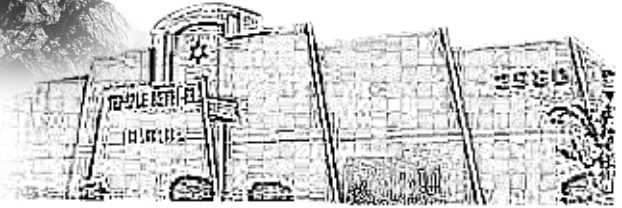




A Monthly Publication for Temple Beth-El,

Las Cruces, New Mexico



JANUARY 2024 (TEVET-SHEVAT 5784)

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**TBE Board, Sisterhood and Mensch Club Members  
invite the congregation to attend Friday Night Services**



In honor of Cheryl and David Decker  
For their generous time and hard work on behalf of the Congregation

**Friday, January 12, 2024**

5:00 PM Catered Light Dinner by Rendezvous

6:30 PM Service and Presentation

Dessert Oneg to follow



There is no cost for this dinner. Please RSVP to Lynn Zeemont  
via text or email 914 391-0903 or [mudjob@aol.com](mailto:mudjob@aol.com)  
Deadline for RSVP: January 8, 2024

### 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 February 2024 Adelante is January 20, 2024. 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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto:jar529@gmail.com).

**Tanakh study –Wednesdays at 10:15 am via Zoom**

Led by Rabbi Larry Karol (TBE Rabbi Emeritus). Contact Rabbi Karol ([rablpkarol@gmail.com](mailto:rablpkarol@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

**Yahrzeits– January 5, 2023 to February 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 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)

**Read on January 12 & 13, 2024**

Milton Cherkasky\*  
 Phyllis Orner Chonoles\*  
 Miriam Cutler (Allen & Michele Blum)  
 Shmuel Farkas\* (Yosef Lapid)  
 Herman B. Golden (Richard & Darlene Goldberg)  
 Morris Goldstein (Arthur & Wendee Lorbeer)  
 Pearl Greenfield Higgins\*  
 Beatrice Mann\*  
 Jeanette Marks (Rabbi Lawrence & Rhonda Karol)  
 Katrina Ray (Meig Dickson & Max Wipson)  
 Evelyn Roselinsky (Lynn Zeemont)  
 Richard Stern (Burt & Ann Berkson)  
 Joseph Tashlik (Allen & Michele Blum)  
 Barbara Yalkut\*

**Read on January 19 & 20, 2024**

Barbara Breskow (Debbie & Steve Leyndyke)  
 Elaine Brown\* (Jeff Brown & Cherri Hudson-Brown)  
 Richard Garner (Ari Swartz)  
 Ruth Ginsburg (Martha Roditti)  
 Coleman Greenberg (Cyrille S. Kane)  
 Warren Klein (Tom & Deborah Levy)  
 Jessee J. Muchnikoff (Stan & Gerie Muchnikoff)  
 Irene Neidich\*  
 Edward Schoenbrun\*  
 Stanley Skigen\*  
 Leah Williamson (Michael & Barbara Mandel)  
 Irene Zimmerman (Tom & Deborah Levy)

**Read on January 26 & 27, 2024**

Clinton Cook\* (Dee Cook)  
 Lola Davis\*  
 Jennie Davison\*  
 Louis Desgun (Jerry & Jodie Nachison)  
 Susan Friedman (Mark & Stefani Singer)  
 Michael Greenfield\*

Sylvia Gubin (Scott & Betsy Gubin)  
 Janet Kane (Cyrille S. Kane)  
 Sylvia Kaufman (Joanne Kaufman)  
 David Kloss\*  
 Isaac Kruger (Linda Kruger)  
 Hesh Langner (Bernice Langner)  
 Margaret Leverett\*  
 David Lewis (Jeff & Avis Lewis)  
 Marilyn Oretskin\*  
 Ethel Paul\*  
 Neysa Pritikin\*  
 Samuel Rabkin\*  
 Edward F. Resnick\* (Frances F. Williams)  
 Bernard Spingarn (Richard & Penny Spingarn)  
 William Stein (Bill Stein)  
 Arthur Stern\* (Burt & Ann Berkson, Arthur & Rebecca Berkson)

