



TEMPLE BETH SHALOM OF THE WEST VALLEY

SUN CITY, AZ

SHOFAR

February 2022 NO. 130

30 Shevat—27 Adar, 5782



WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Roberta Ordover

FRONT DESK HELP

IS NEEDED TO GREET AND CHECK GUESTS IN FOR FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES. IT IS VITAL THAT WE HAVE SOMEONE AT THE FRONT DESK.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO TAKE AT LEAST ONE FRIDAY NIGHT. I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE THE HELP. PLEASE CALL CARMEN BERKOWITZ 623-444-6156

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A MESSAGE FROM RABBI KAPLAN

Please check out Rabbi Kaplan's Blog
For Photos, Interesting Notes and more at:

<https://www.danakaplan.com>

Helping people find direction on their spiritual quest

For people all over the world, the last two years have been a time of crisis and re-evaluation. For Jews who want to practice Judaism as a religion in the West Valley, we have had to ask not only what impact the pandemic has had on us personally but what changes the Coronavirus has forced upon our community. Many if not most of these changes had been occurring anyway but we may not have noticed them. So last month I began what I hope will be a series of messages about what Temple membership can mean to each of us and what a Reform Jewish community can embody at its finest. I began with the concept of building personal relationships in the context of a covenantal community.

This month I'd like to focus on spirituality and the spiritual quest. Spirituality and religiosity are both important components of our lives as Reform Jews. In the medieval world people were raised in a religious context and then derived spirituality from that. In modern times, as science explains ever more of what had formerly been inexplicable, religion has been redefined as an organized system whose role is to help individuals and the community engage in a greater reality, one that transcends self.

This shift towards the spiritual involves experienced truths about the nature of God and human beings. These truths bring knowledge through personal, lived actions and responses. To engage in spiritual reflection, one needs simply to focus on connecting to God, and this may or may not include a formal setting or the presence of other people. This type of spirituality places "primacy not on reason, not even on belief systems, but rather on a mystical experiential stance." Feeling here outweighs rationality.

For some, this search for spirituality is defined by encounters which make them feel like they are brought face to face with God, metaphorically speaking. One Reform rabbi defines spirituality succinctly as "the immediacy of God's presence." It is valuable to identify spiritual experiences: hugging grandmother close, hiking a hill and looking around at surrounding trees, studying a philosophical problem and sharing an inkling of its solution thanks to an ancient thinker, feeling one with others in a congregation offering prayer, or any of the myriad possible moments of transcendence available to us humans. When we nurture our spiritual moments, their meaning stays with us and develops over time.

Seeking a larger narrative to connect and encompass a lifetime's worth of spiritual moments is what is meant by the expression *spiritual journey*. We all make a personal spiritual journey. Some who follow Judaism see this spiritual journey as reflecting Jewish tradition.

CONTINUED MESSAGE FROM RABBI KAPLAN

For many of us, the journey takes a unique path that twists and turns as spiritual experiences unfold gradually in various directions. We might use the metaphor of exploration. We first glimpse the realm of the spiritual in the places with which we are very familiar--our homes and schools, our synagogues and workplaces, our communities. Eventually we realize that the realm of spirituality is far broader.

It is interesting that no biblical Hebrew word denotes the concept of spirituality. Coming close is the rabbinic Hebrew word *ruchaniut*, meaning 'that in which God is present.' In talmudic thought, *ruchaniut* was contrasted with *gashmiut*, meaning 'corporeality.' The sages called for devoting one's life to *ruchaniut*, including spiritual activities such as study, prayer and good deeds, as opposed to *gashmiut*, such as materialism and hedonistic pleasures. As hasidic folk wisdom has it, "*Gashmiut*, everybody wants, but once you have it, there is no feeling of being fulfilled. *Ruchaniut*, nobody wants, but once you have it, there is a deep feeling of being fulfilled."

Organized religion can help many to contextualize the spiritual journey we take, both broadly and deeply. On the other hand, those who don't embrace this role find organized religion to be vapid and pointless. They don't believe claims that old books are holy and direct from God. Instead, they are aware that modern biblical studies often cast grave doubts on such books' claims. They see that some of the doctrines and values espoused in old books are unwise and counterintuitive. Some of the ideas seem irrelevant at best, harmful at worst. There is considerable suspicion of organized religion, some of it for good reasons. But well-practiced organized religion can serve our needs, placing our own isolated spiritual moments within the larger unfolding of human experience, allowing us to better examine and savor those moments.

Journeys have a definite starting point and eventually a definite, if mysterious, ending point. But in between, all sorts of surprises can be expected. Careful plans are often made prior to setting out, yet often the most memorable happenings while traveling can be those that happen unplanned. Even with a point-to-point travel itinerary, it is impossible to clearly conceive of every happening along the way, or how it will feel to make the journey, since so much depends on unknowable factors and how we may individually respond. Fellow travelers can encounter identical things on the road yet each of us brings to, and takes away from, the journey very different experiences.

While the Jewish population of the West Valley is increasing rapidly, virtually all of the many thousands of new arrivals have received very little if any meaningful Jewish religious training. Participating in Jewish ritual in a congregational context holds little appeal for them. never the less, they and we are all aware that our lives are finite and that we need not only savor the journey but also derive meaning from it. Helping people find direction on their spiritual quest is one of the most important functions that we as a synagogue can undertake in our rapidly changing society today.



NOTES FROM OUR CANTOR



Because I have been a professional pianist for some fifty odd years (I use the word *odd* emphatically), I was asked to speak for the Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival (gpjff.org) after the showing of a new and revealing documentary, “The Pianist from Ramallah.” My video remarks will be shown on after the film, both of which will be on Zoom, due to current Covid procedures. The subscribed event is February 14th. I would like to share some thoughts about this inspiring film, and also delve into my own take on the piano.

Here is a brief synopsis, with added comments concerning the film. In 2016, we meet pleasant young teenager, Mohammed to his father’s family in Palestinian Authority, and Misha, to his mothers’ family in Russia. Misha was born while his father was in political exile there for 13 years. The circumstances are never explained because, I presume, that would be another story. He met Katerina there and Misha was born there. Her parents live in an upscale home in Saratov, a major port on the Volga River. She wanted to be a pianist but left there to return to her husband’s homeland.

