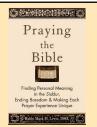
A Monthly Publication for Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico AUGUST 2017 (AV-ELUL 5777)

**Shabbat Services** (See Page 2) Friday, August 4 Family Shabbat Service at 6 pm, (June, July & August birthday blessings included) with a Potluck Dinner following Friday, August 11 Shabbat Service at 7pm Friday, August 18 **Shabbat Service for Renewal of Spirit** at 7 pm Friday, August 25 Shabbat Service at 7pm Friday, September 1-Special Schedule Wine (regular and non-alcoholic) and Cheese at 5:45 pm Shabbat Service at 6:15 pm

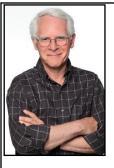
> <u>Saturdays</u> Talmud Study at 9:00 am, Shabbat Service at 10:15 am, followed by a potluck Kiddush

Rabbi Karol is presenting brief talks during the summer on books that he hopes you will also be interested in exploring:



#### Tuesday, August 29 at 7:00 pm

Praying the Bible: Finding Personal Meaning in the Siddur, Ending Boredom & Making Each Prayer Experience Unique, by Rabbi Mark H. Levin (Jewish Lights Publishing).



Rabbi Bob Alper is coming to Temple Beth-El! <u>Friday, August 25</u>— "The Spirituality of

Laughter" presentation during Shabbat Worship; <u>Saturday night, August 2</u>6 at 7:30 pm—Stand-Up Comedy **See Page 5 for** 

more information!

Be watching in early August For High Holy Day mailings For parts for worship and the 2017/5778 Yizkor Booklet \*\*\*\*\*

Religious School will begin with a first morning orientation and gathering on Sunday, August 27 at 10:00-11:30 am. Parents will receive registration materials during the first week of August!

#### **Worship Schedule**

Please note: All 7:00 pm services will include either a Torah reading and a d'var torah, a brief discussion based on the Torah portion, a compilation of prayers and/or songs on the theme of the Torah portion, or a brief D'var Torah that offers an insight based on the parashah for the week. Friday, August 4-FAMILY SHABBAT

6:00 pm Family Shabbat Service FOR ALL AGES, includ-

ing birthday blessings for June, July and August. *Ann Berkson will represent the Board of Trustees.* 6:50 pm Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck Shabbat Dinner *Ruth Rubin will coordinate the dinner.* 

#### Saturday, August 5

9:00 am Talmud Study

10:15 am Shabbat Morning Service led by Stuart Kelter and Leora Zeitlin, followed by a Potluck KiddushParashat Vaetchanan Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11Haftarah Isaiah 40:1-26

#### Friday, August 11

7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service— Rabbi Karol will speak on "Listening to the right voices." *Carrie Swartz and family will sponsor the Oneg Shabbat. Jeff Brown will represent the Board of Trustees.* 

#### Saturday, August 12

9:00 am Talmud Study 10:15 am Shabbat Morning Service & Potluck Kiddush Parashat Ekev Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25 Haftarah Isaiah 49:14-51:3

#### Friday, August 18

7:00 pm Shabbat Service for Renewal of Spirit, featuring special music and prayers for healing within our Shabbat liturgy. *Sue and Norm Mazer will sponsor the Oneg Shabbat. Diane Fleishman will represent the Board of Trustees.* 

#### Saturday, August 19

9:00 am Talmud Study 10:15 am Shabbat Morning Service & Potluck Kiddush Parashat Re'eh Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17 Haftarah Isaiah 54:11-55:5

#### Friday, August 25

7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service. Rabbi Bob Alper, our Scholar-in-Residence, will speak on "The Spirituality of Laughter." *Leslie Glater and Diana Blum will sponsor the Oneg Shabbat. Ellen Torres will represent the Board of Trustees.* 

#### Saturday, August 26

9:00 am Talmud Study 10:15 am Shabbat Morning Service & Potluck Kiddush Parashat Shoftim Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9 Haftarah Isaiah 51:12-52:12

#### Friday, September 1—SPECIAL SCHEDULE!!!!

5:45 pm Wine (regular and non-alcoholic) and Cheese "Pre-neg" sponsored by Brenda Parish and Paula Kramer and the Karols.

6:15 pm Shabbat Evening Service. *Ned Rubin will represent the Board of Trustees.* 

#### Saturday, September 2

9:00 am Talmud Study

10:15 am Shabbat Morning Service & Potluck Kiddush Parashat Ki Teitzei Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19 Haftarah Isaiah 54:1-10

> COMING ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2017 SHABBAT UNDER THE STARS (FAMILY SERVICE) AT SAGECREST PARK 601 N. Roadrunner Parkway

Service at 6:00 pm Followed by a potluck picnic dinner Hot dogs provided Please bring a non-dairy dish to share.

<u>Upcoming B'nei Mitzvah at Temple Beth-El</u> Michael Bruder—Saturday, December 2, 2017 Joshua Rosenberg—Saturday, December 30, 2017

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2017-2018

President-Ellen Torres Vice-President-Jeff Lewis Secretary-Diane Fleishman Treasurer-Allen Blum Ann Berkson Jeff Brown Sue Brown Pearie Bruder Michael Lieberman Susan Michelson Ned Rubin Michael Mandel (Mensch Club) Dee Cook (Sisterhood) Rabbi Lawrence P. Karol

The next Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 17.



Message from Rabbi Karol We are fortunate to live in a country that guarantees freedom to practice our religion. We can take whatever opportunities we choose to learn, to pray, and to be with our community. At the same time, our society has its own rhythms that are reflected by community groups,

sporting events, and cultural performances.

Consequently, Shabbat can be a time that might make some members of the Jewish community feel somewhat out of step with the mainstream, as many activities and programs do occur on Friday and Saturday. Shabbat, however, can provide us with a time to step back and reflect on the teachings of our tradition and how they can guide our contributions to the betterment of the world around us.

