

May 2023 Volume No. 5 | Iyyar-Sivan 5783



Services Schedule

Shabbatot &Yom Tovim



Kabbalat Shabbat on Fridays at 5:45 pm is virtual only on the daily minyan link:

tinyurl.com/BEC-minyan

Saturday morning is in-person or streaming at: www.facebook.com/bethel.phoenix

Saturday evening ZoomDalah, Ma'ariv, and Havdalah are virtual only at:

tinyurl.com/BEC-minyan

Zoomdalah and Ma'ariy/Haydalah will be on summer break starting May 27 and resuming on August 19.

If you have a Yahrzeit starting Saturday night please consider joining the Minyan on Sunday morning or afternoon to say Kaddish.

5/6 Shabbat Emor

9:30 am | Shaharit

1:00 pm | Beer HaTorah

7:15 pm | Zoomdalah

7:45 pm | Ma'ariv & Havdalah

5/13 Shabbat Behar-Bechukotai **BEWL/Torah Fund Shabbat | Birthday Shabbat**

9:30 am | Shaharit

1:00 pm | Beer HaTorah

7:15 pm | Zoomdalah

7:45 pm | Ma'ariv & Havdalah

5/20 Shabbat Bamidbar **Mevarachim Chodesh**

9:30 am | Shaharit with Cantorial Soloist Jessi

Grossman-Giordano

10:15 am | Meditation with Wendy Rozov

1:00 pm | Be'er HaTorah

7:15 pm | Zoomdalah

7:45 pm | Ma'ariv & Havdalah

5/25: Erev Shavuot **No Evening Minyan**

7:00 pm - 12:00 am | **Beth El joins the**

Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot

at Congregation Beth Israel: 10460 N. 56th St., Paradise Valley | Register to attend: https://tinyurl.com/5cfkmxku

5/26: Shavuot Day | Yom Tov Collaboration

9:00 am | Shavuot Morning Services - Temple Beth Sholom at 3400 N. Dobson Rd., Chandler, 85224 or online at www.tbsev.org/services/live-stream 5:45 pm | Kabbalat Shabbat (BE zoom only)

5/27: Shabbat Shavuot Day 2 **Anniversary Shabbat Aufruf of Roberta Harmon and Seth Freed**

9:30 am | Shabbat Shavuot Morning Services with Cantorial Soloist Jessi Grossman-Giordano 1:00 pm | Be'er Hatorah

Rosh Chodesh Sivan

begins with at Motza'ei Shabbat, 5/20

Sunday 5/21

8:00 am | Shacharit (Hybrid)

Daily Community Minyan

ALL Daily Community Minyanim are on Zoom with a few hybrid meetings throughout the week for Torah readings. Hybrid = In Person and on Zoom. Join the virtual minvan at:

tinyurl.com/BEC-minyan

Sunday & National Holidays

8:15 am and 5:45 pm (Memorial Day 5/29 zoom only)

Monday

7:15 am (Hybrid) and 5:45 pm

Tuesday

7:15 am and 5:45 pm

Wednesday

7:15 am and 5:45

Thursday

7:15 am (Hybrid) and 5:45 pm

Friday

7:15 am and 5:45 pm

Shabbat & Yom Tov

Candlelighting Havdalah 5/5 | 6:56 pm 5/6 | 7:55 pm 5/12 | 7:01 pm 5/13 | 8:01 pm 5/19 | 7:06 pm 5/20 | 8:07 pm 5/25 | 7:11 pm 5/27 | 8:13 pm

May

5/4, 5/11, 5/18 & 5/25

THE WORLD OF TALMUD THURSDAYS | 8:00 AM

Learn Talmud with Rabbi Stein Kokin Email rabbi@bethelphoenix.com to register and receive source sheets

Click to join https://zoom.us/j/92408568672

Lifelong Learning © Beth El

Register at bethelphoenix.com or call (602) 944-3359

5/6, 5/13, 5/20, & 5/27

BE'ER HATORAH SATURDAYS | 1:00 PM

Shabbat Torah Study with Rabbi Stein Kokin In person following Kiddush on Shabbat



5/21

Ta Shma: Tallit Workshop Sunday | 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Work on assembling your Tallit and tzit tzit.

