

# Beth Shalom Temple Center



## GREEN VALLEY SHOFAR

November 2024  
Vol. 29 No. 6

### President's Message

As I finish writing this message, we have just come from the dedication of the new Torah. What a fantastic event! I was so moved and honored to carry the Torah in as president. The evening was momentous with all of us standing around as the Torah was unfurled and we held up the pages. It was a once in a lifetime event.

The journey to get to this was just as fantastic. I am honored to be president at this momentous time. Again, thank you to the many donors, Torah committee members, and, of course, Rabbi Roman. May this Torah guide and nourish us for many years to come.

Now, we look forward to our future—both as a country and as a congregation. Our national elections are upcoming, and I urge everyone to vote.

Upcoming is also our first Dine and Laugh Gala, which I urge you to attend if you are able, but as notably, support through ads, tributes, and such. Again, it is such an honor to be president currently.

Our board nominations are upcoming. I hope people will consider running for the board. Just as importantly, I hope many volunteers will be willing to take leadership positions in running our committees. This year, several hard-working chair persons are stepping down, and we are looking for chairs for Hospitality, Facilities, and our Ritual Committee. While very important, donating money to BSTC is not the only way to help BSTC.

Committed volunteers are required to help guide BSTC's future and continue to make it a wonderful place.

### Message from Rabbi Norm Roman

Mazel Tov and Toda Raba!  
*(Congratulations and Thank you!)*

Just over 2 years ago, I wrote these words for the brochure announcing the Our Torah for Beth Shalom Temple Center campaign:

*"Twice before in my almost 50 years as a Rabbi, I have been privileged to share the excitement as a Community 'writes' a new Torah Scroll. To participate in such a project is actually the 613<sup>th</sup>, and last Commandment in the Five Books of Moses, and while most of us lack the training and skill (if not the piety and patience) to personally take on the task, we can fulfill this Mitzvah – this life-sanctifying, Jewish act – by supporting, watching, and then welcoming the beautiful Scribal art and tradition . . . Providing a new Torah for our present and future is a statement of the pride we feel in who we are, and in the ability we have to publicly share our love for BSTC."*

At the conclusion of this year's IJS (the 'intensive Jewish season' from Rosh Hashana through Sukkot), on the Festival of Simchat Torah 5785, over 100 people gathered to bless and dedicate our new Torah Scroll, dressed in its beautiful, blue Cover. It was a joyful celebration, made all-the-more meaningful by the presence not only of so many BSTC members, but also by the participation of our friends from the Christian Community: Pastor Bruce Van Sickle (Evangelical Free Church of Green Valley). Rev. Warren Leibovitch (St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church), and Rev. Craig Lindsey (Valley Presbyterian Church, whose Congregation presented us that evening with a beautiful Chanukiyah recognizing the warm, bright light of our faith).

# The GREEN VALLEY SHOFAR

The Official Newsletter of  
Beth Shalom Temple Center

**Mail to: PO Box 884  
Green Valley, AZ 85622**

**Location: 1751 N. Rio Mayo  
Green Valley, AZ 85614  
(520) 648-6690**

**www.bstc.us**

## Office Hours:

**Monday & Friday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Wednesday: noon to 4 p.m.**

President	Esther Levine Brill
VP	Gary Friedman
Treasurer	Ricki Letowt
Secretary	Gary Melton
At Large	Gloria Clancy
At Large	Mike Finkelstein
At Large	Harry Segal
At Large	Laurie Sherman
At Large	John Unger

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**Editor:** Stacy Laetsch

This is the November issue of the Shofar. The Green Valley Shofar newsletter is being published monthly, electronically only. Go to: [bstc.us](http://bstc.us) to view and print current and archived volumes.

Print subscriptions can be ordered from the office for a fee.

**NEWSLETTER SUPPORT STAFF:** Mike Finkelstein, Jane Gold, Les Bakke and Laurie Sherman

The editors reserve 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.

## **PAYMENTS MADE TO BSTC**

- ◆ BSTC accepts ZELLE to [bstcgv@gmail.com](mailto:bstcgv@gmail.com)
- ◆ Credit cards/PayPal link is on the BSTC website.
- ◆ Checks are always welcome! Please memo for the program/event for which you are paying.

