

# GREEN VALLEY SHOFAR



Vol. 23 No. 1

January/February 2018

**Beth Shalom Temple Center**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear BSTC Member

The month of December is not only a time for self-reflection, but also a time to thank the wonderful people who worked so hard on behalf of our congregation and me.

Back in 2013, I had the privilege to be your President. At that time my primary goals were to, increase membership and become a caring congregation, like when the Friendship Club (Beth Shalom Temple Center) first originated. Unfortunately, partly due to the lack of funding by the 2013 Board, our membership drive never got started. We didn't increase our membership by many new members that year, but I was pleased by the following comments made by our congregants. "I like that the Temple is returning to its *hamish* traditions of the past," and "The Temple's heating bill must be going down, because it's getting much warmer in the building." To quote an old cliché, "One out of two ain't bad."

My personal thanks to our 2017 Board of Trustees (in alphabetical order) —Ruth Barwick, Jerry Belenker, Michael Benisch, Esther Brill, Gerald Foigelman, Werner Lawson, Jo Legat, Ruthann Shapiro, past President, Amy Storer and Barry Weisman.

Again, my personal thanks to our Committee Chairs (again in alphabetical order), Ed Brill, Sue Cohen, Sonya Foigelman, Joyce Finkelstein, Marilyn Forstot, Tobey Gitelle, Jane Gold, Michel Kouhana, Suenette Maron, Ingeborg McDonald, Gail Norton, Eric and Karen Rautenberg, Mel Roman, Sid Shapiro, Linda Stein, and Marcia Weiner.

Thank you too, to all the people who served on these committees and who helped at Bagel Breakfasts, Onegs, temple events and all the programs we held.

A special THANKS too, to our Business Manager, Margaret Bierd, and the person I never want to be without, my wife, Kay.

If I missed anyone, I apologize.

I feel that by all of us working together, 2017 was a very "SUCCESSFUL YEAR." We at BSTC gather together under the banner of "big tent" Judaism, aware that our members come from different backgrounds of Jewish knowledge and along a broad spectrum of varied commitments to religious and rituals. None the less, at Beth Shalom Temple Center anyone who regards him or herself as part of the Jewish people, anyone who wants to lead a Jewish life and who wants to find a synagogue home is welcomed. The Torah, our Temple, and our traditions are owned by all of us, individually and collectively. We all "Own a Piece of the Rock", and we can all participate in and enjoy

synagogue life in a variety of ways. All roads lead to Beth Shalom Temple Center. Let's Pray, Play, and take care of each other---Merle Sobol, President

Editor's Note: And thank you Merle for all your hard work and dedication.

**GREEN VALLEY SHOFAR**

**The Official Newsletter of  
Beth Shalom Temple Center  
1751 N. Rio Mayo  
Green Valley, AZ 85614  
(520) 648-6690  
www.bstc.us**

President	Merle Sobol
Vice President	Werner Lawson
Secretary	
Treasurer	Jo Legat
At Large	Ruth Barwick
At Large	Jerry Belenker
At Large	Michael Benisch
At Large	Esther Levine Brill
At Large	Ruthann Shapiro

Please Note: Above named Officers and board members are in place only until after the election at the Annual Meeting. Since the heads of committees will, in some cases change, we are not listing Committees in this issue.

**Editor/Publisher:** Esther Levine Brill at  
estherbrill14@outlook.com, 917-805-6710

This is the January/February issue of the Shofar. The Shofar is published 6 times a year: Jan/Feb, March/April, May/June, July/Aug, Sept/Oct, Nov/Dec.

**NEWSLETTER SUPPORT STAFF:** Ingeborg McDonald  
Marilyn Forstot, Mike Finkelstein, Ed Brill, Margaret Bierd

The editor reserves the right to edit contributions for grammar, length and content. Community and member news will be published only as space permits. Community or member events that conflict with Temple events will not be publicized in the Shofar.

**MAIL TO THE TEMPLE**

To expedite delivery, any mail sent to the temple should be addressed to: P.O. Box 884, Green Valley, AZ 85622. Sending mail to the Rio Mayo address may result in a delay. To expedite delivery please include the name of the person you wish to contact on the front of the envelope.

For information on the Memorial Board and *Yahrzeits* contact Joyce Finkelstein by phone or by email.

For information on Tributes or Commemorative items, contact Amy Storer.

For information on the Green Valley Cemetery, please call Ingeborg McDonald.

**SENDING IN CHECKS TO BSTC**

If you are sending in a check to BSTC and not using our website to pay, either by PayPal or credit card, make sure your check, as well as the envelope indicates the program/event for which you are paying.

**TEMPLE USAGE SCHEDULING**

Before scheduling a program, please contact Amy Storer. This will avoid scheduling conflicts. If you wish to have your program included in the Shofar calendars, notify the Shofar editor. Not all scheduled events are included in the Shofar. Deadline for Shofar copy is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**IN THIS ISSUE**

- President's Message
- Member News and Updates
  - Welcome our New Members
  - Birthdays and Anniversaries
  - Meet our Members,
- Tributes, Commemorative Items, Yahrzeits
- Temple Tidings- -Nominations, Annual Meeting,
  - New Clerical Assistant
- Programs and Events - upcoming Religious Celebrations, Jim Click
  - Raffle update, Therapy Dolls
- Torah Study
  - Services
  - New Prayer books STOP THE PRESSES – **THEY JUST CAME**
- Sisterhood, Men's Club, Genealogy Club
- Wish you were There

## Calendar of Events

Monday, January 1, **Happy, Healthy (Secular) New Year**  
11 a.m. **New Year's Day Israeli Brunch**, \$15 per person



Tuesday, January 2, 6:30 p.m., **Ritual Club Meeting** (please note new time)

Friday, January 5, 7 p.m. **Friday Night Shabbat Services** led by Renee Villani.  
*Oneg* sponsored by Ed and Esther Brill in honor of their 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Saturday, January 6, 9:30 a.m. **Torah Study**. *Parasha Shemot*

Sunday, January 7, 9:30 a.m., **Michael G at the piano**  
10 a.m., **Annual Commemorative Lou and Helene Fish Bagel Breakfast**- members admitted free. Non-members, \$10. Yiddish Club follows.