The rituals of Shabbat highlight the value of rest after engaging in the labors of the week. As a congregation, it is our privilege to create a holy space for one another to set daily life aside for a little while, to join our voices together in prayers that are ancient and always new, and to develop insights through words of Torah and by engaging in discussion. The music of our worship is intended to be restful, spirited and nourishing, and our voices joining in melody together can enable us to nourish and nurture a special sense of soul on Shabbat.

There is great meaning in the readings and rituals of Shabbat. Values for living emanate from the meditations and readings in our services and from the symbols before us in the Sanctuary. The light of the Shabbat candles, the Eternal light and the lights of the menorah are an expression of the enduring faith of our community and the persistent presence of God's Oneness among us.

The Psalms that welcome Shabbat declare not only the majesty of the divine, but also the essential role of justice in the world and the need for people to be "upright in heart," because that approach brings more light to the world.

Jewish liturgy leads worshippers on a journey from honoring creation and daily re-creation happening around us to feeling the love of the divine when we study on our own and with each other. We express the ways in which we can return that love and we recall past moments of redemption so that God can redeem the world through our righteous and just actions.

The central section of the service, The Prayer (T'filah), offers praise to God for being with us throughout our history. We are directed to perform acts in the world as a reflection of godly values and divine character: lifting up the fallen, healing those who are ill, freeing the captive, and infusing the world with our own lifegiving powers.

We are called upon to seek ways in which we can be holy (like God is holy) and to make Shabbat sacred by regenerating ourselves for our work in the world. We ask for a special spirit to envelop us every day, and we give thanks for all of the gifts we enjoy in our lives. Our prayer for peace has endured for centuries, and we recite it over and over, week after week, hoping that we will be alive at a time when nations and people will discover a way to truly make peace a reality. We pray for a time when the Oneness that we ascribe to God will lead us to find the oneness within humanity that could be our ultimate peaceful destiny. We remember people who have died, whose lives and spirits could move us to act in a way that expresses the best they had to give while they were among us.

Our prayers on Shabbat morning add new themes to the prayers of the evening: giving thanks for our bodies that have the potential to miraculously work each day, and expressing gratitude for the soul inside of us that makes us who were are. We recite blessings in the morning that praise God for giving us sight and insight, for strengthening our steps, for giving us the energy to face the new day, for creating everyone in the divine image, and for providing us with the opportunity to be free.

Communal worship and study prepare us to enhance the life of our community with the wisdom of our heritage, which includes a sense of how human beings should treat one another with respect and accept each other beyond any differences that, according to some, could drive us apart.

On Shabbat evening, we often recite this verse from the book of Psalms: "Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart."

We always need more light, within ourselves, among the members of our congregation, and in the greater community. We generate that light by determining what it means to be righteous and upright in our actions towards our fellow human beings.

May our resolve to practice the values we pray continually prepare us and guide us to shine that light on the world and upon each other.

#### Ľshalom, Rabbí Larry K.

Rabbi Karol will be away on August 5-9. In case of any urgent concerns, please contact Temple President Ellen Torres at 510-676-3211.



#### President's Message

It is hard to believe that summer is nearing its end, with students returning to school on August 14. We need to enjoy the days that remain of our warm weather, even though I have returned to work already. Early July provided

time for me to visit my California family, to spend time with my husband Fred, and to lie on a beach to soak up some rays of the sun. On July 29 we joined together to revel in the joy of Casey Rosenberg's Bat Mitzvah, celebrating this wonderful milestone with Casey and her family.

This time of year also brings us to the observation of Tisha B'Av, a holiday we celebrate this year from sundown July 31 through sunset August 1. This is the sixth fast of the year, for those who choose to fast, and the final Jewish holiday before we begin the cycle again with the period of Elul, and then Rosh Hashanah that begins on the eve of September 20. Tisha B'Av is a major day of communal mourning and commemorates the destruction of both the first and second temples in Jerusalem (586 B.C. E. and 70 C.E. respectively). It also marks almost every other catastrophe that's befallen Jews. According to a fascinating book I read this summer by Abigail Pogrebin, My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew, Tisha B'Av is a "collective shiva, Judaism at its most unified. We're mourning for the many tragedies of the Jewish people. For solidarity." In this chapter of her book, she asks "why" and "how—eichah" the Temple was destroyed, why did God let that happen, and why did he let us suffer? According to Rabbis whom she interviewed, "the answer involves our own sin. When we should have united to beat back the Roman army in 70 C.E., we instead argued among ourselves, even killed each other. Sinat chinam—baseless hatred, groundless hatred—was our downfall." This phrase, "sinat chinam," rang a bell with me. When we go at each other, pick battles—Jew against Jew, attack each other over political differences, chastise each other, or argue hatefully with each other trying to disparage one another, we are guilty of sinat chinam-baseless hate. Let's not wallow in hatred, in disagreements, in sinat chinam. God commands us to love one another-"Love your neighbor as yourself." We need to cherish our brothers and sisters, respect one another in spite of our differences and disagreements, and unify against the hate and persecution we face from

outside of ourselves. We will continue to celebrate together and mourn together, but I urge us to join together and work together as one for the betterment of our worldwide and local Jewish community.

I join with you in a sacred partnership, in a commitment to Torah and Jewish values of mutual respect, trust, honesty, listening, and communication. These values guide us in our daily lives and our innermost teachings that influence the sacred partnerships we build with others. I continue to thank you all for your dedication and work on behalf of Temple Beth-El, to remind you to embrace inclusiveness and tolerance, and to continue working together to strengthen our Wisdom, Community Spirit, Tzedakah, Sacred Purpose—and our **Sacred Partnerships**.