## **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 loss or 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* items, contact Gary Melton.
- ◆ For information on *Commemorative Items*, contact the office.

## **TEMPLE USAGE SCHEDULING**

**Please turn in the Facilities Reservation Form (on the website or from the rack in the temple lobby) to reserve space.** Contact the BSTC office at (520) 648-6690 with any questions.

Not all scheduled events are included in the Shofar. To include your program in the Shofar calendars, please notify the Shofar editor. Deadline for Shofar copy is the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the publication date. No exceptions.

# COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS

The following commemorative items are available for purchase to honor or memorialize:

**Memorial Board 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 BSTC, Attention "Memorial Board" or "Tree of Life," etc. Order forms can be found in the Temple foyer or contact the office.

## TRIBUTES

The volunteer chairing this committee will mail a personalized card to whomever you choose.

**SEE SOME SAMPLE CARDS ON THE BSTC WEBSITE.**

For an acknowledgement card to be sent **All Tributes MUST include the following information:**

1. **Name** of EACH recipient
2. **Address** of EACH recipient (**Addresses for temple members living in Green Valley need not be submitted with your request; however, if your recipient has more than one address, please specify which address**)
3. **Type of Tribute:** Happy Birthday, In Honor Of, With Sympathy, etc.
4. **Names of ALL who are sending** the Tribute including name of spouse, if appropriate.
5. Send your Tribute request and free-will offerings to: BSTC, P.O. Box 884, Green Valley, AZ 85622 (mark "Tributes" on the envelope and check memo line!)

**Tributes since last publication:**

- ♦ From Joyce & Mike Finkelstein: **in memory of** : Jean Shekter's mother, Margaret Wilson Clark.
- ♦ From Donna & David Wyte: **in memory of** : Jean Shekter's mother, Margaret Wilson Clark.
- ♦ From Esther Levine & Ed Brill: **mazel tov to**: Laurie Sherman and John Evans on moving into their new house.
- ♦ From Esther Levine & Ed Brill: **shalom l'hitraot to**: Hello/goodbye/until we meet again to Gary & Timber Friedman.
- ♦ From Esther Levine & Ed Brill: **sympathy to**: Joey Lessa on the death of his wife, Dorie.
- ♦ From Esther Levine & Ed Brill: **sympathy to**: Jean Shekter on the death of her mother.
- ♦ From Esther Levine & Ed Brill: **healing thoughts to**: John Unger as he recovers from back surgery.
- ♦ From Esther Levine & Ed Brill: **healing thoughts to**: Kent Blumenthal wishing him a pain-free and swift recovery.

## YAHREZEITS

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 (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:**

Remembered by	Relationship	Yahrzeit
Marilyn Israel	For her Husband	Jack Israel
Marilyn Israel	For her Mother	Victoria Mayo
Marilyn Israel	For her Sister-in-law	Mary Cohen
Irene Miller	For her Parents	Ella & Morris Harris



# BSTC ACTIVITY CALENDAR

**BSTC continues to Live Stream Services on YouTube. Links are emailed to members.**

Schedule of Services, Meetings, Classes & Events			
Day	Date	Time	Event
FRI	11/1/24	7pm	Friday Night Service
SUN	11/3/24	10am	Bagel Breakfast <i>sponsor: Gary Friedman</i>
WED	11/6/24	10am	BSTC Book Club
FRI	11/8/24	7-11am	Mitzvah Day Projects @BSTC
SAT	11/9/24	10am	Saturday Shabbat Service
SAT	11/9/24	5pm	Dine & Laugh Gala @DDCC
TUE	11/12/24	10am	Sisterhood Meeting
WED	11/13/24	9am	Men's Club Meeting
WED	11/13/24	11am	Nominations Committee Mtg
THU	11/14/24	9am	Long Range Planning on Zoom
THU	11/14/24	11am	Hang new exhibit in Gallery
FRI	11/15/24	9:30am	Program Committee Meeting
FRI	11/15/24	7pm	Shabbat Service @JCC
SAT	11/16/24	10am	Torah Study—BSTC & Zoom
SUN	11/17/24	2:30pm	Art Gallery Reception
TUE	11/19/24	1-4pm	Sisterhood Mahjong Tournament
THU	11/21/24	10:30a	Social Action Committee mtg
THU	11/21/24	2pm	Ethical Wills & Leaving Your Legacy
SAT	11/23/24	10am	Torah Study—BSTC & Zoom
MON	11/25/24	10am	BSTC Board Meeting @BSTC
SAT	11/30/24	10am	Torah Study—BSTC & Zoom
SUN	12/1/24	10am	Bagel Breakfast <i>sponsor: Gloria &amp; Tom Clancy</i>

