

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

Bulletin

57834
ISSUE #2



January – February
Shevat – Adar I

2024

25 YEARS... THANK YOU!

BY RABBI FELIPE GOODMAN



Dear Friends,
As I sit down to pen this letter, my heart is overflowing with gratitude and emotions. For the past 25 years, serving as your Rabbi at Temple Beth Sholom has been not just my occupation, but my calling, my joy, and my life's most profound blessing.

When Liz, Yoshua and I first arrived in Las Vegas back in 1998, We were embraced not just by a congregation but by a family. As our own family grew, so did your embrace! Together, we have journeyed through the cycles of Jewish life, celebrating joyous occasions, and offering each other strength during times of sorrow. We have welcomed new lives into our community, watched our children grow, and said heartfelt goodbyes to dear friends who were the foundation of the pillars on which our congregation stands today! Each of these moments has been a thread in the rich tapestry of our shared experiences.

Your recognition of my 25 years of service is not just an honor to me, but a testament to the strength and spirit of Temple Beth Sholom. Our synagogue is not just a building where we gather to pray; it is a home where faith, hope, and love reside. It is a sanctuary where we have collectively searched for meaning and purpose, guided by the enduring light of The Torah.

I am profoundly thankful for the trust and faith you have placed in me. Your support, your engagement in communal life, and your unwavering commitment to our traditions and values have been the base of my service and devotion to our congregation. Together, we have faced challenges, adapted to changes, and always emerged stronger, united by our shared beliefs and love for our community.

As I reflect on these 25 years, I am filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment – not for what I have done, but for what we have achieved together. Our journey has been a remarkable one, enriched by every member of this congregation. Your kindness, generosity, and commitment to our synagogue have been the greatest gifts I could have ever received.

As we look towards the future, I am filled with optimism and hope. Our journey together continues, and I am excited to see where it takes us. May we go from strength to strength, building on our past achievements and forging new paths in our ever-evolving story.

Thank you, once again, for this honor and for the privilege of being your Rabbi. Here's to many more years of serving this extraordinary community.

With deepest gratitude and affection,

Rabbi Felipe Goodman

LIVE FROM HOSTAGE SQUARE (KIKAR HATUFIM)

BY ASSISTANT RABBI
SHANEE B. MICHAELSON



The last time I was at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, back in early 2022, the square in front of it was an open space with a few quirky sculptures. I took a picture, smiling at the irreverent art around me. But this time, in December 2023, it was a completely different place. One long table, much longer than the one we have at TBS, was set up for the hostages. There must have been over 200 place settings, and at each one was a sign that said “hostage.” There were makeshift booths set up selling sweatshirts and T-shirts that said “Bring Them Home” or “It’s not victory until they return,” or simply “NOW.”

Gathering together at Hostage Square, as it is now called, with a group of Conservative and Masorti rabbis from the US, Canada, and Israel, singing songs and offering prayers for the hostages, for the Israel Defense Forces, and for the souls of those who were brutally murdered in the October 7th massacre and its aftermath, was an experience I will never forget.

Our Israel mission went for three very full days, days that felt like weeks because of the intensity of what we were seeing and doing. On our last day, we left the hotel at 6:30 am for morning prayer at the egalitarian Kotel, dropped off socks and letters for soldiers at Sisters and Brothers in Arms, a volunteer-led organization in the parking lot of a large building in Tel Aviv, heard from a survivor of the Nova massacre, and visited with families of hostages. Hearing their stories, and how they hadn’t had any contact with their family members since they were forcibly taken into Gaza, was incredible.

The day before, we had gone to Kfar Azza and witnessed the destroyed homes of the kibbutz that looked to have been, before October 7th, a little bit of paradise. Beautiful gardens surrounded the small houses, but the true beauty of this kibbutz was the community that lived there. Everyone knew each other; there were about seven hundred residents and an extended family. Sixty-two of them were killed, and eighteen were taken hostage. The wreckage was horrifying; I had a strong visceral reaction as my stomach churned and waves of nausea washed over me. Being there was certainly different from watching the news.

