



GREEN VALLEY SHOFAR

January 2025
Vol. 30 No. 1

President's Message

Shalom—a word that, as we know, means many things: hello, goodbye, and peace. As we start the secular New Year, we sadly say goodbye to good friends and hello to all our new and continuing friends; of course, it's also time to make our secular New Year resolutions.

As we welcome the winter season, I find myself reflecting on our community's history, communal bonds, and friendships. Each of you plays an invaluable role in the vibrant tapestry of our synagogue. Your commitment to our values, traditions, and collective support for one another inspires me daily.

Last month, we celebrated Chanukah, a poignant reminder of the strength and resilience of our people and heritage. The lessons we learn from history and our sacred texts help deepen our connection to our faith and strengthen our community bonds. It is a time when we are unfortunately still mourning the events of Oct 7th and wondering what it will take to see the hostages returned and the turmoil in the Middle East settled. As we navigate the challenges of our times, let us remember the teachings of our ancestors. Their wisdom reminds us of the importance of compassion, understanding, and unity. Together, we can continue to build a supportive haven that uplifts all its members and reflects the lights of hope and love in our world.

Please remember to stay connected through our services, special events, or online platforms. Your presence matters, and we greatly appreciate your diverse contributions to our congregation.

As a reminder, please remember to vote for board

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Rabbi's Message

GEMATRIYA FOR THE SECULAR NEW YEAR!

My mentor back in Cleveland, Rabbi Philip Horowitz (of blessed memory), had a traditional Jewish, scholarly background. He actually trained as an Orthodox Rabbi, earned a PhD in American Constitutional History, and then studied for an additional Masters Degree in Hebrew Literature and Ordination from the Reform Rabbinical School.

I recall his being asked one time: "how should a Jewish person celebrate the secular new year, i.e. January 1st?" His answer: "*davka!* All the more so, just because! Do something uniquely Jewish on that day!"

So, joyfully, I share that advice with you. Whether alone or with families or friends, affirm your Jewish identity with love and pride. Read/study a Jewish Text! Perform a Mitzvah! Reach out, call or visit someone in need! Write a 'letter to the editor' or OpEd piece! Send a supportive message to someone in Israel! Make an extra, meaningful donation to your favorite charity! Or, as I talked about on Yom Kippur: do something to improve or strengthen your own health (Choose Life!). Etc, etc.

Rabbi Horowitz introduced me to the challenge of Gematriya - 'playing' with the numerical equivalents of Hebrew letters to create words or hidden messages, or using just the secular numbers themselves . . . It's an ancient (originating in our books from the earliest days of the Middle Ages) game that I suggest you might consider for the beginning of the new year.

(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	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

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Editor: Stacy Laetsch

This is the January 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 Amy Storer: **refuah sh'lema to:** her son-in-law, Dean Cochran, for his recent cancer surgeries.
- ♦ From Gary & Toi Melton: **condolences to:** Kay Sobol on the death of her husband, Merle Sobol.
- ♦ From Esther Levine & Ed Brill: **condolences to:** Kay Sobol on the death of her husband, Merle Sobol.
- ♦ From Esther Levine & Ed Brill: **condolences to:** Judy Kramer on the death of her husband, Donald Kramer.
- ♦ From Esther Levine & Ed Brill: **condolences to:** Susan Flemming on the death of her husband, Robert Flemming.
- ♦ From Esther Levine & Ed Brill: **refuah sh'lema to:** Bunny Callis.
- ♦ From Esther Levine & Ed Brill: **refuah sh'lema to:** Bunny Callis.
- ♦ From Esther Levine & Ed Brill: **refuah sh'lema to:** John Holleran.
- ♦ From Joyce & Mike Finkelstein: **condolences to:** Kay Sobol on the death of her husband, Merle Sobol.
- ♦ From Joyce & Mike Finkelstein: **condolences to:** Susan Flemming on the death of her husband, Robert Flemming.

