Congregation B’nai Zion

The Messenger

Tevet / Shevat 5777 / January 2017

Photo by: David Sabal

CHRORAL

&

present

CONGREGATION B’NAI ZION

EL PASO, TEXAS

Kristin Kimmelman, Mezzo-Soprano

Esequiel Meza, Piano

In Recital

Saturday, January 7, 2017, 7pm

Congregation B’nai Zion, Friedman Social Hall
805 Cherry Hill Lane, El Paso, Texas

Opera Arias, Art Songs, & Show Tunes

Suggested Minimum Donation $10
Benefits El Paso Choral Society & Congregation B’nai Zion
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B’nai Zion Officers & Staff
Rabbi Royi Shaffin
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Interim Exec. Dir. Annalie Rollins
Program Manager Denise Tontevino
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3rd Vice President Adam Rosenfield
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Secretary Kristin Kimmelman
USY President Zachary Krasne
USY Advisor Rachel Leon
Sisterhood Patty Hutman

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 JAN. 16TH.

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

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A Judaism Full of Heart

This past month has been exciting and full of life. Thank you to all those who planned and came to our welcome dinner, to all who planned and came to our home for our Chanukah party and to all who planned and attended the joint Talmud Torah-EPJA Chanukah concert extravaganza which was generously sponsored by Stanlee and Jerry Rubin. Thank you to all who came to our adult education classes this past month, taught by my wife, Shoshanna Schechter-Shaffin. Thank you to all those coming to pray, light the menorah, and study Torah with us on Shabbat and throughout the week. Thank you to all those visiting the sick, giving Tzedakah, and doing all kinds of other wonderful mitzvot.

We feel so warmly embraced by the B’nai Zion community and we embrace you all. We look forward to getting to know each and every member of the congregation and to many more years of Jewish communal life together.

During the month of January, we enter the portal of the Book of Exodus. The story of Passover as it is portrayed in both the Book of Exodus and in the Haggadah has two parallel ideas. One is of physical liberation while the other is of spiritual awakening. This has a great deal to teach us at B’nai Zion and the entire American Jewish community.

God desires the heart. God wants us to be excited about our Judaism and about the potential for personal and spiritual growth that is contained within it.

As we enter the new secular year, let us get excited about our fabulous congregation and about all that it has to offer. May this next year be filled with good health and blessings and with the excitement of Jewish communal life.
We wish you a happy and healthy 2017!

January will be a great month here at Congregation B’nai Zion! It begins with an adult learning opportunity with Shoshana Schecter-Shaffin, “In Their Own Words: Women of the Torah.” Our “Shabbat Meals to Go” on January 6th features a salmon dinner. January 7th will be a wonderful vocal recital by our very own highly talented member Kristin Kimmelman benefiting the El Paso Choral Society and Congregation B’nai Zion. On January 14th, USY will be having a dance party. If you know a USY-aged child, make certain they do not miss this event! January 21st will be the Sisterhood Shabbat. Please come out to support our Sisterhood! January 24th we are hosting a scholar in residence program, “Kreplach and Dim Sum: The Jews of China.” Save the date!

Our matched giving campaign has started off well. So far we have received over $19,000 in pledges and to date over $16,000 has been paid. This is an outstanding beginning! If you have not made your pledge, there is still time! We are trying to reach $100,000 in funds which will be matched dollar for dollar by an outside organization. You may pledge and pay in lump sum or make payments towards your pledge over the next few months. The need is great so please participate!

- Alan Cohen
We have just marked the formal welcoming of Rabbi Shaffin to Congregation B’nai Zion. In a spiritual program we’ve just concluded, many of us gathered to greet Rabbi Shaffin, his wife Shoshanna, and their three daughters into our community.