Later she had another son, who also studies piano. Mohammed’s father and grandparents (same kid, different parent) live in Ramallah. The grandparents have 23 grandchildren and all of them also live very affluently, not like the photos we’ve seen of bombed out homes in Palestinian Authority. Best of all, everyone is supportive of Mohammed/Misha’s ongoing lessons in Jerusalem with Emma, a Russian Jewish refugee. Even though his father alludes to Dayr Tarif, a town which was a Palestinian village before being ethnically cleansed during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, and also mentions a refugee camp, it’s obvious he bears no grudge against Israel at this point; he revels in his son’s progress at Emma’s studio in Israel.

Ahead to 2016 and M/M is soloist with a youth orchestra in the Trans-Siberian Music Festival. His mother, Katarina, brought a huge box of Arabic pastries for the musicians to enjoy. At first the musicians were hesitant to try the delicacies but, soon gave in. If you’ve never had Arabic delights, believe me, they’re incredibly memorable. When I played piano in Portland, Oregon at the Benson Hotel -- over 50 years ago, one of the wait staff, a Syrian, offered to share pastries with me, freshly baked from the most famous bakery in Damascus and air-expressed by his mother. I still recall my senses going nuts – pistachios, of course. Oh, well, these I happily settle for the just pistachios without the pastries.

The film quickly goes back to Tel Aviv, and we see Misha ready to audition for the Israeli Philharmonic’s Musical Director Emeritus, Zubin Mehta. Again, Katarina, his supportive mother, brings a huge box of exotic Arabic pastries. The maestro doesn’t look delighted, almost pushing them away as if it might obligate him if he took the box (either that or Maestro knew he wouldn’t be able to stop eating them!). Then Misha plays for him, and we sense it’s not M’s best audition. It seemed that the great conductor also felt that way. Looking a tad impatient to dismiss the teenager, alluding to his return at later, etheric date; not encouraging for any real future encounters, per se. I wondered if Mehta was usually that taciturn and discouraging, so I asked my stepdaughter, Gail Dubinbaum, who sang under his baton in operas there: “What was he like to work with?” I did not give her the premise, just the question. To quote, Gail said: “He was wonderful. His philosophy was to surround himself with the best possible musicians. He was very accessible, sense of humor, very warm. He spoke Yiddish very well, very supportive of Israel.” Well, that ruined my impression that he was a sourpuss. And forget the Yiddish with Mohammed. He didn’t speak any Hebrew. No, he only spoke Russian, Arabic, and English. That’s all --and he was already around 16 years of age!

Ahead to 2019, we see M/M coming from Ramallah into Israel via Qalandiya Crossing, the largest crossing from the Palestinian Authority. I’ve read that there is only one dreadful hole in the ground toilet for all, sometimes thousands who must wait in line for hours. It usually is 10 or 15 minutes. As we see in the movie, at times when there are security problems, the border is closed. So dedicated is Misha that he still has three piano lessons a week in Jerusalem even if some are on Zoom or its counterpart. Emma is a demonstrative, proud, and demanding teacher. But know that she can only take him so far toward a world class career. She informs M he will have to leave her soon to study with another who will take him to the next level, or at least introduce another perspective for his success. He is quite hesitant about accepting that plan and wants it both ways. He is part-boy, part-man at this point and it’s not easy to leave the nest.

Continued Message From Cantor Koritan

At the conclusion of the film, he auditions for board members of Israel Opera, who apparently also present concerts, but it's not really elaborated upon. This time he plays Scriabin, not quite as mature as it may become, but after he modifies his heavy sustain pedal at their request, it's evident he quickly takes direction and is quite adept, they board decide to consider him for a booking. As a Disney film fan, I expected the next scene to be the *big* concert. Instead, the audition results are postponed when that pesky pandemic comes along...(to be continued) - the *music*, I mean. Prayerfully, not the pandemic!

I also watched a screened a webinar from Canada with the pianist, his mother, Avida (the director of the film), and a conductor from Montreal. In this very recent video, Misha is now 18 and quite charming, say the others. He handles himself very maturely and with a gentle strength. Boris, the conductor says to him: "So, you want to spend the rest of your life in hotel rooms!" Avida, the director is more esoteric, regarding audiences around the world: "People are the same but different." Great advice, huh?

Maestro Boris gave numerous definite directions: "Open doors to the world, even those TV, internet. Develop repertoire now while 18. Five minutes of real concentration is better than five hours of non-focus. Bach is the Bible; everything begins and ends with Bach. One can get swallowed up with romantic composers. One needs many influences. Remember: "Music is the key to close the distance from Ramallah to Jerusalem!"

More than a story about music, it's truly a story about love in a family and love in our world. His Russian and Palestinian parents and their families are so devoted to his progress in every way, not just with their financial assistance. M/M basks in their love and commitment to his dreams, even if it means leaving the middle east for a life in Europe and, hopefully, worldwide tours, away from them. This is such a wonderful, transcontinental story. The idea of all these people working together for his success - his families, his teacher, the promoters of worldwide concerts - all of these components make me yearn for *salaam*/shalom, for all peoples. What music we would make if our planet could experience one word: peace!

There are talented children all over this planet, who know not the opportunities this Misha had/has. They remain nameless, even homeless, as was the child prodigy in the recent film from Turkey, "My Father's Violin," which dubbed in English. The story was rather predictable but the contrast with the Ramallah documentary was so striking, it really got to me. Mohammed had just about everything to help him and everyone to love and love him. The orphaned Turkish street kid had nothing but her father's violin and a lot of Moxy and... and a lot of talent. It's on Netflix if you feel interested: "My Father's Violin." It certainly made me cry with love.

