

Temple Beth Shalom of the West Valley

SHOFAR

June 2025 Sivan-Tammuz, 5785









A MESSAGE FROM RABBI DANA EVAN KAPLAN

Please check out Rabbi Kaplan's blog for photos, interesting notes and more at <u>danakaplan.com</u>.

Finding Direction on Our Spiritual Quest

strongly believe that one of the most important functions of our Temple is to help us to find direction on our spiritual quest. To do this, we first must understand what spirituality is. Spirituality and religiosity are both important components of our lives as Reform Jews.

Here I will focus on spirituality. Spirituality is notoriously difficult to define. I will give my definition first of spirituality and then of Jewish spirituality, but each person may understand it differently. Spirituality is a deeply personal "journey", with each of us finding spiritual meaning in our own way. Spirituality is the seeking of a deeper understanding of life. Spirituality is the search for experiences that go beyond the physical world into the metaphysical realm. Spirituality requires introspection and self-reflection, seeking to understand one's own values and beliefs. Character development is an important aspect of this process.

Unlike Jewish religiosity which involves Jewish liturgy and Jewish texts, Jewish spirituality, is at its core, the same as any other spirituality. What differentiates it is simply that the Jewish spiritual search is done in the context of a Jewish community and is informed by Jewish ideas and Jewish norms. This personal search for spirituality is a relatively new phenomenon.

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RABBI KAPLAN'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

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.

Now that I have briefly explained what spirituality is, what does it mean to engage in a search for spirituality or a spiritual journey? 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. 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 even broader, encompassing the entirety of existence. We have all gone on many journeys in our lives and so we know that 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 moments 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 phenomenon on the road, yet each of us brings to, and takes away from, the journey very different experiences. I've tried to keep this message short and yet to include ideas that will hopefully be useful for you. I'll continue this discussion of spirituality next month so stay tuned. Also, stay cool!



NOTES FROM CANTOR BARUCH KORITAN

Shavuot is a wonderful way to begin June. It offers so many reasons to let ourselves sing, whether for others or simply to free our spirits. Not only is this the time when the Ten Commandments were received, and traditionally a harvest time in Israel as well, but it's also when the Book of Ruth is read. She was King David's great-grandmother. Most interesting, but even more historically and essentially relevant is that Ruth had converted to Judaism. Yes, Judaism is a belief, not a blood analysis.

The Haftorah readings (after the reading of the Torah) are cyclical. Some years, Isaiah 60 was the chosen portion. With that in mind, I offer my lyrics to a song I'd composed, with an adaptation of the chapter's first six verses of the Prophet Isaiah:

Arise, and shine, for your Light has come. The glory of our God now dawns upon you! though darkness may fall over the Earth and a thick cloud may cover the peoples, Our God will shine upon you. Behold, this glory of our God will be revealed. the nations then shall walk by your light, and kings by the brightness of your rising. Lift your eyes and see all around: They have all come together, gathered now to you. Your sons and daughters arrive from afar, then you see and shall become radiant. Your heart starts to throb as it fills with joy. The abundance of the sea shall be turned unto you. The wealth of the nations shall come to your light, proclaiming the praises of our God.

On May 25th, I finished painting a canvas, using this paragraph as its basis. I endeavored to show two partially developed, partially clad, "unfinished" humans who have now "seen the Light" (the Ten Commandments). They have responded by reaching up, extending themselves visually (arising), and resplendently shining (surrounded by gold leaf). My abstraction in paint was as such. I was pleased enough with Isaiah and with my soon-to-be one-sided interpretation.

Two days later, our dear friend, Helene Fox, succumbed to dreadful strokes. Several hours later, seeing her body lying there, I suddenly realized that Isaiah was not limited by time or space, life or death, or even my imagination.

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CANTOR KORITAN'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

If one were to reread Isaiah's words, a potentially opposite significance could appear, and become just as meaningful, and more significant to me now. "Arise, shine, for your Light has come!" I will be singing this portion on Shabbat, May 30th, a few days before Shavuot begins. The song will resonate like never before.

