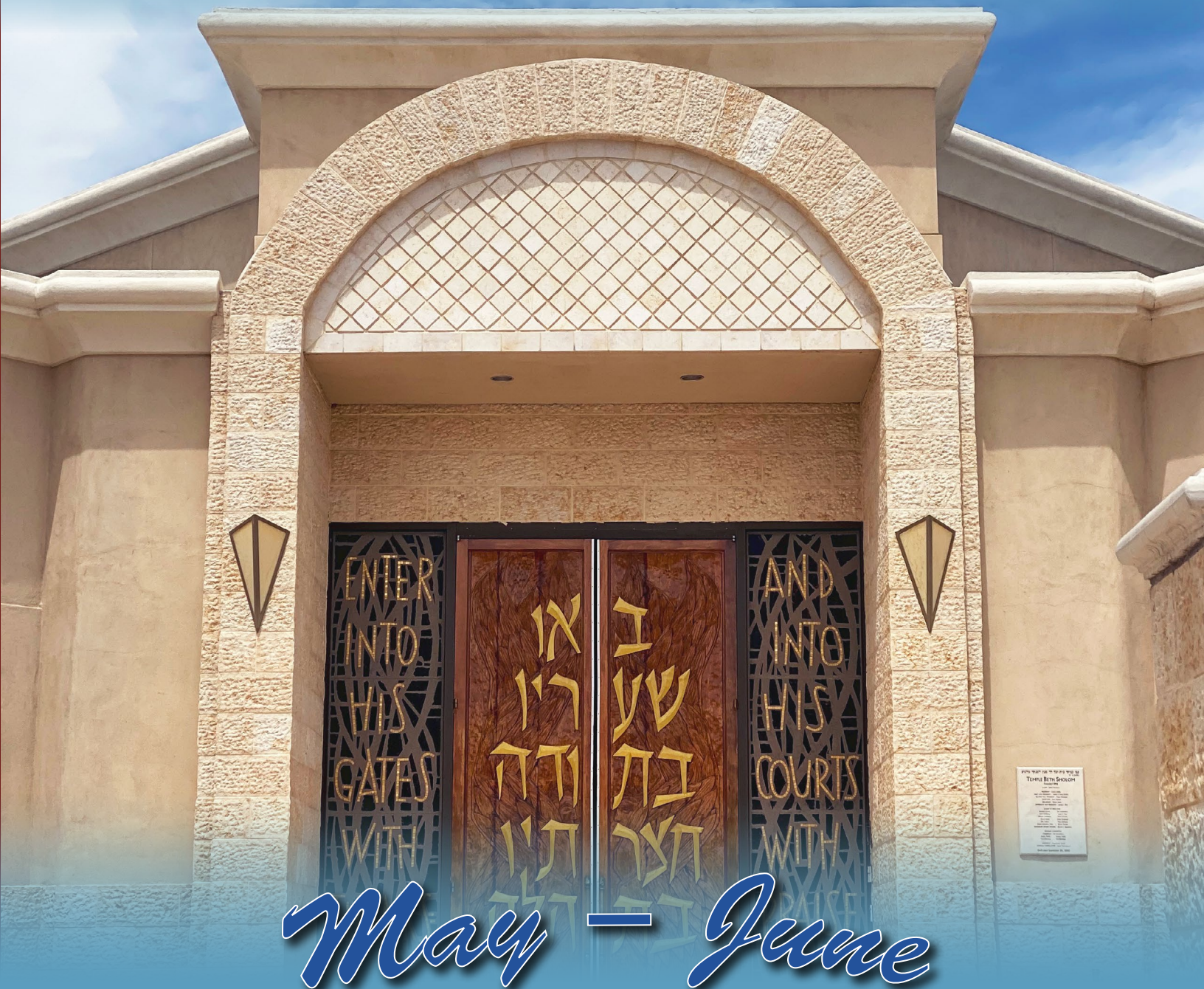


TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

Bulletin

5783
ISSUE #3



May – June

Iyyar – Sivan

2023

SHAVUOT: HOW SHOULD WE STUDY TORAH THAT WE MAY ACQUIRE A HEART OF WISDOM?