**Read on February 2 & 3, 2023**

Marion Brown (Marieka & Jeanne Brown)  
 Alexander Edwards\*  
 Charles Ellison (Nicole & Jermel Griffin)  
 Lillie Friedman (Mark & Stefani Singer)  
 Wade W. Gardner (Brenda & Arlon Parish )  
 Vernella Griffin-Ross (Nicole & Jermel Griffin)  
 Samuel Klein\* (Melvin “Sonny” & Rosie Klein)  
 Sam Klein  
 Benjamin Lampert\*  
 Pauline Lemelin (Michael & Stacey Hyman)  
 Leonardo Oczon (Aggie & Mark Saltman)  
 Alvin Phinick (Karen & Mike Carrier)  
 Christine Radcliff\*  
 Dr. Edward Weiss\* (Harry & Diane Bass)

**Condolences:**

To the family of our congregant and dear friend, Ruth Rubin. Ruth died at home on December 11th after losing her fight with cancer. Funeral services were held on December 13.

May her memory be for a 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 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 on Speech and the Silent Ones

by Karen Shevet Dinah

The development of speech is not only recognized as significant evolutionarily but is highly valued in many cultures. Speech runs deep

in our own Jewish tradition, going back to the creation narrative in which the world comes into being through divine utterance. Yet, the Torah has many characters who seldom speak, remain silent or are concerned about their verbal capability, e.g. Moses.

Serach, sister of the sons of Asher as identified in Gen. 46, is one of the silent ones. She appears twice in the *chumash*: in the list of the seventy progeny of Jacob who go down to Egypt (Gen. 46) and again, 250 years later, when a census of those about to enter the Land is taken (Num. 26).

Serach is a mysterious character who makes me wonder if she is muffled by Torah's generally male-focused point of view or does she exemplify another Jewish value, that of silence. "Rabbi Shimon ben Gamliel used to say, *All my days I grew up among the sages, and I have found nothing better for a person than silence.*" (Pirkei Avot 1:17)

I first encountered Serach in a midrash in which Joseph advises his brothers not to alarm their father with the news that he is alive and well for fear that the elderly Jacob might not survive the shock. The brothers summon Serach to sing the news to their father. "Serach played well and sang gently: Joseph my uncle did not die, he lives and rules all the land of Egypt. She played thus for Jacob two and three times, and he was pleased by what he heard. Joy filled his heart, the spirit of God rested on him, and he sensed the truth of her words. He bade her: Continue to play for me, for you have heartened me with all that you said."\* Serach is also credited with identifying Moses as the redeemer of the Hebrew slaves. She helped Moses locate Joseph's remains and carry them out of Egypt. She is said to have settled a rabbinic dispute about whether the Reed Sea parted in the form of walls or a net: "I was there, and the water was not as a net, but as transparent windows".\*\*\*\* And the rabbis taught that her life was so prolonged that she entered the land of Israel and, similar to Abraham, successfully argued for the life of others. When King David's military commander, Joab, took the city Abel-Beth-Maach, the Wise Woman of Abel-Beth-Maach\*\* (Serach) said, "I am one of the Israelites who went down to Egypt with Jacob. I completed the count . . . the seventy souls that went down to Egypt. Do you want to kill the entire city, and also me . . . an important woman?" thereby saving the inhabitants of her town.\*\*\*

The rabbis' commentaries and midrashim recognized the wisdom in the silent Serach of the Torah and gave it voice. Later exegeses present her as not only having lived hundreds of years, but having entered Gan Eden alive along with other righteous characters from Torah.

In today's world over flowing with noisy rhetoric perhaps refraining ourselves occasionally might bring us insight, wisdom and a chance to learn from the silent one, the contemporary Serach in our midst.

