



# Temple Beth Sholom

LAKE HAVASU CITY ARIZONA

March 2011 / 5771

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

## The President's Corner

Dear Fellow Congregants:

The Month of March on the secular calendar has begun and the month of Adar in the Jewish calendar has also arrive. The festival of Purim is celebratred on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of Adar which falls on March 20<sup>th</sup> this year. This festival commorates the salvation of the Jewish people in ancient Persia in the 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE.

In the short explanation of Purim, the story begins with the Jews in Persia where they were all subjects of the Persian empire ruled by King Ahasuerus. He got tired of his wife and killed her and then held a beauty contest to crown a new queen. Esther, a Jewish girl, caught the eye of the king in this pageant. The king made Esther the queen without knowing her heritage. Haman was the Prime Minister of Persia and wanted to kill all of the Jews because they did not want to bow down to the king. Haman went to the king and convinced him to eterminate Jews in the empire on the 13<sup>th</sup> of Adar. However before this could happen Esther had a dinner with the King and told him that she was Jewish and convinced the King to hang Haman, because he wanted to exterminate the Jews. The King ordered Haman hanged and appointed Mordechai brother of Esther the Prime Minister of Persia.

This story of Purim is read from the Magillah on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of Adar each year and it is a mitzvah to hear all of its words. Purim is a festival and not a holy day, thus all Jews should dress up in costumes, enjoy eating hamantashen ( a three sided cookie filled with fruit filling) and drinking wine. Jews should perform mitzvot on this festival by giving to charity and the less fortunate. The charitable donation should replicate our ancestors giving 3 half coins (shekels) to the Holy Temple-. Jews today are asked to give three (or multiples) of half dollars to their temple or to charity. In addition the festival should be celebrated with family and friends.

In the spirit of Purim, I would ask that members of our congregation, their family and friends do two things. The first is to join us for our service on March 11<sup>th</sup> and enjoy the Oneg Shabbat following the service. We will provide the festive mood, food and wine, all you have to do is show up. The second is to donate, either to the our temple or to your favorite charity multiples 3 half dollars to fullfill your mitzvah.

It would be my pleasure to see you at our March service.



## FROM OUR STUDENT RABBI:

In a few short weeks we will celebrate the holiday of Purim. Amidst the costumes and hamentaschen, we are reminded of the greater message of Purim: our people were oppressed by a tyrant and, despite the odds, rose up and were successful in fighting for their freedom. Jews have suffered more than their share of oppression since then, and the lack of Purim-like holidays denotes the stark reality that these trying times often ended poorly for Jews. How lucky we are that for so many of us today, these stories are just that: second-hand accounts of the suffering of other generations. While many of us have never experienced the threat of oppres-

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## CHUTZPAH!!!

Bill Gates advertised for a new chairman of Microsoft Europe. 5000 candidates show up at the job screening. They are assembled in a large room. Among them is Maurice Cohen, a French Jew, a small, bearded, man.

Bill Gates thanks the candidates for coming but asks all those who are not familiar with the JAVA programming language to leave;

2000 people rise and leave the room. Maurice Cohen says to himself, "I do not know this language but what have I got to lose if I stay I'll give it a try".

Bill Gates then asks all those who have no experience of managing teams of more than 100 people to leave.

Another 2000 people go. Maurice Cohen says to himself, "I have never managed anybody but myself but what have I got to lose if I stay? What can happen to me?"

Then Bill Gates asks all candidates who do not have outstanding academic qualifications to rise and leave;

500 people remove themselves. Maurice Cohen says to himself, "I left school at 15 but what have I got to lose if I stay? So he stays in the room.

Lastly, Bill Gates asks all of the candidates who do not speak the Serbo-Croatian language to rise and leave;

498 people rise and leave the room. Maurice Cohen says to himself, "I do not speak Serbo-Croatian but what the hell! Have I got anything to lose?"

He finds himself alone with one other candidate. Everyone else has gone.

Bill Gates joins them and says: "Apparently you are the only two candidates who know JAVA, have managed large teams of employees,

have advanced PhD degrees, and who can speak Serbo-Croatian. I'd like to hear you converse with one another in Serbo-Croatian."

Calmly Maurice turns to the other candidate and says to him: "Baruch ata Adonai."

The other candidate answers: "Elohenu melech ha'olam."

## **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.**

## **2010 TBS Board of Directors**

<b>President</b>	<b>Stuart Flamm</b>	<b>president@tbshavasus.org</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Wayne Cohen</b>	<b>wcohen@tbshavasus.org</b>
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<b>Members at large</b>	<b>Vivian Simon</b>	<b>and Andy Chaet</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Danny Kowalsky</b>	<b>script@tbshavasus.org</b>

## March Yahrzeits

Louis Serota (father in-law of Les Galst)

Harold Galst (brother of Les Galst)

Sam Lena (stepfather of Christine Rosenberg)

Sam Simon (father in-law of Vivien Simon)

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sion, thousands of years of history have left their imprint on our souls. In this very season, the Purim story of the future is taking place, just not in Shushan and not by Jews. Despite the fear of the unknown, we must celebrate the new-found freedom of so many. Even if there are no Jews fighting, the uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya are ultimately a Jewish story.

Purim falls in the middle of the Jewish month of Adar. Because of the joy of that one day, we are instructed to be happy throughout the entire month. While we might feel nervous, scared, confused, ultimately let happiness reign throughout this month dedicated to freedom. How fitting that in this very season, people around the world are also fighting for freedom.

--

Jeremy Simons

Rabbinical Student, Hebrew Union College

### THE FOUR MAIN MITZVOT OF PURIM

**1. MEGILLAT ESTHER** -- we read the story of Purim in the evening and the next day. And whenever Haman is mentioned, we make as much noise as possible to blot out his name and his memory!

**2. SENDING GIFTS OF FOOD** to at least one friend or relative, because Purim is a time of love and friendship between Jews.

**3. GIVING GIFTS OF MONEY TO THE POOR** because Purim is a time of sharing and caring and helping.

**4. EATING A FESTIVE PURIM MEAL** –

the special holiday meal eaten on Purim afternoon.

**AND DON'T FORGET, PURIM IS COSTUME-TIME!** We celebrate how everything can turn upside-down and into something else, and nothing is exactly what it seems to be. So start thinking about who you want to be on Purim!

A joyous Purim to all of you! May Purim – and all other days in the year!-- be full of light and gladness, honor and joy, just as it was for the Jewish people in the time of Esther and Mordechai so many years ago.

**Our thanks for donations from the following congregants**

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

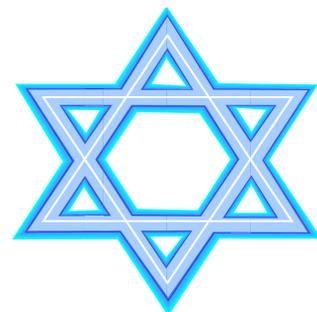
Help support Temple Beth Sholom, contact Danny to purchase scrip that you can then use to purchase groceries at Smiths or Bashas supermarkets.

Dan 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 Dan at 928-854-6972 for more information

**Our thanks to Art and Sue Tuberman  
for sponsoring this months Oneg Shabatt**



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**Friday night Shabbat Services**

**with Rabbi Jeremy Simons**

**7:30 PM at our Temple**

**March 11**

**April 8**

**May 13**

***Our Next Board Meeting is***

***Thursday March 31***

***6:00pm at the Temple.***

***Plan on attending,***

***show your support of TBS***

***Everyone is welcome***