



A Monthly Publication for Temple Beth-El,

Las Cruces, New Mexico

DECEMBER 2017 (KISLEV-TEVET 5778)



Shabbat Services (See Page 2)

- **Friday, December 1—**Family Shabbat service at 6:00 pm, followed by a dairy/vegetarian potluck dinner.
 - **Friday, December 8—**Lay-led Shabbat Service at 7:00 pm
 - **Friday, December 15- SHABBAT CHANUKAH—** see the column to your right!
 - **Friday, December 22—**Shabbat Service for Renewal of Spirit at 7:00 pm
 - **Friday, December 29- Shabbat Service at 6:00 pm—NOTE EARLY TIME**
- Saturdays**
Talmud Study at 9:00 am,
Shabbat Service at 10:15 am,
followed by a potluck Kiddush



On Friday,
December 15,
join us for a

SHABBAT CHANUKAH CELEBRATION FOR ALL AGES!

- Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck & LATKE dinner at 5:30 pm. "Potluck" Latkes are welcome and encouraged!
- Bring your menorah to light!
- Multigenerational Service at 6:15 pm including participation by congregants of all ages!
- Dessert and Dreidels at 7:00 pm, including dreidel games, Chanukah activities, and a delectable Oneg Shabbat including Sufganiyot (Jelly Donuts)!
- **ADD YOUR LIGHT AS WE CELEBRATE OUR FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS!**



JUDAICA SHOP BOUTIQUE FOR CHANUKAH!



Chanukah begins on the evening of December 12, and the TBE Judaica Shop will be open to help fill your Holiday needs! Items will be on display for purchase on **Sunday, December 3, from 9:00am-1:00pm** at Temple Beth-El. Come purchase candles, dreidels, gelt, wrapping paper, gifts for kids, books and MORE! Sales will be by cash or check only. If you have any questions, please contact Michele Blum at fern104@aol.com or 575-373-9039.

IN OUR HANDS: THE BATTLE FOR JERUSALEM



The TBE Israel Committee and Mensch Club are pleased to announce the showing of an acclaimed documentary on the Six-Day War, an event that profoundly shaped today's Middle East. **We invite the Temple Beth-El and Las Cruces communities to join us at 2:00 pm on Sunday, December 17th, at 2:00 pm, to watch the film "IN OUR HANDS: THE BATTLE FOR JERUSALEM" at Temple Beth-El.** This vivid and fascinating documentary covers one of the most incredible military victories in modern history - on its 50th anniversary - and one whose regional and global consequences are experienced on a daily basis. If you are interested in Israel and the Middle East, please plan to attend this showing, and let your family, friends and coworkers know as well. For more information, contact. Phil Alkon (524-6945, philipalkon@gmail.com)

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 insight based on the parashah for the week.

Friday, December 1 –FAMILY SHABBAT

6:00 pm Family Shabbat Service FOR ALL AGES. *Allen Blum will represent the Board of Trustees.*

6:50 pm Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck Shabbat Dinner, coordinated by Pearie Bruder and Elisha Rosenberg.

Saturday, December 2

NO TALMUD STUDY

10:00 am Michael Bruder, son of Ron and Pearie Bruder, will become a Bar Mitzvah during this Shabbat morning service. A Kiddush luncheon will follow the service.

Parashat Vayishlach Genesis 32:4-36:43

Haftarah Hosea 11:7-12:12

Friday, December 8

7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service— Ruth Rubin, Cindie Shonk and Erich Zameret will lead our worship. *Gerie Muchnikoff and Susan Quinn will sponsor the Oneg Shabbat. Susan Michelson will represent the Board of Trustees.*

Saturday, December 9

9:00 am Talmud Study

10:15 am Shabbat Morning Service - led by Stuart Kelter & Leora Zeitlin - followed by Potluck Kiddush

Parashat Vayeishev Genesis 37:1-40:23

Haftarah Amos 2:6-3:8

Friday, December 15

Shabbat Chanukah

5:30 pm Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck Dinner with LATKES!!! ("Potluck" Latkes are welcome!) Bring your Chanukiah/Menorah to light! Pearie Bruder, Jeff Brown and Leslie are coordinating the dinner and program.

6:15 pm Shabbat Chanukah Family Service, including Chanukiah lighting (bring your Chanukiah/Menorah to light) and participation by congregants of all ages. *Jeff Lewis will represent the Board of Trustees.*

7:00 pm Dreidels and Dessert! Our Oneg Shabbat will feature Sufganiyot/Jelly Donuts and other delicacies and Chanukah activities, including playing dreidel!!!

Saturday, December 16

9:00 am Talmud Study

10:15 am Shabbat Morning Service & Potluck Kiddush

Parashat Mikeitz Genesis 41:1-44:17

Haftarah for Chanukah Zechariah 2:14-4:7

Friday, December 22

7:00 pm Shabbat Service for Renewal of Spirit, featuring special music and prayers for healing within our Shabbat liturgy. *Jane Grider and Stacey Hyman will sponsor the Oneg Shabbat. Ned Rubin will represent the Board of Trustees.*

Saturday, December 23

9:00 am Talmud Study

10:15 am Shabbat Morning Service & Potluck Kiddush

Parashat Vayigash Genesis 44:18-47:27

Haftarah Ezekiel 37:15-28

Friday, December 29

6:00 pm EARLY SHABBAT SERVICE. *Rebecca Martinez, Aggie Saltman and Beth Tierney will sponsor the Oneg Shabbat. Diane Fleishman will represent the Board of Trustees.*

Saturday, December 30

NO TALMUD STUDY

10:00 am Joshua Rosenberg, son of Julie Rosenberg and Aaron Flores, will become a Bar Mitzvah during this Shabbat morning service.

