLE HANNUKAH CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 10, 2023 - 11:30 AM

Songs - Food - Silent Auction - Raffle - More!

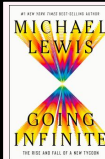
2023-24 ADULT EDUCATION

JEW OF THE WEST

December 12, 2023 - 7:00 PM

Sephardic Jews of the Northwest - The Lure of the Sea

(See Page 10)



BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024 - 7:00 PM

Going Infinite: The Rise and Fall of a New

Tycoon, by Michael Lewis

(SEE PAGE 9)

venmo



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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.

2023/24 Officers and Directors

Officers

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

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Barbara Harmon
Tracy Martin
Theida Salazar
Felicia van Dyk

Sisterhood President

Marlene Dreyfuss

Morris Gold Religious School Faculty

Rabbi Mark Sobel, Education Director
Shirley Kirschenbaum K - 1
Sarah Emerson 2 - 3
Jennifer Larkin 4 - 5
Robyn Kreisberg, 6 - 7, Music
Rabbi Mark 7-8 Hebrew, Bar/Bat
Mitzvah Class
Robyn Kreisberg, Music
Joseph Tanner - Teachers' Assistant

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Administrative Assistant,
Ralph Garland

Committee Chairs

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David Goldstein

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Chai Times Editor

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Shirley Abramson

Home Again LA

Kathy Kreans

Library

Shirley Abramson

Marquee

Rabbi Mark Sobel

One Call

Diane Lewis-Goldstein

Public Relations and Social Media

Jennifer Larkin

Reach Out

Rabbi Mark Sobel

Temple Beth Emet Office Hours

Monday - Thursday - 9:30 AM to 12:30 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

"Like" our Facebook Page at

<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)

the Palestinian flags accuse Israel of crimes from Apartheid to Xenophobia (should be a Z). But no Jew I know or hear speaking, ever denies the right of Israel to exist. So, how can we rededicate ourselves to Israel and make sure that not only does it exist but that it be the state that we would like it to be. The simplest way is to talk about her to others both Jewish and non- Jewish. Let people know how you feel. Invite them to Services especially on the 8th when we light the giant Chanukiah (Hanukkah Menorah). Donate to Israeli organizations, Magen David Adom, or Israel Bonds, or the Jewish National Fund.

Then call your elected representative and tell them the truth of the history of Israel and its Arab and Palestinian neighbors and how you feel toward Israel.

If you have a choice buy Israeli products. Some that come to mind are Ahuva, skin products from the Dead Sea Carmel wines, Intel processors, etc.

Many know that after 76 years of warfare, Israel has become one of the world's leading arms exporters, especially U-Zi sub machine guns, drones and tank carriers, from the little to the gigantic. But what you may not know is that Israel leads the world in orthopedics and trauma surgery, also due to decades of warfare, and has developed several methods of First Aid trauma devices: The Compression Bandage, Combat Emergency bandage, Sterile Wound Dressing and Tactical Treatment Bandage. All I carry in my First Aid kit that I take on Ride- Alongs with the Burbank Police and bring to Temple with me in my car. I recommend these to everyone, in case of Emergencies.

On a much more fun and beneficial level, let us begin to save for a 2nd tour of Israel. In 2016, we spent 10 days fantastic days there. I am sure the people who went in 2016 would be willing to spend an evening talking about it and showing pictures.

In fact, just recently, Joshua was showing us some of the places we toured in Jerusalem. He's there now studying in the Old City.

To all who have asked, thank you he is relatively safe. Speaking of relatives, we found a family, in Jerusalem, we never knew we had and he is going to visit with them soon.

Speaking of family, perhaps we could adopt a town where we could have 'adopted' sisters and brothers. I am sure that that community would welcome an extended family as our new family will welcome Joshua.

These are just my suggestions. If you have others, please send the office an email and I will read them to the congregation on Friday nights and to the children of the school on Sundays. Let us help to rebuild Israel as we rededicate ourselves to her.

Shalom and a Happy festival of lights,

Rabbi Mark



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - December 2023

Recently I was watching the local news and they aired a story on the City of Los Angeles' Hanukkah celebration. Proclaiming "as the war between Israel and Hamas continues, Hanukkah will look different this year in Los Angeles," the story explained that the Hanukkah lighting has been moved from Gloria Molina Grand Park to inside Los Angeles City Hall and would be more low-key as a result of the events in Israel. Rabbi Cunin of Chabad talked about how our usual joy is "tempered" and instead of a more festive celebration, it will be more prayerful. The story mentioned a similar theme for Hanukkah celebrations is being urged in Israel.



