



A Monthly Publication for Temple Beth-El,
Las Cruces, New Mexico

FEBRUARY 2015 (SHEVAT-ADAR 5775)



**Shabbat Services in February
(Full Schedule on Page 2)**

Friday, February 6

**Family Shabbat Service at 6:00 pm;
Dairy/vegetarian potluck dinner at 6:40 pm;
Regular Service at 7:30 pm**

Friday, February 13

Shabbat Service at 7:30 pm

Friday, February 20

Lay-led Shabbat Service at 7:30 pm

Friday, February 27

**Shabbat Service for Renewal of Spirit
at 7:30 pm**

Saturdays

**Talmud Study at 9:00 am; Shabbat Service at
10:15 am, followed by a potluck Kiddush**

**Saturday,
February 7, 2015
at 7:00 pm**

**CD Release Havdalah,
Concert/Learning Experience**

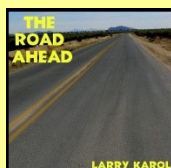
**and Dessert for Rabbi Karol's
New Album, "The Road Ahead"
The Temple choir and other guests
will join in the program.**

**Sponsored by the Religious Practices
and Adult Education Committees.**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

**A portion of any CD sales at
the February 7 event will benefit Temple,
the Sisterhood Judaica Shop,
and the Las Cruces community.**

**A portion of the ongoing sales of the album
from the Judaica shop benefit the congregation.**



Tu Bish'vat Seder on

Wednesday, February 4 at 5:30 pm

**All are welcome—please respond to
rabbi@tbelc.org or 524-3380.**

**"The Hidden Jews
of New Mexico"**



**An Evolving Legacy of
Drama and Discovery**

**Sunday, February 15, at 2:00 P.M.
at Temple Beth-El**

The Adult Education Committee invites you to join them for the second multimedia presentation by Nan Rubin in which she provides **additional information** related to the Crypto-Jews of New Mexico.

Many of the earliest settlers of New Mexico were really Jewish exiles forced to become Catholics by the Spanish Inquisition but who still practiced Jewish rituals in secret. Their riveting story was revealed in the memorable radio series "*Search for the Buried Past – The Hidden Jews of New Mexico*" first heard on NPR in 1986.

Back by popular demand, series Producer Nan Rubin will speak about the local history of the Hidden Jews, the broadcasts and their long-term impact on current-day descendants who are now central to a thriving community of others like themselves scattered around the globe, researching their roots and reclaiming their identities.

Free and Open to the Public. Refreshments will be served. Donations welcome.

The Israel Committee of Temple Beth-El
announces

The Third Israel Roundtable

Topic:

**"HOW DO RECENT WORLD EVENTS
IMPACT ISRAEL?"**

Time and Date: 2:00 – 4:00 PM,
Sunday, February 8, 2015

Location: Social Hall, Temple Beth-El,
3980 Sonoma Springs Avenue, Las Cruces

Format: Mediated Public Discussion

Moderator: Judith Sherman Russell

***We invite the entire Las Cruces Community
to this event***

Light refreshments will be served

Worship Schedule



Wednesday, February 4

5:30 pm TU BISH'VAT SEDER: Join us as we celebrate the New Year of Trees with a modern adaptation of this ritual that celebrates our ties to nature and to the land of Israel. Open to all congregants.

Friday, February 6

FAMILY SHABBAT

6:00 pm FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICE FOR ALL AGES

6:40 pm Potluck Dinner—please bring a dairy/vegetarian dish to share.

7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service—Rabbi Karol will lead a Torah discussion: “Beyond Ten Commandments.” *Oneg Shabbat sponsored by Dee Cook and Ann Berkson. Susan Michelson will represent the Board of Trustees.*

Saturday, February 7

9:00 am Talmud Study

10:15 am Service and Potluck Kiddush

Parashat Yitro Exodus 18:1-20:23

Haftarah Isaiah 6:1 - 7:6; 9:5 - 9:6

Friday, February 13

7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service; Rabbi Karol will speak on “Seeking Justice and Fairness.” *Oneg Shabbat sponsored by Sally Alkon and Pearie Bruder. Monika Kimball will represent the Board of Trustees.*

Saturday, February 14

9:00 am Talmud Study

10:15 am Service and Potluck Kiddush

Parashat Mishpatim Exodus 21:1-24:18 (Shabbat Shekalim)

Special Haftarah Ezekiel 3:17-21

Friday, February 20

7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service led by Erich Zameret. *Oneg Shabbat sponsored by Sue and Norm Mazer, Marieka Brown and Sue Brown. Arthur Berkson will represent the Board of Trustees.*

Saturday, February 21

9:00 am Talmud Study

10:15 am Service led by Leora Zeitlin and Stuart Kelter, followed by a Potluck Kiddush

Parashat Terumah Exodus 25:1-27:19

Haftarah Rosh Chodesh Isaiah 66:1-24

Friday, February 27

7:30 pm Shabbat Service for Renewal of Spirit led by Rabbi Karol, featuring special music and prayers for healing along with our Shabbat liturgy. *Oneg Shabbat sponsored by Julie Seton and Susan Michelson. Jason Rosenberg will represent the Board of Trustees.*

Saturday, February 28

9:00 am Talmud Study

10:15 am Service and Potluck Kiddush

Parashat Tetzaveh Exodus 27:20-30:10 (Shabbat Zachor)

Haftarah Ezekiel 43:10-27

Wednesday, March 4

PURIM CELEBRATION—5:00 pm—Join us for a Pizza Dinner and Purim Carnival followed by Purim songs and, at 6:30 pm, our annual Purimshpiel!

Friday, March 6

FAMILY SHABBAT

6:00 pm FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICE FOR ALL AGES

6:40 pm Potluck Dinner—please bring a dairy/vegetarian dish to share.

