



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

JANUARY 2026 (TEVET – SH'VAT 5786)



Oh Chanukah, Oh Chanukah! The light of our menorahs and our congregation on December 19, 2025



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 Spiegall

Treasurer– Susan Weissman

Martha Roditti Donna Popky Steve Haydu

Wendee Lorbeer Daniel Azizian Gilan Jeff Lewis

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

Editor’s Corner



Shalom Chaverim and welcome to another new Gregorian year! I hope your celebrations went well and that your animals were not too traumatized by fireworks. More importantly, I hope that you have gotten the latka smell out of your kitchen. I missed seeing you all at the Hanukah celebration. My daughter tells me that I missed a spirited rendition of “Chanukah in Santa Monica”(by Tom Lehrer z’l). Unfortunately, my body decided that since the semester was over, there was time to feel under the weather. Fortunately, by listening to my body I was able to fight it off.

I would like to call your attention to the box on the right side of this page, “Celebrating our Simchas”. It gives me great pleasure to share these but I know that I am missing names. Many of you may be like me and not like a big fuss to be made over your birthday/anniversaries. However, you may enjoy knowing those dates for your friends. With that in mind, if you have joined the synagogue in the last 3 years, I likely do not have your birthday or anniversary in my files. If you would send me (cambrien73@gmail.com) the month of either/ both it would give me joy. Likewise, if you are an older member and we have somehow missed you, please correct that for me.

L’hitraot,
Beth Tierney

Celebrating our Simchas

Best wishes to these members celebrating birthdays this month:

Liana Brown, Rachel Duggins, Sean Duggins, Jack Greenspan, Bob Kimball, Bob Libby, Michael Lieberman, Barbara Mandel, Donna Popky, Nancy Rushforth, Thomas Saiers, Ellen Torres, Leora Zeitlin

Congratulations to: Sean Schifano, who received his Master’s Degree from the NMSU College of Arts and Sciences and was one of seven students recognized this Fall semester by the NMSU Foundation as an Outstanding Graduate Award recipient. This award is given to students who embody the core values of NMSU: scholarship, leadership and service.

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.

Thank you to these local businesses for their generous donations to our annual Camp Hope Christmas Breakfast:



**495 N.Valley Dr.
Las Cruces, NM 88005
www.savemartlascruces.com**



**Milagro
Coffee y Espresso**

**1733 E. University Ave.
Las Cruces, NM 88001
milagrocoffeem.com**

Donations through November 24, 2025

General Fund:

Joel Siegel, for the memorial board lights
 Tai Chi participants
 Jean Pritchard, for security
 Steve Haydu, on behalf of the Williams Library Book Sale
 Social Action Committee

Social Action Fund:

Stan and Geri Muchnikoff, in memory of Jesse
 Muchnikoff
 Jerry and Shelly Silverman, in memory of David
 Silverman and Samuel Goldman

Rabbi Discretionary Fund:

Julie Seton, Giving Tuesday

Temple Beth-El Religious School Fund:

Erich Zameret, in memory of Dov Zameret

Camp Hope:

Jeff Brown and Cherri Hudson-Brown

Frances Williams Library Fund:

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

**“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 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– December 5, 2025- January 3, 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 January 2 & 3, 2026

Sonia Silverman (Jerald and Rochelle Silverman)
 Susan Lapid (Yosef Lapid)
 Sylvia Weiss* (Harry and Diane Bass)
 Virginia Katherine Hightower Smith (David Newman and Jon Bairnsfather)
 Sam Ross (Irwin and Barbara Ross)
 Charles Lipsitz (Rosalyn Richman)
 Ilona Farkas* (Yosef Lapid)
 Henry Greenberg (Cyrille S. Kane)
 Ira Hudson III (Jeff Brown and Cherri Hudson-Brown)
 Edward Friedman (Mark and Stefani Singer)

Read on January 9 & 10, 2026

Honey Silverman Zelle (Jerald and Rochelle Silverman)
 Dorothy Palanker (Allen Palanker)
 Harris B. Libby (Robert M. and Carla Libby)
 Nancy Rees Brown (Marieka and Jeanne Brown)
 Warren Klein (Tom and Deborah Levy)

Read on January 16 & 17, 2026

Leon Markson (Linda M. Kruger)
 Laura Metzger (Bryan and Lisa McCuller)
 Faige Jacobs (Rose Jacobs)
 Sarah Spiegel (Sheri Spiegel and John Ragosta)
 Jefferson Davis Smith, Sr. (David Newman and Jon Bairnsfather)
 James Turnbull (Joanne Turnbull)
 Richard Stern (Ann Berkson)
 Jeanette Marks (Rhonda Karol)
 Coleman Greenberg (Cyrille S. Kane)

