

Beth Shalom Temple Center



GREEN VALLEY SHOFAR

February 2025
Vol. 30 No. 2

President's Message

First, I'd like to thank all the past board members—I have enjoyed working with you and appreciate all you have done. Congratulations to the new board members, and I look forward to your work on the board.

As my address at the Annual Meeting showed, it was a very busy year. Thanks to the Rabbi, Stacy Laetsch, all the committees, their chairs, and committee members. Thanks also to Olga Rodriguez and Dan Laetsch, too, for their wonderful work for BSTC.

I'm sure This year will be just as busy. We have such talent at BSTC, and I look forward to new and returning members continuing to bring their gifts and expertise to our committees. As of this writing, we still need a Hospitality Chair and a Ritual Committee Chair. Hopefully, this will be old news by the time you read this. The coming months will be busy, and I look forward to seeing you at the many exciting events.

It is with great joy that we learn of some of the hostages being released. I hope their integration back into society goes smoothly and well. I continue to look forward to more hostages being released, as well as, while sad, the release of the bodies of hostages so that families can finally know what has happened and can bury their dead. Having said this, I continue to pray for the safety of Israel and the United States.

I shall pass this way, but once. Therefore, let me do what little I can now since I will not pass this way again.

Let us continue this incredible journey together,

Esther Levine Brill

President, BSTC, Board of Directors

(See Rabbi's Message this month on page 5.)

Treasurer's Message

As Treasurer of BSTC, I first would like to thank you for your past generosity. We couldn't have had a successful Torah Campaign or Gala event without you. However, I would like to have a heart-to-heart talk with you.

BSTC has been running at a deficit every year since I have been a member (six years) of between \$65,000 and \$75,000. The cost of everything has increased each year and the amount of the BSTC deficit also increased.

Currently our dues cover only slightly more than one-third of our expenses. To bridge the gap, we've relied on withdrawals from our brokerage account. While market gains have helped cushion these withdrawals, it is clear that if we continue on this path, BSTC will be bankrupt in 7 to 10 years.

The budget we have created for this year, while not an austerity budget, has been created with reality in mind. This year, we got the budget deficit down to \$57,000. We are used to a certain level of services that we don't want to eliminate. Supporting the building itself is not reducible – and our building is getting old so will require more upkeep than in the past.

Given that significant expense reductions are not feasible, we must look at ways to increase our income. We have raised the dues only twice in the last six years; by 20% and 12%. Our Bylaws say the Board can increase dues 20% each year without approval of the majority of the congregation. Therefore, raising dues will help a little, but not solve our problem

(Continued on page 4)

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	Joshua Migdal
Treasurer	Ricki Letowt
Secretary	Amy Storer
At Large	Mike Finkelstein
At Large	Beverly Lake
At Large	Harry Segal
At Large	Laurie Sherman
At Large	To Be Appointed

In This Issue:

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Editor: Stacy Laetsch

This is the February issue of the Shofar. The Green Valley Shofar newsletter is being published monthly, electronically only. Go to: bstc.us to view and print current and archived volumes.

Subscriptions can be ordered from the office with a small donation towards printing and postage.

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
- ◆ 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 to submit Shofar copy is the 25th of the month prior to the publication date.

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 Susan Flemming: **thank you to:** Mike Finkelstein for playing trumpet at her husband's memorial service.
- ♦ From Beth Gansky: **in honor of:** Marcia Wiener and Mitzvah Day.
- ♦ From Gary & Toi Melton: **condolences to:** Tom Clancy on the death of his wife, Gloria Clancy.
- ♦ From Dan & Marge Galitz: **condolences to:** Tom Clancy on the death of his wife, Gloria Clancy.
- ♦ From Dan & Marge Galitz: **condolences to:** Kay Sobol on the death of her husband, Merle Sobol.
- ♦ From Esther & Ed Brill: **wishing improved health to:** Laurence & Helene Feldman.
- ♦ From Esther & Ed Brill: **healing thoughts:** Sue Cohen, Laurie Sherman, Rabbi & Lynne Roman, and Howard Cohn.
- ♦ From Esther & Ed Brill: **in memory of:** Stuart Tobin, Merle Sobol, and Gloria Clancy.
- ♦ From Laura & John Unger: **healing thoughts to:** Sue Cohen.