7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service—Rabbi Karol will lead a Torah discussion: “God’s ‘hands’ and Our hands.” *Oneg Shabbat sponsored by Susi Kolikant and Ellen Torres.*

Saturday, March 7

9:00 am Talmud Study

10:15 am Service and Potluck Kiddush

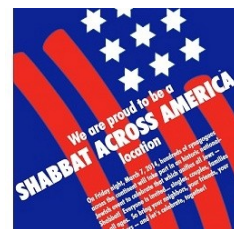
Parashat Ki Tissa Exodus 30:11-34:35

Haftarah I Kings 18:1-39

Friday, March 13—SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA

6:15 pm Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck Dinner

7:30 pm We will join with congregations around the country in hosting members of the greater Jewish community and congregants in celebrating Shabbat. This Learners’ Service for all ages will take us through the Shabbat evening prayers with added insights and inspiration.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2014-2015

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RABBIS

Rabbi Lawrence P. Karol

Rabbi Gerald M. Kane, Rabbi Emeritus

TEMPLE BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Temple Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, February 26 at 7:00 pm.



Message from Rabbi Karol
Praying with our feet - Thoughts on the
Martin Luther King, Jr. March in Las
Cruces, NM on January 18, 2015

On April 7, 1968, when I was 13 1/2 years old, I stood with my parents and brother at the memorial service in Kansas City for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. My rabbi, William B. Silverman, spoke. Many members of my congregation and people from throughout the community filled the plaza by Liberty Memorial (created to remember soldiers who died in World War I). That memory has led me to a constant desire to be a part of some commemoration of the need to realize Dr. King's dream. His dream was challenging and inclusive, one that called for us to adopt "a new heart and a new spirit" that would lead us to freedom, justice and equality, one that would leave behind vestiges of past hatred and prejudice.

It hasn't exactly worked out that way. Making Dr. King's dream real takes action and presence. I was fortunate to take part in the "Whose Dream Is It?" commemorations of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday in Topeka, Kansas from 1994-2006. I joined the Dover Area Religious Leaders Association in Dover, NH for 5 years at their annual commemoration, and I also participated in events at the University of New Hampshire at around the same time. In Las Cruces, NM, the local NAACP chapter plans a march on Sunday afternoon of the weekend, and sponsors a breakfast on the morning of the birthday observance. These events are staples on my annual calendar.

This year was just a little different. Yes, as the rabbi, I get called upon each year to offer a spontaneous prayer.

Yes, I was present with members of my congregation and groups in which I am active as a leader. It was heartening to see members of the Las Cruces Muslim community present at the march this year, some of whom I have met at previous local gatherings. That was appropriately reminiscent of some of my past involvements in interfaith work, and it was inspiring to see how diverse this group of marchers had become.

I was given the microphone to conclude the event with a prayerful reflection. I can't reproduce exactly what I said, but the essence of the thoughts I shared began with



my sermon on the Torah reading for this past week from Exodus Chapter 6, in which God told Moses to communicate five promises to the people, declarations that they couldn't hear because they were broken of spirit (or their spirits were "short"). Perhaps the people were simply exhausted from their harsh labor, but it was also that they couldn't see any possibility for change. They had no hope.

What I told the group is that we should have hope, but that we may feel broken because, in many ways, we have fallen so short of making Dr. King's dreams real. Yet, we shouldn't allow ourselves to feel so broken that we give up. We have to keep working towards freedom. The last two promises to Moses can guide us. One was, "I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God." I told those assembled that we should see each other as one people, linked together to realize Dr. King's dream of justice, freedom and equality. The last promise was that God would bring the people into the land sworn to their ancestors. As we marched, we sang traditional American songs that spoke of that freedom and equality that, hopefully, remains a goal for most (if not all) Americans. I declared that we are in a land that could be a place of liberty and justice for all. We aren't there yet, but we can't be broken, we can't give up. We have to keep on marching to that goal.

This is a message in which I truly believe. Too many people allow their narrow ideologies to stand in the way of working with people of different faiths and backgrounds with whom they may disagree on some issues, but with whom they would find welcome and energetic partners for alleviating poverty and eliminating hatred and prejudice from our society. We need to focus on making our lives better, together.

One of the classic folk/spiritual songs I have learned in my community work over the last year, "Come and go to that land," sees a land of peace and justice and freedom, a place where there is no more sorrow. We have to get there, and we will only get there marching side by side, looking a lot like we did at our January 18 march in Las Cruces, with a group of people with differing backgrounds united in one common purpose.

Psalms 133 declares, "How good and how pleasant it is when people dwell together." May we believe in that vision and live it every day. If we do, we will truly honor Dr. King's legacy.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Larry K.

See Rabbi Karol's blog at rabbilarrykarol.blogspot.com.

Revisit the flavors of our pastrami and hot dogs from last year's fundraiser and/or the Renaissance Faire!



JEWISH FOOD FOLK *festival*

Temple Beth-El
Las Cruces, NM

BACK BY
POPULAR
DEMAND!

3980 Sonoma Springs Ave.

Sunday, April 26, 2015
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Tickets: (575) 524-3380
LCJewishFestival.weebly.com

- Jewish Food
- Folk Dancing
- Kids' Games & Crafts
- Raffle
- Silent Auction
- Music

Admission \$3
Kids under 12 Free
Food sold at event

Pastrami • Knishes • Falafel
Kosher Hot Dogs • Matzo
Ball Chicken Soup • Desserts
Challah & More!

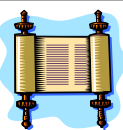


The Temple Beth-El Jewish Food and Folk Festival Needs Your Help!

The next Temple Beth-El Jewish Food and Folk Festival will be held Sunday, April 26, 2015, from 11am-3pm. We need help securing sponsors for the event. Please reach out to businesses that you may frequent and find out if they would like to be a proud sponsor of the JFFF. Businesses can also buy an advertisement in our program book for as low as \$35. A new item in the ad book this year will be one line messages that people can place in our program book for \$18. A donor/ad form with information and a Save the Date Flier that can be displayed where possible will be made available via email. We are also ready to start accepting silent auction items. We will accept artwork, gift certificates, jewelry, pottery, china, or any items that you feel will sell well at the auction. If in doubt, contact Sue Mazer at smazer2@q.com; (925) 922-4481. Volunteer sign-ups are coming soon! If you have questions on JFFF, please contact coordinators Rebecca Berkson and Aggie Saltman at lcjewishfestival@gmail.com.