Wednesday, January 10, 9:45 a.m.  
**ROMEO Men's Club Breakfast**, at El Patio

Thursday, January 11, 10 a.m., **Hadassah Therapy Doll Workshop at BSTC**

Saturday, January 13, 9:30 a.m. **Torah Study**, *Parasha: Va'era*

Tuesday, January 16, 11:45 a.m.  
**Sisterhood Paid Up Luncheon**, **RSVP** by January 10

Friday, January 19, **NO Friday Night Services**

Saturday, January 20, 10 a.m. **Shabbat Morning Service and Kiddish** followed by light lunch and Torah Study- *Parasha: Bo*

Monday, January 22, 2 p.m., **Annual Membership Meeting**

Tuesday, January 25, 10 a.m., **Inaugural BSTC Genealogy Club Meeting**

Tuesday, January 25, 1:30-4:30 p.m. **Adult Education: Introduction to Kabbalah**

Saturday, January 27, 9:30 a.m., **Torah Study**,  
*Parasha: B'shallach*

Wednesday, January 31 (sunset to nightfall on  
Thursday, Feb 1, **Tu B'Shevat**

Wednesday, January 31, 4 p.m., **Tu B'Shevat Seder and Celebration** – dairy/vegetarian pot luck

Friday, February 2, 7 p.m., **Friday Night Shabbat Services** led by Marlys Fiterman,

Saturday, February 3, 9:30 a.m., **Torah Study**,  
*Parasha: Yitro*

Sunday, February 4, 9:30 to 10 a.m.,  
**Michael G at the piano** (Before Bagel Breakfast)  
10 a.m., **Bagel Breakfast**

Sunday, February 4, following Bagel Breakfast, **Art Gallery Walk and Talk with Lynn Rae Lowe**

Tuesday, February 6, 6:30 p.m., **Ritual Committee Meeting**

Saturday, February 10, 9:30 a.m., **Torah Study**  
*Parasha Mishpatim*

Tuesday, February 13, 10 a.m., **Sisterhood Meeting**

Wednesday, February 14, 9:45 a.m.  
**ROMEO Men's Club Breakfast**, at El Patio

Friday, February 16, 7 p.m., **Friday Night Shabbat Service**

Saturday, February 17, 9:30 a.m. **Torah Study**  
*Parasha: Terumah*

Saturday, February 24, 9:30 a.m. **Torah Study**  
*Parasha: Tetzaveh*

Monday, February 26, 10 a.m. **BSTC Board Meeting**

Tuesday, February 27, 10 a.m.,  
**BSTC Genealogy Club Meeting**

Wednesday, February 28, sunset to nightfall, Thursday  
March 1, **Purim**

Wednesday, February 28, 4 p.m. **Purim Celebration and Megillah Reading**

## MEMBER NEWS & UPDATES

A hearty BSTC welcome to our new members.

Sandy Kurovski

Jack and Bobbie Vishner

Beverly Lake

### Birthdays: Happy Birthday to

Jan. 1	Trish Sandstrom
Jan. 3	Merle Sobol
Jan 3	Bob Nye
Jan. 4	Marilyn Forstot
Jan 10	Lenny Friedman
Jan. 10	Ted Walden
Jan. 1	Alan Winfield
Jan. 11	Susan Cohen
Jan 19	Lenore Mills
Jan. 25	Barry Weissman
Jan. 27	William Forstot
Jan. 29	Jim Robbins
Feb. 6	Michel Kouhana
Feb. 8	Fran Gordon
Feb. 9	David Roth
Feb. 10	Agi Klieger
Feb. 13	Tobey Gitelle
Feb. 14	Michael Finkelstein
Feb. 14	Esther Brill
Feb. 17	Bill Liebson
Feb. 24	Shuviel Ma'aravi
March 1	Dick Cavell
March 1	Janet Kenigsberg

Have a great day and year

\*\*\*

## MEET OUR MEMBERS

### Sid and Ruthann Shapiro

The Shapiro's are born, and bred Steelers' fans having lived our entire lives in Pittsburgh, PA. We've been married for 43 years and have two daughters. Our oldest Harriet is married and lives in Baltimore, MD. Our youngest, Sharon is not married and is still living in Pittsburgh.

Larry and Ina Gravitz

Correction: it was erroneously reported in the November December Shofar that Ellen and Barry Savitz had moved back to New York. Happily, they are still residents. The editor apologizes for any mayhem or discomfort that may have occurred as a result.

### Anniversaries: Happy Anniversary to:

Jan. 1	Alan & Barbara Winfield
Jan. 3	Michael & Joyce Finkelstein
Jan. 10	Esther & Ed Brill
Feb. 1	Alan & Judy Loew
Feb. 15	Jeanette & Denis Nathan
Feb. 25	Werner & Billie Lawson

May you continue to celebrate in good health, happiness and joy.

*Sid and Ruthann Shapiro continued...*

Winters are generally cold and white in Pittsburgh, so about three years ago with retirement, looming we decided to check out warmer places to spend our "golden years". We first checked out Florida, but it was too humid for Sid. Sid wanted to check out Arizona and using Google we found Green Valley.

We spent a week in Green Valley in August 2015 and fell in love with it. Ruthann retired December 30, ... 2016 and on January 6, 2017 we set out for Green Valley.

Since arriving in Green Valley we've purchased a house and joined BSTC. Sid has also joined the Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteers. He plays chess and billiards as well. Ruthann spends her time playing Mah Jong as well as being a member of the BSTC board and co-chair of the Ritual Committee. Together, Sid and I chair the Oneg Committee. Life in Green Valley is not boring.

### **Steve Maron**

My name is Steve Maron. I would have to say that it was a peculiar alignment of circumstances that landed me where I am now, and I've never regretted it.