**RECOMMENDED:** Please check the Active Calendar on the BSTC website ([bstc.us](http://bstc.us)) for any updates.

**President's Message** continued:

But did you know that studies have shown that volunteering doesn't only help others? It also helps those who themselves are volunteers. Many studies have documented health benefits of volunteering.

One study showed that "volunteers are as healthy as five years younger non-volunteers." Other research has shown that volunteering can relieve stress, improve mood and strengthen the body.

These results are not just for "healthy" people; even those with serious illnesses report improved health from "volunteer therapy."

So come volunteer with us, and I look forward to working with you.

In closing, "*Am Yisroel Chai*" – *May the Jewish people live, and our hostages return.*

*Let us continue this incredible journey together,*  
Esther Levine Brill

*"I shall pass this way but once, therefore the little good I can do, let me do it now, for I shall not come this way again" (Stephen Grellet/Dale Carnegie)*



**Message from Rabbi Norm Roman** continued:

At this time, I want to personally thank the BSTC Temple Leadership, the Torah Project Committee, and most especially, our Office Manager Stacy Laetsch, for all their help and support through these 2 years of the Project. Their confidence and excitement has been inspiring.

[Our celebration was diminished somewhat, as we recalled the tragedy of Simchat Torah in Israel on October 7, 2023 - when so many men, women and children were massacred. It was our honor to welcome the Tucson Community Sh'lichah, Yuval Malka, to join in our observance, as we dedicated ourselves, and our new Torah, to hope, to faith in the future, and to peace.]

And now we look ahead: the Rabbis of old commented that we must remember that the first letter of every Torah is the Hebrew Bet, which no matter how it is written, calligraphed, or printed, is always open to what will follow, reading from right to left.

So, as we move forward in 5785, please note the

(Continued on page 5)

following (among many other events, classes, and opportunities celebrating Jewish Life):

- ♦ VOTE!
- ♦ Join us at the Gala on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, as we celebrate BSTC 30<sup>th</sup> year, and honor Joyce Finkelstein and Pat Shearer;
- ♦ Worship with the entire Tucson Jewish Community at the annual Combined Shabbat and Dinner at the JCC on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>;
- ♦ Chanukah will arrive with the first candle to be lit on Wednesday evening, December 25<sup>th</sup>, and the BSTC Chanukah observance will be on Sunday afternoon, December 29<sup>th</sup>;
- ♦ Michael Gervan is coordinating a Musical Program as a Fundraiser for Israel, at BSTC on Sunday afternoon, January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Shalom,

Rabbi Norm Roman



### MEMBER DIRECTORY UPDATES

The 2024 Membership Directory is updated and posted on the Members Only page of the website when new information is received.

*Printed copies of the directory are available for members upon request. Please email Stacy at bstcgv@gmail.com (or, call the office) for a copy.*

- ♦ **Returning members:** Myrna & Steve Feldman Sahuarita, AZ
- ♦ **New member:** Elliot Sacks Green Valley, AZ
- ♦ **New address:** Laurie Sherman & John Evans Green Valley, AZ
- ♦ **New phone number:** Fran Orrok
- ♦ **New phone number:** David Bayless
- ♦ **Corrected address:** Lynn Greenes

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### TEMPLE TIDINGS

#### **SAD NEWS**

BSTC member, Bob Epstein, shared that his wife, Linda, passed away on August 19, 2023 after surviving five years of metastatic breast cancer. She was a veteran of the US Navy to whom her daughter Kimberly, son David, and too many siblings—as well as her husband—extend their profound thanks for the care it (The Navy) extended.

We also extend our sympathies to Jean and Cliff Shekter upon the October 7<sup>th</sup> death of her mother, Margaret Wilson Clark. Funeral services were held in Michigan. May her memory be a blessing.

