



Temple Beth Shalom of the West Valley **SHOFAR**

April 2025 Nissan-Iyar 5785

HAPPY PASSOVER





A MESSAGE FROM RABBI KAPLAN

Please check out Rabbi Kaplan's Blog
for photos, interesting notes and more at:

<https://www.danakaplan.com>

Yom HaShoah: Holocaust Remembrance Day Program to be held at our Temple

Yom HaShoah is observed on the 27th day of the month of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar, which begins in the evening of Wednesday, April 23rd and continues on the day of Thursday, April 24th. We will commemorate the Holocaust with a Yom HaShoah Remembrance Day program on Thursday afternoon, April 24th at 3 PM.

Our guest speaker will be our own Nancy Urbach, who will tell the story of how her grandfather in Nashville Tennessee saved numerous relatives and neighbors from Germany. We will also hear from members of our Temple whose parents were Holocaust Survivors or refugees from the Nazis.

We will invite neighboring congregations to come together with us and have a number of ministers offer short Reflections and prayers.

Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, is a day to commemorate the six million Jewish people who were systematically murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust. It is a day to remember the victims, honor the few remaining survivors, and reflect on the lessons of the Holocaust.

The Nazis were trying to murder every single Jew in the entire world. This attempt to destroy the entire Jewish people is termed an attempted genocide. The Holocaust was a genocide in which Nazi Germany, aided by local collaborators, systematically murdered approximately six million European Jews, around two-thirds of the Jewish population of Europe, between 1941 and 1945.

The word "genocide" did not exist prior to World War II. It is a specific term coined in 1942 by Polish-Jewish lawyer Raphael Lemkin and first used in print in his 1944 book, *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe*. Unfortunately, anti-semites and haters of the state of Israel today use the term against us, accusing the Jews and the Israelis of attempting genocide against the Palestinians. This is patently false and absurd but it nevertheless is repeated repeatedly in the news media. This creates the impression that there may actually be some basis to this accusation when in reality there is none.

In the case of the Nazis, unfortunately, there was a conscious and deliberate effort to try to murder every single Jewish man woman and child that they could get their hands on. The Holocaust was the culmination of a long history of antisemitism in Europe. The Nazis took this persecution to a new level of brutality. Jews were stripped of their citizenship and their property and forced to live in ghettos. Many in Western Europe were sent to concentration camps. In Eastern Europe, the Eisengroupen shot more than a million Jews and buried them in mass graves. Extermination centers were built where millions more were gassed upon arrival and their bodies were burned.

After World War II ended and the Holocaust was stopped, we spoke about the obligation of preventing any other antisemitic group from butchering Jews. "Never again," we said. Unfortunately, after October 7th we cannot say this any longer since Hamas came over the border into Israel and murdered approximately 1200 innocent individuals for no other reason than that they were Jews or were associated with Jews.

I think many of us believed that with Holocaust Education we could teach subsequent generations that hating Jews was irrational and should be condemned. Unfortunately, we have seen in the past year and a half the proliferation of irrational hatred of Jews and Israel, the homeland of the Jews. As a result of what we have seen recently, it's much harder to believe that we could ever eradicate anti-semitism. Nevertheless, the commemoration of Yom HaShoah can still serve as an important educational vehicle.



NOTES FROM OUR CANTOR

During this month we will observe two distinctly different kinds of important holidays in our yearly cycle. Passover not only contains the emotions of oppression, despair, and fear, but also those of joy, freedom, and hope. Yom Hashoa, on the other hand, is very much centered on remembering the horror of the genocide and observing the yartzeits of six million Jews. Music for both these events reflects their various moods. Pesach songs lead us personally through the Haggadah's story from one of suffering to another of awesome wonder and gratefulness --- all in less time than the movie, "The Ten Commandments." Contrarily, Holocaust music is somber and soul wrenching. Without appropriate melodies to express these historic dramas, the seder and the service would be like movies without matching musical soundtracks, i.e. "Star Wars" or "Shindler's List" ---with scores reversed. (Incidentally, as diverse as they are, both those scores were composed by John Williams.)