\*Sefer ha-Yashar, Vayigash \*\*II Samuel \*\*\*Eccl. Rabbah \*\*\*\*Pesikta de-Rav Kahana 11:13

## "Afternoon at The Auction"

February 25th, 2024!

Save the Date, More  
Information To Follow!!

The Ways & Means Committee  
and Cheryl Decker

## Volunteer Opportunity - Technology

Temple Beth-El is seeking a volunteer to begin and grow our presence on Facebook, potentially extending to social media such as Instagram. The initial task is to set up the account and invite current members to follow and "like" Temple Beth-El. The hope is that friends of our members plus friends of their friends are better informed about the Temple, pushing information rather than having to use the web site to find out about us and our events.



The associated maintenance function will be to post news and coming events, or past event summaries with photos as requested to create a vibrant image of Temple Beth-El and encourage all followers (including our own!) to participate.

The maintenance should require no more than a few hours per month. If you are tech savvy or have a promotional mindset, we'd love to hear from you. Please e-mail [admin@tbelc.org](mailto:admin@tbelc.org) if interested.



## Looking Forward

I know most of us are very glad the 2023 is over. But turning the calendar from December to January is really nothing more than a calculation in the Gregorian calendar. It has no special religious or political significance. This year in particular, December 31st does not denote the end of the war between Israel and Hamas; or a reduction in acts of anti-Semitism; or a new leaf of compromise in Congress or in the fractured, divisive politics of our country today.

So personally I am not looking to the New Year with particular optimism about the political climate. However, I am optimistic about the activities of Temple Beth-El in the coming months.

\* We are ending our calendar year on a high note because we're successfully meeting the \$20,000 challenge offered by Elizabeth Olsen and Joel Siegel, providing us with \$40,000 going into the third quarter of our fiscal year. Congratulations for all of your generous gifts!

\* Also, helping our bottom line is another generous gift of \$10,000 from Jean Pritchard, who was not a Temple member and is not Jewish. But she was moved to make a donation in part to support our efforts in solidarity with the people of Israel. We are extremely grateful to Jean and hope to see her soon at one of our activities!

\* By the time you get this, you will have received a survey concerning an assessment of Rabbi Evette after her first 18 months here. Please fill it out. We are looking forward to hearing from you. Also, if you are unable to complete the survey online, let us know. We will make sure you get a paper copy.

\* We are also starting a strategic planning effort, so you may be contacted to participate by providing feedback on specific issues or general comments. Your feedback will help us to develop a three to five year plan for the Temple.

\* In January we are looking forward to being able to recognize the dedication and long-standing commitment by Cheryl and Dave Decker to the Temple. Everyone is invited to the party honoring them on January 12th Shabbat.

\* In February, the Temple will once again hold our silent auction, which has been hugely fun as well as lucrative. And in March, a giant yard sale is being organized, so go through your garage and closets now to put aside some

donations for sale.

\* Passover is at the end of April in 2024, which means that sukkot will fall a close by in early May. Keep a lookout for announcements about the second night seder we will be organizing.

That will bring us to our membership meeting in May. We are certain to have a lot of other activities between now and then, which will include ongoing support for Israel. May the war be over soon, may our temple stay safe, and may we continue to find satisfaction and joy in our faith and our Jewish community.

L'shalom,  
Nan Rubin  
[president.tbclc@gmail.com](mailto:president.tbclc@gmail.com)

## Celebrating our Simchas

[The Temple Beth-El Mitzvah Team sends best wishes to these members celebrating birthdays this month:](#)

Liana Brown, Henri Brown, Betsy Gubin, Jack Greenspan, Bob Kimball, Bob Libby, Michael Lieberman, Barbara Mandel, Ford Parks-Perret, Rita Polsky, Donna Popky, Nancy Rushforth, Thomas Saiers, Joel Siegel, Ellen Torres, Leora Zeitlin

[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@tbclc.org](mailto:admin@tbclc.org)