And, long-time friend of BSTC, Joey Lessa, shared word that his wife, Dorie, passed away the first week in October. Joey and Dorie had recently moved from their home in Green Valley to Silver Springs, 500 W Camino Encanto, Green Valley, AZ 85614. Cards and remembrances may be sent there.

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#### Thoughts after Rabbi Roman's sermon:

##### **On Either Side of the Wall**

**By Laurie Sherman**

**A gaunt, black-braided girl cries without sound  
after a sleepless, bomb-rattled night,  
unsure if the morning will brush her skin with sun  
or if shadows will strike her down. Today. Or to-  
day.**

**On both sides of the wall, the sky burns orange  
rust and flame,  
and stories in the smoke twist apart, acrid and jag-  
ged.**

**A mother folds her lost child's blanket,  
her hands trembling as rockets rip through her si-  
lence.**

**A stiff grimace on her tear-stained face—she  
breathes in the last of his scent.  
She pretends the bombs are not meant for her.  
On the other side, a father gathers countless  
shards,  
each piece recalling past nights of shattered glass,  
as shards cut his hands, sharp and sacred.**

He holds them as if he could put them back together—  
the house, the family, the land he's worked for—  
but the pieces slip from his hands, shattering on the pavement  
in front of what was once his makom shalom  
v'chai.

And here, in this windy sukkah, I stand,  
barely yet closely tethered to a land by love, faith,  
ritual,  
and by the tzedaka boxes we filled as children, re-  
tethering ourselves to make Israel grow green, to  
make it ours too.  
But now the sirens wail, bombs fly,  
and I wail too.

Borders, beliefs, and bombs harden the sky.  
Prayers—holy and unholy—stretch across oceans.  
Do they find their way, the bombs, the prayers,  
or are they lost within the space between a  
thought and the war?

I murmur from our sukkah of safety,  
as piercing stars thread through the roof,  
stretching my fragile hopes for peace.  
This shelter, like all things, is temporary.  
But for every crack that lets the wind in,  
starlight still finds its way through the walls.

We call on Adonai for peace,  
but Adonai sends it back to our hands,  
a task to create it through mitzvot, through the ac-  
tions returned to us—  
again. And again.  
It is *we* who must hold it. *V'ahavta l'reacha kamo-  
cha*  
How simple. How impossible.  
And still, we watch, restless hands heavy with  
doubt,  
planting our trees, begging, weeping, and scream-  
ing for Shalom.  
And we hang on every word in the news, our hands  
unsure, weighted with doubt,  
while the air—  
thick with sirens, domes, and missiles—  
aches to see the stars.  
Shalom. Shalom. Shalom.

How do we find the strength yet once more? Once  
more. To sing Shalom,  
to demand it?

We must collect pennies in tzedaka boxes. We  
must rebuild, we must mourn,  
we must beg and scream for shalom  
across our Land of Israel.  
Around our world.

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## BOARD NOTES

**The most recent Board Meeting was on Monday,  
October 28, 2024 at 10am.**

The BSTC Board meets at BSTC for the General Board meetings at 10am on the fourth Monday of each month. The approved minutes and financial reports are posted for review on the website and on the hallway bulletin board. All BSTC members are welcome to join General Board meetings. The agenda is emailed the Friday prior to the meeting. Member comments are entertained at each meeting. Check the active calendar for any updates.

## The Value of BSTC

Belonging to a small senior temple like Beth Shalom Temple Center (BSTC) is about more than attending services or events—it's about that, of course, importantly—but it's also about finding a true sense of community. BSTC isn't just a place to go; it's a space that brings warmth, comfort, and connection to our lives in a way that feels intimate and deeply personal. In a world that often feels too big and too fast, a small temple like ours offers a haven where everyone is truly seen, heard, and valued.

One of the beautiful aspects of BSTC is the way it balances tradition and personal connection. Our temple holds so much history, and each of us becomes part of that legacy. When we gather—whether for Shabbat, holidays, a Gala, a social action day, or a casual bagel breakfast—we're not only celebrating our Jewish identity but also strengthening the bonds that hold us together. These traditions become more meaningful when shared with people who care deeply for one another. We learn from each other, support each other, and celebrate milestones together, creating memories that feel like family.