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
WED	1/1/25	10am	BSTC Book Club
FRI	1/3/25	7pm	Sisterhood Shabbat Service
SAT	1/4/25	10am	Torah Study on Zoom ONLY
SUN	1/5/25	10am	Bagel Breakfast <i>sponsors:</i> <i>Lucy Graham & Fran Gordon</i>
WED	1/8/25	9am	Men's Club Meeting
THU	1/9/25	9am	Long Range Planning Meeting
SAT	1/11/25	10am	Saturday Shabbat Service
MON	1/13/25	10am	Therapy Doll Project
TUE	1/14/25	10am	Sisterhood Meeting
THU	1/16/25	10:30a	Social Action Committee mtg
FRI	1/17/25	9:30a	Program Committee mtg on Zoom
FRI	1/17/25	7pm	Friday Night Shabbat Service
SAT	1/18/25	10am	Torah Study on Zoom ONLY
SUN	1/19/25	2pm	Israeli Musical Fundraiser <i>featuring Michael G & Friends</i>
TUE	1/21/25	2pm	Sisterhood Paid Up Dessert Reception
WED	1/22/25	2pm	Tucson J International Film Festival at BSTC
SAT	1/25/25	10am	Torah Study on Zoom ONLY
SUN	1/26/25	2:30p	Art Gallery Reception
MON	1/27/25	2pm	BSTC Annual Meeting
SAT	2/1/25	10am	Torah Study on Zoom ONLY
SUN	2/2/25	10am	Bagel Breakfast

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

(Rabbi's message, continued:)

2025. Start with the 25, add 2 = 27. Adding 1 (representing either the One God or the Importance of I/Me as one person) = 28. 28 in Hebrew is koach - meaning strength. So a lesson might be to "take the 2+0+25 and add God or a better sense of self to create the best kind of Strength!

2025. Start with 25, subtract 2 = 23. What's 23? 18, which of course is chai - meaning life. Then add 5, which in the Hebrew Alphabet is hei - always seen as standing for God. Lesson? The only way to arrive at 25 is with a life shared with God's Presence. Oh, but what about the initial 2? That's easy - either the covenant between each of us and the Divine, or, if you prefer, the 2 tablets of the Commandments.

2025. Work backwards: 5 subtract 2, subtract 0, subtract another 2 = 1. One God, of course! (Is your mind singing the "Echad Mi Yodei-a, Who Knows One" from the Passover Seder?)

Finally, did you realize that there are actually two times that the number 25 comes to us this year? Because in the Jewish calendar, we're now in the year 5785. 5+7+8+5=25! So 2025 means 2 occasions for 25. And 25 in Hebrew is ko - an introductory word in the Torah that the Commentators say always indicates that God is present!

Those are fairly simple examples. Try it! Make up your own "lessons" from this classical Jewish game to play in honor of the new year. For example: 5785 can be seen as 5+7=12 and 8+5=13. What can you derive from the numbers 12 and 13? Feel free to send me your ideas, or other insights you gain from Gematriya.

Happy New Year!

Rabbi Norm



SAVE THE DATES for:

**Israeli Musical Fundraiser at BSTC on
Sunday, January 19th at 2pm**

AND

**Tucson J International Film Festival at BSTC on
Wednesday, January 22nd at 2pm.**

(President's message, continued:)

members, attend the annual board meeting, and sign up for leadership positions on our many committees. The board works very hard to ensure that we “ensure the best interest of stakeholders in all types of management decisions.” None of us takes this directive lightly, and I sincerely thank them for their hard work and dedication.

I also want to thank all the committee chairs and their members, Stacy Laetsch, our administrative assistant, Dan Laetsch, our maintenance man, and Olga Rodriguez, our kitchen helper, who certainly contribute to the running of BSTC.

I wish you and your families a happy, healthy, secular New Year and a month filled with joy and blessings. May we continue to grow together in faith and friendship.

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



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 member:** Sharon Richwine
Green Valley, AZ 85614

◆ **New address:** Hermine Router
Green Valley AZ 85622

BOARD NOTES

The Annual Meeting and Board Elections are on Monday, January 27th at 2pm. Contact the office if you have not yet received your 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 on January 27th for your vote to count.

TEMPLE TIDINGS

MEMBERS PASSING



BSTC has lost several members recently. May their memories be a blessing.

The sad news has been shared via eblast, however, a summary is listed below for any of those messages that may have been missed.