ADULT EDUCATION

Culture תורה Holidays עברית Customs

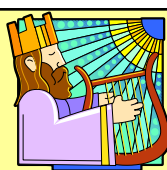


TORAH STUDY (EXODUS):

Led by Rabbi Karol on Wednesdays at
10:15-11:20 am (No session on February 18)

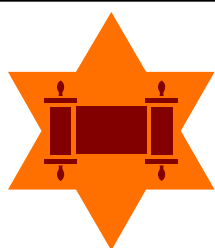
TALMUD STUDY

Talmud study meets every Saturday in the Social Hall at 9:00 am before the Saturday morning service. Prospective students are welcome. Contact Erich Zameret or Tanah Hemingway for more information.



Sweet Songs: A Journey into the Book of Psalms
continuing on selected Mondays
throughout the coming months.
at 7:00 pm

- February 2: Psalm 30—Does God give us strength and healing? If so, how?
- February 9: Psalm 31—What are times in life when we feel confined and isolated? How does faith allow us to emerge from our “confinement” with renewed hope and strength?



Judaism: Roots and Rituals An Introduction to Judaism presented by

Rabbi Larry Karol

A 10-week course on

selected Tuesday nights

at 7:00-8:30 pm—last sessions

on February 3 (History and the Evolution of Jewish thought) and

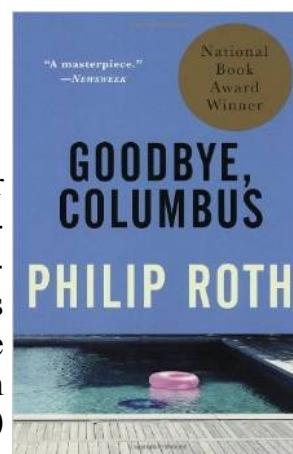
February 10 (Jewish movements and major world Jewish communities)

Text: Essential Judaism, by George Robinson

This course is especially designed for adult learners, seekers and explorers who want to know more about Judaism and Jewish life! (Materials fee for this course is \$54.00). Please let Rabbi Karol know if you plan to attend, by calling Temple Beth-El at 575-524-3380 or by sending an e-mail to Rabbi Karol at rabbi@tbelc.org

Short story group starts on February 9

You are invited to join me for what I know will be a stimulating series of readings and discussions of Philip Roth's “Goodbye, Columbus and Five Short Stories.” We'll begin on **Monday, February 9 at 10 a.m.** and continue for five weeks each Monday at the same time in the temple social hall.



Roth needs no introduction. Whether you have read all, some or none of his fiction, I think you will thoroughly enjoy sharing your insights with fellow temple members about his first and only collection of short stories, as well as the novel “Goodbye Columbus.” The book is widely available in paperback on Amazon and all the usual places.

Anyone can join us at any time. Please email me at jar529@gmail.com or call me at 522-6478 to let me know if you want to participate or have questions and I'll put you on the group mailing list which I use for story assignments, comments, cancellations and updates.

As always, the short story group is sponsored by the Temple Beth-El Adult Education Committee. An \$18 fee that helps fund adult education programs should be sent or delivered to the temple office and clearly indicate that it is for “Adult Education.”

I will email participants soon about our first story. As always, I will make the coffee!

Jim Rosenthal

Temple Beth-El
Sisterhood's
Jewish Women's
Spirituality group,
led by Susan Lapid,
is still meeting
periodically.



For more information,
contact Susan Lapid 496-5758, sblapid@gmail.com or
Leora Zeitlin 639-4475, lzeitlin@cs.nmsu.edu.
There will be a meeting on Sunday, February 1 at 4:00 pm.

Jewish Federation of New Mexico announces the Results of its First-Ever New Mexico Jewish Population Survey

New Mexico's Jewish population is growing, more mature, highly educated, and involved in the community

Albuquerque, N.M. – January 15, 2015 – The Jewish Federation of New Mexico, an Albuquerque-based, multi-faceted social service organization that serves the needs of New Mexico's Jewish community through leadership, philanthropy, education and social action, announces today the preliminary results of its first-ever statewide demographic survey of New Mexico's Jewish population. Conducted between September 2 and November 3, 2014, the survey received nearly 1,700 respondents and is the first part of a two-step research project to better understand the composition and needs of the state's Jewish community.

In conjunction with the work of the Steinhardt Social Research Institute at Brandeis University, the preliminary results of the survey revealed **that New Mexico has a growing Jewish population with approximately 24,000 residents, double the amount the Jewish Federation of New Mexico previously estimated.** According to the survey results, Jews reside throughout New Mexico, though most live in the Albuquerque and Santa Fe metropolitan areas. The survey revealed nearly 60 percent of Jews in New Mexico have a graduate or professional degree, and most are older than 45 years old. The survey results show that 87 percent of the Jewish population in the state moved to New Mexico from a different location, and 70 percent of the people surveyed plan to remain in the state for the foreseeable future. Also, 48 percent surveyed identified as Reform Jews compared to the national average of 35 percent. According to the survey results: The Jewish population in New Mexico is an aging community with 71% older than age 45, (compared with 56% of all New Mexicans). According to the survey:

- 34% are over 65 years old
- 21% are between the ages of 45 and 54
- 16% are between the ages of 55 and 64
- 29% are 44 years old or younger

The community is well-educated:

- 58% of New Mexico Jews have a graduate or professional degree
- 28% received a four-year university degree
- 6% possess a two-year associate's degree
- 7% graduated from high school

Eighty-seven percent of New Mexico's Jewish population have moved from elsewhere, while 12 percent were born in the state. Most are long-term residents. Forty percent have lived here for more than 20 years and 23 percent have lived in New Mexico between 11 years and 20 years. The majority moved to New Mexico from either coast. According to the survey:

- 19% moved from New York
- 14% moved from California
- 6% moved from Texas

Nearly 1,700 members of the New Mexico Jewish population were surveyed, or approximately 7% of the state's population, providing a robust portrait of the community. Of this group:

- 48% said they are Reform
- 18% are Conservative
- 5% Renewal
- 3% said they were Reconstructionist
- 2% are Orthodox
- 2% Chabad

Seventy-eight percent feel it is important to be involved in the Jewish community where they live and 56 percent are currently a members of a synagogue. Based on membership of those surveyed, the top five Jewish community organizations include:

- Anti-Defamation League (35%)
- Hadassah (33%)
- Jewish Community Center (31%)
- Jewish National Fund (28%)
- Jewish Federation of New Mexico (24%)

Of those surveyed, it was also revealed:

- 78% said they are emotionally attached to Israel.
- 84% were raised Jewish. Of the 16% that were not, 65% formally converted to Judaism.
- More than 70% plan to remain in New Mexico for the foreseeable future, and less than 20% are considering moving in the next few years.
- 89% of the New Mexico Jewish population consider themselves white and 5% said they herald from Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origins.