For those who couldn’t join us, below is an adaptation of my comments and thoughts in welcoming a Rabbi into our lives. I’ve always been enamored with the writings of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. His writing, Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity, included the following:

“Now what qualifies a person to be a rabbi? What gives him the right, the privilege to represent the word of G-d to the people of G-d? If the main purpose of being a rabbi is to bring men closer to their “Father in Heaven,” then one of his supreme tasks is to pray and to teach others how to pray. To be a Jew implies the preeminence of prayer. To be able to inspire people to pray one must love his people, understand their predicaments and be sensitive to the power of exaltation, purification, and sanctification hidden in our Prayer Book. To attain such sensitivity he must commune with the great masters of the past, and learn how to pour his own dreams and anxieties into the well of prayer.”

My humble view is that it takes a special human being to act as our spiritual inspiration. Many of us have jobs or careers: physician, chef, accountant, custodian, and so on. But, to be a Rabbi is a way of life. It is a way of always being connected to G-d and to act as teacher to help others connect to G-d. This isn’t a 9-5 shift, or a 40 hour, 60 hour, or 80 hour work week. This is permanent and ongoing devotion to read, understand, teach, and lead us to live as G-d intended. To attain Jewish perfection and inspire us to do the same.

I’ve had the opportunity over the past few months to study and learn from Rabbi Shaffin. As we, a community, continue on the path of life together, supported and intertwined with each other, I pray that Rabbi Shaffin will act as a guide, just as Rabbi Leon has done for so many years.

-Shane Lipson
“There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.”
- Albert Einstein

Most people have favorite sayings or quotes they invoke on occasion. My favorite quote is the one above. Its wisdom constantly reminds me that I should always look for the good, the joy, the happiness in life rather than dwelling on their opposites.

In recent months, I have been baffled by the offhand comments and grumbles of some of our congregation members. There is certainly room for improvement and the synagogue board and staff takes your concerns seriously. Many of those who do the most complaining are members (or non-members) who find fault in most institutions. So, I usually try to move them along to a more positive attitude and encourage them to join in services and other synagogue activities. After all, the very existence of this synagogue is a type of miracle! What started as a small synagogue in a dusty west Texas town grew into a beautiful place to congregate and worship for more than one hundred years. Many of us work to help keep this miracle alive. Will you be part of this effort?

Additionally, Congregation B’nai Zion Sisterhood has been in existence for more than ninety-five years – a miracle also. I had the occasion recently to peruse the B’nai Zion archives and came across page after page of program brochures and newspaper articles about Sisterhood during the 1920s and 1930s. It was a real treat to see my husband’s grandmother, Fannie Zlabovsky, as an active participant in Sisterhood. Fannie was the Sisterhood’s second president and was the inspiration for my decision to become active in Sisterhood several years ago. Even though I never met her, I like to think that she reached out to me across the years to encourage me.

My message to you as we begin 2017 is to become part of the miracle that is B’nai Zion. Attend services on Shabbos or weekday mornings or evenings. Attend events and education programs sponsored by the synagogue and the Sisterhood. Support our children by participating in Talmud Torah and USY events. Help keep the miracle alive!

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

Sisterhood Gift Shop

PASSOVER IS COMING!
The shop offers beautiful Judaica, mezuzahs and the scrolls needed for the mezuzahs, Kiddush cups, serving dishes, books, challah covers, and so much more. We have a variety of Seder plates to suit every taste. Start shopping now for Passover! It will be here sooner than you think!

Watch for featured items in the E-Blast each week.

Contact the Office for the Gift Shop Schedule or to schedule an appointment.

Come in and see what tickles your fancy! Let us know what type of items you would like to see stocked in the gift shop.

Shop our gift shop before you go online. Support the CBZ Sisterhood!
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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 needed 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.

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Rabbi Royi the cartoon is hidden somewhere in The Messenger. Can you spot him? Hint: It’s not on this page.
Congregation B’nai Zion Sisterhood

Presents:
Sisterhood Shabbat
2017/5777

Saturday, January 21, 2017
9:30 a.m.
B’nai Zion Chapel

Luncheon to follow in the
Friedman Social Hall

Sisterhood members who would like to participate
in the service should contact:
Blanca Carrasco at typographica6000@sbcglobal.net
or
Patty Hutman at pahutman@gmail.com

CBZ Sisterhood is affiliated with the
Women’s League for Conservative Judaism
and is a member of the
Pacific Southwest Region of WLCJ
February:
10-11: BZUSY Shabbat
12: BZUSY Extravaganza - 5:30 PM

March:
16-19: Shabbaton

In December, BZUSY and Kadima did their annual mitzvah of making menorahs and delivering them to our members who live in an assisted living community or those who are homebound.