Next, we visited a special place for children in Kiryat Gat called Neve Hanna. They are a pluralistic group home/school, doing amazing, touching, and much-needed

work for children unable to live with their families. They took in more children after October 7th. Their rabbi, Liron Levy, brought in some of the madrichim (teen counselors) to speak with us and led us in an uplifting mincha afternoon service. They even had a small zoo with birds, goats, and other animals, a comfort for the kids. It was a joy for us mission rabbis to be here, especially after the painful sites in Kfar Azza. It was here that we donated small toys given to us by our congregants, knowing they were going to make some children very happy.

As I write this, the mission is over, but I’m staying on for a few more days. I am preparing to spend Shabbat with my family in Jerusalem. My cousin Ezra is twenty-seven and is home from the army for a couple of weeks. Last I heard, he had been called to serve up north. His brother Shaul and brother-in-law Beinish had also been called up for reserve duty. It will be good to see family and old friends who are living their lives in this new reality.

All in all, the solidarity mission was not an easy experience but it was a vital and valuable one. If you have the opportunity, I encourage you to go to Israel now. Even in a dark time, something hopeful is being shown by how individual Israelis are helping each other. They support each other, raise money for each other, and provide needed basic services. We, representatives of the greater Jewish community, have also shown up to help. As a people with a shared destiny, we have been through a great deal. The future is unclear but we can move forward in small steps because we have not lost hope in each other and in the power of community.

Am Yisrael Chai/the People of Israel live!

Rabbi Shanee B. Michaelson

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY LARRY MONKARSH



Dear TBS Members:

It has been over two months since the October 7th attacks in the south of Israel and it's no surprise to see the news cycle has morphed, the war in Gaza is no longer on the front page, and the hostages are relegated to a single sentence on the nightly news. We at TBS have not forgotten, we will not let the world forget and will continue to back our brothers and sisters in Israel and support them at every turn. This past month the TBS Family enthusiastically hosted and attended a community wide event sponsored by Jewish Nevada where we heard stories of the atrocities along with stories of exceptional heroism performed on that world-shattering day. We must not turn away but instead stay focused on the return of the hostages and an unconditional surrender of the enemy.

We at TBS are very fortunate to have an active presence in the defense of our people. Our congregation has stepped up and raised over \$300,000 for the war effort. With those funds TBS has purchased an ambulance and a motorcycle for Magen David Adom and has funded money for the blood bank and Mother's milk bank in the center of the country. The balance of the money raised will be put to good use in other areas of need. We will continue raising funds for humanitarian reasons, for people who have lost everything. To provide them with new clothes, food, housing, transportation, and everyday items that we all need to live our lives. These fundraising efforts were spearheaded by Rabbi Goodman and his congregants stepped up.

We are fortunate to have Rabbi Goodman as our leader. He is not only the spiritual leader, but he is a brave individual who will do anything to safeguard our people. He went to Israel on a mission in November and was so moved by the experience, he is leading another mission this January. While I am unable to attend, I urge all of you to consider going with him and the other individuals from our congregation as well as some from the Las Vegas Jewish community at large.

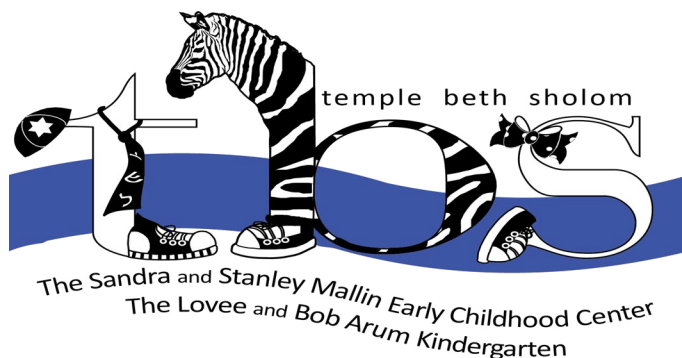
Rabbi Goodman has offered up our facilities many times at no charge over the past 25 years for community programs and we as a congregation should feel proud that we can afford to donate our facilities for these important events.