The beauty of paintings, words, and music — all the arts, is that we are free to form our very original interpretation, not be judged, and never be wrong! Beauty and truth are in the eye, ear, heart, and soul of the beholder. I offer my deepest thanks to Isaiah and Helene.

Baruch Koritan

In Memoriam: Helene Fox



It is with much sadness to let everyone know that our beloved member and Temple Office Administrator Helene Fox passed away on Tuesday May 27. Services were held on May 29.

May Helene's memory be for a blessing.

The dust returns to the earth as it was, but the spirit returns to God, who gave it. May Helene's soul be bound up in the bond of life eternal. Send comfort, Adonai, to all those who mourn. Grant strength to those whose burden is sorrow. And let us say, amen.

— Rabbi Dana Kaplan

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

Join the Out to Lunch Bunch at 12:30 p.m. June 12 at Chompie's in Arrowhead Towne Center.

ADULT EDUCATION

Would you like to be Bar/Bat Mitzvahed? We are looking to start an Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah class. If interested, please call the

Temple office at 623.977.3240 to sign up.



FROM TBS President Stephen Bold

As this is my last Shofer article, I want to tell each and every member of the Temple what a great honor it has been as your president. The help, joy and love that have been shown to me and my family during this time has been great.

Our membership has increased to 182 members and is the highest number since the start of my term. We have accomplished much during the last two years. New high holiday machzors, major landscape upgrades, new flooring for the social hall and kitchen, a new hot water heater and stove for the kitchen, and a new wall of honor outside the social hall. Most importantly, we were able to lease out portions of our building that were underutilized. This has brought much needed revenue to the Temple, as well as some much appreciated improvements to the auditorium and board room.

I could not have accomplished anything without our many volunteers. I hope in the future many of you will join the list below. I will be one of those volunteers going forward.

We have accomplished many things this year and I want to thank these members who have contributed to this:

- 1. Bea Eisenberg for getting us renters in the building.
- 2. Steve Hechler for selecting the floor for the social hall and over-seeing its installation.
- 3. Patti Weiner for stepping in and keeping the office business under control.
- 4. David and Barbara Rudzin for leading fundraising.
- 5. Jon Green working tirelessly to get the Temples accounting straight.
- 6. Lori Baker for all her publicity work and help with the website.
- 7. Russ Robbins for making the many flyers for events and the graphics all year.
- 8. Dave and Pam Katz for keeping the biblical garden and planting beautiful new roses.
- 9. Joyce Gold for her many years having grief group and here's to you on your retirement
- 10. Fay Henning Bryant for the many days organizing the High Holy Days.
- 11. Steve Siegel & Bob Koch for running the kitchen on Pot Luck Shabbats and the Seder
- 12. Bonnie Longmire for seeing that we have security at all events.
- 13. Bernie Arum for being our TBS photographer on shabbat & at TBS events.
- 14. Jennifer Marton for managing member participation in our services.
- 15. Carol Zingale for volunteering to polish the brass handles in the sanctuary; and helping with our Onegs and in the office.

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Steve Bold comments continued

- 16. A Big Thank You to the weekly office helpers, those that work the broadcast booth each week, and the teachers who volunteered to help with religious school all year.
- 17. The bakers of TBS who baked for Onegs and events all year.
- 18. Our Sisterhood for preparing and serving our Onegs.
- 19. Rich Lieber as our financial secretary.
- 20. And my bride of 50 years for the work she has done for the Temple and keeping me straight.
- 21. The anonymous donor who paid for our new floor in the social hall!
- 22. Lastly, my sincere thanks to Helene Fox, who ran TBS for many years. She sadly passed away on May 27th.

Hope to see you around the Temple.

Steve



Congratulations to TBS board officers and board of directors

TBS members approved the Temple's 2025-26 budget and the slate of Temple officers and board of directors at the annual meeting on May 18.

Sara Jane Feldman (pictured left) will start her two-year term as board president on July 1, succeeding Steve Bold (pictured right) who has served as president for the past two years.