Indeed, there are mixed thoughts about how or even *if* to celebrate Hanukkah this year. In Virginia, a United Jewish Community lighting ceremony was cancelled. A town council in East London, England, is 'pausing' the planned installation of the Hanukkah menorah outside its Town Hall this year, calling it a "difficult" decision to avoid "possible vandalism or other action" against the city council and local residents. Moncton City Hall in New Brunswick, Canada, won't have a menorah for the first time in 20 years. Some communities are cancelling celebrations, only to reinstate them after being urged to reconsider.

While Hamas may have stolen our sense of security and anti-Semitism may have increased around the world and here at home (Burbank Temple Emanu El was tagged with hateful symbols) neither Hamas nor anti-Semites should be allowed to steal our Hanukkah, with all that it celebrates; rededication, triumph over forces of oppression, and freedom to worship as we wish. Also, Rabbi Cunin may speak for Chabad locally, but he does not necessarily speak for the rest of Jewish Southern California and certainly not for the independent Temple Beth Emet of Burbank. We are not unaware of the tragedy that has occurred and is still occurring, but we will not be defeated or controlled by it.

Not all Jewish communities are shrinking from celebrating Hanukkah this year. The *New York Post* reports:

Let my people glow.

In bold defiance of the antisemitism that's been raging since the start of the Israel-Hamas war, Jewish New Yorkers are putting Hanukkah in the spotlight this year — with bigger and bolder decorations.

"We want to show people we're Jewish and proud – and this year even more so. You can't scare us," said Staten Islander Michelle Goldzal, a 39-year-old mother of four whose Willowbrook front yard and home is blanketed in giant holiday inflatables and a dazzling array of moving lights. "We wanted to go even bigger this year."

One of my neighbors has their house lit with blue floodlights with inflatable bears holding dreidels, and as always I plan to have my electric Hanukkah placed prominently in my dining room window for all to see. I invite you all to join us at 6:00 PM on Thursday, December 7 at Burbank Town Center to light their Hanukkah and sing songs, at Temple on Friday, December 8 at 6:00 PM for Pizza Night, Shabbat services, the TBE "Members of the Tribe" Choir, and Hanukkah lighting, and at Temple Sunday, December 10, at 11:30 AM for our Temple Hanukkah Celebration with song, food, fun, silent auction, and raffle.

Hag Hanukkah sameach!

-- IRA L. GOLDSTEIN, President



December Birthdays

Dan Werner	December 3
Nicole Wolfson	December 5
Alan Cohen	December 7
Rachel Razankova	December 16
Ira Goldstein	December 18
Robert Bigley	December 21
Iris Abrams	December 22
Diane Lewis-Goldstein	December 22
Rowan Epstein	December 26
Vivian May	December 28
Roni Razankova	December 29

December Anniversaries

Bonnie & Stuart Friedman	December 8
Marc & Cindy Becker	December 19
David & Leona Zollman	December 20

Zoom Information for Shabbat Services

Join Zoom Meeting

<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)





Yahrzeit donations last month will appear in the January issue.



*Purchasing a leaf on the **June Beck Tree of Life** in our Temple foyer is a wonderful way to give thanks when celebrating the birth of a child or grandchild, a milestone birthday or anniversary, a wedding, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, Confirmation, or any other simcha!*

CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR ORDERING INFORMATION AND PRICING.



Shop at Ralphs?

Register your reward card at ralphs.com and add TBE as your organization.

We will receive a donation when you shop!



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 TREASURER - Eileen Martin

The Sisterhood held it annual Chanukah Boutique on Sunday, December 3rd and it was very successful. If anyone missed it, we still have a table of Chanukah themed items. It's not too late. I want to thank the ladies who came and worked the sale; Susie Berman, SandyCohen, Joanne Serin, Felicia Van Dyk, Marlene Dreyfuss, Cherie Rye, and Eileen Martin. (I hope I didn't forget anyone). I want to say a special "thank you" to the following ladies: Marlene Dreyfuss who brought wonder hand made gifts (hats, blankets, place mats, and more) and Fecia Van Dyke for bringing lots of Krisby Kreme donuts and making up beautiful baskets for our raffle, Sandy Cohen for delicious mandel bread and Joanne Serin for great pumpkin bread. Although Jennifer Levine is visiting with her family in Florida, I want to thank her for getting wonderful items from Paramount Pictures for our silent auction. We will be back on Sunday the 10th for our Temple Chanukah celebration and a song for the show.