Read on January 23 & 24, 2026

Katrina Ray (Meig Dickson and Max Wipson)
 Shmuel Farkas* (Yosef Lapid)
 Evelyn Roselinsky (Lynn Zeemont)
 Morris Goldstein (Wendee G. Lorbeer)
 Joseph Tashlik (Allen and Michele Blum)
 Miriam Cutler (Allen and Michele Blum)
 Elaine Brown* (Jeff Brown and Cherri Hudson-Brown)
 Irene Zimmerman (Tom and Deborah Levy)

Read on January 30 & 31, 2026

Ruth Ginsburg (Martha Roditti)
 Richard Garner (Ari Swartz)
 Leah Williamson* (Michael and Barbara Mandel)
 Jose Garcia-Bryce (Inigo Garcia-Bryce)
 Barbara Breskow (Debbie and Steve Leyndyke)
 Jesse J. Muchnikoff (Stan and Gerie Muchnikoff)
 Isaac Kruger (Linda M. Kruger)
 Leonardo Oczon (Mark and Aggie Saltman)
 Bernard Spingarn (Richard and Penny Spingarn)
 Hesh Langner (Bernice Langner)
 Arthur Stern*(Ann Berkson, Arthur and Rebecca Berkson.)
 William Stein (Bill Stein)
 Susan Friedman (Mark and Stefani Singer)
 William Friedman (Mark and Stefani Singer)

Condolences to:

- Stacey and Mike Hyman and their family on the loss of Mike's mother, Selma Hyman, who passed away December 12 in Tampa, FL at age 102.
- Stuart Kelter, Leora Zeitlin and family on the December 16 death of Lila Ziegler at the age of 100. Lila was a longtime Temple Beth-El member, mother of Stuart and Shaya Kelter and the late Susan Lapid, and grandmother to nine grandchildren.

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.

Seeds in the Ashes

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

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 Tevet: The King’s Silence



The storms arrived without warning. Clouds rolled and boiled down from the hills, heavy and dark. The winds that came behind them tore through the village like an unchained beast. Roofs lifted from rafters, beams splintered, and walls groaned and collapsed

under the strain. By morning, the fields were strewn with fragments of homes, the air sharply with the scent of broken cedar.

Toviel, the shepherd—his name meant God is good—stood in the ruins of his shelter. Once, his laughter had been the sound most oft heard in the village. He had been quick with a jest, and even quicker with a song. But since the death of his child, his laughter had gone brittle, more a mask for his feelings than from joy. Now, facing the storm’s destruction all around him, the mask cracked. He sank to his knees, pressing his forehead to the wet ground, he rent his clothes and wept. “Is there no end?” he whispered. His sheep huddled nearby, their bells muted in the sodden air. He had guided them through harsh winters before, but now, even his own soul felt adrift.

Driven by his despair, Toviel climbed the hill toward the palace. He imagined the King issuing commands, rallying workers, and restoring what had been lost. Perhaps there would be proclamations of hope, or even miracles to mend broken beams.

But when he reached the palace gates, he found no fanfare. The great hall lay quiet. Beyond its arches, in a courtyard littered with storm-tossed branches, sat the King. He wore no crown, no robe, only simple garments dampened by the rain. His hands rested

upon a beam of shattered wood; his gaze fixed on the sky.

Toviel stopped short. “My lord,” he said, voice tight with anger. “The storm has left us in ruin. Where is your command? Where is your word of restoration?”

The King did not answer. His silence filled the air like snow after it falls.

Toviel’s anger flared. “Do you sit here and watch while your people grieve? What use is a King who gives no decree?” He paced before him, fists clenched. “Say something—anything! Tell us we will rise again!”

Still, the King was silent.

Toviel’s fury ebbed into weariness. His shoulders slumped, and tears spilled unbidden down his cheeks. He sank onto the broken stone beside the King. For a long time, neither spoke. The wind whispered through the courtyard, tugging at the branches.

At last, Toviel lifted his eyes. The King’s silence was not indifference. It was a presence—solid, steady, unshaken. In the quiet, Toviel felt seen, not as a shepherd, not as a villager, but as a man carrying sorrow too heavy for words.

His sobs broke loose, raw and unguarded. He wept for his child, for the shattered beams of his home, for his laughter that seemed lost forever. And as he wept, he felt a hand rest upon his shoulder. The King’s touch was firm, neither demanding nor dismissing, only there—with him—with weight enough to anchor him.

