



Temple Beth Sholom

October 2015 5776

Rabbi Elliot Rosenbaum

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



This past July 21st the world lost an amazing human being and one of my greatest inspirations: Theodore Bikel (z'l).

Bikel is probably best known as a character actor who was featured in several fine films: "My Fair Lady", "The African Queen" and an Oscar nominated performance for "The Defiant Ones" (1958). He also appeared in guest roles in many TV shows.

Most people are not aware that he originated the role of Captain Von Trapp in the Broadway show "The Sound of Music" with Mary Martin and that Rodgers & Hammerstein wrote the song "Edelweiss" specifically for him to sing.

TB performed the role of Tevye in "Fiddler on the Roof" more than 2,000 times all over the U.S. (I was privileged to have seen one of his performances).

In 2005, Theo was granted a Star on the Walk of Fame in Hollywood, CA.

I first became aware of TB when my father (z'l) bought me his record albums (thanks, Dad!) when I was first learning the guitar in Junior High. As a folksinger, Mr. Bikel could sing in dozens of different languages and his concerts and recordings were an incredible introduction to the musical cultures of many countries of the world.

But it was his expertise in Yiddish and Hebrew that made a lasting impression on me. His Yiddish albums were simply the best recordings of European Jewish music ever recorded. With their wonderful musical arrangements, Bikel left a loving tribute to the joys of Yiddish music for future generations.

I nearly ran into TB in the narrow halls of the Actors Equity building in NYC when he was the president of AE and I was a struggling actor.

The next time I saw him was at a synagogue in West Palm Beach, FL where he was entertaining. People there knew me so I was allowed "backstage" and spent at least a half hour "schmoozing" with TB.

A year or so later, we shared the "stage" at the Annual Jewish Federation Dinner at the Breakers Hotel on Palm Beach, FL. He entertained and I sang the National Anthem and Hatikva (accompanied by his pianist). We got to schmooze a little more before the dinner. He remembered me from his last visit to S.FL.

Theodore Bikel, 1924-2015. Z'L-May his memory remain as a blessing.

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President's Corner

My fellow congregants,

Shalom,

I hope that each of you enjoyed the high holiday period. Kudos to Jonathan for his outstanding shofar rendition.

For all who have paid their Temple dues, Thank you so much. If you have not yet paid, please make arrangements with Stu Flamm our treasurer.

I hope to see each of you at upcoming Shabbat services.

Stan Coffield

Yartzheits

Madelyn Merenda	remembered by	Vivien Simon	on	October 8
Edna Irene Johnson	remembered by	Jill Fetz	on	October 24
Henry Dux	remembered by	Peter Dux	on	November 2
Joanna Spiegel	remembered by	Paul & Judy Selberg	on	November 14
Harold Simon	remembered by	Joy Simon	on	November 16
Margaret Goldman	remembered by	Vivien Simon	on	November 19
Miriam Coffield	remembered by	Stan Coffield	on	November 22
Jack Dean Stauss	remembered by	Jill Fetz	on	November 25
Philip Turk	remembered by	John Fetz	on	November 30

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2015 TBS Board of Directors

President	Stan Coffield	president@tbshavasu.org
Vice President	open	
Secretary	Andrea Coffield	office@tbshavasu.org
Treasurer	Stuart Flamm	
Members at large	Linda Dux, Ori Hernandez and Jill Fetz	
Past President	Stuart Flamm	

Temple Beth Sholom on the web www.tbshavasu.org

Did Columbus Have Jewish Roots?

Many mysteries surround the origins of Columbus. One recurrent claim is the explorer had Jewish roots. The arguments are based on a number of observations or interpretations: First, Columbus was knowledgeable of Jewish history and traditions, such as referring to the Second Temple as "The Second House," a term used only in Jewish sources. Second, his financial backers were Jews or of Jewish ancestry. Third, he chose Jews and ex-Jews as crewmen, including the Hebrew-speaking interpreter Luis de Torres. Fourth, Columbus encoded his elaborate Christian signature with kabalistic messages concealing a Jewish prayer. Fifth, Columbus placed a cryptic monogram at the top of the page of two letters to his son Diego—a Jewish practice signifying the abbreviated "baruch hashem," blessed be God.

