



Temple Beth Sholom

LAKE HAVASU CITY ARIZONA

Summer 2011 / 5772

חזק חזק ונתחזק

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

Presidents Corner

Dear Friends,

Today is a wonderful day. It's cold and gloomy outside. Our country is going through rough times. Our brethren in Israel are facing new challenges and struggles from those who wish to see their demise. Trouble seems to be around every corner.

So why would I say that the day is wonderful? Today I finally have the energy to focus on our temple community. Running the temple can be very trying. We have had lower than expected turnouts for services. Two weeks ago, somebody found it necessary to smash one of our windows. And there have been minor issues to deal with on a day to day basis.

Taking on the role of president is a tough choice. It takes up much of my free time, there is no pay for the effort, and I have to listen to many opinions of well intentioned, but sometimes misguided individuals. The efforts the board and I have made to provide the best experience possible seem to not have been as effective as I had hoped. Because of this I had become apathetic in my running of our incredible fraternity.

However, I have to admit, that I truly enjoy the being your president. Many of us, myself included, have trouble getting the energy to come services on Friday nights. After a long week and a hard day, going to temple is not our first choice. The fact is, however, when services are over, I feel fantastic. I feel energized. I thanked god for all that I have. I prayed for and remembered my loved one who have passed away and asked god to help those who are sick and less fortunate. Listening and learning from the rabbi is always a joy for me. No matter how hard the week, I am reenergized.

In the Torah, it is commanded of us to celebrate Shabbat, resting on the seventh day. God knew we needed that time of rest and reflection so that we might start the next week with the necessary energy to work hard to achieve our dreams and goals. Seeing all of you in temple brings me the most joy of all. It makes me feel that the job I am doing is worthwhile.

Please join me and celebrate with the congregation, on Friday December 23rd at the temple at 7:30 pm for a wonderful Hanukkah celebration.

We will have lots of latkes, song and dance, and some games thrown in. There will be a trivia contest that will be fun for all.

Please R.S.V.P. to (928) 453-8795, a.s.a.p. so that we will know how many latkes to prepare. I hope to see you all there.

I would like to give special thanks to Joy Simon for all the hard work and donations she devotes to our temple. Joy even goes out of her way to pick up trash in our city in an effort to keep Havasu beautiful! If we did not have people like Joy, none of this would be possible.

Wayne Cohen,

President

December Yahrzeits

Stanley Gore

Sylvia Serota

Annette MacKenzie

January Yahrzeits

Libby Galst

Lena Simon

Frances Silverman

Irwin Schneider

Maxine Bond

Gloria Simpson

FROM OUR STUDENT RABBI:

Dear Friends,

As the days grow seemingly darker, colder, and shorter, it is easy to become fatigued and even depressed. Our tradition, like so many others offers a holiday during this the time. Hanukkah falls each year on the 25th of Kislev, this year, which happens to correspond with December 20th, and of course lasts for eight days and nights.

Many of us can recall Hanukkah rituals from our childhood. Perhaps these memories including lighting the menorah, playing dreidel, cooking and eating potato latkes or sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts), exchanging gifts, and singing Hanukkah songs. All of these rituals help to create a celebratory atmosphere amidst a season of darkness. Yet, sadly, many of us do not recall exactly what it is that we are celebrating.

The old adage holds true: *They tried to kill us, we won, let's eat!* However, Hanukkah is about so much more! The onions with which we make our potato latkes serve as a metaphor for the meanings behind the holiday of Hanukkah. The history and rationale for why it is that we celebrate Hanukkah each year, has many layers.

Probably, the outermost layer of the various rationales for Hanukkah lies in the story of the oil in the Temple. We learn from the Talmud (Shabbat, 21b) that directly after the Macabees defeated the Greek-Syrian army, and began to rededicate the Temple, they only had enough oil to light the menorah for one day, yet the oil lasted for eight entire days. This is a beautiful story with a very happy ending, and certainly a great reason to celebrate.

If one were to peel the layers of the onion off, however, he/she would discover that there is much more to the story of Hanukkah. The story of Hanukkah is actually a historical story about a power struggle amongst Jews with different ideologies. It's a story about the battle for what different groups believed to be "right".

All too often, when we engage in debates, we place moral judgments upon people who disagree with our own points of view, thereby making the debates "battles". The rabbis were uncomfortable with the notion that Jews would have to battle one another. So, they gave the story a happy twist – the story of the oil. Perhaps, this twist was assigned to the holiday of Hanukkah to revise the holiday's message. Rather than remem-

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Newsletter editor and webmaster

Stan Coffield

THIS IS A REAL SIGN FOUND RECENTLY IN NEW YORK CITY



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.



Our thanks for donations from the following congregants

A Big Thank You to Jules Teck for donating our beautiful new sign!

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



**Help support Temple Beth Sholom by purchasing Smith's Gift Certificates
that you can then use to purchase groceries.**

Denomination of \$100, \$50 and \$20 are available.

**This is a painless way to financially support the temple
when you buy groceries.**

**Anyone is interested in purchasing Smith's Gift Certificates,
or if you would like to sign up for the eScrip program,
please contact Nichole Cohen (928) 453-8795.**

**eScrip applications are available at temple during each service
they will be on the information table.**

**Thank you to all who participate in our eScrip program, you have helped to
deposit \$54.86 in our coffers for the month of October!**

**A special Thank You t Linda Dux and Vivien Simon for purchasing Smith's gift
certificates, which deposited \$60 into our coffers this month!**



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bering a time when Jews were at war with one another, we are urged to remember a time when Jews were forced to rededicate themselves to what was most central to their lives.

If you had to rededicate yourself to the central values of your life, what would they be? I would hope that the Temple Beth Sholom community would be among those central values. Friends, it is my hope and prayer as we move into this Hanukkah season, that we all rededicate ourselves to our holy community, here in Lake Havasu. We can start by celebrating Hanukkah together, as a community, this Friday, December 23rd, at 7:30pm at our Temple.

L'Shalom and Happy Hanukkah,

Rachel Kaplan Marks,

Student Rabbi