No proclamation, no miracle, only nearness. Yet it was enough.

When Toviel returned to the village, his home still lay in ruins. Neighbors carried stones and mended walls, and others shared food beneath makeshift shelters. The work was slow, and the nights were long, but Toviel no longer felt alone. The silence he had shared with the King had carved out a space inside him where his grief could dwell without shame.

He began to hum again as he guided his flock, not with the careless cheer of before, but with a

“Seeds in the Ashes”- continued from previous page

deeper tone, shaped by loss and softened by presence. The villagers noticed. One said, “Toviel’s song carries sorrow, yet it steadies us.” Another replied, “Perhaps that is what makes it true?”

Orli, the child—her name meant my light—ran up to Toviel one evening. “Why do you sing so slowly now?” she asked with the unashamed honest curiosity of a child.

Toviel knelt, smiling faintly. “Because some songs are not for dancing, little one. Some songs are for remembering what deserves to be remembered.” She tilted her head. “But still, they shine,” she said.

He touched her hair gently. “Yes. Even in silence, the song is not lost.”

That winter, was a tough one, and the village endured the storms together. They rebuilt walls, mended roofs, and huddled by fires, and though Toviel’s laughter was no longer the loudest sound in the village, his quiet humming became a thread that wove through and comforted their days. It reminded them of the silent King, who had sat among broken beams without decree, offering presence. Toviel learned that sometimes what sustains is not the promise of repair, but the companionship of silence, the steady hand on a shoulder, and the song that carries both sorrow and hope.

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

Author’s Note

This story was shaped in the aftermath—when the winds have passed, and (sometimes deafening) silence remains. The King’s Silence began as a meditation on grief: not the kind that cries for answers, but the kind that asks only to be heard and held.

Toviel’s journey is not one of resolution, but of recognition. His sorrow is not solved—it is witnessed. And the King, seated among broken beams, offers no decree, no miracle, only nearness. That silence is not absence. It is weight. It is presence.

I wrote this in the season of Tevet, when the cold settles deeply and the light feels far. It is my hope that this tale might offer shelter for when we carry burdens too heavy for words.

If you find yourself weeping in these pages, may your tears be a prayer. Not for repair. But for companionship – for presence.

— Meir Ashan Las Cruces, NM Tevet 5786

New Member Spotlight:

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

Dr. Roi Altit and Dr. Chaney Stewman moved to Las Cruces from Philadelphia in February 2024. Their decision to make the move was partly job opportunity and partly making a change for better climate and overall living quality. They have four children, Adilay, Jude, Emmett, and Kaylen. Their niece and nephew, Syvonne and Asher, live with them as well. Roi was born in Israel where he lived until he was 8 years old. Chaney is originally from Pittsburgh, PA. Roi began his undergraduate studies at St. Joseph’s in Philadelphia and completed them at Florida International University near where his parents were living at the time. Chaney did her undergraduate studies at Oberlin College in Ohio. They both attended medical school at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. Roi is currently a practicing Interventional Cardiologist at Memorial Medical Center. Chaney’s area of specialty is Primary Care with an additional focus on Sports Medicine. She also has certification as a health coach. After beginning her medical career, she and Roi made the decision to start a family and now that is her primary focus. However, that has not stopped her from pursuing her interest in writing adult fiction.

Their children have made a good transition here although Chaney says that there are things the children certainly miss about Philadelphia as well as Kansas where their niece and nephew lived before coming to live with them. Adilay is in PreK, Jude in 1st grade, Emmett in 3rd, and Kaylen in 5th . Their niece Syvonne is a Junior at Centennial High School. Their nephew Asher attends Mesa Middle School in the 8th grade. All the children are attending our religious school. Syvonne is also involved with the teen youth group. With the demands of a busy life of work and family responsibilities finding time to just relax and “have fun” is a certainly a challenge. Chaney has said that when they are able to carve out some “adults only” time, they take long walks together on many of the beautiful trails near their home.

We are so happy to welcome Chaney, Roi and their entire family and hope to see them at events and services. Here is a lovely photo of the whole family.



Cantor’s Notes

Last month, as we prepared to begin our first-night celebration of Hanukkah, we awakened to horrific news from Australia – word of a deadly attack at a popular beach in Sydney, perpetrated against a large group of Jews who had gathered for a communal lighting of the Hanukkah. The celebration of light was suddenly and violently shrouded in darkness.