Music in Worship Today

By: Merri Lovinger Arian

We are living in a time of transition—a time of a renewed burst of creative energy around Jewish music. People finally "get" the importance of music in worship. They may not agree as to how that music should sound or how that music should be "performed," but most people agree that music is crucial to the prayer life of a congregation.



There was a time when people yearned to be spoken to and sung to. People who lived in New York flocked to Carnegie Hall to hear great orators like Rabbi Stephen Wise and great cantors like David Koussevitsky. They were uplifted and inspired by these experiences, which allowed them to transcend their mundane, day-to-day existence.

Times are different now. Today people want to be involved in a very different way. They quite literally want a voice in prayer. They want to be able to sing the sacred texts. As my friend and colleague Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller states, "Singing gives them the sacred key that allows their access to Jewish sacred tradition." (Benjie Ellen Schiller, *"The Many Faces of Jewish Sacred Music"* quoted in *Synagogue 2000 Itinerary for Change: Prayer*, Los Angeles, CA 2002, page 6-18.)

Rabbis and cantors alike are responding to this hunger for empowerment by offering their laity opportunities to study Hebrew, lead *t'filah* (worship), chant from the Torah and sing along in prayer. Cantors are needing to think about the keys that they are singing in and the accessibility of the melodies they select. Our seminaries are thinking about the training that our rabbinic and cantorial students are receiving to help them prepare for this new breed of congregant. In the School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College, guitar is now required for all cantorial students. Another required course has been added to the cantors' curriculum entitled "Understanding and Empowering the Congregational Voice."

How better to encourage congregational participation than through the music? We see the creation of special worship service models where congregational singing is the norm. Some congregations learn to expect this particular type of service as the first Shabbat of every month. Others exist weekly as an alternative minyan. Some are created with very little spoken text—one melody is followed by another, sometimes woven together by a story offered by the rabbi. People are empowered, involved and engaged. Many speak of these Shabbat experiences as the highlight of their week.

Of course, not everyone wants to participate in this way. Some, in fact, find this kind of worship to be somewhat imposing and would far prefer to listen. Some are uncomfortable with the expectation of participation. They miss the more traditional melodies usually sung solo by the cantor. This presents a challenge for the clergy and lay leadership. How do we respect the needs of all of our congregants? How do we create an inclusive community, where everyone's prayer needs can be honored? It is not so easy to accomplish. Some congregations feel that by offering a monthly menu of services that include a different style each week, all congregational needs will be met. Others feel that they need to offer multiple minyanim that meet simultaneously every week to address all needs on every Shabbat. Needless to say, the staffing requirements for this kind of worship can be quite labor intensive, and for many congregations simply prohibitive.

Where Are We Headed?

We are living during a wonderfully opportune time. People finally understand the important role that music plays in our Jewish lives. We must listen, we must respond, we must educate and we must lead. The purpose of music in prayer is to deepen the prayer experience. We must take the emphasis off the particular music that is being sung and shift the focus to how well it serves each prayer experience. In order to meet the diverse needs of our communities, we must find an artful synthesis of the many Jewish musical styles available to us. We need to move prayerfully from *nusach* (wordless liturgical melodies) to folk music to *chazzanut*, from participatory moments to listening moments, from the majestic sounds of the choir to the communal voice of the congregation. For in this combination of musical styles we will find a way to speak to everyone. The answer need not lie in everyone's being able to sing everything, but rather in everyone's being engaged and honored in the prayer experience.

Our Jewish musical heritage is rich. In order to keep it alive we need to partner this genre of music with more easily accessible folk melodies, allowing our congregants opportunities for engagement through both listening and singing along. We need to recognize that each person relates to prayer differently, and different melodies will serve people in different ways. As long as we know that the intention of each piece of music is about heightening prayer, we can learn to appreciate different styles, and we can weave an even richer tapestry of Jewish worship music.

Merri Lovinger Arian teaches at the HUC-JIR Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music in New York.

Watching “Night Will Fall” -Rabbi Larry Karol

On Monday, January 26, on the eve of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, I returned home from leading the Psalms study group at Temple to watch the new film directed by Andre Singer, “Night Will Fall,” on HBO. My initial response to the film came out something like this: “Watching the HBO Documentary “Night Will Fall” on the making of the film about the liberation of Concentration Camps first directed by Alfred Hitchcock - very chilling....very sad.....and giving me a sense of determination to keep the Judaism in which I believe alive through thought, study, song and action.”



I spoke briefly about the Torah reading “Bo” on Friday, January 23 and we discussed the portion in more detail on Saturday, January 24. That passage in Exodus Chapter 12 outlined the first celebration of Passover and detailed the rituals that would enable the Israelites to escape the consequences of the last plague, the death of the first-born male children. It noted that God would not send the “Destroyer” to take the lives of the Israelite first-born because of their faith in God. The rabbis explained that the word “Destroyer” referred either to an “Angel of Death” or to the tenth plague. Either way, the Israelites were only able to escape slavery and oppression through a show of divine power against the supposed might of Pharaoh.

I am left wondering why it is that, sometimes, only a show of force or outrage can end oppression. We know this from more recent examples in human history. The Civil War ended slavery at the cost of many lives. The recent film “Selma” chronicled how demonstrations led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights activists, as well as tacit (and, later, open) support from government officials, led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. The march portrayed in the movie brought together many people from that locale and from throughout the country to fight for rights via peaceful means, and what they were attempting to do was to destroy hatred and heal a society. That work still continues today.