What do we get from belonging to BSTC? For many, it's a sense of belonging that brings real comfort. It's knowing that, whether you're here to pray, learn, or just enjoy a friendly conversation, you're

*(Continued next column)*

among people who understand you. This connection can be especially meaningful for seniors, offering a source of companionship, laughter, and shared experience. Social connections like these are so important for mental and emotional health, and BSTC provides a community where friendships can flourish naturally.

At the same time, being part of BSTC gives each of us a chance to give back in ways that matter. Maybe you have a talent for organizing events, sharing stories, leading a prayer, or even just lending a listening ear. These small contributions are essential, bringing energy and warmth into our temple and helping to keep our traditions alive. Each member brings something unique, and that diversity makes our community richer and more vibrant.

As a congregation, we also have the opportunity to make a difference beyond our walls. Through our charity work, educational programs, and events, we extend a welcoming hand to the Green Valley community, sharing our values of kindness, respect, and compassion. BSTC isn't just a place for us; it's a positive presence for everyone around us. Together, we can build connections that reach beyond our temple, showing the world what a close-knit, caring community can achieve.

Being part of BSTC means embracing a blend of heritage and friendship, reflection and laughter, giving and receiving. Here, we're not just congregants—we're neighbors, friends, and extended family. In this special place, each of us has a role, each of us makes a difference, and together, we create something truly meaningful.

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## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **ART GALLERY**

Artwork by Rabbi Miri Fleming has been on exhibit since mid-September. A new exhibit will be hung November 14th, with a meet-and-greet reception on Sunday, November 17th at 2:30pm. We hope to see you there!

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## **BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE**

Thank you to all who participated in our annual Book of Remembrance. We raised over \$3500. Once again, our office manager, Stacy, provided expert assistance in compiling the book.

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## **CARING COMMITTEE**

### **Who to Call?**

Do you need to let the congregation know about an important life event? Are you interested in making calls to other members? If you have any prayer requests, know of any of our members who are sick and/or in the hospital, or would like to make phone calls, please contact Gary Melton, chair of the BSTC Caring Committee.

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## **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

### **Why join the Communications Committee?**

Because every message we share, every story we tell, every picture we take, and every connection we make strengthens our community at Beth Shalom Temple Center. The Communications Committee is where we bring BSTC's values to life—celebrating our shared heritage, promoting events, and creating a welcoming space for new members.

We're looking for passionate members to join us in making our congregation's voice heard, both within BSTC and throughout our larger community. Whether you have experience in writing, social media, photography, or simply a desire to get involved, your perspective is invaluable. Together, we'll brainstorm fresh ideas, work on creative projects, and build relationships that deepen our impact.

Bring your unique skills or willingness to learn, and help us create communications that inspire, inform, and connect. Join us, and let's make BSTC's message resonate!

Laurie S Sherman  
Communications Chair

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## E-SCRIP

**RAISE RIGHT** is a national program offering name brand gift cards for purchase (sometimes at a discount) and *raises funds for BSTC without costing anything extra!*

Please contact Joyce Finkelstein with questions or for help.

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## FRY'S COMMUNITY REWARD PROGRAM

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 #MH533
4. Select "Enroll"

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

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## HOSPITALITY

***Bagel Breakfasts are on the first Sunday of each month at 10am.*** Michael G is at the piano from 9:30 to 10. ***Food events MUST HAVE YOUR RSVP by the Wednesday prior to ensure there is enough food.*** The cost is now \$12 for Members and for \$15 for Non-members. To ensure there is adequate food and that enough tables are set up, any member who just shows up without having pre-reserved a space will be required to pay the non-member price, and any non-member doing the same will be charged \$20 per person.

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## JIM CLICK RAFFLE

**The deadline to buy 2024 Jim Click Raffle is coming close! Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100!** The grand prize is a Brand NEW 2024 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon 4x4 Plug-in Hybrid! Second prize is two round-trip, first-class plane tickets to anywhere in the world (some restrictions apply).

Tickets are available during office hours from Stacy, and at the November and December bagel breakfasts from Raffle Chairman, Ed Gold. *If you cannot make either bagel breakfast please contact Ed. Due to vacation plans, Ed will be turning in all the tickets during the first week of December.* Third prize is \$5,000 in cash.

