



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



DECEMBER 2023 (KISLEV-TEVET 5784)

It's Almost Chanukah!

Come to the Chanukah Candle
Lighting Service and Latke
Oneg

Friday, December 8, 2023
6 PM

Bring latkes & desserts and join
the fun!

You will need to bring your
Chanukia/Menorah and 3 (two
plus the Shamash) candles for
the Candle Lighting

and

We need desserts of all kinds,
latkes, sour cream and
applesauce



Please email or text Diane
Fleishman with what you will
be bringing.

Fleishmandiane@gmail.com
(717) 471-2419

Camp Hope Breakfast

If it's December then it must be time to start planning for Temple Beth-El's Annual Christmas Day Breakfast at Camp Hope. This year we'll be asking again for financial support and we're also looking for a few folks to help with set up and cooking starting at 7:30 am as well as a few more who would like to come to help with take down and clean up. Donations can be mailed to:

Temple Beth-El

3980 Sonoma Springs Ave.

Las Cruces, NM 88011

or you can drop them off at the Temple. Please write Camp Hope in the memo line.

Leora Zeitlin and Amalia Kelter Zeitlin will be leading our caroling group if you would like to join them. Stay tuned for Eblasts with more information.

If you are interested in setting up and cooking or in take down and clean up, contact Susan Fitzgerald at susanfitzgerald@hotmail.com.



Worship Schedule

Services are in person but will also be available by Zoom and Facebook live.

You can watch the Facebook on this page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Synagogue/Temple-Beth-El-115816285166004/>

Zoom invites for all services, and any text to follow, will be sent out weekly.

If you do not have a siddur at home, you can purchase a print copy or an e-book, (less expensive option) which can be viewed on any device using the free Kindle App. These can be bought from the Central Conference of American Rabbis at this link

<https://www.ccarnet.org/publications/mishkan-tfilah-for-Shabbat/>

**Friday Evening Kabbalat Services:
6:30 pm**

**Saturday Morning Services:
10:30 am**

1st and 3rd week, shorter service and Torah study.
2nd and 4th week, longer service with full Torah service.

***Times will occasionally vary.
See calendar for current schedule.***

Adelante Submissions:

As we continue another busy year, I need your help more than ever. This newsletter is so much better when it has many voices (that and I am horrible at remembering to take pictures). Send me your pictures of family Shabbat or Temple events, book recommendations, recipes, illustrations, etc. I will share as many as space allows in each month's Adelante. Please send pictures in JPG and files in .doc format.

The deadline for turning in articles, items and photos for the January 2024 Adelante is December 20, 2023. Late items may not be included. Please keep to that schedule to facilitate a timely completion of the Adelante! All content can be e-mailed to me, Beth Tierney at cambrien73@gmail.com

Study Opportunities

In person and by Zoom except when otherwise specified. Links sent weekly.

Talmud Study– Saturdays at 9:00 AM

Lay led by Bryan McCuller.

Pirkei Avot Study– Saturdays at 12:30 during Oneg

Short Story Group– Tuesdays at 1 pm via Zoom

This is a discussion group led by former congregant Jim Rosenthal. Jim e-mails stories by Jewish authors to participants each week. To join, contact Jim at jar529@gmail.com.

Tanakh study –Wednesdays at 10:15 am via Zoom

Led by Rabbi Larry Karol (TBE Rabbi Emeritus). Contact Rabbi Karol (rablpcarol@gmail.com) to join.

Jewish Literacy- Wednesdays at 6:00PM *

Led by Rabbi Evette. Dinner included. Required text: Jewish Literacy (Revised Ed): The Most Important Things to Know About the Jewish Religion, Its People, and Its History by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin. This book is available on Kindle, \$1.99, with an audio narration by Audible, available for an additional charge for those who have difficulty reading.

CONVERSION: This series will be the base-work toward conversion to Judaism. This course is also highly recommended for adult bar/bat mitzvah students.

Mussar: Jewish ethics, led by Rabbi Evette.