Parashat Vayechi Genesis 47:28-50:26

Haftarah I Kings 2:1-2:12

Friday, January 5 –FAMILY SHABBAT

6:00 pm Family Shabbat Service FOR ALL AGES.

6:50 pm Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck Shabbat Dinner

Saturday, January 6

9:00 am Talmud Study

10:15 am Shabbat Morning Service, Potluck Kiddush following

Parashat Shemot Exodus 1:1-6:1

Haftarah Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23

There will be a memorial service for Willie Pass at Temple on the 5th night of Chanukah, Saturday, December 16, at 5:30 pm, including Havdalah, a Chanukiah lighting, an evening service, and time for sharing reminiscences.

Please join Barney & Ruth Ann Sugarman at the Oneg Shabbat on January 12, 2018 to celebrate their 70th anniversary!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2017-2018

President-Ellen Torres

Vice-President-Jeff Lewis

Secretary- Jeff Brown

Treasurer-Allen Blum

Ann Berkson Sue Brown

Pearie Bruder Diane Fleishman 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, December 14, 2017 at 7:00 pm.



Message from Rabbi Karol
What do we learn from the freedom that the Maccabees won in their time?

- They resisted the tyranny of a ruler and regime that sought to impose one culture, one belief, and one approach to life on everyone.
- They demonstrated that power that lacks inspiration and purpose, but only seeks control, will not last.
- They turned the perceived need among some of their fellow Jews to acquiesce to cultural pressures around them into an affirmation that it's all right to be different.
- They acted with courage in the face of great odds and what might have been certain defeat.
- They kept their vision focused on what was holy to them: their values, their tradition, their rituals, their community, and their God.
- They persisted in engendering hope at a hopeless time.

What do we see in the lights we light on the Chanukiah?



- We first see the history of each chanukiah we light: when it came into our home, who lit the candles on it over the years, why that particular chanukiah design bore signif-

icance for the family, and, perhaps, photographs of lighting the candles from year to year, and how Chanukah itself marks the passing of our heritage from one generation to the next.

- We see the joy that we know in our own lives that comes from warming relationships with family and friends.
- We see connections between us and the Jews around the world who are also lighting their Chanukiot.
- We acknowledge that our celebration is one of many in December, which provides us with an opportunity to build bridges of understanding.
- We look into the lights on the Chanukiah and see the guidance and wisdom of Judaism that has sus-



tained us until now and can still nourish us with its teachings about compassion, commitment, justice, hope and peace.

- We learn from using the Shamash to light the other can-

dles that service is crucial to assuring that the lights of any society or nation, in the form of well-being for all people, will burn brightly.

- We see the various colors of the flames, reminding us of the diversity of humankind that has a way of moving people towards coexistence out of necessity and, ultimately, out of love.



- We watch the candles burn and feel their warmth, knowing that we can exude that same warmth through hospitality and generosity of spirit.

May our celebration of Chanukah in 5778 lead us to a special place in ourselves and with each other. As the lights of Chanukah are holy, may we reflect that holiness in our lives through all we do.

Happy Chanukah!

L'shalom,
Rabbi Larry K.

See rabbilarrykarol.blogspot.com for Rabbi Karol's articles, Divrei Torah and sermons.



Rabbi Karol is scheduled to attend, on December 5-11, the Union for Reform Judaism Biennial Convention in Boston, Massachusetts. Ellen Torres and Rhonda Karol will also be attending as official delegates of the congregation. In case of any urgent concerns, please contact Temple Vice- President Jeff Lewis at 575-642-6828.



President's Message

I want to wish all of you a Happy Hanukkah and hope to see you at our Hanukkah-Shabbat Celebration and Latke Dinner on December 15. It is a fun time where we can celebrate Hanukkah with our children and grandchildren and enjoy each other's company as well.

Many of us had a wonderful experience with Tina Wasserman, the Jewish culinary expert from Dallas, who spent the weekend of November 10-12 with us. She spoke from the bimah on Friday night, presented a "Lunch and Learn" session on Saturday, a Saturday evening adult cooking class—which was a blast!, and a challah braiding session with religious school students on Sunday. Many of our Temple members volunteered to make this event, sponsored by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso, a phenomenal success. Special thanks goes to Alison Mann for doing a spectacular job organizing this entire event. My husband Fred and I took Tina Wasserman to lunch at La Posta on Friday, November 10, and loved spending time with her. She is very down-to-earth and gracious, and I hope we can bring her back to Las Cruces in the near future.

In order to continue receiving grant funds, we participated in an annual Jewish Federation fundraising campaign to help raise funds to underwrite these projects, to raise funds for Israel, and for many other significant worldwide efforts. We made calls to you on Sunday, November 19, to support the Jewish Federation's fundraising efforts, and we want to thank you for your wonderful response. We raised close to \$3,000, which was a great showing for our first year of making these calls.