YAHREZITS

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
Holli Madsen	For her Father	David Bandy
Bobbie & Jack Vishner	For their family	



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
SAT	2/1/25	10am	Torah Study on Zoom ONLY
SUN	2/2/25	10am	Bagel Breakfast co-sponsors: <i>The Finkelsteins & The Brills</i>
TUE	2/4/25	10am	Adult Education on Zoom: Book of Joshua – Part 3
WED	2/5/25	10am	BSTC Book Club
FRI	2/7/25	7pm	Friday Night Shabbat Service
SAT	2/8/25	10am	Torah Study on Zoom ONLY
MON	2/10/25	10am	Therapy Doll Project at BSTC
TUE	2/11/25	10am	Sisterhood Meeting
WED	2/12/25	9am	Men's Club Meeting
SAT	2/15/25	10am	Saturday Shabbat Service
SUN	2/16/25	2pm	Speaker James Ertel at BSTC on How A.I. Works
TUE	2/18/25	10am	Sisterhood: Print Making Workshop
THU	2/20/25	10:30a	Social Action Committee mtg
FRI	2/21/25	9:30a	Program Committee mtg on Zoom
FRI	2/21/25	7pm	Friday Night Shabbat Service
SAT	2/22/25	10am	Torah Study on Zoom ONLY
SUN	2/23/25	2pm	Guided Labyrinth Tour
MON	2/24/25	10am	BSTC Board Meeting
SAT	3/1/25	10am	Torah Study on Zoom ONLY
SUN	3/2/25	10am	Bagel Breakfast <i>Sponsor: Gary & Toi Melton</i>

RECOMMENDED: Please check the Active Calendar on the BSTC website (bstc.us) for any updates.

unless the congregation approves a major jump in dues. This is not desirable.

So what can we do?

- ♦ **Grants.** We have received grants for security purposes and High Holiday Expenses in the past. Forming a committee focused on this effort could yield meaningful results.
- ♦ **Fundraisers.** Our Dine and Laugh Gala raised over \$22,000 for which we are very grateful. Smaller events of the Program Committee have raised money. However, we need to increase both the frequency and scale of our fundraising events.
- ♦ **Donations.** Many of our members have donated, throughout the years, with Tributes, the Book of Remembrance listings, and other miscellaneous donations. Your support has been invaluable. Much of the money in our brokerage account has come from bequests – a crucial safety net. However, we cannot and should not rely on bequests based on people dying and leaving us money.

The path forward:

A challenge we face is that many of our members are seasonal residents and remain committed to their synagogues 'back home' dividing their support. We understand and respect these ties, but ask you to also consider the importance of sustaining BSTC. Imagine if each of us contributed \$18 (or more) a few times each year – perhaps as a tribute in honor of a yahrzeit, the birth of a grandchild, or a milestone birthday or anniversary. These small, heartfelt donations would collectively make a significant impact on our synagogue's long-term stability.

We need your help. Together, through grants, fundraisers, and increased member support, we can secure the future of BSTC for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued dedication and generosity.

Ricki Letowt
BSTC Treasurer



MESSAGE FROM RABBI NORM

The Jewish Election in 2025

Are you a Zionist? Do you believe that there needs to be a safe, democratic, pluralistic and strong State of Israel - and that Israel can serve as a significant, inspiring source of Jewish spirit, pride, innovation and hope throughout the Diaspora (the Jewish communities outside of the State)?

The World Zionist Congress (WZO), meeting every five years, is an elected body of delegates from Israel and the World, making important decisions and enacting policies that impact more than One Billion Dollars in spending. Although much of the financial disbursement is in Israel itself, the rest of the Jewish world benefits through education and direct services provided to metropolitan areas, institutions, support-agencies, and programs for Aliyah (immigration).