Has there been a movie where a typical Jewish family, let's say in Atlanta in 1859, is having their seder, reading of Jews as slaves, all the while being served by slaves of their own? That would be nothing to sing about. I imagine they tried not to connect the dots. But we can and do in the song, "Avadim Hayinu," which translates thusly: "We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, and God freed us from Egypt with a mighty hand. Had not the Holy One, praised be Adonai, delivered our people from Egypt, then we, our children, and our children's children would still be enslaved." Now, truly, that is something to sing about. Also, "Go Down, Moses," an African American spiritual, is often included in many seders even though it does mention Moses, whose name is not mentioned at all in the Haggadah.

Elijah's Cup, placed in the center of the table and filled either before the seder or before the singing of "Eliyahu Hanovi," is symbolic of the coming of the Messianic Age. Unlike affable Santa Claus, who brings presents and receives milk, The Prophet, according to folk legends and magical tales, is said to be wandering the Earth in the disguise of a beggar, monitoring our treatment of the poor and disadvantaged. Oh, yes, and he receives wine in his cup placed next to Miriam's Cup, which is filled with water. This relatively new tradition serves to remember Miriam's Well, the source of water for the Israelites in the desert. It was considered a magical well as it is said to have followed them for forty years because of the merits of Miriam. Its waters were also said to be healing and sustaining. "And Miriam, the prophet, took the timbral in her hand..." thus begins both Exodus 15:20 and Debbie Friedman's "Miriam's Song."

When the Israelites, suddenly former slaves, reached the other side of the Sea of Reeds, they sang, "Mi Chamocha," now sung every Shabbat to praise our God. May we never stop reliving, in undaunted spirit, the joy of freedom. May our woeful tunes be replaced by happy tunes. May we never forget the bravery and steadfastness of our forebearers, and may each holiday renew our faith and our lives as we sing, as one people, to God.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Stephen Bold



March was a busy month! We had the floors in the social hall and kitchen replaced, and it looks really great. Many visitors have attended Friday night services and our membership is growing!

On Sunday, March 23rd, a special congregational meeting was held. Several members spoke and told what TBS meant to them. When I spoke, I talked about the many good things done for our building (new floors, a new air conditioner, landscape cleared). I let everyone know about future problems that might happen, and that we need financial help to cover such cost. Our fundraising never happened this year. When Russ Robbins spoke, he reminded us of the challenge Bernie Brownstein made, and how members stood pledging \$1,000 to match his contribution. He then said we have another anonymous donor and members stood up to match that offer! What an exciting way to end our meeting! Nicole Pesce ended out the month with an outstanding performance at TBS. May you have a happy Passover!

WE WARMLY WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS.

**Nadene Forsyth
Tracy and Olga Teitelbaum
Martin and Cecilia Kret
Linda Abrams Tederman**

Adult Education

Would you like to be Bar.Bat Mitvahed?

We are looking to start an Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah class. If interested, please contact the Temple Office at 623 9077-3240 to sign up.

Conversion

Conversion offered

We will be starting a conversion class. If you are interested, please contact the Temple Office to sign up at 623 977-3240

Shabbat Service

SATURDAY SHABBAT SERVICE AND POTLUCK BRUNCH

Please join us at 10:30 AM on Saturday, May 10th, 2025 for a Shabbat Service and potluck brunch following.

Potluck Dinner

April 4th Potluck Dinner

Join us the first Friday of every month at 5:30 PM for the Brotherhood sponsored potluck dinner.





WEEKLY BULLETIN

4/7

10:00am Ancient Jewish & Christian Biblical
Interpretation class
12 noon Sisterhood Seder

4/8

1:30pm Grief Recover

4/9

11am Torah Study
3:00pm Religious School on zoom
4:30pm Religious School

4/10

10:00am Jewish Humor class

4/11

7:00pm Shabbat Evening Services

4/12

5:30pm TBS Seder - 1st night

4/13

10:00am Sisterhood Board Meet

4/14

10:00am Ancient Jewish & Christian Biblical
Interpretation class

4/15

1:30pm Grief Recovery Group
3:30am Trivia Tuesday

4/16

11:00am Torah Study
3:00pm Religious School Zoom
4:30pm Religious School

4/17

10:00am Jewish Humor Class
11:30am Religious Practices Meet
1:00pm Outreach Meet
2:00pm Team TBS Meeting