BY RABBI FELIPE GOODMAN



As we approach Shavuot in 2023, it is a great time to reflect on the significance of Torah study in our lives as Jews. For many, studying Torah provides a profound understanding of Jewish history and the relationship between the Jewish people and God. Shavuot serves as a reminder of the early stages of this relationship and the vital role of Torah study in gaining a deeper appreciation of it.

Nevertheless, Torah study is not merely about amassing knowledge. It is about putting that knowledge into practice and utilizing it in our daily lives. Torah study is not meant to be an isolated activity but rather a communal one. It is crucial to have a community to assist us in understanding and experiencing the power of Torah.

Personally, I have witnessed the importance of community in raising my children in Las Vegas. Being part of a community has allowed my children to receive Torah in a way that molds and shapes their Jewish decisions. The values and teachings that they have acquired through living Judaism with their peers have aided them in making significant choices, such as where to attend college and beyond. In the next couple of weeks all of my children will have graduated from College; one of them will also be graduating as a Doctor in Veterinary Medicine. I not only believe but I am convinced that the way they have experienced the power of Jewish Learning and Community around them, has empowered them to understand that success doesn't only come by achieving milestones, but rather what you learn and who you surround yourself with as you strive to reach those moments in time.

As we gather on Shavuot to study Torah, let us keep in mind that it is not about the level of knowledge or practice of our community members. Instead, it is about joining forces with individuals of all ages and levels of expertise to receive God's word in a new light.

We must value the diversity of our community and recognize that together, we can create our own story and locate our place in Jewish history.

This year, let us approach Torah study with an open mind and heart, and remember the significance of community in our quest to comprehend and live out the values and ideals of our faith.

Remember, the way we study and approach the wisdom of our Torah is also a reflection of how we as Jews, understand the world around us.

Hag Shavuot Sameach,

Rabbi Felipe Goodman

PICKING AND CHOOSING

BY ASSISTANT RABBI
JONATHAN HODSON



When I lived in Israel, another student and I decided we wanted to explore the Mount of Olives. This is the very large and very old cemetery that sits atop the hill in full view of the Temple Mount, from which you can view the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque. This cemetery is considered sacred in our religion, because according to the book of Isaiah, when the Messiah finally arrives; he will walk through this cemetery on his way to the Temple, bringing back to life all those he encounters along the way. Many famous people are buried here, and because it is important to all three Abrahamic religions, it has become quite the tourist spot.

So, my friend and I booked a guided tour, and right before we entered the actual cemetery one man who was accompanied by his wife, spoke up. “Excuse me!” he said. “I am Jewish, and I am actually a Kohen. This means that I’m not allowed to actually enter into the cemetery, as my religion prohibits it.” As soon as he said this, his wife took the opportunity to give him a quick slap across the chest. “That didn’t stop you from eating the ham sandwich the other day!” she retorted.

When it comes to religious practice, no matter our level of observance, we all tend to pick and choose what halachic practices we choose to engage with. I used to try and make sense of all the various levels of kashrut or Shabbat people held, but I finally gave up. Perhaps what broke me was watching all the Orthodox Jews in Los Angeles drive their cars a block away from their synagogue on Shabbat, only to park and walk a little bit to appear as if they had walked the whole way!

God tells us repeatedly through the prophets that He is incensed when people adhere to the letter of the law, but still oppress the stranger or the widow.

He says that our sacrifices detest Him when we still pervert justice. In this sense, according to God, just keeping the law isn’t good enough.

I tell our students all the time that the mitzvah God cares most about is treating other people the way they would want to be treated. This seems to be emphasized by Rabbi Hillel who was asked to summarize the Torah while he stood on one foot. “What is hurtful to your neighbor, do not do. The rest of the Torah is just commentary,” he said.

So, while we get involved in the process of picking and choosing, I hope the one value we’ll always pick is being kind to others. However, we should still lay off the ham sandwiches!

Rabbi Jonathan Hodson

FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY BILL MASON



Greetings fellow Temple Beth Sholom Members. Welcome to the best time of year in the High Desert with its warm days and cool nights. As mentioned in my last letter, Rabbi Hodson will be leaving our congregation in the coming months to work with another congregation in Texas. We wish him and his family love and success with the new adventure. Concurrent with Rabbi Hodson's departure, the Temple Board has secured the services of Rabbi Shanee Michaelson as our new Assistant Rabbi. Rabbi Michaelson will be working under the tutelage of Rabbi Goodman for the next few months to help facilitate a smooth transition. Please join me in welcoming Rabbi Michaelson to the TBS family, and I am excited for us to learn and grow together during the next couple of years.