Since October 7, 2023 sadly, we have all seen how what happens in Eretz Yizrael impacts all of us. Anti-Semitism is at extremely high levels around the globe, and, in Israel itself, there are struggles to maintain the integrity and character of the Jewish soul in everyday living. The next chapters of Jewish history will be written in this decade - and we, even those of us in Green Valley, Arizona, can influence the story.

In my opinion (and the effort to which I will be dedicating my time and energy), we will need to support those delegate-slates that affirm our belief in Israel's democratic, pluralistic, and forward-looking core; that welcome equal rights for women, Jews by Choice, and LGBTQ persons; and provide proper funding, authenticity and recognition for Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist and Renewal clergy and congregations.

The 39th "Parliament of the Jewish People" will be held in October 2025, but voting for delegates will be open March 10th - May 4th. To be eligible to vote in this campaign, you must be Jewish (under the definition of our Community), be at least 18 years of age, be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent U.S. resident, and affirm your commitment to the "Jerusalem Program" (cf *The Jerusalem Program* at the website www.arm.org). I will be leading a discussion of this and additional information about the World Zionist Congress in the Spring.

The fee to register and vote is \$5 per person, which

goes solely to cover the cost of the international election. Voting will be done primarily online but paper ballots will be available by request.

Please watch for additional details, and I will share important updates as the Election itself approaches. If you are so moved and wish to help me in coordinating a larger turnout or recruiting others to vote as well, please let me know!

Praying for Shalom 'Al Yisrael.

Rabbi Norm Roman



MEMBER DIRECTORY UPDATES

The 2025 Membership Directory will be posted on the password-protected page of the website after the Annual Meeting.

Please let the office know if you move, or change any of your contact information.

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

- ♦ **New members:** Holli & Andy Madsen
Green Valley, AZ 85614
- ♦ **New member:** Caroline Weintraub
Green Valley, AZ 85614

BOARD NOTES

The Annual Meeting and Board Elections were on Monday, January 27th at 2pm.

Officers were elected at an executive session immediately following adjournment of the meeting. Due to candidate Gloria Clancy passing away just before the election, one seat is open for appointment.

(Continued on page 6)

The 2025 Board of Directors is as follows:

President	<i>Esther Levine Brill</i>
Vice President	<i>Joshua Migdal</i>
Treasurer	<i>Ricki Letowt</i>
Secretary	<i>Amy Storer</i>
At Large	<i>Mike Finkelstein</i>
At Large	<i>Beverly Lake</i>
At Large	<i>Harry Segal</i>
At Large	<i>Laurie Sherman</i>
At Large	<i>(Awaiting Appointment)</i>

TEMPLE TIDINGS

MEMBERS PASSING

BSTC has lost another member, Past President and Temple Historian, Gloria Clancy. Gloria was running for her Board seat again. Please see the Historian's section of this newsletter for some details about her life. May her memory be a blessing.

COMMITTEE NEWS

ART GALLERY

The exhibit on display beginning January 23rd through March 6th is "Off the Walls" of BSTC member, Beverly Lake as she is sharing more of her personal collection.

Marcia E. Wiener

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 information.

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? **THIS CHAIR IS OPEN.** 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 or chair this committee, please contact President Esther Levine Brill.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee will focus on communicating both in direct membership and public campaigns. All BSTC members with an interest in participating are welcome to join. Chair Laurie Sherman has shared the following poem and image.



Anne Frank, too?

They aimed their malice
at a house of memory,

a place where a young girl's voice
still lingers—soft, yet defiant—

in rooms where hope once pushed back the dark.

(Continued on page 7)

The Anne Frank House—
more than stone, it holds a story
my father brought to life for me
when I was eleven, wide-eyed and silent,
walking through narrow halls,
holding close to him, to her.