- ◆ The BSTC office was recently informed by member, Susan Flemming, that her husband, **Robert “Bob” Flemming**, had passed away some weeks ago. No other details were shared.
- ◆ The BSTC office also recently learned that member, Judy Kramer, had lost her husband, **Donald Kramer**. No other details were shared.
- ◆ And, it was also learned recently that member, **Grace Farrar**, had passed away in her sleep on December 13th. BSTC member, Ricki Letowt, reached out to her family after missing Grace at regular meetings to learn the news. Her family is now caring for her dog.
- ◆ Then, on the afternoon of December 24th, long time member, **Stuart Tobin**, passed away. *A funeral service is tentatively planned at BSTC for Friday, January 3rd at 11am, but may be delayed until the 7th.* Watch email blasts for any update.
- ◆ And, last but by far not least, long time BSTC member and Past President, **Merle Sobol**, passed away on the morning of December 26th at Banner Hospital. His funeral will be in Cleveland, and a Shiva Service was held at BSTC on December 30th.

COMMITTEE NEWS

ART GALLERY

The exhibit on display beginning January 23, 2025 is "Off the Walls" of BSTC member, Beverly Lake as she is sharing more of her personal collection.

Please join us for a Reception In the Gallery: Sunday, January 26th at 2:30 PM to view the beautiful exhibition and learn about this art.

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 more 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? 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.

Please call 253-257-7090,
or email: garypmelton@earthlink.net.

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.

Laurie has shared the following poem and image.
(continued next column)



Either side of the wall

A black-braided girl cries without sound,
unsure if dawn brings shadows or bombs.
The sky burns orange, rust, and flame,
smoke twists apart—jagged, untamed.

A mother folds her lost child's blanket,
hands trembling, rockets pierce the silence.
On the other side, a father gathers shards,
bloodied palms clutching dreams turned dust.

In my Autumn sukkah, stars pierce through cracks,
fragile hopes threading broken walls.
We call for peace, but Adonai returns it—
a task for us
to hold, to plant, to demand.

Shalom. Shalom. Shalom.

Simple. Impossible. Necessary.

Laurie S. Sherman

Chair, Communications Committee

GRANTS

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, BSTCpres2024@gmail.com

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

HOSPITALITY

Bagel Breakfasts are on the first Sunday of each month at 10am. Michael G is at the piano from 9:30 to 10. To ensure there is adequate food and that

enough tables are set up, **food events MUST HAVE YOUR RSVP by the Wednesday prior.**

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

JIM CLICK RAFFLE

The 2024 Jim Click Raffle is over! News about a 2025 raffle has not been shared with the office.

BSTC raised \$1050 in the 2024 raffle.

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.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Welcome to new member, Sharon Richwine!

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 Mike.

Member Photos

See new member, Elliott Sacks, photo and biography on the following page.

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.

ELLIOTT SACKS



Elliott Sacks is my English name but my Hebrew name is Alyuho ben Aviezza. My mother's family came from Lithuanian in the 1880's. They came to Chelsea, Massachusetts.

My dad's family got out of Soviet Union controlled Ukraine in 1920's. Dad always said he was Russian but he was born in Kiev. My grandfather was an Orthodox Rabbi. I was raised Orthodox and Kosher. I went to Chelsea Hebrew School for six years, 36 weeks, five days a week for 10 hours.

Chelsea was a town of about 35,000 people when I grew up, about 30% were Jewish. It was the poorest town in state. It had 10 Orthodox Shuls and a reformed Temple. People would move out of Chelsea when they could afford it. Very few Jews are left in Chelsea today. There is one Shul and one Temple.

My dad was a member and Vice President at Orange St. Shul. We went to Shul on Shabbat. After my Bar Mitzvah, I went when they read Torah Monday and Thursday morning. Dad would keep us out of school on all major Jewish holidays. As long as I lived in my father's home, I davened and put on my Tallas and Tefilin.

My dad wanted his sons to become Rabbis but none of us wanted to.

My dad's fervor for Judaism had opposite effect on his sons.

Later when I lived in Worcester Massachusetts area, I became friends with a Hassidic Rabbi.

I wanted to join BSTC because of the current war in Israel.

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.**

PROGRAMS

Program News:

We had a wonderful Chanukah party on December 29th, including the world premiere of **BSTC's Hanukkahspiel: *The Enduring Light***. This special event also featured a beautiful Chanukkah service with Rabbi Roman, the Men's Club's famous latke dinner, the Sisterhood's beautiful decorations, and a lively sing-along with the home-grown script written and directed by Laurie Sherman, with John Evans serving as Music Director and soloist. Rabbi Norm Roman brought warmth and storytelling to the evening.