“Night Will Fall” tells the “backstory” about why it took so long for footage shot during the liberation of Bergen-Belsen, as well as Dachau and Auschwitz, in 1945 to see the light of day. Sidney Bernstein of the British government’s Ministry of Information and his team, including supervising director Alfred Hitchcock, drew on this footage, taken, at Bergen-Belsen, Dachau and Auschwitz, to create a harrowing film entitled “German Concentration Camps Factual Survey.” That film was never seen to its full completion due to the politics of post-World War

II Europe. Some film excerpts were used to strengthen the case against Nazi war criminals at Nuremberg. However, it wasn’t until 2010 that staff at the archives of the Imperial War Museums (IWM) in London revisited the archived film. Some of the footage had been included in a 1980s film, “Remembering the Camps,” narrated by Trevor Howard. Last year, the IWM released the finished product of the “German Concentration Camps Factual Survey” as it had been intended to be seen. That film can be viewed on the internet (do a search on You Tube). “Night Will Fall” traces how the “Factual Survey” was finally brought together, including interviews with survivors, soldiers, and members of the camera crews who captured images that, they firmly believed, would be beyond dispute in the future.

This film shows how it took the combined forces of the Allies to end the oppression and murder of the Shoah and to create a record of the horrors from which future generations could, hopefully, learn important lessons. The images are disturbingly graphic, but I believe it is worth seeing every frame of this documentary. Perhaps ending oppression and hatred can come about through cooperation and healing, rather than by force, at some point in the human history that lies before us. We can only hope for that possibility.

And we should remember, as well, that many of our daily concerns and conflicts, when considered beside the footage in this film, should all melt away. We need to be here for each other, finding the good in one another, and, as the rabbis noted, giving each other the benefit of the doubt when we stumble in our attempts to maintain positive fellowship and productive partnerships in all of our relationships. This film has much to teach us in a world that still knows too much hatred. May we work with others around us with faith and commitment to be sure that night will not fall again.



Rabbi Karol shows TBE Religious School students the “Song at the Sea” in Exodus Chapter 15 during Religious School on January 25.

ISRAEL AT 67 by Phil Alkon

Your Israel Committee is sponsoring an upcoming Israel Roundtable that addresses the question: "How do Recent World Events Impact Israel?" It deals with the complex and current issues of the day. But given that Israel's 67th birthday is fast approaching (April 23rd, 4th of Iyyar 5775), here I wish to consider the phenomenon of modern Israel in a broader perspective.

As a starter, let's admit that much of Jewish history is surprising and paradoxical. So much so that historians from Arnold Toynbee to present day experts have real problems interpreting the survival and development of a unique fragment of mankind according to conventional historical reasoning. Exceptions to the rules ("outliers") render rational predictions unreliable and understandably make scientists and scholars uneasy.

One obvious departure from expectations is the fact that a modern Israel exists at all. That a small, widely dispersed people, following 2,000+ years of exile, managed to gather itself and reestablish a nation in a small parcel of land that God deeded to them some four millennia ago is truly incredible. Certainly no historian, sociologist or rational scholar of any day would or did predict it. Even more astounding is the fact that this tiny minority of stiff-necked people retained its identity and its commitment to a covenant with an essentially indefinable Creator and lawgiver despite all that mankind could do to shake their beliefs. We're talking Biblical phenomena that even Cecil B. DeMille would have trouble depicting, let alone explaining.

In a more recent historical vein, it is hard to rationally accept that the vision of a Jewish nation was largely recreated by a tattered fragment of humanity undergoing convulsive challenges in their adopted homelands. They included non-observant idealists and combative Zionists from pogrom-ridden Eastern Europe, broken Holocaust survivors, faithful Jews expelled from the Moslem Middle East and, eventually, Jewish (and even non-Jewish) emigrants from throughout the world. This mixed array of humanity managed to create a vibrant multi-ethnic nation in a largely unproductive landscape and in the face of unrelenting hostility of local Arabs and surrounding Arab nations. That Israel has managed to survive at all in the face of seemingly overwhelming military, economic, political and religious enmity would seem worthy of a new chapter in any updated version of the Torah.

To top this off, Israel has emerged as the only democratic and advanced nation in the Middle East. It has restored Hebrew as a living language - a great unifier of Israeli society - together with its compulsory military service. It has founded a first-rate universal educational system, has developed world-class capabilities in agriculture, social services, biomedicine, and scientific and technological fields. It has developed an enormous hi-tech entrepreneurship capacity, while fostering a dynamic cultural and intellectual environment.

A unique facet of this incredible enterprise is the nature of Israeli identity itself. At one level, Israel embodies two seemingly contradictory features of Jewish identity. One is Isaiah's "light unto the nations" vision that exemplifies the Jewish ethical and moral mission to mankind. The second, a "Holocaust

vision," derived from centuries of Jewish oppression and dehumanization, embodies a profound reluctance to place their fate in the hands of others. This soul-bending dilemma could easily escape a visitor's notice given the vibrancy, color and intensity of life in Israel. Israel's greatest achievement is not in survival alone, but in creating a civil and free society in what some have called the most complex and diverse community on earth.

This raises two other facets of modern Israel that are conveniently lost in contemporary discussion. First, Israel is a human, not robotic, enterprise, and Israelis are capable of the flaws and shortcomings that characterize the human condition. How could we have created the Torah otherwise? Secondly, at a relatively modest 67 years of age, Israel is very much a work in progress. This holds true for all great societal endeavors, including the United States, but is especially pronounced in the hostile, turbulent and increasingly dysfunctional neighborhood in which it exists. The Jewish people's profound attachment to this specific little strip of land, and the profound values they have embraced, are enabling it to survive and thrive.

In the face of this miraculous human endeavor, why does Israel face unending enmity in so many circles? The hatred of much of the Arab world has a somewhat rational foundation given the misguided values and mores that characterize Middle East values. Sadly the inability of Israel's neighbors to surmount a hatred gap deprives them of contributions that this little Jewish nation could easily make to their material, societal and political health. The anti-Semitism that increasingly pervades much of the western world also may be considered a restoration of "normal" conditions, now that we are three generations past the Holocaust. For whatever reasons, Jews remain a convenient object of fascination, suspicion and hate; and no nation and people on Earth receives more biased scrutiny and harsh criticism than Israel.

