



Temple Beth Sholom

May 2012 / 5772

LAKE HAVASU CITY ARIZONA

חזק חזק ונתחזק

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

Presidents Corner

I am honored to be serving as President of Temple Beth Sholom once again. We will be entering into a new and exciting chapter in the book of life for our Synagogue. We will be welcoming to our Lake Havasu Jewish community Rabbi Elliot Rosenbaum, in September of this year. He will be serving as our full time spiritual leader, a major step towards growing our religious community in Lake Havasu.

Timing is everything in life. A year and a half ago when we were looking for a full time Rabbi for our temple, Rabbi Rosenbaum responded to our ad but was not ready to retire. Then things changed and he called us back and asked if the job was still open. We invited him to our city to showcase his skills and meet our congregation. The thing that may have sealed the deal was when he saw our beautiful sunset just before our Havdalah service.

As many of you may know he is also a trained Cantor. His cantorial skills will make our Shabbat , High Holy and festival observances more delightful and entertaining. I look forward to sitting with all of you and listening to our Rabbi/Cantor lead us in song.

Over the summer the Board of Directors will be working to make the Rabbi's arrival a joyous occasion. We may ask for your help from time to time, and I hope that we can count on your support. The congregation and the our Lake Havasu Jewish community will benefit greatly by Rabbi Rosenbaum's arrival. I hope that you are as excited as I am.

Shalom

Stuart Flamm

Greetings to my future congregation

Although I don't officially begin my duties serving as the rabbi of Temple Beth Sholom in beautiful Lake Havasu City until September 1st, I thought I would give you some thoughts about the future.

Temple Beth Sholom is about to undergo an inevitable transformation!

For the last several years this congregation has been a community-led institution with monthly support from a rabbinical student.

All that is soon about to change.

A rabbi who lives in LHC and serves the synagogue and its membership on a full time basis has the potential to bring about enormous change for the better.

Shabbat, as you know, comes once a week.

Holding prayer services every Friday Evening and Saturday morning during the year presents a weekly opportunity for prayer, study and camaraderie.

Those people who couldn't get to the once-a-month services will soon see their possibilities for attendance increased substantially.

In addition, the Jewish calendar is filled with many special days which I look forward to commemorating with you.

A "full time" rabbi can represent the congregation to the rest of Lake Havasu City during public events.

Temple Beth Sholom will soon be able to tell the rest of the Jewish world that they have a "full service" synagogue available for potential new members considering retirement in Lake Havasu City.

The soon to be celebrated Festival of Shavuote commemorates the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people.

Before the Torah, we were freed slaves descended from the children of our forefather Jacob.

Receiving the Torah transformed us into a new nation.

I believe a transformation is soon to occur at Temple Beth Sholom as well.

I look forward to helping that transformation come about.

Rabbi Elliot Rosenbaum

2011 TBS Board of Directors

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Help support Temple Beth Shalom, contact Nichole to purchase scrip that you can then use to purchase groceries at Smiths or Bashas supermarkets.

Nichole has scrip available in various denominations, using scrip to purchase groceries is a painless way to financially benefit the temple.

You have to eat anyway, support the temple when you buy groceries.

Contact Nichole at 928-453-8795 for more information

Shavuot

Shavuot is celebrated this year on May 26-27. Shavuot, a Hebrew word meaning "weeks" and refers to the Jewish festival marking the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. Shavuot, like so many other Jewish holidays began as an ancient agricultural festival, marking the end of the spring barley harvest and the beginning of the summer wheat harvest. Shavuot was distinguished in ancient times by bringing crop offerings to the Temple in Jerusalem.

Shavuot, also known as the Festival of the Giving of the Torah, dates from biblical times, and helps to explain the holiday's name, "Weeks." The Torah tells us it took precisely forty-nine days for our ancestors to travel from Egypt to the foot of Mount Sinai (the same number of days as the [Counting of the Omer](#)) where they were to receive the Torah. Thus, Leviticus 23:21 commands: "And you shall proclaim that day (the fiftieth day) to be a holy convocation!" The name *Shavuot*, "Weeks," then symbolizes the completion of a seven-week journey.

Special customs on Shavuot are the reading of the Book of Ruth, which reminds us that we too can find a continual source of blessing in our tradition. Another tradition includes staying up all night to study Torah and *Mishnah*, a custom called [Tikkun Leil Shavuot](#), which symbolizes our commitment to the Torah, and that we are always ready and awake to receive the Torah. Traditionally, dairy dishes are served on this holiday to symbolize the sweetness of the Torah, as well as the "land of milk and honey".