See flyer for details.
In Person only.

5/18

Lunch & Learn Thursday | 12:00 pm

Enjoy lunch and learn with Wendy Rozov on the topic How do you relate to God? \$8 per person for lunch. Email wrozov@bethelphoenix.com to register. 5/24

BOOK GROUP WEDNESDAY | 6:45 PM

Love reading? Love schmoozing?
Join us as we discuss the book of the month.

See enclosed flyer for the book title.
Click to join https://tinyurl.com/bec-adult-ed1

5/14 & 5/28

BLANKET BOOSTERS SUNDAYS | 1:00 PM

Volunteer crochet and knitting club! All blankets created are donated to children in crisis. Click to join https://zoom.us/j/92408568672

5/21

Chai Tea Women's Study Group Sundays | 1:00 pm

There are many Jewish spiritual practices that allow us to open ourselves to find the holy in our lives. Hybrid learning sessions. In-person at Beth El. Click to join https://zoom.us/j/948321834



Dear Chaverim,

As the modern state of Israel marks its 75th birthday we celebrate it with very mixed feelings.

In the last few weeks people have asked me, "Rabbi, what about Israel?" This is a hard question to answer these days. We watch the news emerging daily from our Jewish homeland, and we

R. Nitzan Stein Kokin worry as we see the chaos and pain of the people living in Israel torn apart across political, religious, and existential questions. We are concerned about the future and how Israel as a state and as a society will emerge from this painful conflict on all fronts.

To try to formulate any satisfying answer in a short *Echo* article seems impossible to me. So instead, I want to share some of my personal thoughts that help me reflect and remain strong despite the deep frustration and actual depression that so many here and in Israel currently feel. Further down, I also will share some podcasts and readings that help me understand and process the daily news from the Middle East.

75 years of modern Jewish sovereignty in the promised land is a lifetime - and yet, for a democracy, it's quite a young age. Concerned about the judicial conflict and between the government and the Supreme Court, I heard a comment on the radio (unfortunately, I don't recall who said this), that gave me a new perspective: While we justifiably worry very much about Israel's democratic future, we at the same time witness a whole society engaged deeply in the democratic process. The people are on the streets raising their voices, letting those in power know where the limits are for them. The people's demonstrations and the dialogue initiated by the president are all functions and expressions of a functioning democracy.

The birth of modern Israel was a miracle. Who would have thought that In the aftermath of the chaos of WWII, after a nearly 2,000-year hiatus of Jewish sovereignty, not only did a modern state come into being, but it also managed to bring in Jewish ethnicities and cultures from all over the world and revived a language that survived only in writing since 70 C.E. without any native speakers? This thought helps me remain resilient.

Israel is unique. Not only in the above-mentioned accomplishment but also from a much deeper perspective:

Taking a close look at its values and its foundations, Rabbi Avital Hochstein introduces a new framework for our discussion in her essay "Sanctity and Land." Based on the book of Leviticus, she explores what the concept of kedushah - sanctity - means in the context of building a modern society: "In other words: if holiness is uniqueness, then life in the State of Israel is actually an opportunity to wonder what makes a democratic and Jewish state unique. These questions stem from an understanding that kedushah is not about hiding away in obscure sacred texts; it is about taking responsibility over life and reality, it is about engaging the unique ways our Torah takes shape in a real political moment with diverse, different, and unique people who currently live in the land. [...] It demands a heightened awareness of being in a unique place, one that requires us to define and maintain its distinctiveness. Lastly, it means being present in a place that has the potential to be sacred if and when we can all gather in it together. How do we design a public space and a set of laws and values that allow such a broad and substantial togetherness?"

There is much at stake in current Israel, and there is much to be created, mended, and redesigned. I think it is crucial to look at all that is going on with an attitude of how we can uplift and transform ourselves as Jewish people into a more sacred society. This helps me to put all into a much broader perspective which allows me to breath deep.