I had left a position as a hospital pediatrician in frigid Wilkes Barre, PA, and an opportunity came up for a temporary job in Yuma, AZ. that I grabbed, having experienced that great Arizona winter weather visiting my snowbird parents when they rented in Green Valley. I put my resume on the Internet, and listed Green Valley among places to which I was interested in relocating permanently. Aside from Yuma, Green Valley was the only place in Arizona with which I was familiar. I was invited to interview for a position as a pediatrician in a Green Valley clinic (United Community Health Center [www.uchcaz.org](http://www.uchcaz.org), not that I'm advertising here). The rest, I guess, is history.

My snowbird parents were pretty sure there was actually a Jewish congregation in Green Valley, although they never actually tracked it down. Can't remember if I googled or looked in a phone book but with phone number in hand, I called, left a voicemail and got a quick response from Gail Norton, the head of the outreach committee then. response from Gail Norton who was then the outreach committee. Again, the rest is history. Again, I have no regrets at all about hooking up with the great folks at BSTC.

I guess I have a few claims to fame (aside from being married to Suenette). I lived in Israel for 15 years attending high school there, served in the Israeli Army and went to Tel Aviv Medical School. Israel continues to be a very special place for me personally, and I take every opportunity to go back. I also enjoy playing fiddle accompaniment for our services, which I even sometimes lead.

\*\*\*

### **Commemorative Items:**

The following memorial plaques, leaves for the Tree of Life, and other commemorative items are available for purchase:

Memorial plaques, \$300

Leaf for the Tree of Life, \$100

Sanctuary Chair, \$125

Garden Bench, \$225

Garden Brick, \$100

Send specific wording for the plaque, brick, etc. together with your check (made out to Beth Shalom Temple Center) to BSTC, Attention "Memorial Board" or "Tree of Life," etc. Order forms can be found in the Temple foyer.

## TRIBUTES

Do you need to send a greeting card? Do you want to support your Temple? Here's a great way to do both. At present, Amy Storer, will mail a lovely, personalized card to whomever you choose. Here's how to do it:  
Send your Tribute request and free-will offerings to:

1. Amy Storer directly, or
2. Mail your request and tribute directly to the temple.

If ordering several Tributes at the same time, print the birthday/anniversary page of the Shofar, check off the names of those you'd like to designate for Tribute(s), and mail it in with your check. Tributes may be sent with your own personal greeting for birthdays, anniversaries, get well, condolences, best wishes for the new home, in appreciation, mazel tov, and sympathy upon loss of a pet, etc.

### Donations have been received for:

Tobey Gitelle for a quick and full recovery/*refuah shleimah* from Amy Storer and Ed and Esther Brill  
Helene Feldman for a quick and full recovery/*refuah shleimah* from Ed and Esther Brill  
Amy Storer, in memory of Chaco, from Ed and Esther Brill  
Marty and Sue Cohen in memory of the loss of Sue's father from Bunny Callis

## Yahrzeits

Beth Shalom Temple Center will provide reminders of yahrzeits, and the name(s) of your loved ones will automatically be recited for Kaddish at the appropriate Sabbath Services according to the Hebrew calendar. If your yahrzeits are not yet on the current list and you wish them to be, please email Joyce Finkelstein at [mfinkel2@cox.net](mailto:mfinkel2@cox.net) (or send a note to the Temple for her attention) including your name, the name and relationship of deceased, and the date of death.

### Yahrzeit Donations have been

Received from:	For	In Memory of	
3-Nov	Helene Feldman	Mother	Sylvia Snyder
3-Nov	Ruthann & Sid Shapiro	Mother	Evelyn Shapiro
11-Nov	Sig Friedman	Father	David Friedman
28-Nov	Steve Maron	Mother	Lee Maron
17-Dec	Gail Norton	Mother	Doris Sable
17-Dec	Gail Norton	Daughter	Kelly Kern
17-Dec	Sherry Hoffman-Blum	Mother	Mollie Hoffman
22-Dec	Sonya Foigelman	Mother	Goldie Abramowitz
27-Dec	Suenette Maron	Father	Harold Abrahamson.

## TEMPLE TIDBITS

### Report from the Nominating Committee

By now you know the results of the hard work done by the nominating committee chaired by Ruth Barwick. Members of the Committee were Sonny Foigelman, Ingeborg McDonald (who later recused herself when she decided to run) and Ted Walden.org

Running for election, or re-election, in alphabetical order is Steve Abrahams, Michael Benisch, Esther Levine Brill, Mike Finkelstein, Ingeborg no more 7, otherwise



McDonald, Werner Lawson, and Merle Sobol. Please make sure you vote for your ballot will be invalidated.

Both Ruth Barwick and more even distribution resignation, Barry Weissman, and Jerry Belenker is stepping down from the board

Jo Legat remain in office as their terms are not yet up. The By-Laws call for a of those needing to be elected, however, this year the board received one

A Ballot Box has been set up in the Lobby. Make sure you follow the directions for mailing in your votes. Remember, to vote, you must be a paid-up member.

### ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us on Monday, January 22, 2018 at 2 p.m. for the Annual Meeting. Participants will be able to hear the State of the Temple address by our outgoing president Merle Sobol highlighting BSTC's many accomplishments this year and some of the challenges ahead.

We will also get the results of our elections for the incoming board. Of course, to vote and have your ballot count, as well as be included in our online directory, dues must be paid before the meeting. While checks are preferred so we don't incur processing fees, we now have the ease of going online to pay. If doing it online, don't forget to fill out the membership application and dues notice so we have your most up-to-date email and information. If paying by check make it out to BSTC, with the notation of Membership Dues on the check memo line and on the envelope.

Please make every effort to attend as we want your participation. Again, according to our bylaws, "A minimum of 20% of members in good standing, present in person or by proxy shall constitute a quorum at membership and special meetings and shall be empowered to transact the business of the Temple Center" (Article 2.4).

