



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

FEBRUARY 2026 (SH'VAT – ADAR 5786)

The Temple Beth-El Spiritual Leader Search Committee welcomes

Rabbi Ileanah Carazo

to lead services at our congregation

February 6th-8th



Please join us to meet **Rabbi Carazo**,

experience her pulpit leadership and help us determine if she is the right fit for our Temple Beth-El community:

February 6th, 6:30pm - Erev Shabbat Worship

February 7th, 10:30am – Shabbat Morning Worship

(all Shabbat services will be available on ZOOM & FaceBook Live)

February 8th, 10:00am – Religious School Family Worship

(After her visit, TBELC members will be sent a google form on which to provide their feedback to the Search Committee)

Rabbi Ileanah Carazo – Brief Biography

Since her ordination in 2019 through the Jewish Spiritual Leadership Institute, Rabbi Carazo has served as Spiritual Leader at Or Jojma -Comunidad Judia in Costa Rica. She is an experienced worship leader, teacher and chaplain, whose love of Judaism compelled her to pursue a career in the rabbinate after a successful career in business, most recently as the Human Resources Director at Hospital CIMA in Costa Rica, where she also served as a chaplain. Rabbi Carazo holds dual citizenship in Costa Rica and the United States, and has lived in both Miami, FL and Taos, NM. She has over 25 years of combined experience in spiritual leadership, pastoral care, teaching Torah and Hebrew, guiding life-cycle rituals and fostering inclusive spaces for learning and prayer. She strives to bridge Jewish Renewal spirituality with Reform practice and to unite a strong pastoral presence with proven organizational leadership.

General Worship Schedule

Can't come in person? Then join us on Zoom or Facebook Live.

You can watch on Facebook using this link:

<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/>

Kabbalat Shabbat Services:

Friday, 6:30 pm

Saturday Morning Services:

10:30 am

Times will occasionally vary.

See calendar for current schedule.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2025-2026

President-Deb Leyndyke

Vice-President-Open

Secretary- Sheri Spiegel

Treasurer- Susan Weissman

Martha Roditti Donna Popky Debbie Levy

Steve Haydu Wendee Lorbeer

Daniel Azizian Gilan Jeff Lewis Joel Siegel

Kimmi Cravens – Sisterhood Rep

Bill Stein—Mensch Club Rep

Classes/ Adult Education

Tai Chi- Tuesdays at 10:00 am

Led by Steve Haydu
(Donations support TBE)

Talmud Study- Saturdays at 9:00 am

Lay led by Bryan McCuller.

Short Story Group- Every other Tuesday at 11:30 am 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.

Adelante Submissions:

I need your help! 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, commentary, 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 is the 20th of each month (unless otherwise stated). 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

Donations through January 24, 2025

General Fund:

Tai Chi participants
 Janet Stevens
 Art and Wendee Lorbeer, in memory of Lila Ziegler
 Ann Berkson, First Fiesta Friday
 Joanne Turnbull, First Fiesta Friday
 Diane and Harry Bass, in honor of Luke Duddridge
 Bryan and Lisa McCuller, in memory of Nina Rothman
 Bryan and Lisa McCuller, in memory of Laura Metzger
 Paul and Connie Kuznekoff, in memory of Charles Kuznekoff
 Jean Fletcher Pritchard, general donation and in memory Lila Ziegler
 Dan and Simy Allan, in memory of Lila Ziegler
 Sally Alkon, for security
 Jack Greenspan, in memory of Karen Woolever-Greenspan
 Jack Greenspan, in memory of Bessie Greenspan
 Sharon and Peter Dorfman, in memory of Ruth N. Brooks
 Sharon Tancredi and Elliot Katz, in memory of Lila Ziegler
 and for the admin position

Social Action Fund:

Jerry and Shelly Silverman, in memory of Eleanor Goldman, Sonia Silverman, and Honey Silverman Zelle
 Bernice Langner, in memory of Hesh Langner and thanks to Ellen Torres