As we say in Pirkei Avot 2:21: "Lo alecha ham'lacha ligmor, v'lo ata ben chorin l'hibatail mimena - It is not your duty to complete the work, not up to you to finish it. But neither are you free to desist from it." We need to stay close, even with our fears and our frustration. For us living abroad, it means we cannot let go, even if we disagree.

While this is truly not anywhere near a satisfying answer and is merely a beginning of a conversation, I would like to share some of the sources that give me quality background information on an ongoing basis and help me to follow what is going on in Israel and educate myself in a more nuanced way. If you haven't done so, I recommend that you explore some of these.

The Shalom Hartman Institute:

Podcasts "For Heaven's Sake" & "Identity/Crisis" Times of Israel

Podcasts: "Daily Briefing" and "What Matters Now" Historical background "Israel Story"

Am Israel Chai! LeShalom, Rabbi Nitzan Stein Kokin



Audrey Wolff President

May Connections Dear Friends,

As May begins, there is much to celebrate both as part of the larger Jewish community and here at the Beth El: 75th Anniversary of the State of Israel, Shavuot, our end-of-Kabbalat Shabbat vear dinner honoring inspiring cohort of graduating high school seniors who grew up at Beth El. and our Annual

Meeting and Elections. All of these events are a time to reflect, honor, and embrace our Jewish heritage.

Currently, we are in between Pesach and Shavuot. Each night we count the Omer, distancing ourselves from the legacy of Egyptian slavery and moving towards receiving and accepting the Ten Commandments and our commitment to live as a Jewish people. It is especially meaningful this year in that we recognize the 75th anniversary of the state of Israel. Despite the challenges, tension, and messiness of the Middle East, we continue to prevail.

While Beth El's annual elections are not on par with Shavuot and Israel Independence, we nonetheless celebrate coming together to cast our votes for synagogue leadership and continuing the 90-plus-year legacy of our Phoenix Jewish community. I hope that I can count on all of you to join us on Sunday, May 7 at 9:30 am for our annual meeting, a light nosh, and a chance to connect with one another.

I also want to extend my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to the three board members, Rich Cohen, Ben Cooper, and Heather Baker-Mushkatel, who will be leaving the board, as their term has come to an end. All three juggled extremely demanding day jobs to volunteer their time and love to Beth El. This is by no means goodbye, as it now leaves them more time to engage in other Beth El activities. We still need their input and participation, just as we need yours. Only together can we move forward and realize our vision statement:

Beth El is a vibrant and inclusive center of Jewish life in the Valley where we gather as friends and family to celebrate our heritage and identity through tikkun olam; spiritual, cultural, and intellectual growth; traditional and innovative prayer; and lifelong learning. This vision is our roadmap for Beth El's future: Engaging with one another and forming relationships; inspiring ourselves to learn together, and to care, pray and celebrate with one another; and thrive as Jews in today's modern world.

We impart this vision to our graduating seniors as they embark on their next stage of life and continue to explore and develop their Jewish identity. We hope to see you on Friday, May 5, at 5:45 pm for our Kabbalat Shabbat in the Round Service and Dinner and on May 7 at our Annual Meeting.

Let's keep building a future filled with promise, joy, learning, and growth.

Membership Committee



Good times were had at the 60's Chavurah on April 2 at Beth El's Be'er Cafe!

More activities to come soon.

The committee will soon focus on planning some activities for the summer and next year, including more chavurot and a New Member Dinner.



Alicia Moskowitz Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As we near the end of the fiscal year at Beth El, we are working on billing for next year's dues, security fee, and building fund. As always, we want to make Beth El accessible to everyone who calls this their spiritual home, so please let me know if you need help financially towards these fees. We are generously supported by anonymous donors who help supplement dues for the past two years.

I also wanted to continue listing the available funds to donate towards at Beth El that I began in March's column. We are grateful for your donations and want to make sure they are used in a way that is pleasing to you!

Be'er Cafe: Funds help stock the Be'er with your favorite coffee, tea, and goodies. Also, stay tuned for some new programming coming up this summer and beyond in the Be'er!

Jeannette Flom Bikkur Cholim Fund: Make a donation for the speedy recovery of your loved one to support bikkur cholim at Beth El.