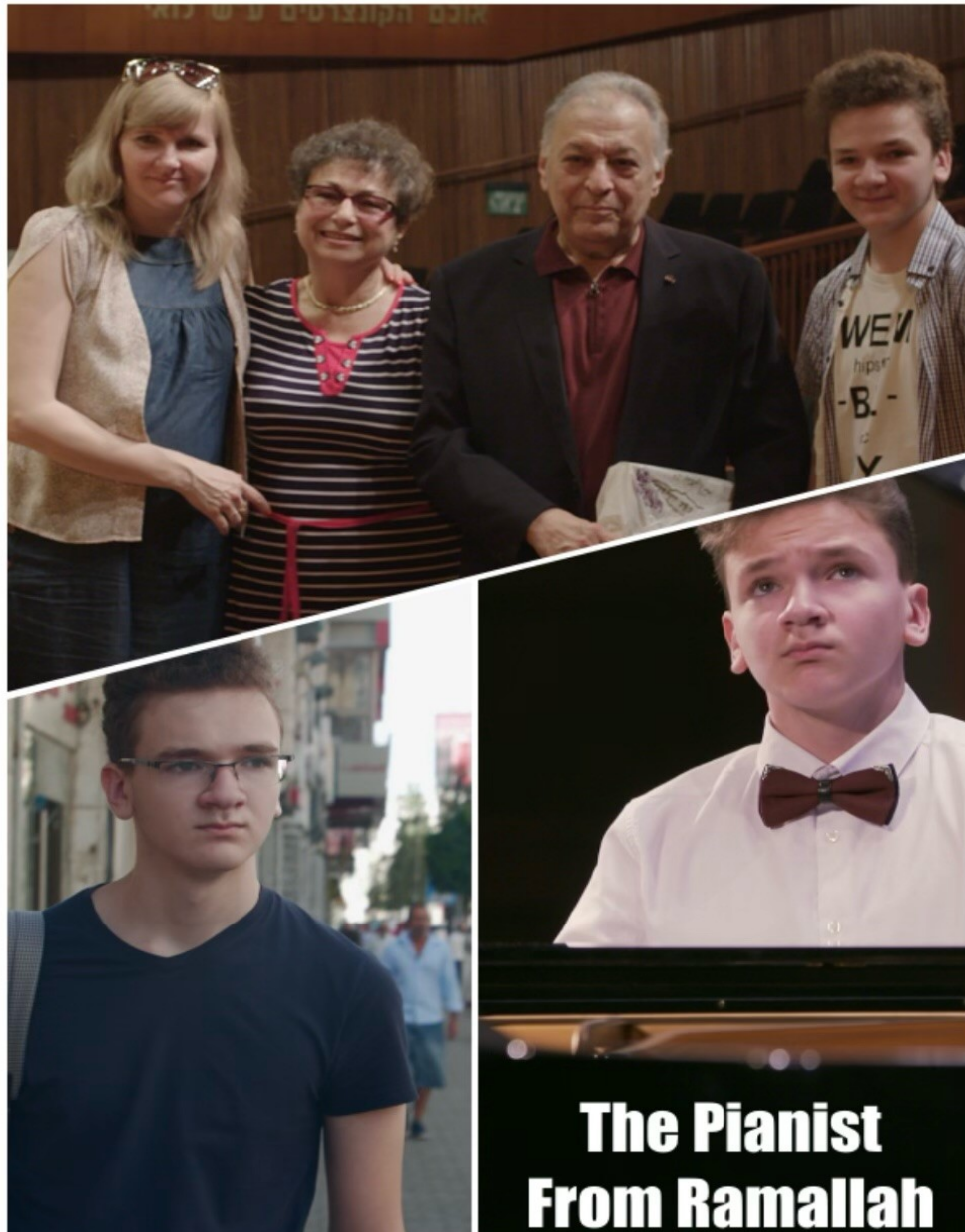
The first time I ran my fingers through the keys of a piano, I knew it was for me I needed to wait until first grade. My parents made sure I could have piano lessons every week from the time I was five or so, even when my father had some financial reversals. Somehow my mother always found the cash to pay Lenny. They realized how the piano was my earthly voice. Oh, I had been singing on stage since I was four, but the voice is a temporal spirit that does or does not do what it wants -- especially as we age. Baruch Hashem, I am still playing, still singing. The voice is like a dream that keeps coming to me. The piano is my friend, who wants to show me how it really cares for me. I simply must give it everything I've got ---and more! I still am elated when I sit down to play. I used to teach piano and could barely contain my excitement while explaining all that was possible with this marvelous invention! It can do so much -- in the right hands! And with the right teacher.

As a child at my piano lessons, I always wanted to change the notes, wanting to be a composer who could alter Beethoven or Tchaikovsky to improve it or at least make it the way I wanted to play it. Lenny would say: "First learn to play it the way Debussy wrote. then if you still want to change it..." So, after many years with Lenny, at sixteen, I became a published composer -- of my own stuff! I didn't want to be a dedicated classical pianist anyway, rehearsing the same piece all day. I still don't!

Continued Message From Cantor Koritan

When World War II was brewing, many Jewish pianists from Europe emigrated to the USA. How many made it? One such artist European was playing a concert in Sweden, after having made too many anti-Nazi jokes in Denmark. He managed to escape to Finland, and luckily caught the last neutral ship out of port to New York. A decade or so later, he created the first one man show on Broadway --- and rarely finished playing an entire piece! Borge Rosenbaum was probably the wealthiest, and the funniest, pianist of the last century.

M/M should have a fine career, if enough people still want to *hear* what he has to offer. Who --or how many patrons, will keep classical music alive? It takes education and (that nasty word): money. How many piano geniuses of the future will even eke out a living? I've read that China now has piano fever; it's all the rage there to study piano seriously. And so, Mohammed/Misha is one of many talented pianists in the world. He may not make it to piano stardom, his loving family will still be there for him, and that beautiful relationship and commitment will continue just the same. He **is** truly blessed.





MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Fay Henning-Bryant

Providing Safety for our Members and Security for the Temple

January 15, 2022, the date that the rabbi and three members of Congregation Beth Israel, a Reform temple in Colleyville, TX, were held hostage by an armed gunman who had entered their synagogue earlier that day, is still fresh in my mind. I suspect that is the same for most Jews in the United States. While it is unlikely that a similar incident would happen to us at Temple Beth Shalom, we have been unwilling to take the risk of not providing for the safety of our members.

This January 15 incident also reinforced in my mind why our Board of Directors made a decision this past July to hire a security service that could provide us with a trained security professional before, during, and after Friday night services after we reopened for in-person services. We required someone who would be in uniform and armed, but not just qualified in the use of firearms. We also wanted this person to be trained in active shooter prevention and response.

