



Temple Beth Sholom

March 2013 5773

Rabbi Elliot Rosenbaum

חזק חזק ונתחזק
Be strong, be strong, and may we be strengthened.



THE JEWS of MEXICO

A few years ago I visited the Jewish Community of Monterrey, Mexico for the first time. This small community (about 200 families) is impressive in its dedication to its heritage. Nearly all of the Jewish children in Monterrey attend the Day School, which is contained in the Jewish Community Center.

There is a small store near the Center which sells kosher meat and food products. According to the internet: Nearly all of Mexico's Jews arrived between the late 1800's and 1939, fleeing persecution in Europe. When they first arrived, many Jews, embittered by the anti-Semitism in Europe, were distrustful of Mexico, a nation which is 97 percent Catholic. But Mexico, with few exceptions, has treated its Jews exceptionally well, and is considered a haven for them. This attitude of acceptance and tolerance was put into writing in June 2003 when then President Vicente Fox signed a law that forbids discrimination, including anti-Semitism.

Today, Mexico boasts a strong, active Jewish community of between 40,00-50,000. About 37,500 of those live in Mexico City where there are 23 synagogues (nearly all Orthodox), several Kosher restaurants and at least 12 Jewish schools, where 80 percent of the Jewish youth receive their education.

Small Jewish communities can also be found in Guadalajara , Monterrey, Tijuana, Cancun and San Miguel. Through-out all of Mexico, **95 percent** of Jewish families **belong to a synagogue** and **91 percent** of Mexican Jewish children **attend Jewish schools. Only about 1 out of every 10 Mexican Jews intermarries.** This is way below the **fifty percent rate (!)** of the United States and one of the lowest rates in Latin America.



Best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery to
Vivian Simon and Evelyn Weisberg

Yasher Koch to our rabbi for the fine job on the
“Passover at the Refuge” poster (hope to see you all there)

President's Corner:

Temple Beth Sholom will be celebrating its 20 year anniversary in May of this year. This is a great accomplishment for the Jewish people in Lake Havasu. Each year that we continue to exist in our community is a testament to the founder's vision. The building of the physical structure by the founders was a major accomplishment. It provides a place for the congregation to pray and socialize. But it is only a structure; the members of the synagogue bring the structure to life. Last year we took a bold step to make this feeling even more impactful and contracted with Rabbi Rosenbaum to serve as our religious leader. It was the first time in recent memory that we were able to expand our religious capabilities and offer more activities and religious learning to its congregation.

I would like to recognize the members of Board of Directors (Linda Dux, Stan and Andrea Coffield, Jill Fetz, Vivian Simon and David Weisbly) for their continued diligence and dedication in serving the congregation. David has subsequently moved to Rocky Point, Mexico and we all wish him well in his new adventure. Vivian has been ill and will be returning to Lake Havasu from Connecticut. We hope that she has a speedy recovery and returns to our small family soon. It is hard to find such good people that spend a great deal of their time making the synagogue a better place. I am very grateful to have them serving with me. When you see them at services or our next function please walk up to them and thank them for their participation.

As you all should know by now, we will be conducting a Passover Seder at the Refuge Golf and Country Club. We are expecting a huge attendance, so I would advise you to get your reservations and payments in early. This is the first time that we will be opening our Seder to the Lake Havasu community. We are hoping that this will become an annual event and an excellent way to share our customs with the greater Christian community.

Help us to ensure our work will last for years to come. Step up and get involved. Be an active participant in Temple Beth Sholom's future. Volunteer your time to serve on the Board of Directors and do not let the founders' vision and hopes for this community fade and wither.

Sincerely,

Stuart Flamm

Temple Beth Sholom

Rabbi Elliot Rosenbaum

2013 TBS Board of Directors

President	Stuart Flamm	president@tbshavasu.org
Vice-President	Stan Coffield	
Secretary	Andrea Coffield	office@tbshavasu.org
Treasurer	open	
Members at large	Linda Dux, Vivien Simon and Jill Fetz	
Past President	Wayne Cohen	

Jews are forbidden to own leavened products during Passover. The certificate below authorizes Rabbi Rosenbaum to act on your behalf to sell your leavened products & utensils to a non Jew. Rabbi Rosenbaum will then buy back the products on the evening of the last night of Passover.