> Shalom, Ellen Torres

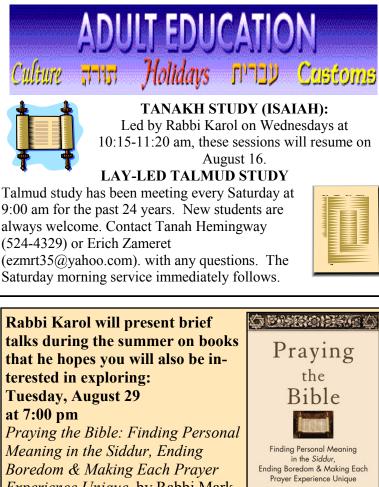
#### "Challah Rising in the Desert" A special film screening at 2:00 pm on Sunday, September 10, 2017



Temple Beth-El is proud to be able to show the film "Challah Rising in the Desert." This film celebrates the history and people of New Mexico's unique Jewish community. In this new feature

documentary, braided Challah bread represents several waves of settlement of New Mexico's Jewish community, including Conversos escaping the Spanish Inquisition 400 years ago, German Jewish pioneers of the Santa Fe Trail in the 1800s, scientists of the 1940s at Los Alamos, and the counterculture of the 1960s.

Join us at Temple Beth-El on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 2:00 pm for this feature documentary film. The film is sponsored by the Temple's Board of Trustees and the Adult Education Committee. Refreshments will be served, and donations are appreciated in order to support the screening of the film.



Experience Unique, by Rabbi Mark H. Levin (Jewish Lights Publishing).



Mishkan HaLev, the new prayerbook from CCAR Press for the Selichot service and the weeks preceding Rosh Hashanah (for the month of Elul), is now available. We have three copies already and would like to have 20 to use at our Selichot service on September 16. Each book is \$12.80. Please let Rabbi Karol know if you can con-

tribute to this effort to acquire these prayerbooks for Temple by calling Temple at 575-524-3380 or emailing rabbi@tbelc.org.

#### Temple Beth-El's Jewish Women's Spirituality group,

led by Susan Lapid, is still meeting periodically. For more information, contact Susan Lapid 496-5758, <u>sblapid@gmail.com</u> or Leora Zeitlin 639-4475, <u>lzeitlin@cs.nmsu.edu</u>.



Bob Alper Rabbi/Stand-Up Comic (Really) COMING TO TEMPLE BETH-EL Friday, August 25—"The Spirituality of Laughter" presentation during Shabbat Worship

Saturday night, August 26, 7:30 pm Stand-Up Comedy

(Appropriate for adults & children age 11 and older) Sponsored by a grant from

the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso

There's a reason why Sirius/XM satellite radio plays Rabbi Bob Alper's bits several times daily, often sandwiched between Bob Newhart and Jerry Seinfeld: Bob's unique background - he's an ordained rabbi who served congregations for fourteen years and holds a doctorate from Princeton Theological Seminary - prepared him well for a twenty-seven year comedy career with wonderfully unique material presented in a way that's intelligent, sophisticated, and 100% clean.

Audiences adore him, from an SRO crowd at the prestigious **Montreal Comedy Festival** to a standing ovation before 2,700 people at New York's famed Chautauqua Institution. He's even appeared at Hollywood's **IMPROV** and **THE COMEDY STORE**.

Bob performs all across North America and England, at corporate events, theatres, non-profits, conventions, private parties, churches, and, naturally, synagogues. And he's done over 200 shows with his Arab and Muslim comedy partners, at a variety of venues, but primarily colleges and universities. **The New York Times** reported the comics "...had the audience convulsing." Bob's 90-minute stand-up act is fast-paced, with impeccable timing and material that's definitely sharp yet gentle and unhurtful. In addition, he offers an informative, hilarious event called "The Spirituality of Laughter," which is particularly appropriate for religious organizations, civic groups, school and hospital in-services, etc.

The rabbi-comedian draws tremendous media attention, and, among others, has been seen on **The Early Show**, **The Today Show**, **Good Morning America**, **Showtime**, the **BBC**, **CNN**, and was featured on **Extra**, TV's top-rated entertainment program. He was recently named "Honorary Comedic Advisor to the Pope," winning an international contest launched on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon."

In addition to being a full-time stand-up comic and conducting annual High Holyday services, Bob is the author of three books that further showcase his considerable talents: **Life Doesn't Get Any Better Than This**, an inspirational collection that The Detroit Free Press called "a volume of spiritual gems;" the awardwinning full-color cartoon book **A Rabbi Confesses**; and the recently- published **Thanks. I Needed That**, more stories that touch readers with their warmth, humor, and wisdom. He's also produced two best-selling comedy CDs as well as a DVD.

Bob resides in rural Vermont with his wife Sherri, a psychotherapist. Professionally, he makes people laugh, while she helps people cry. Monika Kimball shared a part of her D'var Torah from the July 14 service with Anat Hoffman, Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center, via email. See their correspondence below.

From: Monika Kimball Date: Mon, Jul 17, 2017 19:58 To: Anat Hoffman; Subject:D'var Torah Dear Anat,

Your courage and activities on behalf of all progressive Jews especially women, has become legend and as an admirer I wanted to share a portion of a D'var Torah I gave when our Rabbi was absent and asked me and a fellow female congregant to lead the service on July 14, 2017 at Temple Beth-El in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The Torah portion was Parashat Pinchas, and I focused on the story of Zelophehad's daughters. The excerpt below is a part of my comments to the congregation and since you played a significant part in it, I thought I'd send it to you.

*I* believe that MAHLAH, NOAH, HOGLAH, MILCAH and TIRZAH were models for the modern Jewish woman, presenting a liberal, progressive interpretation of Judaism.

Their victory however, was more than land inheritance for women, because it challenges future generations to question what is right, just, and relevant even in today's society, even if it's uncomfortable or potentially dangerous to do so. Zelophehad's daughters were first to question current policy and became what we might call CHANGE AGENTS.