### Did You Know....

It's dues time again, and are you aware that, if, at the moment, paying the full membership price is too heavy of a burden for you, you can get in touch with the president, Merle Sobol and set up a payment plan. Don't be shy or embarrassed by it, as we would rather have you as a member than not. All requests are kept confidential.

### Part Time Clerical Assistant Hired

When our Membership Initiative Grant was not renewed, the Board as well as the Membership Committee looked at how best to continue our momentum. One suggestion was to hire a clerical assistant to not only help with membership but also to assist our Business Manager, Margaret Bierd and committee chairs when necessary or possible. Important also was that there would be a presence in the office if people came by and a real person to answer the phones at set times.

*Clerical Assistant Hired continued...*

Esther Levine Brill was placed in charge of this initiative, wrote up a list of duties and responsibilities as well as collaborated with Mike Finkelstein to place an ad in the papers.

Resumes were to be sent to the temple's mailbox and Margaret would pick them up. At first, we were panicking since we didn't seem to be getting any responses. Then, lo and behold, we had 15 resumes to sort through and set up interviews. Margaret was terrific in getting in touch with the applicants and setting appointments. Over three different time periods we interviewed all 15 candidates.

With small exception, it was difficult to decide who would most fit our needs. It seemed like after every interview, Margaret and I would place that candidate at the top of the list. Finally, we were able to limit our list to four candidates

and Margaret sent out letters to those we were calling back for further interviews and those who we thanked for their time and interest. Margaret also obtained background searches on all four candidates which all came back with no issues.

Again, on the second round of interviews it was hard going. We almost wished we could hire more than one. We finally selected the candidate who we felt would be most able to assist us in many areas and who would be a good "fit" to interact with the board, committee chairs and our members.

I'd now like to introduce you to Stacey Laetsch who writes that she is

... a native Tucsonan, conceived by snowbirds fleeing southern Illinois way back in the 60s. She was transplanted to the wild acres of east Sahuarita in 1999, and moved to Madera Highlands in 2014. Although raising three sons to successful adulthood has been her life's main focus, she has also dabbled in the graphic design and printing field, worked a swimming pool cleaning route in Green Valley, and more recently managed international sales and production data for custom orders of hand painted prosthetic contact lenses.

Stacey will be starting January 8 and will be oriented by Margaret. Her hours at present are 9-12 on Mondays and Fridays and 1-4 on Wednesdays. As Stacey gets more accustomed to us and her role, her hours will be increasing to 12 to 15 hours a week.

Welcome Stacey – we look forward to working with you. I know I'm hoping to consult with her about the Shofar's logo.

### **Coming Soon to a Library Near You**

Sometime in February the Library will have a Suggestion Box so members can voice their wishes for what books to get, or even not get. Both Sonny Foigelman, Librarian and Tobey Gitelle, Chair of the Aesthetics Committee, are working on getting one installed. When, at the Board Meeting, Sonny announced this new addition to the library, members asked if the Suggestion Box for the Temple could be returned as well. It was quickly agreed that this would also be done.

### **You Spoke, and We Are Still Listening**

Recently, a member asked about adding more handicap parking spots. What we all thought would be an easy fix, turns out not to be. Mike Benisch, our Facilities Chair, investigated the rules and regulations concerning this. Apparently, we must first repave and fix any holes, cracks etc. Not to worry, Mike is on it and it will be done and then on to the new parking spots.



### Jim Click Raffle Update

BSTC raised \$775, selling 37 raffle tickets, in the Jim Click Raffle. Unfortunately, none of our tickets was a winner, which on one hand was good since all Sisterhood members were having a hard time figuring out how they could share it among themselves. The money from every ticket we sold went directly into our treasury. Our thanks to all who participated and to Jim Click. *Marilyn Forstot*

### PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

#### BSTC'S New Year's Day Annual

This year the theme for the Annual music, people, landscape and



#### Brunch

New Year's Day brunch is Israel, including its food, attractions.

Brunch will not only feature champagne or mimosas, but also such Israeli dishes as pita, hummus, tahini, gabney, baaba ghanoush, shakshuka, Israeli salad, and Israeli halvah. The lovely spread will be put together by our very own chef Michel Kouhana.

Israeli music by Shuviel Ma'aravi and Steve Maron will be featured as will Steve's Israeli extravaganza slide show. Invite your friends, this brunch is open to the public and can be enjoyed at \$15 per person. RSVP to Merle Sobol .

#### Come Do a Mitzvah and Sew Some Therapy Dolls

For six years, BSTC has been home to the Hadassah Therapy Doll Sewing Project. The dressed dolls between Hadassah Hospital in Diamond Children's Hospital in meeting is Thursday, January 11 at stuff and sew at least 50 new dolls. welcome so please feel free to join us sewing experience is necessary.



are distributed Jerusalem and Tucson. Our next 10 a.m. to cut, All women are that morning; no



Last year, twenty-five dolls were sent with Shai (Alexander) Brill, son of Ed and Esther Brill when he returned to Israel. Shai turned over the dolls to members of the Judean Rebels, a team in the Israeli

League (IFL- and they play American football) since he had to return to the states for his wedding this past summer. Shai, now lives part time in Israel and manages the Rebels as well as being an official team is known, enjoyed bringing the were "disappointed that, because of system (because of therapy), they do with other groups they visit."

children's fragile immune couldn't interact more as they



contact Linda Stein or Marcia

For more information about the Project Wiener.

### **Tu B'Shevat Seder and Celebration**

The ritual committee is planning a *Tu B'Shevat* (15<sup>th</sup> day of the month Shevat) seder and celebration on Wednesday, January 31 at 4 p.m. The celebration, including a dairy or vegetarian pot luck dinner, will also have music and commentary led by Steve Maron. The ritual committee will supply the special fruits, nuts, red and white juice and/or wine to be included in the service before dinner.

As you may recall from last year's Shofar, this holiday, similar to Arbor Day, celebrates the New Year of trees. One significance of this date and holiday lies with the Biblical requirement for tithing and indicates when a tree's fruit could and could not be tithed but instead belong to its owner. Starting with 15<sup>th</sup> of Shevat the fruit of new tree could be tithed until the fifth year of that tree.