Please print, sign, date and return the certificate below To Rabbi Rosenbaum

Certificate for the Sale of Leavened Products & Utensils

I authorize Rabbi Elliot Rosenbaum to act on my behalf to sell any leavened products, and the utensils used to prepare and eat these products, that I own.

Signature _____ Date _____

Torah repairs

The Torah sent out for repair should be returning to our ark this month. Thanks to the Selberg family, Jules Teck and many other congregants there were donations that paid for repair of our Torah.

Sponsors are needed for Oneg Shabat.

Oneg sponsorship requires that you supply refreshments for the congregation
or simply donate \$30.00 to buy the items.

Upcoming services

March 8 and March 22 7:30 PM. Torah study on March 9 and March 23 10 AM

Passover Seder Monday March 25th at 6:30 at the Refuge

April 12 and April 26 7:30 PM. Torah study on April 13 and April 27 10 AM

May 10 and May 24 7:30 PM. Torah study on May 11 and May 25 10 AM

Our thanks for donations from the following congregants

Garry Meyers for his continued generous donations
and to Jill Fetz for the DELICIOUS home baked challahs

HUMOR

After months of difficult negotiation with the authorities, a Talmudic scholar from Odessa is at long last granted permission to visit Moscow. He boards the train and finds an empty seat. At the next stop, a young man gets on and sits next to him. The scholar looks at the young man, and he thinks: This fellow doesn't look like a peasant, so if he is no peasant he probably comes from this district. If he comes from this district, then he must be Jewish because this is, after all, a Jewish district.

But on the other hand, since he is a Jew, where could he be going? I'm the only Jew in our district who has permission to travel to Moscow. Ahh, wait! Just outside Moscow there is a little village called Samvet, and Jews don't need special permission to go to Samvet. But why would he travel to Samvet? He is surely going to visit one of the Jewish families there. But how many Jewish families are there in Samvet? Aha, only two: the Bernsteins and the Steinbergs. But since the Bernsteins are a terrible family, so such a nice-looking fellow like him, he must be visiting the Steinbergs.

But why is he going to the Steinbergs in Samvet? The Steinbergs have only daughters, two of them, so maybe he's their son-in-law. But if he is, then which daughter did he marry? They say that Sarah Steinberg married a nice lawyer from Budapest and Esther married a businessman from Zhitomer, so he must be Sarah's husband. Which means that his name is Alexander Cohen, if I'm not mistaken.

But if he came from Budapest, with all the anti-Semitism they have there, he must have changed his name. What's the Hungarian equivalent of Cohen? It is Kovacs. But since they allowed him to change his name, he must have special status to change it. What could it be? Must be a doctorate from the University. Nothing less would do.

At this point, therefore, the scholar of Talmud turns to the young man and says, "Excuse me. Do you mind if I open the window Dr. Kovaks.

But how did you know my name.

It was obvious

MOISHE Moishe Goldberg was heading out of the Synagogue one day, and as always Rabbi Mendel was standing at the door, shaking hands as the congregation departed. The rabbi grabbed Moishe by the hand, pulled him aside and whispered these words at him: "You need to join the Army of God!"

Moishe replied: "I'm already in the Army of God, Rabbi."

The rabbi questioned: "How come I don't see you except for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur?"

Moishe whispered back: "I'm in the secret service."

Temple Beth Sholom needs your PARTICIPATION

If you are aware of unaffiliated families, please invite them to Sabbath services and/or advise the board. Please consider taking a more active part in running your temple. Call, email or let us know at services.

Our Next Board Meeting will be March 28th 6:00pm at the Temple.

Plan on attending, show your support of TBS

Everyone is welcome