A modern day change agent who comes to mind is a woman I greatly admire named ANAT HOFFMAN, the executive director of IRAC (Israel Religious Action Center). She was a Jerusalem City Council Member, but is best known for her leading role in the activities of the Women of the Wall at the KOTEL. She is a perfect example of a modern day ZELOPHEHAD'S daughter. A woman unafraid to advocate for fairness and justice. Anat Hoffman, in addition to her group's activities at the Kotel had been instrumental in putting an end to women having to sit in the back of the bus in Jerusalem. (High Court of Justice, 2011).

Another courageous Jewish woman I was made aware of recently, is Renee Rabinowitz, who with the help of Anat Hoffman and IRAC, defeated gender based seating on EL Al, the Israeli airline. According to the Jerusalem Post, Renee is an octogenarian, a Holocaust survivor, and a religiously observant Jew, who was traveling from

Newark, NJ where she had visited family, to Tel Aviv on El Al. She was seated in her seat, when a Haridi man (obvious by his attire) whose seat assignment was next to hers, loudly and in sharply toned words with the flight attended demanded (in Hebrew) that she be moved. Shortly thereafter, Renee was asked to move "to a better seat" which turned out not to be a better seat at all. She moved to acquiesce, so as not to be part of a scene as had happened in the past when ultra conservative men have shouted blocking the isle and even delaying the flight. Even though she complied, she was upset about the obvious prejudice and discrimination. She felt that if anyone should have moved, it should have been the Haridi man. Upon arrival, she told the *Captain who replied that they were following policy* from "higher up". This really annoyed her, because it meant that Israel's national airline was permitting gender discrimination.

A few weeks later, Renee attended a lecture by Anat Hoffman. During the Q/A, Renee mentioned her experience on El Al, and Anat asked if she was willing to go to court as a matter of principle. Renee agreed, IRAC represented her and she won, resulting in EL Al crew members no longer being able to ask women to change their seats, if men do not want to sit next to them. This case, and others involving Anat Hoffman exemplify the courage of Zelophehad's Daughters, and it demonstrates that when we act courageously against injustice and unfairness, we truly make the world a better place in which to live for men and women alike. May we all be courageous when faced with injustice in our own lives, in our communities, and in the Jewish homeland and follow in the footsteps of Zelophehad's daughters.

From: Anat Hoffman Date: July 17, 2017 at 1:57:08 PM To: Monika Kimball Subject: Re: D'var Torah Thank you. What a wonderful read at the end of a very very very long day. Toda raba. Good night Anat



#### High Holy Days 5778

Selichot Saturday, September 16, 2017 7:30 pm Dessert, Study and Selichot Worship

Erev Rosh Hashanah —Wednesday September 20, 2017 Evening Service, 8:00 pm, Followed by Rosh Hashanah Oneg

Rosh Hashanah – Thursday, September 21, 2017 Family Service, 9:00 am Morning Service, 10:00 am Tashlich at Young Park an hour following the conclusion of the morning service

> <u>Rosh Hashanah, 2nd Day-</u> <u>Friday, September 22, 2017</u> Morning Service, 10:00 am Bagel Brunch following, sponsored by Rabbi Larry and Rhonda Karol and the Religious Practices Committee

<u>Friday, September 22, 2017</u> Shabbat Shuvah Service, 6:00 pm (NOTE EARLY TIME)

<u>Saturday, September 23, 2017</u> Shabbat Shuvah Morning Service at 10:15 am

<u>Sunday, September 24, 2017</u> Cemetery Service (Masonic Cemetery), 1:00 pm

Erev Yom Kippur — Friday, September 29, 2017 Kol Nidre/Evening Service, 8:00 pm

Yom Kippur —Saturday, September 30, 2017 Family Service, 9:00 am Morning Service, 10:00 am A Time for Sharing, 1:15 pm Study with Rabbi Karol on *Mishkan Hanefesh*, 2:45 pm Afternoon Service, 4:15 pm Yizkor and Neilah, 5:30 pm Break-the-fast, 7:10 pm Join us for worship and the warmth of community as we welcome 5778 together!

Child care will be provided during Morning Services from 9:45 A.M. on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

#### PERSONAL THOUGHTS ON LEADERSHIP— FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES By Diane Fleishman

I grew up in Harrisburg, PA. We joined the Reform Temple Ohev Shalom because my father became a poker buddy of the Rabbi. My parents were raised Orthodox and Conservative but quickly became active members of Ohev Shalom. I began going to Sunday School at age 4. One of my earliest memories is standing on a stool behind the lectern and using paper animals telling the story of Noah's Ark. It was the beginning of a speaking skill that has served me well my whole life.

My class was very close; 4 of them lived in small towns and commuted to Harrisburg for Sunday/Saturday School. We had a wonderful ethics teacher in ninth grade. We asked if we could continue to study with Mrs. Lehrman after Confirmation. We all stayed until we graduated from high school. This plus being active in youth group and PAFTY made me a committed Jew.

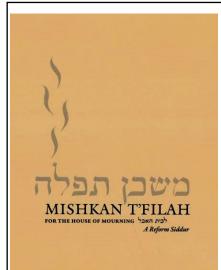
After marrying Stu 50 years ago, we became "wondering Jews". Wherever we lived, we joined a Temple. Reform Judaism changed from the Classical that I was raised in and I changed along with it. In our travels, we belonged to a Reconstructionist and a Conservative congregation; however, when possible we returned to a Reform Congregation.

When my sons, Sam now 46 and Michael now 39, were young, they spent many hours in Temples with me as I was active in Sisterhood and taught in every congregation. It was always an important part of our lives. In addition to teaching (I prefer older kids), I have been on several Temple Boards. I deeply follow the prayer "teach them to your children" and Tikum Olam. I am committed to living a morally ethical life and do what I can to contribute to the continuation of Judaism wherever I live.