I remember the wallpaper's texture,
the dim light brushing her window.
"Look, Peter, the sky..." she wrote—
and in that heartbeat, I felt her wonder,
her fragile hope carved into that hidden space.

Years later, my father sent me a poem,
a reminder to live fully,
to carry Anne's unyielding spirit,
to do good.

I still hear his voice in those words, steady,
urging me forward, her resilience a guide.

So when hatred cast shadows on those walls,
crude shapes reaching through time,
it felt as if malice dared us to forget
the promise we swore to hold.

What cruelty drives a hand to tarnish
the very space where resilience breathed,
where freedom was inked in trembling script,
each line is a testament to hope
defying erasure?

It is not just stone that bears witness—
but hearts that know the cost of silence,
the sting of indifference passed down like a shadow
we strive to shatter.

Yet the house stands—
a steadfast guardian, unbroken by storms.

For every act of darkness, a lamp kindled—
by those who remember, who refuse to let hate
claim
even a corner of what is sacredly kept.

And so I, too, hold that eternal light,
carry it forward—
a flame shared, a promise unbroken,
through a voice that chooses
to face the dark and stand.

Laurie Shane Sherman 2024

GRANTS

The following message appeared in the last Shofar and is being repeated due to its importance. Please consider participating on this committee.

At December's board meeting, the Board voted to establish a **Grants Committee** to help secure funding for Beth Shalom Temple Center's vital programs and initiatives. This is an exciting opportunity to make a meaningful impact, and we're seeking a chairperson and members to help lead this effort.

Initially, the committee will focus on:

- Identifying grant opportunities that align with our temple's mission and goals.
- Writing grants and learning and teaching ourselves and other members how to write grants effectively.
- Learning how and where to do grant research.
- Securing funding to support our temple's programming, improvements, and outreach.

This work is critical to ensuring our community's continued growth and success. While the responsibility is important, the time commitment is manageable—just a few hours each month to meet, collaborate, and work on applications.

No prior experience is necessary—training and resources will be provided. However, if you do have experience, we'd love to have your expertise on board! Enthusiasm, dedication, and a willingness to learn are all you need to get started.

If you're interested in chairing or joining the committee or would like more information, don't hesitate to contact the temple office or directly to Esther Levine Brill, Beth Shalom Temple Center's Board President.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to support BSTC in an impactful way. We look forward to hearing from you!

Warm regards,
Esther Levine Brill
President, Beth Shalom Temple Center

HISTORIAN

Gloria Etta Clancy



Gloria Etta Clancy, a beloved member and Past President of the Beth Shalom Temple Center, and a devoted advocate for others, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 12, 2025, at the age of 85.

Born on March 10, 1939, Gloria spent her life caring for those in need. As a pediatric nurse practitioner specializing in neonatal intensive care, she brought expert care and compassion to countless families during their most critical moments. Her work in the NICU saved and shaped lives, reflecting her profound dedication to nurturing others.

Gloria's contributions to Beth Shalom Temple Center were equally impactful. A long-time member, she served as temple president, an active board member, and our dedicated historian, preserving the rich legacy of our community. Her commitment to service was unwavering—Gloria was even running for re-election to the temple board, determined to help guide our future.

Despite her illness, Gloria actively participated in temple life. She rehearsed enthusiastically for this year's Hanukkah Spiel and regularly visited the library to organize historical photographs, preserving our shared history. Though she was unable to perform in the Spiel, her love for the temple shone brightly in all she did. Gloria's enthusiasm, leadership, and selflessness were an inspiration to us all.

Gloria is survived by her devoted husband, Tom Clancy, and their family in Green Valley, who brought her immense pride and joy.

A memorial service was held at Beth Shalom Temple Center on Wednesday, January 15, 2025. Donations in Gloria's memory may be made to *Youth on Their Own* (YOTO) to honor her lifelong dedication to the well-being of others and her enduring impact on our community.

May Gloria's memory be a blessing, and may her legacy of compassion, service, and resilience continue to inspire us all.

