

# Beth Shalom Temple Center



## GREEN VALLEY SHOFAR

December 2024  
Vol. 29 No. 7



### President's Message

Welcome to December. The days seem to fly by, and I feel like I've just written my November message.

November, however, was a busy month for all of us, with a lot going on. Last weekend, we had an inspiring Friday night community dinner at the JCC. While there, as usual, we sang *Shalom Rav*, which in the siddur we use asks G-d "to grant us peace, Your most precious gift, O Eternal source of peace and give us all the will to proclaim its message to all the peoples of the earth. Bless our country as a safeguard of peace to advocate among the nations. May contentment reign within our borders and health and happiness within our homes. Strengthen the bonds of friendship and fellowship among all the inhabitants of every land. Plant virtue in every soul and may the love of Your name hallow every home and heart. Praised are you, Eternal One, who blesses our people with peace." This translation struck a chord with me as I'm sure the election is on everyone's mind, and somehow, it spoke to me in these divisive times.

Soon after the elections, we were lucky to have a break in the angst with our lovely 30th Anniversary Gala. For those who missed being there in person, you missed a wonderful time. The speeches by our honorees were beautiful and humbling, and the auction was sumptuous and varied.

Thank you very much to those who supported us by being there or donating. You indeed showed your support for BSTC. A loud and heartfelt thank you to Pat Naselow and Mike Finkelstein, co-chairs, for their tireless and unceasing efforts to make this event the standout that it was.



There is no message from Rabbi Norm this month. Please see the articles on the New Torah instead.



(President's message, continued:)

Thank you to the many volunteers who are too numerous to mention. However, I want to thank Dan Galitz for Emceeing, Connie Greenwald for housing all the donations, and her crew, who labeled everything and made up the auction sheets. To Kim Lisk, who helped coordinate with the Desert Diamond Casino, and to Laurie Sherman, who tirelessly sent out communications, populated the gala websites, arranged radio interviews, and decorated the Casino beautifully. A shout-out to John Evans as well. Marilyn Beim and Laura Unger are also thanked for overseeing the Tribute Book. Thanks also go to the volunteers who stayed from 11 to 4 on Friday and then returned on Saturday to ensure everything was perfect. In doing so, they stayed many long hours and then ran home to change. Not to miss anybody, I have not listed names, but you know who you are. I also thank the people who staffed the check-in and check-out tables and those who stayed late to clean up and pack up the leftover auction items. A huge *Yasher Koach to all, and my heartfelt thanks.*

Mitzvah Day was also a very successful event, and I want to thank Connie Greenwald, the Social Action Committee, and those who volunteered and helped out in making it so wonderful.

# 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	Gloria Clancy
At Large	Mike Finkelstein
Treasurer	Ricki Letowt
Secretary	Gary Melton
At Large	Josh Migdal
At Large	Harry Segal
At Large	Laurie Sherman
At Large	John Unger

## In This Issue:

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**Editor:** Stacy Laetsch

This is the December 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.

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](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 to submit Shofar copy is the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 Gary & Toi Melton: **mazel tov to:** our son, Jonathan Melton, on his recent marriage to Katie Schlesinger.
- ♦ From Esther Levine & Ed Brill: **healing thoughts to:** John Unger and Harry Segal as they recover from surgery.
- ♦ From Esther Levine & Ed Brill: **mazel tov to:** Gary and Toi Melton on the marriage of their son.

## 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 (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
Ruthann Shapiro	For her Mother	Evelyn Shapiro
Sig Friedman	For his Father	David Friedman
Gail Norton	For her Daughter	Kelly Kern
Serene Rein	For her Father	Benjamin David Leavitt