Temple Beth-El Youth Fund:

Cherri Hudson-Brown and Jeff Brown, in memory of Dolly Zabin

Rabbi Discretionary Fund:

Sally Alkon
 Stuart Kelter and Leora Zeitlin, in honor of Linda Sweeney

Temple Beth-El Religious School Fund:

Ann Berkson, in memory of Arthur Stern

Irving Batkin Memorial Scholarship Fund:

Jerry and Shelly Silverman, in memory of Lila Ziegler
 Bob and Monika Kimball, in honor of Shaya Kelter and in memory of Lila Ziegler

Camp Hope:

Stuart Kelter and Leora Zeitlin
 Ned Rubin and Francine Feinberg
 Jerry and Shelly Silverman
 Gerri Muchnikoff
 Art and Wendee Lorbeer
 Joy Goldbaum

Frances Williams Library Fund:

Frances Williams, in memory of Yetta Resnick, and Edward Resnick
 Sharon and Peter Dorfman, in memory of Earl W. Dorfman

Biblical Garden Fund:

Alison Mann, in honor of Debbie Levy and in memory of Lila Ziegler

Rabbi Larry and Rhonda Karol Campership Fund:

Lynn Zeemont, in memory of Evelyn Roselinsky

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.

Ritual Items Fund— For repair and maintenance of ritual items used during services such as Torahs, Tallitot and the like.

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, Susan Weissmann.

Yahrzeits– February 1- 28, 2026

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

Read On February 6 & 7, 2026

David Lewis (Jeffrey and Avis Lewis)
 Samuel Klein* (Melvin "Sonny" and Rosie Klein)
 Dr Edward Weiss* (Harry and Diane Bass)
 Lillie Friedman (Mark and Stefani Singer)

Read on February 13 & 14, 2026

Clarence Pettigrew, Jr. (Nicole and Jermel Griffin)
 Hortense Heart (Nancy Bergman and Greg Artman)
 Marion Brown (Marieka and Jeanne Brown)
 Joni Levy (Tom and Deborah Levy)
 Wade W Gardner (Brenda and Arlon Parish)
 George Cohen* (Marieka and Jeanne Brown)
 Dee Seton Barber* (Julie Seton and Bob Sanderson)
 Bessie Greenspan (Jack Greenspan)
 George Cohen* (Susan Brown)
 Shirley Backman (Bob and Judy Kirschner)
 Charlotte Ray Mann (Alison Mann)
 Yetta Resnick* (Frances F. Williams)

Read on February 20 & 21, 2025

Shimshon Alkon (Sally Alkon)
 Reba Tapper (Dan Tapper and Judy Long)
 Roxy Violin (Mark and Stefani Singer)
 Margaret Gantert (Jacob and Susi Kolikant)
 Betty Collins Siegel (Marjorie Siegel)
 Johanna Larson (Nancy Bergman and Greg Artman)
 Rita Herman (Jeffrey and Avis Lewis)
 Chai Esther Langner Spivak (Bernice Langner)
 Dolly Zabin (Jeff Brown and Cherri Hudson-Brown)
 Minne Levicoff (Norman and Suzanne Mazer)
 Patricia Flanagan (Luke and Bev Duddridge)
 Ruth N. Brooks* (Sharon and Peter Dorfman)
 Patricia Collier Ehlers (Bryan and Lisa McCuller)
 Itzhak Kolikant (Jacob and Susi Kolikant)
 Muriel R. Newman (David Newman and Jon
 Bairnsfather)
 Phyllis Friedman (Mark and Stefani Singer)

Read on February 27 & 28, 2026

Frances Klein* (Melvin "Sonny" and Rosie Klein)
 Karen Woolever-Greenspan (Jack Greenspan)
 Alma Ruth Feil (Paul Feil)
 Beatrice Gibbs (Terri Sugarman)
 Joshua Mordechai Batkin* (Mike Batkin)
 Bertha All Remley (David Newman and Jon
 Bairnsfather)
 Jane Philips (Linda Matorin Sweenie and Glenn
 Philips)
 Jean Lemelin (Michael and Stacey Hyman)
 George Brankman, Jr. (Sally Alkon)
 Martin Hindin (Lenore Hindin)
 Earl Dorfman* (Sharon and Peter Dorfman)

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 admin@tbelc.org or call the Temple office.

