RABBI SHAFFIN IS TEACHING KABBALAH

Classes will take place every Saturday between Mincha & Ma'ariv services. Please join us for Mincha service at 4:30 PM. We are studying from the Zohar, the primary text of Jewish mysticism.

Topics include: angels & demons, the afterlife, the cosmic impact of mitzvot, the nature of G-d, creation, and our relationship with G-d.

Everyone is welcome!
Inside this issue...
Message from the Office 3
Rabbi’s Message 4
Sisterhood 6
Kadima, USY, Scouts 10
Upcoming Events 11
In Honor of 16
In Memory of 17
Simchas 18
Yahrzeits 19

Synagogue Services
Monday - Friday 7:00 am
Monday - Thursday 6:30 pm
Friday evening 6:15 pm
Saturday Services:
Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat 9:30 am
Saturday Mincha - 4:30 pm
(followed by Seudah Shlesheet & Ma’ariv)
Sunday 8:30 am & 5:00 pm

PLEASE JOIN US FOR SERVICES
The Messenger is published monthly.
DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
OF THE MESSENGER IS Feb. 15TH.

Articles and photos should be emailed to
the synagogue office at:
messenger@cbzep.org

Congregation B'nai Zion
805 Cherry Hill
El Paso, TX 79912
915-833-2222
www.congregationbnaizion.org

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING EVENTS
February is upon us already. Time is slipping by. We are all very busy and we understand that, but going forward beginning with the next issue of the Messenger all articles, advertisements, announcements, etc. for the Messenger must be submitted by the fifteenth of the month to appear in the next issue. We all have busy lives but please try to remember the cut off, to help us publish the Messenger more smoothly. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Our Campaign 2016-2017, where all donations are matched dollar for dollar, is moving along. We now are up to $22,311.50 in pledges and we have received $17,420.00 in payments upon those pledges. As of this writing, only 45 member families have participated in this fundraising effort. We have over 230, so many of you have yet to participate. Thank you to all who have participated in this funding drive. For those who have not, please do so. Our financial need is great, so please participate!

Our upcoming events are listed here in the pages to follow. Please come out and join us!
Borders are special places. They absorb more than one land, language and culture, more than one political environment, more than one reality. As such, El Paso, the border between Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico is a special and unique place. As I have had a little bit of an opportunity to explore, I have seen just how special it is. Its beautiful weather, breath-taking sunrises and sunsets, the Coronado Country Club, Mexican food, and the blend of cultures: Mexico-New Mexico, Texas cowboy, Colorado, Dallas-business, and Arizona/California.

I’ll get back to El Paso in a second. This week’s parasha in the Torah is Vayishlach. It is about angels. According to Rashi, the great medieval commentator, the messengers that Jacob sends to meet Esau are no ordinary messengers. They are angels. Yet, the language in the Torah is ambiguous and other rabbinic commentators disagree with Rashi claiming instead that these are ordinary human beings. Perhaps they are in between, on the border between being human and being angels.

When Jacob meets a divine creature by the River Yabok, the creature is likewise not what we would consider an angel. There are no wings. He doesn’t glow. He doesn’t give prophecy. He doesn’t command. He fights with Jacob. He wrestles with him as a human would. He is on the border between being an angel and being human.

It may sound strange that someone can be on the border between being an angel and being human, but Judaism affirms this possibility. In fact, it tells us that if we observe Yom Kippur with all of our heart and soul, we fast and repent, and are cleared of all our sins and transgressions and are pure and give ourselves entirely to the service of God then, at the end of the holiday, right before the final shofar blow, we become angels.

Like Yom Kippur, the border between being angels and being human, El Paso is a beautiful and very special border city and reminds us of the border of all borders, the border between Heaven and Earth.

In this city which is on the same latitude 31.76 degrees, as the holy city of Jerusalem, the city which connects Heaven and Earth; no wonder our congregation is called B’nai Zion, children of Jerusalem.

We, here, have the opportunity to make angels out of people, Heaven out of Earth, and to build a holy community. I have already met so many of you and you have been so welcoming to our family and so dedicated to this community that I’m already not certain whether you are human or angels.

I intend to devote my energies to you as my new wonderful congregation and to my divine mission to bring people closer to God and to build this sacred community. Perhaps I will aim to become angelic. But that is not all. I hope to inspire each and every one of us to reach for the Heavens.
I mentioned that there were people who have been doing sacred work. I would like to recognize them:

First, I would like to thank all those who worked so hard on the welcome dinner: Patty Hutman, Leslie Beckoff, Denise Tolentino, Alan Cohen, Shane Lipson, and Lynn Kobren.