# 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
SUN	12/1/24	10am	Bagel Breakfast <i>sponsors: Gloria &amp; Tom Clancy</i>
WED	12/4/24	10am	BSTC Book Club
<b>FRI</b>	<b>12/6/24</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Friday Night Shabbat Service</b>
SAT	12/7/24	10am	Torah Study on Zoom ONLY
SUN	12/8/24	1pm	Rehearse Chanukah Program
SUN	12/8/24	2:30p	Art Gallery New Show Reception
TUE	12/10/24	10am	Sisterhood Meeting
WED	12/11/24	9am	Men's Club Meeting
<b>SAT</b>	<b>12/14/24</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Saturday Shabbat Service</b>
SUN	12/15/24	1pm	Rehearse Chanukah Program
THU	12/19/24	10:30a	Social Action Committee mtg
FRI	12/20/24	9:30a	Program Committee mtg on Zoom
SAT	12/21/24	10am	Torah Study on Zoom ONLY
SUN	12/22/24	1pm	Rehearse Chanukah Program
MON	12/23/24	10am	BSTC Board Meeting @BSTC
SAT	12/28/24	10am	Torah Study on Zoom ONLY
SUN	12/29/24	1pm	Dress Rehearse Chanukah Program
SUN	12/29/24	4pm	Chanukah Party (MUST RSVP)
<b>FRI</b>	<b>1/3/25</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Friday Night Shabbat Service</b>
SAT	1/4/25	10am	Torah Study on Zoom ONLY
SUN	1/5/25	10am	Bagel Breakfast

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

I hope all of you enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving, celebrating with family and friends. I know I did, *visiting with my adorable 4-year-old grandson (who calls Ed and myself Bobbie and Zeyde) and his parents. Thanksgiving itself was spent with my sisters and was shared with my nieces and great-nieces, nephews and great-nephews, my brother and brother-in-law, and the whole mishpocha of the family of all the spouses of my nieces and nephews. It was quite a celebration as we hadn't been together in a long time.*

I now want to turn to something more serious. I want to say that there is no room for hate at BSTC. People have informed me of members, making them uncomfortable in their approach to them and egregious posting on their private Facebook pages. It is different if you post on private messaging; we all have different reactions to the recent elections, and we can only hope that America will be able to stand strong in the coming days. As Voltaire said in *Candide*, in response to Pangloss's observation that "all events are linked," we "must go and work our garden."

Back to the good news. Chanukah, the festival of lights, is coming, and we look forward to celebrating the holiday with family and friends. This holiday celebrates the victory of right versus might. We hope in the coming days, we will continue to see this in our own lives. Enjoy the holiday, and I hope to see you at BSTC's very own Chanukah party. *(See the flyer and watch for eblasts.)*

*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



**SAVE THE DATE for:**

**The BSTC Annual Meeting and Board Elections**

**Monday, January 27, 2025 • 2pm @ BSTC**

***(Dues must be paid by this time  
for your vote to count!)***



## **MEMBER DIRECTORY UPDATES**

The Membership Directory is updated and posted on the password-protected page of the website whenever new information is received. ***Please let the office know if you move, or change any of your contact information.***

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

- ♦ **New member:** Elizabeth Baker  
Green Valley, AZ

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## **BOARD NOTES**

**The NEXT Board Meeting is the Annual Meeting and Board Elections, Monday, January 27th at 2pm.** Watch your mail for the packet with candidate biographies and YOUR BALLOT. Members in good standing are invited to vote on candidates for the next year's Board. Dues must be paid by 2pm that day for your vote to count.

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## **TEMPLE TIDINGS**

### **BETH SHALOM TEMPLE CENTER CELEBRATES ARRIVAL OF A NEW TORAH SCROLL**

Photo credit: Ricki Letowt

The Beth Shalom Temple Center (BSTC) in Green Valley, Arizona recently celebrated a historic and joyous Simchat Torah holiday with the arrival of a brand-new Torah scroll, a precious addition to the community. This milestone, two years in the making, was made possible through the dedicated leadership of Rabbi Norman Roman, who is marking his 50th year of ordination. Rabbi Roman spearheaded the significant fundraising efforts and handled the intricate arrangements necessary to bring the Torah to BSTC, reflecting his commitment to the congregation's spiritual vitality.