Rabbi Felipe Goodman has been our leader for 25 years, we are truly grateful and humbled by his continued service to our congregation and to the local Jewish Community. It is for this reason that we are holding a 25th Anniversary Jubilee, it will be an event to remember, one that will be spoken of for months and years to come. Please join us on February 3, 2024, at 6:15 pm for dinner that will feature foods from Felipe's worldly travels, we will have cocktails to match the cuisine. After dinner, at 9 pm we will be moving outside to a tent that will hold 500-600 people for a very special private concert featuring Matisyahu, please go to www.Goodmans25th.com for all the necessary information on sponsorships, tribute book ads, and ticket sales. Please make sure to buy your tickets as soon as possible as we believe both aspects of the event will be sold out!

Let's show up for Rabbi Goodman in force and show him by our attendance and participation that we love and cherish him more than words can convey, and that our actions speak louder than words.

Thank you and *Am Yisrael Chai!*

Larry Monkarsh
President
Temple Beth Sholom



BY JENNIFER ZUKOWSKI
SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that we are already halfway through the school year. We have had a fantastic first half filled with exciting events and meaningful community contributions. Here's a recap of what we've been up to:

Fall Festival Success

October brought us the joy of the Fall Festival, a day filled with fun and community spirit. Thanks to the incredible support from TBS families, we raised an impressive \$9,800.

Scholastic Book Fair Highlights

Our Scholastic Book Fair not only brought over 170 new books to our classrooms but also contributed \$8,900 to the Millan Family Children's Library. We are fostering a love for reading in our students!

Mitzvah Projects for Thanksgiving and Hanukkah

In November, in partnership with the Jewish Family Services Agency, we collected Thanksgiving food items for those in need. For December, our ECC families generously gifted Hanukkah toys to 38 children who otherwise may have not received a gift this holiday season. It's heartwarming to see our community come together to make a difference.

Family Shabbat Sing-along and Luncheon

Our weekly tradition of the Family Shabbat Sing-along and Luncheon continues to be a highlight. With our enrollment at an all-time high, we've implemented a rotation system to accommodate the growing numbers. It's heartening to see over 300 guests join us each week for this special event.

Annual Hanukkah Winter Performance

The annual Hanukkah Winter Performance was a delight, with our children showcasing their talents through songs and dances celebrating dreidels, latkes, sufganiyot, and mini-maccabees.

Operation Warm Fuzzies - January Drive

This January, we will embark on Operation Warm Fuzzies for the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth. We will be collecting gently used blankets, jackets/sweaters, and socks for children and families experiencing homelessness. Your donations will make a significant impact.

Registration for 2024-2025 School Year

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that registration for the 2024-2025 school year is just around the corner. Given the historical capacity this school year with 225 children across 16 classrooms and waitlists, early registration is encouraged.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. We look forward to another wonderful semester filled with learning, joy, and community spirit.

Jennifer Zukowski

School Director

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



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RABBI SHANEE B. MICHAELSON
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR



DERECH ERETZ KADMA L'TORAH: BEING A GOOD PERSON IS THE FOUNDATION

I remember the little folded note like it was yesterday. It was written in perfect handwriting, the letters slanted at just the right angle. My fifth-grade teacher, Mrs. Siegel, wanted us to know important things. She passed around personalized notes while we were sitting silently, repenting for our rowdiness. She was one of the few teachers who commanded strict compliance from our class. But earlier, on the playground, things had gotten out-of-hand amongst some of us.