My careers have followed many paths; the jobs I have loved the most have been those which helped others find their way. Top of the list is my 21 years at a career counselor in a University. Next would be my first job after college as a juvenile probation officer. I was fortunate that I loved what I did.

I experienced some anti-Semitism as a teen and as an adult. Some subtle and some right in my face. My boys always had a strong Jewish identity and dealt with issues like our neighbors not letting their son play with the boys when they found out we were Jewish. We came home from Temple one night to find Swastikas painted on their garage door. We never found out if it was meant for them or for us. Happy to be able to tell the police where we had been that evening. In Las Cruces I never feel uncomfortable about being Jewish.

Living in Las Cruces has been wonderful for us in many ways. We have wonderful friends who have become family. When Stu was in hospitals in El Paso and I broke my arm I never had to worry about transportation or food. This community really showed us how a Caring Community works. While I hope I never have to do the same for them, I know that I will. Moving here for our retirement was one of the best decisions we ever made.



Many thanks to our donors who made it possible for Temple Beth-El to acquire copies of *Mishkan T'filah for the House of Mourning*. These prayerbooks will be used at shivah minyan services and perhaps for

other tmemorial services as well. These books are dedicated to the memory of June Jenkins. We appreciate the generosity of Monika and Bob Kimball, Alison and Gary Mann, Cyrille Kane and Rabbi Gerald Kane z"l, and Frances Williams that enabled us to have these books available at a time when solace and comfort can be derived from prayers and from community.

#### Adelante Deadline

The deadline for turning in articles, items and photos for the September 2017 Adelante is August 20. Please do your best to keep to that schedule to facilitate a timely completion of the Adelante!

#### **Office Hours**

On weekdays, Rabbi Karol is in the office every day except for Thursday. Times vary, but you can mostly count on finding Rabbi Karol in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays at 10:00-11:30 am (and Fridays while he is preparing for Shabbat worship) and on Wednesdays at 11:30am-12:30 pm. Ruth Rubin is volunteering in the office on Tuesdays at 10:30am until 11:15 am. Please call before you come (575-524-3380), or email Rabbi Karol at rabbi@tbelc.org or rablpkarol@gmail.com. You can also contact Rabbi Karol to make an appointment. Thank you!

#### <u>WEEKLY</u> <u>TEMPLE BREAKFAST</u>

Weekly breakfasts and discussions of topics of Jewish and general interest 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 at <u>philipalkon@gmail.com</u> or 575-524-6945)



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#### AUGUST 2017 (AV-ELUL 5777)

#### **Israel Update**

#### ISRAEL IS DIFFERENT-PART 1 By Phil Alkon

Life in Israel has been pretty lively over the past few months, with visitors from around the world virtually flooding the country. An Indian Prime Minister dropped in for the first time in that country's history followed by Rwanda's President. They came after a visit by the world's largest warship to Haifa port– the brand new U.S. aircraft carrier *USS George HW Bush* on its first foreign call. International tourism to Israel reached record numbers in the first half of 2017, including a large influx of first-time Asian visitors. Defying BDS boycott calls, many prominent entertainers from abroad are performing in Israel again; and the recent Maccabiah Games witnessed a larger than usual array of Jewish athletes from around the globe. With all this diplomatic and tourist bustle, a visiting Theodor Herzl might believe that the Jewish State had not only attained his dream of a "normal" society, but was assuming the trappings of a popular global hotspot.

Among the recent visitors was a group of NFL Hall of Famers – some of the most iconic figures in American sports history– who came to celebrate the dedication of a professional scale American football stadium in Jerusalem. Robert Kraft, owner of the New England Patriots and a strong supporter of Israel sponsored that facility and the accompanying players' visit.

These football legends included Jerome Bettis, one of the most accomplished offensive backs in NFL history. Nicknamed "The Bus" for his powerful running style, Bettis had an extraordinary career with the Los Angeles Rams and Pittsburgh Steelers. He retired with a Super Bowl championship ring in 2006 and was inducted in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2015. Bettis had grown up in a gritty Detroit neighborhood, was an outstanding high school athlete, and attended Notre Dame University on a football scholarship. Devout Christians, Jerome Bettis and his wife were visiting Israel for the first time.

Asked about his overall impression of the country, Bettis responded that the vibrant, free and diverse society he encountered in Israel was nothing like the grim image he had expected based on the media coverage he had been exposed to for years. As one who's followed press and TV coverage of Israel for decades, I was not surprised by Bettis' negative preconceptions of Israel prior to his arrival there. Thanks to a virtual media conspiracy, and its acceptance by a willing public, the only free and civil society in the Middle East - and one of the world's most vibrant democracies - is increasingly seen as an international pariah. Could this grotesque misrepresentation have something to do with the fact that Israel is the only Jewish state on Earth? But that's a subject for another article.

Bettis seemed greatly impressed with the diversity of people and opinions that he encountered freely and openly in Israel. He noted that he and his wife learned more about Islam and Judaism, as well as their own Christian heritage, during their Israel visit than at any other time and place in their lives. I couldn't help but contrast Bettis' impressions of Israeli society with the General Assembly's infamous 1975 declaration of "Zionism as a form of racism and racial discrimination." Bettis' take on Israeli also belied Jimmy Carter's much publicized assertion of the Jewish State's impending descent into outright apartheid racism.

A third feature of Israeli life that impressed Bettis was the overarching dedication of the Israeli people to their nation's survival, welfare and progress. Exemplified by the nearly universal participation of Israeli youth in military service, Bettis sadly contrasted it with absence of comparable sense of community in American life today. Having lived in Israel, we Alkons also felt woven into a family-like fabric that binds the entire country. As in any family, our "relatives" comprised a varied lot indeed, and not all were equally cherished or admired. But the strong sense of community that embraced us was undeniable and unique.

