

President's Message

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Vol. 24 No. 1

"This is your Life"

Ten years ago, what kept going through my mind was, "It's almost over." Dan Meredith used to sing that out on Monday Night Football games, when a team overpowered their opponent and no longer had a chance to win the game. At that time, I thought I was sitting on top of the world, but suddenly the economy fell apart, the banks stopped lending money, and my successful contracting business died. Kay said to me, "It's over, time to move to Arizona."

We left snowy Ohio and drove out to visit family in Green Valley for a two-month vacation. While there, we attended a BSTC Bagel Breakfast. That morning I discovered something that Cyrel Bandy, past BSTC President, (may she rest in peace), always preached was so true. "Beth Shalom Temple Center is the 'Miracle in the Desert'". Everyone was so welcoming, we came away thinking, what a great place to retire. We felt we are with our extended family.

"Life became great again"

As President of BSTC my favorite moments are when the Synagogue is filled with life, with sounds of praying, singing and laughter filling the building. My favorite message to the membership is "Let's Pray, Play, and take care of each other." For me, belonging to a synagogue not only means having a place to worship and celebrate lifecycle events, but also having a sense of community and a connection to my Jewish Heritage. BSTC has been that community to me, and when I walk in the door, I am at home.

One of my goals during my three terms as President was to inspire members to want to fully participate in the life of this Congregation. We have many extraordinary and meaningful activities, social and religious.

Thank you for this great honor. It has been a wonderful, spiritually uplifting experience for me. I have received so much more from our congregation than I have given.

Thank you to all the Officers and Board Members who worked so tirelessly with me: Ruthann Shapiro—vice president, Jo Legat—treasurer, and Board Directors: Steve Abrahams, Ruth Barwick, Michael Benisch, Mike Finkelstein, Jane Gold, and Ingeborg McDonald.

A special Thank You to all the Committee Chairmen that helped make 2017 and 2018 so successful: Tobey Gitelle, Marcia Wiener, Ingeborg McDonald, Suenette Maron, Michael Benisch, Michel Kouhana, Amy Storer, Jo Legat, Danielle Wernick, Joyce Finkelstein, Jane Gold, Karen and Eric Rautenberg, Gloria Clancy, Sonny Foigelman, Linda Stein, Ed and Esther Brill, Ruthann and Sid Shapiro, Ruth Barwick, Kay Sobol, Dan Galitz, Sue Cohen, Charlotte Brody, Lenny Friedman, Michael Gervan, Genie Gordon, Les Bakke, Steve Maron, and Gary Melton.

A special, special Thank You to our wonderful BSTC employees: Stacy, Leonard and Mary.

An Unbelievable THANK YOU to the person that is, in my opinion, responsible for making everything that makes BSTC so great: Margaret Bierd.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF MY BETH SHALOM FAMILY for being my extended FAMILY.

Lets all Pray, Play and take care of each other,

Merle Sobol, President

GREEN VALLEY SHOFAR

The Official Newsletter of Beth Shalom Temple Center

1751 N. Rio Mayo

Green Valley, AZ 85614

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www.bstc.us

President	Merle Sobol
VP	Ruthann Shapiro
Treasurer	Jo Legat
At Large	Steve Abrahams
At Large	Ruth Barwick
At Large	Michael Benisch
At Large	Mike Finkelstein
At Large	Jane Gold
At Large	Ingeborg McDonald

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Co-Editors: Jane Gold & Genie Gordon

This is the January/February issue of the Shofar. The
Shofar is published 6 times a year: Jan/Feb, March/

April, May/June, July/Aug, Sept/Oct, and Nov/Dec.

NEWSLETTER SUPPORT STAFF: Ingeborg McDonald,

Mike Finkelstein, Stacy Laetsch

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.

SENDING IN CHECKS TO BSTC

If you are sending in a check to BSTC (not using our website to pay, either by PayPal or credit card) *make sure your check as well as the envelope indicates the program/event* for which you are paying.