The Impact that an International Convention had on me

This year, I got the opportunity to experience an International Convention (IC) in United Synagogue Youth (USY) and it truly was life changing. It was the first time I had attended and we were involved in a variety of activities. They ranged from listening to a handicapped wrestler talk about how he overcame his struggles in sports, to volunteering at Catholic Charities; which helps clothe and feed people year-round. We also socialized with other USYer’s from around the world, as close as our region, as far as Uganda and learned what it’s like to grow up in those areas. Another event during IC was elections, where we decided on the future leaders of USY. Since the Convention was in Dallas, we traveled to Fort Worth for a rodeo and ate kosher barbeque. We danced, joked, and made lifelong memories with new as well as old friends, that only the magic of an International Convention can bring. Ultimately, this International Convention had a profound impact on the way I view challenges, and gave me the opportunity to make new friends from around the globe. I am very grateful to all the people who made it possible for me to attend and look forward to the next International Convention in Chicago!

Sincerely,

Julian Cohen
BZUSY-REC VP

Help the Ronald McDonald House Charities

BZUSY is running a drive for the Ronald McDonald House of Charities. Please help out and donate.

As part of our synagogue’s goal to involve all of our students in Jewish education and programming, we are very excited to offer substantial subsidies to all B’nai Zion 4th-12th graders to participate in Camp Ramah summer camp and USY summer programs including USY on Wheels and USY Israel Summer Pilgrimage.

These incredible programs are inspiring, fun, educational, and life-changing. As one who has participated in them as a youngster, along with my own children, I highly recommend every one of our students to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity. These subsidies will provide substantial means to reduce the cost of attending these summer programs. No financial need will be required to be shown. If you are interested, please contact the synagogue office as soon as possible or me at rabbisal@aol.com.

Shalom,

Rabbi Stephen A. Leon
SAVE THE DATE

Scholar-in-Residence
Cantor Robyn Helzner Presents:
“Kreplach & Dim Sum, Yes There are Jews in China!”
at Congregation B’nai Zion on Tuesday evening,
January 24, 2017.
More details to follow.

In this lively presentation, renowned vocalist and storyteller Robyn Helzner shares stories, photos, video, and music to explore the extraordinary history of the Jewish communities in Beijing, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Kaifeng, and traces their emergence as the fastest growing Jewish region in the world.

Robyn served as the Cantor for the United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong and officiated at the first bar Mitzvah celebrated in Beijing, China. Robyn also leads Jewish Heritage Tours to China.

Save The Date

Meet, Greet & Nosh Series
With Rabbi Royi Shaffin and his wife Shoshanna Schecter-Shaffin.
The series will take place from January until May.
Dinners will be held at various locations.
Details to follow.

Save The Date

for Hadassah’s Shabbat Zachor at B’nai Zion on March 10th. If you are interested in planning or participating, please contact Debbie Cohen (915-249-6505 or debcoh@aol.com). Look for more information in next month’s newsletter.
Congregation B’nai Zion’s Talmud Torah and EPJA had a spectacular Pre-Chanukah celebration with over 200 members attending. Generously sponsored by Stanlee and Gerald Rubin.

Photos by: L. Beckoff
The city of El Paso hosted its first ever Chanukah Community Celebration at San Jacinto Plaza in conjunction with the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso.

Photos by: Edward “Doobie” Dubowitz
**Special thanks to:**

Martha and Jaime Rubinstein for sponsoring our Shabbat flowers in loving memory of Felix Rubinstein.

Guy Hauptman for sponsoring our Shabbat flowers in loving memory of Sara Hauptman.