All in all, Jerome Bettis' impressions reflected a deeply positive view of Israeli life and values. How many other countries, I asked myself, would evoke a comparable reaction in an open-minded, sensitive and serious observer?

But there is another facet of Israeli society and character that irks American Jews, among others, including some of my TBE friends. They complain: "Why are Israelis so contentious and hard to deal with? Why can't they just be nicer and more accommodating - like American Reform Jews for example? Like me, for example?" Shades of Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady*!

An obvious explanation is: "Look at what Israelis have had to overcome just to survive, let alone build and sustain a modern, civil society. Look at what they are still facing in a dysfunctional and hate-filled Middle East, and an increasingly hostile world." A bit more challenging than life in West Side Manhattan or uptown Philadelphia, I argue. Pulling out all stops, I even remind them that those rude Israelis are securing  $G_d$ 's covenantal real estate for the entire Jewish people, including us lucky souls here in Las Cruces.

But Israeli contentiousness could have deeper, very Jewish roots. Parts of two prayers from our Shabbat Siddur (Prayer Book) seem relevant. First, "Religion embraces both faith and action. The primary quality is action, for it lays the foundation for faith." And, second: "Disturb us, Adonai, ruffle us from our complacency; Make us dissatisfied with the peace of ignorance." Are not these prayers a springboard for our *Tikkun Olam* (Repair the World) mission, the very mantra of modern Judaism? And doesn't that mission demand that we continuously examine and question the state of contemporary life in all its facets? Jewish progress has often derived from outspoken, nettlesome challenges to the status quo. At any rate, I choose to believe that the characteristic "in your face attitude" of many Israelis is the heritage of a small, vulnerable people that could never afford to take its place in the world for granted.

Another reason why Israel and Israelis are different has to do with how much realer reality is in Eretz Yisrael s than other places we know. I'll explore that idea in my next *Israel Update*.

NOTE: For weekly headlines of vital events in Israel, scan the front page of the *El Paso Star*, the Jewish Federation of El Paso's online newsletter. Check it out - it's free!

#### Board of Trustees Meeting Summary July 20, 2017

The July 20 Board meeting was called to order by President Ellen Torres at 7:01 pm. A motion was made and carried to accept the minutes from the June 15 meeting.

**Rabbi's Report:** New prayer books have been ordered for the High Holidays as well as a prayer book for Shiva Minyans called *Mishkan T'filah for the House of Mourning*. He will be at New CAJE in Moraga, California, from August 5 to August 9, a national conference for Jewish educators.

**President's Report**: Ellen reported that she is in the process of recruiting a new Adult ED Chair. She also reviewed our responses to Board norms and our Leadership training goals. The norms include: be conscious of time when speaking, respect others' points of view and opinions, and act with respect, collegiality, partnership, and fellowship.

**Treasurer's Report**: Budget items were reviewed. There will be a clarification of the new payment opportunity that is available per request by Board members; Temple members need to know that it is not necessary to pay electronically. We ended the fiscal year with a \$13,000 deficit. This may be reduced as some Fair Share Pledges may still be submitted.

**Committee Reports:** Sisterhood reported that Leslie Glater will be responsible for scheduling Onegs. Three Sisterhood Council reps have stepped down after serving for several years, and new council members are being sought and will be identified shortly. Mensch Club and Temple representatives will coordinate the booth at the Renaissance ArtsFaire with proceeds going to the Temple instead of the Mensch Club. The History Committee plans to develop an exhibit of Jews in Las Cruces as they continue to develop material. **Old Business:** When Jerry Silverman returns, decisions will be made about the storage shed; he will

also walk the roof to see if any additional repairs need to be made. Allen Blum will open Temple accounts at Staples and Office Max to make it easier to do business there. Board members will divvy up the membership list to make calls to members thanking them for being members, participating in Temple events, and paying their dues. The Executive Committee will make calls to members who are in arrears to see if there is anything we can do to help them to remain members and to establish a payment plan for their dues. Ned Rubin has tentatively agreed to take over webmaster responsibilities as Bob Kimball has announced he is stepping down from that role. August 25 and 26 Rabbi Bob Alpert, nationally known Jewish comedian will be here. There will be a need for refreshments. Tina Wasserman, noted Jewish cookbook author will be here in November. Details will follow. These two events are sponsored by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso.

**New Business:** Susan Michelson will look into the possibility of showing the film "Challah Rising in the Desert" on September 10. It is a history of Jews in New Mexico.

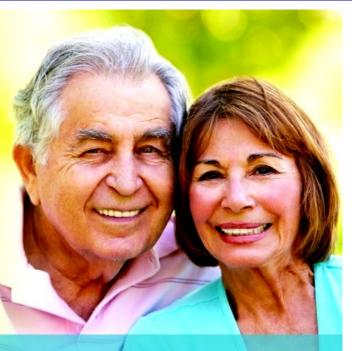
The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 1 at 6:30 pm. The next Board of Trustees meeting is on Thursday August 17 at 7:00 pm.



If you would like to order a brick for the brick walkway or biblical garden, please contact Alison Mann or Dee Cook. Dee and Alison can help with wording, and can send forms directly to you by computer.

### Do you have diabetes? Have you ever had a heart attack? Are you age 50 or older?



If you answered "yes" to these three questions, you may be eligible to take part in a National Institutes of Health federally funded study of intravenous (IV) chelation therapy and oral vitamins for people with diabetes and heart disease.

#### What is chelation therapy?

Chelation therapy is a research medicine given through an IV. Some scientists believe that chelation therapy may help treat heart disease by removing toxins from the blood. However, this has not been proven. This study will find out if chelation works in treating heart disease in patients with diabetes.