Our Safety & Security Committee, under the leadership of its chairperson, Denny Cutler, identified and screened potential security firms that might provide the services we required. We found it with Antebellum Protection (AP), a security service with experience working with other Jewish agencies and synagogues in the greater Phoenix area. Through AP, we also learned that it is very important to not only have armed security at our door, but to train our staff and our members about what to do (and NOT do) in the event of an active shooter incident. We also knew we were going to have to engage in a detailed process of conducting a risk assessment of our building – not just to protect our members but the physical structure of the building as well as the contents.

The Colleyville incident was a reminder to me that we need to start making plans to undertake the risk assessment of our building and arrange for staff and member training. I have asked Denny Cutler to have his committee develop a plan to address both of these issues, and that such a plan be presented to the Board as soon as possible, but no later than early March. This plan will include providing training for staff and our members about what to do in the event of an “active shooter.”

On January 26, Denny and I attended a meeting at the East Valley JCC that addressed security concerns by the “J” and east valley synagogues. We were invited by Jimmy Wasson, who is in charge of security for the “J” the owner of Antebellum Protection. It was a most interesting and worthwhile meeting. The main speaker was the FBI Special Agent in charge of investigating all reported incidents of antisemitism and armed insurrection in Arizona.

Continued Message From President Fay Henning-Bryant

One of the things we learned was that every synagogue should establish a relationship with their local law enforcement agency (in our case, the MCSO (sheriff's department) and to provide that agency with a copy of our floor plan, in the event of an incident. Afterwards the Agent gave us the name of the Sergeant at MCSO who is the contact person for synagogues.

We also were able to meet and spend some time with the new Regional Director of Secure Community Network (SCN), a relatively new not-for-profit organization that is the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America. It works closely with various law enforcement agencies at both the national and local levels. This Regional Director is the recently retired Police Chief from Tempe, AZ. He also has regular contact with AP, due to all the security work AP does with Jewish agencies and synagogues in metro Phoenix. Both he and the FBI special agent want to visit TBS so they can meet Rabbi Kaplan and our staff and both offered to work with us as we go forward with developing plans for the security of TBS.

In the coming weeks, we will keep all our members informed of these plans and how we will benefit from the new alliances we have been able to make. Of course, we hope there will never be a need to apply what we learn and what we accomplish in the area of safety and security.

The FBI Special Agent informed those attending the meeting that with respect to what the FBI calls a "threat level: the Agency does not see eminent dangers in Arizona, but things are picking up around the country. He advised us to not focus on what is happening in New York, around the country or around the world. We should focus on what we can to prepare for the future. While no one can know how many radicalized "lone wolfs" there may be out there and there is no set demographic model of an active shooter, but there is much that we can do to prevent, mitigate, and prepare. There is also federal money available for synagogues for financial assistance in making our building more secure. There are several things we will have to do to prepare for submitting an application for grant money, but the people Denny and I spoke with assured us there are law enforcement agencies who will help up with this process.

It was a morning well spent.

BULLETIN BOARD

FEBRUARY 2022

- 1 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:30 p.m. Grief Group
- 7:00 p.m. Membership Committee Meeting
- 2 11:00 a.m. Torah Study
- 3:00 p.m. Budget Committee Meeting
- 3 6:00 p.m. Judaism 101 Class
- 4 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service
- 5 10:00 a.m. Shabbat School
- 8 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:30 p.m. Grief Group
- 9 11:00 a.m. Torah Study
- 3:00 p.m. Budget Committee Meeting
- 10 10:00 a.m. Thinking About God Class
- 3:30 p.m. Executive Board Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Judaism 101 Class
- 11 9:00 a.m. Fundraising Committee Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service
- 12 5:00 p.m. Shabbat, Shekels & Schnapps
- 13 9:00 a.m. Religious School
- 15 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:30 p.m. Grief Group
- 16 11:00 a.m. Torah Study
- 2:00 p.m. TBS Book Club
- 3:00 p.m. Budget Committee Meeting
- 17 10:00 a.m. Thinking About God Class
- 6:00 p.m. Judaism 101 Class
- 18 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service
- 20 10:00 a.m. General Board Meeting
- 2:00 p.m. Rural Street Klezmer Bank Fundraiser
- 21 Temple Office Closed
- 10:00 a.m. Sisterhood Board Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. Sisterhood Luncheon
- 22 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:30 p.m. Grief Group
- 23 11:00 a.m. Torah Study
- 3:00 p.m. Budget Committee Meeting
- 24 10:00 a.m. Thinking About God Class
- 11:00 a.m. Religious Practices Committee Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Judaism 101 Class
- 25 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service
- 27 9:00 a.m. Religious School
- 1:00 p.m. Brotherhood Baseball Game

Temple Beth Shalom of the West Valley



ADULT JEWISH EDUCATION



How Does Evil Exist in the World with a Good God? Thinking About God.

Class led by
Rabbi Dana Evan Kaplan
Based on Chapter 2 of the
Book *Thinking about God*,
Rabbi Kari H. Tuling

Every Thursday for 3 weeks:
Feb. 10th, 17th, & 24th
From 10-11AM on Zoom

In this 3-week course we will
explore: **How Does Evil Exist in
the World with a Good God?**

Jewish tradition has approached
questions about the reality of
evil in the world in divergent ways:

From: *The Biblical View - Romping in the Garden of Eden*
To: *A Modern View - Kushner on Bad Things that Happen to Good People*

Together, we will examine, "How different strands of Jewish traditions address:

- Do we have free will to choose good over evil?
- Why does God allow evil to exist?
- How can there be the apparent coexistence of evil with a good and all-powerful God?

Registration is open:

Please contact Temple Beth Shalom office at:
(623) 977-3240 or Email: templebethshalomaz@gmail.com
\$18 for members and \$25 for non-members

COMING TO TEMPLE BETH SHALOM
RURAL STREET KLEZMER BAND



CONCERT FUND RAISER
FEB. 20, 2022 - FROM 2PM TO 4PM

At Temple Beth Shalom
12202 N 101st Ave. Sun City, AZ
Outside at the West end of the building with seats
seperated to accomodate COVID concerns

KLEZMER is Jewish folk music. Audiences from across the Phoenix Metro area have experienced the joy of the **RURAL STREET KLEZMER's** unique brand of Jewish soul music at Simchas, Synagogues, Community Events, and recently, a concert at the Music Instrument Museum (MIM).