HOSPITALITY

Bagel Breakfasts are on the first Sunday of each month at 10am. February's event is co-sponsored by Mike & Joyce Finkelstein and Esther & Ed Brill in celebration of Mike and Esther's birthdays.

To ensure there is adequate food and that enough tables are set up, **the Hospitality Committee has reinstated its policy that all food events MUST HAVE YOUR RSVP by the Monday prior to the event and YOUR CHECK IS YOUR RESERVATION. Policy takes effect as of the March Bagel Breakfast.**

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

JIM CLICK RAFFLE

The 2025 Jim Click Raffle has not yet been announced, but details are expected this month.

BSTC raised \$1050 in the 2024 raffle. THANK YOU to all who participated!

LIBRARY

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

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Welcome to new members, Holli & Andy Madsen!
Holli and Andy are snowbirds from Idaho. Holli's parents were very active at BSTC, where her mother, Cyrel Bandy, was temple president. She represents one of a number of new members whose parents had belonged to BSTC.

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.

MEN'S CLUB

- ♦ The Men's Club meets at El Patio Restaurant at 9am on the second Wednesday of each month.
- ♦ The Men's Club will be **collecting pre-flattened cardboard** (NO pizza boxes, bank statements, etc.) to benefit the Sahuarita Food Bank **QUARTERLY on Bagel Breakfast Sundays in April, July and October.**

PROGRAMS

Program News:

- ♦ The Tucson Jewish Film Festival visited BSTC on Wednesday, January 22nd, with a program of selected short movies.
- ♦ The Program Committee plans to offer three monthly movies on Sundays at 2pm, starting in March. The first movie will be "White Bird" starring Helen Mirren. We plan for discussion time after each film.
- ♦ Pat Shearer spoke about his experiences in Ukraine at BSTC at 2pm on Wednesday, January 29th. Pat was an honoree at the recent 30th Anniversary Gala, and was recognized for his incredible efforts to help those in Ukraine since the Russian invasion.
- ♦ On Sunday, February 16th at 2pm, James Ertel will speak on How A.I. Works: How it evolved in just two years and is already integrated into our daily lives.
- ♦ On Sunday, February 23rd at 2pm, we will have a guided walk through BSTC's Labyrinth with Ami Sarasvati, a trained facilitator. She will offer ceremonial flute music playing during the walk.

JOIN US AT BSTC ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH AT 2PM

HOW AI WORKS

*How it Evolved in Just 2 Years
& Is Integrated in Our Daily Lives*

James Ertel was born and grew up in the Midwest and lived in many locations around the world, the past 15 years in Green Valley, AZ. He served in the United States Army Honor Guard at Fort Myer/Arlington Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, and then spent the next 33+ years working for the Bell System/AT&T/Bell Labs/Lucent Technologies. Upon retirement he went back to college and got a graphic design degree. For the past 25 years he's done free graphic design for many commercial and local 501(c)(3) organizations. He has interest in computers, volunteers with several local organizations, and is a member of Edwards Racing Team, which has multiple motorcycle Land Speed Records at Bonneville Salt Flats.

- ◆ Plans are being developed for a spring celebration commemorating Rabbi Roman's 50th anniversary in the rabbinate.
- ◆ Our Dine & Laugh Gala fundraiser in November 2024 was a lot of work but yielded a significant return for BSTC. This year we hope to put on smaller but more frequent events, and ask all members to support the temple by helping plan and by attending these events. Ten members met in mid-January at a Fundraising Brainstorm session. Among the promising ideas for 2025 are: pasta dinners; a "Taste of the Temple" where members bring their families' favorite meals; entertainment by the Tucson Klezmer group; and entertainment by a high school Mariachi group.

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

and Jim Cole graciously purchased the "Renew Your Marriage Vows" ceremony offered by Rabbi Norm. They then asked Rabbi to make the opportunity available to anyone in the Community who wished to affirm and sanctify their relationship.