Robin Gold for sponsoring the Seudah in loving memory of Ruby Berman.

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Hadassah El Paso is very grateful for B’nai Zion’s partnership with the Community Health and Wellness Fair in November. This event would not have been as successful without the support we received from the Synagogue and the extra efforts made by the following:

- Lupe and Kitchen Staff
- Arturo
- Alan and Office Staff

With your involvement, we achieved our goals to educate and promote health throughout the El Paso community.

Thank you very much,

Debbie Cohen
Hadassah El Paso
VP-PRAZE
In Honor Of

Rabbi Royi Shaffin
- Patricia & Mark Hutman

Joan Korn – Happy Birthday
-Eileen & Richard Armour
-Rose Holland
-Selma Chasens

Sandy and Tom Dula – Happy Anniversary
-Miriam & Louis Rosenbaum

Beth Kurland – Happy Birthday
-Miriam & Louis Rosenbaum

Dorothy Grodin- Happy Birthday
-Miriam & Louis Rosenbaum

Warren Pulner- Happy Birthday
-Miriam & Louis Rosenbaum

Joan Becker – Happy Birthday
-Roberta Kligman

Joyce Jaffee – Congratulations on the birth of your great grandson.
-Rose Holland

Mike Dipp- In honor of your special birthday
-Jack Eisenberg

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Kristin Kimmelman, Mezzo-Soprano
Ezequiel Meza, Piano

In Recital

Saturday, January 7, 2017, 7pm
Congregation B’nai Zion, Friedman Social Hall
805 Cherry Hill Lane, El Paso, Texas

Opera Arias, Art Songs, & Show Tunes
Suggested Minimum Donation $10
Benefits El Paso Choral Society & Congregation B’nai Zion
In Memory Of

Morey Stein  
- Shari & Stuart Schwartz  
- Nancy & Stuart Shiloff  
- Arlene Ellenburg

Joan Cherno  
- Felicia Rubin  
- Gerald & Stanlee Rubin  
- Tibor & Anne Schaechnar  
- Martin Slater  
- Bertie Siegelman  
- Louis & Miriam Rosenbaum  
- Jack Eisenberg  
- Alice Kasner  
- Brenda & Herbert Ehrlich  
- James Hogue  
- Linda & Art Corral  
- Beth & Myer Lipson

Allen Levine  
- Nancy & Stuart Shiloff  
- Beth & Myer Lipson

Ida Epstein  
- Sharna & Michael Epstein

Harris Kaplan  
- Alice Kasner  
- Linda & Art Corral

Mark Kupfer  
- Miriam & Louis Rosenbaum

Boris Zditowski  
- Henry Esquenazi

Bertha Lavis  
- Ruth Gniazdowitz  
- Rose Holland

Hirsch Kofsky  
- Herbert Kofsky

Gladys Slater  
- Arlene Ellenburg

Sylvia Heim  
- Rose Holland

Joan Feinberg  
- Arlene Feinberg

Bertha Davidoff  
- Joyce Davidoff

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) ____________________________
(Hebrew) ____________________________ Mother's Name (Hebrew) ____________________________
SIMCHAS