A Torah scroll, the holiest object in Judaism, contains the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, carefully handwritten on parchment by expert scribes

following centuries-old traditions. Each scroll is a unique work of art and devotion, taking approximately a year to complete. For any congregation, but for ours, BSTC, a small congregation of individuals aged 55 and older, acquiring a new Torah is very significant. It symbolizes renewal, community strength, and a continued connection to Jewish heritage.

The Simchat Torah celebration was a truly inclusive and vibrant event. Rabbi Roman led the congregation in the exciting ceremony, reading the final portion of the Torah and then beginning anew with the first portion, symbolizing the unending cycle of study and devotion. In a powerful display of unity, the entire Torah scroll was unrolled around the sanctuary, with congregants and guests carefully holding its sacred parchment.

In a remarkable show of interfaith solidarity, the celebration was also attended by many local Christian clergy and community members, who were

*(Continued on page 6)*





instrumental in supporting the Torah's acquisition. Their presence and participation underscored the shared values of faith, community, and mutual respect that define Green Valley.

President Esther Levine Brill, who led the BSTC board carrying in the new Torah, emphasized the collaborative spirit that made this achievement possible. The joyous occasion highlighted not only the strength of the Jewish community but also the support and friendship of the broader Green Valley community.

With this new Torah, BSTC has gained more than a sacred scroll—it has a precious symbol of renewal and unity, ensuring that the traditions of Judaism will continue to inspire and guide many future generations in Green Valley. Rabbi Roman's tireless efforts and the enthusiastic participation of congregants and interfaith partners alike made this event a moment of profound significance and celebration.

Beth Shalom Temple Center recently embarked on a remarkable journey, commissioning a new Torah that has drawn our small congregation closer to our faith, our heritage, and each other. This wasn't just a ritual act; it was a journey that has forever deepened our connection to Judaism, our ancestors, and our community. With fewer than 200 members—mostly seniors—many had never been part of bringing a Torah to life. This unique opportunity brought joy, reflection, and unity. Supported by our Jewish and interfaith friends, we celebrated the Torah's ar-

rival, recognizing the sacredness of this milestone and the values we share.

Often called the "Tree of Life," the Torah is the heart of Judaism. It is more than an ancient text; it is our guide to spiritual, ethical, and communal life. Canonized largely during the Jewish exile in Persia, the Torah's stories, laws, and teachings have shaped Jewish life for millennia. Through its commandments, Jews are reminded of their identity, values, and covenant with God that binds generations. Its influence extends beyond Judaism, impacting Christianity and Islam, which draw from its core messages on morality, justice, and humanity.

In commissioning this new Torah, BSTC committed to a living legacy. This wasn't a simple or quick undertaking. Raising \$75,000, a considerable sum for our modest congregation, was a testament to the dedication and love within our community. For us, this was about more than acquiring a sacred text; it was about securing our faith's continuity for future generations. This Torah will be read by our children and grandchildren, linking them to the words and values that define Jewish identity. For many of us, it was the first time being directly involved in this ancient tradition, leaving an indelible mark on our hearts and deepening our sense of belonging.

The Torah's arrival was celebrated on Simchat Torah, October 25, marking the completion and renewal of the Torah-reading cycle. Our congregation

*(Continued on page 9)*

gathered in joy, holding the Torah, reading from it, and dancing with it. This moment was transformative for many, connecting us to the Torah's wisdom and the unbroken lineage of Jews who preserved it through exile and hardship. Personally, standing with the Torah was a moment of profound connection. I felt rooted in its words, a living link in a chain that stretches back thousands of years. The Torah, in many ways, is a doorway to Judaism. It invites us to explore who we are, what we believe, and how we are called to act.

Our journey wasn't just a Jewish one. The interfaith community of Green Valley stood by us throughout this process, offering support and celebrating the Torah's arrival. They joined us not only out of friendship but because they, too, find meaning in the Torah's teachings. The Torah's values—compassion, justice, and love—are universal, speaking to people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Our interfaith friends recognized the Torah's role as a foundation for ethical teachings in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, understanding that the Jewish commitment to the Torah is also a commitment to shared values and a better world for all.