Especially disturbing to me is the growing coolness towards Israel among many Jews, especially here in the U.S. This is not a new phenomenon. Many of my generation recall the opposition to the creation of a Jewish state among Reform communities in the late 1940's. They feared that an untoward spotlight on Jewish issues would disturb their comfortably assimilated lives. The socialist, one-world vision of that day also argued against a separate national Jewish identity, and still does among some today.

I do believe that we will witness a wider contemporary understanding of the challenges facing Israel and appreciation of its unparalleled accomplishments as the extent of Islamic extremism and Middle East dysfunction become ever more evident. To my fellow Jews I suggest: Take a break from the endless barrage of contradictory daily news we are subjected to, and ask yourself a simple question: "What other people on Earth could have fashioned and sustained the miracle that modern Israel exemplifies?"

Rabbi Larry and Rhonda Karol will be away on February 18-23 to attend the wedding of their son, Adam, and his fiancée, Juli Schnur. In case of any urgent concerns, please contact Dee Cook at 521-7319.

Upcoming Sisterhood Council Meetings:

Sisterhood Council meetings will be held on the 2nd THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH at Temple at 6:30 pm. Council meetings are open and anyone is welcome to attend.

**The Israel Committee
of Temple Beth-El
announces**

The Third Israel Roundtable**Topic:**

**“HOW DO RECENT WORLD
EVENTS
IMPACT ISRAEL?”**

Time and Date: 2:00 – 4:00 PM,
Sunday, February 8, 2015

Location: Social Hall, Temple Beth-El,
3980 Sonoma Springs Avenue,
Las Cruces

Format: Mediated Public Discussion

Moderator: Judith Sherman Russell

***We invite the entire Las Cruces
Community to this event
Light refreshments will be served***

Ongoing Events at TBE**WEEKLY TEMPLE BREAKFAST**

Weekly breakfasts and discussions of Jewish and general interest topics are held at the Temple every Wednesday morning. Breakfast begins at 8:45 am, speaker presentations begin at 9:00 am. The cost is \$2.00 weekly or \$6.00 monthly. Please contact Phil Alkon for information. (philipalkon@gmail.com or 575-524-6945)

**MENSCH CLUB**

For information about meetings and events, contact Dave Zeemont at 523-0913 or email at mudjob@earthlink.net.



KNITTING GROUP—A knitting group meets at TBE on Tuesday mornings at 10:15 am. For more information, please contact Deana Kessin at 521-4077 or Kessin@comcast.net

MAH JONG—A Mah Jong group is meeting on Thursdays at 1:00 pm. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Frima Marquez at 522-0470 or panchic@comcast.net.



Representing the NMSU Interfaith Council, Rabbi Larry Karol attended the dedication of the NMSU Spiritual Center on January 16, 2015. The Interfaith Council consulted with the NMSU administration on the nature of this new facility that will be open for a wide range of events for the NMSU community. It will also be open for the Las Cruces community to use for events of a private and public nature. The Las Cruces Sun-News photographer captured Rabbi Larry Karol and Father Jim Lehman (upper left) at a light moment before the ceremony began.

THE CHESED GROUP

Is here for members in need of assistance due to health issues. Please CALL well in advance:

- David Zeemont at 523-0913 if you need transportation to a medical appointment
- Sally Alkon at 524-6945 if you need transportation or someone to shop for food
- TBE office at 524-3380 if you would like a hospital visit from Rabbi Karol
- TBE office at 524-3380 if you do not drive and need a ride to Temple services.

If you are interested in being a coordinator/helper/driver for services or temple events, please call

Dave Zeemont at 523-0913

Ladies Clothing Contributions for La Tienda de Jardin

La Tienda de Jardin, located at 335 La Colonia Ave (at the southwest corner of Alameda and Main St), would greatly appreciate contributions of ladies clothing, jewelry, shoes, handbags and household items. La Tienda does the following very well:

- It supports Jardin de Los Ninos, a local charity that takes care of homeless and near homeless children and families.
- Purchases help mostly working women dress appropriately at a fair price.
- The donations help those who donate keep their closets tidy while doing a good deed.
- Items not sold are given to other charities and nothing goes to a landfill.

If you have not visited us, please do. We are open Monday-Friday, 10am to 5pm and Saturday at 10am to 2pm. If a pick-up would help you make your donation or you need more information, please call Joan Silar at 521-1925.

BETY and BEMY Meetings (High School and Middle School)

**Sunday, February 8
12:00 Noon
Talk on Social Justice**

**Sunday, March 1
12:00 Noon
Final Purim Carnival
Planning and Set-up**

Tzedakah Opportunities at TBE Giving to Casa de Peregrinos & El Caldito

*The food for February or Casa de Peregrinos is
Single-serving fruits and fruit juices*

*Foods for February for El Caldito are
Tuna fish, rice, pasta and peas. (Plastic bags are
needed as well!)*

Casa de Peregrinos provides staple foods to the needy, and El Caldito provides a hot meal 365 days a year to the hungry in our community. Both organizations are part of the Community of Hope located on the same campus at 999 W. Amador. There are common interests and goals and the food received is often shared between the two organizations in order to best utilize both perishable and non-perishable foods. Please bring something for one or both of these organizations. For more information or questions, contact

- Liz Lewis-Olson, Casa de Peregrinos
(elewis4@comcast.net)
- Eve Palanker, El Caldito (palanker1@msn.com)

VISITING CONGREGANTS WHO ARE ILL OR HOME-BOUND

At Temple Beth-El, we depend on you, our members, to inform us if you know of someone who needs a visit, especially if they are in a hospital or a rehabilitation or assisted living facility, and also if they are not able to leave their homes due to health-related issues. In order for us to keep our list of who needs a visit current, we ask you to call or email Rabbi Karol (rabbi@tbelc.org) with the names of congregants who you know would like to be visited. We appreciate your cooperation in this area, so that we can be, as much as possible, a truly caring community.



Temple Beth-El is on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Temple-Beth-El/115816285166004>

If you are on Facebook already, find our page, click "Like" and join us on our new Facebook community!