## Temple Beth El Board of Directors Meeting December 21, 2023

- Bob Kimball addressed the board with ideas on how to improve our communications to members and the outside community by developing a dynamic Facebook page with pictures and narrative of all our activities. He suggested that our website may not be the best tool for this. The board will reach out to the congregation to find a tech savvy volunteer interested in doing this.
- Guest Elliot Katz addressed the board about activating a 3–5-year Strategic Planning Committee to build upon the study that was done in 2018. The committee would look at demographics of our congregation vis a vis age spread, our current and future financial needs, as well as building maintenance needs now and long term. The board unanimously approved of this direction. He will serve on the committee and has ideas of others who could chair and serve.
- Treasurer Joel Siegal explained the setup of expanded use of our current software program Rakefet. He will be sending a hard mailing to members with detailed instructions on how to set up a member portal and validate all current profile information. Those who desire to use the same methods they have been using and are comfortable with that will still be able to do so.
- Treasurer's report indicated we are right on target with income and expenses. The Challenge Grant which ends December 31, 2023 has been extremely successful and has raised more than the target of \$20,000.
- Rabbi reported mostly about life cycle events especially the recent passing of beloved temple member Ruth Rubin. There are several conversions coming up and her classes continue and are well attended. There is a large span of ages in the religious school with some 10th graders and then 4th and 5th graders which presents its own set of teaching challenges. At a recent Shabbat service, she addressed the situation in Israel and provided a safe forum for members to explore their feelings on this situation.
- Elizabeth Lewis and Joel Siegal updated the board on where we are with the hiring of an administrative assistant. The job will be a shared position between the temple and Jewish Federation of El Paso Las Cruces. The particulars are being worked out and the job will be posted very soon.
- President Nan Rubin reported on her attendance at a zoom presentation coordinated by Chabad where Gabe Vasquez, our US Congressman, addressed the situation in Israel and his support. She also reported that the Rabbi performance evaluation committee has completed designing the survey which will be sent to the congregation shortly.
- Elizabeth Lewis was nominated and approved unanimously to fill the vacant Executive Board position of Vice President. As per the by laws she is to be the liaison

for security issues. She will be following up on arrangements for an Active Shooter Drill and other security needs for the congregation.

□ Religious school report from Sherri Speigal and Rebecca Berkson indicated that they coordinated the Chanukkah service which was well attended. Families and students helped with the food and participated in a skit coordinated by Stefani Singer and songs with Linda Sweenie. Stefani coordinated a Chanukah party with games and treats after the service. Member Corry McKissack made a presentation including sharing Dutch cookie treats and artifacts and stories of growing up in the Netherlands during WWII. Students also made latkes from scratch. As part of a service project, students decorated signs to advertise the Camp Hope breakfast on Christmas Day. Student enrollment includes 3 middle schoolers, 2 elementary students and 5 in confirmation. Two students are leaving as their family is relocating out of state.

□ Jeff Lewis, Mensch Club President reported that the during the car wash led by the youth group they raised \$900 from the bake sale. Part of the money raised was shared with Tutti Bambini, a children's thrift store supporting at risk children. The rest was donated directly to the temple in support of the Challenge Grant. A group of about 15-16 of the men also made a trip to the Holocaust Museum with a guided tour in El Paso followed by lunch. They continue their twice monthly breakfasts together. They will be painting several classrooms in the religious school. They will also be participating along with Social Action committee member Susan Fitzgerald in the annual Christmas Day breakfast at Camp Hope.

□ Sisterhood is working on final plans for the tribute to Cheryl and Dave Decker at Shabbat Service on January 12. Food and drinks provided by Sisterhood and Mensch Club. A gift will be presented from the Board

□ Ways and Means Report- Debbie Leyndyke and Donna Popky will coordinate a "Ginormous Yard Sale" on Sunday March 10. Their committee will be working on all the details. A flier asking for donations of goods will appear in the January Adelante. Wendee Lorbeer and Dee Cook reported that the annual Auction will take place on February 25. They are also exploring additional fundraising opportunities for later in the Spring.