In commissioning this Torah, BSTC reaffirmed its dedication to both the Jewish community and the broader interfaith family that enriches us. Our new Torah will live as a reminder of our shared commitments, a testament to resilience and faith, and a guide for generations who will come after us. Rabbi Norman T. Roman, celebrating his 50th year of ordination, led us through this journey with wisdom and vision. Under his guidance, we have come to see that this Torah is not just a scroll—it is our collective soul, the heart of our community, and a lasting gift to those who follow.

As Jews, we believe that studying Torah brings its teachings to life, allowing each generation to uncover new meaning. This Torah has strengthened our bonds within BSTC and across our interfaith community, reminding us of our roots and connecting us to our faith more deeply. By sharing its wisdom and values, this project reaches beyond our walls, inviting all people in Green Valley—and beyond—to explore the powerful themes of justice, community, and love that the Torah embodies. It is a living legacy, a "Tree of Life" for our community, and a profound example of how faith can unite, inspire, and uplift us all.

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## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **ART GALLERY**

BETH SHALOM TEMPLE CENTER ART GALLERY  
PRESENTS

Works by Don & Josh Migdal

{Josh, member of our Temple, Don, his father}

On Display: Nov 15, 2024 through Jan 23, 2025

Please join us at an Artist Reception In the Gallery:  
Sunday, December 8th at 2:30 PM

Please join us to view the beautiful exhibition and meet Josh, and learn about his father and his art.

*Marcia E. Wiener*

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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**

#### **Communications Committee Report**

#### **EARLY OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES (2024)**

##### **• Collaborative Work with Stacy & re-thinking BSTC's *The Green Valley Shofar* newsletter:**

Discussions are ongoing to redesign the *Shofar* as a two-way communication tool, encouraging feedback and input from the community.

#### **SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED**

##### **Media Outreach:**

- Published monthly *Shofar* newsletters featuring event updates, community highlights, and announcements.

*(Continued on page 8)*

- Promoted the Gala through email campaigns, social media, and traditional media:
- Created and voiced **five 30-second radio ads** aired on local and regional stations.
- Secured mentions on local TV and radio programs.

#### **Social Media Management:**

- Managed BSTC and Gala Facebook pages:
- **Posts Created:** 50+ posts in 2024.
- **Engagement Metrics:** 15,000+ views, 1,200 reactions, 180 comments, and 90 shares.
- **Boosted Posts:** Six paid advertisements to amplify event promotions.

#### **Event Promotions:**

- **Gala:** Promoted across all platforms, leading to 250 attendees.

#### **Website Updates:**

- Regularly updated the BSTC website with event calendars, Gala highlights, and Rabbi's messages.

#### **CHALLENGES FACED**

##### **Lack of Volunteers:**

- Recruiting and retaining communications workers has been challenging. While the committee is willing to train, consistent availability is needed.

##### **Lack of Meetings:**

- No formal meetings were held this year, relying on email and individual efforts to coordinate tasks.

##### **Coordination Delays:**

- Gathering content for newsletters and promotional materials required follow-ups, occasionally causing delays.

#### **LESSONS LEARNED**

##### **Strategic Multimedia Use:**

- A combination of traditional media (radio/TV) and digital platforms (social media and newsletters) has proven highly effective for outreach.

##### **Affordable Photography:**

- Gala photos were critical in showcasing community spirit. Professional-quality photos are necessary, but professional photographers often charge \$1,000+ per event.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2024 AND 2025**

##### **Hanukkah Promotion:**

- Finalize and execute Hanukkah promotional efforts:
- Social media posts and email campaigns.
- Announcements during services and flyers at community gatherings.
- Prepare high-quality photos and a post-event write-up for submission to **GVNews** to showcase the celebration and the community spirit.
- This cost-effective option provides professional-quality photos while staying within budget constraints.
- Events could include major holidays, fundraisers, and other key milestones.

##### **Torah Promotion:**

- Create a focused campaign for Torah promotion before the end of 2024:
- Include Torah-related stories, photos, and event promotions in the *Shofar* and on social media.
- Highlight any Torah readings, studies, or special events to engage the community.