I spoke to so many of you that day. Some of you were frightened, and rightfully so, by this continual rise of antisemitism that requires us to fortify our communal gatherings with more and more robust security measures. Many of you professed such profound sadness – for the victims, their families and for all our Jewish brothers and sisters everywhere. But what I did not hear, not even once, not from anyone, was a sense that this kind of hatred was ever going to overcome us. In fact, to me it felt like just the opposite. It’s as if, like the Maccabees rededicating the Temple, each subsequent wave of antisemitism brings about a rededication of our devotion to Judaism. My friend, and our Board Treasurer, Susan Weissman, summed it up by telling me “we just need to keep showing up.”

And boy oh boy, does this community ever do that! For the wonderful stuff and for the really hard stuff. We had a huge crowd here on December 19th for our joyful yearly communal Hanukkah lighting. But just one day before that, you were all here for Lila Ziegler’s funeral. The sanctuary fills for our celebrations and for our sorrows. Because we are a community – we are here for each other and we show up.

But we’re not insular. We don’t just show up for each other. We also show up for the greater community. We model for others the commitment to helping and repairing the world that are cornerstones of the Jewish faith.

So many of us showed up on Christmas Day to serve breakfast to our unhoused brothers and sisters at Camp hope, just like we do every year.

By doing that, we help others who may not know much about Judaism to learn more about us. Being there – showing up in the greater community may seem just like an act of love, but it is also a way that we fight antisemitism. It’s harder to hate your neighbor when you know them and appreciate their kindness.

In late December, our Spiritual Leader search committee members conducted ZOOM interviews with several of the candidates we are considering to fill the position permanently...which we hope will happen early this new year. Since I began my tenure in August, I’ve been humbled by so many of you who have become re-engaged in our worship and other activities at the Temple. In a way, just like the Maccabees, we’ve begun to

“Cantor’s notes” continued from previous column

re-dedicate Temple Beth-El by showing up more for worship and activities, by being open to new ideas and new ways of doing things, and by keeping radical kindness at the forefront of our interactions with each other.

I wish, like in the days of the Maccabees, there were some miracle that would wipe hatred from the earth. I pray for that miracle. I pray for a day when the word antisemitism is only one we read in history books. But I know that my prayers for now are aspirational. So instead of hoping for miracles and relying on prayer, I will, in the words of Abraham Joshua Heschel, pray with my feet. In this new year, I rededicate myself to showing up. I hope that you all continue to join me.

B’shalom,
Linda Matorin Sweenie

A Message from our President

It is a genuine pleasure to take the role of Interim Board President of TBE. I have met many wonderful people in our congregation and look forward to meeting more of you. My husband, Steve and I moved here four years ago and we felt immediately accepted by our temple community. This is my third year on the Board and I am deeply committed to the success and continued growth of the synagogue.

It has been a busy and exciting time for Temple Beth El and the Board of Directors! We welcome Interim members Steve Haydu and Daniel Azizian to the Board, replacing Diane Fleishman and Mark Singer. We wish Diane well in her new home and a speedy recovery to Mark. The Board attended a “Boot Camp” offered by URJ to determine long term goals for our temple. URJ will work with us through the next year to help us meet these goals. We have many good ideas that we hope to implement over the next several months.

I am available to answer any of your questions concerning temple matters. My email is ileyndyke@gmail.com. Please introduce yourself if we have not yet met. I look forward to serving my community and hope to get more of you involved in upcoming activities.

Shalom and a Happy Secular New Year!
Deb Leyndyke

Sisterhood Update

Hello, Shalom and Happy New Year!!

Up until about 10 days ago, things were quiet.... THEN.... Chanukah! What a wonderful celebration with so many of our congregants in attendance! Latkes galore and sufganiyot, those luscious jelly donuts.... many shall be thanked for putting together this joyful evening!! First of all, to Debbie Levy, for picking up the mantle in preparing for the gathering... she went above and beyond reaching out to get you all to make your delicious latkes. There were plenty for everybody and enough left to take home and eat on Saturday after the service. Thanks to Suzy Kolikant, Wendee Lorbeer, and Nancy Bergman, who showed up early to help with warming, plating and serving the latkes, and stayed to clean up. Thanks to Bryan and Lisa McCuller, our Chanukah Oneg Hosts, who brought 5 dozen of the best jelly donuts in the Mesilla Valley!! And Chanukah sweets galore... we were so spoiled that night! Thanks to Linda Sweenie and Glenn Philips for the service and uplifting music. And to the muscles of the Mensch Club for setting up the tables... It takes a village and we all showed up and we thank you all so much.

