

January 2026



# Chai Times

## Temple Beth Emet of Burbank

*"The Temple With A Heart"*

600 N. Buena Vista St. Burbank, CA 91505  
(818) 843-4787 Fax (818) 557-7240

www.TempleBethEmet.com Office@TempleBethEmet.com

On December 14, 2025, an ISIS inspired terrorist attack occurred at Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia, during a celebration of the Jewish first night of Hanukkah attended by around 1,000 people. 15 people were killed, including a ten-year-old child.

Local synagogues, including Temple Beth Emet, were contacted by the *Burbank Leader* for comment. Rabbi Bieber provided the follow statement, which appeared in part in the *Leader* article:

It is a tragedy that we Jews have been the target of hatred and vitriol for more than two thousand years. In our time today and in our very own country, "leaders," of many strips and backgrounds have decided to blame Jews in general for things they are upset about. Some people don't mind even making up lies out of whole cloth and spreading that garbage, why? Does it give them the illusion of power?

Then we have those like the father and son duo who take it upon themselves to murder innocents on Bondi Beach, Australia, who are only out for a day of fun and celebration. It is a gathering of Jews, people that these two and many more have deemed less than human and fodder for their anger dump. Imagine being so deluded that you can look at people through your gun sight and end their life as if you are in a video game and all you are shooting are targets and nothing more.

Maybe the killers never got the care they deserved as children and or immigrants. They probably bypassed the hard work of the struggle of living a meaningful life. Perhaps they didn't wrestle with issues and problems to find solutions. They only found a shortcut through vitriolic anger that turns into murder of grand mothers, children, pregnant women and men who wanted to make a connection with community and nature on a beautiful day at the beach.

How can we spread the idea of the sacredness of human life to those who lack that awareness? Why does it seem like something good to people who want to impose their feelings of hurt and violence on others? Why don't these individuals have the awareness that they will never get over or past what they have wrought on humanity with these indiscriminate acts of hatred. They have brought the most severe of curses and the blackest of stains upon their souls.

-- Rabbi Janet Bieber

### SHABBAT SERVICES

FRIDAYS AT 7:00 PM *EXCEPT LAST WEEKEND OF THE MONTH, THEN SATURDAY AT 10:30 AM*

On Zoom and streaming on YouTube.

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

Zoom Meeting ID 954 3781 4440

Password: 773288

### TEMPLE BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 6, 2026 - 7:00 PM

### SATURDAY SHABBAT SERVICE

JANUARY 31, 2026 - 10:30 AM

(NO SERVICES FRIDAY, JANUARY 30)

### BAGEL BRUNCH TO FOLLOW!

### ADULT BAR AND BAT MITZVAH CLASS FORMING!

*Everyone welcome, no matter what  
your level of experience.*

*If you would like to be a part of this cohort,  
please contact the office.*

### USE VENMO AND PAYPAL

FOR DUES, TUITION,  
AND DONATIONS

@tbeurbank

or use the QR code!

Pay with credit cards  
on PayPal, No PayPal  
Account needed!





# TEMPLE BETH EMET (HOUSE OF TRUTH) ORGANIZATION

## Religious Leadership

Rabbi Janet Bieber  
Music and Choir Director,  
Robyn Kreisberg

Rabbi Emeritus William M. Kramer Z"L\*  
\*His memory will always be a blessing to us.

## 2025/26 Officers and Directors

### Officers

Ira L. Goldstein, *President*  
Ken Watnick, *Vice President*  
Eileen Martin, *Treasurer*  
Diane Lewis-Goldstein, *Secretary*

### Directors

Donna Diamond  
Jen Levine  
Tracy Martin  
Theida Salazar  
Joanne Serrin

### Siisterhood President

Marlene Dreyfuss

## Office Staff

Administrative Assistant,  
Ralph Garland

## Committee Chairs

### Membership

Eileen Martin

### Ritual

Ira L. Goldstein

### Social Action

Diane Lewis-Goldstein

### Ways and Means

Felicia Van Dyk

## Coordinators and Volunteers

### Chai Times Editor

Ira L. Goldstein

### Home Again LA

Diane Lewis-Goldstein

### Marquee

Ira Goldstein/Diane Lewis-Goldstein

### One Call

Diane Lewis-Goldstein

## 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](http://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:**

**[office@TempleBethEmet.com](mailto:office@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](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](mailto:office@Templebethemet.com)



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - January 2026

Every December, one of my gifts to Diane is a calendar depicting the works of Louis Comfort Tiffany's studio. Sometimes the calendars are limited to the famous lampshades, sometimes the gorgeous windows, sometimes a mix of works. Over the years some companies have stopped producing Tiffany calendars, which is distressing after relying on a certain publisher, but there is usually an acceptable substitute from another publisher. For many years we've favored the calendars of a company called Pomegranate, which featured items in the collection of The New York Historical, (formerly the New York Historical Society) which is New York's first museum, having been founded in 1804. We once visited the museum while in the city, and not only is its holdings impressive, but so is its building on Central Park East, where it has been since 1908. Alas, Pomegranate did not issue a Tiffany calendar for 2026, so we went with the calendar from Flame Tree Studio, which is still beautiful, but we liked Pomegranate better.



An art calendar is a wonderful thing. Every month is a new gift of loveliness, a new inspiration. Every month is something to look forward to, but at the end of the month you have to move on to the next discovery. You don't really leave it behind, though. You can look back at each month's page and perhaps find some detail in the illustration you hadn't appreciated before.