We hope you attend our second annual Robyn Helzner performance, the fabulous singer who joined us last January for her presentation on Jews in China. This time she will present "A Key to the Casa: Celebrating Jewish Life in Sephardic Spain" on Monday, January 22 at 7:00 pm at the Temple. This event is also being sponsored by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso.

Under the facilitation of Jim Rosenthal, a team of us has been meeting to plan a Leadership program that we will present to the congregation in the very near future. Thanks to our team—Jim Rosenthal, Jeff

Brown, Sue Brown, Michael Mandel, Pearie Bruder, and Rabbi Larry—for joining me in establishing the objectives and laying the groundwork for these upcoming sessions.

I want to thank Jeff Brown for stepping up to become our new Board Secretary, replacing Diane Fleishman who will remain on the Board but take a break from being on the Executive Committee due to her health.

Finally, look for information on our annual Congregational Dinner to be held on Saturday, January 27. We look forward to having you all join us!

Thank you for all your dedication and work on behalf of Temple Beth-El. Continue to embrace inclusiveness and tolerance, and continue working together to strengthen our Wisdom, Community Spirit, Tzedakah, Sacred Purpose, and our Sacred Partnerships.

***In Sacred Partnership,
Ellen Torres***



**Coming to Temple Beth-El
on Monday, January 22, 2018 at
7:00 pm:**

**"A Key to the Casa:
Celebrating Jewish Life in
Sephardic Spain"
with Robyn Helzner**

Through entrancing Ladino songs, stories and images, Helzner magically transports audiences to the heart of Jewish Spain. Her captivating presentation brings to life the once flourishing Jewish communities of Toledo, Córdoba and Seville. In exploring the resurgence of a modern Jewish presence in Spain, "A Key to the Casa" celebrates the remarkable resilience of the Jewish people. Lyrics to the songs are projected so everyone can join in the singing.

A stunning vocalist and vivid storyteller, Robyn Helzner radiates a passion for Jewish music and culture. Her concerts and recordings are acclaimed worldwide. Robyn also leads Jewish Heritage Tours to Spain and to China.



ADULT EDUCATION

Culture תורה Holidays עברית Customs



TANAKH STUDY (ISAIAH):

Led by Rabbi Karol on Wednesdays at 10:15-11:20 am (no sessions on December 6 or December 27).

LAY-LED TALMUD STUDY

Talmud study has been meeting every Saturday at 9:00 am for the past 24 years. New students are always welcome. Contact Tanah Hemingway (524-4329) or Erich Zameret (ezmrt35@yahoo.com). with any questions. The Saturday morning service immediately follows.



“People of Character: What does it take to be a Mensch?” - Interfaith Conversation on November 19

Temple Beth-El hosted its annual pre-thanksgiving Interfaith conversation on the afternoon of November 19, 2017. This year, the theme was “People of Character: What Does It take to be a mensch (a decent human being)?” Participants were given a copy of the “Periodic Table of Character Strengths” prepared for Global Character Day, marked this year on September 13 and founded by film-maker and innovator Tiffany Schlain.



Representatives of several faith groups spoke about values which are central to good character.

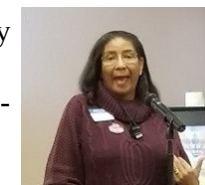
Pastor Jared Carson of Peace Lutheran Church presented his views on persistence. He used biblical examples (Jacob of the Hebrew Bible and Joseph of the New Testament) and shared a poignant personal story that reflected this value.

Deb Rodgers of the Baha'is of Las Cruces shared a personal experience that recounted kindness shown to someone in a communal setting who needed encouragement.



The Rev. Carol Tuck spoke about truth and its varying permutations in our society, seeking to uphold a reverence for honesty and forthright presentation of current events so that we can find a way to live with each other in a spirit of integrity.

Kelley Williams of the Islamic Center of Las Cruces spoke about law, justice, and mercy, noting how religion seeks to strike a balance among all three.



Sonoma Springs Covenant Church pastor Rob Reed spoke on perspective, using the New Testament image from Hebrews of life as a marathon race to be run, with eyes fixed on God and a pace that is holy, honest, humble and healing.

Rabbi Larry spoke about compassion/mercy, beginning with the suggestion of the book of Exodus to adopt a positive approach towards the stranger and even to one's enemy, and also addressing how Judaism seeks to give mercy an edge over an approach of strict justice.



Participants broke into small groups for further discussion, sharing their impressions of the presentations and building on what they heard to engage in new conversations about how we can work together to encourage everyone to explore how to cultivate character strengths in themselves.



What most impressed attendees was that, amid the diversity of the teachings of the

faiths represented, there was a definite resonance about what builds good character and what it takes to be a “mensch.”



Judaism: Roots and Rituals
An Introduction to Judaism Course
presented by Rabbi Larry Karol
This course meets (mostly) on selected Tuesday nights at 7:30-9:00 pm.