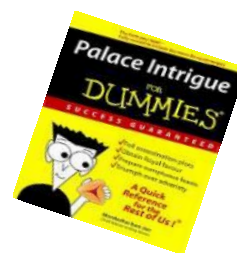


Agriculturally, it marks, at least in Israel, the season when the dormant period and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle. Too, it has been a date in which trees would be planted in an effort to reclaim the land and make it less barren. Initially started in 1890, it became a tradition around 1908 and the holiday was used as the date to plant trees and forests. The Jewish National Fund later integrated it into its plan to help the land of Israel and its inhabitants. but around the world as well. One might even liken Tu B'Shevat and its many activities as a precursor to Earth Day, and a celebration of the natural world. *Linda Stein*

earliest-blooming trees appear after their

### **Sound Those Macaroni Boxes and Drown out Haman's Name**

A Purim Celebration on Wednesday, February 28 at 4 p.m. will also be pot luck. Again, only vegetarian dishes please. Of course, we will supply the *Hamantashen*. The *Megillah* will be English. You can bring a box of macaroni as a noisemaker that we can then donate to the bank. While optional, for more fun, come in costume. *Linda Stein*



dairy or read in food

### **BSTC Introduces Adult Education: *Kabbalah* for Beginners**

The Ritual Committee announced a new adult education class – *Kabbalah* for Beginners. For those unfamiliar with it, *kabbalah* is study of Jewish mystical thought. The Torah contains many stories of mystical experiences, from visitations by angels to prophetic dreams and visions.

The class will meet weekly on Tuesdays, and begins January 23 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. It will be led by Mark Rosenberg whom many know from Torah Study. He is very knowledgeable on the subject and makes it very interesting. For more information contact Ruthann Shapiro or Jo Legat.

\*\*\*

### **ART GALLERY**

#### **"HELP WANTED"**

**Be a part of our ART Gallery**  
*planning shows, hanging ART, promoting ART*  
**receptions for ARTISTS.**  
***you do not have to be an artist but just***

**LOVE**

**ART**

**PLEASE Call Marcia  
& VOLUNTEER**

## **BSTC's Newest Exhibition**

As BSTC's art gallery enters its fifth year, our first exhibition of 2018 is Lynn Rae Lowe's "Ancient and Contemporary Symbolism of the Hebrew Alphabet" and runs until March 4, 2018. Several BSTC Sisterhood members got to see Lowe's work at the Tucson Jewish Community Center and, at a later date, were able to visit her home and studio and we were all greatly impressed. Marcia Wiener, who five years ago, helped establish and continues to maintain and curate the gallery, reached out to Lowe and invited her to have an exhibit at our Temple. We are thrilled that she agreed.

Lynn Rae Lowe is an award-winning Tucson artist, who creates in multimedia and two and three-dimensional art. The exhibit highlights the Aleph, Bet themes using varied materials and the techniques of twentieth century master artists. Using images of energy, strong color, words and signs "...each letter of the Hebrew alphabet reveals layers of symbolism common to all people," said Lowe.



Please put Sunday, February 4 on your calendar for a reception and "Walk and Talk" by the artist after the monthly Bagel Breakfast. The exhibit and reception are open to the community. For more information call Marcia Wiener.

## **LINES FROM THE LIBRARY**

### **We Are Your Sons: The Legacy of Two Brothers**

Michael and Robert Meeropol, write about their memories of the turbulent and harrowing time while they were young, and their parents, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, were incarcerated. They interweave their memories against the backdrop of the beautiful letters their parents wrote to each other and to them. The Rosenbergs were executed when their youngest son, Robert, was six years old.

The Rosenbergs' spirits refused to be broken and both of their dignities remained intact right up until the time both were executed. For a short while, the boys were in the care of a Hebrew orphanage. Their maternal grandmother also cared for them as long as she was able.

Eventually they were adopted by a couple named Meeropol. Michael and Robert remained with this couple until they entered adulthood and created families of their own. They have never stopped working to get their birth parents pardoned. *Sonny Foigelman and Linda Stein, Ladies of the Library*

## **MEN'S CLUB**

### **It's Time to Renew Your Club Membership**

Please join/rejoin BSTC's Men's Club as we enter our eighth year by sending in your \$15 annual dues. First year BSTC members, or those who have paid Men's Club dues the last three months do not need to pay. You can give your money to Michael Finkelstein at a Men's Club meeting or send a check made out to the Men's club with BSTC Men's Club Dues on the check's memo line and on the envelope.

The Men's Club meet monthly and become ROMEO'S for the meeting. That's because they are **Retired Old Men Eating Out** – usually at El Patio starting at 9:45 a.m. You don't have to be old or retired to be a member.

As Mike Finkelstein said in a recent email "From our founding at the beginning of 2011, we have strived to offer a wide variety of activities to build camaraderie and support our Beth Shalom Temple Center." Right now, the Men's Club is planning for a trip to a professional hockey game in Tucson. Join up and reserve your ticket.

Thank you to the members of the Men's Club for Your Help/Involvement with the Chanukah Party and to the Sisterhood for their donation. – *Ed Brill*



## SISTERHOOD

Ladies of BSTC, we hope that you have received your renewal letter and flyer for the Paid-Up Luncheon on January 16. Be sure and get your check and paperwork in the mail ASAP as the deadline for the luncheon is January 7th! We're looking forward to seeing you there. Any questions please call Joyce Palm or Gail Norton.

### Have You Fallen Lately?

Well, a lot of us have, so the Sisterhood is sponsoring a program on February 20th at 10: a.m. featuring Bridget Lehmann who is a well-known fitness trainer and nutritionist. She'll be giving us some tips on prevention and fitness. This event is open to any BSTC member and their friends. Following the talk, we will adjourn for lunch to a nearby restaurant.