***BSTC has raised \$625 in this year's raffle.***

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## LIBRARY

BSTC Librarian, Jane Gold, is weeding through the remaining sections. She and Rabbi Norm will begin working on the Religious section together.

Jane is also updating the policy and procedure for use of the space and any donations.

Please contact Jane at [janemgold88@gmail.com](mailto:janemgold88@gmail.com), or call 201-230-9071, with any questions or donations.

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## BSTC Book Club

The BSTC Book Club meets at BSTC every first Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. All members are welcome. Contact Laura Unger for more information.

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## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

**Welcome to returning members, Myrna and Steve Feldmand, and to new member, Elliott Sacks!**

New members who have not done so in the past, please submit a digital photo of yourself and brief profile in order to allow the rest of the membership to know a little bit about each of you. Send your photos and write-up of your background, interests, and any Jewish activities you particularly enjoy to [mfinkel2@cox.net](mailto:mfinkel2@cox.net).

## Member Photos

BSTC welcomes photos to be shared in the Shofar. Send pictures to Mike with details.



### Member Biography:

#### **Myrna and Steve Feldman**

Returning BSTC members, Myrna and Steve, were born and raised in Brooklyn, New York and then moved to Danbury, Connecticut. They resided in Connecticut for 33 years and spent winters skiing in Vermont prior to relocating to Sahuarita in 2004. Steve worked for an advertising typographer and after 13 years changed careers to be a senior vice president for a company manufacturing and importing Halloween items and costumes.

Myrna taught high school and college prior to becoming a hospital administrator employed in New York, Connecticut and, finally, Arizona.

They have one son and grandson (20) who both live in Eugene, Oregon.

Currently, Myrna is involved with the OLLI program at the University of Arizona, taking and teaching classes as well as serving on the Board. Steve is involved in the GVR Clay Studio as well as the GV Samaritans.

Anyone interested in joining this committee please contact Mike Finkelstein.

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#### **MEN'S CLUB**

The Men's Club meets at El Patio Restaurant at 9am on the second Wednesday of each month.

**\*\*CARDBOARD\*\*CARDBOARD\*\*CARDBOARD\*\***

The Men's Club will be collecting cardboard (NO pizza boxes, bank statements, etc.) to benefit the

Sahuarita Food Bank **QUARTERLY on Bagel Breakfast Sundays in January, April, July and October.**

A lunch outing is planned for November 20 at noon at Coyote Grill. Men only and reservations required.

The Men's Club will be hosting the annual Chanukah Party on Sunday, December 29th.

A Carnival of Illusion outing is planned for February 15, 2025 at 4:30. Eight couples from the Men's Club are attending. There may or may not be more tickets available. Contact Harry Segal with any questions or for more information.

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#### **PROGRAMS**

**The Dine & Laugh fundraiser Gala** is on Saturday, November 9th, 2024 with the preglow beginning at 5pm at the Desert Diamond Conference Center on Pima Mine Road. Over 100 folks have signed up to attend and we have taken in over \$18,000 in donations, sponsorships, and underwriting, including ticket sales. We are expected to generate much more money from the silent and live auctions to be held that evening. Many (but not all) of our costs are being offset by very generous underwriters.

Two highlights of the evening:

Every ticket will have a coupon good for \$20 off any show at CPAC, the Community Performance & Arts Center, and we will be auctioning off a seven-day cruise to the successful bidder.

Come out (or donate) to support your temple! Go to [bstc.us](http://bstc.us) or contact [bstcgala2024@gmail.com](mailto:bstcgala2024@gmail.com).

#### **Other Program News:**

- ♦ **Rabbi Norm will be presenting Ethical Wills and Setting Up Your Own Oral History. It will be held at the temple on Thursday, November 21st from 2-3:30 p.m.**
- ♦ **Michael Gervan is organizing a fundraising show to benefit the people of Israel which will take place on Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 1 p.m. "I am working on a musical fundraising event for Israel which will take place at BSTC on Sunday, January 19, 2025. It will include some of the best musicians in Southern Arizona plus some of our very own musicians. It will also include a short talk on Israel and a cantorial song.**

*Please make a plan to attend and help make this very important event a success. As you know, the people of Israel are in real crisis and my personal health is not too good. I need this event to be successful as possible and only temple members and close personal friends can make that happen. We cannot and will not advertise and promote this program outside this building. Make no mistake, every dollar raised for this endeavor is significant. Israel is our home whether or not you live there. It is the home of every Jew everywhere."*

*Michael G*

Contact Mike Finkelstein with any questions or suggestions, or if you would like to join the Programs committee.