**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 \$360.*

Non TBE members may purchase a plaque for \$660.

New Member Spotlight:



Each month we will introduce one of our new member/families of Temple Beth-El.

Tamar and Jeffrey Myers joined the temple in August 2025. I spoke to them both recently to learn a bit about them. I was immediately struck by Tamar's quick wit

and humour and learned that she has been a prolific published writer a good deal of her life.

She has written numerous books in the genre of humorous mystery and is continuing to write. Most recently, she is writing a science fiction mystery. She is also an accomplished artist.

When I delved into her website, I learned that she was born in the Belgian Congo where she and her family lived until she was in high school. Her parents were missionaries to the Bashilele tribe, which at the time were known as headhunters using human skulls as drinking cups. Tamar's family was the first white family ever to live peacefully among the tribe. She grew up eating elephant, hippopotamus, and even monkey. Attending boarding school was a two-day travel by truck, with a sometimes-necessary wade through crocodile infested waters to reach it. A myriad of other dangers of the natural world was something she often encountered as a child. In 1960 the Congo, which had been a Belgian colony, gained independence. This was followed by a period of retribution for violent crimes committed against the Congolese by the Belgians. Many white people were killed. Tamar and her family fled the country but returned a year later. There were many civil wars raging and often her family's residence was right in the line of fire. After living through three years of war her family returned to the United States permanently. By this time Tamar was 16 and they settled in Cincinnati, Ohio. To say she went through culture shock is an understatement! But she told me that she literally bumped into Jeffrey on her way into a high school civics class and it was "Love at First Sight". He was her savior when they met 61 years ago and they are about to celebrate 50 years of marriage. Tamar told me that they have three children and 9 grandchildren. Jeffrey is a retired metallurgical engineer. He worked for the steel industry in southern Ohio but his profession took them later to Charlotte, NC and then on to South Carolina, more specifically Georgetown, SC near Charleston. Jeffrey told me they have traveled extensively, some for his profession and some for the pleasure of exploration. They have been to over 60 countries. During their years in South Carolina, Tamar became the proud recipient of the Order of the Palmetto. It is an honor awarded by the governor for a lifetime accomplishment as a writer who has made a significant impact on the culture of the state.

I asked her their reasons for leaving SC. She said they wanted to leave a [state that was not aligned with their values]. Plus, living with the threat of hurricanes was getting old. Their choice for making the now permanent move to Las Cruces was on recommendation from friends in Phoenix where they had lived for a while but they found it too hot and overbuilt. They love Las Cruces and their home (Tamar's humor shines through as she tells me that she thinks it has the largest closet in all Las Cruces!) and the wonderful Temple Beth-El community. Jeffrey's passion for singing motivated him to be a part of the choir in all the congregations they have been members of. He told me he particularly loves the melody of Avinu Malkeinu. He immediately became part of Temple Beth-El's choir. They regularly attend Shabbat services and routinely sit on the right side in the second row. So look for them and introduce yourself. When asked for a recent photograph to share, once again their collective humor came through with the one pictured here created by their daughter. They have not been crowned as royalty as far I know! We are so happy to welcome them as members of Temple Beth-El.

Submitted by Donna Popky, Membership Chair

Celebrating our Simchas

Best wishes to these members celebrating birthdays this month:

Jeanne Brown, Monika Kimball, Arthur Lorbeer, Karen Pierce, and Morgan Tierney

Best wishes to these members celebrating anniversaries this month:

**Beverly and Luke Duddridge
Rachel and Sean Duggins
Debbie and Tom Levy
Wendee and Art Lorbeer**

If you would like to have us acknowledge you in the future, please send birth month, and anniversary month, to cambrien73@gmail.com (This is especially relevant as I have lost the file which had the updates for the past two years –Beth) I would also love to include other special events and achievements as they occur.