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 _____



DECEMBER YAHRZEITS

Name:	Remembered by:	Date:	Name:	Remembered by:	Date:
At Temple December 1, 2023			At Temple December 15, 2023 (Continued)		
Alan Matays	Gail Arce	December 1	Josie Rowe	Allan Rowe	December 10
Harriet Modler	Peter Modler	December 1	Sharon Shuman	Barri Bucknam	December 11
Barbara Glatzer	Flo Mazzei	December 1	Szerena Weber	Bea Satmary	December 14
			Joyce Nathan	Leslie Nathan & Michael Heiss	December 14
At Temple December 8, 2023			At Temple December 22, 2023		
Sara Guttentog	Rabbi Mark Sobel	December 3	Fred Friedman	Bonnie & Stuart Friedman	December 18
Judith Kravetz	Iris Abrams	December 4	Joseph Steinmetz	Susan Levin	December 20
Harold Greene	Suzanne Marks	December 4	Edith Russell	Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Becker	December 20
Peter Monico	Rabbi Mark Sobel	December 5			
Shari Altman	Rabbi Mark Sobel	December 5			
Leo Peckman	The Congregation	December 6	At Temple December 29, 2023		
Fanny Sillman	Lois Jones	December 6	Anne Abramson	Shirley Abramson	December 24
Norm Goodman	The Congregation	December 7	Sybil Factor	The Congregation	December 25
Meir Zollman	David & Leona Zollman	December 7	Bessie Dash	Jerry & Tzipy Dash	December 27
Ida Polakoff	Fran Bernstein	December 8	Raja Tepper	Henry Tepper	December 27
Milton Sobel	Rabbi Mark Sobel	December 8	Sadie Weitzman	Rabbi Mark Sobel	December 21
Golda Meir	The Congregation	December 8	Donald A. Zahler	The Congregation	December 27
At Temple December 15, 2023			At Temple January 5, 2024		
Sylvia Rabin	The Congregation	December 10	Avraham Marco	Jerry & Tzipy Dash	December 31
Marty Feldman	Pamela Franklin	December 10	Albert Lassoff	Marva & Peter Felchlin	January 2

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/>



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: **Wednesday, January 31, 2024**
7:00PM to 8:30 PM at Temple and on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88422348913?pwd=V1OrY1ZYV05VYzdNejJoK0VCcHUxZz09>

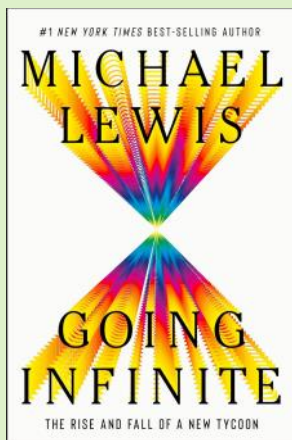
Meeting ID: 884 2234 8913 Passcode: 388498

Dial in Phone Numbers:

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

What book will we be reading?

Going Infinite: The Rise and Fall of a New Tycoon,
by Michael Lewis



Synopsis:

When Michael Lewis first met him, Sam Bankman-Fried was the world's youngest billionaire and crypto's Gatsby. CEOs, celebrities, and leaders of small countries all vied for his time and cash after he catapulted, practically overnight, onto the Forbes billionaire list. Who was this ruffled guy in cargo shorts and limp white socks, whose eyes twitched across Zoom meetings as he played video games on the side?

In *Going Infinite* Lewis sets out to answer this question, taking readers into the mind of Bankman-Fried, whose rise and fall offers an education in high-frequency trading, cryptocurrencies, philanthropy, bankruptcy, and the justice system. Both psychological portrait and financial roller-coaster ride, *Going Infinite* is Michael Lewis at the top of his game, tracing the mind-bending trajectory of a character who never liked the rules and was allowed to live by his own—until it all came undone.



