



## GREEN VALLEY SHOFAR

March 2026  
Vol. 31 No. 3

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BSTC is more than the walls of our sanctuary; it is a living covenant, a promise between people to support one another through life's highs and lows. In challenging times, whether personal struggles, communal hardships, or moments of uncertainty, this covenant is tested and strengthened.

Our community is measured by presence. It is in the gentle knock on a door when illness strikes, the shared laughter at a simcha, and the collective embrace in moments of grief. It is seen when we offer time, attention, and care without expectation, simply because we are bound together by faith, history, and responsibility.

Our congregation flourishes when we recognize that each member's life touches another's. This means showing up, not just in body, but in spirit, for one another. It is in these acts, large and small, that BSTC transforms from a building into a home, a place where our commitment to each other is felt, not only in prayer, but in the human connections we nurture. A big thanks goes out to our caring committee.

In the face of challenges, may we remember that our greatest strength is one another, and that our covenant calls us to stand together, and to stand with Israel.

In achieving all the above, I would like to thank all the committee chairs who volunteer their time to make BSTC a unique experience for everyone.

A special thank you to Rabbi Norm Roman for being there for us in times of joy and in times of sorrow. And of course, thanks to all the Board members for 2026.

*(Continued next column)*

I would also like to acknowledge Sue Cohen for all she has done for the Sisterhood and for BSTC. As Sue steps down from her position, the Sisterhood will be looking for a new president.

Thank you Stuart Lisk, for accepting the position of Men's Club president.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the March 1<sup>st</sup> bagel breakfast, followed by March 2<sup>nd</sup> Purim & Megillah Reading.

Josh Migdal, BSTC President



### RABBI'S MESSAGE

Rabbi Norm will share a message next month.



# The GREEN VALLEY SHOFAR

is the Official Newsletter of  
Beth Shalom Temple Center

BSTC is located at 1751 N. Rio Mayo  
Green Valley, AZ 85614

Phone: (520) 648-6690

Website: bstc.us

### Office Hours:

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

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

### 2026 Board of Trustees:

President	Joshua Migdal
VP	Steve Feldman
Treasurer	Ricki Letowt
Secretary	Marlys Fiterman
At Large	Mike Finkelstein
At Large	Beverly Lake
At Large	Ruthann Shapiro
At Large	Amy Storer
At Large	Dawna Wheeler

### In This Issue:

- ◆ President's Message
- ◆ Contact Info/Mailing Address/Sending Checks
- ◆ How to make Temple Usage Reservations
- ◆ Calendar of Events/Schedule of Services
- ◆ Updated phone numbers, emails
- ◆ Member News and Updates
- ◆ Committee Reports
- ◆ Commemorative Items, Tributes & Yahrzeits
- ◆ Birthdays/Anniversaries/Committee Chair List

## PAYMENTS MADE TO BSTC

- ◆ Checks are always welcome! Please memo for the program/event for which you are paying.
- ◆ BSTC accepts ZELLE to bstcgv@gmail.com
- ◆ Credit cards/PayPal link is on the BSTC website and a 3% processing fee is requested.

## MAIL TO THE TEMPLE

Any **mail sent to the temple** should be addressed to:  
**P.O. Box 884, Green Valley, AZ 85622.**

To expedite delivery you may 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.
- ◆ For *Tributes* items, contact Amy Storer.
- ◆ 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.



This is the March issue of the Green Valley Shofar. The Shofar newsletter is published monthly, electronically only. Go to: bstc.us for viewing and printing of current and archived volumes. Subscriptions can be ordered from the office with a free will donation towards printing and postage.

Not all scheduled events are included in the Shofar. To have your program included in the calendars, please notify the Shofar editor. Deadline to submit Shofar copy is the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the publication date.

**EDITOR:** Stacy Laetsch

**NEWSLETTER SUPPORT STAFF:** Mike Finkelstein and Jane Gold

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

## MEMBER DIRECTORY UPDATES

The **2026 Membership Directory** has been posted to the website.