Seeds in the Ashes

A year in allegory by Meir Ashan, art by Robert Kitcye

Beneath the palace walls, lies a village where ordinary lives are made from extraordinary moments. Farmers, merchants, shepherds, and watchmen write their lives among the fields and rows. These are their stories — tales woven of soil, silence, and song, within each season is sown a hidden truth for any with the eyes to see.

For Shevat: The Tree by the River



The frost lingered unusually late that year. Along the riverbank, reeds rattled dry and the current moved sluggishly beneath a brittle skin of ice. Villagers huddled close to their hearths, muttering of short rations and long nights.

But Miriam, the water-bearer—her name meant bitterness turned to song—walked to the river. Instead of her usual jars, she bore a young sapling, its roots bound with soil in damp cloth. She'd found it growing wild near the hills, fragile but alive, and in her heart, she heard a whisper: plant it here.

So, she dug a hole in the cold ground with her stiff hands. Her neighbors looked on from the path. "Why now?" one scoffed. "Frost kills before it spares. Better to wait for spring."

"Even if it lives," another said, "why waste strength when roofs still need mending?"

Miriam said nothing. When her hole was deep enough, she lowered the sapling into the earth, pressing soil around its roots. Leaving, she returned with a jar, and poured some water into the soil. The cold dirt swallowed it quickly, and the soil refroze. She wondered if the others were right.

From behind came the sound of quick footsteps. Orli, the child—her name meant my light—ran to her side, cheeks rosy with cold. She carried a small cup.

"Let me water it," Orli said, kneeling. She tipped her cup into the soil, watching the dark patch spread.

"See? It is drinking."

Miriam smiled faintly. "The ground is hard, little one. Perhaps it will not last."

Orli shook her head. "It will last. We must give it more." And so, each day Orli returned to the river,

sometimes with a cup, sometimes with only a handful of snow she pressed against the base of the sapling. Miriam often accompanied her, at first reluctantly, then with growing curiosity.

Some of the villagers mocked them. "Two fools feeding a stick," they laughed. But Orli paid them no mind, and her determination warmed Miriam's heart.

Weeks passed. The cold continued, and Miriam nearly lost hope. Her hands were raw from ice and her breath heavy with doubt. One morning she said to Orli, "Perhaps nothing can grow in such a season."

Orli's eyes flashed. "But the river still runs beneath the ice. Roots can drink where eyes cannot see." That day, Miriam did not argue. She poured her water dutifully, then laid her hand upon the soil. She felt only cold.

One morning, when the frost had melted and the air humid, Orli let out a cry of delight. "Miriam, look!" There, where her gaze fell on the damp soil, tiny buds had pushed through the bark, tender and green. Miriam knelt, her eyes wide. She touched one gently, astonished. "So soon?"

Orli clapped her hands. "See? It was waiting all along."

Miriam's eyes filled with tears. She whispered, "Roots were drinking long before we saw any life."

In that moment, she understood then how strength grows unseen, drawing nourishment from hidden depths long before branches reveal their life.

And, Miriam also understood how leading is so often hard – just sustaining a delicate faith and remaining steadfast, most often with the weight of overwhelming doubt and criticism. Her admiration and gratitude for the King grew as well.

The sapling swayed in the breeze, fragile yet steadfast, like there was never any doubt – its buds a quiet promise against the barren fields.

Word around the village spread quickly, and villagers who had mocked now came to stare. Some even continued to scoff, saying, "It will wither yet." But most fell silent, watching the small tree with a reverence they could not name.

Miriam attended it daily, her heart lighter than it had been. The bitterness she had once carried seemed even the more softened, as if the song within her had also grown strong and deep like the tree, but within her.