Intermediate Mussar –Thursdays at 2:00 PM

Beginning Mussar-Tuesdays at 5:30 (start date TBD)

Yahrzeits- December 1, 2023 to January 6, 2024

(Listings include the name of the loved one on the yahrzeit list and the name of the congregant or congregants remembering that loved one -asterisks indicate loved ones remembered with memorial plaques)

Read on December 1 & 2, 2023

Stanley Bergman (Nancy Bergman & Greg Artman)
Bernard Buchalter*
Daisy Chapman (Diane Fleishman)
Ivy Dessaur*
Ida Weinstein Epstein (Marlene Benz)
Samuel Goldman (Jerald & Rochelle Silverman)
Sam Greenberg (Cyrille Kane)
Irvin Kershner (Shari Abramowitz & Rabbi Evette Lutman)
Dave Levy* (Sam Klein)
Bernie Lieberman*
Sam Shickler*
Samuel Spiegel (Sheri Spiegel & John Ragosta)

Read on December 8 & 9, 2023

Marion Ellis Bairnsfather (Jon Bairnsfather & David Newman)
Peggy Cook-Greenspan (Jack Greenspan)
Jay Feldman*
Samuel David Goldberg (Richard & Darlene Goldberg)
Celia Greenberg (Cyrille S. Kane)
Helen Isaacs (Linda Kruger)
Florence Kaye (Patrick & Susan Quinn)
Hyman Krepps*
Rose Rice Orlins* (Selma Ryave & Rosalyn Richman)
Sol Podolsky (Selma Ryave & Rosalyn Richman)
Tova Zameret (Erich & Elaine Zameret)

Read on December 15 & 16, 2023

Baruch Freedental*
Max Freudenthal*
Joel Glickler* (Rachel Glickler-Duggins & Sean Duggins)
Leopold Gluck*
Eleanor Goldman (Rochelle & Jerald Silverman)
Lee Gutman (Allen & Eve Palanker)
Sidney Kaye (Susan & Patrick Quinn)
Charles Klein (Tom & Deborah Levy)
Lynn Loudon (Cheryl & David Decker)
Etta Muchnikoff (Stan & Gerie Muchnikoff)
Irv Rothman (Nina Rothman)
Margaret Schoenbrun*
Barbara Zenz Siegel*
William Silberman (Cyrille S. Kane)
Mattie Eva Smith Tombs (David Newman & Jon Bairnsfather)
Ruth Steinborn*
Carolyn Wolfe*

Read on December 22 & 23, 2023

Morris Gluck*
Sarah Jacobs*
Lillian Klein (Tom & Deborah Levy)
Susan Lapid (Yosef Lapid)
Dorothy Liebson*
Michele Murdoch* (Rachel Glickler-Duggins & Sean Duggins)
Sam Ross (Irvin & Barbara Ross)

Harry Segal (Allen & Michele Blum)
Sonia Silverman (Jerry & Rochelle Silverman)
Virginia Smith-Hightower (David Newman & Jon Bairnsfather)
Sarah Spiegel (Sheri Spiegel & John Ragosta)
Lois Stern*
Ronja Van Stellingwerf*
Sylvia Weiss* (Harry & Diane Bass)
Evelyn Willman*

Read on December 29 & 30, 2023

Eleanore Abramowitz (Shari Abramowitz & Evette Lutman)
Ilona Farkas* (Yosef Lapid)
Aron Fizbein*
Gerald Frieder*
Edward Friedman (Mark & Stefani Singer)
Joan Glickler* (Rachel Glickler-Duggins & Sean Duggins)
Ruth Gluck*
Ira Hudson III (Cherri Hudson-Brown & Jeff Brown)
Alvin Krasner (Frima Marquez & Jeff Marquez)
Harry Kuznekoff*
Gary Mann (Alison Mann)
Dorothy Palanker (Allen & Eve Palanker)
Nancy Rees Brown (Marieka & Jeanne Brown)
Honey Silverman Zele (Jerry & Rochelle Silverman)

Read on January 5 & 6, 2024

Jerome Deutschman* (Ellen & Alfred Torres)
Jack Frank*
Bernard Gluck*
George Gorelick*
Henry Greenberg (Cyrille S. Kane)
Faige Jacobs (Rose Jacobs)
Asher Klaitman* (Rita Polsky)
Harris B. Libby (Robert & Carla Libby)
Charles Lipsitz (Selma Ryave & Rosalyn Richman)
Leon Markson (Linda Kruger)
Laura Metzger (Bryan & Lisa McCuller)
Frances Pass*
William I Remley (David Newman & Jon Bairnsfather)
Jefferson Davis Smith, Sr (David Newman & Jon Bairnsfather)
James Turnbull (Joanne Turnbull)

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 Adelante.
- Names are read on the Shabbat **following** the Yahrzeit, or on the day, if it falls on that Shabbat.
- Hebrew vs. conventional (Gregorian) 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 (Gregorian) calendar date are asked to please email or call the Temple office a few days prior to the service.

