



Temple Beth Sholom

LAKE HAVASU CITY ARIZONA

Summer 2011 / 5771

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

Presidents Corner

Dear Friends,

Arriving at the New Year, we are given a great opportunity to reflect on the past as well as contemplate the future. What good did we do during 5771 and what can we do in 5772 to improve ourselves, our congregation and the community at large? This coming year will be a true test of what our congregation can accomplish.

The important thing that we need to keep in mind is that we have steadily progressed over the past two years. We have quite a few new members and former members who have seen us in action are rejoining the temple. Being in her third year, our rabbi, Rachel Marks, is committed to our congregation and brings with her much experience and joy. Andy Chaet, our VP is doing a great job with coordination and planning. Our calendar is full of services and events. How many new members might we have during the coming year?

The biggest question to ask ourselves is why do we join a Jewish congregation? What does the congregation do for me? I can only tell you how I feel. By not participating, you won't be "moved" by an experience that may only occur from being part of this group. I remember what it was that made me excited about our temple. Passover, 2009 was a phenomenal experience. The joy and fraternity that we had that night made me feel incredible. I left there that night, as many of you did, thinking, "what a great organization this was and what could it be like if I got involved. I became vice president a few weeks later. Stuart Flamm had a similar experience that night, and he became president at the same time.

I have never regretted my decision to become involved. My involvement has brought me great pleasure. I never thought there would be so many wonderful Jewish people living in a predominantly Christian community in the middle of the desert. My hope is that you too, feel or begin to feel, how amazing the rewards of being involved are.

Year 5772 is a pivotal year for our brethren in the State of Israel. We need join together in prayer and discussion for their sake. We need to be strong so that all those around can see us; for we are a face of The Nation of Israel in Mohave County.

I look forward to seeing you all on Rosh Hashanah. Thank you to all who have paid or made arrangements to pay their dues for 5772. For those who have not had a chance to make arrangements for payment, please call Nichole at 928-453-8795 to ensure your place in temple.

Thanks to all for being a part of the future of our congregation.

G'mar Chatima Tova (may you be sealed for goodness in the book of life)

L'Shana Tovah (Happy New Year)

Wayne L. Cohen

President, Temple Beth Sholom

Summer Yahrzeits

June	Joseph Galst, Howard Hunt, Lidia Boszormeny, Murray Lefkowitz, Leo Simon
July	Joseph Coffield, Irwin, Jory and Annette Schneider
August	Mrs. David Myers
September	Stuart Simon John Schneider Jeffrey Raben Joel Galst

Dear Friends,

With *Rosh Hashanah* – the Jewish New Year, and *Yom Kippur* – the Day of Atonement right around the corner, we begin to think about preparing for these holy days. Perhaps we need to inform our employers that we'll be missing work for the religious holidays. Perhaps we double check the timing of the various High Holy Day services, making a mental note to leave a bit early to get our favorite seats in the sanctuary. Perhaps we begin to think about the holiday meals – complete, of course, with a round challah, symbolizing the cyclical nature of the year, matzah ball soup, and gefiltah fish. While all of these preparations are important, our tradition suggests that there is more that we need to do to prepare ourselves for the *Yamim Noraim* – Days of Awe.

Our tradition suggests that we take a ***Cheshbon Nefesh***, literally **an accounting for, and an inventory of the soul**. As we prepare for the New Year, we are to examine the 'credit' and 'debit' columns of our spiritual lives. In what ways have our souls profited in this past year, and where were there deficits? When we take the time to examine our innermost selves in a meticulous manner, we see where our strengths and where our weaknesses fall. It is then, and only then, that we can enter into the New Year with a sense of clarity as to how to make 5772 better than 5771 in all of the ways that truly count.

Here are some suggestions for things that you might consider when taking your *Cheshbon Nefesh*.

Our sages tell us that the first time Adam saw the sun go down, he was terrified. He had seen day, but had never experienced the night. God took pity on him and gave him two stones to rub together in order to create fire. The name of one stone was *afelah*, darkness, and the other *mavet*, death. As the spark emerged, Adam said, "Blessed be the Creator of light." Out of darkness and death, the first human being realized that we can create light.