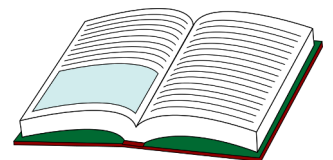
## Erich Zamaret, B.S., M.S., M.A.

Will tutor: Hebrew- reading and conversational,  
High School Math.

Privately or in small  
group

[ezmrt35@yahoo.com](mailto:ezmrt35@yahoo.com)

575-639-0785



**Camp Hope Christmas Breakfast**  
Susan Fitzgerald

It was a chilly Christmas this year but congregants and friends of Temple Beth-El created a wonderfully warm welcome for this year's Camp Hope Christmas Breakfast. We served over 100 people, which is an indication of how many people in our community are in need. Jeff Lewis and Dave Decker of the Mensch Club were the first workers, making coffee and organizing the work of loading tables, chairs, the grill, and more at the Temple at 6:30 in the morning. Thanks to the organizing committee whose many hands and great suggestions make this a successful event year after year. Volunteers were all ready to start setting up at Camp Hope as soon as everything arrived from the Temple. It was a bit of a challenge since we went back to tables and chairs after years of pandemic. The "Temple Beth-El Carolers" under the direction of Leora Zeitlin were great! And, thanks to all of the congregants, their friends and family, who donated their time and money to make this happen. It went pretty much seamlessly, except for the missing coffee stirrers.

Thanks also to Liz Lewis Olson, who with her husband Tom z'l created this event more than a decade ago. And finally, in no particular order other than the one I created when I noted folks in the crowd, a huge thank you to all of the following. I hope I have not missed anyone!

Beth Tierney, Morgan Tierney, Lindsay Tierney, Dakota Sieler, Avis Lewis, Glenn Philips, Richard Spingarn, Penny Springarn, Bill Stein, Gary Levy, Inigo García-Bryce, Terri Sugarman, Daniel Aziziangilan, Rose Jacobs, Donna Popky, Jeff Lewis, Jeanne Abkes, Marieka Brown, Kaila Brown, Liana Brown, Marc Hurwitz, Eric Popky, Linda Sweenie, Dave Decker, Margie Siegel, Nancy Woods, Jermel Griffin, Joel Siegel, Broni Bruce, Leora Zeitlin, Amalia Kelter Zeitlin, Stuart Kelter, Karen Shevet Dinah, Shari Abramowitz, Rabbi Yvette Lutman, Nancy Bergman, Jane Grider



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023-2024**

President-Nan Rubin

Vice-President-Elizabeth Lewis-Olson

Secretary– Donna Popky

Treasurer– Joel Seigel

Martha Roditti Diane Fleishman

Lynn Zeemont, Mark Singer,

Sheri Speigel, Deb Lendyke,

Wendee Lorbeer,

Jeff Lewis (Mensch Club)

Dee Cook (Sisterhood)

*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.*

**ILLUMINATORS AND DIMINISHERS**

I am currently reading David Brooks book *How to Know A Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen*.

What particularly captured my attention in his book is that he says there are people who are Diminishers and there are people who are Illuminators. Diminishers make others feel small and unseen. Illuminators make others feel bigger, deeper, respected, and lit up.

I would imagine we all know people in both groups. Diminishers are people who bring you down, are negative, blame others and don't take responsibility for their part in things. Illuminators are open, curious, take into account other people's feelings and thoughts and ideas and are willing to say: "I was wrong, I don't know, I am sorry."

Even just writing about Diminishers puts me in a negative frame of mind. When I review the characteristics of an Illuminator, I feel uplifted and light.

Over the many years of working with people, I have found the best outcomes have been with people who choose to focus on what they can do rather than what they can't. There is power in focusing on the things we can control, even the smallest of things like bringing a food to someone recuperating from surgery, making a phone call telling someone you are thinking of them, or asking someone to go for a walk.