MAIL TO THE TEMPLE

To expedite delivery, any <u>mail sent to the temple</u> should be addressed to: **P.O. Box 884, Green Valley, AZ 85622**. Sending mail to the Rio Mayo address may result in a delay. To expedite delivery <u>please</u> include the name of the person you wish to contact on the front of the envelope.

For information on the *Memorial Board* and *Yahr-zeits* contact Joyce Finkelstein by phone or by email.

For information on *Tributes or Commemorative* items, contact the BSTC office.

For information on the *Green Valley Cemetery*, please call Ingeborg McDonald.

TEMPLE USAGE SCHEDULING

Before scheduling a program, please contact Ruth Barwick. This will help to avoid scheduling conflicts. To include your program in the Shofar calendars, please notify the Shofar editor.

Not all scheduled events are included in the Shofar. Deadline for Shofar copy is the 8th of the month prior to the publication date.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Friday, Jan. 4, 7 p.m., **Friday Night Shabbat Services** led by the BSTC Men's Club followed by Oneg

Saturday, Jan. 5, 9:30 a.m., Torah Study

Sunday, Jan. 6, **Fish Sponsored Bagel Breakfast** 9:30 Michael G. on piano, 10 a.m. breakfast begins, followed immediately by a Social Action Committee Program featuring Carlos Galindo-Evira, the Southwest Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League.

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 10 a.m., Sisterhood meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 6:30 p.m., Ritual Committee meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 9 a.m., Men's Club meeting at El Patio

Saturday, Jan. 12, 9:30 a.m., Torah Study

Tuesday, Jan. 15, 11:45 a.m. Sisterhood Paid Up Luncheon

Friday, Jan. 18, 7 p.m., Services led by the Mussmans followed by Oneg

Saturday, Jan. 19, 9:30 a.m., Torah Study

Monday, Jan. 21, 9 a.m., Board Study Session

Monday, Jan. 21, 10 a.m. to noon, **Sisterhood Haddassah Doll Sewing Project**

Thursday, Jan. 24, 4:30 p.m., Social Action Committee meeting at BSTC

Saturday, Jan. 26, 9:30 a.m., Torah Study

Monday, Jan. 28, 2 p.m., **ANNUAL MEETING AND BOARD ELECTIONS**—**Members must have paid their 2019 annual membership dues by this time in order to vote.**

Friday, Feb. 1, 7 p.m., Shabbat Services followed by Oneg

Saturday, Feb. 2, 9:30 a.m., Torah Study

Sunday, Feb. 3, **Bagel Breakfast** 9:30 Michael G. on piano, 10 a.m. breakfast begins

Tuesday, Feb. 5, 6:30 p.m., Ritual Committee meeting

Saturday, Feb. 9, 9:30 a.m., Torah Study

Tuesday, Feb. 12, 10 a.m., Sisterhood meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 9 a.m., Men's Club meeting at El Patio

Thursday, Feb. 14, 10 a.m. to noon, **Sisterhood Haddassah Doll Sewing Project**

Friday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m., **Friday Night** *Shabbat* **Services** led by the Mussmans followed by Oneg

Saturday, Feb. 16, 9:30 a.m., Torah Study

Monday, Feb. 18, 9 a.m., Board Study Session

Monday, Feb. 25, 10 a.m., BSTC Board Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 28, 4:30 p.m., **Social Action Committee meeting** at BSTC



COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS:

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

- Memorial 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 Beth Shalom Temple Center) to BSTC, Attention "Memorial Board" or "Tree of Life," etc. Order forms can be found in the Temple foyer.

TRIBUTES

Do you need to send a greeting card? Do you want to support your Temple? Here's a great way to do both. At present, this chair is OPEN. Normally, the volunteer chairing the committee will mail a personalized card to whomever you choose. Here's how:

Send your Tribute request and free-will offerings to:

Beth Shalom Temple Center

P.O. Box 884

Green Valley, AZ 85622

(mark "Tributes" on the envelope and check memo line!)

