

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

Bulletin

5782
ISSUE #4



July – August
Tammuz – Av

2022



JEWS ATTACKED BY JEWS AT THE KOTEL... THE OUTRAGE OF ORTHODOX SILENCE!

BY RABBI FELIPE GOODMAN

Is it to write these words exactly one month before our commemoration of Tisha B'Av, the day in the Jewish Calendar which we devote to mourning the destruction of both The First and Second Temples in Jerusalem. Our tradition teaches us that we are not only compelled to mourn the tragic loss of The Temple (a place where we as Jews believe the presence of God actually dwelt!) But we are also commanded to understand why it happened.

A little over a week ago I found myself with my family and members of our congregation, Temple Beth Sholom in Las Vegas, celebrating a wonderful young man's Bar Mitzvah at The Egalitarian Side of The Kotel (The Western Wall) in Jerusalem. To say that I know Seth Mann, our Bar Mitzvah, well, would be an understatement. His parents wedding was the first wedding that I officiated at our newly built and renovated Temple back in August 2000. I could have thought of no more perfect setting for Seth to become a Bar Mitzvah than Jerusalem, specifically the Kotel.

On The Morning of June 30, 2022 our Bar Mitzvah celebration was transformed into a horrific demonstration of **בְּנִיחַ תִּאֲנֵשׁ** (baseless hatred) when we were attacked by a mob of Ultra Orthodox youngsters. Baseless Hatred our tradition warns about, was the main reason for the destruction of The Temple in Jerusalem. Baseless Hatred came to life before our very eyes that morning!

These young men who shouted horrible insults at us, who interrupted our celebration and prayers by constantly blowing whistles and shouting obscenities of the worst kind, didn't just appear there as a mere coincidence.

I want to ask a question seriously: Where are their parents? Where are their teachers? They should be tremendously ashamed of themselves. They send their children to learn and pray at Yeshivot for hours to no end and they manage to learn nothing! Where is the outrage of The Orthodox Community both in North America and in Israel?

These young hoodlums that showed up at The Kotel that morning were there because they know... They know they can do this time and time again and walk away unharmed. They know that no one, absolutely no one will chastise them, that there will be absolutely no consequences to pay for reaping a page out of a prayer book and using it as a facial tissue. Imagine for a moment, these young men behaving like animals, shouting at us: "You are Christians and worst than Christians!" Well, I have many Christian friends that would never desecrate the name of God. My Christian friends, while we don't have a common Theology and whilst we believe very differently, they certainly have shown greater love of The Jewish people, much more than these Ultra Orthodox Youngsters, their parents and their teachers.

To my Orthodox colleagues who reached out: Thank you for your words of comfort, thank you for your kindness. However, know that your words are meaningless unless they are shared publicly. Know that this happens every month, know that this was not an isolated incident. It's time for you to speak up and break your deafening silence. Jews are attacked at The Kotel by other Jews every single month. Remember the teaching of our Sages in The Talmud: "Silence is acquiescence!"

I have seen time and time again the pictures of my friends and colleagues, the pictures of my teachers being spat at, beaten up and publicly humiliated month after month for way too long. I never imagined that this could happen to my family, to my congregants, and more importantly to a young man starting his adult Jewish Journey.

I must also say how proud I am of our Bar Mitzvah that Rosh Chodesh Tammuz, Seth Mann used the words of The Torah as a shield against hatred. He did by intuition what the other youngsters around him have been taught their whole life to do but never learned. He internalized the message of our tradition in such a way that you could see the words of Torah being pronounced by his lips literally lift us, both spiritually and physically to understand what Israel should mean to all of us.

Here is what I can't forgive... The Israeli Police, what an absolute Joke! I marvel at how I have seen and heard heads of The Israeli Police at ceremonies at Auschwitz of all places, speak of how they wish they could have been there to defend and protect our people. Before dreaming the great dreams, we must start by our own home. The Israeli Police that morning on June 30, 2022 played a pivotal role in the events that took place at The Egalitarian Kotel by allowing them to escalate. They had a choice and they actively chose to **DO NOTHING!**

To my daughters who witnessed their mother trying to shield them from this madness, to my daughters who will never forget what happened that day, to my daughters whose immediate reaction was to ask me how I could continue to support Israel so fervently like I have always done after what happened, to them I say: I love Israel,

I love both the land and its people, we don't have the luxury of being detracted from our sacred mission of ensuring the survival of The Jewish People by a group of beasts! I will always support Israel because my family, my friends, they all call it home and as imperfect as it is, Israel is ours, every inch is Holy, not only Jerusalem and not only The Kotel. I love Israel even though sometimes I feel Israel doesn't love me back, whatever my differences may be, I can never allow hatred to conquer my thoughts and take over my actions.