Sometimes we have to separate ourselves from folks who continue to diminish our spirits. I had an acquaintance many years ago who would only call when she wanted to complain about her husband. When I told her I would like to have a friendship with her, but would not be willing to listen to her complaints over and over again, she never called me again.

I would never want to hurt someone, or minimize their pain, but there is a tipping point for all of us when our need for expressing strong negative emotions and sadness can tumble into self-pity. Doing the same thing over and over again with no result. Listening to that can be damaging.

Everyone has times when they are feeling down and negative and hopeless and need someone to share those feelings with. But there is also a time when we need to move on.

*Continued from previous column*  
It takes work, practice and patience to be an Illuminator, especially people we find to be difficult.

I have to regularly refresh and renew my listening skills, to hone my ability to empathize, to see people in a positive light, and also be direct without being unkind.

**Reflection:** It takes perseverance and willingness to train ourselves to look for the positive in other people and be their Illuminators.

**Today's Practice:** Who can I make feel bigger, respected and lit up?

I would love to hear from you if you have any comments or questions.

Temple Beth El Presents:  
**"The Ginormous Yard Sale"**  
**Sunday March 10, 8am-2pm**

We need your items...Save them for us!  
Drop off at temple March 4-5 time TBD  
Tell your friends and neighbors!



Some of the items wanted:

- Clothing and Accessories for Men, Women and Children
- Housewares, Books, Furniture, Sporting Goods
- Working Appliances and Electronics
- Flat Screen TVs only (with all controls)
- Children's toys and games

We need any hangers you have and wardrobes or clothes racks.

For more information and to help out, contact:  
Debbie Leyndyke 317-908-2755  
Donna Popky 717-979-2799

## Temple Beth-El Of Las Cruces Special Appeal a Great Success

As the 2023-2024 special appeal comes to a close, we are overjoyed at your response and generosity. Together our donors listed below met the match by contributing over \$21,000 to the General Fund! As agreed, we have matched your donations by adding our \$20,000 to our appeal. Together, we now have over \$41,000 to offset a significant budget deficit that existed when we entered this fiscal year.

Over half of our membership donated to the cause. More so, we hope that a culture of giving regularly to the temple in any amount, or by creating your own special appeal with other Temple donors by matching funds, or otherwise becomes contagious.

If we have missed acknowledging you, PLEASE let one of us know and we will promptly correct this in the next Adelante.

Sincerely,  
Joel and Elizabeth

### Donors:

Phillip and Sally Alkon, Daniel and Simy Allan, Daniel Azizian, Nathan and Gillian Baudo, Barbara Berger, Nancy Bergman and Greg Artman, Burt and Ann Berkson, Marvin and Carol Bernstein, Allen and Michele Blum, Frank and Dinny Bomberg, Marieka and Jeanne Brown, Susan Brown, Marla Cohen, Dee Cook, Mike and Karen Currier, Karen Shevet Dinah, Luke and Beverly Duddridge, Paul Feil, Francine Feinberg and Ned Rubin, Susan Fitzgerald, Diane Fleishman, Jack Greenspan, Jane Grider, Lenore Hindin, Jeff Brown and Cherrie Hudson-Brown, Stacey and Michael Hyman, Rabbi Larry and Rhonda Karol, Elliot Katz and Sharon Tancredi, Dr. Joanne Kaufmann, Stuart Kelter and Leora Zeitlin, Bob and Monika Kimball, Paula Kramer, Bernice Langner, Gary and Terry Levy, Jeff and Avis Lewis, Michael and Karen Lieberman, Art and Wendee Lorbeer, Alison Mann, Frima Marquez, Rebecca Martinez, Norm and Sue Mazer, Corry McKissack, Colette Meltzer, Mensch Club, Stan and Gerie Muchnikoff, Allen and Eve Palanker, Arlon and Brenda Parrish, Eric and Donna Popky, Roslyn Richman and Selma Ryave, Martha Roditti, Jim Rosenthal, Nan Rubin, Marsha San Filippo, Julie Seton and Bob Sanderson, Marjorie Siegel, Jerry and Shelly Silverman, Mark and Stefani Singer, Richard and Penny Spingarn, Martino Widjaja, Frances Williams, Lynn Zeemont