Upcoming sessions will be held on:
December 13 (Wednesday) and 19;

January 16, 23, and 30; and February 6 and 13.
(schedule subject to change)

Text: Essential Judaism, by George Robinson (newly revised version). 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@tbcl.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, sblapid@gmail.com or Leora Zeitlin 639-4475, zeitlin@cs.nmsu.edu.



Many thanks to Tina Wasserman for an enlightening and enjoyable weekend on November 10-12, 2017 at Temple Beth-El!



Many thanks to the TBE Grant Committee, to everyone involved in planning this weekend, and to the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso for their support for this weekend of programming!

PERSONAL THOUGHTS ON LEADERSHIP—FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dee Cook

Growing up in Detroit, Michigan, it was easy to be Jewish: your relatives, neighbors and friends were all Jewish. Some traditions were different, depending on your family's origins, but basics were the same. Our parents and grandparents had a common language, Yiddish, which they used when they didn't want the children to understand. We had the kosher butcher, kosher bakery, kosher live poultry places and fish markets. Every few blocks there was a synagogue or a storefront shul. Our schools were predominantly Jewish.

After graduating high school, I attended University of Michigan, which continued to make being Jewish easy. There were many Jewish students from the east and from Chicago and, of course, we had a Hillel.

Upon graduation, I was asked to teach in a predominantly Christian community and was the first Jewish teacher in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. There I met my husband, Clint. We spent our summers traveling and visiting grandchildren.

In 1989, we started looking for a place to retire, and finally decided on Las Cruces in 1990. I had never lived in such a remote place. In looking for a house, I met realtor David Steinborn and was thrilled to find out that there was a temple in town. I had found a Jewish home away from home. My mother moved here with us and we immediately joined the temple. At our first Friday service, I walked Ann Berkson with her family. I had met Ann briefly when we were house hunting, and knew that I had found a friend.

I also took an active part in Hadassah and as treasurer, I kept track of super market scrip that we sold to make our quota. This was to become the seed for our new temple. As the temple community grew in numbers, it was obvious we would need to think of the future and a larger facility. In 1994, with a gentle nudge from my husband stating that he knew that Israel was important, but maybe we should start saving money toward a new temple, we proposed to the local Hadassah board to commit to the temple as well as Hadassah. They agreed to share the scrip profits if we got permission from the region, and since we were such a small Jewish community, they said yes.

Ann Berkson and I proposed to the temple board that we start a fund for a new building by also selling super-market scrip and sharing with Hadassah. Thus started Fund 2004. From there the New Temple Committee convened in 1996. The new temple committee and temple board made the first pledges and then David Steinborn, as New Temple Chair, and I, as temple president, started meeting at homes to continue receiving pledges. It took several years of perseverance and you are now enjoying the fruits of our labor. Thanks to many of you.

I spend a lot of time volunteering at the temple, whether it's on boards or cooking for the JFFF, working on the Renaissance Faire or the many years of the Galas in the past, because my commitment is for future generations to have an extended Jewish family. The temple was here for me and I want others to have the same opportunity.

Temple Beth-El and the Center for Spiritual Living again partnered on a deli booth at the Dona Ana Arts Council Renaissance Arts Faire on November 4-5, 2017! Thanks to everyone who helped before, during and after the event!



**Scenes from the TBE
Matzo Ball Open
Golf Tournament at Red
Hawk Golf Course
on Sunday, October 29, 2017**
This annual fundraiser supports Temple and, this year, some of the proceeds will benefit Mesilla Valley Community of Hope. Thank you to everyone who helped with this successful event!



WEEKLY TEMPLE BREAKFAST



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 phili-palkon@gmail.com or 575-524-6945)

Adelante Deadline

The deadline for turning in articles, items and photos for the January, 2018 Adelante is December 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 Wednesdays at 10:00-10:30 am. Please call before you come (575-524-3380), or email Rabbi Karol at rabbik@tblc.org or rablpkarol@gmail.com. You can also contact Rabbi Karol to make an appointment. Thank you!

ISRAEL UPDATE

MIDDLE EAST EARTHQUAKES BAD AND GOOD

By Phil Alkon

Whether we choose to accept it or not, events far from our cozy homes and community here in Las Cruces end up having profound and surprising effects on our lives as Americans and Jews. Israel's rebirth, especially, has put the Middle East in our lives and daily consciousness no matter how unsettled and conflicted it makes us. So here, if you choose to continue, are some potentially earth-shaking Middle East events that will intrude on our lives whether we would wish it otherwise or not. No one promised us that being Jewish – or American – would be an easy ride.

The first earthquake - actually geological – is the severe disaster on the Iraq-Iran border that added a natural catastrophe to the region's unending series of man-made woes. Israel immediately volunteered its considerable expertise and resources in rescue efforts to Iran via the International Red Cross. Similar Israel efforts worldwide have proved extremely effective and appreciated in saving human lives and property. But Iran rejected Israel's help immediately. Not surprisingly, the Iranian regime would choose to sacrifice the lives of its own people rather than exhibit any accommodation with or recognition of Israel. Enemies are a valuable asset to many Middle East governments and societies. Who else can you blame for your unsolved problems?