I would also like to thank the executive committee with whom I work so closely: Shane Lipson, David Sabal, Adam Rosenfield, Ernest Eisenberg, Kristin Kimmelman, and Cesar Carrasco and our president when I came here and now interim executive director, Alan Cohen. Thank you to Rabbi Leon for your beautiful song, warm welcome to El Paso, and for all the work that we do together. I would like to give a very special thank you to Tanny Berg, Shane Lipson, Jerry Rubin, Kristin Kimmelman, and Myer Lipson for being those so instrumental in bringing me to B’nai Zion. Thank you to the entire Rabbi Search Committee. Thank you to Tanny Berg and Barbara Berliner and to Jerry and Marcia Schwartz for hosting us when we came for a weekend. I would like to thank Monica Kupetz and Felicia Rubin for organizing the beautiful welcome basket and all who contributed to it. Thank you to Lupita and Viri for such a fabulous meal and to Arturo for this gorgeous set-up.

A very special thank you goes to my wonderful family: Shoshanna, Netanya, Elianna, and Kinneret for moving halfway across the country to make this happen and for having faith in me and in B’nai Zion. Thank you, Shoshanna, for all your love and support and for being my loyal partner through life.

I believe that, together, we can become like angels and make B’nai Zion a spiritual place. It already is. All we need to do is open our eyes and recognize it: come to services, come to adult education, come to social events like this one, spend time in the beautiful biblical garden, join USY, Boy Scouts, Sisterhood, the board, and committees. We need to make B’nai Zion our home away from home.

B’nai Zion is a very spiritual place. All we need to do is open our eyes and appreciate it, as it says in the Torah:

יתעדין אל יכנאו הזה عليكם

G-d is in this place and I did not know it.

Rabbi Royi Shaffin
What a wonderful Sisterhood Shabbat we celebrated on January 21! More than thirty Sisterhood members participated in Shabbos services and we enjoyed a beautiful and delicious Shabbos lunch. The tables were gorgeous with peach and yellow roses as well as a bejeweled recognition of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism. Thank you to all Sisterhood members who participated as well as a great big thank you to Rabbi Shaffin and Rabbi Leon for their participation in services. Many thanks to Blanca Carrasco for her help in preparing for the event, and to Eileen Armour and Leslie Beckoff for the beautiful table décor.

Sisterhood is planning events from February through May, including a Women’s History program and a Chai Tea with the installation of officers and board of directors. We are also going to sponsor a community-wide event, An Evening of Jewish Cinema, featuring the film, Mamadrama: The Jewish Mother in Cinema. Watch for more information soon.

Sisterhood is still seeking a few more members for the Sisterhood Board of Directors. We need some of our members to step forward and take a role in guiding Sisterhood over the next several years. In 2021, Sisterhood will celebrate 100 years of affiliation with Women’s League for Conservative Judaism and plans for that year must begin sooner rather than later. Many of you probably have some great ideas for Sisterhood events and for ways we can celebrate our 100th anniversary. Please contact Blanca Carrasco if you would like to be part of helping Sisterhood move forward.

In Sisterhood,
Patty Hutman
Sisterhood President
pahutman@gmail.com
Sisterhood Membership Sponsors

Mitzvah sponsors:

Martha Eisenberg
Dana Frank
Robin Furman
Patty Hutman
Judy Weiser

Torah sponsors:

Leslie Beckoff
Blanca Carrasco
Linda Corral
Mona Goldberg
Kristin Kimmelman
Joan Korn
Amy Marcus
Leticia Neiman
Dora Roe
Rose Schecter
Gail Slater
Laura Tolentino
Sarah Williams

Start Reading!

Mischling
by Affinity Konar

Tuesday, March 14
7:00 p.m. ~ B’nai Zion

Sponsored by:
CBZ Sisterhood, Women of Reform Judaism, Hadassah

Konar’s debut novel follows twin sisters fighting to survive the evils of World War II. This book was inspired by the real-life experiences of Eva and Miriam Mozes, who became part of the experimental population of twins known as Mengele’s Zoo. It is a fascinating book to pick up and a difficult book to put down. You will find it unforgettable!

Save the Dates!