Special guest appearance by Cantor Baruch Koritan

Seating will be spaced to accomodate COVID concerns

TBS Members.....\$10
Non TBS Members.....\$15
Children under 10 are free
(Payment by Cash or Check only)

Seating is very limited, so **RESERVATIONS**
are highly suggested by **Feb. 15th**
Email to: TBSAZPublicity@gmail.com



Sponsored by
Temple
Beth Shalom
623 977-3240

JUNK-IN-A-TRUNK

SALE

Thursday March 3
AND

Sunday March 6
From 8am to 11am

(NO PRE-SALES)

Parking lot will
open at 7:30am
for vehicles

Location
12202 101st Ave
Sun City, AZ
(Temple Beth Shalom)

Temple Members and other interested sellers:
Show up with your vehicle on either or both of
these days, and you will be directed to a parking
spot to sell your wares out of your trunk.
ALL PROCEEDS ARE DONATED TO TBS

**UPON SALES CONCLUSION, ALL OF YOUR ITEMS
LEFT OVER MUST BE TAKEN AWAY BY YOU.**

Common courtesies and rules will be strictly enforced by on site authorities



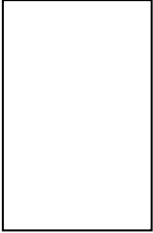
LEAVE AN
EVERLASTING DEDICATION
BY PURCHASING A BRICK WITH YOUR
PERSONAL INSCRIPTION ENGRAVED AND
PLACED OUTSIDE SURROUNDING THE
TEMPLE BETH SHALOM MENORAH.



In a separate adjacent section, you can now purchase a memorial brick for your pet. This may not be mixed in with other bricks for individuals. It is purely for remembering a lost pet that you were close to. You can have 22 characters (including spaces) per line,
Cost per brick is \$100

For answers to your questions, call Dave Katz at:
623 980-2196 (dave@katzaz.com)

P.S. Bricks are still available for people too



TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

12202 N 101st Ave Sun City, AZ 85396

BRICK PATHWAY PURCHASE A BRICK FORM

Thank you for your participation in this important project. Please complete this form and return it to the Temple office along with your check or charge information. **If you have questions, please feel free to contact Dave Katz at 623-980-2196 or dave@katzaz.com**

I/We are purchasing _____ (number of bricks). The cost of each brick is \$100.

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Provide up to three lines, maximum of 22 characters per line including spaces. Please print.

Inscription #1

Dated: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 Dane Mindell
 Sy Perlis
 5 Sharon Young
 6 Sharyn Iris Helbon
 8 Gail Kuhns
 10 Leslie Brookfield
 12 Warren Bentkover
 Janice (Janie) Stein
 15 Stephen Bold
 19 Steven Kleinman
 21 Claire Maultasch
 23 Leonard Harris
 27 Arlette Kramer
 28 Dr. Joyce Gold
 Cantor Baruch Koritan
 Laura-Julieta Ponce



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Anthony & Katie Matus	5 years
Dennis & Bonnie Cutler	55 years
David & Shelia Lovinger	56 years





Spring Training!

TBS Brotherhood presents – Annual Spring Training Game
Members, family and friends welcome!

Surprise Stadium, February 27th @ 1:05pm

(Section 108, first base lower dugout seats)

RSVP your tickets with a payment to: Temple Beth Shalom Brotherhood

(Ticket price is \$40 each and includes a Brotherhood donation / Deadline is February 1st while tickets last.)

Do You Like to Write? How About Taking Photographs?

If you enjoy writing and would like to help us with writing up publicity for our various programs, classes, events on a very part time basis, we have a crucial need for your assistance. For the most part, the information will be provided to West Valley newspapers, but you don't have to do that (unless you would like to). We already have a listing of all the media sources and contacts. We need to get our name and our events out to more people in the West Valley. We are also looking for members who like to take photographs – your cell phone photos will work – of any and all temple events. If you are at an event and see an interesting photo, snap it and send it in.



INVITATION TO JOIN THE WEEKLY TORAH DISCUSSION GROUP CURRENTLY ON ZOOM

Our weekly Torah Discussion group will be meeting every Wednesday in February on Zoom from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Our topics are from the Book of Exodus. We will be reviewing:

Feb. 2nd Parashat Terumah, Perek Bet, *"Exactly as I Show You ...So Shall You Make It"*

Feb. 9th, Parashat Tetzaveh, Perek Bet, Priestly Clothing: Fashionable Style or Significant Symbol

Feb. 16th Parashat Ki Tisa, Perek Bet, *Moses Protests on Behalf of His People*

Feb. 23rd Parashat Vayakhel, Perek Alef, *The Sabbath is for Celebration, for Rest, Not Work!*

New participants are always welcome to our free and lively study of the Torah. Led by Rabbi Kaplan, we read the text in English and consider the individual topics in each parashat. Throughout each section we cover the most important themes and then present the varying, and often clashing, opinions of Jewish interpreters throughout the ages. With each session we ask two basic questions: "What is the Torah session about?" and "What meaning can this Torah portion have for us?"

Please contact the TBS office to register for the discussion if you have not previously registered, Phone: 623-977-3240. A copy of the weekly text will be emailed to you.

Reva Litt

Email: reva.litt@gmail.com

Cell: 623-236-5113



Adult Bar and Bar Mitzvah Program

For many different reasons, many Jewish adults did not become a bar or bat mitzvah at age 13, but now as adults would like to do so. Not only the ceremony itself, but the educational and social process of preparing can be a religiously rewarding experience for participants.

The adult bar and bat mitzvah program at Temple Beth Shalom (TBS) is actually a blend of bar or bat mitzvah and confirmation. Although the curriculum is somewhat flexible, it includes a substantial amount of study about Judaism as a system of thought and a way of life - an approach that would be consistent with a confirmation program. It also includes the development of certain ritual skills, so that each participant can read part of the service in Hebrew as well as read directly from the Torah itself, skills which were part of the traditional bar mitzvah educational program.

All TBS members over the age of 18 who have not previously become a bar or bat mitzvah are eligible for this program. This may include those who were raised in a classical Reform temple where there was no bar or bat mitzvah program, those who converted to Judaism as adults, women who were raised in a traditional synagogue where they were not allowed to become a bat mitzvah, and people in all sorts of other situations where they did not celebrate a bar or bat mitzvah as a child but would like to do so now as adults, or became a bar/ bat mitzvah as a child but would like to do so again as an adult. Participation in the program is limited to members of TBS.