*Asterisks 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. Current TBE members may purchase a plaque for \$300. Non TBE members may purchase a plaque for \$600.



Musings: Black Fire on White Fire

By Karen Shevet Dinah

While discussing the Israeli-Gazan war, my new neighbor, Rusty, concluded that if decisions were left to women, world

history would not be so riddled by war. Simplistic on the surface, Rusty's position begs for a new paradigm to replace the brutalities in Israel, Gaza, the Ukraine and so many other places including the schools, streets, and neighborhoods of America. And, in her secular way she is talking Torah, the Torah described as black fire written on white fire.

It's the Zohar which declares Torah was written black fire on white fire. The black fire being the letters penned with black ink onto the cream-colored prepared hide of a kosher animal, the hide/parchment being the white fire. The Maharal of Prague's commentary, *Tiferet Yisrael*, teaches that the black fire represents *emet* or truth, while the white fire represents loving kindness or *chesed*. The 19th century Chassidic master, R. Yaakov Leiner of Izhbitza, taught that fire represents light, and that sometimes light is too bright and needs a limiting factor in order to be seen. He goes on to teach that black light benefits us by limiting white light, transforming Torah into something humans can comprehend, and implying we are rarely capable of deciphering white fire. And yet we have always tried. We always seek the *chesed* in life.

The first Shabbat in December, we read *parashat vayishlach* which is packed with a number of well-known stories: Jacob's fear of meeting up with his brother Esau, their reconciliation, the God-wrestling episode resulting in Jacob's limp and name change, the story of Dinah and Shechem, the death of Rachel, the death of Isaac, closing with genealogical listings ultimately introducing our archetypal enemy, Amalek.

Consider the story of Dinah. What if we could read between the lines, the white fire? What nuggets of Torah wisdom hide between each calligraphed letter? One of my favorite lines in the *chumash* is the opening of Genesis 34, the introduction to Dinah. As rendered in Robert Alter's translation, "Dinah, daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Ya'acov went out to go seeing among the daughters of the land."* I have always found this sentence to be very woman-centered, if not feminist. Dinah, born into an over-riding patrilineal system of descent during biblical times, is first defined as the daughter of Leah rather than Jacob; indeed, very indirectly described as related to Ya'acov. And what does she do? Very independently, she goes out into public alone, focused on spending time with the indigenous women of Canaan. That is the *emet*, the truth of the black fire easily gleaned by any reader with the least bit of a feminist bent in his/her reading.

Now for the white fire, Anita Diamant's *The Red Tent* aside. Dinah stays indefinitely "with the women of the land", where she walks with them as they herd, sits with

them as they prepare meals, nurse babies, and sew hides together for shelter and protection from the elements. They exchange stories and information, thoughts and opinions, fears and dreams for their lives are very different from Dinah's, who has left the emerging patriarchal and monotheistic society. Amongst these "daughters of the land", Dinah experiences living in a matri-focal setting, yet to be converted by monotheism. It is a society where males are raised to be adept warriors, but rarely need to tap into those skills because emphasis is placed on communal decision-making and patience for negotiations with threatening outsiders. A society where in the end, males defer to the wisdom found among the female elders' council.

There is one young Caananite man, Shechem, who is particularly well-thought of. A strong and highly skilled warrior as well as a talented breeder of goats and sheep. He wants this beautiful and adventurous newcomer for his wife. A talented stranger who has been lodging with his cousin, Anat, widowed at a young age, left with children to support on her own. Dinah has been of great help to Anat, bringing income into the household through working with the men in the fields, milking, and making cheese with the women. Dinah and Anat are making a life together and Anat's children are happy to, once again, have two parents who dote on them. Dinah is not interested in a marriage to Shechem since she feels for him like a brother, even more than her own brothers she left on the other side of the Caananite settlement.

Although disappointed and perhaps slightly angered by Dinah's refusal, Shechem is a practitioner of balance and restraint and abides by the decision of the Women Elders to bless the household of Anat and Dinah. And their story goes on with peaceful co-existence between the family of Dinah and her new family, the indigenous of Canaan. No vengeful massacre, no war caused by the shallowness of inflated egos, lascivious desire and the need by one group to rule over another.