Mitzvah Meal Fund: Help us get meals to those in need. Mitzvah meals help families who are having a hard time and could use a meal due to medical issues, a loss in the family, and other challenges.

Pallin Library Fund: Support the upkeep of the Pallin Family Library. Supplies, books, and more can be purchased to update our library.

Social Action Fund: Proceeds directed by our Social Action Committee to projects that they spearhead and to help community partners like the Welcome Center meal crew, AZ Kosher Pantry Passover Food Drive, and AZ Friends of the Homeless.

Trees for Israel: Purchase Trees for Israel from the JNF through Beth El! We get a special rate and split the donation with JNF. Trees are \$18 each.

Thanks again for all of your support of Beth El!

Chag Sameach!

BETH EL WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Here are a few pictures from the Women's Passover Experience on April 10, at Rabbi Stein Kokin's home. The Rabbi led us on an educational journey to learn about a lesser known (at least to some of us) heroine of Passover, Sara bat Asher. Old and new friends shared a lovely meal and a fabulous array of Passover desserts. We are very grateful to Rabbi Stein Kokin for opening her home and sharing her wisdom and warmth with our gathering.

There are two events in May to put on your calendar. BEWL's Torah Fund Shabbat is on May 13 at 9:30 am at Beth El. We will celebrate the awesome women of Torah Fund by leading many parts of the service and, of course, have an enhanced kiddush. This year the Women's League for Conservative Judaism reached a milestone year - 80 years for the Torah Fund campaign. The \$80 for 80 campaign is in full swing at Beth El. You can drop off a check made out to Torah Fund, or donate online at jtsa.edu.

Please join BEWL and all members of Beth El Congregation at the Arizona Kosher Pantry on Sunday, May 21, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. We will pack meals for those in need. It's part of the Beth El Day of Service. Parking is available to the south of the Kosher Pantry at Arizona Rentals. Do not park at Esmero Salon - they will have you towed. Water bottles are also being collected at Beth El by the Social Action Committee. Register online at https://tinyurl.com/AZKosher.

I hope to see many of you at our events.

Eileen Bloom President, BEWL





Nanci Siegel Manson spe Talmud Torah Director for

Dear Families,



It's hard to believe that the school year is coming to an end and the the summer heat will soon be here.

Summer typically brings the opportunity to travel, relax, spend time with family, and for our kids, summer experiences at camp.

Talmud Torah gives our kids the opportunity to not just learn about us as Jewish people, our language, holidays, our homeland and more, but to make and engage in Jewish friendships. Jewish summer camps do the same. Meeting kids from all over the country, and building Jewish friendships to last a lifetime. Every summer being able to return in excitement of "doing it all over again." Praying, singing, camping, hiking, swimming, crafting, and more. For those of you attending camp, make those memories!

For our graduating seniors, many college campuses provide the same. Jewish clubs, Hillel, sororities and fraternities, and dorm gatherings, all provide opportunities to make new friends while continuing to deepen one's Jewish roots.

Wishing you much luck, opportunity, persistence and success in the years to come.

Lastly, I'd like to leave you with this famous saying, "Do not forget your heart, and follow it until the end." As long as you have dreams, goals, and perseverance, you will achieve an outstanding life.

Don't forget to visit!

Nanci Siegel Manson





Roberta Harmon Youth Advisor Engagement Coodinator

Shalom,

We had a wonderful April filled with fun enriching youth events. USY got the chance to fused-glass make Mezuzot, while Kadima painted butterfly plates to commemorate Yom HaShoah. Additionally, Talmud Torah students submitted a beautiful art project for the Community Israel 75 Celebration on April 30 at the JCC!

Although the school year is coming to a close, that does not mean the fun is over. There will be at least one summer event for each age group. Please make sure to look out for more information and details so you can attend!

I wish everyone a wonderful, exciting, and joyful summer. I am looking forward to our last "Kabbalat Shabbat in the Round" of the school year, taking place on May 5. Please make sure to reserve your spot for dinner. Additionally, I'm eager to continue connecting with our youth during summer programming.

Have fun, stay cool, and stay safe. If I don't see you during the summer, I will look forward to connecting in the fall!