\*\*\*

### GENEALOGY CLUB – INAUGURAL MEETING

The first meeting for The Genealogy Club will be January 23 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and will meet regularly on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

We will share stories of ancestors we discovered in the first hour. Then in the second hour we will discuss website searches and share information on how to use various websites. We are asking club members to bring a plate of cookies to share for the break at 11a.m. Please also bring a beverage of choice to the meeting. *Karen Rautenberg*

\*\*\*

### FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES and TORAH STUDY

#### Check Your Bookshelves Please

Torah Study has discovered that many Torah Study books have been borrowed but have never been returned. Please check your book cases, and if so, as one of your New Year resolutions, please return it. At one time we had 20 paperback copies. We now have one. Thank you. *Ruthann Shapiro*

#### Friday Night Shabbat Services

We are grateful to have two new volunteers as Friday night service leaders. Friday, January 5 will be led by Renee Villani a former member who has rejoined the temple, and February 2 will be led by member Marlys Fiterman. Marlys is a seasonal member who has had experience in leading services in her home town in Minnesota.

## **Shabbat Morning Services**

On December 16 BSTC conducted *Shabbat* services on Saturday morning as a trial to see if there was any interest in moving the third of the month Friday night services to *Shabbat* morning. Approximately 40 plus people were in attendance. Following the service, the attendees enjoyed kiddish and a light lunch and then a session of Torah Study.

On January 20th we will once again conduct a Saturday morning *Shabbat* service which will be followed by kiddish and a light lunch. If this service is as well attended, we will continue the Saturday morning service on the third Saturday of the month. If you need more information or would like to participate in the service, please contact Ruthann Shapiro or Jo Legat.

## **Be On The Lookout For...**

New *Siddurim*! After several members charged Ruth Barwick to look around discussion, a Siddur was chosen. The with the same pagination, but much Services and none of the other holiday these *siddurs*, and eleven large print ones. they come.



complained about the weight of our siddurs, the Board and see what was out there. After careful research and great news is it's the same siddur we use lighter since it contains only Shabbat prayers. The temple has ordered 35 of We will certainly update you when

## **SORRY YOU MISSED IT...**

### ***Mitzvah* Day 2017**

BSTC was, as usual, an active participant in the interfaith activity, *Mitzvah* Day. One of the original organizers of *Mitzvah* Day, thanks to the efforts of Marcia Weiner, this year BSTC had at least 17 members involved in not only in the day itself but in preparation activities. Members were in leadership roles as well as workers in the many projects available for sign-up.

As part of the Leadership Committee Karen and Eric Rautenberg prepared all the flyers and brochures. Eric also prepared a grant to the White Elephant for next year and worked on the budget. At a Bagel Breakfast, Ruthann Shapiro, who was volunteer coordinator, stepped in for Marcia Weiner and told the participants about *Mitzvah* Day and how to register. We were able to begin registration on line and then, at a later date, went to St Francis of the Valley to sign up for an activity to do—whether, among other things, it was painting a classroom wall, making cards, cleaning out leaves, or cleaning hummingbird feeder. We also picked up our *Mitzvah* Day shirts. Participants also had the opportunity to contribute to the food bank.

*Mitzvah* Day itself was a bright sunny day and after coffee and pastries, we limbered our joints with some exercises and then, picking up water and other snacks, we were on our way. Throughout the morning check in, Mike Finkelstein, camera in hand was our official photographer. He also accompanied a reporter from the Green Valley news and visited “most of the 12 or so locations” where our *Mitzvah* Day people were dispatched and took photos of them in action. Those locations included Continental School where our group cleaned up the front property and Sahuarita Middle School, where Nancy Feldman painted one of the classrooms.

Marcia Wiener was fielding calls and keeping things in order, while Michael G Green Valley's Memory Centers. Ed and I went to the Ogden Community with George Stone, project Director of the garden. After telling us about the us a tour of the place and we then started on our assigned task--cleaning out hummingbird feeders. I want to go back and



played at one of Garden and met garden, George gave

Mitzvah Day continued

bring them some more and better utensils for cleaning, since as George said they use what they can, otherwise it's too expensive. George very nicely had some refreshments for us including fruit, coffee and donuts. We also learned about planting tomatoes which Ed has wanted to do. Unfortunately, after buying some large planters we found out it was too late to start planting them. We also joined the Green Garden Club.

...

Linda Stein shared that "The Parkinson's support group of Green Valley will receive several cards made on Mitzvah Day. We made a variety of cards, some for birthdays, some with general greetings and some for Veterans in the Parkinson's group. Although several of the eight of us in the group were strangers at nine; we all laughed, worked and shared and by noon; the group had a lot of fun and enjoyed lots of good feelings for a wonderful morning." Fred and Jo Legat as well as Amy Storer were in this group This activity was held at BSTC



It was then time to go back to the church for a "Gratitude Luncheon." George Stone, our host at the Community Garden joined us. Members Ruthann and Sid Shapiro, and Karen and Eric ... helped serve, Joyce Finkelstein spoke about volunteering, former member Beau Gerard played the piano and Marcia Wiener organized and problem solved. Several volunteers talked about their experiences. All in all, it was a great day and I look forward to signing up next year. I think we need a gratitude luncheon for all those places who welcomed us to their facilities.

As a postscript, Marcia wrote me to say that BSTC has always been *Mitzvah* Day's financial arm, keeping records and paying out bills out of our grants. So perhaps we can conclude that all of BSTC participated in this important event

-

### Sisterhood's Mah Jongg Fun-Raiser Tournament

Sisterhood's annual Mah Jongg Fun-Raiser Tournament was a great success. Ninety-two women participated and enjoyed a Chinese lunch catered by Panda House followed by the tournament itself. The women (yes only women this year) were delighted with the table favors, door prizes and lots of beautiful gift baskets which were raffled off, to the pleasure of the winners. The hard work of the Sisterhood members who created the baskets, set up the tables, sent out announcements, sold raffle tickets, made arrangements with the caterer, purchased table favors, kept track of the reservations along with the payments and did myriad little tasks, added up to a crack/bam success. In addition to benefitting Sisterhood, a portion of the proceeds is donated to Hands of a Friend, the organization which runs Dazee's and Genesis House.