Other officers elected are Gloria Bold, first vice president; Michael Zager, vice president; Dave Katz, recording secretary; Jon Green, treasurer; and Warren Bentkover, financial secretary. In addition, board of directors elected are Bernie Arum, Lori Baker, Richard Bass, Steve Hechler and Nan Rubin Lieber. Continuing board members whose terms expire in 2026 at Carmen Berkowtiz, Mariane Anderon, Ellen Ventura and Bea Eisenberg. Congratulations to our board officers and board of directors!

Festival of Parties A Big Success!



Thank you from Gloria Bold, Events Committee Chair

The parties held in members' homes, where the hosts each chose a theme, were all a big success! If you were unable to sign up and attend one or more parties, then you missed out on a fun time with other members of TBS. Not only was the food beyond delicious but getting to know other members was the highlight of all the parties.

Many hosts want to do this again so be ready for new party fundraisers next year. We raised a lot of money for the Temple while having fun!

Thanks again to our wonderful hosts this year:

Steve Siegel and Bob Koch
Mariane Anderson & Carmen Berkowitz
Bea Eisenberg & Steve Hechler
Pam & Dave Katz
Marlene & Jon Green
Fay Henning-Bryant & Julie Ponce Ross
Gloria & Steve Bold
Sherry Weinstein
Roz Goldstein



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. Online donations can be made at **tbsaz.org**.

General Operating Fund In Loving Memory of:

Florence Allen

Max Allen

Herbert Beaser

Ray Beaser

Lillian Bentkover

Warren Bentkover

Elenor Dean Bowerman

Hannah Seplow-Groves

Aaron Fogel

Sharyn Helbon

Lillian Gushansky

Lou Gadless

Anna Hermann

Judith Adams

Toni Morgan

Nadene Forsyth

Evelyn Roberts

Riva Meyerovitz

Molly Silverberg

Dr. Morton Israel

Security Fund In Loving Memory of:

Mortimer May

Nancy Urbach

Education Fund In Loving Memory of:

Delano Bryant

Fay Henning-Bryant

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund In Loving Memory of:

Mary Hernan

Nancy Perlow

Sarah Jay

Minia Kalish

Carl Tichauer

Gayle Tichauer

Mattal Library
In Loving Memory of:

Allen PerlowNancy Perlow

Gertrude Scharaga

Marjorie Williamson

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 more 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.



	Contributor		
In Memory Of	Relationship	Bimah Fund	Friday Night
Eleanor Dean	Mother of Hannah	Food	
Bowerman	Groves	Basket	5.9.25
	Grandmother of Lou	Flower	
Lillian Gushansky	Gadless	Bouquet	5.9.25
	Father of Sharyn	Food	
Aaron Fogel	Helbon	Basket	5.30.25

CONTRIBUTIONS

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 other 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 by contributing.

BIMAH FLOWER & FOOD BASKET FUND

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

June Birthdays		June Anniversaries		
Dr. Howard Lonn	June 1	Martin & Cecilia Kret	June 7	33rd anniversary
Joan Perlis	June 9	Norman & Ellen Winderlich	June 11	53rd anniversary
Lou Gadless	June 12	Arnold & Andrea Alpert	June 16	57th anniversary
Rich Lieber	June 17	Pierre & Claire Flatowicz	June 18	25th anniversary
Brant Saperstein	June 20	David & Barbara Rudzin	June 24	18th anniversary
Phyllis Silberstein	June 20	Alan & Marilyn Meyerowitz	June 25	58th anniversary
Claire Flatowicz	June 24	Eugene & Elizabeth Mitofsky	June 29	56th anniversary
Miriam Burdette	June 25	Tracy & Olga Teitelbaum	June 29	7th anniversary
Donna Fischer	June 25			
Fay Henning -Bryant	June 25			

Temple Beth Shalom Social Action Committee

The Committee is asking you to bring a food item each month and place it in the designated space in the lobby



All of this will be benefiting the Valley View Food Bank Item to bring this month

PET POOD

The Committee thanks you, the Food Bank thanks you, but most of all, you will be helping those that are really in need.