Since I last wrote, we have had a couple of remarkably successful events at the Temple. Our youth groups, with the help of the Men's Club, put together an extraordinary Purim Carnival. The Carnival had to be moved indoors because of the weather; regardless, it was a tremendous success. The Carnival turned into a valley-wide community event attended by families from multiple other congregations. Also of note is our annual Passover Seder. Attendance at the Seder exceeded our expectations and was viewed as very successful. We expect with the assistance of Chef Rachel that this event will continue to improve every year.

Addressing Temple membership and the financial health of the congregation. Membership levels at TBS remain steady at around 428 paying members. I had hoped to improve that number during my tenure. Unfortunately, we did not reach the desired goal of 500 members.

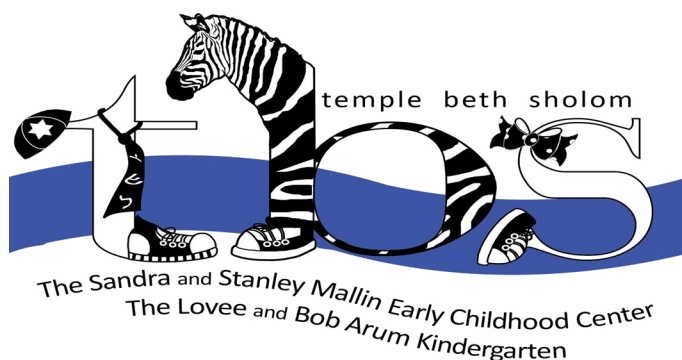
The Board will continue to strive to exceed that amount. As far as the Temple's fiscal health, TBS is currently in sound financial standing operating with a balanced operating budget. With the help of Clayton Steinberg, TBS has much more accurate and timely accounting practices and has adopted standard procedures to allow for continued economic health. As I prepare the leave office, I am proud of the work this TBS Board has done to provide Temple Members with a stable congregation, a strong economic foundation, and in an outstanding position for further growth.

In summary, all Temple activities are trending in a positive direction, and I look forward to seeing the continued success of the Temple Beth Sholom community. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve on the Temple Board, and to act as the Temple President these past couple of years. I especially thank the Executive Board that worked tirelessly to help meet all the challenges we faced in the past few years. Larry Monkarsh, Amy Wasserman, Ron Levin, Janet Sameh, and Elliot Blut are all extraordinary human beings and tremendously powerful individuals.

The experience has afforded me the opportunity to learn and grow as a person, a professional, and also as a Jew.

With tremendous gratitude and sincerity,

Bill Mason
President
Temple Beth Sholom



Millan Family Children's Library at TBSECC

BY JENNIFER ZUKOWSKI
SCHOOL DIRECTOR

The Sandra and Stanley Mallin Early Childhood Center and the Lovee and Bob Arum Kindergarten at Temple Beth Shalom (TBSECC) have officially welcomed a new addition to their campus; the Millan Family Children's Library.

The concept for the library began in 2019 but progression was paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After much anticipation, the finishing touches were completed on Monday, April 3 with an intimate ribbon cutting ceremony and mezuzah blessing and affixation.

The ceremony began with a few words from Sandra Mallin (TBSECC namesake), Amy Wasserman (TBS Vice President) and Bill Mason (TBS President). PTO President, Emily Neal, gave a brief history of the library and honored the library benefactors, Josh and Abigail Millan. Lastly, Rabbi Felipe Goodman blessed and attached the mezuzah before the ribbon was cut.

Following the ceremony, Abigail Millan debuted the library by reading one of the library books to the kindergarten and pre-k students. The new library will bring so much joy and knowledge to the students of TBSECC and in the famous words of Dr. Suess, "You are never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child."