***Please let the office know as soon as possible if you move, and/or change your contact information.***

*Printed copies of the directory spreadsheet are available for members upon request. Please email [bstcgv@gmail.com](mailto:bstcgv@gmail.com) (or, call the office) for a copy.*

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## BOARD NOTES

The monthly Board meeting is normally held on the fourth Monday of each month. **The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 23rd at 10am.** All members are welcome, and encouraged to attend.

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## RESTRICTED (DESIGNATED) ACCOUNTS

While no specification is required, when making a general donation or tribute to BSTC, you may opt to specify that to the general fund, or to some other fund that represents your desires regarding where the money is used.

Following here is a list of the Restricted Accounts we have on our books. Some have been there for a while, and some are new. The money can only be used for the stated purpose if an account is restricted (designated).

- ◆ **Rabbi Discretionary Fund:** This will be a standard Discretionary fund to allow the Rabbi to donate as he sees appropriate.
- ◆ **Gratitude Fund:** This fund was set up allows us to subsidize some or all the cost of participation in rituals for our less fortunate members.
- ◆ **Garden Fund:** BSTC does have a budget for *property maintenance*. However, we may want to do something extra (special) for the garden, and this fund is for this.
- ◆ **Bikur Cholim (Caring Meals) Fund:** This fund is partially subsidized by a JPSA grant and provides meals and visitation to members who are recovering from illness/surgery.

*(Continued next column)*

- ◆ **Art Gallery Fund:** While the Art Gallery Committee has a budget for expected costs (hanging devices, receptions, honorariums for speakers), the committee chairs can use this fund to enhance the gallery at their discretion.
- ◆ **Membership Fund:** This account is set up to support the recruitment of new members to our Temple, through various means of communication outside the temple.

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## TEMPLE TIDINGS

***Wander Women*** members ventured to the heart of the Ethiopian community on Z Street in Tucson for an authentic lunch at Zemam's Ethiopian Cuisine. The food is served in a communal style with various dishes scooped up with classic injera bread. Excellent slow-cooked vegetarian and meat dishes were a delight.

Wander Women is a social group open to all Temple women. If you're interested in joining other Jewish women for outings to the myriad venues the area has to offer, please email Gail Abend.

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## COMMITTEE NEWS

### **ART GALLERY**

The exhibit now on display, "**Nature As I See It**" features the works of BSTC's own Marcia Wiener. Please join us for a reception on Sunday, March 15th at 2pm.

### **Call for Artwork!**

BSTC Artists wanted for upcoming exhibitions! We're on the lookout for talented artists to submit artworks for display in the BSTC Gallery. Please submit photos of up to 3 artworks. Artwork Size: Not to exceed 24 inches in any dimension.

*Marcia Wiener & Bev Lake*

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# BSTC ACTIVITY CALENDAR

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

## BIKUR CHOLIM—CARING MEALS PROGRAM



At Beth Shalom, we believe in feeding body and spirit. Through our Caring Meals program—rooted in the Jewish tradition of Bikur Cholim (visiting and supporting those who are ill or in need)—BSTC members lovingly

prepare and deliver meals, along with a visit or friendly check-in, to anyone who could use a little extra care.

If you're recovering, grieving, feeling alone, or simply in need of support, we're here for you. But we're not mind-readers—so please let us know.

Contact the Temple Office or Amy Storer to request support for yourself or someone you care about and/or to let us know you have food to contribute. Either bring it without portioning and we can divide and freeze, or please freeze in individual portions. **If you add or take anything to/from the freezer for the Caring Meals, please let Stacy, Ricki, or Dawna know. We keep an inventory of what's there so we know what we are able to offer.**

We are here to nourish, connect, and remind each other: you are not alone.