“Those who respect you are worth your friendship,” was the note I received. It certainly made me think about who was being respectful and who was not. And even now, as I look back, I think what a wise aphorism that was. I don’t know what notes my classmates received, but mine was something to remember for the rest of my life.

Our tradition teaches us about the idea of *derech erez*, which can sometimes be translated as “the way of the world;” however, it actually means so much more. *Derech erez* is a way of behavior that binds us to each other as human beings and as Jews. It is traditionally seen as even more important than Torah. Before we live our lives in accordance with mitzvot, such as Torah study or observing Shabbat or holidays, we must live in accordance with *derech erez*. We must treat each other in a respectful way, first and foremost.

In *Pirkei Avot*, one of our tradition’s collections of wise sayings, we learn *יְפֵה תִלְמוּד תּוֹרָה עִם דֶּרֶךְ אֶרֶץ*, which means that studying Torah is beautiful when combined with *derech erez*. Even the rabbis recognized that making an effort in both pursuits is sure to keep us out of trouble!

Helping our children learn to live with common decency and appropriate behavior is one of the most challenging parts of teaching and one that parents and teachers must work together to instill in them. Classroom behavior is influenced by whatever is going on in our children’s lives outside the classroom, and it starts at home.

Our religious school works hard to teach each of our children to behave as a mensch would behave in the classroom, just as parents want their children to conduct themselves in public. But there is only so much that we can do in the 5 hours a week in which we have religious school.

Children are always watching and learning from what we say and what we do, even when we don’t realize it. If we behave politely, our children will learn to behave politely. If we treat others as we would like to be treated, our children will learn to treat others as they would like to be treated. If we clean up after ourselves, our children will learn to clean up after themselves. So, let’s remember to be polite to others whether we know them or not. Let’s make an effort to treat people with respect, to see that there is a human being in front of us no matter whether we are at the DMV, in a classroom, or at a crowded community event. Let’s not take each other- classmates or teachers, parents or administrators- for granted. Let’s try to clean up after ourselves, both literally and metaphorically.

As my teacher taught me those many years ago, being considerate of others is a core Jewish value. It is at the root of what we do to educate our children both inside and outside of religious school. Those students who are respectful benefit from more friendships, an increase in knowledge acquisition, and greater value added to their lives. Learning how to behave with *derech erez* is truly something that will last a lifetime.

Rabbi Shanee B. Michaelson

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



BY D.J. SINAI
YOUTH/MUSICAL DIRECTOR

YOUTH

At Temple Beth Sholom, our USY & Kadima youth programs have been buzzing with activity! From engaging kinnusim to exploring the wonders of Las Vegas, our youth programming remains vibrant, relevant, and a fantastic way for Jewish students to connect and grow together.

Recently, our local chapter leaders teamed up with USY chapters from Arizona and California for a Leadership Weekend at Congregation B'nei Israel in Tustin, California. The weekend was brimming with learning opportunities, teaching our teens about different leadership skills and filling them with valuable insights on effective communication skills.

In November, our USYers held a tikkun olam project, coming together for a Sunday morning of cleaning the Temple grounds, inside and out. The energy was contagious as they transformed their home, making it sparkle for weeks to come.

In early December, over 50 participants gathered for our annual event at Dave & Buster's, enjoying hours of excitement, video games, prizes, and a yummy lunch. Smiles and memories were all around! December continued with the inaugural Hanukkah Party, featuring dancing, latkes, sufganiyot, and presents, bringing over 30 participants together. The students had so much fun partying with their friends! Just a few days later our USY members embarked on a Party Bus Scavenger Hunt, exploring Las Vegas' gems and strengthening their Jewish friendships. Kadima also had a blast with their ice-skating party at the Las Vegas Ice Center!

With monthly Shabbat dinners, weekly Lounge Nights, and new programs for high schoolers starting in January, there's always something exciting happening in our Kadima and USY programming. There's room for more friends to join in the fun—email djsinai@bethsholomlv.org for details! Let's keep the joy and connection going strong!