The goals of this 9 month program are:

- Explore Jewish spirituality and religiosity in a mature context
- Learn about the Jewish worship service and how to lead Shabbat services
- Learn about the history and contents of the Torah and how the Hebrew Bible fits into historical Judaism and Reform Judaism today
- Improve knowledge of Hebrew and learn to read or chant from the Torah scroll
- Formulate personal thinking about Judaism and write a vision statement that can form the core of a speech or sermon to deliver

While there are no formal prerequisites, we would expect that a person beginning this nine month program will have a basic background in Judaism. They should be familiar with Judaism as a religion and the Torah as the foundational sacred document of our tradition.

The basic cost to enroll is \$750, which includes the weekly class consisting of group discussion of selected text materials and study of basic Biblical Hebrew, as well as any individual meetings with the Rabbi. It does not include the cost of books.



Larry & Edith Mattal Memorial Library

TBS BOOK CLUB



In January, we read *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristen Harmel. It is the story of Eva, a Jewish girl in Paris in World War II. Her father is arrested by the Nazi's and she and her mother flee to the Free Zone in France. While in a small French village, she joins an underground effort to forge identity documents for help Jewish children to safely flee to neutral Switzerland. Helped by a Catholic priest and a handsome forger named Remy to create these documents, she decides she must preserve the real names of the children they are shepherding so that they can be reunited with their families, if possible, after the war. She and Remy design a code of birth names into a book which becomes *The Book of Lost Names*. Sixty-five years later she sees the Book in a magazine article with the researchers not being able to decipher the code. She has to act.

We found the story interesting with intrigue, close calls, and betrayal. We admired Eva's bravery when every day she could possibly be caught. Eva's mother complains continuously about her activities but in the end when her mother is captured and faces a firing squad, she defends her brave daughter.

We gave the book an A grade.

Our next book is *Morningside Heights* by Joshua Henkin. It is the story of Pru Steiner, who comes to New York City and marries her young Shakespeare professor. Her husband becomes afflicted by Early Alzheimer's. It is a story of family challenges and marriage surviving hardship.

Book Club is meeting Wednesday, February 16 at 2 p.m., via Zoom. Contact me if you have not already joined our Book Club.

Pam Katz



AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM

Most of us shop at Amazon on-line often. Temple Beth Shalom can easily be the beneficiary to the tune of 0.5% of each purchase at no cost to you by typing smile.amazon.com each time you want to visit the site. Select “Temple Beth Shalom” as the recipient of the donation. If you don’t find us by name, you can use our **EIN #23-7112839**. Thanks!

Make Amazon Smile Charity Lists

You can donate items directly to Temple Beth Shalom by purchasing from your Charity Lists. To make a Charity List, sign in to [http://org.amazon.com](https://org.amazon.com) and click "Get Started" in the "Create your first Charity List" section.

Engage during major shopping holidays

Many of you do your holiday shopping at Amazon, so it's a great time to remind you to go to smile.amazon.com to generate donations for Temple Beth Shalom. Take advantage of the next shopping holidays.

Shop at [http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7112839](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7112839) and Amazon Smile donates to Temple Beth Shalom!

Brotherhood

Temple Beth Shalom of the West Valley

Joining Together for Good Times



Objective

To involve men of the congregation in Jewish life

Service

Usher for Friday night services and at High Holy Days services

Sponsor Oneg for Friday night services

Decorate the Sukkah for Sukkot

Financially support the Temple

Sponsor speakers and other programs

Social Activities

Baseball-Spring training games

Arizona Cardinals football game

Sunday morning brunch

Other events, as suggested by members

Join our Group

Complimentary membership for first year temple members

Open to fathers of religious school children

Other Activities

Torah study (weekly) with Rabbi Kaplan

Friday night Brotherhood Shabbat

Sponsor speakers and other program

For more information: Contact Glen Zelkind at gzelkind@aol.com or cell phone @ (303) 514-2895

Brotherhood

Temple Beth Shalom of the West Valley

2021 – 2022 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

Phone : Preferred _____ Other _____

Please check one: This application is _____new _____renewal

Please check your interest in assisting in the following:

Guest Speakers _____ Ushers at services _____

Decorating the Sukkah _____ Food Prep _____

Spring Training game _____ NFL game _____

DUES: \$25.00 per year; all checks should be made out to TBS Brotherhood.

Returning members: Mail your renewal to the Temple Office with “ATTN: BROTHERHOOD” on the envelope.

New TBS members will receive a complimentary Brotherhood membership for the first year of temple membership. This form may be returned with your application for TBS membership.

Any questions?? Contact: Glen Zelkind, President- Cell (303) 514 - 2895

Email - gzelkind@aol.com

INFORMATION FROM YOUR TBS SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT JUDY FAGEN



The Sisterhood meets the 3rd Monday of the month. Check your calendars for dates and bring your lunch and join us. The link will be posted in the weekly bulletin. If you don't have access to the TBS weekly bulletin, please call the office for the phone number, link and password that you can use.

Judaica Boutique

The Boutique is located in the main lobby. We stock a lovely selection of cards, holiday items, candles, jewelry, mezuzahs, tallit, and other gift items.

The Boutique is available:

- During the week the office staff will be happy to open the shop for your purchases anytime between 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
- Will open on Wednesdays, by appointment only. Please call Judy Fagen at (623) 210-1684 to set up your appointment.

Special Oneg

Bereavement "Meal of Consolation" Families of a member can call Yolanda Schatz at (623) 566-6686 to make arrangements for a meal at the Temple.