Donations through January 27, 2014

General Fund

- Helen Gluck, in memory of Morris Gluck
- Ann & Burt Berkson, wishes for good health to Bea Klein & Diane Bass
- Ann & Burt Berkson, in memory of Arthur Stern
- Ann & Burt Berkson, in memory of Mel Taylor
- Chuck Kuznekoff, in memory of Miriam Kuznekoff
- Lynn & Arthur Berkeley, in memory of Lois Bissonette
- Jay Yasgur
- Sen Talley
- Grace Hammesfahr, in honor of Nina & Irv Rothman
- Robert & Carla Libby, in memory of Harris Libby
- Stan Muchnikoff, in memory of Jesse J. Muchnikoff
- Michele & Allen Blum, in memory of Miriam Cutler & Joseph Tashlik
- William L. Stein, in memory of William Stein
- Sue & Norman Mazer, in honor of Bob Kimball's special birthday
- Dee Cook, in honor of Bob Kimball's 70th birthday
- Barbara Mandel, in memory of Leah Williamson
- Anonymous, in honor of Bob and Monika Kimball's 70th birthdays

Community Service Fund

- Marieka Brown & Jeanne Abkes, in memory of Nancy Rees

Frances F. Williams Library Fund

- Lynn & Dave Zeemont, in memory of Charles Kruger
- Betty Arndt and Marty Arndt, in memory of Charles Kruger
- Wayne Kuegel & Kathy Edelman, in memory of Charles Kruger
- Linda Kruger, in gratitude for Rabbi Paul Citrin
- Wendy Cimmet, in memory of Charles Kruger

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

- Lynn Zeemont, in memory of Evelyn Roselinsky
- Irv Ross, in memory of Sam Ross
- Frima, Ramon and Jeff. Marquez, in memory of brothers Alvin & Robert Krasner & Sara Morley
- Ruth Rubin, in memory of Zeena Audrae Geller
- The Fiszbein Family, in memory of Aron Fiszbein & George Gorelick
- Michael & Stacey Hyman, in honor of Aaron Hyman's Bar Mitzvah
- Ellen & Alfred Torres, in memory of Jerome Deutschman
- Ann Gluck-Hansen, in memory of Ruth & Bernard Gluck
- Anita Rosan, in memory of Edward Don Arkin
- Liz Lewis-Olson, in honor of Monika Kimball's birthday

Rabbi Gerald Kane Fund Adult Education Fund

- Shelly & Jerry Silverman, in celebration of Bob Kimball's 70th birthday
- Shelly & Jerry Silverman, a speedy recovery to Rabbi Gerald Kane

Beth El Temple Youth

- Bryan McCuller, in memory of his grandmother, Laura Metzger

TEMPLE FUNDS—From the Treasurer

Donations are gratefully accepted for the following:

Torah Endowment Project—For the purchase of a new Torah. Donations above the cost of the Torah are used to secure the financial future of the Temple.

General Operating Fund—For the day-to-day operation of TBE.

Fund 2004—For upkeep on our new building.

Community Service Fund—For projects that benefit our community and Las Cruces and Southern New Mexico.

Send a Kid to Israel Program (S.K.I.P. Fund)—To send Temple youth to Israel.

Irving Batkin Memorial Scholarship Fund—To provide a Jewish education for our children. Earnings from this fund are used mainly to offset the cost of operating our Religious School.

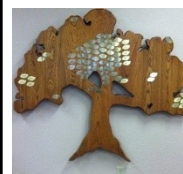
Frances Williams Library Fund—To provide books and infrastructure for the TBE library.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund—Rabbi Karol uses the Discretionary Fund to meet a variety of philanthropic requests as well as to supplement TBE programs.

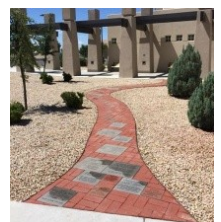
Rabbi Gerald M. Kane Adult Education Fund—Provides funds to help further adult education and cultural programming at TBE.

Beth El Temple Youth Fund—Provides support for Youth activities at TBE.

Periodically the temple may list short-term projects or needs. Contributions that do not specify a project or fund will be added to the General Operating Fund. If you have a question or wish to contribute to a project not listed here, please contact our Temple Beth-El Treasurer, Paul Feil.



Honor the memory of loved ones with a memorial plaque and mark celebrations and milestones (and also



the memory of friends and family)

by adding leaves to our Tree of Life (still \$72 per leaf) and by adding bricks to our Brick Walkway.

FEBRUARY 2015 (SHEVAT-ADAR 5775)**Yahrzeits-February 1 through March 7, 2015****Read on Friday, February 6 and Saturday, February 7**

Clinton Cook*, Husband of Dee Cook
 Lola Davis*
 Jennie Davison*
 Janet Kane, Mother of Rabbi Gerald Kane
 Samuel Klein*, Father of Sonny Klein
 David Kloss*
 Benjamin Lampert*, Father of Gabriel Lampert
 Hesh Langner, Husband of Bernice Langner
 Ethel Paul*
 Harold Rabinovitch, Father of David Rabinovich
 Edward F Resnick*, Brother of Frances Williams
 William Stein, Father of Bill Stein
 Arthur Stern*, Father of Ann Berkson, Grandfather of Arthur Berkson
 Dr. Edward Weiss*, Father of Diane Bass

Read on Friday, February 13 and Saturday, February 14

Marilyn Chaifetz
 Alexander Edwards*, Brother of Peter Edwards
 Wade W Gardner, Father of Brenda Parish
 Irving Glater, Father of Leslie Glater
 Raphael Gordon, Father of David Zeemont
 Hortense Heart, Grandmother of Nancy Bergman
 Charlotte Ray Mann, Mother of Gary Mann
 Samuel Rabkin*
 Christine Radcliff*
 Rose Segreto, Mother of Vera Schwartz
 Milton Zeemont, Stepfather of David Zeemont