##### **Volunteer Recruitment and Training:**

- Recruit and train communications volunteers to support committee activities in 2025.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

- Execute Hanukkah promotions and finalize post-event materials for submission to **GVNews**.
- Secure Sarah Gomez for event photography in 2025 with a \$1,000 budget allocation.
- Develop materials for Torah promotions to be rolled out before the end of 2024.
- Schedule a year-end meeting to evaluate 2024 efforts and finalize 2025 goals.

##### **Laurie S. Sherman**

Chair, Communications Committee

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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. **Your reservations are appreciated!**

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## JIM CLICK RAFFLE

**The last day to buy 2024 Jim Click Raffle is at the December 1st Bagel Breakfast! 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).

*If you cannot make the bagel breakfast please contact Ed. **BSTC has raised \$625 in this year's raffle.***

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## LIBRARY

BSTC Librarian, Jane Gold, is updating the policy and procedure for use of the space and any donations.

Please contact Jane 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 new member, Elizabeth Baker!

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.

### Member Photos

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

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.
- ♦ 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 January, April, July and October.**
- ♦ The Men's Club, with the Sisterhood, will be hosting the annual **Chanukah Party on Sunday, December 29th at 4pm.** There is a charge of **\$5 per person** to cover the cost of food. Please RSVP by Monday, December 23rd. (see flyer)

The BSTC Men's Club & Sisterhood  
 Welcome BSTC Members to Celebrate Chanukah!  
***Sunday, December 29, 2024 at 4 P.M.***



**\$5 per person • Menu: Latkes • Tuna Salad • Egg Salad • Fruit Salad • Sufganiyot**  
**RSVP required 520-648-6690 by December 23rd—your check is your reservation!**

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## PROGRAMS

### Dine & Laugh GALA fundraiser program

Thank you for making the November 9 Dine & Laugh Gala Celebrating BSTC's 30th Anniversary a huge success!

By all accounts it was a glorious evening and a good moneymaker for the temple. We had about 135 people from the temple, as well as friends from around the community.

We are estimating after expenses to have over \$20,000 to hand over to the temple. It was a truly a FUN FUNDRAISER!

Many merchants and individuals made monetary donations and donated art, jewelry, and experiences for our live and silent auctions. Others purchased ads for Tribute Book, including proclamations from the Town of Sahuarita and the Green Valley Council.

Thank you to the more than 25 volunteers who made this happen!

Check many photos on BSTC Gala's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564242622640>

And, see photos of the Gala Crew's post production party on the BSTC website.

Some feedback shared following the event:

The 30th Anniversary Gala was wonderful. Thank you for chairing the event. I was a guest at the celebration.

Susan

=====

It was a wonderful night.

Kim

=====

Hello Pat and Mike -

Congratulations on a successful Gala! All your hard work paid off.

Nancy

=====

It was a wonderful event -- Joyce's speech was especially memorable. Hope everyone is recovered.

Thanks

Esther

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It was my pleasure to help. The evening was fabulous and was a fantastic reflection of the efforts of all the volunteers but especially both of you.

KUDOS!!!!

Marilyn

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Hi Mike and Pat

Here is to another 30 years and more of celebrating BSTC.

Bobbie

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Mike,

Thanks so much for bringing the program to the office today and also for the note you wrote. The program is really impressive and I'm so glad you were able to honor Pat and Joyce. It looks like you had great representation and involvement from a cross section of community business, faith communities, and non profits. Congrats on the event and hope to talk with you soon!

Chris

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#### TO OUR AMAZING GALA SPONSOR:

#### DESERT DIAMOND CASINO

Beth Shalom Temple Center (BSTC), a small but deeply connected Jewish congregation in Green Valley, expresses heartfelt gratitude to the Tohono O'odham Nation for allowing us to hold our Gala at the Desert Diamond Casino Ballrooms in Sahuarita, on their ancestral land. Under the guidance of our esteemed Rabbi Norman T. Roman, celebrating his

50th year of ordination, and our dedicated Board of Directors led by President Esther Levine Brill, we recognize the rich cultural legacy surrounding us here.