The Black Fire of Torah is multi-layered, filled with dramatic narratives, incomprehensible concepts, revelations of the human condition and much more. And despite having read and re-read it year after year we never seem to exhaust it of the richness it offers. Perhaps, we are living in a time where exploring its White Fire is needed more than ever.

Undoubtedly, as my new neighbor, Rusty, intimated, the world is in need of its *chesed* as much as its *emet*.

*Alter footnotes his translation of this sentence: "to go seeing among the daughters of the land." *The infinitive in the Hebrew is literally "to see" followed not by a direct object . . . but by a participle . . . which suggests "among"; or "some of" although the sense of the verb in context may be something like "to make the acquaintance of" or "travel around among". . . . The decision of several modern translations to render it as "to visit" is misconceived. In other words, Dinah is not a visitor. She is an immigrant.*



A Note from our President

It's been another eventful year at Temple Beth-EL and I was hoping to close it out with an upbeat report.

- Apart from the usual ebb and flow of members coming and going, we have seen an overall increase in new families joining the synagogue and bringing their children to the religious school.
- Rabbi Evette's classes on Jewish Literacy, and Mussar are going strong, and she is planning to expand her offerings next year. Other classes and our Jewish reading group are also continuing.
- Anecdotally, I have heard very rewarding comments about services, with remarks that with the addition of the choir, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services were especially moving (including the family apple picking on the second day of Rosh Hashanah!)
- We also introduced a few new ventures, such as the Blessing of the Animals. It was a big success for both animals and their owners, and people expressed great interest in seeing it adopted next year.
- As I write this, we're very close to hitting our goal for the \$20,000 matching fund! You still have the whole month of December to make a gift, so don't hesitate to include it in your year-end giving.

Despite this upbeat list, the October 7th massacre in Israel and the brutal aftermath of war with Hamas has overshadowed everything. The Israeli community has been shattered, and the Palestinian population has also been devastated.

At this moment, the first release of hostages appears under way, as has a tentative delivery of humanitarian aid for Gaza. Both groups are shrouded in shock and grief, and shared uncertainty at the fragile motions to wind down the war.

It is not enough that here we also feel their heartbreak and pain. Sadly, this war has also unleashed a long dormant yet persistent sentiment of anti-Semitism aimed not solely at Israelis, but at all Jews. Ages old conspiracy theories, blood libels, and new versions of old tropes are making an endless round of appearances on social media, videos, and live streams.

Most alarming is how this is playing out as actual attacks of violence. Individuals are being harassed and congregations are being attacked not only with genuine shooters, but also with notices of fake bombs. Sent

anonymously to police departments or directly to synagogues through email, these hoax messages are not meant to actually damage a building, but are called "swatting" because they are designed only to mobilize local SWAT teams and tie up as much law enforcement personnel as possible. Often initiated by gamers, they treat this behavior as entertaining competitions to see who can bring out the most law enforcement personnel in a community. The local responders will sweep a building and declare it safe, but only after tying up dozens or even hundreds of local police departments and federal agencies.

Such was the case at my niece's synagogue southeast of Boston. The rabbi received an anonymous email last Sunday declaring a bomb was in the building, although no activities were actually planned that day and the building was closed. Police and other public safety personnel responded quickly and thoroughly and found nothing dangerous, but the note still had the desired effect of making the congregation fearful and mobilizing public safety personnel to be on high alert.

Temple Beth-El is definitely overdue for adopting our own security measures as recommended by the Secure Communities Network, the group that monitors such anti-Semitic activities and advises Jewish Federations around the country. [See the separate posting in this issue of the ADELANTE.]

We will also step up our contact with our new Mayor and with our local public safety departments, to inform them about these incidents, and make sure that all of us are prepared in the event that it could happen here. (Please let me know if you would like to be on our Security Committee!)

December is a month to celebrate holidays of conquering the darkness with lights. We can challenge the darkness of hate, of fear and of war, with the light of mitzvot, compassion and the quest for peace.