For more information about the Early Childhood Center and Kindergarten at Temple Beth Shalom, contact Jennifer Zukowski, ECC Director, at 702-804-1333 ext 112 or jzukowski@bethsholomlv.org. out to me at 702-804-1333 ext. 122 or jzukowski@bethsholomlv.org.

Jennifer Zukowski

School Director

*The Sandra and Stanley Mallin Early Childhood Center
and The Lovee and Bob Arum Kindergarten*



THE JUDY & RONALD MACK SCHOOL FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RABBI JONATHAN HODSON
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR



Dear Temple Beth Sholom Community, I want to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to be the Director of the Judy and Ronald Mack School for the Religious Studies for these past three years. While I will be changing jobs and changing states, I will never forget the time we shared together and all the memories we created in Las Vegas.

When I assumed the role of Director in April of 2020, the world had become a very tumultuous place. Because no one had experienced this type of lockdown before, it was a strange time to navigate handling a Religious School that couldn't meet in person. Likewise, it was unclear when or if the school could reopen, and what it would look like. With the help of my Religious School teachers and with the advice of the TBS Board of Directors, we decided to start a hybrid program that would both meet in person or via Zoom for the 2020-2021 school year. While other religious schools struggled to get students to sign up, our school began somewhat uneventfully with only slightly fewer desks filled than normal.

Since then, our enrollment has continued to rise. This year we have registered over 86 students, the largest Religious School in Las Vegas; and that number grows every month. We strive to make learning fun and make an effort to hold events both during and after school to engage our students in a love of Torah and tradition.

Our students build friendships with their classmates and teachers and make meaningful relationships that will continue to blossom throughout their lifetimes. Temple Beth Sholom is a great starting point in building young Jewish identities.

I could not have made this happen without the support of the Mack family, or without the support of my amazing team of teachers. Lastly, I couldn't have done this without the support and faith of all the families who entrusted me to teach their children the most precious aspects of our religion and tradition. Thank you to all who believed in me, comforted me, and encouraged me. While I was tasked with teaching your kids, they ended up teaching me so much as well.

L'Shalom

Rabbi Jonathan Hodson

*Director of the Judy and Ronald Mack
School for Religious Studies*



BY D.J. SINAI
YOUTH/MUSICAL DIRECTOR

YOUTH

Spring has come and for USY and Kadima, that means more amazing programming! We are gearing up for the end of the school year, but not without having some awesome events first! Since our extremely successful Purim Carnival, the youth have been busy with their weekly Lounge Night activities, monthly Shabbat dinners, as well as other exciting events.

On Saturday, April 8, Kadimanics in grades 4-6 came together for a Havdallah/Movie night featuring “The Prince of Egypt”. The kids came in pajamas and enjoyed kosher for Passover snacks. One of the biggest highlights was the new LED lights that have been installed behind our 75” TV - it truly made for a spectacular movie experience!

Following that, on April 9, USYers in grades 7-12 had the opportunity to enjoy the Aviators game from the comfort of a Party Suite at the Las Vegas Ballpark! Thanks to the generosity of Temple member Steven Mack, the kids enjoyed their own private space at the game, including a Passover lunch! Chef Rachel put together a beautiful spread with matzah, fresh-cut turkey, fruit, and desserts! The teens had a great time rooting for their home team.

USY Regional Convention took place at Midbar Kodesh Temple from April 21-23. This event doesn’t happen often in Las Vegas, so it was great to have such a program taking place in our own backyard. TBS had seven teens participate and not only did they enjoy the weekend with other Jewish teens from our Far West region, but they also grew together, learning Jewish values and building our regional cabinet.

With the year coming to an end, there are still exciting events before the kids’ break for summer.

For more information on the youth programming at Temple Beth Sholom, please email: djsinai@bethsholomlv.org.



WOMEN'S LEAGUE



By Judy Forman | Women's League President

SPRING IS HERE!!! This is probably almost everyone's favorite season in Las Vegas (except for the crazy winds in April). I hope you all survived Pesach and the April fool jokes; and are ready to have warm, beautiful, and sunny months in the city that never stops.

I want to take a minute and thank everyone who joined us at our annual election/education meeting, and Feng Shui presentation. We had 40+ women in attendance.