If ordering several Tributes at the same time, print the birthday/anniversary page of the Shofar, check off the names of those you'd like to designate for Tribute(s), and mail it in with your check. Tributes may be sent with your own personal greeting for birthdays, anniversaries, get well, condolences, best wishes for the new home, in appreciation, mazel tov, and sympathy upon loss of a pet, etc.

YAHRZEITS

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 at mfinkel2@cox.net (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:

Date	Remembered by	For His/Her	Yahrzeit
31-Oct	Ina Gravitz	Uncle	Mordy Feuer
14-Nov	Serene Rein	Father	Benjamin David Leavitt
14-Nov	Gail Norton	Daughter	Kelly Kern
28-Nov	Gail Norton	Mother	Doris Sable
3-Dec	Sid Shapiro	Brother	Irwin Shapiro
6-Dec	Ted Walden	Mother	Sadie Wofsoniker

MEMBER NEWS & UPDATES

Please Welcome BSTCs Newest Members:

Gary Friedman
Sig Friedman
Emanuel Shaham & Nancy Puckett
Ricki Letowt
Fern Wargotz-Blizzard
Harriet Ayer
Gene Nudelman & Linda Alexander
Simie Bayless
David Levy & Wendee Wallach-Levy

Note: Soon after membership renewals are finished, BSTC publishes a directory. If you never got one contact Mike Finkelstein, or the BSTC office. Please remember that for the most up to date addresses, phone numbers and emails, check our website and notices of changes in the Shofar. A 2019 directory will be published following the Annual Meeting.

NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES Fern Wargotz-Blizzard

I basically am a nice Jewish girl born in Ohio and raised in New Jersey. I have lived all over the country but Green Valley is my favorite place to live thus far. I have 2 adult daughters; Erica and Jessica living in Los Angeles, and a life Partner by the name of James.

I have a 13 year old dog whom we love dearly. I am a nurse by profession and had been an Operating Room Nurse for over 25 years along with being a Medical Legal Consultant and Director of Denials and Appeals for a Shared business office serving 17 hospitals around the country. My passion is Holistic Nursing. I am board certified in Holistic Nursing and am currently obtaining post graduate certificates in Patient education, Patient advocacy and Coaching. In my past I also have managed a Jewelry store and been an elite sales person. I love people and enjoy meeting and engaging with others.

I love to cook, travel, do crafts and read. I like to build Lego projects. Movies and theater along with music are important to me. We enjoy belonging and supporting the arts and nature. I would enjoy becoming involved with the Sisterhood and the Temple.

I just began a part time job at Sprouts in their health and wellness vitamin department.

Simie Bayless

I have been a member of Temple Emanuel at Denver, Colorado and still attend their services during the High Holidays. At Beth Shalom I have enjoyed Bagel Breakfasts, the Chanukah parties, and Passover Seders.

My background is as follows: I have a Masters Degree in Communication and was a training coordinator for Denver Parks and Recreation. I also held seminars in communication for all-city employees and taught public speaking, interpersonal communication, etc. for Denver's community colleges and the Colorado State Patrol Academy.

I was always interested in science, however, and was a volunteer at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, and while in Arizona, I volunteer as a tour guide at the Smithsonian Whipple Observatory.

TEMPLE TIDINGS

Leadership Search

Originally the Leadership Search Committee wanted to release the following information as a handout at the Special Congregational Meeting on December 23rd, but based upon the questions that have been asked it was decided to be released 10 days earlier.

Reasons to hire a permanent leader to conduct ser-

Reasons to hire a permanent leader to conduct services at Beth Shalom Temple Center:

- Many of our members would like to add a regularly scheduled Saturday morning service to our twice monthly Friday night services.
 - A. Some of our members can no longer drive at night but still wish to attend a BSTC religious service.
 - B. Many of our members prefer the Saturday morning service as it includes the Torah Service, to the Friday night service which does not.
- As those members who have been leading services get older and/or move away it has been increasingly difficult to obtain new leaders. Eventually we will not be able to conduct Shabbat services.
- 3. Consistency of services. Members prefer the use of familiar melodies. Having multiple leaders leads itself to the use of unfamiliar melodies.