Our thanks to all our hardworking volunteers. And a special thanks to Gail Norton who oversaw it all and made sure nothing fell through the cracks.

Sisterhood would also like to express our appreciation to Michel Kouhana who supervised the kitchen and to Michael Benisch for all his help. Thanks also Sam Miller and Ceylon Kelly. *Marilyn Forstot.*

## **New Members Bagel Breakfast**

Certainly, if I could, I would just write it was a “big hit” – which it was, but the editor is making me write more. Not only did 30 of the 38 new members attend, but each was made to feel welcome and special by the membership. It started with the New Member consisting of such things as reaching out to people, talking about our temple, increasing our offerings, advertising and staying in contact with potential and new members.

For this event, Mike Finkelstein called upon volunteers to join a committee to plan the event and included the Brills, Lenny Friedman (a new member), Dan Galitz (another new member) and Marcia Wiener. The plan was to call every new member personally to invite him or her and this was carried out by Ed Brill. E-mails and other follow up were also made. Additionally, there was no charge for new or returning members and a guest.

As is usual at a bagel breakfast, Michael G wonderfully played the piano prior to the breakfasts’ start. A festive air certainly surrounded the event as the new members checked in and found their name tags waiting for them. When they came to their assigned table, there were hand done tent cards, made by Marcia Wiener. Mike Finkelstein made sure that each new member had a host at his/her table who was a longer-term member. Volunteer hosts at the tables included Ruth and Jim Barwick, Harriet and Jerry Belenker, Ed and Esther Brill, Joyce Finkelstein, Jo and Fred Legat, Steve Levine, Gail Norton, Amy Storer and Marcia Wiener

Of course, there were the usual welcoming speeches by both Mike and Merle Sobol. Later, Mike called out each new members’ name as Joyce Finkelstein handed him or her a long stem rose.

At the end of the breakfast guests were invited to hear Amy Pozez talk about BSTC’s Art Gallery exhibit that had been arranged by Marcia Wiener to be an added attraction for Bagel Breakfast attendees.

It was really a lovely occasion and it seems that this type of welcoming treatment is working as many have pitched in and helped with temple activities already. Thus, not only is the number of new members 38 (and to round out the year, it’s now 42) but the quality and enthusiasm of these new members is wonderful to see. Let us all try to encourage them to get involved, sit with them at temple events and help make BSTC an even better place than it already is. *Ed Brill*

## **Art Gallery Exhibits’ Walk and Talk On: A Visual Exploration of Jewish Values**

As the November December *Shofar* issue noted, Marcia Wiener had contacted the Tucson Jewish Academy for a show of children’s art. When Marcia met with the school and the Art Teacher, Amy Pozez, they discussed in what ways the upcoming exhibit could fit into the school’s curriculum. Thus, the title of the Exhibit. Since it would also have to be started at the term’s beginning and with the High Holidays approaching, this time frame would require some attentive and contemplative thinking and praying, so the exhibit was also a “show of introspective and personal art reflecting on the importance and the practice of Jewish Values” (from the Show’s brochure).

Ms. Pozez, a caring creative teacher, took us through the exhibit, started with the kindergarten class. Since the school sounds the Shofar during the month of Elul, the lowest grade focused on just that – shofars. and their sounds and the idea that this is a reminder that the High Holidays are approaching and helps to tell us to reflect on “one’s behavior, thoughts and interactions” with others.

As Ms. Pozez took us through the curriculum she showed how she used art to teach about Jewish values and what they look like and how they can be expressed visually. For example, she talked with the first-grade class about positivity and negativity and what that might look like. She stated that positivity is a choice and through creating negative shape stencils the students used positive thinking and paint to turn them into positives

And so, it went through the grades up to and including the eighth grade. Ms. Pozez drew upon the students’ own interests and developmental stage to help come up with methods to encourage reflection on their values. Mandalas, popular in

Visual Exploration of Jewish Values continued...

many cultures for meditation and concentration, were introduced to third graders and helped foster a sense of community as students worked together and encouraged each other. Older students worked on, among other things, self portraits

The complexity of the projects, as well as the techniques increased as the students progressed using such approaches as layering, micrography and self-portraits. All the projects helped students think about their values and to practice them; to think about how they interact with the world and conduct themselves, especially, as Ms. Pozez pointed out, youths are “hyper-connected to the world” because of today’s technology. They often don’t reflect on the consequences of their actions.

I wish I had space to discuss each grade’s work. Perhaps, I’ll see if the brochure about the exhibit can be uploaded to the web. The dynamism and creativity shown by Ms. Pozez was evident, not only in the students’ work but in how she talked and presented their works. It made me wish I or my son had had her as a teacher. Thank you, Marcia, Ms. Pozez and Tucson Hebrew Academy.

\*A FYI It was pointed to me that I had spelled her name wrong, so I went on the web to check and found the following url: <https://www.thaaz.org/about/news/visual-exploration-jewish-values-art-jewish-youth/>. It says a lot of what I said, but clearer. Too bad I didn’t see it before I wrote the above. You can also see a photo of our exhibit.

### Chanukah Party

The Men’s Club sponsored another successful light of Chanukah. In attendance, there were long members, potential members and people from the Maron played Chanukah tunes on his violin as and dropped off their exchange gifts and then took people or signed them in, while Steve Abrahams collected gifts and handed out candles.



Chanukah party at BSTC on December 17, the sixth time members, past members, new and not so new public interested in celebrating with us. Steve people registered, picked up their box of candles their seats. Merle Sobol and Ed Brill registered

Each place setting had a dreidel and some chocolate Chanukah *gelt*. Chanukah decorations the wall and tables. Each table also had song sheets, an explanation of the dreidel game two-sided fact sheet that included such things as what Chanukah is about, the order of in and then lighting the candles, and the the blessings



were on and a putting



What a variety of menorahs everyone brought to further festoon and decorate the table—every style, material and size including glass, clay, copper, brass, and steel. I saw one menorah made from mah jongg tiles and another made of nuts and bolts. With Ed leading the blessings everyone lit their menorah and the room shone with the glow of the lights.