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## BOOK CLUB

The BSTC Book Club usually meets at BSTC every first Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

### BSTC Book Club 2026 Reading List:

- ◆ Mar 4th—*The Girl with Seven Names* by Lee Hyeon-Seo
- ◆ Apr 1st—*A Tree Grows In Brooklyn* by Betty Smith
- ◆ May 6th—*The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan
- ◆ Jun 3rd—*Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Richardson
- ◆ Jul 1st—*People of The Book* by Geraldine Brooks
- ◆ Aug 5th—*The Greatest Generation* by Tom Brokaw

Schedule of Services, Meetings, Classes & Events			
Day	Date	Time	Event
SUN	3/1/26	10am	Bagel Breakfast <i>Sponsors:</i> <i>Ricki Letowt &amp; Dawna Wheeler</i>
MON	3/2/26	5pm	Purim & Megillah Reading
TUE	3/3/26	3pm	Uniting the Community Through Music meeting
WED	3/4/26	10am	BSTC Book Club @BSTC
<b>FRI</b>	<b>3/6/26</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Friday Night Shabbat Service</b>
SAT	3/7/26	10am	Torah Study on Zoom
MON	3/9/26	10am	Therapy Doll Project
TUE	3/10/26	10am	Sisterhood Meeting
WED	3/11/26	9am	Men's Club Meeting @El Patio
<b>SAT</b>	<b>3/14/26</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Saturday Shabbat Service</b>
SUN	3/15/26	2pm	Art Gallery Reception
WED	3/18/26	2pm	Speaker: The Hohokam & Their World
FRI	3/20/26	9:30am	Program Committee Meeting on Zoom
<b>FRI</b>	<b>3/20/26</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Friday Night Shabbat Service</b>
SAT	3/21/26	10am	Torah Study on Zoom ONLY
MON	3/23/26	10am	BSTC Board Meeting
SAT	3/28/26	10am	Torah Study on Zoom ONLY
SUN	3/29/26	1pm	Jewish Film Festival @BSTC

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

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- ◆ Sept 2nd—***Beloved*** by Tony Morrison
- ◆ Oct 7th—***Silent Spring Revolution***  
by Douglas Brinkley
- ◆ Nov 4th—***The Haj*** by Leon Uris
- ◆ Dec 2nd—***A Tale of Love & Darkness***  
by Amoz Oz

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## CARING COMMITTEE

Do you need to let the congregation know about an important life event? Are you interested in making calls to other members? Can you cook meals for the Bikur Cholim freezer and/or deliver food to those in need?

We have beautiful Tribute cards available to commemorate a life event, and they also act as a fundraiser. At the moment, our financial records indicate that the cost of these cards is greater than the donations that they are bringing in. When making your donation, please remember that the cost to temple for each card is just under \$5, which includes the card stock, printing, envelopes, and stamps. Tribute cards are available for viewing on our BSTC website.

If you have prayer requests, know of members who are sick and/or in/just out of the hospital, would like to make phone calls, or otherwise volunteer to help with this committee, please contact Amy Storer.

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## GRANTS

If you're interested in joining this committee, or would like more information, contact the temple office or Esther Levine Brill at (917 805-6710).

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## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The BSTC Grief Support group has been meeting regularly since last Spring, creating a caring space for those navigating loss. If you are finding it difficult to move forward due to a loss, whether recent or from long ago, please know that you are not alone. Our meetings offer a safe and supportive environment to share experiences, listen, and support one another in confidence. All are welcome, regardless of where

you are in your journey. We hope you will join us. For more information, please contact me for the next meeting date and location.

Looking forward to seeing you.

*Bunny Tarquinio, Grief Recovery Specialist*

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## HOSPITALITY

Bagel Breakfasts are usually on the first Sunday of each month at 10am. The **March 1, 2026** event is sponsored by Ricki Letowt and Dawna Wheeler.

To ensure there is enough food and that plenty of tables and chairs are set up, the Committee policy is that all food events are prepaid. **WE MUST HAVE YOUR RSVP by the Monday prior to the event and your PAYMENT PRIOR TO THE EVENT CONFIRMS YOUR RESERVATION.**

The cost remains \$12 for Members and for \$15 for Non-members. **Your reservations are appreciated!**

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## JIM CLICK RAFFLE

The 2026 Jim Click Raffle begins on February 23rd. Tickets will be available at bagel breakfasts, or in the BSTC office, or contact Ed Gold. Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100, and as in past years, BSTC keeps 100% of the ticket sales. Three prizes again this year: 1st Prize—2026 Nissan Frontier Pro-4X Roush Edition (pickup truck). Your participation in this fun way to support BSTC is appreciated!

