



Temple Beth Sholom

August 2012 5772

LAKE HAVASU CITY ARIZONA

Rabbi Elliot Rosenbaum

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



Rosh Hashana

Why?

The Torah commands that we must have a sacred meeting on this date and that we should hear blasts of the shofar. This day is considered to be the “Birthday of the World”- the anniversary of the day when the creation of the universe began.

What do I do?

Attend synagogue and hear the sounding of the shofar.

The festival meal is also part of the holiday. It is customary to serve a round challah (symbolizing the yearly cycle just completed) and apples dipped in honey for a sweet year.

Yom Kippur

Why?

The Torah commands that we must have a sacred meeting on this day and we must afflict ourselves.

G-d forgave the Jewish people for their act of building the Golden Calf on this day. Since then, the purpose of this holiest of days has been to collectively confess and seek forgiveness.

What do I do?

Attend synagogue and abstain from the following acts during Yom Kippur from sundown to sundown:

eating and drinking

washing

applying oils or lotions to the skin

marital relations

wearing leather shoes

Though Yom Kippur atones for transgressions against G-d, this does not include wrongs committed against our fellow human beings. It is therefore the universal Jewish custom to apologize and seek forgiveness from any friends, relative, or acquaintances whom we may have harmed or insulted over the past year.

The Festival of Succoth + Sh’mini Atseret + Simchat Torah begins this year at sundown on Sunday, September 30th and continues until Tuesday, October 9th at sundown.

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The Torah commands us to hear the sound of the horn on Rosh Hashana.

In traditional synagogues the shofar is blown every weekday morning starting from the first day of the month of Elul (which is the Hebrew month that precedes Rosh Hashana).

The majority of American Jews however, hear the shofar only during the High Holidays.

We listen to the blast of this ancient horn during the prayers at both morning services on Rosh Hashana and after the final service of Yom Kippur-N'ilah.

A special section called the Shofar Service (for the purpose of hearing the shofar) is added after the reading of the Torah and the Haftarah (selection from the Book of Prophets) and before the Torah is returned to the ark.

At the end of each of the added sections unique to Rosh Hashana: Malchuyote, Zichronote, Shofrote; there is an opportunity to hear the shofar again.

Finally, we have the option of adding its sound into the Kaddish Shalem-the full kaddish which concludes the Musaf Amidah on Rosh Hashana morning.

The shofar is a symbol of revelation and of redemption. It was sounded at Mt. Sinai as our ancestors received the Torah. Tradition links it to the binding of Isaac when his father Abraham sacrificed a ram instead of his son. The horns of that ram were used to create shofars.

Finally, the shofar is also the herald of freedom. By its sound, during biblical times, slaves were set free and property was restored to its original owners at the beginning of the Jubilee year (every 50 years).

Judaism is indeed filled with beautiful symbols and symbolism. The sounding of the shofar is unique among religions of the world. It calls us, as in the past, to ponder our futures.

May you & your family have a happy and healthy New Year.

Rabbi Elliot Rosenbaum

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Succoth

Why? The Torah commands:

- ❖ We have a sacred meeting on the fifteenth day of the Hebrew month of Tishri (5 days after Yom Kippur) when we have gathered in the harvest.
- ❖ We keep the festival for 7 days.
- ❖ We take certain branches & a fruit (representing the harvest) and rejoice before the Lord. These growing things are the lulav & etrog and we shake them in all directions (since G-d is everywhere) and rejoice by adding a section of psalms to our prayers called "Hallel".
- ❖ We are commanded to dwell (sit/eat/drink) in booths (succahs) during this festival.

What do I do?

- ❖ Build & "dwell" (sit/eat/drink) in a succah or come & "dwell" in someone else's.
- ❖ Shake the lulav and etrog (but not on Shabbat).

Rejoice before the Lord by reciting Hallel.

Sh'mini Atseret:

- ❖ The eighth day is a separate festival from Succoth. We are not obligated to use the lulav & etrog nor dwell in the succah on this day.
- ❖ We add Hallel psalms + "Geshom" (a prayer for rain) + "Yizkor" memorial prayers to morning prayers.

Simchat Torah:

- ❖ The rabbis in the Talmud added this additional festival day after "Shmini Atseret" to celebrate the end and the beginning of the Torah reading cycle.
- ❖ We remove the Torah scrolls from the Ark and circle the synagogue 7 times, carrying the scrolls, dancing and singing.

Israel: Succoth= 2 Festival Days (like Shabbat) + **4 intermediate days** (called "Chol HaMoed" and considered 1/2 festival days, the last intermediate day is called Hoshana Raba and adds extra prayers) + 1 day of Shmini Atseret (like Shabbat) + 1 day of Simchat Torah (like Shabbat).

Diaspora: Succoth=Same as Israel but has **5 intermediate days**.

Daffynitions: Jewbilation (n.) Pride in finding out that one's favorite celebrity is Jewish or that your offspring is marrying a Jewish person.

Torahfied (n.) Inability to remember one's lines when called to read from the Torah at one's Bar or Bat Mitzvah (or from the Hagadah at Passover).

Presidents Corner

As the song says "The times they are a changing". Temple Beth Sholom is entering a new year in our religion and entering a new stage in our history. Good things are happening that will enhance our religious experience in Lake Havasu City. I am sure by now that everyone in our congregation is aware that Rabbi Elliot Rosenbaum decided to move to our wonderful city and be our full time Rabbi/Cantor. After seven years of having a student Rabbi conduct services once a month, it will be wonderful change to have a religious leader available whenever our Jewish community needs his services.

I know that we will enjoy Shabbat services a little bit more with the chanting of our prayers by our Rabbi Rosenbaum. We will be able to provide Hebrew education to children and adults, Torah study and Bar/Bat Mitzvah training more effectively. We will be able to partake in celebrating many more festivals and happy occasions. One of the more important changes will be that we will have a voice in the religious community in our city. One of our Christian organizations has already welcomed the Rabbi to our community and has offered to introduce him to the rest of the community at their next religious counsel meeting.

I know that our congregation's future is looking very bright and with the changes that we can make we will attract more Jewish families to house of worship. Lets all work with the Rabbi and the Board of Directors to seal our new life at Temple Beth Sholom. Now is the time when we really need you to step up and contribute your time and money to keep the temple's future glowing.

I would like to greet all of you at our up coming events.

Open house on Sunday Sept 9th between 2:00PM to 5:00PM,

Shabbat services on Friday Sept. 14th at 7:30PM,

Erev Rosh Hashanah on Sunday Sept 16th at 6:00PM,

Rosh Hashanah Monday Sept 17th at 9:00AM

Kol Nidre Tuesday Sept 25th at 6:00PM

Yom Kippur Wednesday Sept 26th at 9:00AM

Shalom Stuart Flamm

Our Next Board Meeting is Thursday September 13

6:00pm at the Temple.

Plan on attending, show your support of TBS

Everyone is welcome