4/18

7:00pm Shabbat Evening Service
7:00pm Yizkor Service

4/20

10:00am General Board Meet

4/21

10:00am Ancient Jewish & Christian Biblical
Interpretation class

4/22

1:30pm Grief Group

4/23

11:00am Torah Study
4:30pm Religious School - Yom Hashoah
program

4/24

1:00pm Security Meeting
3:00pm Yom HaShoah commemorations

4/25

7:00pm Shabbat Evening Service

4/29

1:30pm Grief Recovery Group

4/30

11:00am Torah Study



Holocaust Remembrance Day Yom HaShoah Program, April 24th

Temple Beth Shalom of the West Valley's Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) program will be from 3-4:30 p.m. April 24 at the Temple, 12202 N. 101st Ave. in Sun City.

Members of the public are invited to attend this solemn program.

Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, is observed as Israel's day of commemoration of the 6 million Jews murdered in the Holocaust by Nazi Germany and its collaborators, and for the Jewish resistance in that period.

Featured speaker will be Nancy Urbach, whose grandfather went to Germany and rescued 200 relatives and friends from the Nazis. In addition, four members of the TBS congregation whose parents were Holocaust survivors will speak briefly. West Valley ministers and rabbis also will offer prayers and statements.

Reservations are required. Fill out the form on tbsaz.org or call the Temple office from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday at 623.977.3240.

Donations will be accepted after the program. All donations will be used to support the Temple's educational programs addressing antisemitism.

For security reasons, purses and backpacks will not be allowed. Participants can bring a clear bag with their items. More information is available on tbsaz.org or calling the Temple office at 623.977.3240.

JEWISH *Humor*

APRIL 3, 10, AND 17, 2025 • 10 - 11:30 AM



Still looking for some humor for a series for adult education that would be relaxing and fun. So here it is! A class for you to enjoy of Jewish humor.

This history is only a tiny bit about the theory of humor but don't worry just a tiny bit! Then we will tell and see humor and learning with Jews and Judaism from a number of different perspectives.

We'll look at jokes that deal with mother-in-laws, antisemitism, animals and pets, neighbors, synagogue life, food and cooking, vacations, priests ministers and rabbis, money and banking, and all of the aspects of life that we would expect.

We will keep the discussion easy to follow and easy to enjoy! There will be lots of jokes focusing on the American Jewish condition from World War II until the present day.

Member of all faiths or no faith are invited to attend this 3-part series led by Rabbi Dana Evan Kaplan. Everyone will have an opportunity to offer sample humorous offerings from their own repertoire.

Rabbi Kaplan is the chief humorist and spiritual leader of Temple Beth Shalom of the West Valley

\$20

FOR
MEMBERS

\$35

FOR
NON-MEMBERS

or 1 COUPON FROM BOOK



Persons of all faiths are invited to attend this popular interfaith series

Cost: \$20 for TBS members; \$35 for non-members or 1 coupon

TBSWV has coupon books for Adult education courses that can be used for any 4 courses through May 2025.

Price is \$65 for members and \$120 for non-members

To register, call the Temple Office at 623-977-3240 between 9 am and 3 pm, Monday - Thursday. Deadline for registration and payment of course fee is noon, March 31.

12202 N. 101st Ave. • Sun City, AZ 85351 • 623.977.3240 • tbsaz.org



Ancient Jewish & Christian BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

MONDAYS • APRIL 7, 14 AND 21, 2025 • 10 - 11:30 AM

This is a classic course that Rabbi Kaplan has taught throughout his career about how Jews interpreted the Bible before the development of rabbinic Judaism.

Using sources put together and translated by professor James Kugel of Harvard University, we'll look at how different commentators from different parts of the Greek and Roman worlds interpreted biblical stories in similar ways.

We're going to choose one story from the book of Genesis and then look at excerpts from different commentaries that have been saved from oblivion. Almost all of the sources that we're going to look at were not saved by us - the Jews. So it's a little bit of a miracle that we have so much of this literature.

This course will show the participants how so much of biblical knowledge was preserved over the centuries by luck and happenstance and what those works of wisdom reveal about early Jewish biblical interpretation and the influence that it had on early Christianity.