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## LIBRARY

Jane recently moved all non-fiction books that were on the bottom of the fiction shelves to the metal book shelves. She plans to put up new labels soon. She also is slowly removing the discarded books that are underneath the meeting table.

Please contact BSTC Librarian, Jane Gold, with any questions or donations.

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## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

The new BSTC Board has asked for a new survey of all members, to ask them what they enjoy about belonging to BSTC, as well as what changes or new programs they might want to see. The survey will be sent out in the near future. This follows other surveys that we have conducted over the years.

The 2026 Member Directory is available on the password protected page of the website. Please contact the office if you need that password.

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 Mike Finkelstein.

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## MEN'S CLUB

The next Men's Club meeting will be on Wednesday, March 11th, at El Patio Restaurant, at 9:00 am.

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## PROGRAMS

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- ◆ The second pasta dinner at BSTC on January 11th netted over \$300. **Thank you to Bobbie and her team for a great effort!**
- ◆ The **FUN**raising **DINE OUT** at the Panda Express in Sahuarita raised just over \$100. Another **MOD Pizza** fundraiser is planned for Sunday, April 19th. Save the date!
- ◆ Local archeologist, Linda Gregoris, a specialist in Hohokam art and iconography, will give a presentation at **2pm on Wednesday, March 18th**. There will be no charge for this event. See flyer on next page for details.
- ◆ BSTC has rescheduled the **Jewish Film Festival**. Join us at BSTC on **Sunday, March 29th at 1pm**, for three English language short films. There is **NO CHARGE** for this event!
- ◆ Uniting the Community Through Music, 2025's major fundraiser, netted \$7,000. The team held

its first 2026 meeting to discuss this year's plans. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 3rd at 3pm at BSTC. Les is establishing a domain name "unitingthecommunitythroughmusic.org" for this program. Please contact Mike Finkelstein if you would like to participate in the committee's work this year!

- ◆ **Paul Gross**, an associate of Rabbi Roman, **will present a discussion on climate change on April 22nd**, which is Earth Day. Depending on speaker availability, it will be in person or on Zoom. Time to be determined. There will be no charge.

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## REWARD PROGRAMS

**RAISE RIGHT is a program offering name brand gift cards for purchase and raises funds for BSTC!**

Please contact Ricki Letowt or Joyce Finkelstein with questions or for help getting started.

### **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"

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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## RITUAL

Ruthann Shapiro is now the Ritual Committee Chair. Please contact her with any questions or if you are interested in participating on this committee.

### **March Service Schedule:**

- ◆ **Monday, March 2nd—5pm**  
Purim & Megillah Reading
- ◆ **Friday, March 6th—7pm**  
Friday Night Shabbat Service
- ◆ **Saturday, March 14th—10am**  
Saturday Shabbat Service
- ◆ **Friday, March 20th—7pm**  
Friday Night Shabbat Service

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**Re: the Mi Shebeirach at Worship Services**

Rabbi Roman, the Ritual Committee and the Board of Trustees are continuously re-evaluating how BSTC can best support our members who request public acknowledgement of their (or their loved ones’) desire for healing prayers at our Services. There are several complicating issues, not the least of which are HIPAA privacy laws, and managing the length of any list that might be read out-loud.

A suggestion has been made, and we will experiment for the next several months: the Rabbi or Worship Leader will ask for those present to share the name of someone in need of prayers WITH FIRST NAME ONLY, OR FOR THE INDIVIDUAL’S HEBREW NAME TO BE SPOKEN (e.g. Nachman ben Hindel).

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**SECURITY**

***“If you see something, say something!”***

Dan Galitz, BSTC Security Chair

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**SISTERHOOD**

The Sisterhood usually meets every second Tuesday of the month at 10am at BSTC and all Sisterhood members are invited to join. The next meeting is at BSTC on Tuesday, March 10th at 10am.

On Tuesday, February 17th, paid up Sisterhood Members took a field trip for a Trolley Tour of Tucson Murals. See the photo below.