Does this evidence constitute a persuasive argument? While it is true that Columbus received invaluable technical and financial support from Jews and Conversos, and he was no doubt familiar with Jewish culture and traditions, every one of the arguments in support of the Jewish origins hypothesis has been countered with an alternative explanation. The admiral's familiarity with Jewish customs and lore, for example, would be expected of a man studied in religion who had much contact with Jews and former Jews engaged in the enterprises of exploration and trade. And the cryptic monogram on his correspondence and the symbols in his signature have been interpreted in a variety of ways or are simply too ambiguous to decipher definitively.

Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal popularized the idea that Columbus may have been a secret Jew. In his 1973 book, *Sails of Hope: The Secret Mission of Columbus*, he wrote that the purpose of the voyage was to find a new Promised Land for the exiled Jews of Spain, accounting for why Columbus concealed his Jewish origins and loyalties. Historian Jacob Rader Marcus disagreed, attributing Luis de Santangel's support of Columbus to "financial and perhaps patriotic opportunism." The pre-eminent historian of Iberian Jewry, Rabbi Meyer Kayserling, rejected the notion that the admiral had the interests of Jews in mind, concluding in his 1907 book, *Christopher Columbus and the Participation of the Jews in the Spanish and Portuguese Discoveries*, that Columbus was a fanatical Christian who felt no sympathy for the Jews being expelled from Spain the very moment he was setting out to sea. Columbus actually profited from the Jewish calamity: the reward he received upon his return and the financing for his second voyage derived from money and jewelry expropriated from the expelled Jews.

The leading Jewish historians who have investigated Columbus's roots would agree with the *Encyclopedia Judaica's* conclusion: "The mystery regarding Columbus's origins is largely the outcome of his own mendacity—and as a result it is equally impossible to exclude or to confirm the hypothesis that he was descended from a Jewish or ex-Jewish family."

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.

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 thanks for donations from the following congregants

Andrea Coffield for her wonderful home made treats
and to Jill Fetz for the DELICIOUS home baked challahs

Schedule of Upcoming services

Friday Evening Shabbat Prayers: October 9- 7:30 PM
Saturday Shabbat Torah Class: October 10- 10 AM

Friday Evening Shabbat Prayers: October 23- 7:30 PM
Saturday Shabbat Torah Class: October 24- 10 AM

Friday Evening Shabbat Prayers: November 13- 7:30 PM
Saturday Shabbat Torah Class: November 14- 10 AM

Friday Evening Shabbat Prayers: November 27- 7:30 PM
Saturday Shabbat Torah Class: November 28- 10 AM

Friday Evening Shabbat Prayers: December 11- 7:30 PM
Saturday Shabbat Torah Class: December 12- 10 AM

CHANUKAH begins the evening of Tuesday, December 6 and ends the evening of Wednesday, December 14

TBS Chanukah Party: Saturday, December 12- 7:30 PM

Friday Evening Shabbat Prayers: December 25- 7:30 PM
Saturday Shabbat Torah Class: December 26- 10 AM

Friday Evening Shabbat Prayers: January 8- 7:30 PM
Saturday Shabbat Torah Class: January 9- 10 AM

Friday Evening Shabbat Prayers: January 22- 7:30 PM
Saturday Shabbat Torah Class: January 23- 10 AM

Friday Evening Shabbat Prayers: February 12- 7:30 PM
Saturday Shabbat Torah Class: February 13- 10 AM

Friday Evening Shabbat Prayers: February 26- 7:30 PM

Our Next Board Meeting will be October 29th

6:30pm at the Temple.

***We will attempt to have ALL board meetings
on the last Thursday of each month***

Plan on attending, show your support of TBS Everyone is welcome