On Sunday, May 21st, we will be having our annual Donor Luncheon in the large social hall in Temple Beth Sholom. I am looking forward to seeing many of you in attendance. Women's League will also be honoring three women for their dedication, hard work, and leadership. Two of the awards will be a surprise presentation, and the third, The Faye Steinberg Lifetime Achievement Award will be given to Melanie Greenberg.

We look forward to having you join us at the Donor Luncheon so please watch for your e-vite. There are over twenty-five prizes to be won so do not forget to bring money with you for the purchase of raffle tickets. Hopefully, you will be one of the lucky winners. If you need to check your donor credits, feel free to contact Kim at memarkfas@cox.net.

Ideas for future programs are always welcome so feel free to share those with us. Meanwhile, be on the lookout for future dates and times of Women's League fun-filled events.

Judy Forman

President

Women's League of Temple Beth Sholom



MEN'S CLUB

By Ken Heck | Men's Club President

The Men of TBS have been very active for the last few months. Our programs included the 4th annual Chai Roller Poker Tournament, Members' breakfast with a guest speaker, and volunteering for TBS's Wine Tasting

On March 26th, the cards were dealt and the chips fell where they did. Men's Club ran a very competitive and successful tournament. Stu Marshak is our 4th Poker Tournament Champion. He received his bracelet as the winner of the tournament, and his name will be engraved on the trophy for a second time. Stu, a professional poker player, was quoted as "Winning a bracelet like this is special. The other players were tough competition, and in the end, it came down to the lucky turn of a single card. But this is the pinnacle of my poker career."



On April 2nd, Men's Club hosted breakfast with Ed Lunger, Director of Building Operations for the MSG Sphere, where he gave us a "behind the scenes" view of the construction project and the expectations of the final product. The sophistication of this project far exceeded everyone's expectations and the presentation was both interesting and exciting.



Upcoming events:

- June 15th – LV Aviators game
This event is open to TBS Men's Club Members and their families/guests. The start time for the game at Las Vegas Ballpark is 7:00 pm

For more information and to register for future events, please go to:
www.bethsholomlv.org/mens-club.

Ken Heck
President
TBS Men's Club

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM



TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT THURSDAY, MAY 25TH

8:00 PM | MAARIV IN THE STEINBERG CHAPEL
8:30 PM | TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT: MAKING CONNECTIONS

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*with Rabbi Felipe Goodman,
Rabbi Jonathan Hodson,
Rabbi Shanee B. Michaelson and
D.J. Sinai*

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- Connecting with the Creator: Exploring Prayer Practices with Rebbe Nachman of Breslov
- Love as Faith or Love and Faith? How We Connect to the Divine through the Shema and Other Texts
- Jewish Contemporary Music

Dairy refreshments will be available at the break for those attending in person.

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TO RSVP:



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TUESDAY, MAY 23RD AT 6:00 PM

BOARD MEMBERS UP FOR RE-ELECTION:

AMY WASSERMAN

JOE GERSTEN

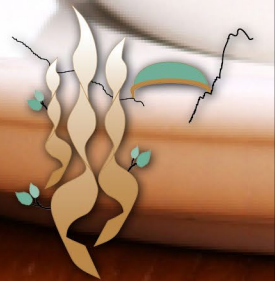
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LARRY FELL

MATT NELSON

**ALL CURRENT MEMBERS
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B'NEI MITZVAH



LIAM MINUSKIN JUNE 3RD, 2023

Liam is the fourth out of five brothers, born in Wisconsin. When he was four years old, we moved to Las Vegas. Liam is a self-confident, kind-hearted, and independent person. He is also a perfectionist, super smart, and full of energy. He always has an opinion on everything and loves to share it with others.

Liam's rambunctious energy adds flavor to his life. He has always blazed his own path and is very friendly, always eager to help people, especially his younger brother. He is so adorable that we want to eat him up all the time! Liam plays the trumpet and plans to learn the guitar this summer. He enjoys playing outdoors and going to Raiders' games, where he likes to eat hot dogs.

Liam plans on following his father's footsteps and becoming a doctor. Currently, he is finishing seventh grade at Sig Rogich Middle School, where he excels in mathematics and is enrolled in several honors classes. Liam has always made us proud, and we are excited to celebrate his Jewish manhood at Temple Beth Shalom.