This Tisha B'Av as we sit down to mourn the destruction of our Temple in Jerusalem, may we all have the insight to understand that it could happen again! We have the ability to stop it, we have the ability to change. Time and time again we chose to remain silence and do nothing. It is time for us to act, tomorrow may be too late!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY BILL MASON



Greetings fellow Temple Beth Sholom Members. Our fiscal year is coming to an end, and we are beginning our preparations for the High Holy Days, and the start of the new school year. Taking stock and summarizing this past year it is good to note that our Membership roster continues to grow. We did not achieve our membership goal for the year; however, we did make significant strides in getting us back to our pre-pandemic levels. We currently have around 450 paying active family members. I am confident that we will continue to grow and will soon crest the 500-member mark.

We were also able to regain our financial footing this past year. Even with our Membership numbers still being slightly down, and the enrollment in the Early Childhood Center still feeling the pandemic impact, we were able to balance the budget. This was due in large part to the efforts of the Finance Committee and members of the Executive Board.

Additionally, it is important to note the positive impact that Clayton Steinberg has had in maintaining a well-run front office. We are in good financial standing heading into the next fiscal year. This is a good time to thank the Temple Board Members who worked very hard to make this happen. Please acknowledge the efforts of Terri Weisbord, Amy Wasserman, Ron Levin, Janet Sameh, and Jared Finkelstein. They, along with Clayton, worked very hard to keep us on track and on budget.

A special thanks goes out to Denise Needleman who put in an extraordinary effort to assist the Temple in our search for someone to fill the vacancy left by Dianna Rowe's departure.

Temple Beth Sholom is blessed to have so many Board Members willing and able to help out with all our needs.

Recapping our Member Meeting this past May 31st. The members of our congregation met to elect a new slate of Board Members. The Nominating Committee presented the names of Dan Saposhnik, Rebecca Horwich, Larry Dorf, and Paul Shlisky. These candidates being members in good standing were elected by the congregation to become Members of the Board of Directors. We welcome their addition to the Board. Their energy level is high and we are looking forward to having them on the Board.

This outlook for the coming year looks good. We are meeting our financial needs, our operations and security teams are currently stable and working well together, and our community programs are expanding and approaching pre-pandemic levels. All is not rosy, but I believe we have a great team in place to meet the challenges this next year will present. Have a great and safe summer.

Very truly,

Bill Mason
President
Temple Beth Sholom

**WELCOME NEW
TEMPLE MEMBERS!**

**THE HESHMATI FAMILY
THE SEEMAN FAMILY**

DESTINY OR FREE WILL?

BY ASSISTANT RABBI
JONATHAN HODSON



One of my favorite heroes from Greek mythology is Perseus. The son of Zeus, he was conceived when Zeus turned into a rain of gold and seduced his mother Danae. After hearing that his daughter had conceived unnaturally, Danae's father Acrisius (the King of Argon) placed her and her infant son into a wooden chest and set them afloat at sea as a gift to the gods. However, they survived and Perseus would grow to manhood and eventually kill Medusa, whose hair was made of snakes and whose gaze could turn people into stone. After beheading her, he saved the princess Andromeda from the Kraken by forcing the sea monster to look upon Medusa's face.

Of the many interpretations that this epic has enjoyed over the years, perhaps my favorite is the 1981 sword and sandal film "The Clash of the Titans." Complete with gorgeous stars and cheesy monsters, this movie somehow convinced incredibly talented actors such as Maggie Smith and Laurence Olivier to join the cast. Watching it as a kid, my favorite part of the film was when Perseus (played by Harry Hamlin) had just defeated the wicked Medusa. He held up her decapitated head toward the sky, and Oliver's Zeus bellowed out from the heavens, "Now go—and fulfill your destiny!"

I've always wondered about the idea of destiny, versus the idea of free will.

From a Jewish perspective, it seems that from the very start of creation, God gives our ancestors—Adam and Eve the chance to make decisions on their own. After all, it is Eve and later Adam who decide to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If we are to believe that God is all-powerful, He could have easily manipulated them into not eating the fruit at all, but instead, He gave them the choice as to whether they would follow His rule or not.

However, later in Genesis, Joseph—assistant to Pharaoh, finally comes clean to his brothers about his true identity. He tells them, "God sent me ahead of you to keep some of you alive on earth. He sent me here to save your lives by an act of mighty power." Elsewhere in the Tanakh, God tells various prophets that He had a plan for their lives when he "knitted them in their mother's womb." So does God decide our fate, or do we?

