



Dear Friends,

Here we are again, the Festival of lights is just around the corner. This is the time of year that we Jews are reminded of our own obligation to remember and to recall, to dream and to hope, and then take a stand for all that makes us unique as a people. Hanukkah challenges us not to take this magnificent and light-filled heritage for granted. Please be sure to join us for our Congregation's Hanukkah party on Dec 22nd at 5PM. I am so excited to celebrate with each you.

*Derech erez, is a Jewish concept that is translated as, the way of the land. It is a concept that describes not, the way things are, but the way we are commanded to make them. Derech Eretz describes the walk of decency, tolerance, civility, empathy, compassion and respect that is believed to have preceded the giving of the Torah. Imagine!*

*During Hanukkah, we illumine the derech, we light the way. On the year's shortest days, we come with light to celebrate the miraculous capacity to set increasing brightness against the backdrop of meager light that so much of the human race sees by. We take heart from the miracles made real by our ancestors in those times, ba-yamim ha-hem, during these days, ba-zeman ha-zeh. We take heart from all humanity, that strives to hold the light up, so that all may be warmed by its rays.*

*These day, we must remember the courage that makes the Maccabees story timeless for time matters not, what was will be again, it's all in the cycles of human development. It is only how we will walk as time turns us upside down and around again. Don't wait to speak, don't hide that menorah from the window. It is, in some ways, a burden being a Jew but what a burden of joy it is. Standing as light on the side of RIGHT.*

I have so much exciting news to share with you from the Rabbinic office at Temple B'rith Shalom. My first 6 weeks have been overflowing with new faces, new goals, new challenges and new dreams. I feel blessed beyond words to be your new Rabbi and I can't help but feel that the future is so very bright for our little congregation.

Our news from our **school** is exciting indeed, I have started training Layla, Rebecca and Moses for their Bnai Mitzvot in the year to come. We have started at the very beginning with the blessing before the Torah and we will take it from there. I am so happy with the great foundation in Hebrew that they have received from our wonderful little Religious school. Stay tuned for more details, there's a lot of joy ahead!



One of the most exciting pieces of news I have to share with you is that we are busy at work building a new website on ShulCloud. What is ShulCloud? ShulCloud is web building software that will allow each member of Temple B'rith Shalom to not only visit our site but log in and find our congregational community waiting on the inside. There will be in-depth information, a directory, the ability to pay dues online and many many more advances that will allow us to truly become a community online as well as in person. It is going to consolidate the many aspects of synagogue life and allow you to access your community all in one place. It is secure, safe and easy to use. We are hoping to roll it out by the end of January. Thank you to Emily Grotta whose amazing tech skills have made her our "ShulCloud Maven." How lucky are we? We're making progress, but need a few volunteers to help us enter data about each family. Can you help? Just email Emily at [EGrotta@outlook.com](mailto:EGrotta@outlook.com).



I'd like you to mark your calendars for a Meet and Greet on **January 26**. This will be for prospective members and for our own congregants to drop by. The location is yet to be determined, but there will be wine and cheese and live music by our one and only Wayne and Shirley Grossman show. This is a time to bring your unaffiliated friends so we can show them all of the wonderful things taking place at Temple B'rith Shalom and to let them know that if they want a spiritual home, we've got it for them! Stay tuned for more information in the weeks to come.

#### **In the news....**

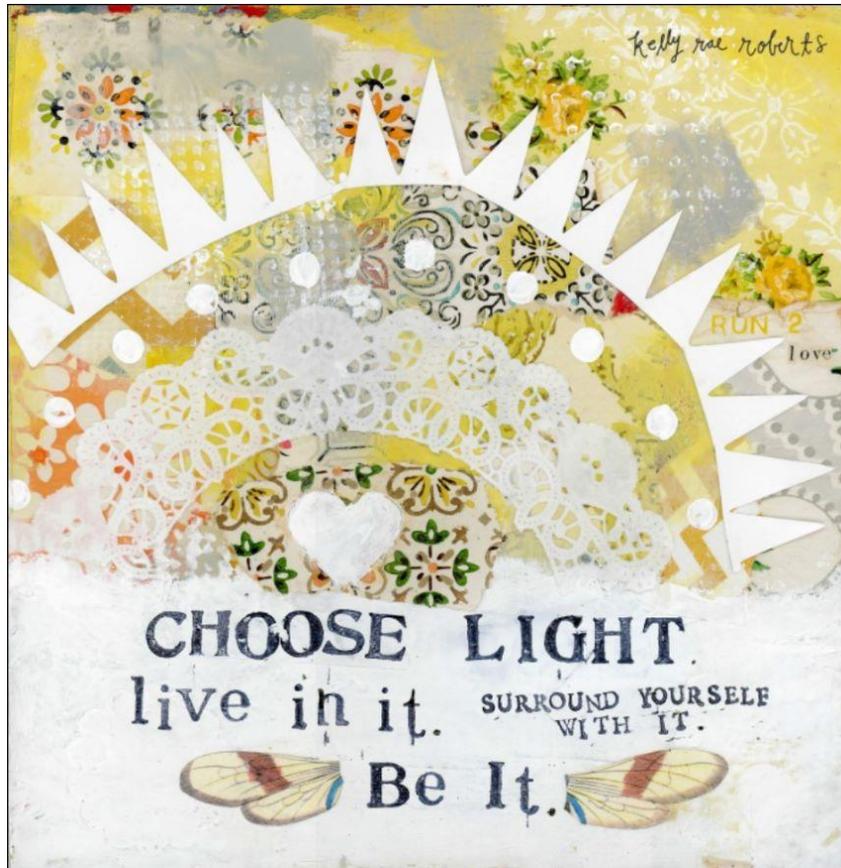
It was so lovely being interviewed by Marnie at KQNA 1130AM/99.9FM/95.5FM on her Talk of the Town radio show yesterday. She couldn't have been more welcoming to me as the new kid in town. In fact, the entire Radio station was overwhelmingly gracious and welcoming including Sanford and Terri Cohen, the owners of the station. I was so proud that they are the owners of one of Prescott's Top radio media broadcasting stations and Jewish to boot. Wow! They were also so very kind and engaging, I felt as though I'd known them forever. Thank you to KQNA for having me!

In addition, I will be on local channel 56 on the TV program, "Community Connection" which will air Wednesday, December 18th at 5:30pm. I will also be on another radio program called "Saturdays with Marnie" which will air Saturday, December 21st from 7 to 8am. To find additional airings, please go to PVAZ.net, click "Our Community", then select PVTV Channel 56. On the right side, you can click on the TV program guide. Here is the link: [TV Program guide link here!](#)

#### **Arts and Crafts Shuk**







The story of Hanukkah is deep and textured, it wasn't an easy time and the decisions our ancestors had to make were not easy either. How much assimilation is too much, how much integration is healthy for the future of our people. These are interestingly enough the same questions we are asking today. The times they are a changing but the questions remain the same.

*The past is gone, the future just beyond the horizon, we are here right now, the bridge between the two.*

*The steps we take become the dance of God's light. Or we dance not and the future falls farther and farther away into the darkest memory of days lost to time.*

*Light your Hanukiah and be proud, what a legacy of light we have been given. Light it up!!!!  
With joy!*

Dear Friends,

I hope your Hanukkah is filled with happiness. I pray that we will see our own souls reflected in the lights of the candles. This heritage of ours is such a blessing, let Hanukkah remind you of the brave Maccabees and the miracle of faith that still brightens up a darkened world. Happy Happy Hanukkah!

Rabbi Julie Kozlow

הרב אלישבע בת דוד ודבורה