Members also like a consistency in the prayers that are being said, and the order in which they are said.

Reasons this leader should be an ordained professional:

Specialized workshops and adult educational programming focused on the needs of BSTC members and the public. Options include, but are not limited to:

- A. Hebrew classes for those wanting to learn or refresh.
- B. Exploration of many of the writings not included in the Torah. Current writings could also be studied.
- C. Discussions of comparative religions/ Jewish understanding of the New Testament and Koran.
- D. Jewish Life Cycle
- E. 21st Century North American Jewish Community
- F. Jewish Responses to contemporary problems
- G. Improve BSTC's standing within the Southern Arizona religious community, both Jewish and non-Jewish.
- H. Provide life cycle and counseling services to our members. Our members should not need (unless they want to) to obtain these services from non-Jewish clergy.
- I. Increase in membership as baby boomers continue to move into the area and are ac customed to having an ordained leader.

The Ritual Committee/Leadership Search Committee along with the BSTC Board is recommending the hiring of Rabbi Norman Roman to fill our needs. Rabbi Roman has over 30 years experience as a rabbi. He has also served as an adjunct instructor in Religious Studies and has worked through the Jewish Federation of Metro Detroit.

Rabbi Roman will officially begin his service to BSTC on January 1, 2020 on a one year trial basis. He will work on a part-time basis. BSTC has made a commitment to Michael and Sara Mussman for 2019, and will honor it (we are also discussing doing something for the Mussmans to show our appreciation for all they have done). Rabbi Roman also has made commitments to other organizations that he must honor.

Rabbi Roman and his wife, Lynn, currently are planning to move to the Green Valley area in early September 2019. Any work Rabbi Roman does for BSTC in 2019 will be paid on a per diem basis. BSTC has applied for a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation to cover this.

Sunday, December 23rd, BSTC will hold a special congregational meeting. The purpose of this meeting is for membership to authorize the BSTC Board of Directors to hire Rabbi Roman. All members have been invited, and are encouraged to attend. Any questions please contact Ruthann Shapiro or Merle Sobol.

A/C & Heater Thermostat Controls are LOCKED

BSTC Facilities Manager, Michael Benisch, has asked that it be announced here that the air conditioner and heater thermostats in the Sanctuary have been covered with locked boxes. This has been done to ensure the longevity of the HVAC units. Anyone who needs to have the temperature adjusted for an event, please contact Michael Benisch, or Stacy in the BSTC office 520-648-6690, so this can be done for you. Thank you!

BSTC unveils new Meditative Walking Labyrinth

An official opening ceremony, including a prayer by Rabbi Norman Roman, occurred after the Torah Study on Saturday, November 3rd.

The Blessing was as follows:

"May it be Your will, Adonai our God and God of our ancestors, that You guide all of us safely on our journeys—be they through this Labyrinth in this Holy Place or anywhere in Your world—that You lead us on our paths in peace, and that You allow us to reach our desired destinations with a renewed appreciation for life, purpose and joy. Protect us from all obstacles along our way, and bestow blessings on the work of our hands. Grant hope, graciousness, loving kindness and compassion to us, as well as to all whom we encounter along our way. Blessed are You, Adonai, You watch over us on our journeys." Here is a link to locate labyrinths, including the one here at BSTC: labyrinthlocator.com.

ONEGS

Any great Temple knows how to combine the religious and social aspects of Temple life. BSTC is one of the great Temples. At the conclusion of the Friday night service we have an Oneg Shabbat. The Saturday morning service concludes with a light Kiddush luncheon. Each gives our members the opportunity to "schmooze" while enjoying some good food. Sponsorship is only \$50. Multiple people can share the sponsorship. Both Onegs and Kiddush luncheons can be customized per the sponsors request. To sponsor an Oneg or Kiddush luncheon please contact Ruthann Shapiro.