Upcoming Sisterhood Events

March 9 – prepping Mishloach Manot bags
March 12-16 – delivery of Mishloach Manot bags
March 14 – Book discussion of Mischling by Affinity Konar
March 26 – Sisterhood General Meeting with Women’s History Month Program
April 30 – An Evening of Jewish Cinema Mamadrara: The Jewish Mother in Cinema
May 21 – Chai Tea and Installation of 2017-2019 Officers and Board
CONGREGATION B’NAI ZION
IS PAYING THE FIRST $4000.00
IN CAMP TUITION
TO ATTEND CAMP RAMAH DAROM

CAMP RAMAH DAROM IS LOCATED NEAR ATLANTA GEORGIA
1ST SESSION BEGINS JUNE 13TH
SPACE IS VERY LIMITED
PLEASE RUSH!

ENTERING GRADES 3RD – 10TH

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE SHUL 833-2222
OR
SIDNEY SCHLUSSELBERG VIA EMAIL SIDELP@AOL.COM

ALL CARE LAWN SERVICE
A LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICE

Weekly Landscape Maintenance Plan
Your outdoor living area and front yard will be serviced weekly by our team of professional landscape maintenance staff. Our weekly landscape maintenance plan includes:

• LAWN CARE - Our lawn care team will mow, edge and fertilize your lawn areas. Trimmings will be removed and water system effectiveness evaluated.
• SPRINKLERS - Your sprinkler system is the lifeline for your lawn, shrubs, flowers, and trees. We will provide bi-monthly inspections and update the automatic scheduling as needed.
• PLANTS & SHRUBS - Your plants and shrubbery will remain vibrant with regular trimming and dead head removal. We will spray for insect control and fertilize as need to keep them healthy.
• TREE PRUNING - Cutting, trimming, and fertilizing. Removal of diseased, damaged, or dead branches will do wonders for your trees, resulting in increased growth and healthy appearance.
• CLEANING - Our team will clean at each visit; we remove lawn trimmings as well as leaves and branches from trees and shrubs. Walkways and patios will also be cleaned of all trimmings and wind blown dirt or debris.

SEASONAL COLOR CHANGE FOR FLOWERING PLANTS
elpasoallcare.com • tvcarey@gmail.com
Tom Carey - President • 915-471-6010

Rabbi Royi the cartoon is hidden somewhere in The Messenger. Can you spot him? Hint: It’s not on this page.
TALMUD TORAH SHABBAT

JOIN US ON FEBRUARY 3rd AND 4th FOR OUR ANNUAL TALMUD TORAH SHABBAT
FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES START AT 6:15 PM
SERVICES WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A KID FRIENDLY SHABBAT DINNER
SATURDAY MORNING SERVICES START AT 9:30 AM
STAY AFTER SERVICES FOR A WONDERFUL KIDDUSH LUNCH

TALMUD TORAH WILL ENJOY A TU B’SHEVAT SEDER
ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12th STARTING AT 10:30 AM
IN THE FRIEDMAN SOCIAL HALL

ENJOY GREAT FOOD, SINGING AND LOADS AND LOADS OF FUN!
BRING YOUR PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, BROTHERS, SISTERS AND FRIENDS.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

TRUE CARE

CHIROPRACTIC & ACUPUNCTURE
“YOUR PATH TO WELLNESS”
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**ACUPUNCTURE**
**CHIROPRACTIC**
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**FUNCTIONAL MEDICINE**

ELPASOTRUECARE.COM
FREE GOURMET DINNER SEMINARS
TOPICS INCLUDE:
**REVERSING STRESS**
**TYPE 2 DIABETES**
**OTHER AUTOIMMUNE CONDITIONS**
(915) 587-4600

Come and join us for Hadassah Shabbat Zachor

Friday, March 10
Services start at 6:15 pm
Congregation B’nai Zion
805 Cherry Hill Ln
If you would like to participate in the Service, please contact Debbie Cohen 832-24-16 at x49-6505 or debcoh@aol.com
February:
10-11: BZUSY Shabbat
12: BZUSY Extravaganza - 5:30 PM
19: Rockin’ Jump 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
26: USY Meeting 10:30 AM

March:
16-19: Shabbaton

BZUSY and KADIMA are having their 2nd Shabbaton with Sooner (SWUSY’S Oklahoma Chapter) here in El Paso March 16-19, 2017. More Details to Come

ATTEND JEWISH SUMMER CAMP FOR FREE THIS SUMMER!

CONGREGATION B’NAI ZION, IN CONJUNCTION WITH CAMP YOUNG JUDAEA, IS OFFERING FREE CAMP TUITION FOR B’NAI ZION MEMBERS TO ATTEND CAMP YOUNG JUDAEA IN WIMBERLEY, TEXAS. FOR FREE!