The talented cast included our own Shelly, Beverly, Ricki, Joyce, Esther, Jo, and Gloria as Hanukkah ensemble members, along with Steve, who dazzled with a lively fiddle solo, and Mike, who will add flair on trumpet. Ed shares historical insights and engages the audience. Dancers and audience inclusion added movement and vibrancy, creating a lively and memorable celebration. Photos will be posted to the website and there will be a private YouTube link shared for members to review the service.

- ◆ Pat Shearer, who spoke about his experiences in Ukraine at BSTC's recent Gala, will be coming to BSTC in early 2025 to share more of his stories. Watch your eblasts for info!
- ◆ Jennifer Selco from the Tucson J will be showing some **FREE short movies at BSTC on Wednesday, January 22nd at 2pm** as part of their annual International Jewish Film Festival.
- ◆ Michael Gervan is organizing a fundraising show to benefit the people of Israel which will take place on Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 2pm. A donation of \$5 per person is requested.
- ◆ Mike Finkelstein is inviting interested temple members to a meeting in early 2025 to review lessons learned from the November 2024 Gala and generate ideas for other, perhaps similar, fundraisers in 2025.

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

Upcoming Programs with Rabbi Norm:

ADULT EDUCATION SERIES

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

led by Rabbi Roman

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 depended".

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 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 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, January 3rd—7pm**
Sisterhood Shabbat Service
- ◆ **Saturday, January 11th—10am**
Saturday Shabbat Service
- ◆ **Friday, January 17th—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 will be on Tuesday, January 21st, honoring BSTC President Esther Brill. Please RSVP with your dues.

SOCIAL ACTION

Welcome back to our seasonal members. I hope you are enjoying our beautiful warm December weather, I know many of us have been pleasantly surprised by the warm temperatures.

Some of you may have heard about the JPSA Day of Chesed on January 20, 2025. In the near future there will be information shared on how you can participate in some of the projects, most of which will be happening in the greater Tucson area.

BSTC Mitzvah Day (also known as Good Deeds

Day) was November 8, 2024. We had a great turnout and welcomed Project Linus, Angel Heart Pajama Project and Youth on Their Own. A group from Santa Cruz Valley United Methodist Church co-hosted the event as we welcomed Reverend Meredith Jobert and some of their congregants who bagged and delivered a whopping 600 pounds of pet food to Sister José Women's Shelter in Tucson.

Please consider helping the Social Action Committee with our ongoing projects. Food Donations for the Sahuarita & Green Valley Food Bank and new pajamas and new or gently used children's books for the Angel Heart Pajama Project. Collection bins are located in the temple lobby. Monetary donations are also accepted and forwarded to the group of your choice.

The next Social Action Committee Meeting will be January 16, 2025 in the temple lobby. If you wish to join our meeting via Zoom please contact and I will send you the link a few days ahead of the January meeting.

Thank you, Connie Greenwald,
Social Action Committee Chairperson

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.

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 questions or comment.



Mike & Joyce Finkelstein	3-Jan
Ed & Esther Brill	10-Jan

Marianne Katz	1-Jan
Dawna Wheeler	1-Jan
Merle Sobol	3-Jan
Marilyn Forstot	4-Jan
David Wolpert	4-Jan
Jean Shekter	6-Jan
Cherri Melamed	7-Jan
Martha Wolpert	9-Jan
Susan Cohen	11-Jan
Janet Brown	15-Jan
Judith Kramer	16-Jan
Judy Gehman	16-Jan
Randy Gehman	18-Jan
Ceylon Kelly	20-Jan
David Liebling	22-Jan
William Forstot	27-Jan
John Holleran	28-Jan



MONTHLY TORAH PORTIONS			
Portion (Parashat)	Date	Torah	Haftarah
VAYIGASH	Jan 3-4, 2025	Genesis 44:18-47:27	Ezekiel 37:15-28
VAYECHI	Jan 10-11, 2025	Genesis 47:28-50:26	I Kings 2:1-12
SHEMOL	Jan 17-18, 2025	Exodus 1:1-6:1	Isaiah 27:6-28:13
VAEIRA	Jan 24-25, 2025	Exodus 6:2-9:35	Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

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	Gary Melton
e-Scrip	Joyce Finkelstein
Facilities & IT	Les Bakke
Facebook	Jane Gold
Finance	Ricki Letowt
Historian	Gloria Clancy
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	Gary Melton
Website	BSTC Office