We will also look at short excerpts from various works of biblical commentaries that have been edited for relevance and readability. This course is perfect for people who have intellectual curiosity - it is not necessary to have any background in Bible or biblical interpretation of engage in this course.

We're hoping for a relatively small group of interfaith participants that can do a little bit of work preparing for each session and participate actively in an interactive setting where we all participate and contribute to the dialogue.

Course to be led by Dana Evan Kaplan, Rabbi of Temple Beth Shalom of the West Valley



Persons of all faiths are invited to attend this popular interfaith series

Cost: \$20 for TBS members; \$35 for non-members or 1 coupon

TBSWV has coupon books for Adult education courses that can be used for any 4 courses through May 2025.

Price is \$65 for members and \$120 for non-members

To register, call the Temple Office at 623-977-3240 between 9 am and 3 pm, Monday - Thursday. Deadline for registration and payment of course fee is noon, April 3.



**12202 N. 101st Ave. • Sun City, AZ 85351
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Temple Beth Shalom Social Action Committee

The Committee is asking you to bring a food item each month and place it in the designated space in the lobby

"CAN DO"



All of this will be benefiting the Valley View Food Bank
Item to bring this month

APRIL CANNED MEAT OR COOKING OIL

The Committee thanks you, the Food Bank thanks you, but most of all, you will be helping those that are really in need.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Michelle Gluck | 4/2 |
| Daniel Spedale | 4/6 |
| Lorraine Stein | 4/6 |
| Alice Gurne | 4/7 |
| Jean Rosen | 4/15 |
| Murray Issadore | 4/18 |
| Judy Bender | 4/19 |
| Larry Gorelick | 4/19 |
| Roberta Ordovery | 4/19 |
| Dr. Steven Sitzman | 4/23 |
| Eugene Neigoff | 4/25 |
| Nancy Urbach | 4/29 |

Rael & Michelle **4/3** **20th Anniversary**
Bennett

Marc & Lauren **4/6** **17th Anniversary**
Abramowitz

Brian & Julie **4/21** **1st Anniversary**
Ponce Ross

CONTRIBUTIONS

Many people contribute to the Flower Bouquet & Food Basket Funds "in memory of", but did you know that you can also contribute to these funds "in honor of" to help someone special celebrate a birthday, anniversary or any other kind of Simcha?

This is Sisterhood's major fundraiser. We use it to make donations to local food banks, but the major portion is given to our temple whenever a need arises, such as a copier, a computer and new kitchen appliances like a refrigerator and dishwasher. We are always there to help.

Please help by contributing.

BIMAH FLOWER & FOOD BASKET FUND

Contributions are always appreciated. Make checks payable to TBS Sisterhood and send them to the office.

| IN MEMORY OF.... | RELATIONSHIP.... | CONTRIBUTOR..... | BIMAH FUND..... | FRIDAY NIGHT DATE |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Jerry Rosen | Husband | Joan Rosen | Flower Basket | 2/28/25 |
| Frances Gadless | Mother | Lou Gadless | Food Basket | 3/21/25 |
| Samuel Beck | Grandfather | Sharon Gadless | Food Basket | 4/11/25 |
| Samuel Schurer | Father | Fred Schurer | Food Basket | 3/14/25 |

TREE OF LIFE



Consistent with our belief, our Tree of Life on the Lobby wall next to the office commemorates simchas and life cycle events, such as special birthdays, anniversary or Bar & Bat Mitzvahs with an engraved leaf. We look forward to members making a contribution to the Temple and honoring their loved ones or commemorating an event by adding a leaf to the tree in their name.

Each leaf is a \$200.00 donation to the synagogue. This is a lovely way to commemorate a special milestone for your family and support Temple Beth Shalom.

Please call Nan Rubin-Lieber at 623-933-1412 or the Temple office at 623-977-3240 to order your special leaf

Grief Recovery Group

Times: 1:30pm to 3pm
Location: Temple Beth Shalom
12202 N 101st Ave. Sun City, AZ



THIS IS A TEMPLE BETH SHALOM GROUP. IT IS DESIGNED TO HELP US LET GO OF SORROW AND TAKE HOLD OF LIFE. THIS GROUP IS AVAILABLE FOR TEMPLE BETH SHALOM MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS AND IS OPEN TO ANYONE EXPERIENCING GRIEF. THIS WILL BE AN ONGOING GROUP.