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## RITUAL

We thank Rabbi Norm for his meaningful High Holy Day services, aided by the lovely musical accompa-

niment of our favorite cantorial soloist, his daughter Caryn Roman. Thank you to all congregants who participated in the services in various ways. On Yom Kippur, we heard about the impact of Judaism on the lives of three of our congregants.

We celebrated Sukkot in the sukkah beautifully decorated by the Sisterhood. (See more photos on the website.)

On Simchat Torah, the dedication of our new Torah scroll was a unique experience. Around a hundred people attended, exceeding expectations. It was led by the Rabbi with the participation of some members of the local clergy. Sisterhood sponsored the refreshments. (see more photo)

We encourage congregants to avail themselves of Rabbi Norm's educational offerings conducted via Zoom, and also of our weekly Torah Study led by Marty Cohen, which is conducted both in person at the Temple and via Zoom.

*Steve and Suenette Maron*





reverence as we unrolled the entire Torah, encircling ourselves with the sacred scroll. Each of us held a part, creating a physical and spiritual link that connected everyone in the room with the text and each other. For many, myself included, it was the first time touching the Torah—a humbling experience that deepened our bond to its words and the history it represents.

Reading the last lines of Deuteronomy and immediately beginning Genesis in one breath!, felt like a powerful reminder of the continuous cycle of learning and renewal that Judaism embodies. After two years of dedication and stages of preparation, this Torah has finally found its home in our temple, in our ark. It's not just a book or a scroll; it's a legacy that honors the generations before us and serves as a gift to those who will come after.

This moment reminded us that our congregation is more than a gathering place—it is a custodian of tradition, faith, and community. By coming together to hold the Torah, we each took on the responsibility of preserving and passing forward our shared story. This celebration was a joyous affirmation of who we are and the sacred heritage we share, as we take our place in a long line of generations dedicated to this cherished tradition.

(See more photos on the website.)

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## SECURITY

***"If you see something, say something!"***

Thank you for all you've done for BSTC, and farewell, to Gary Friedman. The new Security Chair is Josh Migdal. Please contact Josh with any security questions or concerns.

*BSTC Security*

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## SISTERHOOD

The Sisterhood usually meets every second Tuesday of the month at 10am at BSTC.

The Mahjong Tournament is on Tuesday, November 19th from 12:30 until 4pm. Reservations are full.

## The schedule upcoming services is listed here:

- ♦ FRI 11/1/24—7pm: Shabbat Worship
- ♦ SAT 11/9/24—10am: Shabbat Worship
- ♦ FRI 11/15/24—TBD: Community Shabbat at Tucson JCC (NO SERVICES AT BSTC)
- ♦ FRI 12/6/24—7pm: Shabbat Worship
- ♦ SAT 12/14/24—10am: Shabbat Worship
- ♦ FRI 12/20/24—7pm: Shabbat Worship
- ♦ SUN 12/29/24—TBD: Chanukah Program

## Welcome to our New Torah

Our Torah welcome on Simchat Torah was a profound moment of shared heritage, community, and excitement. Rabbi Roman had it all planned. Our president, Esther Levine Brill, brought in the Torah, flanked by the Temple board and several ecumenical clergy. The room was filled with anticipation and

The Sisterhood Shabbat is being planned for January 3, 2025 and the Sisterhood Membership Paid-up Dessert event will be on January 21st, honoring BSTC President Esther Brill.

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## SOCIAL ACTION

The Food Bank Hunger Walk was Saturday, September 14, 2024. (see photo below)

There is a **large collection box for the Food Bank** in the temple lobby. Your food & monetary donations are also greatly appreciated.

There is also a bin in the lobby for the **Angel Heart**

**Pajama Project.** They always need donations of new pajamas and new or gently used children's books.

Did you know there is a Lions Eyeglass Donation Box in the lobby for **used eyeglasses, sunglasses, hearing aids and cell phones?** Contact Ed Gold with any questions about these donations.