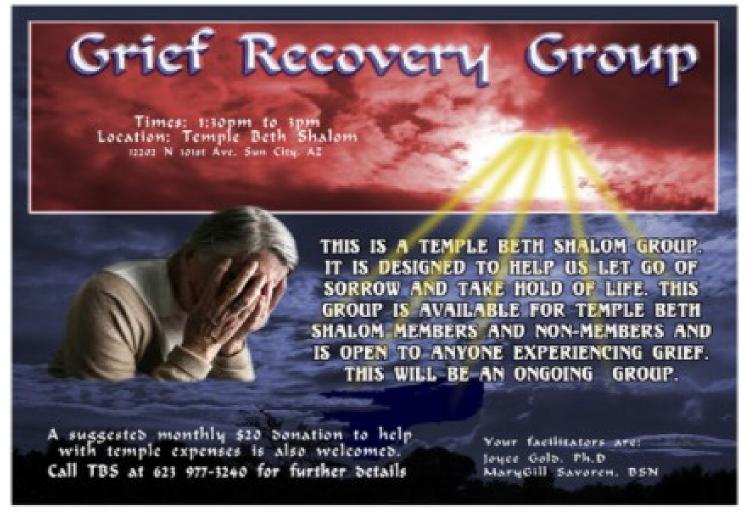
TREE OF LIFE



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, anniversary or Bar & Bat Mitzvahs with an engraved leaf. We look forward to\ members making a contribution to the Templ and honoring their loved ones or commemorating an event by adding a leaf to the tree in their name.

Each leaf is a \$200.00 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-Lieber at 623-933-1412 or the Temple office at 623-977-3240 to order your special leaf



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Maximum of 21 characters per line including spaces. All wording will be centered.

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CARING COMMITTEE

Ellyn Ventura is our new Caring Committee Chair.

If you are ill or know someone who is ill and needs our prayers, please contact Ellyn at 602 595-9303 or 1bronxgal@gmail.com



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Members may call the Temple at 623 977-3240 to place their order, or call Nan Rubin Lieber at 623 933-1412 or return this form along with payment to TBS 12202 N 101st Ave. Sun City. AZ 85351

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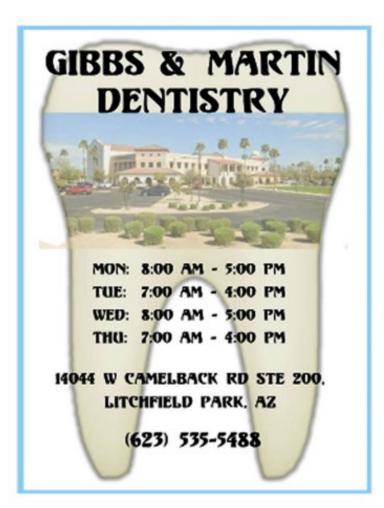
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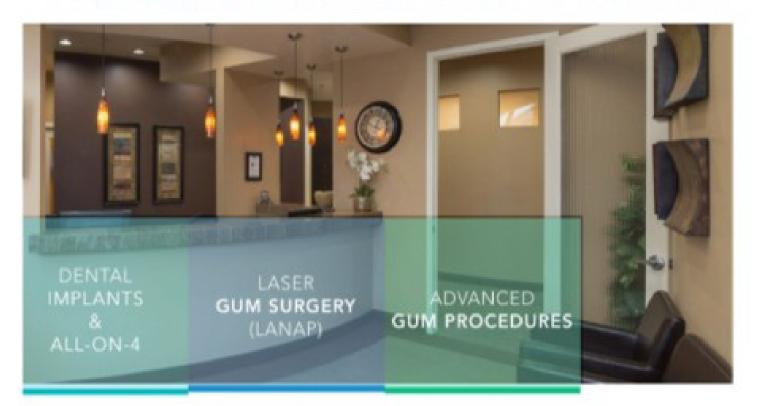
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