A suggested monthly \$20 donation to help with temple expenses is also welcomed.
Call TBS at 623 977-3240 for further details

Your facilitators are:
Joyce Gold, Ph.D.
MaryGill Savoren, BSN



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To expedite your order, enter your information at www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/tbsbricks. If you prefer, please fill out the form below and return it to the office, 12202 N 101st Ave. Sun City, AZ 85351

Maximum of 21 characters per line including spaces. All wording will be centered.

Inscription #1

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example

Doner (you)

your plaque

Phone

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TEMPLE BETH SHALOM GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS

You may donate to the Temple in many ways. The designated Temple Funds are listed below with a brief description of each. When making your donation, please designate your fund of choice.

General Operating Fund

In Loving Memory of:

John Alan Burris
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Warren Bentkover
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Endowment Fund

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Social Action

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Education Fund

In Loving Memory of:

Steve Meyerovitz
Herb Meyerovitz
Arthur Fenster
Lorraine Stein

Prayer Books

In Loving Memory of:

Goldie Manas
Michael Zager
Jack Halperin
Linda Barad
Beatrice Weiss
Hugo Hammerslag
Shelly Hammerslag

Biblical Garden

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Sylvia Biondi
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Alex Harris
Sherman Goldberg
Sue Goldberg

Get Well:Speedy Recovery

Helene Fox
Bernie and Monica Arum
Warren Bentkover
Minia Kalish

Kavod Awards

Gloria Bold
Meredith Amaral- Weisman
Anne & Marvin Mondlick
Lou & Sharon Gadless
Cheryl Bookman

Honor the memory of a beloved family member or friend with a memorial plaque mounted in the Sanctuary. You may also celebrate a simcha with a leaf on our Tree of Life displayed in the lobby.

For details or further information, contact **Nan Rubin at 623-933-1412.**

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FORM FOR DIRECT TBS DONATIONS

Please use this form so that your donation can be properly allocated.

Make check payable to TEMPLE BETH SHALOM and mail to:

Temple Beth Shalom 12202 N 101st Ave. Sun City, AZ 85351

Online donations can be made on our website at tbsaz.org

Date: _____

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- ☐ Speedy Recovery _____
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- ☐ Mazel Tov _____
- ☐ Happy Anniversary _____
- ☐ Happy Birthday _____
- ☐ Congratulations _____
- ☐ Thinking of you _____

Designated Fund:

- | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Melvin Levin Operating Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Morris & Celia Hackel Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Book |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hy Mandel Biblical Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Edith Mattal Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Endowment |
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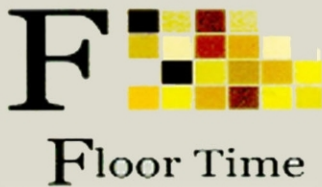
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Welcome to Temple Beth Shalom of the West Valley

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION AT tbsaz.org

Come as you are. Discover who you are.

We are a caring and compassionate Reform Jewish congregation. We connect to people in a meaningful, generous and mature manner with as much warmth and kindness as possible. We serve the entire West Valley, including all the Sun Cities, Avondale, Buckeye, El Mirage, Glendale, Peoria, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Surprise, Tolleson, Tonopah, Youngtown and Waddell.



Mondlick Perio is a periodontal specialty office focusing on YOUR oral health. Specifically your gums, roots of your teeth, bone that supports your teeth, dental implants and aesthetics. We cannot wait to meet you and help you achieve your oral health goals and help you maintain it for years to come.

At Mondlick Perio, our patients receive the highest level of professional care, gaining great confidence in their smile and overall oral health.

We are delivering superior outcomes for our patients with their periodontal, dental implant, and aesthetic needs, before, during, and after treatment



Dr. Joshua Mondlick
Board Certified Periodontist
and Implant Surgeon

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Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism

Shabbat Services Friday Evening 7:00 pm
Office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Rabbi Dana Evan Kaplan, Ph.D.
Baruch L. Koritan, Cantor

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Mission Statement
"To fulfill and
nurture the
spiritual, social
and educational
needs of our
diverse Jewish
Community."

The deadline for item submission to the SHOFAR is the 20th of the month.