Mitzvah Day is on Friday, November 8, 2024 with projects at BSTC from 7-11am.

*The Social Action Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of every month from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the temple. Consider dropping by and joining us.*

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## TORAH STUDY

Torah Portions are included for members in the table below. Torah Study meets every Saturday and has begun gathering again at the Temple at 10am, still including members unable to join in person via our Zoom virtual platform. All are welcome. The link has been emailed and does not change. Contact the office if you need it.

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## WEBSITE—bstc.us

There are links on the password protected page to the Board meeting minutes and financial reports, both current and archived, and *the most updated member contact information directories are also available here.*

The active calendar, as well as on-line payment option details, are there, too.

***Please email bstcgv@gmail.com or call the office at 520-648-6690 with questions or comment.***



Jerry Belenker	2-Nov
Ricki Letowt	3-Nov
Colleen Soltis-McGraw	5-Nov
Nancy Puckett	13-Nov
Arlene Hammond	16-Nov
Rebecca Benisch	18-Nov
Lynn Greenes	24-Nov
Anita Grace Farrar	27-Nov
Serene Rein	30-Nov
Sherry Hoffman-Blum	7-Dec
Roberta Rabin	8-Dec
Cristela Hager	12-Dec
Martin Cohen	15-Dec
Richard Melamed	20-Dec
Michael Tannenbaum	20-Dec
Ed Gold	23-Dec
Tom Clancy	26-Dec
Stuart Tobin	26-Dec
Lisa Israel	31-Dec



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Norm & Lynne Roman	28-Nov
Gary & Vanich Melton	8-Dec
Carolyn & Arnie Krohn	18-Dec
Judy & Randy Gehman	23-Dec
Laurie Sherman & John Evans	28-Dec

MONTHLY TORAH PORTIONS			
Portion (Parashat)	Date	Torah	Haftarah
NOACH	Nov 1-2, 2024	Genesis 6:9-11:32	Isaiah 54:1-55:5
LECH L'CHA	Nov 8-9, 2024	Genesis 12:1-17:27	Isaiah 40:27-41:16
VAYEIRA	Nov 15-16, 2024	Genesis 18:1-22:24	I Kings 4:1-37
CHAYEI SARAH	Nov 22-23, 2024	Genesis 23:1-25:18	I Kings 1:1-31
TOL'DOT	Nov 29-30, 2024	Genesis 25:19-28:9	Malachi 1:1-2:7
VAYEITZEI	Dec 6-7, 2024	Genesis 28:10-32:3	Hosea 12:13-14:10
VAYISHLACH	Dec 13-14, 2024	Genesis 32:4-36:43	Obadiah 1:1-1:21
VAYEISHEIV	Dec 20-21, 2024	Genesis 37:1-40:23	Amos 2:6-3:8
MIEKITZ	Dec 27-28, 2024	Genesis 41:1-44:17	I Kings 3:15-4:1

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>CHAIR/CO-CHAIR</b>
Aesthetics	Tobey Gitelle
Art Gallery	Marcia Wiener
Art Gallery (co-chair)	Bev Lake
Book of Remembrance	Suenette Maron
Calendar & Reservations	BSTC office
Caring	Gary Melton
e-Scrip	Joyce Finkelstein
Facilities & IT	Les Bakke
Facebook	Jane Gold
Finance	Ricki Letowt
Historian	Gloria Clancy
Hospitality	Ricki Letowt
Hospitality/Bagel Breakfast	Mariann Katz
Hospitality/Oneg	Cris Hager
Jim Click Raffle	Ed Gold
Library	Jane Gold
Long Range Planning	John Unger
Memorial Board /Yahrzeits	Joyce Finkelstein
Membership	Mike Finkelstein
Men's Club	Arnie Krohn
President	Esther Levine Brill
Programs	Mike Finkelstein
PR/Communications	Laurie Sherman
Rabbi	Norman Roman
Ritual (co-chairs)	Suenette & Steve Maron
Security	Josh Migdal
Shofar	BSTC Office
Shopper	Laura Unger
Sisterhood	Sue Cohen
Social Action	Connie Greenwald
Tributes	Gary Melton
Website	BSTC Office