"Seeds in the Ashes"- continued from previous page

Orli—bright, tireless Orli—danced around the sapling, her laughter scattering like seeds in the wind.

As days lengthened and warmed, the fields grew greener. Water gurgled again in the shallows, and reeds bent with the current's flow. The sapling held firm, its buds swelling, its roots unseen but clearly strong.

Miriam looked upon it and thought of her own life: the long years of labor, the seasons of thirst, the hidden reservoirs that had carried her through. She realized that faith, too, was like roots—drawing sustenance quietly, invisibly, until the time came for branches to bear fruit.

She laid her palm on the trunk. "What is planted in faith will flourish in its season," she murmured. Orli smiled. "And the season has begun."

From then on, the villagers no longer mocked. Some even brought their own saplings to plant, inspired by Miriam's hands and Orli's laughter. A small grove began to expand and grow along the river, their roots all drinking deep, with their branches promising shade and fruit in years to come.

And when travelers passed by, they marveled at the young trees, asking, "Who planted these, and when?"

The villagers answered, "It was a woman named Miriam, who once carried only jars, and a child named Orli, who carried light."

And so, the village remembered, and the fields sustained them.

Author's Note

This story was planted in the frost. The Tree by the River began as a meditation on unseen strength and connection—how faith often grows beneath the surface, how nourishment flows even when the soil seems frozen.

Miriam's journey is not triumphant, but tender. She does not argue, or proclaim. She plants faithfully to her convictions. She waits. And in her waiting, she teaches – witnesses as well as herself. Leadership is seldom without doubt. The sapling she tends is not just a tree—it is a question: Can hope take root in a season of doubt? I wrote this in the hush of Shevat, when the river runs silently beneath the ice and the wind carries whispers of both skepticism and song – and often seemingly like much more of the former. It is my hope that this tale might offer quiet encouragement while laboring in silence, and against adversity for those who water dry ground with trembling hands.

If you find yourself kneeling in these pages, may that kneeling be a prayer. Not for proof, but for patience.

— Meir Ashan Las Cruces, NM Shevat 5786

Wednesday Morning Breakfast

The Wednesday Morning Breakfast Committee proudly announces that there will be 3 more Wednesday morning breakfasts upcoming.

Our first breakfast will be on Wednesday morning February 18 at 8:30 am in the social hall of the Temple.

The guest speaker will be Don Neidig, PhD, an astrophysicist who has worked for the US Air Force. His specialty is the work and research he has done on solar flares and their effect on Planes. Dr. Neidig also assisted in construction on the Sun Dial in Israel.

It should be a very interesting and enjoyable breakfast at the Temple. There will be a \$10 donation fee to defray costs. The committee expects to also be able to make a donation to the Temple.

Put the date on your calendar—February 18 8:30 to 10 am

If you have questions contact Jeff Lewis, Art Lorbeer, or Gerie Muchnikoff.

Bakers Wanted

The auction committee is looking for bakers for our sweet table for the "Afternoon at the Auction" on March 22nd. If interested, please contact Sharon Ash Tancredi <sharon@ashtancredi.com>

Cantor's Notes

For those of you who don't already know, my tenure as your Interim Spiritual Leader will be ending this month on February 28th. While my original agreement with the Board was for a duration of four months, we extended that to seven months so we could have plenty of time for our search committee to move forward with finding a permanent Spiritual Leader, and for me to accomplish the goals I set for the congregation, including improved and streamlined communications, increased engagement and attendance, and increased membership.

I ask that all of you plan to attend services on Friday night or Shabbat morning the weekend of February 6-8 to experience our Spiritual Leader candidate, Rabbi Ileanah Carazo. After the weekend, we will send a google form with feedback questions out to those of you who are members. The search committee will review your feedback and then make our recommendation to the Board.