The Tohono O'odham, or "Desert People," have called this land home for thousands of years. Their ancient practices and beliefs are closely tied to the natural rhythms and resources of the Sonoran Desert. Their culture has flourished through time, rooted in community values, respect for the land, and rituals that honor the seasons and natural forces. Despite challenges through centuries of colonization, the O'odham people have preserved their traditions, language, and identity, with leadership committed to their cultural and spiritual preservation.

For BSTC, this event on O'odham land is significant. Just as the O'odham have safeguarded their identity and heritage, our congregation—though younger and smaller—works to sustain Jewish faith and culture amidst modern challenges. Our Board and President Esther Levine Brill have fostered a close-knit community that draws on Jewish teachings, welcoming all who seek to connect, learn, and grow.

With Rabbi Roman's spiritual leadership and the guidance of our Board, BSTC strives to embody values of respect, gratitude, and community. We gather not only to celebrate but to honor the legacy of the O'odham people. As guests on this sacred land, we extend our sincere appreciation to the Tohono O'odham Nation. We acknowledge the spirit and wisdom that reside in these ancient grounds and reflect our shared commitment to heritage, resilience, and unity.

#### Other Program News:

- ♦ **Join BSTC's Hanukkah Play: *The Enduring Light***  
Beth Shalom Temple Center invites YOU to be part of our Hanukkah play, *The Enduring Light*! Directed by Laurie Sherman, with Rabbi Norm overseeing and John Evans leading music, this fun-filled production is open to everyone—**no skills required**.

**First Rehearsal:** Sunday, December 8th at 1pm, at BSTC.

**Performance Date:** Friday, December 29th.

Whether you're here for most of December or have a few short absences, we'll make it work! Roles include singing, speaking, non-speaking,



or background parts—there's a place for everyone. If you're a musician, bring your instrument to the first rehearsal—we'd love to highlight your talent!

This is a great way to meet people, make lasting friendships, and celebrate Hanukkah in a fun and meaningful way. No experience is necessary—just come and be part of the joy!

- ♦ Jennifer Selco from the Tucson J is planning a showing of some FREE short movies at BSTC sometime in January. Check eblasts for updates!
- ♦ 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. A donation of \$5 per person is requested.

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

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## RITUAL

Fifteen congregants enjoyed a Community Shabbat service and dinner at the JCC on November 15.

Please join us for Friday night service on December 5, Saturday morning service on December 14, and a Chanukah program on December 29.

*Steve and Suenette Maron*

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## 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*

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## SISTERHOOD

The Sisterhood usually meets every second Tuesday

of the month at 10am at BSTC.

The Fall Mahjong Tournament was enthusiastically enjoyed on November 19th with a fully reserved attendance.

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

Welcome back to our temple winter residents.

The November 8th Mitzvah Day at BSTC was a lovely event. We had a great turn out and lots of wonderful people helped us accomplish creating 431 insert cards for Youth On Their Own, 258 quilt squares for Project Linus, 150 pairs of pajamas were folded for Angel Heart Pajama Project and 600 pounds of dog and cat food was bagged and delivered to Sister José Women's Shelter in Tucson.

On January 20, 2025 the Social Action Committee will be participating in the community wide JPSA Day of Chesed. More details will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

The SA Committees ongoing food bank donation project is always in need of pantry staples. The holidays are especially tough for the low income families in our community. BSTC has been quite generous with food bank donations and we thank you for your donations.

If you are interested in joining the Social Action Committee we meet the 3rd Thursday of every month. We meet from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the temple. Please consider joining us.

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## TORAH STUDY

Torah Portions are included for members in the table on the following page. 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.

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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 and on-line payment options are there, too.

***Please email bstcgv@gmail.com or call the office at 520-648-6690 if you need the password to access the “members” page.***



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
Elizabeth Baker	23-Dec
Ed Gold	23-Dec
Tom Clancy	26-Dec
Stuart Tobin	26-Dec
Lisa Israel	31-Dec



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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
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