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**SOCIAL ACTION**

The Chair for this committee is open. Please contact the President if you are interested in discussing this.

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**TORAH STUDY**

Torah Portions are included in the table below. BSTC Torah Study meets ONLY via Zoom, on Saturday mornings that have no service. All are welcome. The link has been emailed and does not change. Please contact the office if you need it.

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**WEBSITE—bstc.us**

Please email [bstcgv@gmail.com](mailto:bstcgv@gmail.com) or call the office at 520-648-6690 with any questions or comments.

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**Shofar Subscriptions**  
**Available upon request!**  
 If you would like printed copies of the Shofar mailed to you each month, please send your free will donation to cover printing & postage to: BSTC, PO Box 884, Green Valley AZ 85622 and put "Shofar" on the memo line.



MONTHLY TORAH PORTIONS			
Portion (Parashat)	Date	Torah	Haftarah
KI TISSA	Mar 6/7, 2026	Exodus 30:11-34:35	I Kings 18:1-39
VAYAK'HEL-PIKUDEI	Mar 13/14, 2026	Exodus 35:1-40:38	I Kings 7:51-8:21
VAYIKRA	Mar 20/21, 2026	Leviticus 1:1-5:26	Isaiah 43:21-44:23
TZAV	Mar 27/28, 2026	Leviticus 6:1-8:36	Jeremiah 7:21-8:3



## 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 (*for temple members living in Green Valley address need not be submitted with your request; however, if 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 received since our last publication:**

- ◆ From Esther & Ed Brill: **get well to:** John Holleran
- ◆ From Esther & Ed Brill: **condolences to:** Joyce & Mike Finkelstein on the death of their nephew, Daryn Shapiro
- ◆ From Bob & Lisa Ungar: **condolences to:** Joyce & Mike Finkelstein on the death of their nephew, Daryn Shapiro
- ◆ From Esther & Ed Brill: **condolences to:** Roberta Rabin on the death of Fil Ficks
- ◆ From Donna & David Wyte: **condolences to:** Roberta Rabin on the death of Fil Ficks
- ◆ From Donna & David Wyte: **condolences to:** Michael Benisch on the death of his wife, Sara

## YAHRTZEITS

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. 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	Yahrzeit
Serene Rein	Benjamin D Leavitt
Nancy Feldman	Les Feldman
Sig Friedman	Elsie Friedman
Gail Norton	Doris Sable

Janet Kenigsberg	1-Mar
Paul Cohen	4-Mar
Rosalind Cooper	6-Mar
Susan Neusteter	8-Mar
Debbie Segal	13-Mar
Myrna Feldman	18-Mar
Cliff Shekter	21-Mar
Ann-Marie Schaffer	23-Mar
Rick Kunin	26-Mar
Dusty Kunin	27-Mar
Jack Vishner	29-Mar
Jo Legat	30-Mar

## 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.

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>CHAIR/CO-CHAIR</b>
Aesthetics	Tobey Gitelle
Art Gallery	Marcia Wiener Bev Lake
Bagel Breakfast	Mariann Katz
Book of Remembrance	Suenette Maron
Calendar & Reservations	BSTC office
Caring & Bikur Cholim	Amy Storer
Facilities & IT	Les Bakke
Facebook	Jane Gold
Finance	Ricki Letowt
Grants	Esther Levine Brill
Grounds/Landscaping	Ingeborg McDonald
Historian	Gail Sommers
Hospitality	Dawna Wheeler
Jim Click Raffle	Ed Gold
Library	Jane Gold
Long Range Planning	OPEN
Memorial Board /Yahrzeits	Joyce Finkelstein
Membership	Mike Finkelstein
Men's Club	Steve Maron
Oneg	Cris Hager
President	Josh Migdal
Programs	Mike Finkelstein
Rabbi	Norman Roman
Rewards Programs	Joyce Finkelstein
Ritual	Ruthann Shapiro
Security	Dan Galitz
Shofar	Stacy Laetsch/BSTC Office
Shopper	Judy Gehman
Sisterhood	Sue Cohen
Social Action	OPEN
Tributes	Amy Storer
Website	Stacy Laetsch/BSTC Office