The Mensch day on December 20 at the Holocaust Center and a great lunch at Noodles and Dumplings –Jeff Lewis



## Donations through December 25, 2023

### General Fund:

Rabbi and Rhonda Karol, thinking of TBE on Giving Tuesday  
 Gary Levy, special appeal  
 Marsha San Filippo, special appeal  
 Alison Mann, in memory of Gary Mann  
 Jill Kerr, in memory of Abdel Halim Ellison, nephew of Nicole Smith  
 Elizabeth Lewis, special appeal  
 Elliot Katz and Sharon Tancredi, special appeal  
 Arlon and Brenda Parish, special appeal  
 Nora Herrera, thank you for including me in the short story group  
 Mensch Club, in memory of Ruth Rubin  
 Anonymous  
 John Ragosta and Sheri Spiegel, car wash, special appeal  
 Ronald and Karen Ford-Pierce, car wash, special appeal  
 Jeff and Avis Lewis, car wash, special appeal  
 Rain Simmons, car wash, special appeal  
 Cash collected from car wash, special appeal  
 Stan Muchnikoff, in memory of Etta Muchnikoff  
 Jeff and Cheri-Hudson-Brown, in memory of Ira Hudson III  
 Jane Grider, in memory of Dr. Clarence A Lathrop  
 Dee Cook, in memory of Nathan Edelstein and David Edelstein  
 Elliot Katz and Sharon Tancredi, for administrator search and salary  
 Richard and Penny Spingarn, special appeal  
 Diane Fleishman, special appeal  
 Nan Rubin, Special Appeal  
 Dee Cook, Special Appeal

### Temple Beth-El Religious School Fund:

Stacey Hyman, in memory of Ruth Rubin  
 Jeanne and Marieka Brown, Hanukah Pajamakah

### Biblical Garden Fund:

Frima Marquez, in memory of Alvin Krasner

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

Karen Shevet Dinah, in memory of Ruth Rubin

### Social Action Fund:

Bryan and Lisa Ehlers-McCuller, in memory of Laura Metzger

### Camp Hope Fund:

Daniel and Simy Allan  
 Karen Shevet Dinah  
 Leslie Glater

Mensch Club has donated \$100 to the Temple Beth El Choir in honor of Ruth Rubin. The choir was a passion for Ruth and we hope the choir can purchase additional sheet music. May Ruth Rubin's name be for blessing

## 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 \$ \_\_\_\_***

Following is the text of the Proclamation DENOUNCING ANTISEMITISM DAY. It was read in the chambers at City Hall, in the council chambers, at 1 o'clock pm on Monday, December 4, 2023. What a Hanukkah gift for our communities! Although TBELC did not create the proclamation, we fully support it. -Rabbi Evette Lutman

### **Proclamation**

**WHEREAS**, Las Cruces celebrates our Jewish friends and neighbors, and immense contributions they make to our community, city, and state; and

**WHEREAS**, Jewish values, culture, and contributions have helped shape the character of our nation, our state, our city, and our community; and

**WHEREAS**, antisemitism including harassment on the basis of actual or perceived Jewish origin, ancestry, ethnicity, identity, affiliation, or faith, remains a persistent, pervasive, and disturbing problem in contemporary American society; and

**WHEREAS**, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance has promulgated the following working definition of antisemitism, which has been adopted or endorsed by 43 countries and various agencies of the United States federal government: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish and non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities"; and

**WHEREAS**, while antisemitic incidents mostly directly and intensely affect the Jewish community, antisemitism, like all forms of hate, threatens all new Mexicans and Las Cruces; and

**WHEREAS**, calls for violence against Jews in the United States and across the world,

exacerbated by recent terrorist attacks targeting Jews in Israel by Hamas, continue to undermine safety and security of Jewish New Mexicans and Las Cruces who have deep ties through friends, family, and community with the people of Israel; and

**WHEREAS**, in a time of increasing antisemitism, we should be vigilant in ensuring people understand and speak out against antisemitism when they hear it or see it, and that the city of Las Cruces shows support for the Las Cruces Jewish community; and

**WHEREAS**, as we work to create a City of Las Cruces for All, our city will continue to be a place that welcomes the Jewish people, and honors their meaningful contributions to our community, city, state and country.