#### What will the study involve?

If you join the study, you will be assigned to receive either active IV drug OR IV placebo (inactive study drug). The IV is administered weekly for approximately 40 weeks. Each IV session lasts approximately three to four hours. In addition, you will take either high-dose oral vitamin and mineral supplements or identical placebo pills. All participants will receive low-dose vitamin and mineral supplements during the time they are receiving IV treatment. You will continue to take your standard diabetes and heart disease medications.

#### What are the costs?

The study drugs will be provided at no cost. Other medical costs remain your responsibility.

For more information: Integrative Medical Center of NM (575) 524-3720 www.drberkson.com





*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 the Temple office.

#### 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 In order for us to keep issues. 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.

Tzedakah Opportunities at TBE Giving to Casa de Peregrinos & El Caldito Here are longer lists for items needed! <u>For Casa de Peregrinos:</u> Peanut Butter and the following Canned foods: Corn, Green Beans, Mixed Vegetables, Fruits, Tomatoes, Pasta Sauce, Tuna, Beans, and Meats

#### *For <u>El Caldito:</u>* Spices, Regular Mayonnaise, Beans, Beef and Chicken Soup Stock

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 and put your donation in the marked containers in the hallway opposite the Library. For more information or questions, contact the Temple office.

#### Donations for June 30-July 28, 2017 General Fund

- Burt and Ann Berkson, in memory of Milton Berkson and Dora Stern
- Robert and Carla Libby, in memory of Natalie E. Libby
- Ramon and Frima Marquez ,in memory of William Krasner and Jacob Krasner
- Dia Taylor, in memory of Jacy Walpole

#### **Religious School Fund**

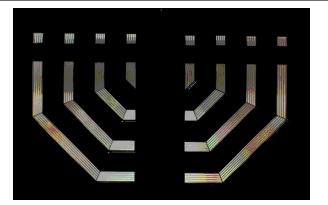
• Leslie Glater, in memory of Josephine Glater

#### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

- Burton and Vera Schwartz, in memory of Lena Schwartz
- Jeffrey and Cherri Hudson-Brown, in memory of Annabel Stein and June Jenkins
- Abraham and Amy Fiszbein, in memory of Cecilia Guller
- Brenda and Arlon Parish, in memory of Terry Petty
- Andrea Orzoff, thank you to Rabbi Karol for officiating at the Bar Mitzvah of Mateo Garcia-Bryce
- Alexander and Katherine Fernald, thank you to Rabbi Karol for teaching Irene Hebrew

#### **Biblical Garden/Brick Walkway Fund**

- Nancy Bergman and Greg Altman, in memory of Ludwig Bergman, Anne H. Bergman and Arnold M. Heart
- Gary and Alison Mann, in memory of Sarah Meltzer Smalley
- Bernice Langner , in honor of Cody's Bar Mitzvah and Amalia's graduation.



#### **TEMPLE FUNDS—From the Treasurer**

Donations are gratefully accepted for the following: *General Operating Fund*—For the day-to-day operation of TBE.

- **Biblical Garden Fund**—To provide the infrastructure for biblical plants and trees, and bricks in the fountain meditation area and on the brick walkway.
- *Campership Fund*—Providing scholarships for Temple students to attend Jewish summer camp programs.
- *Social Action Fund*—For projects that benefit our community and Las Cruces and Southern New Mexico.
- *Irving Batkin Memorial Scholarship Fund*—To broadly support Jewish education, based on merit or need, through participation in the TBE Religious School, camperships, and/or pursuit of Jewish collegiate studies or rabbinical studies.
- *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 Fund**—Provides funds to help further adult education and cultural programming at TBE.
- *Temple Beth-El Religious School Fund*—Supports the regular and special programming planned by faculty, students and the Religious School Committee.
- *Temple Beth-El Youth Fund*—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, Allen Blum.



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

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ly) by adding leaves to our Tree of Life and by adding bricks to our Brick Walkway/Biblical Garden.

#### AUGUST 2017 (AV-ELUL 5777)

#### Yahrzeits-July 30 through September 2, 2017

(Listings include the name of the loved one on the yahrzeit list and the name of the congregant or congregants remembering that loved one)

#### Read on Friday, August 4 and Saturday, August 5

Anne H Bergman (Nancy Bergman) Rea Bienstock (Gerie Muchnikoff) Marion Deutschman\* (Ellen Torres) Ellie Greenberg (Cyrille Kane) Jacob Klempner (Dee Cook) Lillian Krasner\* (Frima Marquez, Jeffrey Marquez) Chana Sarah Langner (Bernice Langner, Leora Zeitlin) Charlotte Pollack\* Esther Seidman\* Meyer Seidman\* Jacy Walpole (Dia Taylor)

#### Read on Friday, August 11 and Saturday, August 12

Jacob Aboulafia\* Tillie Brandt (Lila Ziegler) Jay Druxman (Sonny Klein, Bea Klein) Cecilia Guller\* (Abraham Fiszbein) Gloria Hudson (Cherri Hudson-Brown) Louis Madenberg (Janet Stevens) Joseph Rothman (Nina Rothman) Fred Silverston\* Rena Taslitt\* (Nina Rothman) Rose Wechter\*

#### Read on Friday, August 18 and Saturday, August 19

Laurel (Batkin) Cahn\* -Leah bat Mina (Mike Batkin) Samuel Davison\* Thelma F Goldberg (Richard Goldberg) Morty Horwitz (Ellen Torres) Milton Kirschner (Bob Kirschner) Howard Klein\* (Bea Klein) Gina Libo\* (Paul Feil and family) Edward Palanker - Yechiel Ben Avram-Lab (Allen Palanker) Dorothy Quinn (Patrick Quinn) Eva Rayblatt (Rose Jacobs) Mary Shickler\*