Lenore Hindin and Stefani Singer will be attending the 2026 WRJ Southwest Pacific Area Weekend January 9-11, in Phoenix. We are so excited to represent Temple Beth-El's Sisterhood and promise to make you all proud and bring back info on all the events and workshops.

We are planning our next event and we would like your input! Below are several options for a speaker at our Hot Soup and Cool Books potluck lunch on Sunday, February 8, 2026, at 12 noon.... Text Stefani or email Lenore to sign up to bring a pot of soup to share, including a few copies of the recipe, and a gently used book to exchange. Included with your soups, there will be breads, dessert and drinks. Then, let's enjoy an informative presentation from one of the options listed here:

Make A Wish New Mexico
Bridle Up Hope
Mesilla Valley Hospice
On The Bright Side Recovery
Las Cruces Community Theatre
Mesilla Valley CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)
Survivors of Suicide
Cruces Creatives
Cancer Warriors of Las Cruces
Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary

Give this some good thought and get back to Stefani Singer or Lynn Zeemont by January 8th, with your number 1, number 2 and number 3 choice. Whichever gets the most votes will be selected based on their availability for February 8th. There is no fee for this event, so join us, won't you? Please, RSVP for attendance by January 30th.

The next Sisterhood meeting will be Thursday, January 8th at 5 pm in the Social Hall. We would love to see you and get your input and ideas for 2026. May you all have a happy, healthy and exciting New Year 2026, and may we spend many happy times together!

Art and History at Temple Beth-El

The Social Action/Adult Education committee compliments the outstanding presentations by two members of TBE recently held on Monday evening, December 15. Two outstanding young men each offered an interesting and enlightening presentation.

Sponsored by the AZ/NM History Society, Daniel Azizian presented an outstanding program on the artist, Ira Moskowitz. He discussed Moskowitz' contribution as a Jewish immigrant observing and visually recording particularly the Native American culture of New Mexico.

Sean Schifano, a Fall 2025 NMSU Alumni Outstanding Master's Graduate in the College of Arts & Sciences, presented a long historical view of Conversos and how the southwest and particularly New Mexico became home to these victims of diaspora.

Congratulations to both of you and thank you for an engaging and stimulating evening.



Sisterhood Gift Shop Sale

We had a Sisterhood Gift Shop Sale earlier this month and I want to thank all the loyal temple congregants who came by to purchase items from the table we set up as well as from the display cases. Our Shop was also open during the Artisan Marketplace and several more customers came by to purchase their Holiday items.

Our most popular sellers were the bags of "Gelt" which quickly sold out. We also sold lots of Chanukah candles, kids' stuff and other items for the season. (Memo to self...next year buy more gold coins!)

This year we also have a lovely assortment of sterling silver jewelry, made in Israel, and we sold a few of those pieces. People are glad we brought the jewelry to our Gift Shop and I will be purchasing more soon. Please let me know if you're looking for anything specific and we'll try to bring it in for you.

Most of all I want to thank Gerie Muchnikoff for spending the day with me and for being a wonderful saleswoman! She chatted up the merchandise and our customers gladly bought their favorite treasures. Thanks so much, Gerie.

If there's something you need please feel free to call me at 575-888-4644 and we can make an appointment to meet at the temple at your convenience.

Again, thank you to all who made our Holiday Sale a success to benefit our TBE Sisterhood Gift Shop!

Lenore Hindin

Temple Beth_El Artisan Marketplace

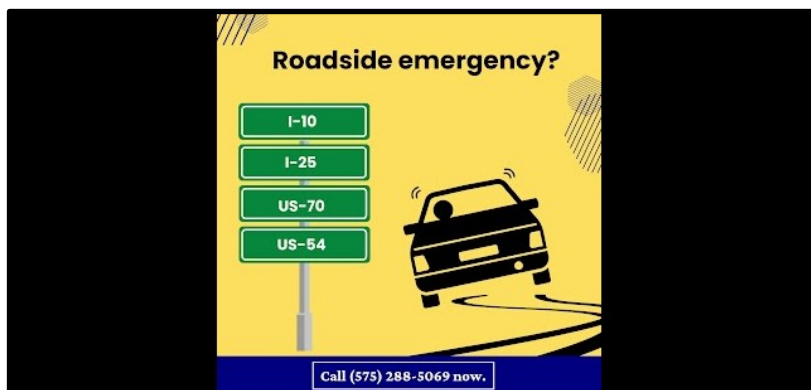
The second Temple Beth-El Artisan Marketplace on December 14th was a big success! Not only did we raise several thousand dollars for the Temple, but we provided a venue for our artists to show their work and an opportunity for our members to purchase it. We also brought in many people from outside the Temple, helping to raise our profile in the community. 14 artists participated, 7 Temple members and 7 others, and we also had a large selection of work from retired Las Cruces artist Annetta Hoover. All in all, a win for everyone!