So, Rabbi Norm will be at BSTC on Sunday morning, February 16th, from 10am to 12pm, for any of you who wish to stop in, stand under a chuppah, renew your vows, and be blessed in a brief ritual. (If that date is not convenient for you, please feel free to contact Rabbi to arrange an alternate time/place.)

Mid-February this year is also the time in the Jewish calendar of T"u B'Shevat, the 15th of Shevat—the "new year of the trees", planting time for new life and renewing love. It will be especially appropriate to celebrate this way!

Thanks again to Bonnie and Jim Cole for making this possible!

Please join us for a Guided Labyrinth Walk

February 23, 2025 2 pm

Please join us for a facilitated walk in the Labyrinth at Beth Shalom Temple. Ami Sarasvati, a trained facilitator through Veriditas, will start with a brief orientation of the Labyrinth. During the walk, she will play Native flutes in ceremony.

Finger Labyrinths will be available so you can have an inward journey right where you sit.

Following the walk, as an optional add-on, we will move into the hall, and Ami will guide you once again through another kind of experience. You will be given journaling prompts crafted to help you capture your experience and get deeper insights into your walk in the Labyrinth. If you are going to attend the group journaling, please come with a journal and writing instrument.

The event will start at 2 pm on February 23, 2025. We will first gather at the Labyrinth and then move into the hall as a group. Depending on the size of the group, we will head into the hall and conclude around 3:30 pm.

Here is an invitation to reflect on something in your life and let the ancient and mysterious experience of the Labyrinth give you a time and a place to go within.

Any questions can be directed to
Registration?



Ami Sarasvati,
facilitator and
therapeutic musician

ADULT EDUCATION SERIES

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Tuesdays 1/21, 1/28, and 2/4.

10:00-11:15 a.m. on ZOOM

Joshua is the first Book in the 2nd section of the Hebrew Bible, known as Nevi'im, Prophets. In the words of the late British Biblical Scholar, Rabbi Dr. H. Freedman: these books "do more than relate events in the early history of Israel; they also, and perhaps primarily, underline the doctrine that God and Israel are linked by a covenant, upon the faithful observance of which the National existence depend- ed".

Come join us as we read, discuss, and are inspired by the history, challenges and experiences our people encountered as they entered the Promised Land.

"A TIME TO MOURN"

Our Wisdom Literature, in the Book of Ecclesiastes, reminds us that life consists of finding the "time to weep and a time to laugh, time to mourn and time to dance, a time to cry and time to laugh". The human condition, as well, reminds us that we need a place and community in which we can openly and safely do all those things.

This invitation is overdue and sadly, it is needed

Programs with Rabbi Norm:

RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS

At our recent Dine & Laugh Gala Fundraiser, Bonnie

more than ever:

BSTC and the Green Valley Jewish Community have members who are hurting, grieving, and feeling alone. Especially in light of Rabbi Roman's call for "Sacred Aging" as a theme for this year, we need to respond to and support our friends who have lost spouses or partners, or are facing the inevitability of that reality sooner rather than later.

If you are interested, or know someone Jewish who might be interested or in need, please let Rabbi or the Office know. Within the next few weeks, we will try to arrange for an informal get-together, a support-group atmosphere that might lead to ongoing opportunities for sharing.

MAZEL TOV! In addition to 2025 marking the 50th anniversary of his Rabbinic Ordination, Rabbi Norm Roman will be elected in January to become First Vice-President and President-Elect of the North American Association of Retired Reform Rabbis (NAORRR). Yashar Koach!

REWARD PROGRAMS

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

FRY'S COMMUNITY REWARD PROGRAM

1. Visit 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.

RITUAL

The Chair of this committee is open.

Upcoming service dates are as follows:

- ♦ **Friday, February 7th—7pm**
Friday Night Shabbat Service
- ♦ **Saturday, February 15th—10am**
Saturday Shabbat Service
- ♦ **Friday, February 21st—7pm**
Friday Night Shabbat Service

SECURITY

"If you see something, say something!"

The new Security Chair is Josh Migdal. Please contact Josh with any security questions or concerns.