We could certainly think of our lives like a Grecian epic: a series of obstacles are laid out before us, and it's up to us as to whether we'll complete these tasks or not. Or, just as likely—life is a tangled mess of events, and we should use God's laws to navigate the chaos as best we can. Both ideas could be supported within our tradition. If we are motivated by goals that we set up for ourselves, then I think it is a noble endeavor to do our best to better our lives in order to live up to such expectations. Unlike the Greeks, we only have one God to be held accountable to—and our God wants us to succeed. And hey, we don't have to fight a snake lady or a Kraken!



BY JENNIFER ZUKOWSKI
SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Another successful school year has come to a close! In fact, 2021-2022 was my 20th school year as the Director of the ECC. It's hard to believe that it has been 20 years already. As cliché as it may sound, time sure flies when you are having fun! It has been such an honor to be part of so many children's early childhood education. I have watched thousands of children come through our doors and go on to do great things. I know that the quality education we provide here at TBSECC gave them the foundation they needed to succeed.

Of course, all of this would not be possible without our incredible staff and teachers. We have a number of staff members that have certainly dedicated their time and efforts into making our school a 5-STAR and nationally accredited program including: Jami Garvin (22 years), Christopher West (16 years), Nitza Filos (15 years), Anne-Marie Ryan (8 years), Daryl Grodin (7 years), Laura Lundquist (7 years), Rebecca Miller (7 years), Shelley Corush (6 years) and Chef Christine Zenobi (6 years). It truly takes a village and together we make it happen.

Although the year was deemed a success, it started with the unfortunate passing of our Founder, Mr. Stanley Mallin. At his funeral, the children and staff at TBSECC had put together a memorial for "Mr. Stan" in remembrance of his important contributions to the school and lives of many children past, present and future. It was a beautiful display that brought tears to the eyes of many as they entered the Synagogue. In an effort to keep the spirit and memory of Mr. Stan alive, the TBSECC has decided to implement a "Crazy Sock Day" each year on his birthday as he was always wearing fun, crazy socks! We will also hold a memorial sock drive for the homeless each year to honor his memory.

Lastly, we will present a Stan Mallin Perfect Attendance award each year as an homage to the fact that Mr. Stan often talked about how he never missed a single day of school all the way up until high school. What an achievement!

The TBSECC simply would not exist today without the generosity and caring of this great man! Although he is gone, he will certainly not be forgotten. Last, but certainly not least, the Josh and Abigail Millan Family Children's Library has come together beautifully and we are so excited to fully implement it into our curriculum during the 2022-2023 school year. We will also be opening hours for temple members to come read, check out books or attend a storytelling event! More information to come.



THE JUDY & RONALD MACK SCHOOL FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RABBI JONATHAN HODSON
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR



A CHALLENGING SCHOOL YEAR, IN A GOOD WAY!

This year, the Judy and Ronald Mack School for Religious Studies tried something different for its Monday night programs: STEM Challenges.

Whether we were making towers out of spaghetti or building pyramids out of sugar cubes — our students were engaged and learning Torah through building. Many of our students rose to the challenge and put forth their best efforts to build and complete the challenges before the allotted amount of time expired.

Sometimes we even added extra stringencies. For example, to teach students about the Shmita and Jubilee year, students were challenged to build a working model car out of vegetables. However, every seven minutes, students were required to put down their materials and rest — just like God commanded the Israelites to do every seven years.

At Temple Beth Sholom's religious school, we're constantly striving to find new and innovative ways to connect our students with Jewish values and ideas. Want to be a part of our program?

Email rabbijhodson@bethsholomlv.org to sign up today.





BY D.J. SINAI
YOUTH/MUSICAL DIRECTOR

YOUTH

Here we are - summertime! A lot of our teens are going to various camps around the country and it's very exciting to hear of all of their adventures. A lot of them attend Jewish overnight camps in which they get to experience Judaism in a completely different light over the summer. They come back with stories and experiences that they get to share with all of their friends! And, because of the amazing scholarship opportunities at Temple Beth Sholom, we make sure that no student misses a summer at a Jewish overnight camp due to financial reasons.

Over the summer, USY and KADIMAnics take time away from our normal programming to have these experiences with their family and friends. However, once school starts, we are back in full swing with weekly programs, Shabbat dinners, and lots of opportunities for Jewish students to enjoy time with each other.

As a matter of fact, our first event is always the first day of school with our annual Back to School Ice Cream Social. This year, it will be taking place on Monday, August 8 from 4p-6p at Bruster's Ice Cream on Durango. This is a **FREE** event for all students entering grades 4 - 12! No RSVP is required, so please spread the word to all Jewish students you know entering these grades!