Then after some more music and singing of some traditional songs, it was on to the food. Just an aside note about the singing-- whomever is running the party next year, make sure you get someone who knows how to sing and to keep tunes. I’m certainly not it, and the many singers in our congregation must have had their ears hurting, that they were unable to take over, which I surely would have been happy with.

Since there were twelve tables, we quickly had to get numbers for the tables so as to easily call people up. Some at Table 12 were afraid that they would be last, but we alternated from the beginning numbers to the end and then back again. There were latkes and more latkes for everyone. Michel Kouhana, our chef, ended up making about 600 latkes. Best yet he had gluten free ones as well as one’s without onions. Michel was in kitchen before 8, accompanied by Michael Benisch and soon followed by Fil Ficks, Marlys Fiterman and Ed Brill. Marlys was in the kitchen so long she hardly had time to go home and change. The rest of us who came early to help, including myself and Bonnie Schanzer who were shooed out and told to work on getting the room ready.



*Chanukah Party continued...*

Soon after, the Millers came and continued to help us set the table and decorate. Then we were joined by new members David and Kathi Roth. Everyone did such a good job that I had to call the people who were coming later, to not come. – too bad they were already on their way and included Merle and Kay Sobol. In the meantime, I wanted to get going making sure the PowerPoint presentation of songs and skits related to Chanukah would run.



As many of you know the internet at BSTC is iffy. After spending two weeks trying to embed the videos, so I didn't have to use the internet. I was assured we could use phone hotspots to connect. When I taught I used to be able to download the videos, so they were in the presentation and not online, but it seems as if Microsoft has closed off that loop. Michael Benisch left his kitchen duties and we tried everything to get the computer connected to our screen. Mike even called his daughter Deborah in Texas to ask for suggestions and then called his other daughter Rebecca visiting from PA. She came bringing her computer and, lo and behold, was able to connect. After much time and trouble, we discovered that the HDMI port on my two-month-old computer wasn't working. Les Bakke was then called. Les, before retirement ran a University IT department. Les's wife, Beverly Lake, joined right before the bagel breakfast and already we were putting her and her husband to work. Les, later got everything working on his computer and I was all set to go – or so I thought.

Well, guess what, it didn't—naturally! We did get Theodore Bikel (remember him) on to tell the Chanukah story and sing Chanukah songs and then one or two more. Fortunately, we were able to show a video that was not related to Chanukah but a thank you to Michel for all his hard work. You don't need a lot of sound to enjoy a belly dancer, dancing together with a young student at the students' Bat Mitzvah. Full disclosure here, the belly dancer, Tehilla, was my son's former fiancé

It was now on to dessert and the gift exchange, as Sid Shapiro and others carried around bags of gifts handed in at registration, guests selected a wrapped gift from the bag. While they were doing that they also partook from two different dreidel shaped cakes baked by Jeannette Nathan. One was chocolate and one was turquoise but they both tasted delicious. There was also mini-donuts. Unfortunately, most of them were chocolate, not the usual jelly donuts (*sufganiyot*) but they were just as good.

Back to the gifts – most everyone was happy and certainly liked the idea and their gift. Even Harry and Sarah Wernick, our save the some of the gifts meant for their younger brothers. They were disappointed not to be able to pick from the bag, so maybe next year, Harry and Sarah.

Soon it was time for most everyone to go home, except for those who stayed and helped including, the Millers, the Sobols, my friend Marie Rogers and Ceylon Kelly. For those who I left out please forgive. While I have tried to include everyone throughout, there is one person who also must be thanked and hasn't been yet and that's Margaret Bierd. So, thank you one and all including everyone who came. I must say, despite how disappointed I was on how somethings turned out, I did have a very good time. I love interacting with our members and people who come to our events.

(PS: I thought I took more pictures of people, but they are not appearing. Jus as good as we don't have the room.)

\*\*\*

### **ARE YOU FEMALE AND BORN IN 1945?**

Jo Legat is looking for women born in 1945. If you fit the bill, contact Jo. "I am looking to get some ladies together to go out for lunch occasionally and maybe do some other activities as well. Let's be social!" *Jo Legat*

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

Members, Sam Miller, and Mike Finkelstein are talented musicians ably performing with the **Green Valley Concert Band**. At 7 p.m. on Sunday, **January 28** they will be playing in the band's next concert, "Broadway & Cinema Treasures" at the Sahuarita District Auditorium. Editor's note: These concerts are always enjoyable, and as Mike Finkelstein says, "the greatest show on earth." However, as one who has found out the hard way, get there early as parking fills up and you may find yourself parking at a distance from the auditorium. Also, as a word to the wise, after getting lost two times trying to find our car, make careful note of where you park and how to get to the auditorium or get one of those apps and let the app do it.

Tickets are available from Sam Miller and Mike Finkelstein.

### **Fry's Community Reward Program**

Do you shop at Fry's? Do you have a Fry's VIP Card? Would you like to make money for Beth Shalom Temple Center without it costing you anything?

If you answered "YES" to these questions, then you need to enroll in the **Fry's Community Rewards Program**. Here is all that you need to do...

1. Visit [www.frysfood.com](http://www.frysfood.com)
2. Register your Fry's VIP Card online
3. Search for Beth Shalom Temple Center, or by organization **#77412**
4. Select "Enroll"

That is all that you need to do. Fry's will send a percentage of your purchases directly to the Temple.

If you are not a Fry's VIP Card holder, just stop by your nearest Fry's and ask for a free application. It will only take minutes to get your VIP Card.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Joyce Finkelstein

**Editor of prestigious news letter of local temple seeking reviewers, copy editors, reporters who can work on a deadline. No need to leave your house to do the job. Contact BSTC if you fit the bill.**