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ETHAN KOVE JUNE 10TH, 2023

The year 2023 has been an exciting one for Ethan as he looks forward to celebrating his Bar Mitzvah at Temple Beth Sholom on June 10th. After his grandmother passed away, Ethan moved to Las Vegas from Los Angeles with his grandfather when he was six years old to join his Uncle Greg, Uncle Mitch, and their families. Fortunately, Ethan was able to join his cousins at Doral Redrock, starting as a first grader and now completing seventh grade. At Doral, he has demonstrated academic success and looks forward to high school and his future goal of becoming a marine biologist.

Living in Summerlin has allowed Ethan to grow and enjoy all that Las Vegas has to offer. During this time, he has successfully participated in various Jewish activities, including attending summer camps at Camp Alonim in Simi Valley, CA, and actively engaging in Sunday school and USY at Temple Beth Sholom. Besides the temple, Ethan has been involved in various team sports, including baseball, basketball, and most recently, soccer. His soccer team advanced as a winning team and traveled to Lake Havasu, Arizona for regional playoffs.

Ethan continues to enjoy all that Las Vegas has to offer, from the rides at Circus Circus to the water slides at Cowabunga Water Park. He wants to thank Rabbi Goodman, Cantor D.J. Sinai, and Adam Brustein for their help and guidance as he completes his Bar Mitzvah.



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IYYAR – 5783




MAY 2023

* CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE *

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	shabbat
	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 1	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 2	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 3 10:00 am WLTBS Book Club 6:00 pm USY Lounge Night	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 4 6:30 pm Intro to Judaism	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 5 6:30 pm USY/ KADIMA Shabbat Dinner 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat w/ Ruach Ensemble  7:14 PM	9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Service 6
9:00 AM Morning Minyan 7 10:00 am WLTBS Planning Meeting 11:00 am Men's Club Community BBQ	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 8	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 9 10:00 am Circle of Prayer	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 10 6:00 pm USY Lounge Night	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 11	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 12 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  7:20 PM	9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Hallelu 13
9:00 AM Morning Minyan 14 10:00 am MA MUSE w/ Nancey Eason	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 15	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 16	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 17 6:00 pm USY Lounge Night	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 18 6:30 pm Intro to Judaism	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 19 7:30 pm Acoustic Kabbalat Shabbat  7:26 PM	9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Service 20
9:00 AM Morning Minyan 21 9:00 am Religious School Closing Ceremony 12:30 pm WLTBS Donor Luncheon	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 22 8:30 am ECC Graduation	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 23 6:00 PM ANNUAL MEETING	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 24 6:00 pm USY Lounge Night	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 25 8:00 pm TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT	OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 am SHAVUOT DAY ONE FESTIVAL SERVICE 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  7:30 PM	26 9:00 am SHAVUOT DAY TWO FESTIVAL SERVICE W/ YIZKOR 27
9:00 AM Morning Minyan 28	9:00 AM Morning Minyan 29 OFFICE CLOSED	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 30	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 31 6:00 pm USY Lounge Night			

SIVAN – 5783

JUNE 2023

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	shabbat
				7:30 AM Morning Minyan 1	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 2 6:30 pm USY/ KADIMA Shabbat Dinner 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat w/ Ruach Ensemble  7:36 PM	9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Service 3 Liam Minuskin will be called to the Torah
9:00 AM Morning Service 4 9:45 am Men's Club Breakfast	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 5	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 6 10:00 am WLTBS Book Club	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 7	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 8	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 9 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  7:40 PM	9:00 AM Shabbat Halelu 10 Ethan Kove will be called to the Torah
9:00 AM Morning Minyan 11 10:00 am June Bloom w/ Nancey Eason	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 12	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 13	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 14	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 15	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 16 7:30 pm Acoustic Kabbalat Shabbat  7:42 PM	9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Service 17
9:00 AM Morning Minyan 18	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 19	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 20	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 21 8:30 am Holocaust Resource Center Class	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 22 8:30 am Holocaust Resource Center Class	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 23 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services  7:44 PM	9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Service 24
9:00 AM Morning Minyan 25	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 26	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 27	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 28	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 29	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 30 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services  7:45 PM	



OUR TEAM

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2022 – 2023

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