THERE ARE ONLY TEN SLOTS AVAILABLE AND THEY ARE GOING FAST, SO SIGN UP NOW!!! NO FINANCIAL NEED WILL BE REQUIRED.

STUDENTS WHO ARE FIRST TIME CAMP YOUNG JUDAEA CAMPER CURRENTLY IN GRADES 1-12 ARE ELIGIBLE.

PLEASE SIGN UP WITH RABBI SHAPIRO
015-831-3223.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CAMP YOUNG JUDAEA IN TEXAS, PLEASE VISIT CVYTEXAS.ORG

OUR GRATITUDE TO OUR GENEROUS BENEFACTORS AND OUR BEST WISHES FOR A GREAT SUMMER EXPERIENCE!

Join us for the
Fifth Annual BZUSY Extravaganza

Sunday, February 12, 2016
5:30 PM

Enjoy breakfast for dinner

Silent Auction

Talent Show

Tickets are $12 each or a table of 8 for $80. If reserved by Feb. 5 tickets will be $15 if bought at the door (children 5 and under are free of charge).

For more information, or to buy tickets, call the synagogue office at 833-2222

Share your talent!

If you are interested in performing in the talent show, please contact Rachel Leon (Youth Advisor) at rachelb2971@gmail.com or (915) 999-3979.

Support B’nei Zion’s USY!
FEBRUARY 17th 6:15 PM
FRIENDS & FAMILY SHABBAT
ICE CREAM PARTY
FRIEDMAN SOCIAL HALL
CONGREGATION B’NAI ZION 805 CHERRY HILL
YOU’RE INVITED! NO COST
RSVP BY FEBRUARY 15TH AT PROGRAMS@CBZEP.ORG or (915) 633-2222
B'nai Zion

Bikur Cholim

Do you have a family member or a loved one who is home bound, or under hospice care, who would enjoy home visits? Someone to talk to them, or read to them?

Congregation B'nai Zion now has a Bikur Cholim group to help. We can provide your family member or loved one with visits from one of our compassionate volunteers.

Please call us at (915) 833-2222 to sign up, or call Neorah Garcia (Chairperson) at (915) 440-6029

We’re here for you....

Mishloach Manot Project

Purim is fast approaching!

Send Purim wishes and treats while supporting Congregation B'nai Zion and Sisterhood!

Keep an eye out in your mail and email for the order form for Mishloach Manot bags.

Deadline to submit orders is Friday, March 5.

This fundraising project is a joint effort of Sisterhood and the CBZ Board. Money is used to support the programs at B'nai Zion, including Talmud Torah, USY, the kitchen, and many other worthwhile programs.

Contact Patti Harman (915-325-5882) or Kristen Krawczik (915-640-5806) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer to prepare or deliver bags.

Jewish Spiritual Healing Class

with

Rabbi Shaffin & Neorah Garcia

TOPICS INCLUDE:

PRAYER & ITS AFFECT ON HEALING, CIRCLES OF PROTECTION, PROTECTIVE AMULETS, THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING, KABBALAH, AND VISITING THE SICK.

CLASSES WILL TAKE PLACE EVERY SUNDAY IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY AT 9:30 AM.

IN THE FRIEDMAN SOCIAL HALL.

NO COST / EVERYONE IS WELCOME
Congregation B’nai Zion hosted Kristin Kimmelman, Mezzo-Soprano and Esequiel Meza on Piano in a Recital that captivated the entire audience.

Photos by: Edward “Doobie” Dubowitz

David and Kristin Kimmelman hosted the first of the “Meet, Greet, and Nosh” Series
Scholar-in-Residence
Cantor Robyn Helzner presented:
“Kreplach & Dim Sum, Yes There are Jews in China!”
at Congregation B’ni Zion on Tuesday evening, January 24, 2017.

Photos by: L. Beckoff

Special thanks to:

Sisterhood for sponsoring our kiddush lunch in honor of their annual Sisterhood Shabbat
Kristin and David Kimmelman for hosting a Meet, Greet, Nosh Series at their home.

Adult education class in the month of Shevat & Tu b’Shevat.
Wednesday February 8th, 2017, from 7:00 PM-8:00 PM (after minyan).
Come and learn (in an interactive setting) about the month of Shevat, and all the spiritual richness this month holds. Come and discover/rediscover the beauty of Tu b’Shevat, the connection of Jewish Biblical women to Tu b’Shevat, and Shabbat Shira (one of the Torah portions/haftarahs read during the month of Shevat). Hope to see you there!