Iran's growing status and influence following the multinational nuclear agreement is especially troubling to Israel, and is now raising concerns throughout much of the Middle East and beyond. The former Persian Empire, now in the guise of Shia Islam's global guardian and promoter, is exploiting and aggravating regional chaos to effectively project its policies and aims. The last administration's withdrawal of U.S. political and military influence in the region has also created a gaping power vacuum that has been deftly filled by – you guessed it – Vladimir Putin's revived Russian Empire. What a wonderful world we've created by purposefully doing nothing! Who says international politics is difficult?

But the implications for Israel are of earthquake proportions. The two most powerful regimes in the region are Iran, a self-declared enemy actively promoting Israel's destruction, and an assertive Russia whose principal Middle East ally is Bashar el Assad's murderous Syrian regime. Syria of course is a founding member of the Let's Destroy Israel club. Add to the mix the reliably hostile policies of Recep Erdogan's Turkey (and you thought that the Ottoman Empire was dead) and Israel finds itself in a rather challenging morass.

Of course Israelis, perhaps more than any people on earth, have learned to deal with the consequences of their increasingly dysfunctional neighborhood on a daily basis. Aside from Palestinian terrorism, examples of the seemingly routine challenges they face include Hamas' continued efforts, abetted by Turkey and Qatar, to devise underground tunnels for infiltrating and attacking Israeli communities bordering Gaza. In response, Israel developed new technology to de-

tect and destroy the tunnels. Hezbollah, the Iranian backed terrorist army that controls southern Lebanon has accumulated an arsenal of 100,000 advanced missiles with which it threatens to destroy Israel on a daily basis. Experience has taught Israel to take such threats seriously; and the IDF conducts large-scale training exercises to prepare for a Hezbollah launched war from Lebanon. Israel also is forced to respond to Syrian military provocations along the Golan Heights, some of which likely involved Iranian Revolutionary Guard units that are supporting Syrian forces. In fact, Iran's military presence and influence is spreading throughout the region; and an Israeli space satellite has detected ongoing construction of a permanent Iranian military base in southern Syria within conventional striking range of Israel. Stay tuned for Israel's response, military and/or otherwise to this development. In all this seeming turmoil, Israel maintains diplomatic relations and regular contact with an adversarial Russia. In fact, PM Bibi Netanyahu may be meeting face to face with Vladimir Putin more frequently than any other world leader. Think about why this may be so.

But there is another side to an otherwise grim and foreboding Middle East scenario. A *good* earthquake, if you will. The Sunni Arab world appears to be reaching out for an accommodation with Israel! Most notably, the Gulf States, led by Saudi Arabia, are in the process of accepting Israel (i.e., Jewish nationhood in their exclusive Arab realm) for the first time in history. According to recent news reports, Saudi Arabia has developed a proposal for a regional Arab peace treaty with Israel that would encompass the normalization of relations between all Arab states with the Jewish state, and a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict. According to these reports, the U. S. would serve as principal mediator of the treaty negotiations and facilitator of the peace process. Moreover, the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia, the country's top religious authority and one of Shia Islam's most prominent clerics, has just ruled that fighting Israel and the Jews was not acceptable behavior for Muslims. His fatwa also declared Hamas, a major Palestinian party, to be a terrorist organization in contravention of Islamic Law. What an incredible change in attitude on the part of a leading Arab enemy of Israel over the past 70 years. Will Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States, finally recognizing that Israel would be more valued as friend than an enemy, make peace with the reality of a restored Jewish Middle East homeland?

As a Jew born in Mandatory Palestine, as a U.S. citizen at birth who grew up in the States and loves this country, and as an ardent champion of the restored Jewish homeland, I can only say. *Halavai!* – Let it be so! Here at Temple Beth-El, we may be witnessing a transformation of near Biblical proportions that demands our support in prayer and action.

Board of Trustees Meeting Summary November 16, 2017

Tina Wasserman's Religious School challah braiding session was very successful. TBE will have four bar/bat mitzvahs through the end of June 2018, including Michael Bruder and Joshua Rosenberg in December 2017. The annual Interfaith Conversation will be held at TBE on November 19 and will be titled "People of Character: What does it take to be a mensch." The Rabbi met with Rachel Slaton from the URJ Six Points Academy Sports Camp in California to discuss camp opportunities available for our children.

President Ellen Torres asked Jeff Lewis, Diane Fleishman and Sue Brown to form a subcommittee to make recommendations about the Rabbi's administrative tasks. The Festivus gathering will be held on Saturday, January 27. A different name for the gathering may be selected. Diane Fleishman stepped down as Secretary, but will remain on the Board. The Board thanked Diane for her service. Jeff Brown was selected as Secretary. The Board agreed to reimburse BETY for a Spring 2017 conference trip. The Jewish Federation Education Council in El Paso asks for TBE members to attend its monthly meetings.

Treasurer Allen Blum showed the plaque thanking Mel Taylor and Mary Fitzgerald for bequests that allowed the Temple to buy its new doors. He distributed a budget report showing an increase in dues collections. Some members in arrears have paid their fair share now. He has decided to resign as Treasurer, but will remain on the Board and help the new Treasurer when selected. The Board thanked him for his service.

Ned Rubin noted that the Social Action Committee will support the League of Women's Voters 50th Anniversary celebration on January 30, 2018. The Marketing and Public Relations Committee report notes that April 15, 2018 has been selected for the Jewish Food and Folk Festival. Linda Kruger reported that the software company is working with the Library to allow off-site public access to view the Library's holdings. Linda and the Board discussed options for additional Library space.