#### Read on Friday, August 25 and Saturday, August 26

Gail Bergman (Nancy Bergman) Morris Bernstein\* (Marvin Bernstein) Morton Brandt (Lila Ziegler) Sol Brandt (Lila Ziegler) Mary Jacobs\* Rose Kruger (Linda M. Kruger) Sidney Mintz (Brad Jenkins) Ruth Plas (Nancy Bergman) Jessie Schindler (David Zeemont) Harry M Schwartz (Burton Schwartz) Laszlo Szucs\* Jennie Wagman Freeman (Bernice Langner)

#### Read on Friday, September 1 and Saturday, September 2

Irving Batkin\* (Mike Batkin) Paul Deutschman (Ellen Torres) Lulu Dimig (Debbie Levy) Joseph Epstein (Marlene Benz) Bella Goldberg (Cyrille S. Kane) Millie Greenberg (Cyrille S. Kane) Philip Greenberg (Cyrille S. Kane) Eve Holzman\* Jane Abrams Hurwitz (Susan Fitzgerald) Wolfie Jacobs (Lionel Jacobs) Abraham Dov Kaplan (Betty Rosse) Chia Shavna Kaplan (Betty Rosse) Dina Kaplan (Betty Rosse) Isser Kaplan (Betty Rosse) Maria Kaplan (Betty Rosse) Yossel Kaplan (Betty Rosse) Rose Lieberman Hodess (Michael Lieberman) Albert Petrowski\* (Margaret Petrowsky) Samuel Pomerantz\* Geneva Pritikin\* (Leonard Pritikin) Samuel Rice\* Martin Steinman\* Sidney Waldman\* Zarah Williamson (Barbara Mandel)

## The Temple Beth-El family extends condolences to:

Bea Klein, on the deaths of her cousins: Howard Bracker, who died on July 6 in Carpinteria, CA; and Phyllis Robin, who died on July 20 in Portland, Oregon.

Ruth Rubin, on the death of her dear friend, Mo Foster, on May 19.

Dee Cook, on the death of her aunt, Goldie Greenberg, on July 30, in Bloomfield Township, Michigan.

May their memories be for blessing.

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.

## amazon smile

**Temple Beth-El has now become part of Amazon Smile,** which offers members of Temple Beth-El an opportunity to participate in Smile Amazon and donates 0.05% of all purchases back to the Temple. To date, we have received \$22.54 in donations. The process is very simple – go to <u>www.smile.amazon.com</u>. You will be required to enter the charity you wish to donate to – just type in Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces in the charity box and this will set the Temple as your charity of choice. Then just shop – pretty easy and also, since many people today shop online via Amazon, it becomes a win-win situation for all.

Visit the Temple Beth-El Website www.tbelc.org for in-depth information about Temple and its programming and updates on current Temple events COPIERS, PRINTERS, FAX **KYOCERa** \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* **Temple Beth-El is on Facebook!** http://www.facebook.com/pages/Temple-PTS Office Systems, Inc. 2840 N. Telshor Las Cruces, NM 88011 Beth-El/115816285166004 (It is open for all to see!) 575.524.4384 575.524.9818 FAX If you are on Facebook already, find www.ptsofficesystems.com our page, click "Like" and join us in our Facebook community! **Kevin Horner** khorner@ptsofficesystems.com (575) 524-4329 Tanah most nights Hemingway P.O Box 16318 Las Cruces Editing: NM 88004 Books, scientific papers, theses, dissertations Technical documents of all sorts. 522-3959 (next to the Hilton) (for accuracy, continuity, organization, style Telshor Tower Picza, 755 Telshor Bird., Bidg. C. Ste. 201, Los Cruces, NM grammar, readability, supportability, etc.) OF LAS CRUCES Dr. Paul Feil, M.D., ABSM Ron Bruder Pulmonary Medicine Associate Broker Sleep Disorders ronbruder@topproducer.com Cell: 575-312-7330 2437 S. Telshor Boulevard Office:575-522-3698 Las Cruces, N.M. 88011 (575) 522-2777 Steinborn & Associates Real Estate sleepic.com Fax: (575) 522-4532

# AUGUST 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AV 7 July 30	Av 8July 31 Tish'ah B'av Service 7:30 pm	Av 9 1	Av 10 2 No Wednesday Breakfast	Av 11 3	Av 12 4 Family Shabbat Service 6:00 pm Dairy/vegetarian potluck dinner June, July and August birthday blessings 6:45 pm	Av 13 5 Talmud Study 9:00 am Lay-led Shabbat Morning Service 10:15 am
Av 14 6	Av 15 7	Av 16 8	Av 17 9 Wednesday Breakfast 8:45 am	Av 18 10	Av 19 11 Shabbat Service 7:00 pm	Av 20 12 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service 10:15 am
Av 21 13	Av 22 14	Av 23 15	Av 24 16 Wednesday Breakfast 8:45 am Tanakh Study 10:15am	Av 25 17 Board Meeting 7:00 pm		Av 27 19 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service 10:15 am
Av 28 20	Av 29 21	Av 30 22	Elul 1 23 Wednesday Breakfast 8:45 am Tanakh Study 10:15am	Elul 2 24	"The Spirituality of Laughter"	Elul 4 26 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service 10:15 am Rabbi Bob Alper Stand-Up Comedy 7:30 pm
Elul 5 27 Religious School welcome back session and orientation 10:00-11:30 am	Elul 6 28	Elul 7 29 Rabbi Karol's Book Review and discussion on "Praying the Bible" (By Rabbi Mark H. Levin) -7:00 pm	Elul 8 30 Wednesday Breakfast 8:45 am Tanakh Study 10:15am		Wine and Cheese 5:45 pm	Elul 11Sept. 2 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service 10:15 am

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Temple Beth-El and "Adelante" are on the web at www.tbelc.org

The Temple Beth-El Newsletter is produced regularly at Las Cruces, New Mexico.

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about sponsorships, please contact the Temple Office.

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AUGUST 2017 (AV-ELUL 5777)