Who to Call?

Do you need to let the congregation know about an important life event? If you have any prayer requests, or know if any of our members are sick or in the hospital, please contact Jo Legat, chair of the BSTC Caring Committee.

We Want to Hear From You

Have you noticed the Suggestion Box in the temple foyer? We are happy to hear any suggestions you may have. It could be about new adult education classes, new clubs, services, the way present clubs, committees or classes work, or anything else you want to suggest. You need not sign your name to your suggestion.

NOTE: The Suggestion Box is currently being used as the Ballot Box for the upcoming Annual Meeting and Board Elections, but will return to being the Suggestion Box following that meeting.

Memorial Tablet Space

Perhaps you have noticed that our three Memorial Tablets are getting full. Many members are choosing to remember their loved ones with the purchase of nameplates that are mounted on the Tablets. As you may notice, the bottom of each Tablet bears an

inscription of the donor.

The Temple Board is investigating the purchase of an additional Memorial Tablet, the cost of which is approximately \$8000. Would you like to memorialize a loved one in this special way? By donating the cost of the Tablet, you may choose an appropriate inscription to be placed at the bottom of the Tablet to remember your loved one.

If you would like to discuss making this generous donation, please contact Joyce Finkelstein.

Torah Study

We are fortunate again this year to have Rabbi Miri Fleming and Michael Mussman leading Torah Studies on an alternating monthly basis. If you look at the calendar of events, you will note who is leading and when.

Each of these individuals adds their own perspective about the Torah to that of the participants, thus creating conversation. If you have never been to a lively Torah Study, or it's been a long time, please join us. Unless there is a Saturday service, Torah Study begins at 9:30 a.m. *Ruthann Shapiro*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ART GALLERY

The current exhibit: **Members Art Show Part II**, is on display. The artists will be present for a walk through for members and guests on January 6th at 11:30 a.m. after the Bagel Breakfast Talk. It is an opportunity to have a close up look at the art and ask questions about techniques and experiences of the artists.

On March 1, 2019 our next exhibition "Sacred Intentions" the Judaic art of Marlene Burns, representations of our prayers. You are invited to our Artist Reception on Sunday, March 3, 2019 after Bagel Breakfast. Please save the date for a special talk by Marlene Burns of Tucson, Arizona. Many thanks! *Marcia and Bev*

LIBRARY

Find the Hidden Treasures at the BSTC Library

Do you want to browse the world; check a holiday custom; read about an interesting person; or keep up with current novels? It is all here in YOUR BSTC LIBRARY.

In this backroom you can find treasures in a variety of categories. There is strong section of REFERENCE books that includes bibles, prayer books (a great source for anyone leading services); books on Jewish thought and customs for daily living as well as holidays.

Many of the films that have been shown at Meal and Reels, such as Trumbo and Spotlight are now in the AUDIO-VISUAL section for you to borrow.

We have well stocked sections on GENERAL HISTORY OF THE JEWS, a special section on AMERICAN JEWS and a large collection of books about the HOLOCAUST, several of which include vivid personal recollections.

There are several shelves containing MENS' and WOMENS' BIOGRAPHIES; highlighting everyone from Abba Eban and Ruth Bader Ginzberg to actors such as Kirk Douglas.

Short on time? Try reading from the SHORT STORY section. And, don't forget COOKBOOKS.

Keep up with current authors such as Daniel Silva and Jodi Picoult in the FICTION bookcase. Softcover versions are now in the new bookcase under the window. And remember those NEW ARRIVALS located on the book cart right as you enter the library.

BOOKS ARE A TREASURE AND BSTC HAS A WEALTH FOR YOU TO ENJOY. Linda Stein & Charlotte Brody

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

BSTC Membership is on the rise, with many new members listed in the Member News & Updates sec-

tion. All are encouraged to join committees and participate. Welcome to the BSTC Family!