So it is with every month of every new year. Each month brings new experiences and opportunities, many of which are unique to the month or season. Along the way, we look back over the past, hopefully gaining insight from our experiences, but always having to move forward to the next month, the next stage, the next new adventure.

Right now 2026 is new, with 12 months of life to travel through. But as past years have taught us, all too soon it will be December again and we will be wondering where the year went (and ordering a new calendar!) And as past years have also taught us, there are going to be challenges and sadness mixed in with joys and successes. May the latter sustain us through the former, and may we have good company along the way so as to share the good times, and to support each other during the inevitable difficulties.

I hope that as we travel through the next 12 months we will all take the time along the way to find the beauty, much like what is contained on those pages in the art calendar. May we take inspiration and encouragement as well. From time to time we should stop and reflect on what has come before, and anticipate what lies ahead.

I'm wishing all of us a happy, healthy, successful 2026. May the journey be pleasant, enriching, and enlightening. May we travel together and continue to enjoy each other's company. May we continue to grow and build our Temple family and celebrate our holy days and festivals, and our *simchas* together.

And at the end of 2026, may we find the perfect art wall calendar for 2027!

-- IRA L. GOLDSTEIN, President



Our choir leads us in Hanukkah songs at Shabbat services



Rabbi teaches, Robyn plays, everyone sings - Hanukkah at Burbank Town Center



Mark has rythem at the mall!



Photograph by Joel Lava



Marley reading Torah



Marley's Bat Mitzvah was absolutely wonderful!



Rabbi Janet and Bunni at Hanukkah in the Foothills



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.



**BROWSE OUR  
TEMPLE BETH EMET  
GIFT SHOP**

**TOP QUALITY TALLITS FOR  
MEN, WOMEN,  
BAR & BAT MITZVAH**

**All with matching bag and kippot.  
All at reasonable prices.**



**MEMBER CHAI LIGHTS**

*January Birthdays*

*Rabbi Janet Bieber*

*January 1*

*Frank Watnick*

*January 3*

*Elyse Sokol*

*January 22*

*Vicki Margolin*

*January 24*

*Rebecca Tanner*

*January 24*

*Jen Levine*

*January 27*



## JANUARY YAHREZITS

NAME:	REMEMBERED BY:	DATE:	NAME:	REMEMBERED BY:	DATE:
<b>At Temple January 2, 2026</b>			<b>At Temple January 16, 2026 (Continued)</b>		
William Naythons	David Naythons	January 1	Rosalind Avrashow	Eileen Martin	January 13
Joan Kramer	Congregation	January 3	Toni Mattis	Congregation	January 14
			Naoma Goodman	Congregation	January 15
			Michael Liebgot	Howard Liebgot	January 16
<b>At Temple January 10, 2025</b>					
Joan Kramer	Congregation	January 3			
Orven Schanzer	Lisa Gilman-Schanzer	January 5			
George Davis	Congregation	January 5	<b>At Temple January 23, 2026</b>		
Sylvia Becker	Gerald Becker	January 9	Bernice Wexler Hirsch	Joanne Serin	January 18
Mayer Nudell	Congregation	January 9	Carmel Feinsilber	Barri Bucknam	January 20
			Susan Werner	Dan & Flora Mendoza-Werner	January 20
			Miriam Everakes	Jerry Everakes	January 21
<b>At Temple January 16, 2026</b>					
Edward Zimmer	Congregation	January 13			
Rosalind Avrashow	Marlene Dreyfuss	January 13	<b>At Temple January 31, 2026 (Saturday Service)</b>		
			Herman Sandelman	Barri Bucknam	January 26



## DONATIONS

### YAHREZEIT DONATIONS

*Joanne Serin in memory of Bernice Hirsch*

*Jodessa Bayer in memory of Bruce Bayer and Elenore Sobel*

*Flora & Dan Werner in memory of Susan Werner*

*Jerry Everakes in memory of Miriam Everakes*

*G&E Becker in memory of Edith Russell*

### 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 2026****TEVET/ 5786**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 	2	3 10:30 AM Shabbat Services
4	5	6 7:00 PM Board Meeting	7	8	9 7:00 PM Shabbat Services	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 7:00 PM Shabbat Services	17
18	19  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	20	21	22	23 7:00 PM Shabbat Services	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 10:30 AM Shabbat Services

Coming in February Shabbat Services - Friday at 7:00 PM, - Tuesday, February 3 - 7:00 PM - Temple Board Meeting  
Saturday, February 28 - 10:30 AM - Shabbat Service (No Friday Night Service February 27)



## **EDEN MEMORIAL PARK - BEST SITES**

### **MOUNT OF OLIVES**

(Sold Out Section)

Lot 1625 Spaces C and D

Lot 1725 Space H

**Contact Lois Brenner**

[l.j.brenner13@gmail.com](mailto:l.j.brenner13@gmail.com)

310-993-4755



## **RALPHS COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM**

**WE GET A DONATION WHEN YOU SHOP!**

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO LINK YOUR  
RALPH'S REWARDS CARD TO TBE!**

## **SPECIAL OCCASION?**

*HOST AND ONEG SHABBAT FRIDAY NIGHT  
OR*

*BAGEL BRUNCH AFTER SATURDAY SHABBAT  
SERVICES!*

*Contact the office.*

*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.**