Many, many thanks are in order:

- Alison Mann, Terri Sugarman and their crew for facilitating sale of the Hoover work
- Annetta Hoover and Jeff Hoover for their generous donation to the Temple
- The 14 artists who made the show possible
- Jeff Lewis and the Mensch Club for setting up the room before and after the show - a lot of work!
- Gerie Muchnikoff for her donation of a large Hanukkah artwork to the Temple
- Our committee: Karen Currier, Deb Leyndyke, Donna Popky & Glenn Philips
- Others who worked on various parts of the show: Jane Grider, Alan Blum, Kimmi Cravens, Michael Mandel, Ellen Torres
- Anyone else we've forgotten to name!

This was a great project for Temple Beth-El. Let's do it again next year!





Call (575) 288-5069 now.

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!

#CitizensChoiceRoadsideAssistance #RoadsideAssistance

Visit the Temple Beth-El Website—
www.tbelc.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!

Peace of Mind
 Pet Sitting

Sharon (774) 249-5698- Call or Text
stlucia777@yahoo.com

Overnights/Drop Ins, Housesitting
 Las Cruces & Surrounding Areas

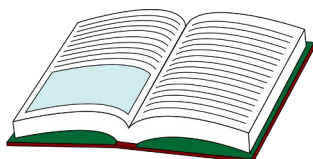
ron bruder
 associate broker

ronbrudertopproducer@gmail.com

Cell: 575-312-7330
 Office: 575-522-3698

Better Homes & STEINBORN & ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE

Erich Zameret, B.S., M.S., M.A.
 Will tutor:
 Hebrew- reading and conversational,
 High School Math.
 Privately or in small group
ezmrt35@yahoo.com
 575-639-0785



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.



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!



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 28 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/YOUTH HEBREW	Dec 29	Dec 30 Tai Chi <i>10:00 am</i>	Dec 31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	1	2 First Fiesta Friday: Taco Dinner <i>5:45 pm</i> Musical Worship <i>6:30 pm</i>	3 Talmud Study <i>9:00 am</i> Shabbat Service <i>10:30 am</i>
4 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/YOUTH HEBREW	5 Sisterhood council Meeting <i>5:00 pm</i>	6 Tai Chi <i>10:00 am</i>	7	8	9 Kabbalat Shabbat Services <i>6:30 pm</i>	10 Talmud Study <i>9:00 am</i> Shabbat Service <i>10:30 am</i>
11 Religious School <i>10:00am-12:00 pm</i> Youth Hebrew <i>12:00-1:00 pm</i>	12	13 Tai Chi <i>10:00 am</i>	14	15 TBE Board Meeting <i>6:00 pm</i>	16 Kabbalat Shabbat Services <i>6:30 pm</i>	17 Talmud Study <i>9:00 am</i> Shabbat Service <i>10:30 am</i>
18 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/YOUTH HEBREW	19 <i>MLK Jr. Day</i>	20 Tai Chi <i>10:00 am</i>	21	22	23 Kabbalat Shabbat Services <i>6:30 pm</i>	24 Talmud Study <i>9:00 am</i> Shabbat Service <i>10:30 am</i>
25 Religious School <i>10:00am-12:00 pm</i> Youth Hebrew <i>12:00-1:00 pm</i>	26	27 Tai Chi <i>10:00 am</i>	28	29	30 Kabbalat Shabbat Services <i>6:30 pm</i>	31 Talmud Study <i>9:00 am</i> Shabbat Service <i>10:30 am</i>
Feb 1 Religious School <i>10:00am-12:00 pm</i> Youth Hebrew <i>12:00-1:00 pm</i>	Feb 2	Feb 3 Tai Chi <i>10:00 am</i>	Feb 4	Feb 5	Feb 6 First Fiesta Friday: Taco Dinner <i>5:45 pm</i> Musical Worship <i>6:30 pm</i>	Feb 7 Talmud Study <i>9:00 am</i> Shabbat Service <i>10:30 am</i>

Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico

JANUARY 2026 (TEVET – SH'VAT 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**

December 2025



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