L'Shalom,
Nan Rubin, President
Temple Beth-EL, Las Cruces
President.tbcl@gmail.com

Temple Beth El Board of Directors Meeting November 16 , 2023

- Rabbi Evette Lutman reported she did not attend the Interfaith Service for Peace that was held at Young Park due to security concerns. She reported that Temple Mount Sinai in El Paso will be holding a Havdalah for Hope. All are welcome, not only members of that congregation, to come and support one another at this challenging and uncertain time. She is planning to create more Israel focused programs for our congregants. This is especially important as many are feeling fear and anxiety but also want to talk about these issues in an environment that is safe and respectful. She also reported that her first conversion class will be completed in the Spring. Many additional calls have been received with interest in conversion. She has plans for another class after this one is complete. The recent Bat Mitzvah of Lilah Berkson went beautifully
- Treasurer, Joel Siegal reported we are doing quite well with income for the year. We continue to come very close to the amount needed to meet the Matching Challenge Grant. Another letter from President Nan Rubin will go out to the congregation in early December as we approach the December 31 end date for this challenge. Joel also reported the receipt of a substantial gift from Jean Pritchard who is not a member of the congregation. She has been thanked and invited to temple events and activities.
- President Nan reported we will be hiring a new administrative assistant due to Beryl being unable to continue her employment.
- The Religious Practices committee reported the results of the survey to the congregation about High Holy Day Services were inconclusive due to the nature of the survey tool. They are coordinating with Linda Sweenie and the choir as well as the religious school around Chanukah services and activities.
- Religious school reported that they have two new middle school aged students joining the Hebrew and religious school. On October 29, Dr Rob Goldsteen walked their students aged 10-17 through discussion and exercises in medical ethics. There are 6 new students this year. The Youth Group will be having a car wash on Sunday November 19.
- The Mensch Club reported they will be participating in the Youth Group car wash by having a bake sale. The profits will be donated to the temple treasury. On December 17-18, they will be helping to paint several religious school classrooms. A trip to the El Paso Holocaust Museum on December 20 is planned. They will ask the religious teachers to invite interested

students to join them as this will be during their winter break.

- Sisterhood report- The Judaica shop will be open on November 19 from 9-12 for their Chanukah sale. Sisterhood will be working with the Mensch Club on a special Shabbat service on January 12 that includes a light dinner and dessert reception. They also are planning a fundraiser co-sponsored with the Mensch club for April 2024. Details to follow.
- Ways and Means committee will meet in December to plan for several Spring fundraising events
- The Technology committee determined after consultation with the company that our Rakefet software program does not need to be upgraded and can actually do more for us than was previously thought. The current software is most efficient and cost effective.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna L. Popky

Celebrating our Simchas

The Temple Beth-El Mitzvah Team sends best wishes to these members celebrating birthdays this month:

Karen Currier, Aaron Hyman, Ron Pierce, Debbie Levy Beth Tierney, Jamie Tierney, Cherri Hudson-Brown, Elliot Katz, Michael Mandel

The Temple Beth-El Mitzvah Team sends best wishes to these members celebrating anniversaries this month:

No known Anniversaries

We would love to have more names in these lists. If you would like to have us acknowledge your occasion in the future please send birth month, and anniversary month, and the year you joined the temple to admin@tbelc.org

Car Wash and Bake Sale

Morgan Tierney, BETY President

This past Sunday, November 19, the youth group ran a car wash at the synagogue to raise money for Tutti Bambini, a children’s store that raises money for homeless and at risk children. The car wash occurred at the same time as the Mensch Club bake sale to raise money for the security fund. Between the car wash and the bake sale, we raised a total of about \$800, which we split evenly between the security fund and Tutti Bambini. Thank you to everyone who came and helped out, and everyone who came to support and make this fundraiser a success.



Blessing of the Animals

-Eric Popky



On Sunday November 12, approximately a dozen members of the congregation brought their pets to Temple Beth El for the Blessing of the Animals. Rabbi Evette led the ceremony opening with Hinei Mah Tov and then the Shehecheyanu. The Rabbi gave a brief commentary relating the Torah portion to the day. Each of the pets were then invited to be blessed by the Rabbi. Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary received donations of food and toys for their facility and had several of the animals available for adoption on display. It is hoped to have this as a regular event in future years.