January Birthdays

02 – Simon Eisenberg
   Jacqueline Goldman
   Doris Gluck

03- Francine Shugart

04 - Cherryl Lieberman
   Judah Eisenberg
   Gabriel Frank
   Daniel Paseornek

05 - Eileen Armour
   David Sabal

06 - Joseph Lieb
    Benjamin Holzer

07 - Wilma Salzman

08 - James Holland
    Rose Pergricht

10 - Allyson Otis

12 - Benjamin Korn

13 - Scott Peitzer
   Ann Gronich

14 - Ilisa Naparstek
   Marvin Rubin
   Bernard Felsen

15 - Beth Lipson
   Edward Dubowitz

16 - Beverly Robinson

18 - David Schonberg

19 - Sandra Levenson
    Mario Aranda

20 - Lea Aida Kessel
    Lenore Kobren
    Julio Sidransky

21 - Benita Neumann

22 - Marvin Roth

23 - Guadalupe Ramos
    Benjamin Kuchinsky
    Karen Kaplowitz

24 – Laura Tolentino
    Sam Kobren

January Anniversaries

02 – Molly and
    Bernard Goldberg
    Robin and
    Richard Krasne

04 – Gail Slater and
    Mario Aranda

06 – Joyce and Carl
    Lieb

07 - Leslie and
    Richard Otis
    Lynette and Don
    Brown

08 - Amy and Allan
    Goldfarb

09 – Leslie and
    Richard Grodin

12 - Peggy and
    Andrew Feinberg

15 – Miriam and
    Louis Rosenbaum

16 - Linda and Nat
    Holzer

22 - Sara and Robert
    Shiloff

29 – Melinda and
    Meyer Marcus
Yahrzeits

01/01 (3 Tevet)  Harry Goldberg  01/03 (5 Tevet)  Oscar Lozabnick  01/05 (7 Tevet)  Alexander Schönberg
Julia Weiss  Taube Goldfarb  Florence Cohen  DeEtta Jane Jones

01/02 (4 Tevet)  Saul Frank  01/04 (6 Tevet)  Mannie Blaugrund  01/06 (8 Tevet)  Min Spetalnick
Dixie Kerr  01/07/ (9 Tevet)  Bessie Thompson

01/08 (10 Tevet)  Sam Holland  01/09 (11 Tevet)  Rebecca Morgan  01/10 (12 Tevet)  Helen Roth
Mary Diamond  Leo Chayes  Isidore Dockswell
Leonard Schuman

01/11 (13 Tevet)  Nell Carvajal  01/12 (14 Tevet)  Evelynne Belford  01/13 (15 Tevet)  Morris Weis
Sarah Peal  Susan Klahr  01/15 (17 Tevet)  Gladys Slater
Irvine Jacobson  Nathanial Falber  Ethel Hutman

01/14 (16 Tevet)  Minna Spetalnick  01/16 (18 Tevet)  Philip Yellin  01/18 (20 Tevet)  Cindy Lax Ardell
Rowena Heller  01/19 (21 Tevet)  Ruth Gluck
Karen Licht  Bluma Silverstein  Sidney Zaben

01/20 (22 Tevet)  01/21 (23 Tevet)  01/22 (24 Tevet)  01/23 (25 Tevet)  01/24 (26 Tevet)  01/25 (27 Tevet)
Ruth Dula  Rose Luskey  Evelyne Belford  Bertha Edelman  Fay Cohen  Morgan de Mayo

01/26 (28 Tevet)  Irving Rubin  01/27 (29 Tevet)  Julius Feiner  01/28 (1 Shevat)  Magda Schaechnier
Esther Claire Brown  Herman Golden  Idelle Rubin  Louis Rubin  Leah Goldberg

01/29 (2 Shevat)  Julius Cohen  01/30 (3 Shevat)  Sara Gluck  01/31 (4 Shevat)  Franklin Slusser
Phyllis Chonoles  Chaye Heller  Bertha Edelman  Abraham Furman  Michael Zurio

Reize Schaechner  Mary Horowitz  Mary Horowitz  Mary Horowitz  Mary Horowitz
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<td>22 24 Tevet</td>
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<td>23 25 Tevet</td>
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<td>Shacharit 9:00a</td>
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<td>Mincha/Maariv 6:30p</td>
<td>Kreplach &amp; Dim Sum 6:45p</td>
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<td>29 31 Shevat</td>
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<td>Shacharit 7:00a</td>
<td>Mincha/Maariv 6:30p</td>
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Shabbat Mevarchim:
- Torah Study: 9:00a
- Shabbat Services: 9:30a
- Mincha: 4:30p
- Havdalah: 6:14p

Rosh Chodesh Shevat:
- Torah Study: 9:00a
- Shabbat Services: 9:30a
- Mincha: 4:30p
- Havdalah: 6:27p