Read on Friday, February 20 and Saturday, February 21

Shimson Alkon, Father of Philip Alkon
 Shirley Backman, Mother of Judy Kirschner
 Jeanne Brancato, Partner of Joseph Bell
 Ruth N. Brooks*, Mother of Sharon Dorfman
 Henrietta Bruder*, Cousin of Ron Bruder
 George Cohen*, Father of Susan Brown, Grandfather of Marieka Brown
 Louis Druxman*
 Clifford Evans Sr, Grandfather of Dia Taylor
 Margaret Gantert, Grandmother of Susi Kolikant
 Rita Herman, Mother of Avis Herman Lewis
 Bella Krushen*
 Yetta Resnick*, Mother of Frances Williams
 Charlotte Schwartz*
 Sonia Seigel*
 Dee Seton Barber*, Mother of Julie Seton
 Reba Tapper, Mother of Dan Tapper
 Dolly Zabin, Aunt of Jeff Brown
 Frances (Fran) Zimet, Cousin of Helen Raphael

Read on Friday, February 27 and Saturday, February 28

Joshua Mordechai Batkin, Son of Mike Batkin
 Avraham Ben Isaac Ha Cohen, Father of Tanah Hemingway
 Leonard Edwards*, Father of Peter Edwards
 Patricia Collier Ehlers, Mother of Lisa McCuller
 Alma Ruth Feil, Mother of Paul Feil
 Forrest Gantz, Father of Patricia Selanikio
 Ida Gantz, Mother of Patricia Selanikio
 Beatrice Gibbs, Sister of Ruth Ann Sugarman
 Dori Gorsky*
 Ann Marie Hedgecock*, Granddaughter of Ann Hansen
 Frank Hiber, Father of Mary Fitzgerald
 Carl Isaacson, Father of Louise Baskey
 Ida Katz*
 Frances Klein*, Mother of Sonny Klein
 Itzhak Kolikant, Father of Jacob Kolikant
 Stephanie S Morgan*
 Marco Selanikio, Father of Solomon Selanikio

Read on Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7

Louis Bass*, Father of Harry Bass
 Rachel Fox*
 Jack Lipschutz*, Brother-in-law of Abe Pomerantz
 Bertram Marks, Father of Rhonda Karol
 Isabelle Sazer, Cousin of Tanah Hemingway
 Sheldon Schoenbrun*
 Mieke Skigen*, Mother of Michelle Skigen
 Edith Steinberg, Mother of Evelyn Bruder, Grandmother of Ron Bruder
 Helen Troy, Mother of Marsha San Filippo
 Joseph Wolfe*, Father of Elissa Poel

In order to ensure that the name of your loved one will be recited during services, we have instituted the following practices:

- The Hebrew dates for each week's Yahrzeits are listed in each Newsletter.
- Hebrew vs. conventional calendar: The temple's tradition is to base the Yahrzeits list on the Hebrew calendar. Those who wish to have a name read on a Friday night close to the conventional calendar date are asked to please email or call the administrator a few days prior to the service.

*Asterisks at left indicate that a loved one has been permanently memorialized with a plaque in the Temple sanctuary. If you are interested in acquiring a plaque for your loved one, contact the Temple office.



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FEBRUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Shevat 12 1 Religious School 9:00 am Jewish Women's Spirituality Group 4:00 pm	Shevat 13 2 Psalms 7:00 pm	Shevat 14 3 Knitting Group 10:15 am Judaism Class 7:00 pm	Shevat 15 4 Wednesday Breakfast 8:45 am Torah Study 10:15 am Hebrew School 4:45 pm Tu B'shvat Seder 5:30 pm	Shevat 16 5 Mah Jong 1:00 pm	Shevat 17 6 Family Service 6:00 pm Potluck Dinner 6:40 pm Shabbat Service 7:30 pm	Shevat 18 7 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service 10:15 am Havdalah, Dessert CD Release Program 7:00 pm
Shevat 19 8 Religious School 9:00 am BETY/BEMY Meeting 12:00 Noon Israel Roundtable 2:00 pm	Shevat 20 9 Short Story Group 10:00 am Psalms 7:00 pm	Shevat 21 10 Knitting Group 10:15 am Judaism Class 7:00 pm	Shevat 22 11 Wednesday Breakfast 8:45 am Torah Study 10:15 am Hebrew School 4:45 pm	Shevat 23 12 Mah Jong 1:00 pm Sisterhood Council 6:30 pm	Shevat 24 13 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm	Shevat 25 14 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service 10:15 am
Shevat 26 15 No Religious School "The Hidden Jews of New Mexico" 2:00 pm	Shevat 27 16 Short Story Group 10:00 am	Shevat 28 17 Knitting Group 10:15 am	Shevat 29 18 Wednesday Breakfast 8:45 am No Torah Study Hebrew School 4:45 pm	Shevat 30 19 Mah Jong 1:00 pm	Adar 1 20 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm	Adar 2 21 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service 10:15 am
Adar 3 22 Religious School 9:00 am	Adar 4 23 Short Story Group 10:00 am	Adar 5 24 Knitting Group 10:15 am	Adar 6 25 Wednesday Breakfast 8:45 am Torah Study 10:15 am Hebrew School 4:45 pm	Adar 7 26 Mah Jong 1:00 pm Board Meeting 7:00 pm	Adar 8 27 Shabbat Service for Renewal of Spirit 7:30 pm	Adar 9 28 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service 10:15 am

3980 Sonoma Springs Avenue
Las Cruces, NM 88011
Office Hours:
Monday-Friday, 9:00am--1:30pm

Phone: 575.524.3380
Fax: 575.521.8111

President: Dee Cook

Rabbi Lawrence P. Karol
rabbi@tbelc.org

The Temple Beth-El Newsletter is produced regularly at Las Cruces, New Mexico. Editor: Rabbi Lawrence P. Karol. Copy Editors: James Rosenthal, Tanah Hemingway, Rabbi Gerald M. Kane. Circulation: Administration Office. We welcome Adelante sponsorships by or for Temple members and non-members. Sponsorships can be mailed to the Temple; receipts are provided upon request. We reserve the right to edit all sponsorships. Nonmember sponsorships \$25/year. One month sponsorship insertions \$108. Annual sponsorship rates as follows: 2x3 business card \$150; Quarter page \$300; Half page \$600. For information about sponsorships or insertions, please contact the Temple Office.

**Temple Beth-El and “Adelante” are on the web at
www.tbelc.org**

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

February, 2015



Temple Beth-El
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Las Cruces, NM 88011