CHEF/REBBETZIN SHARI'S HANUKKAH LATKA FUNDRAISER

**\$5.00 FROM EACH DOZEN WILL BENEFIT
TBE'S SISTERHOOD FUND.**

- | | |
|---|------------|
| • Traditional Potato Latkes | \$18/dozen |
| • Israeli Cauliflower Latkes | \$20/dozen |
| • Spinach, Feta-Potato (Spanakoplatkes) | \$20/dozen |
| • Butternut Squash Latkes | \$20/dozen |
| • Sweet Potato Latkes | \$20/dozen |
| • Carrot-Beet Latkes | \$22/dozen |

*all are dairy-free except spinach/feta.

**gluten-free available upon request for + \$3.00/dozen

*** Reheat uncovered at 350F in single layer on baking sheet for approximately 15 minutes

****These all freeze well.

Contact Shari to place your orders no later than 12/3/23

720-473-1118 or akitchenmaven@yahoo.com

Pickup on December 8th, 8am-4pm. **PLEASE** schedule pickup time when placing order.

Pick up address will be provided at the time of order.

Venmo, Cash App, check (made to Shari Abramowitz) or cash (exact change) accepted.

Camp Hope Volunteer Opportunity

Do you have an hour or 6 to spare? Camp Hope is partnering with Home Depot Las Cruces and El Paso stores to complete building 20 structures at Camp Hope just in time for winter! Please join us and spread the word.

Saturday, Dec 2, 9am-? 999 W. Amador behind the main Community of Hope building at Camp Hope. Just show up, no tools needed except maybe gloves.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022-2023

President-Nan Rubin

Vice-President-Open Position

Secretary– Donna Popky

Treasurer– Joel Seigel

Martha Roditti Diane Fleishman

Lynn Zeemont, Mark Singer,

Sheri Speigal, Deb Lendyke,

Wendee Lorbeer,

Elizabeth Lewis-Olson

Jeff Lewis (Mensch Club)

Dee Cook (Sisterhood)

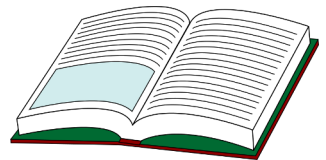
**Erich Zamaret, B.S.,
M.S., M.A.**

Will tutor: Hebrew- reading
and conversational,

High School Math.

Privately or in small group

ezmrt35@yahoo.com





ENHANCE SECURITY AT YOUR FACILITY TODAY: A TOP 10 LIST

A mass attack occurs in the U.S. every two weeks on average. At only 2% of the population, the Jewish community faces nearly 60% of religiously motivated hate crimes. This reality requires us to be proactive and vigilant. The following **low-cost or no-cost actions** were designed by security experts in consultation with community partners and law enforcement. They are **immediate steps** you can take to take as you work to implement a comprehensive, organization and community-wide security strategy. For more information, contact your local Jewish security initiative or SCN.

- 1 Limit entrance points. Have a single point of entry and establish access control measures (including checking every guest or visitor). Ensure all windows, doors, and other entry points are secure. Test alarm systems.
- 2 Make sure exits and entrances are clearly marked and unobstructed.
- 3 Ensure trusted individuals have access to floor plans, necessary keys, or passwords to physically access the building; the ability to operate alarm systems; and access to online platforms in use (e.g. Zoom, Facebook Live).
- 4 Enable caller ID on phones, place an incident checklist near every phone, and train staff on what to say – and not say – when answering the phone (e.g., do not give out security information related to your facility).
- 5 Have first aid kits, Stop the Bleed® kits, and functional AEDs strategically located throughout the facility. Make sure individuals are trained on how to use these.
- 6 Conduct trainings **repeatedly**. Contact your Jewish security initiative or SCN to facilitate training such as BeAware: Introduction to Situational Awareness; Countering Active Threat Training; and Stop the Bleed®.
- 7 Invite local law enforcement agencies to conduct a walkthrough of your facility. Ensure they have copies of relevant floor plans and are aware of events and general operating times.
- 8 Convene a security committee to review plans, processes, and procedures.
- 9 Establish ways to quickly communicate with staff, faculty, students, guests, and parents in the event of an incident – both inside the facility and elsewhere in the community. **Test and update these systems regularly.**
- 10 **Always** report incidents, suspicious activity, or other concerns to local law enforcement, your Jewish security initiative (if applicable), and the SCN Duty Desk at DutyDesk@securecommunitynetwork.org or 844.SCN.DESK.