The Sisterhood of Temple Beth Shalom

*All women Temple members are invited to join the Sisterhood.
New first year Temple members receive a complimentary membership to Sisterhood*

Board Members

2021-2022

President	Judy Fagen
VP Programming	Shari Young
Recording Secy	Riva Litt
Membership Secy	Phyllis Hibben
Corresponding Secy	Rae Bolnick
Treasurer	Sharyn Helbon
Bima Flower/ Food Baskets	Maxine Daitzman
Publicity	Carol Teplin
	Sharyn Helbon
Hospitality Committee	Yolanda Schatz Meredith Weisman-Amaral & Shari Young
Judaica Boutique	Judy Fagen
Sunshine	Rae Bolnick
Directors	Brenda Bochner Evelyn Dragiff
Emails	Phyllis Hibben

We-

- Are a group of Jewish women supporting our Temple.
- Are an active, friendly group offering many opportunities for women.
- Share our many talents and interests
- Provide activities that enable caring and bonding experiences.
- Send Yahrzeit reminders
- Raise funds all year to benefit **Temple Beth Shalom** through our many activities
- Maintain the **Judaica Boutique**
- Meet the 3rd Monday of each month from October thru April at 12 Noon
- Sponsor the **Oneg Shabbat** after the Friday night service

Dues are \$ 25.00/yr.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Check # _____

Mail check to: **Phyllis Hibben, 14146 West White Rock Drive, Sun City West. 85375.** If you choose to send your Sisterhood dues to the Temple with your Temple dues, please email Phyllis at tbssisterhoodconnection@gmail.com with the above information.

SISTERHOOD PROGRAMMING NEWS

Sisterhood Meetings are on a semi-hiatus again, since the incidence of COVID 19 has increased to even higher numbers, we are being cautious and not scheduling any group affairs at this time. We are hopeful for a change for the better.

SAVE THE DATE:

Diane Shapiro and Sharon Gadless are making plans for some fun activities on March 21st (our regular third Monday of the month. Watch for a flyer and more information.

We are planning our annual Community Women's Seder on Monday, April 11th.

Passover begins on Friday, April 15th. Sisterhood traditionally plans for our Seder before "the real deal." Nan Rubin will once again be leading the Women's Seder. More details and a flyer are coming soon.

A reminder, when you receive a Yahrzeit notice, you can donate to Sisterhood with a Food or Flower Basket donation; of course you can make a donations for security in lieu of purchasing bouquets of fresh flowers.

Sisterhood Onegs have also resumed, currently the first and third Fridays. And the Judaica Shop is open every Friday before services, as well as by request during the week, either the office staff can open the shop or Judy Fagen will meet you there by appointment.

Shari Young

Experiencing Grief

No person has the right to condemn you on how you repair your heart or how long you choose to grieve, because no one knows how much you're hurting. Recovering takes time, and everyone heals at his or her own pace.

Times: 1:30pm to 3pm

Location: Temple Beth Shalom Library
Call TBS to RSVP at 623 977-3240



Starting Tues., Nov. 16, 2021 and every Tuesday thereafter.

Facilitators:
Joyce Gold, PhD
and
Mary Gill Savoren, RN

This is the Temple Beth Shalom's ongoing course designed to help us let go of sorrow and take hold of life. This group course is available at no cost for Temple Beth Shalom members and is open to anyone experiencing grief. **In this group, complete confidentiality is required.**

INFORMATION ABOUT THE CARING COMMITTEE AND CARING FOR CAREGIVERS COMMITTEE

OUR CREED: Temple Beth Shalom is responsive to the needs of its members spiritually and personally through our Caring Committee. This TBS Committee reaches out to our members who are ill and in need of a gentle caring phone call.

The people that are contacted are listed in our Friday Night Bulletin MiShebeirach List.

THE POWER OF PRAYER TO HEAL: It has been proven that prayers have marvelous healing powers.

HOW DO I OR MY LOVED ONE GET ON THE LIST: The guidelines for being listed on the MiShebeirach List are as follows:

1. Person(s) must be a member of TBS in good standing.
2. The person(s) must be a spouse, immediate family member or close relative.

Friends or neighbors needing our prayers are prayed for when the Rabbi asks you to raise your hand and announce their names at the services.

YOUR CARING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE: Rabbi Dana Kaplan, Bea Eisenberg, Sunny Altman, and Phyllis Jacobs.

IN THE EVENT OF A DEATH WE GIVE SUPPORT THROUGH THE CHEVRA KADISHA

Chevra Kadisha offers support in assisting with making pre and post death arrangements. They offer assistance with Jewish tradition, work with the various funeral homes and cemeteries in concert with Rabbi Dana Evan Kaplan.

The Caring Committee continues to work even during the Covid-19 pandemic calling their assigned MiShebeirach List contacts.



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For information contact:

Nan Rubin by phone: 623-933-1412;

email: nrubin57@yahoo.com; or
the Temple office @ 623-977-3240.

Donations for Temple Funds

Please use this form so that your donation can be properly allocated.

Make check payable to **Temple Beth Shalom** and mail to:
Temple Beth Shalom, 12202 N. 101st Ave., Sun City, AZ 85351

Date: _____ Amount: \$ _____
In Honor of _____ In Memory of _____
In Appreciation of _____ Speedy Recovery _____
Thank you _____ Happy Birthday _____
Happy Anniversary _____ Congratulations _____
Mazel Tov _____ Thinking of you _____

Designated to:

<input type="checkbox"/> General Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Mattal Library	<input type="checkbox"/> Endowment	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Books
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Biblical Garden	<input type="checkbox"/> Choir	<input type="checkbox"/> Security
<input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Jeanna Michaels Memorial	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Action Fund	

Send card to _____ Address _____

Donated by _____ Address _____

Make checks payable to **Temple Beth Shalom**. Our address is 12202 N 101st Ave, Sun City, AZ 85351. MasterCard and Visa are accepted in the office for donations of \$25 or greater.

Donations for Temple Funds

Please use this form so that your donation can be properly allocated.

Make check payable to **Temple Beth Shalom** and mail to:
Temple Beth Shalom, 12202 N. 101st Ave., Sun City, AZ 85351

Date: _____ Amount: \$ _____
In Honor of _____ In Memory of _____
In Appreciation of _____ Speedy Recovery _____
Thank you _____ Happy Birthday _____
Happy Anniversary _____ Congratulations _____
Mazel Tov _____ Thinking of you _____

Designated to:

<input type="checkbox"/> General Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Mattal Library	<input type="checkbox"/> Endowment	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Books
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Biblical Garden	<input type="checkbox"/> Choir	<input type="checkbox"/> Security
<input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Jeanna Michaels Memorial	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Action Fund	

Send card to: _____ Address _____

Donated by _____ Address _____

Make checks payable to **Temple Beth Shalom**. Our address is 12202 N 101st Ave., Sun City, AZ 85351. MasterCard and Visa are accepted in the office for donations of \$25 or greater.