Please keep in mind that we are committed to finding a Spiritual Leader who is the best possible fit for our congregation. We are hopeful we will find that with Rabbi Carazo, but please know that if either she is not the right fit for us, or she feels we are not the right fit for her, we will continue our search. Our goal is the continued growth and success of our very special Temple Beth-El community, and we are committed to taking the time we need to find the right person to lead us into the future. In the meantime, I'm looking forward to going back to being a regular "Jew in the pew" and to continuing to volunteer at the Temple. I'm also looking forward to traveling and spending more time with family and friends, and returning to the hobbies I'm embracing in retirement: writing another book, playing and recording music with my band, hiking and crafting. It has been such an honor to serve our congregation these past seven months, and I thank all of you who have been so incredibly supportive.

B'shalom,
Linda Matorin Sweenie

A Message from our President

February will be a busy month for Temple Beth-El and we hope to see many of you throughout the month.

The weekend of February 6th -8th we will be visited by Rabbi Ileanah Carazo, who is a candidate for our position at TBE. Ileanah presently lives in Costa Rica and has a dual citizenship, having lived and worked in Miami and Taos as well. Her experience includes 25 years of spiritual leadership, pastoral care, and adult education. The weekend will be filled with opportunities for you to meet the Rabbi. If you are out of town or unavailable that weekend, please consider using Zoom or Facebook Live to get to know our candidate. As you know, the BOD will make a recommendation and each congregant family can vote. It is very important to get input from each of you!

Shifting gears-I joined the temple after moving to Las Cruces 4 years ago. I continue to be impressed by the commitment and hard work of all of our member volunteers. I am sure that some of you would like to volunteer, but may not know where to begin. We have so many opportunities, from committee work to stuffing envelopes, to onegs, to special events. Below you will find a listing of committees and contact information if you would like to become involved. We couldn't do our work without you!

Sisterhood-Kimmi Cravens

kimmicravens@gmail.com

Mensch Club-Bill Stein

starman6025@gmail.com

Social Justice-Ned Rubin

erubin47@gmail.com

Library-Steve Haydu

sitstill88310@yahoo.com

Buildings and Grounds-Glenn Philips

glenphilips11@gmail.com

Religious Practices-Linda Sweenie

lmsweenie@aol.com

Ways and Means-Wendee Lorbeer

mathwendee@gmail.com

Membership-Donna Popky

dlpmsw@gmail.com

Religious School-Sheri Spiegel

sherispiegal@gmail.com

I look forward to continuing our work at Temple Beth-El!

Shalom,
Deb Leyndye

Sisterhood Update

Shalom and welcome to February,

Here's what's coming up. Hot Soup and Cool Books. February 8 at 12 Noon. Hopefully, by January 30, you have told us you are attending and let us know if you will bring a pot of (meatless) soup to share. If you have not signed up, call or text or email Stefani Singer 402 394-1868 or stefani.singer@yahoo.com, call or email Lenore Hindin (no texting) 575 888-4644 or lenoreh@cruzio.com or any of your Sisterhood Council Members, and we will expect to see you on the 8th. Our special speaker will be temple member and published author Tamar Myers. You will NOT want to miss her thoroughly entertaining presentation!! Bring a gently used book to trade and in addition, if you like puzzles, bring one to trade. This is a free activity.

Over the weekend of January 9-11, Lenore and Stefani drove to Phoenix to the WRJ Southwest District Area Day, fabulously hosted by the Sisterhood of Temple Emanuel of Tempe. We mingled all weekend with about 60 Sisterhood members from California, Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico. We enjoyed a Friday night service full of music and spirit and a talk about water conservation in the desert. On Saturday, in addition to meals and snacks, Lenore and I attended morning and afternoon workshops, and during the evening, we all went to Legends Restaurant, and enjoyed a delicious meal and the music of a talented and brightly dressed Elvis impersonator. On Sunday morning, we were treated to a presentation by a college student from Arizona State University about a group of young Jewish girls who participate in a nationwide support group called Jgirls+. She was a bright, well-spoken young woman.