BSTC Security

SISTERHOOD

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

The Sisterhood Membership Paid-up Dessert event was held on Tuesday, January 21st, honoring BSTC President Esther Brill.

SOCIAL ACTION

The Social Action Committee meets monthly the 3rd Thursday of the month from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the temple. We also have a Zoom option for our meetings. Please consider joining our committee. If you would like to receive meeting reminders please let me know.

Food donations are always needed but are needed even more at this time of year. Please consider bringing non-perishable food items to the temple as often as possible. Men's Club, Sisterhood, Services, Bagel Breakfast are wonderful opportunities to drop off a donation.

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The most needed items are cereal, peanut butter, instant rice or potatoes, beans, regular rice, canned soup, canned veggies, canned meat or fish, mac & cheese, canned tomato products, and soup packets that only require hot water.

The Social Action Committee is also working with the Santa Cruz Valley Methodist Church to collect pet food for the women who use the services of Sister José Women's Shelter. Their request for pet food is very specific. Kibble for small dogs and cat food. I will send out an E-Blast when the donation drive has an official start date. We plan to collect pet food on a regular basis, possibly 3-4 times a year.

Thank you and stay warm,
Connie Greenwald

TORAH STUDY

Torah Portions are included for members in the table below. Torah Study meets only via Zoom every

Saturday morning. All are welcome. The link has been emailed and does not change. Contact the office if you need it.

WEBSITE—bstc.us

There are links on the password protected page to the Board meeting minutes and financial reports, both current and archived, and **updated member contact information directories are available here**. The active calendar and on-line payment options are there, too.

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

MONTHLY TORAH PORTIONS			
Portion (Parashat)	Date	Torah	Haftarah
B'SHALLACH	Feb 7-8, 2025	Exodus 13:17-17:16	Judges 4:4-5:31
YITRO	Feb 14-15, 2025	Exodus 18:1-20:23	Isaiah 6:1-7:6
MISHPATIM	Feb 21-22, 2025	Exodus 21:1-24:18	Jeremiah 34:8-22
TERUMAH	Feb 28-Mar1, 2025	Exodus 25:1-27:19	I Kings 5:26-6:13



Art & Sandy Drucker	19-Feb
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Lynne Block	1-Feb
John Rothstein	2-Feb
Lucy Graham	5-Feb
Laurence Eason	6-Feb
Fran Gordon	8-Feb
Agi Klieger	10-Feb
Linda Alexander	13-Feb
Kent Blumenthal	13-Feb
John Evans	13-Feb
Tobey Gitelle	13-Feb
Mike Finkelstein	14-Feb
Esther Brill	14-Feb
Bill Liebson	17-Feb
Hermine Router	17-Feb
Judy Berlin Clifford	21-Feb
Andrew Katz	25-Feb



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 and postage to: BSTC, PO Box 884, Green Valley AZ 85622 and put "Shofar" on the memo line.

COMMITTEE	CHAIR/CO-CHAIR
Aesthetics	Tobey Gitelle
Art Gallery	Marcia Wiener
Art Gallery (co-chair)	Bev Lake
Bagel Breakfast	Mariann Katz
Book of Remembrance	Suenette Maron
Calendar & Reservations	BSTC office
Caring	CHAIR OPEN (interim Esther Brill)
e-Scrip	Joyce Finkelstein
Facilities & IT	Les Bakke
Facebook	Jane Gold
Finance	Ricki Letowt
Historian	Gail Sommers
Hospitality	CHAIR OPEN
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
Oneg	Cris Hager
President	Esther Levine Brill
Programs	Mike Finkelstein
PR/Communications	Laurie Sherman
Rabbi	Norman Roman
Ritual	CHAIR OPEN
Security	Josh Migdal
Shofar	BSTC Office
Shopper	Judy Gehman
Sisterhood	Sue Cohen
Social Action	Connie Greenwald
Tributes	CHAIR OPEN (interim Esther Brill)
Website	BSTC Office