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS

You may donate to the Temple in many ways. The designated Temple Funds are listed below with a brief description of each. When making your donation, please designate your fund of choice.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Loving Memory Of:

Harvey Rothenberg
Audrey Rothenberg
Harvey Rothenberg
Joyce Kohn
Sophie Savage
Miriam Burdette
Allan Krauss
Marcia Pace

Operating Fund

In Loving Memory Of:

Seymour Rosenberg
Reva Litt
Yitzchoq Litt
Reva Litt
Pauline Friedman
Shelly Hammerslag
Charles Wilens
Randy & Jean Rosen
Edward Wilens
Randy & Jean Rosen
Jack Rosen
Randy & Jean Rosen
Dr. Morton Rosen
Randy & Jean Rosen
Gladys W. Grauman
Jean & Randy Rosen
Rose Rosenberg
Reva Litt
Josephine Robbins
Russ Robbins
Jack Turk
Lael Summer
Gloria Furman
Nan Rubin-Lieber
Marion Marcus
Brenda Bochner
Belle Kalish
Lawrence Kalish
Lew Lowy
Bonnie & Denny Cutler
Sylvia Berkowitz
Arnold Berkowitz
Lena Dublin
Gloria Bold
Sally Krovitz
Robert Krovitz

IN APPRECIATION & HONOR OF:

FAY HENNING-BRYANT
GLEN & BOBBIE ZELKIND
TEMPLE BETH SHALOM
JOAN ROTHFELD

HAPPY BIRTHDAY & CONGRATULATIONS

PHYLLIS JACOBS
JOAN ROTHFELD
HELENE FOX
JOAN ROTHFELD
MINIA KALISH
MARILYN & ALAN MEYEROWITZ
SY PERLIS 100TH BIRTHDAY
HARVEY GORDON

BIBLICAL GARDEN

In Loving Memory Of:

Alex Wacknov
David Wacknov
Toby Gold
Joyce Gold
Gerson Hermann
Shirley Scheier
Goldie Manas
Michael Zager Family

SOCIAL ACTION

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

EDWARD GORDON
HARVEY GORDON

EDUCATION & SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

SYLVIA BECK
SHARON GADLESS
MORRIS HILLEL ROSENKRANZ
EDITH SPRING
JOSEPH MILLER
LEON MILLER

Endowment FUND

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

MARTHA SITZMAN
STEVE SITZMAN

Mattal Library FUND

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

HELEN & EDWARD BENDER
ROSALIND BENDER
PATRICIA L. BEROW
SHIRLEY BEROW
LEON REICHER
M. WILLIAMSON

SECURITY FUND

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

BORIS SODOS
JAN SODOS

CHOIR FUND

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

KERMIT GRAPPEL
ROBERT GRAPPEL

Honor the memory of a beloved family member or friend with a **memorial plaque** mounted in the Sanctuary. You may also celebrate a simcha with a leaf on our Tree of Life displayed in the lobby.

For details or further information, contact **Nan Rubin** at **623-933-1412**.



BIMAH FLOWER & FOOD BASKET FUND

Contributions are always appreciated. Make checks payable to TBS
Sisterhood and send them to the office.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Carl Hoffman—Brother
Evelyn Dragiff
Food Basket 01/28/22

Goldie Manas—Mother
Michael Zager
Food Basket 02/11/22

Many people contribute to the Flower Bouquet & Food Basket Funds “in memory of **”, but did you know that you can also contribute to these funds “in honor of**” to help someone special celebrate a birthday, anniversary or any kind of simcha?

This is Sisterhood's major fundraiser. We use it to make donations to local food banks, but the major portion is given to our temple whenever a need arises, such as a copier, a computer and new kitchen appliances like a refrigerator and dishwasher. We are always there to help. Please help us by contributing.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As most of you know, the success of Temple Beth Shalom has always been dependent on the efforts of our dedicated volunteers. Please don't wait to be asked! Schedules can be flexible and you will have the satisfaction of contributing to the greater good . . . Tikun Olum.

Temple Beth Shalom invites you to participate in the life of our congregation by being a volunteer. Every successful congregation has special people who give of their time and talent. While we are grateful for financial contributions, we are equally grateful for the dedicated volunteers who offer their valuable time and energy. To volunteer, to be active, is the way to meet people and be part of our Jewish family community.

HELP WANTED

Volunteers needed to work in the office 3 hours once a week. If you can answer phones, photocopy information, file, type, or staple – **WE NEED YOU!!!** Nice office with friendly people – Good time guaranteed! Come and join us – Please call and we will get you going.

Also needed:

- * Additional people to be on the Emergency Call List to respond to the occasional off hours alarms
- * Audio/visual people to run the camera for services. No experience needed

TREE OF LIFE



Consistent with our belief, our Tree of Life, on the Lobby wall next to the office, commemorates simchas and life cycle events, such as special birthdays, anniversaries, or Bar & Bat Mitzvahs with an engraved leaf. We look forward to members making a contribution to the Temple and honoring their loved ones or commemorating an event by adding a leaf to the tree in their name. As in the past years, each leaf remains as a \$300.00 donation to the synagogue. This is a lovely way to commemorate a special milestone for your family, and support Temple Beth Shalom.

Please call Nan Rubin at 623-933-1412, or the Temple office at 623-977-3240, to order your special leaf.

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	The Property Sisters of Long Realty Yvette Kaplan		623-238-2388
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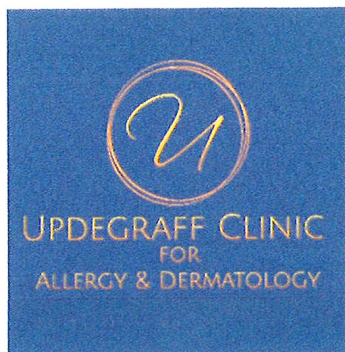
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SHOFAR DEADLINE REMINDER

The **deadline** for item submission to the Shofar is the **15th of the month**. No articles will be included after the deadline.

Thanks for your cooperation

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******SHOFAR******

— Editor

PUBLISHED MONTHLY