Donations through November 20, 2023**General Fund:**

Carl Brown
 Norma and Sue Mazer, special appeal
 Jerry and Shelly Silverman, special appeal
 Henri and Debra Brown, in memory of Richard Rycus
 Karen Shevt Dinah, in honor of Lilah Berkson's Bat Mitzvah
 Martion Widjaja
 Burt and Ann Berkson, special appeal
 Joel Siegel, special appeal
 Selma Ryave, in memory of Rev. David Beryl Ryave
 Stuart Kelter and Leora Zeitlin, special appeal
 Paula Kramer, special appeal
 Philip and Sally Alkon, special appeal
 Jean Douglas Fletcher Pritchard

Temple Beth-El Religious School Fund:

Ruth Rubin, in memory of Benjamin Geller

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

Leonard Harris, thanks to the congregation for being welcoming on his recent visit
 Erich Zameret, in memory of Dov and Tova Zameret
 Marjorie Siegel

Social Action Fund:

Lenore Hindin, in memory of Etta Phyllis Hindin

Frances Williams Library Fund:

Frances Williams, in memory of Ausvel Williams

Sisterhood Fund:

Shari Abramowitz, honeycake fundraiser

Irving Batkin Scholarship Fund:

Jon Bairnsfather, in memory of Mary Lou Bairnsfather

Temple Beth-El Youth Fund:

Bryan and Lisa McCuller, in memory of Arlene Metzger,
 Jerome and Gary Metzger

Rabbi Larry and Rhonda Karol Campership Fund:

Jeff and Cherri Hudson-Brown, in memory of Harold Brown

TEMPLE FUNDS

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.

Rabbi Larry and Rhonda Karol Campership Fund—Providing scholarships for Temple students to attend Jewish summer camp programs.

The Mitzvah Team Fund—to assist this voluntary team of Temple Beth-El members that, upon request and dependent upon availability, will provide non emergency support service to members of the temple.

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 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.

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

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, Joel Seigel.

"Have you considered a bequest to Temple Beth-El?"

An important part of our future is represented by bequests made by members.

Thoughtful bequests enable Temple Beth-El to retain a future of Jewish life for generations to come. From funding our Rabbi to scholarships at our religious school, your generous gift maintains our financial health.

A simple codicil can be added to your existing will, if you wish to make a bequest, such as:

"I give and bequest to Temple Beth-El, located in Las Cruces, New Mexico, the sum of \$ ____"

Camerata del Sol Concert

On November 12, the local group Camerata del Sol hosted a free concert at Temple Beth-El featuring works by Jewish composers. The concert, organized by Executive Director and Temple Beth-El member, Amalia Zeitlin. It was designed to use music to give us hope in light of the ongoing Israel-Hamas war as well as to give us resources on how to help (The full list was published in an earlier e-mail by Nan Rubin.) Thank you to Amalia for setting this up (though she was unable to attend due to illness.) Camerata del Sol members who performed included Daniel Vega-Abela and Roberto Jurado on violins, Julio Campos on viola, and Alina Vazquez on cello.



Gail Braverman is a Board Member at Temple Emanu-El in San Diego. Gail writes "Community Corner", for her synagogue's monthly newsletter and has graciously offered to share her columns with us. She is a Marriage & Family Therapist.

GRIEF, GROWTH AND GRIT

Gail L. Braverman, LMFT

Let me start by saying grief is hard. It can throw us into chaos, and drop us into the pit of darkness, and unhinge our lives.

Rather than focusing solely on grief symptoms, I have chosen to focus on what I see as the overall process of grief and the road it takes us on over time.

I won't use the words healing or recovery, for I respect the ongoing significance of grief and the role it plays throughout our lives.

We don't necessarily "get over" a loss, or "move on" from a loss. We learn to live with and integrate it into our lives. Over time, the intensity of the emotions decrease, but the hole it leaves is forever.

I am not a researcher, but I am an observer of people. What I have observed in my personal and professional life is there are phases we go through with grief. They aren't linear because grief isn't neat and orderly. I refer to these phases as grief, growth and grit.

Grief affects us physically, emotionally, mentally, socially, spiritually, and impacts our behavior. You have rights as a griever to experience your own unique grief, to talk about your grief, to feel all your emotions, and to be tolerant of your physical and emotional limits. You will be compromised.