The Board will review fund raising ideas at the next meeting. Dee Cook and Jeff Lewis will write a text for the plaque honoring David Brandhorst's bequest.

To our extended family at Congregation Beth-El,

We were deeply saddened by our loss of the loving, gregarious Lionel we all knew. But without the love and support of our extended family at Temple Beth El we would not have made it through these past few difficult days. We were completely blown away by the outpouring of love and warmth shown to us by this congregation. We know there are tough and lonely roads ahead, but with the love and support of our extended family at Temple Beth-El, I know we will continue. "Thank you" seems very insignificant to say for everything from the beautiful Remembrance service to the luncheon to all the food, to the overflow of people for the minyan, to the warm hugs and supportive words, but Thank you from the bottom of the hearts of the Jacobs family.

*Cindy, Shawn, Mark, Daniel,
Kayne, Jay and Rose.*

The Irving Batkin Memorial Scholarship Fund will be accepting applications for assistance and support for pursuit of Jewish education. Temple members are eligible to apply. Each applicant will have an opportunity to chronicle his/her Jewish journey and to describe the nature of the request and what makes that request unique. Application forms will be available soon. Announcements will be made in the Adelante and by e-mail to all members.

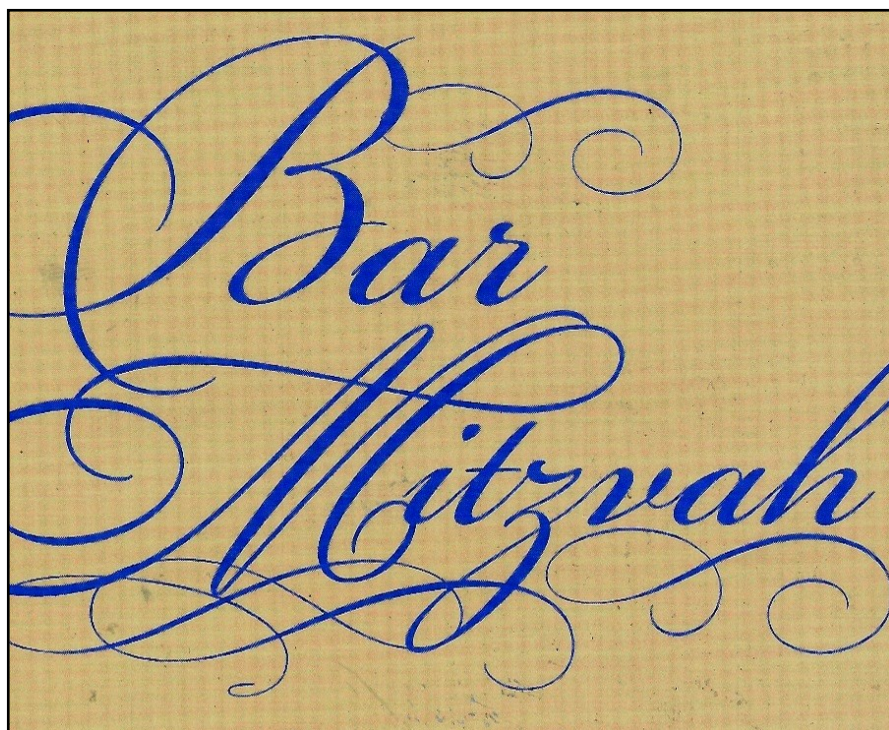


Bricks for the Biblical Garden and Brick Walkway will be ordered again in the coming months. Please

consider ordering one to mark that special occasion of yours or a loved one. Call Dee Cook or Alison Mann, and they will send you the form and even help you design the brick, if you wish. And take a few minutes to sit in the meditation area of the walkway...it's a lovely spot!

**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.



***Michael Robert Bruder,
son of Ron and Pearie Bruder,
will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah
on Saturday, December 2, 2017
during our Shabbat morning service at 10:00 a.m.***

***Joshua Michael Rosenberg
son of Julie Rosenberg and Aaron Flores,
will be called to the Torah As a Bar Mitzvah
on Saturday, December 30, 2017
during our Shabbat morning service at 10:00 a.m.***

**Upcoming B'nei Mitzvah at Temple Beth-El
*Kaila Brown-Saturday, May 26, 2018
Hannah Saltman-Saturday, June 30, 2018***

Tzedakah Opportunities at TBE

***Giving to Casa de Peregrinos
& El Caldito***

Here are longer lists for items needed!