Neorah García

Congregation B’nai Zion now has a Bikur Cholim group, and is actively seeking volunteers to do home visits. If you are interested in volunteering, to brighten someone’s day, call the synagogue office (833-2222) or Neorah Garcia (440-6029)

Road To Engagement Raffle
AND THE WINNER IS .......
Sidney & Landy Blum
Congratulations!!! Thank you to all those who have participated by submitting their forms! If you have not submitted your Road To Engagement forms, please do so as soon as possible!
Meet, Greet & Nosh Series
With Rabbi Royi Shaffin and his wife Shoshanna Schechter-Shaffin.

The series will take place from January until May. Dinners will be held at various locations.

The second of the series will be a brunch at the home of Shane and Jeanne Lipson. 
Sunday, February 5, 2017 at 11:30 A.M.
Seating is limited, please make your reservations by Tuesday, January 24, 2017.

The third of the series will be a dinner at the home of Patty and Mark Hutman.
Monday, March 6, 2017 at 6:30 P.M.
Seating is limited, please make your reservations by Wednesday, March 1, 2017.

There is no cost to attend the Meet, Greet & Nosh Series. All are welcome to join us.

Mark your Calendar
Roaring 20’s Casino Night
March 4th
In Honor Of

*Miriam and Louis Rosenbaum*
Ann & Tibor Schaechner

*Dr. Boris Kaim*
Drs. Laura & Louis Alpern

*Susan and Mike Jaffe* - Congratulations on the birth of your grandson Jack Eisenberg

*Sidney Blum* - Speedy Recovery
Miriam & Louis Rosenbaum

*Bill Gotfried* - Speedy Recovery
Miriam & Louis Rosenbaum

*Jack Peitzer* - Speedy Recovery
Leslie & Robert Beckoff
PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

If a relative or friend is suffering from an illness, perhaps you would like to recite a special prayer for the speedy recovery of the ailing person. Traditionally, the Hebrew name of the sick person and the Hebrew name of the sick person's mother are mentioned during the prayer. It would be helpful if you would provide us with this information when you make your request.

Prayers for the recovery of the sick are customarily accompanied by a gift to a deserving charity. The merit of this kind deed arouses God's mercy and His powers of healing. Although any amount is deemed appropriate on such an occasion, a gift of CHAI - $18 - or multiples of 18 - is particularly fitting when pleading for a person's recovery from sickness.

Chai in Hebrew means life. The two Hebrew letters which constitute the word - CHET and YUD - have the numerical equivalents of eight and ten respectively, together yielding the sum of eighteen. For this reason it has become a custom to give charity in the amount of CHAI when praying for the well-being of a suffering person.

Enclosed please find a contribution in the sum of $______________

Please make a Misheberach (Prayer for the recovery) for:
Name (English) __________________________ Name (Hebrew) __________________________
(Hebrew)_____________________________Mother's Name (Hebrew) __________________________
SIMCHAS

February Birthdays

03-Rena Marcus
    David Metrikin

04-Joyce Jaffee
    Aida Galanter
    Gary Nadler

05-Eitan Lavi
    Jorge Perez
    Jane Warach
    Loretta Fertel

07-Samuel Ellowitz

08-Harriet Roth
    Lynette Brown
    Nina Hirsh

09-Jeffrey Weislow
    Dori Fenenbock

14-Tony Gronich

16-Greg Rubin
    Elena Konig
    Jeffrey Roth
    Sara Politi

17-Renaye Feldt

18-Leslie Grodin

21-Alexus Hirsh

23-Susan Eisen

24-William Carvajal

25-Stewart Cherno

26- Stefanie Block Urribarri
    Margaret Stein

27-Wendy Rothschild
    Ruja Cohen
    Jennifer Ehrlich

February Anniversaries

01-Robin and Anthony Furman
    Brenda and David Goldman

05-Martha and Jaime Rubinstein

09-Malka and Julio Sidransky

19-Wendy and Jeffrey Siegel
    Karen and Steve Kaplowitz

20-Eileen and Richard Armour

26-Norma and Saul Sidransky
    Margaret and Scott Stein
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<td>Joel Kleinfeld</td>
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<td>Carl Weil</td>
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<td>Nochum Veta</td>
<td>02/14 (18 Shevat)</td>
<td>Shirley Schecter</td>
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<td>Sara Berg</td>
<td>02/15 (19 Shevat)</td>
<td>Rudy Burgheim</td>
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<td>David Grodin</td>
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<td>Edith Gronich Hirsch</td>
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<td>Grace Ellowitz</td>
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**February 2017**