ADULT EDUCATION SERIES 2023-2024

Presented by RABBI MARK H. SOBEL



JEWES OF THE WEST

DECEMBER 12, 2023 - SEPHARDIC JEWS OF THE NORTHWEST
THE LURE OF THE SEA

JANUARY 9, 2024 - THE ALAMO AND PEDDLERS OF TEXAS
STEPHEN AUSTIN, ANTHONY WOLF, GALBA FUQUA AND
ISRAEL ZANGWILL













FEBRUARY 13, 2024 - THE CIVIL WAR
CAN WE GET THERE SOONER, MORRIE?

MARCH 12, 2024 - CALIFORNIA
THE GOLDENEH MEDINA?

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.



DECEMBER 2023 KISLEV/TEVET 5784

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 7:00 PM Shabbat Services	2
3 9:00 AM Religious School Regular Session 11:00 AM Sisterhood Meeting	4	5 7:00 PM Temple Board Meeting	6 12:00 Lunch with the Rabbi on Zoom	7 6:00 PM Hannukah at Burbank Town Center	8 6:00 PM Pizza Night 7:00 PM Shabbat Services	9
				 Erev Hanukkah	 Hanukkah I	 Hanukkah II
10 9:00 AM Religious School Regular Session 11:30 AM Temple Hanukkah Celebration	11  Hanukkah III	12 7:00 Adult Education  Hanukkah IV	13 12:00 Lunch with the Rabbi on Zoom  Hanukkah V	14  Hanukkah VI	15 7:00 PM Shabbat Services  Hanukkah VII Chai Times Submissions Due	16  Hanukkah VIII
17 9:00 AM No Religious School Winter Break	18	19	20 12:00 - Lunch with the Rabbi on Zoom	21  WINTER SOLSTICE	22 7:00PM Shabbat Services	23
24 No Religious School Winter Break	25	26	27 12:00 - Lunch with the Rabbi on Zoom 7:00PM - Book Club 	28	29 7:00PM Shabbat Services	30
 No Religious School Winter Break New Year's Eve 31						

Coming in January: Lunch With the Rabbi - Every Wednesday at Noon via Zoom. Shabbat Services - Every Friday at 7:00 PM.
 Tues. Jan. 2 - 7:00 PM - Temple Board Meeting - Fri., Jan. 5 - 6:00 PM - Pizza Night, 7:00 PM - Shabbat Services
 Tues. Jan. 9 - 7:00 PM - Adult Education - Jews of the West - Wed. Jan. 31 - 7:00 PM - Book Club.



NoHo Mailboxes

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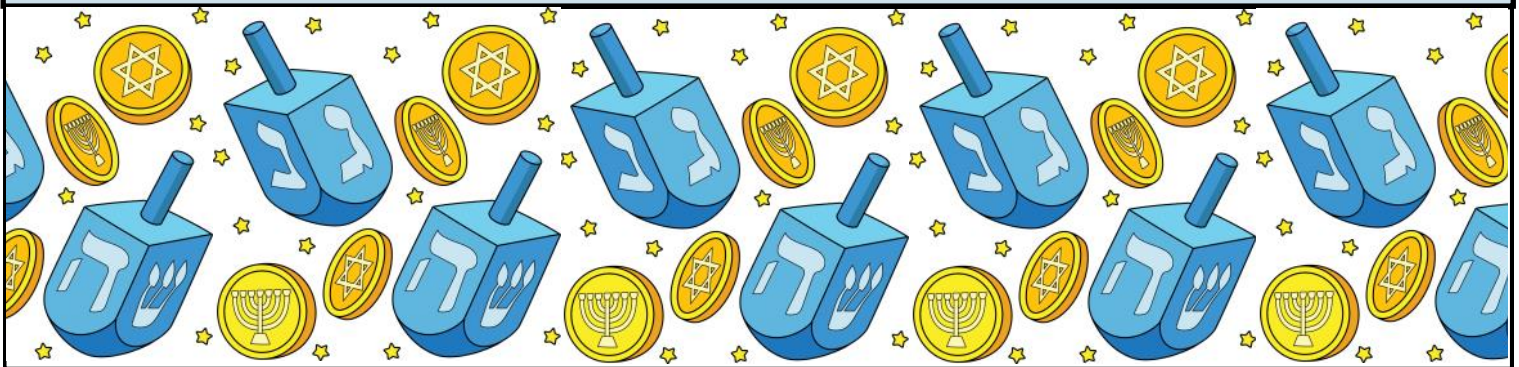
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All at reasonable prices.



Zoom Information for Shabbat Services

Join Zoom Meeting

<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)