***For Casa de Peregrinos: Peanut Butter and
the following Canned foods: Corn, Green
Beans, Mixed Vegetables, Fruits, Tomatoes,
Pasta Sauce, Tuna, Beans, and Meats***

***For El Caldito: 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.



***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.

Donations for November, 2017**General Fund**

- Dee Cook, in memory of David and Nathan Edelstein
- Jane Grider, in memory of her father, Dr. Clarence A Lathrop
- Susan and Yosef Lapid, with appreciation to the TBE community, for the support and caring during Ilana's hospitalization

Religious School Fund

- Bryan and Lisa McCuller, in memory of Arlene Metzger and Gary Metzger
- James Jaworski and Deborah Thuman, in memory of Willie Pass
- Leslie Glater, in honor of Michael Bruder becoming Bar Mitzvah

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Dee Cook, thank you to Rabbi Karol for officiating at the Cemetery service during High Holy Days
- Lionel (z"l) and Rose Jacobs, in memory of Colman Jacobs
- Diana and John Glick, a special thank you to Rabbi Karol
- Daniel and Simy Allan, in memory of Evelyn Benowitz

Beth-El Temple Youth (BETY & BEMY)

- Bernice Langner, in honor of Michael Bruder becoming Bar Mitzvah

Biblical Garden Brick Walkway Fund

- Selma Ryave and Rosalyn Richman, in memory of Rev. David Beryl Ryave, Sol Podolsky and Charles Lipsitz

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.

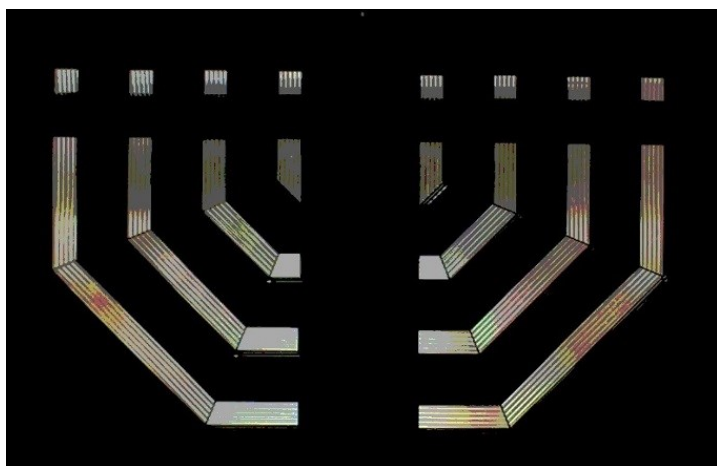
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund—Rabbi Karol uses the Discretionary Fund to meet a variety of philanthropic requests as well as to supplement TBE programs.

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

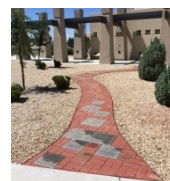
Temple Beth-El Religious School Fund—Supports the regular and special programming planned by faculty, students and the Religious School Committee.

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 family) by adding leaves to our Tree of Life and



by adding bricks to our Brick Walkway/Biblical Garden.

DECEMBER 2017 (KISLEV-TEVET 5778)**Yahrzeits-November 26, 2017 through January 6, 2018**

(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, December 1 and Saturday, December 2

Meyer Bass (Tanah Hemingway)
Leo Bienstock (Gerie Muchnikoff)
Rose Caplan (Betty Rosse)
Ivy Dessaur*
Murray Gould*
Sam Greenberg (Cyrille Kane)
Stephen Halper (Jane Halper)
Mel Kirschner* (Bob Kirschner, Lila Ziegler)
Bernie Lieberman*
Dr. Michael Polsky (Rita Polsky)
David Silverman (Jerald Silverman)

Read on Friday, December 8 and Saturday, December 9

Daisy Chapman (Diane Fleishman)
Ida Weinstein Epstein (Marlene Benz)
Jay Feldman* (Louise Feldman-Baskey)
Samuel Goldman (Rochelle Silverman)
Celia Greenberg (Cyrille Kane)
Dave Levy* (Bea Klein)
Tony Pakinkas (Tanah Hemingway)
Sol Podolsky (Rosalyn Richman, Selma Ryave)
Sam Shickler*

Tova Zameret (Erich Zameret)**Read on Friday, December 15 and Saturday, December 16**

Toma G Bell (Joseph Bell)
Joel Glickler* (Joan Glickler)
Samuel David Goldberg (Richard Goldberg)
Lee Gutman (Allen Palanker)
Helen Isaacs (Linda Kruger)
Florence Kaye (Susan Quinn)
Charles Klein (Debbie Levy)
Hyman Krepps*
Rose Rice Orlins*
Irv Rothman (Nina Rothman)
William Silberman (Cyrille Kane)

Read on Friday, December 22 and Saturday, December 23

Baruch Freudental*
Max Freudenthal*
Leopold Gluck*
Eleanor Goldman (Rochelle Silverman)
Sidney Kaye (Susan Quinn)
Ken Kessin* (Deana Kessin)
Lillian Klein (Debbie Levy)
Lynn Loudon (Cheryl A. Loudon-Decker)
Ruth Metz Lazarus:
Etta Muchnikoff (Stan Muchnikoff)
Michele Murdoch* (Joan Glickler)
Margaret Schoenbrun*
Harry Segal (Michele Blum)
Barbara Zenz Siegel*
Ruth Steinborn*
Lois Stern*
Abraham Weinglass (Teddy Weinglass)
Carolyn Wolfe* (Elissa Poel)

Read on Friday, December 29 and Saturday, December 30

Lois Bissonette (Lynn Berkeley)
Ilona Farkas* (Yosef Lapid)
Gerard Frieder* (Linda Fisher)
Morris Gluck* (Helen Gluck)
Sarah Jacobs*
Harry Kuznekoff* (Chuck Kuznekoff)
Dorothy Leibson*:
Sam Ross (Irwin Ross)
Sonia Silverman (Jerald Silverman)
Sylvia Weiss* (Diane Bass)
Evelyn Willman* (Elliott Willman)