Lenore and I spoke with members of other attending Sisterhoods and we especially enjoyed meeting two women from Congregation Albert of Albuquerque. We four agreed that it would be great to plan a weekend get-together of our two groups. We are enthusiastic about spending time, getting to know them and sharing ideas. The drive to and from Phoenix was easy and quick. Lenore and I are looking forward to possibly going to 2026 WRJ Convention in March which will meet in Pasadena, California. Who's interested in coming?

TBE Sisterhood and Sunday School are busily gearing up for Purim! And that means dozens and dozens of Hamentaschen! Calling all Sisterhood members and ladies of the temple!! Please join us at the Temple Kitchen on Sunday, February 22nd, at 9 am and help us bake Hamentaschen for the Purim Carnival. We need all hands on deck for this. If you choose to come on Sunday or bake them at home, please contact Kimmi Cravens at kimmicravens@gmail.com or text 314 753-5058.

THANK YOU!!!

Our upcoming Sisterhood Council meeting will take place on Thursday, February 12th at 5:00 PM in the TBE Social Hall, with planning beginning for Second Seder and a few ideas for some Spring happenings. Won't you join us??

Shalom and l'hitraot,

Your Dedicated Council Members

“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 \$____ [or ____ percentage of my estate as finally determined for federal estate tax purposes].

A will or codicil should be prepared by an attorney. Please call the Temple office at (575) 524-3380 to discuss including Temple Beth-El in your estate.



Temple Beth-El Congregational

Tu B'Shevat Seder

Sunday, February 1st at 3:00pm

SAVE THE DATE!

2026 Temple Beth-El Afternoon at the Auction

Sunday, March 22nd, 1:30 - 4:00 at TBE

Silent Auction

Raffle

Live auction

You can be part of the fun by: Donating events, services and items for the auction - what would you like to share?! Bidding for events and items - what would you like to try?!

A few past auction items include:

4 day stay at Lake Tahoe

Airport Chauffeur service

Mah Jongg lessons

Dinner and a concert in your home

Dog walking and pet sitting

Art in just about every medium

Food and drink of all kinds

Gift certificates for local businesses

You'll receive an email within the next few days with details and a form for you to return to register your donation!

Questions? Contact Glenn Philips, glennphilips11@gmail.com

See you at the auction!

BREAKING NEWS

The 2026 Temple Directories are Here!

Pick yours up at the Temple during office hours:

Tue.-Thurs. from 10am-5pm

(Remember: Just one Directory per household)

TBE Sisterhood Presents:

hot & *cool* SOUP & BOOKS

featuring
Tamar Myers
Author, Lecturer and TBE Member

Sunday, February 8, 2026

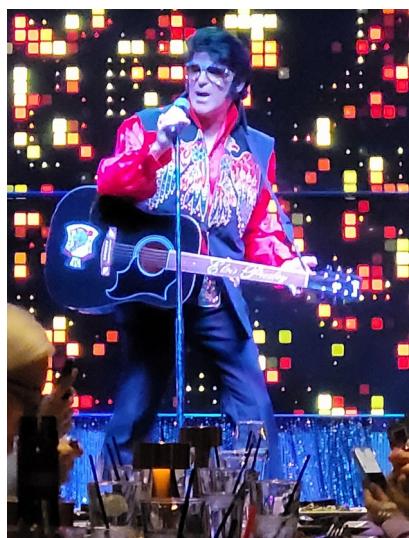
12:00 pm

Temple Beth El Social Hall

Bring your favorite meatless soup to share
with copies of the recipe (optional) and
one or two of your favorite, gently used books or puzzles
We will sample soup and trade books (and puzzles!)
Bread, Dessert and Drinks Provided