**In what ways have you succeeded to create light in your life where there was darkness?
In what ways have you missed the mark?**

We are taught that when we awake each morning we are to declare: *I offer thanks to You, ever-living Sovereign, that you have restored my soul to me in mercy: How great is your trust!*

In what ways have you expressed true gratitude this year, to your acquaintances, friends, family, and God? When have you failed to be thankful for all that you have?

There is an old Jewish teaching that says that each person should keep a piece of paper in each of his pockets. In one pocket the paper should read, 'The entire world was created for my sake,' and in the other pocket the paper should read, 'I am but dust and ashes.' From this teaching we learn to ask ourselves:

What is my place in the world? How can I bring my most essential, worthwhile self out into the world in the year to come?

May your preparations, both the physical ones and the preparations of your soul, lead you into a healthy, happy, reflective, and meaningful New Year.

L'Shalom,

Rachel Kaplan Marks Student Rabbi

Newsletter editor and webmaster

Stan Coffield

This New Year's message from Shimon Peres speaks volumes about our purpose.
Message of the President of the State of Israel, Mr. Shimon Peres, to the Jewish Communities in the Diaspora on the occasion of the Jewish New Year 5772 September 2011

Hopefully, the coming New Year will herald the realization of our aspirations for peace, greater security and economic growth, as we continue to strive to safeguard the future of the Jewish people and strengthen the ties between Israel and our Jewish brethren in the Diaspora.

Dramatic changes have swept across our region in the past year, changing the face of the Middle East forever. It has been generated by a young generation that bravely fought to free themselves of the shackles of the oppressive regimes that governed them, putting their lives at risk as they resolutely demanded their basic rights for freedom, democracy, dignity and jobs. Until the dust settles, it is hard to forecast what lies ahead, but along with the risks, the coming year could offer tremendous opportunities and possibilities, and we must have the courage and foresight to seize this window of opportunity to secure a better future. A trend towards democracy and freedom in the region will benefit Israel as well, and we shall closely watch its progress.

Changes have also occurred in Israel. The grassroots social justice movement that has sprouted up across the country has demonstrated that the people of Israel are engaged and socially aware, denoting a spirit of solidarity for each other and their society. They are prepared to fight for a better future for themselves and their children, and it has been an uplifting experience to witness the sight of hundreds of thousands of people peacefully raising their voice in unison for their rights. Here too an opportunity for change exists and must not be wasted.

Jews in Israel and Jews in the Diaspora share a common bond and destiny; they are responsible for one another. These bonds must never weaken, but always strengthen, and to this end educating Jewish youth about Israel, while cultivating their engagement to Israel, is of paramount importance. No less important is the education of Israeli youth about their brothers and sisters in the Diaspora, making it clear to young and old, in Israel and abroad, that Israel belongs to all of the Jewish people, and that a strong Israel-Diaspora relationship constitutes the bridge that connects us. Together we can develop a vision for the future of the Jewish people based on the Jewish values of Tikun Olam and peace.

The coming year will be a critical period for Israel, the entire region, and the world, with complex challenges ahead. Standing united while facing existential threats will give us the strength to prevail. But it will also be a period of opportunities, and I hope we shall take advantage of these opportunities to create a year of promise, growth, and security.

As we look towards a better tomorrow, from Jerusalem I extend my warm and best wishes to the Jewish people around the world for a year of peace, joy, good health and prosperity.

Shana Tova, *Shimon Peres*

We welcome our newest members:

Nick and Marcy Sacco

Marty Goodman

Hildy Angius

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!

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

Help support Temple Beth Sholom, 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

High Holy Day Schedule

Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, Sept. 28th at 7:30 pm

Thursday, Sept. 29th at 10:00 am

Yom Kippur

Friday, Oct. 7th at 7:30 pm

Saturday, Oct. 8th at:

10:00 am Service

6:00 pm Service followed by Break the Fast dinner

Customary Donations from non-members for High Holy Days are \$75 per person for Rosh Hashanah and \$75 per person for Yom Kippur.

If you plan on attending both Holy Day Services the customary donation is \$100. We will be happy to apply your High Holy Day donation towards an annual membership.

Please make a note that the deadline for the Yizkor Book is Saturday, October 1, 2011.

Don't forget to make your reservation for our October 8th "Break the Fast" dinner by contacting our President, Wayne Cohen at 928-453-8795.

The cost is just \$15 per person.