Coping with the ups and downs of grief is part of the growth process. The death of someone is influenced by the role the person played in your life, the type of relationship you had with the deceased, how much a part of your daily routine the person was, and the importance you placed on the person.

Words like perseverance, hardiness, resilience, tenacity, commitment come to mind when we think about grit. We develop grit as we learn to tolerate our emotions, continue or develop healthy habits like exercise, support from others, structure our days, and knowing what we can and cannot participate in.

Ellen Bass in her poem "The Thing is" says:

The thing is to love life, to love it even when you have no stomach for it..."

Reflection: There may not be a happy ending, but there will be new beginnings.

Today's Practice: Remember that you aren't moving on after a loss, you are moving forward as you integrate that loss in your life.

Comments are welcomed: gbrave3333@aol.com

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Bricks for the Biblical Garden and Brick Walkway

Please consider ordering one to mark that special occasion of your own 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!



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.



Visit the Temple Beth-El Website—
www.tbclc.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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Ron Bruder

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SET YOUR INTENTION FOR THE NEW YEAR

*3-Day Weekend Yoga Immersion
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My vision is to create sustainable happiness, health, and vitality by sharing tools that enhance everyday life by balancing and harmonizing the internal world that creates our daily experiences."
— Leilainia Marcus



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DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					Kislev 18 1	Kislev 19 2 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Service & Torah Study 10:30 am
Kislev 20 3 Religious School 9:00 am	Kislev 21 4	Cheshvan 23 7 Short Story Group 11:30 am via Zoom	Kislev 23 6 Tanakh Study 10:15am via Zoom Hebrew School 4:30 pm Jewish Literacy 6:00 pm	Kislev 24 7 Intermediate Mussar 2:00 pm <i>First night of Chanukah</i>	Kislev 25 8 Chanukah Party and Shabbat Services 6:00pm	Kislev 26 9 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Service & Torah Study 10:30 am
Kislev 27 10 Religious School 9:00 am	Kislev 28 11	Cheshvan 23 7 Short Story Group 11:30 am via Zoom	Tevet 1 13 Tanakh Study 10:15am via Zoom Hebrew School 4:30 pm Jewish Literacy	Tevet 2 14 Intermediate Mussar 2:00 pm Sisterhood Council Meeting 6:30 pm	Tevet 3 15 Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6:30 pm	Tevet 4 16 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Service & Torah Study 10:30 am
Tevet 5 17 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL -LCPS Winter Break	Tevet 6 18	Cheshvan 23 7 Short Story Group 11:30 am via Zoom	Tevet 8 20 Tanakh Study 10:15am via Zoom Hebrew School 4:30 pm Jewish Literacy	Tevet 9 21 Intermediate Mussar 2:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm	Tevet 10 22 Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6:30 pm	Tevet 11 23 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Service & Torah Study 10:30 am
Tevet 12 24 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL -LCPS Winter Break	Tevet 13 25 Camp Hope Breakfast 8:00am	Cheshvan 23 7 Short Story Group 11:30 am via Zoom	Tevet 15 27 Tanakh Study 10:15am via Zoom Hebrew School 4:30 pm Jewish Literacy	Tevet 16 28 Intermediate Mussar 2:00 pm	Tevet 17 29 Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6:30 pm	Tevet 18 30 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Service & Torah Study 10:30 am
Tevet 19 31 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL -LCPS Winter Break						

3980 Sonoma Springs Avenue
Las Cruces, NM 88011

Phone: 575.524.3380

Fax: 575.521.8111

admin@tbelc.org

President:

Nan Rubin

Rabbi:

Evette Lutman

Rabbi Emeritus:

Lawrence P. Karol

The Temple Beth-El Newsletter is produced regularly at Las Cruces, New Mexico. Editor: Beth Tierney. Copy Editors: Nan Rubin, Rabbi Larry Karol, Aggie Saltman, Steven Haydu and Alison Mann. Circulation: Cheryl Decker. We welcome Adelante sponsorships by or for Temple members and non-members. Sponsorships can be mailed to the Temple; receipts are provided upon request. We reserve the right to edit all sponsorships. Non-member sponsorships (with no ad) are \$25/year. Annual sponsorship rates are as follows: 2x3 business card \$150 (free for members); Quarter page \$300; Half page \$600. For information about sponsorships, please contact the Temple Office.

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

**The temple also has a Facebook Page:
Temple Beth-El Las Cruces**

December 2023



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