We are continuing to make improvements to our youth lounge as well. Over the summer, we are planning on making some more renovations to continue to make the lounge a fun environment for kids of all ages. From a 75" TV with surround sound and an Xbox to an air hockey table and foosball table, our lounge is full of ways for teens to interact with each other. We have couches, arcade games, a stocked mini-fridge with soda and water, snacks, and so much more.

If you know of any students entering 4 - 12, please send them my way and I would be happy to give them a tour of our space. As always, feel free to email me at djsinai@bethsholomlv.org if you have any questions about our youth programming here at Temple Beth Sholom!

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

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WOMEN'S LEAGUE



By Judy Forman | Women's League President

Hi! Let me introduce myself, my name is Judy Forman, I am the new president of the Women's League of TBS. As we go forward into the new year, I want to take a moment to welcome the new TBS and Women's League board members. Women's League has accomplished a great deal this year. Our success has been enormous. Together we had zoom learning events, training sessions, a girls' night out, a Purim ice cream social, and other fun programs. We are grateful for the relationships that continue to build.

So, please join us, and don't forget to renew your Women's League membership.

I would like to thank Whitney for all the support she has given the Women's League board. These are difficult times for all of us, so please keep our members in your hearts and thoughts, and again thanks to the hard-working women's league volunteers.

Have a safe and healthy summer, see you in September.

As another year approaches let's make it Amazing!



MEN'S CLUB

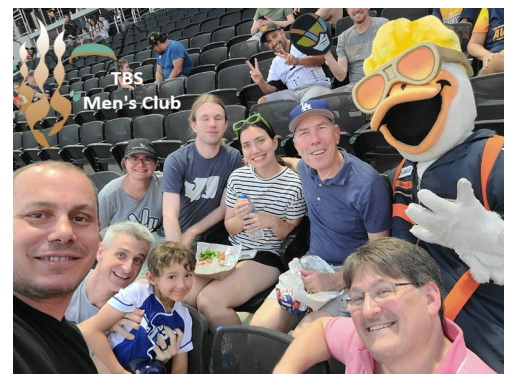
By Ken Heck | Men's Club President

After a strong Poker Tournament, the Men's Club of TBS decided it was time to get out and relax at a ball game. We saw the LV Aviators take on the Albuquerque Aviators. A little popcorn and a few "soft drinks" can go a long way to building camaraderie.

While the ride is far from over, it has been extremely rewarding to watch the Men of TBS get together and build relationships. Watching real friendships develop is what our Club is all about; and we look forward to more and more involvement.

Upcoming events for the Men's Club include another installment of our Speakers Series followed by a tutorial on "How to Lay Tefillin"...and then eat bagels and lox.

Don't be a stranger in shul.





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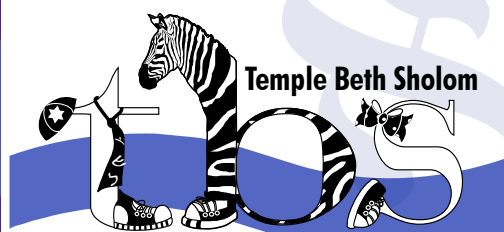


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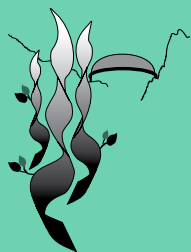
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sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	shabbat
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9:00 AM Morning Minyan 3	9:00 AM Morning Minyan 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY OFFICE CLOSED	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 5 12:00 pm Haftarah w/ Hodson	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 6	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 7	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 8 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat WLTBS Installation of Officers  7:43 PM	9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Service 9
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AUGUST 2022

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	shabbat
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9:00 AM Morning Tisha B'Av Service 7 5:00 pm Tisha B'Av Mincha Service	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 8 4:00 pm USY/ KADIMA Back to School Ice Cream	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 9 12:00 pm Haftarah w/ Hodson	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  7:16 PM	9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Service 13
9:00 AM Morning Minyan 14 9:00 am Religious School Open House & 1st Day of School	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 15	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 16 12:00 pm Haftarah w/ Hodson	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 17 6:00 pm USY Lounge Night	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 18	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 19 7:30 pm Accoustic Shabbat  7:08 PM	9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Service 20 Shabbat Halelu
9:00 AM Morning Minyan 21	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 22	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 23 12:00 pm Haftarah w/ Hodson	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 24 6:00 pm USY Lounge Night	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 25	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 26 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  6:59 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 12:00 pm Haftarah w/ Hodson	7:30 AM Morning Minyan 31 6:00 pm Boker Tov Candidate's Night 6:00 pm USY Lounge Night			



OUR TEAM

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The Sandra & Stanley Mallin and
Lovee & Bob Arum
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