WOMEN'S LEAGUE



By Judy Forman | Women's League President

In November, we took a well-deserved break and relished a delightful paid-up membership luncheon featuring guest speaker Dr. Dalia.

December brought the Women's League together for a joyous Chanukah celebration, filled with amusing stories and delicious sufganiyot (Jelly donuts). Some of our members illuminated Hanukkah together, creating a warm and festive atmosphere.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

Hold onto Your Dreams: Life often unfolds differently than expected, and some dreams may take time to materialize. Pay your dues; chances are, you can make a significant impact. Stand Up for Yourself and Your Loved Ones: Advocate for yourself and those you hold dear. Cherish our country and safeguard the freedom it affords. Embrace Your Identity: Be proud of who you are and make the most of the opportunities you've been given. Those who came before us weren't perfect, but they worked hard and made sacrifices.

Don't squander their efforts; instead, build upon the positives they passed on.

Women's League is Part of the Future. We invite you to join us at any of our events. Together, let's continue building a strong and supportive community.

Judy Forman

President

Women's League of Temple Beth Sholom

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MEN'S CLUB

By Stu Marshak | Men's Club President

Whether we are creating our own events, or participating in TBS events, Men's Club is an active and integral part of the TBS Community.

If you haven't visited Men's Club, we encourage you to come to any of our events. Look forward to seeing everyone in 2024! Feel free to contact me with any questions at mensclub@bethsholomlv.org

A year in the life of Men's Club:

- High Holiday Ushering
- Steak & Scotch in the Sukkah
- Football Watch Parties
- Purim Carnival
- Yom Hashoah Yellow Candle program
- Chai Roller Poker Tournament
- Concerts
- Curling
- Bowling
- Kiddush Cups for B'Nai Mitzvot
- LV Aviators Baseball Game
- Community Speakers breakfasts
- Membership Breakfasts

Stu Marshak

*President
Men's Club*



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FOR MORE INFO AND DONATION OPPORTUNITIES**



BENJAMIN ROSENCRANTZ **JANUARY 13TH, 2024**

Benjamin Copeland Rosencrantz has the honor of being called to the Torah on January 13, 2023. He is the son of very proud parents Marcus Rosencrantz and Emily Whitcomb and grandparents Lynn and Arne Rosencrantz.

Ben has attended Tarbut v'Torah in Irvine, CA since kindergarten where his Jewish values have been fostered. He loves playing soccer and the guitar and looks forward to his summers at Camp Alonim. For his Bar Mitzvah project, Ben raised over \$1500 by worganizing a charity soccer game that benefited Shiloh Israel Children's Fund. Their mission is to heal the trauma of children who are victims of terror in Israel.

Ben is excited and honored to follow in the footsteps of his older brother Max, father Marcus, Aunt Amy, and grandparents Lynn and Arne Rosencrantz, all of whom have had their bar and bat mitzvahs at Temple Beth Sholom.



JULIA LEVIN **FEBRUARY 17TH, 2024**

Julia Levin has the honor of being called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on February 17, 2024. Her proud parents are Amy and Ronnie Levin. Julia is a seventh grader at Hyde Park Academy of Science and Mathematics. She plays soccer for both Hyde Park and a recreational league and is an active member of USY. Outside of school, Julia enjoys skiing, hiking, playing board games, and spending time with her friends and with her younger sister, Naomi. Her connection to Judaism is strengthened by time spent each summer at Camp Ramah in California. Julia's Mitzvah project is to raise money for the National Gaucher Foundation.

Learn more at give.gaucherdisease.org/Juliasmitzvahproject.