Read on Friday, January 5 and Saturday, January 6

Ed Entin (Maxine Webber, Jason Rosenberg)
Aron Fiszbein* (Abraham Fiszbein)
Ruth Gluck*
Henry Greenberg (Cyrille Kane)
Alvin Krasner (Frima Marquez, Jeff Marquez)
Harris B. Libby (Robert Libby)
Dorothy Palanker (Allen Palanker)
Nancy Rees Brown (Marieka Brown)

The Temple Beth-El family extends condolences to:

***Larry and Kathe Pass and family,
On the death of Larry's father, Willie Pass,
on Wednesday, November 1, 2017 in Las Cruces.***

***Harriett Wolf and family,
On the death of Harriett's husband, Irv Wolf,
On Thursday, November 16, 2017 in Las Cruces.***

***Rose Jacobs and family.
On the death of Rose's husband, Lionel Jacobs,
On Sunday, November 26, 2017 in Las Cruces.***

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.



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 www.smile.amazon.com. 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.tbetc.org

for in-depth information about Temple and its programming and updates on current Temple events

Temple Beth-El is on Facebook!

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

(It is open for all to see!)

If you are on Facebook already, find our page, click “Like” and join us in our Facebook community!



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Kevin Horner
khorner@ptsofficesystems.com



***Chanukah Programs
at Temple Beth-El
for 2017/5778:***

***Sunday, December 3
Chanukah Boutique,***

sponsored by

the Sisterhood Judaica Shop

at 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Friday, December 15

Chanukah/Shabbat

Congregational Celebration

including at 5:30 pm potluck

dinner, 6:15 pm service (bring your

Chanukiah to light), and Dreidels

and Dessert Oneg Shabbat!



**Tanah
Hemingway**

(575) 524-4329

most nights

P.O Box 16318

Las Cruces

NM 88004

Editing:



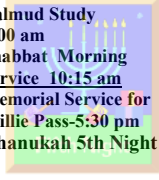



Books, scientific papers, theses, dissertations

Technical documents of all sorts.

(for accuracy, continuity, organization, style
grammar, readability, supportability, etc.)

***Be watching for information
in Temple e-blasts
about our annual
congregational project
at Camp Hope,
when we will serve breakfast
on the morning
of December 25, 2017.***

DECEMBER 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| | | | | | Kislev 13 1 Family Shabbat Service 6:00 pm Potluck Dinner following | Kislev 14 2 Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Michael Bruder |
| Kislev 15 3 Religious School 9:00 am | Kislev 16 4 | Kislev 17 5 | Kislev 18 6 Wednesday Breakfast 8:45 am Hebrew School 4:45 pm | Kislev 19 7 | Kislev 20 8 Shabbat Service 7:00 pm | Kislev 21 9 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service 10:15 am |
| Kislev 22 10 Religious School 9:00 am | Kislev 23 11 | Kislev 24 12 Chanukah 1st Night  | Kislev 25 13 Wednesday Breakfast 8:45 am Tanakh Study 10:15am Hebrew School 4:45 pm Chanukah 2nd night Judaism class 7:30 pm | Kislev 26 14 Board Meeting 7:00 pm Chanukah 3rd Night  | Kislev 27 15 Shabbat Chanukah Dinner 5:30 pm Service 6:15 pm Dreidels & Dessert 7:00 pm Chanukah 4th night | Kislev 28 16 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service 10:15 am Memorial Service for Willie Pass-5:30 pm Chanukah 5th Night  |
| Kislev 29 17 Religious School 9:00 am Chanukah 6th Night  | Kislev 30 18 Chanukah 7th Night  | Tevet 1 19 Judaism Class 7:30 pm Chanukah 8th Night  | Tevet 2 20 Wednesday Breakfast 8:45 am Tanakh Study 10:15am NO HEBREW SCHOOL | Tevet 3 21 | Tevet 4 22 Shabbat Service for Renewal of Spirit 7:00 pm | Tevet 5 23 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service 10:15 am |
| Tevet 6 24 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL | Tevet 7 25 | Tevet 8 26 | Tevet 9 27 Wednesday Breakfast 8:45 am NO TANAKH STUDY NO HEBREW SCHOOL | Tevet 10 28 | Tevet 11 29 Shabbat Service 6:00 pm - NOTE EARLY TIME | Tevet 12 30 Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Rosenberg |
| Tevet 13 31 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL | Tevet 14 Jan 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY | Tevet 15 2 | Tevet 16 3 Wednesday Breakfast 8:45 am Tanakh Study 10:15am NO HEBREW SCHOOL | Tevet 17 4 | Tevet 18 5 Family Shabbat Service 6:00 pm Potluck Dinner following | Tevet 19 6 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service 10:15 am |

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

Phone: 575.524.3380
Fax: 575.521.8111

President: Ellen Torres

Rabbi Lawrence P. Karol
rabbi@tbelc.org

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

December, 2017



**Temple Beth-El
3980 Sonoma Springs Avenue
Las Cruces, NM 88011**