Joanie Charnow Preschool Director

Dear Families,

As our school year ends and we get ready for camp, I like to reflect back on all the wonderful things that happened in our school this year.

For Israel's birthday, Yom Ha'atzmaut, the classes made We passports. used photos from thumbprint picture day in October. We found that the children have grown and

so much that it was hard tohrenggdize them. Some of the children even said, "That's not me!" and would not believe it was really them.

May is the month everyone celebrates Teacher Appreciation. I have noticed there has been a lot of talk about how important teachers are, but I have also noticed that in several places it specifies K-12. However, the most important years of our lives are the first five, because that is where everything begins. Preschool teachers and administrators must be acknowledged as well. Our parents have worked very hard to appreciate our teachers and through our participation in Quality First and being contracted with DES, we have been able to raise our teacher's wages, give bonuses, and give incentive gifts. It is important to feel appreciated when you work in a stressful job, and our teachers here at Beth El are all amazing. If you see a teacher this month, especially the week of May 8 through 13, let them know you appreciate what they do.

Now that enrollment is open to everyone, the classes are filling up fast. A second infant room will be opened by the end of the month, and it is already almost full. The other classes are filling up as well. There will be space in summer camp for two, three, and four-year-olds. We will be creating a circus for the first four weeks and then a school fair during the second session. We will bring in special visitors for both sessions.

If you know anyone who needs a quality preschool for their child, please have them call me at (602) 944-2464.









Connecting to your Board of Directors:

Committees:

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Social Action/Uniting for Ukraine
Ritual/Coordinators
Chesed
Women's League
Fundraising
Education/Youth/Adult
Security
Facilities

All ideas and time commitments are Welcome!
Contact:
awolff@bethelphoenix.com

Cantor Update



Cantorial Soloist Jessi Grossman-Giordano will be leading services on the following days this month:

Shabbat, May 20 and 27 at 9:30 am

Beth El Gift Shop



Beth El Gift Shop Has All Your Judaica ESSENTIALS

Always in stock: candlesticks, Shabbat candles, Havdalah sets, Havdalah candles, memorial candles, Kiddish cups, challah covers, challah boards, kipot, mezuzahs and more!

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 - 2. No sales tax
- 3. Unique and unusual items
 - 4. Convenient
- 5. Custom orders offered for all Judaica

Gift shop now open during Beth El 's office hours

Smachot

MAZEL TO

Mazal Tov! May Anniversaries

Anniversary Shabbat | 5/27

Date	Names Y	ears Married		
12	Paul & Carol Sacks	32		
13	Ethan & Mai Bindelglas	11		
15	Wayne & Wendy Laskin	46		
16	Harold & Christie Walzer	41		
17	Daniel & Julie Witenstein	36		
17	Nick & Phyllis Fotinos	42		
26	Tracee Rosen & Keren Goldb	erg 21		
27	Mathis & Barbara Becker	36		
27	Craig & Martha Rozen	44		
28	Allyn & Bonnie Kluger	45		
28	Barry & Jody Aarons	17		
28	Joseph & Jerilyn Portnoy	57		
29	Robert & Debbi Goldich	46		

Yom Huledet Sameach! May Birthdays

Birthday Shabbat | 5/13

	-		
1	GiGi Brzycki	23	Julie Witenstein
3	Susan Finks	23	Lynda Ziskin
4	Charlene Abamsohn	23	Pearl Freeman
6	Sheldon Kottle	23	Amanda Brooks
7	Lorraine Shwer	26	Susan Weiner
7	Paul Ulan	26	Maureen Kist
8	Elaine Hirsch	27	Deborah Wolfe
9	Sarah Goldstein	29	Brian Alpert
10	Leslie Feldman	29	Susan Cohen
10	Keren Goldberg	29	Elliot Gould
11	Peter Rez	30	Carl Fuchs
15	Rebecca Karlin	30	Joan Rothfeld
16	Gilda Harris	31	Fereshteh Ghanooni
16	Bradley Ostrow	31	Debbi Schwartz
17	Jeffery Serbin		
17	Loretta Goldberg		
17	Anita Dale		
20	Marion Weinzweig		
20	Laura Nicholson		

To Ben Cooper on his oral argument in the United States Supreme Court on March 22, 2023 in the Jack Daniel's Properties, Inc. v. VIP Products case.