FREE TO ALL
donations welcome

Scenes from The 2025 WRJ Southwest District Area Day



Mensch Club Breakfast

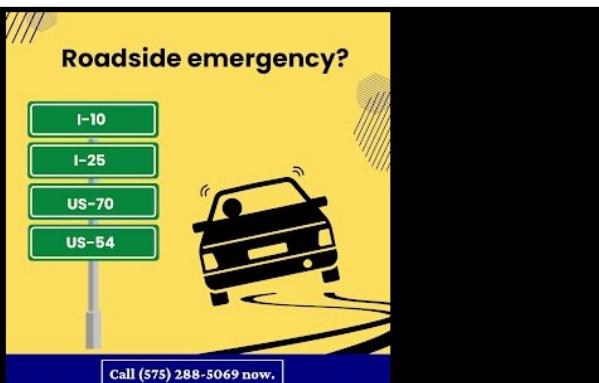
January 8th Mensch Club Breakfast with 21 guys attending. It was a great morning of camaraderie and fellowship. We invite you to join our Mensch Club to share in our mission statement of assisting our Temple and being a part of great group of men to share in our activities of common purpose and interest. Contact Jeff Lewis for details....we look forward to adding new members.



Camp Hope Breakfast

The warmest Camp Hope Christmas Breakfast is in the record books. We had a lovely warm (for December) morning, over a hundred guests, and about 40 Temple Beth-El congregants doing the set up, cooking, serving and clean up. There was the usual issue with power, which got solved pretty quickly. Special thanks to Milagro Coffee and Save Mart for their support and thanks to everyone who helped with their financial donations. Todah rabah to every one of you!





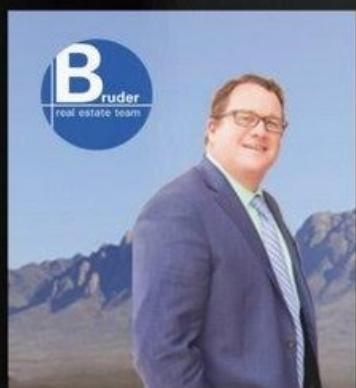
Hello to all our friends in Las Cruces, Alamogordo, Anthony, Chaparral, Sunland Park, Hatch, Deming, and El Paso, TX! Dealing with car troubles on the road? No need to stress – we've got your back!

Citizens Choice Roadside Assistance is here for you during any roadside emergency. Whether it's a flat tire or your car won't start, just give us a call.

Visit our website at <https://citizensroadside.com/> to learn more.

Drive safely out there!

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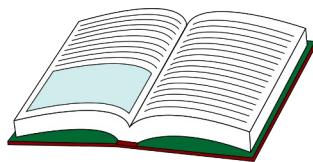
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Las Cruces & Surrounding Areas



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 Alison Mann, and she 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.



February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/YOUTH HEBREW Congregational Tu B'Shvat Seder 3:00 pm	2 <i>Tu B'Shvat</i>	3 Tai Chi 10:00 am	4	5	6 Kabbalat Shabbat Services w/ Rabbi Carazo 6:30 pm	7 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Service w/ Rabbi Carazo 10:30 am
8 Religious School 10:00am-12:00 pm Youth Hebrew 12:00-1:00 pm Hot Soups/Cool Books 12:00 pm	9 Sisterhood council Meeting 5:00 pm	10 Tai Chi 10:00 am	11	12 Sisterhood Council Meeting 5:00 pm	13 Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6:30 pm	14 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am
15 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/YOUTH HEBREW	16	17 Tai Chi 10:00 am	18 Wednesday Morning Breakfast 8:30 am	19 TBE Board Meeting 6:00 pm	20 Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6:30 pm	21 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am
22 Religious School/Sisterhood Hamantashen Bake 10:00am-12:00 pm Youth Hebrew 12:00-1:00 pm	23	24 Tai Chi 10:00 am	25	26	27 Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6:30 pm	28 Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am

Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico

FEBRUARY 2026 (SH'VAT – ADAR 5786)

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The Temple Beth-El Newsletter is produced regularly at Las Cruces, New Mexico. Editor: Beth Tierney. Copy Editors: Aggie Saltman, Steven Haydu. Linda Sweenie, Ellen Torres and Alison Mann. 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**

February 2026



Temple Beth-El
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