Send Us Your Photographs

For those members and friends who take pictures at any of our BSTC events, please think about sharing them. We'd love to upload them to our BSTC Facebook page as well as our website photo gallery. Send them to Mike Finkelstein and cc it to Danielle Wernick. Thank you.

MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club has sold out of its allotment of 52 tickets for the upcoming **Gaslight Theater event** on March 13th at 7pm. However, if you would like to be placed on the waiting list in the event of any cancellations, or for additional information, please contact Dan Galitz.

SISTERHOOD

The Sisterhood Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at BSTC and all Sisterhood members are invited.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sisterhood Paid Up Luncheon on January 15th. Delicious luncheon served by our own Michel Kouhana. Membership renewal and new membership forms have been mailed, and RSVPs must be received by January 10th. The program for the event will be ALL ABOUT GOURDS with a guest speaker from the Green Valley Gourd Club with display pieces and examples of preparation. More local talent on display!

Hadassah Therapy Doll Sewing Project All seamstresses and stuffers welcome to our next meeting at BSTC on Monday, January 21 at 10 a.m. For five years we have made soft cloth dolls, dressed them, then sent them to either Diamond Children's Hospital in Tucson, or Hadassah Hospital in Israel. That adds up to over 250 dolls that therapists have used to help children describe and overcome their fears of hospital procedures. Please join us for this fun and very worthwhile project. We meet, sew and kibbitz

as we work. All are welcome; no experience necessary. Please RSVP to Linda.

Hamantashen Workshop on February 18th & 19th. An excuse to throw some dough around! Make dough in the BSTC kitchen for Hamantashen with Ruthann Shapiro. Then, the next day, make Hamantashen from the prepared dough with Ruthann. (Remember, it has to have time to rise!)

Happy Anniversary to:	
Mike & Joyce Finkelstein	3-Jan
Ed & Esther Brill	10-Jan
Denis & Jeanette Nathan	15-Feb
Werner & Billie Lawson	25-Feb

The next SAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday,

SOCIAL ACTION

January 24th, 2019 from 4:30-5:30 pm at BSTC. Arnie Krohn (new BSTC member) recently joined our committee, so we now have 14 members. Some of our current and future initiatives are listed below with projected dates for accomplishment: Coordination with our local Continental School District Superintendent has been completed in support of our initiative to provided much needed student school supplies for their Title 1 students at the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. Promotion of this program during several 2019 Bagel Breakfasts will hopefully secure donations for us to purchase the needed supplies by July 2019.

Our ongoing reminders for congregation members to bring in non-perishable food items for our Green Valley Food Bank donations seem to be effective as our last three months' donations (based on the weight of donated food items) have increased by five to ten pounds each month. Great job BSTC members!

Our donation drive during the November and December Bagel Breakfasts brought in \$192.00 which will be sent directly to the Tree of Life Victims and Families Account for the congregations impacted in the Pittsburgh synagogue shootings.

We have a guest speaker coming to our January SAC meeting to discuss support for immigrants at the Nogales Border crossing.

Happy Birthday to:	
Merle Sobol	3-Jan
Marilyn Forstot	4-Jan
Lenny Friedman	10-Jan
Ted Walden	10-Jan
Susan Cohen	11-Jan
Janet Brown	15-Jan
Lenore Mills	19-Jan
Ceylon Kelly	20-Jan
Barbara Kowalski	23-Jan
William Forstot	27-Jan
Michel Kouhana	6-Feb
Sig Friedman	8-Feb
Fran Gordon	8-Feb
David Roth	9-Feb
Ali Klieger	10-Feb
Linda Alexander	13-Feb
Kent Blumenthal	13-Feb
Tobey Gitelle	13-Feb
Mike Finkelstein	14-Feb
Esther Brill	14-Feb
Bill Liebson	17-Feb
Genie Gordon	28-Feb
Judy Kramer	