To the Maheri family on the baby naming of their youngest daughter, Sylvie Lily.

Thank you for all of your generous contributions!

General Fund

In memory of Molly Siegel
Marvin Siegel & Eileen Bloom
In memory of Nestor Roos
Robert Roos
In memory of Rose Gordon

Shirley Grossman

In memory of Morris Liebing Joseph Gelb

In memory of Sarah Cohen Reba & Allen Rothman

In memory of Laura Konick *Elliott Konick*

In memory of Gloria Stein *Mo Stein*

In appreciation of Rabbi Stein Kokin Stephen Shobin

In appreciation of recieving an aliyah on Shabbat

Arnold G. Hoffman

In honor of the birth of Eliam Rosen Deborah & Michael Shapiro

In honor of Charlotte Adelman's birthday

Audrey Wolff

In memory of Michael Harmon

Lorraine Harmon

In memory of Michael Harmon Roberta Harmon

In memory of Sam Jalowiec Phillip & Cheryl Jalowiec

In memory of her parents Carol Bell

In Memory of Dr. Steven A. Moskowitz

Aaron & Alicia Moskowitz

Kiddush Fund

In honor of their wedding anniversary

Daniel & Lynda Ziskin
In honor of their birthdays
Richard Sinovoi
Edith Wade
Charleen Holt

This *Echo* reflects donations received from 3/21 - 4/21. Donations received after 4/21 will be listed in the next *Echo*.

In honor of Barbara Holzman's birthday Anonymous A generous donation Russ Albert In honor of Ellen Goot's birthday Charlotte Adelman In honor of Cheryl & David Rosen's birthdays Charlotte Adelman In memory of Jack Winkelman Jeanne Milstein In Memory of Henry Bennett & Fave Fryd Judith Zola

Rabbi Stein Kokin's Discretionary Fund

To thank Rabbi Stein Kokin for officiating at their granddaughter's naming ceremony Scott & Sharon Steingard

For the speedy recovery of Rosemary Isaac Marcia Newman
In memory of Sandy Shuch

Marcia Newman & Family **Talmud Torah Fund**

On the occasion of the birth of Eliam Lawrence Rosen Steve & Marti Nathan

Tzedakah Fund

In memory of Aziz Ghanooni

The Behboodi Family
In memory of Robert S. Waldman,
M.D.

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Diana Fihn
In memory of Rose Gordon
Shirley Grossman

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In memory of Isadore Robbins
Barbara & Mathis Becker

Sarah Silverman Camp Scholarship

In memory of Fayma Conroy *Anonymous*

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Isaak Ulman, Jesef Revich, Roman, and Valer Revich *Mira Revich* In memory of Mollie Gerber *Gerald Levy*

In memory of Sylvia Sachs

Irwin Battock
In memory of Esther Ditchek
S Christina Ditchek

In memory of Ralph Webner Gerald & Caryll Webner

In memory of Rose Wise Edie Stoneman

In memory of Minnie Fineberg Dr. M. J Fineberg

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In memory of Fanny Zendle Dr. Les Zendle

Yizkor Appeal

In memory of a loved one Charlotte Adelman



BETH EL



YOUTH







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Jerusalem Wall Plaques | \$1,000+ over dues annually

Life Membership | \$25,000 single, \$50,000 family

Contact info@bethelphoenix.com or call (602) 944-3359 to learn more.



Talmud Torah students art project for the Community Israel 75 Celebration at the JCC

11

Ms. Gusdorff's class made a birthday cake for Israel!





Connect With Us!

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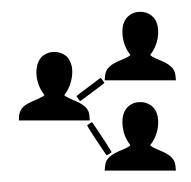
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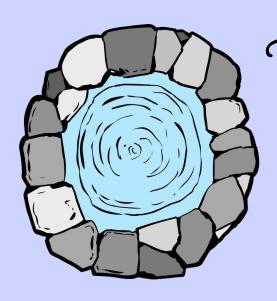
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