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE**, the mayor and City Council of Las Cruces, New Mexico, do hereby proclaim Monday, December 4, 2023 as: **"DENOUNCING ANTISEMITISM DAY"**

Signed by Ken D. Miyagishima , Mayor of the City of Las Cruces. Attested to by Christina Rivera, City Clerk.

On Monday December 4, many members of Temple Beth-El filled City Council chambers to hear a proclamation declaring December 4th to be "Denouncing Antisemitism Day in Las Cruces". The proclamation was prepared by Alevy Chabad congregants Tony and Elena Chavez and was intended to be presented at the public Hanukkah celebration on the Plaza de La Cruces on Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>. Through no fault of our own, the city erroneously identified both Marla Cohen with the Jewish Federation of El Paso and Las Cruces, and Rabbi Evette Lutman of Temple Beth-El, as being with Chabad. We deeply regret this confusion and greatly appreciate the effort of Chabad to take this initiative on behalf of the whole Jewish community.

Nan Rubin, President, Board Of Trustees  
Temple Beth-El Of Las Cruces

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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.tbcl.org](http://www.tbcl.org)  
for in-depth information about Temple and its programming and updates on current Temple events

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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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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.







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Office: 575-522-3698

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# JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Tevet 20 1	Tevet 21 2 Short Story Group 11:30 am via Zoom	Tevet 22 3 Tanakh Study 10:15am via Zoom Hebrew School 4:30 pm Jewish Literacy 6:00 pm	Tevet 23 4 Intermediate Mussar 2:00 pm	Tevet 24 5 Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6:30 pm	Tevet 25 6 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am
Tevet 26 7 Religious School 9:00 am	Tevet 27 8	Tevet 28 9 Short Story Group 11:30 am via Zoom	Tevet 29 10 Tanakh Study 10:15am via Zoom Hebrew School 4:30 pm Jewish Literacy 6:00 pm	Shevat 1 11 Intermediate Mussar 2:00 pm Sisterhood Council Meeting 6:30 pm	Shevat 2 12 Honoring Dave and Cheryl Decker: Dinner 5:30 Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6:30 pm	Shevat 3 13 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am
Shevat 4 14 Religious School 9:00 am	Shevat 5 15	Shevat 6 16 Short Story Group 11:30 am via Zoom	Shevat 7 17 Tanakh Study 10:15am via Zoom Hebrew School 4:30 pm Jewish Literacy 6:00 pm	Shevat 8 18 Intermediate Mussar 2:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm	Shevat 9 19 Family Shabbat: potluck dinner 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6:30 pm	Shevat 10 20 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am
Shevat 11 21 Religious School 9:00 am Tu B'Shevat Seder Time TBD	Shevat 12 22	Shevat 13 23 Short Story Group 11:30 am via Zoom	Shevat 14 24 Tanakh Study 10:15am via Zoom Hebrew School 4:30 pm Jewish Literacy 6:00 pm	Shevat 15 25 Intermediate Mussar 2:00 pm  Tu B'Shevat	Shevat 16 26 Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6:30 pm	Shevat 17 27 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am
Shevat 18 28 Religious School 9:00 am	Shevat 19 29	Shevat 20 30 Short Story Group 11:30 am via Zoom	Shevat 21 31 Tanakh Study 10:15am via Zoom Hebrew School 4:30 pm Jewish Literacy 6:00 pm			

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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](http://www.tbelc.org)**

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

January 2024



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