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Wednesday, January 17	4:30-8:30	<i>Loss</i>
Tuesday, January 23	4:30-8:30	<i>Prejudice and Bullying</i>
Wednesday, January 24	4:30-8:30	<i>Compassion</i>

Holocaust Literature

(open to adult congregation and children in middle or high school)

Wednesday, February 7	4:30-6:30	Introduction to the SKM Library
Thursday, February 22 (Survivor speaker)	4:30-6:30	Biographies and Memoirs

*Coffee and snacks will be provided
Classes are held in the upstairs library*

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JANUARY 2024

* CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE *

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	shabbat
	9:00 AM Morning Minyan 1 TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 2	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 3 6:00 pm USY Lounge Night	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 4 7:30 pm Hebrew Literacy w/ Larry Wiederhorn	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 5 6:30 pm USY/Kadima Shabbat Dinner 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat w/ Ruach Ensemble  4:23 PM	9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Service 6 11:00 am Rabbi's Tish
9:00 AM Morning Minyan 7 9:30 am Men's Club Breakfast 10:00 am WLTBS Board Meeting	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 8 12:00 pm Radical Torah w/ Rabbi Goodman	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 9 10:00 am WLTBS Circle of Prayer	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 10 6:00 pm USY Lounge Night 6:00 pm WLTBS Challah Night	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 11	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 12 5:45 pm Friday Nite Kids 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  4:29 PM	9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Service 13 Benjamin Rosencrantz will be called to the Torah
9:00 AM Morning Minyan 14 10:00 am Painting as a Prayer w/ Nancey Eason	9:00 AM Morning Minyan 15 TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 16	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 17 6:00 pm USY Lounge Night	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 18 7:30 pm Hebrew Literacy w/ Larry Wiederhorn	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 19 7:30 pm Acoustic Kabbalat Shabbat  4:36 PM	9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Service 20 10:30 am Tot Shabbat
9:00 AM Morning Minyan 21	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 22	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 23 10:00 am WLTBS Book Club	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 24 6:00 pm USY Lounge Night	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 25 6:30 pm Hebrew Literacy w/ Larry Wiederhorn	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 26 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  4:43 PM	9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Service 27
9:00 AM Morning Minyan 28	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 29	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 30	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 31 6:00 pm USY Lounge Night			

SHEVAT | ADAR I – 5784

FEBRUARY 2024

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	shabbat
				7:30 AM Morning Minyan 1 6:30 pm Hebrew Literacy w/ Larry Wiederhorn	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 2 6:30 pm USY/Kadima Shabbat Dinner 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat w/ Ruach Ensemble  4:51 PM	9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Service 3 <i>Rabbi Goodman's 25th Anniversary Celebration Gala</i>
9:00 AM Morning Minyan 4 9:30 am Men's Club Breakfast 10:00 am WLTBS Board Meeting	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 5 12:00 pm Radical Torah w/ Rabbi Goodman	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 6	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 7 6:00 pm USY Lounge Night	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 8 6:30 pm Intro to Judaism w/ Rabbi Michaelson 7:30 pm Hebrew Literacy w/ Larry Wiederhorn	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 9 5:45 pm Friday Nite Kids 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  4:58 PM	9:00 AM Shabbat Halelu 10
9:00 AM Morning Minyan 11	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 12	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 13	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 14 6:00 pm USY Lounge Night	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 15	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 16 7:30 pm Acoustic Kabbalat Shabbat  5:05 PM	9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Service 17 Julia Levin will be called to the Torah 10:30 am Tot Shabbat
9:00 AM Morning Minyan 18	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 19 12:00 pm Radical Torah w/ Rabbi Goodman	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 20 10:00 am WLTBS Book Club	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 21 6:00 pm USY Lounge Night	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 22 6:30 pm Intro to Judaism w/ Rabbi Michaelson 7:30 pm Hebrew Literacy w/ Larry Wiederhorn	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 23 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services  5:12 PM	9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Service 24
9:00 AM Morning Minyan 25	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 26 12:00 pm Radical Torah w/ Rabbi Goodman	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 27	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 28 6:00 pm USY Lounge Night	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 29 6:30 pm Hebrew Literacy w/ Larry Wiederhorn		



OUR TEAM

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