TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

Bulletin

5781
ISSUE #6

July - August

Tamuz - Av

2021

A BRIEF ANATOMY OF HATE, AN UPDATE FOR OUR DAYS.

BY RABBI
FELIPE GOODMAN

There are some subjects that are more difficult to write and even think about than others. Hate, of course is one of them. Why would I choose to write a bulletin article about hate rather than just jotting out a couple of wonderful cheery lines that make us feel good instantaneously? Well, for one, I believe that when things reach certain crescendo in our world it is important to call them out so that at least we try to engage in a sense of self awareness as it relates to what is happening around us.

This time of the year in The Jewish Calendar is certainly complicated. Starting with the reading from The Torah about Balak, the evil king that hated the Children of Israel so much that he hires an even more wicked sorcerer-prophet named Bilam to curse our people. Starting from that point in the Torah and moving forward on the calendar, the whole notion of the imminent arrival of the 9th of Av begins to slowly sink in. Beginning with the 17th of Tammuz, when the Romans actually were able to pierce the inner protective wall of The Temple, we culminate on Tisha B'Av with the actual destruction of The Temple in Jerusalem. Rather than concentrating on the destruction of The Temple itself and how the Romans persecuted us and stripped us of our autonomy as a nation, it is important to understand how we got there.

It is a well known and documented fact that all the Jewish factions in Jerusalem active throughout the time of the destruction of the Temple and before, did not get along. Actually, that would be an understatement, they in reality hated each other! They hated each other so much that Jews were murdering other Jews that did not share their point of view.

Many have asked me what I think about the change in the Government in Israel and of Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and his coalition with Yair Lapid. When people learn that I am excited to see a change and that I am actually happy to see Naftali Bennett as the new Prime Minister of The State of Israel they are usually a little confused. "How?" they say to me… "He is even more right wing than Netanyahu!" For me it is not a matter of right or left, it is a matter of character and understanding of The Jewish People.

For us as 21st Century American Jews there is a powerful message to be learnt from what happened in Jerusalem right before the Second Temple was destroyed by The Romans. One can't be part of The Jewish Community and not have heard the cries coming out of Jerusalem in the last two or three years to completely delegitimize and vilify liberal Judaism. The situation got completely out of hand when The Prime Minister of Israel completely backtracked on a promise he had made to both Conservative and Reform Jews in Israel that we would be able to self administer an egalitarian section of The Kotel. He yielded under pressure from the Ultra Orthodox Political Parties that sat in his Coallition. While many dismiss this as just another political move, many of us see it as a direct stab in the heart! A complete willful alienation of millions of Jews who live in The Diaspora towards The State of Israel. Many Rabbis like myself who have spent our lives advocating for Israel as The National Homeland of The Jewish People find ourselves confronted with the idea that in spite of everything we do, Israel does not want us. I am not a secular Jew, I believe that Israel should be part of the spiritual fabric of ALL JEWS! By the way, this is no longer a matter of internal Israeli Politics. The moment we start feeling that the message from Jerusalem is that we are not wanted, I immediately remember what hate did to our ancestors and how although The Romans were the ones that brought down the Temple as they lit it on fire, it was God who chose to use them as an instrument of his anger towards us.

In the new coalition that was formed to govern Israel I see promise and hope. It is a miracle to see politicians of all different ideologies sit together trying to put their differences aside for the good of our People. That is a message that our own politicians here in America should pay attention and listen to.

We live in a society in which hating others has become no big deal! One can say or do anything that is harmful and get away with it as long as we "physically" don't hurt others (and now, after January 6, 2021, that is not such a given). What we often fail to remember is that words eventually lead to hatred expressed through violence. If there is a people on the face of the earth that should know this lesson it is us. When our children watch that hateful speech goes unpunished and uncalled they will understand it as a signal to freely bully, taunt or literally put down those who are different. We have always believed to be a light unto the nations and unfortunately, lately, it is the darkness from others that has permeated our lives.

Martin Luther King once wrote that "Darkness cannot be driven out by darkness, it needs light! Hate in the same way cannot be driven out by hate. It needs love!" Lately when I see a hateful comment expressed anywhere, be it in the regular media, social media or in any other forum, I have begun to ask myself if those comments are really necessary? Will our world be radically different if people refrained from hateful speech and hateful actions? I believe the answer to be an absolute YES! In all my years as a rabbi, I have never seen our community as divided and polarized. Whether political or spiritual, we have taken to expressing our differences without restrain. Sometimes I believe that we have actually aimed to hurt others with our own words. If that is the case, I hope and pray that God grants us the wisdom to understand the message of Jewish History that we commemorate during this time of the year.

Let us remember that it is always easier and appealing to say that word, or perform that action, that hurts others because we believe it proves and shows our strength. The only way to show our strength is through words and acts of love which are much more difficult to speak and do because sometimes they take a lot of courage.

As we approach the 9th of Av, let us remember how once upon a time we fought so hard and so brutally against one another that God took the keys of The Temple from us until our lesson was learnt. May we in our days radiate the world with so much love for one another that God considers it fit to give us back the keys to The Temple, if not albeit the Physical Structure at least the keys that unlock the gates to understand the true meaning and spirit of our History, Peoplehood, Faith and Fate.

CONFESSION: I DIDN'T TIP THE YOGURT GIRL

BY ASSISTANT RABBI
JONATHAN HODSON

Nothing beats the Vegas summer heat like a fresh scoop of cold ice cream, am I right? However, I should be watching my figure a little better—so the other day I opted for some frozen yogurt instead. I drove to my local Menchies fro-yo shop and had the place all to myself. I picked up a cup off of the counter, chose a flavor and pulled the lever. Once the creamy goodness was in my cup, I selected and piled on my toppings. Last but not least, I set my creation on the scale at the register while the teenage cashier rolled her eyes and fiddled with her iphone. "Is the amount ok?" the debit machine asked. I pressed the green button, indicating that it was. "Do you want to leave a tip?" the machine asked again.

I thought about this for a moment. While on one hand, I certainly believe that one should tip for good service. I've worked retail and customer service jobs where I accepted tip money, but I always made sure to go above and beyond for the customer when doing so. Likewise, when I go to a restaurant or get food delivered, I always tip my server better than what is customary—because I understand that part of this person's wage has been cut to account for tips. I believe in tipping…

But on the other hand, what did the yogurt girl actually do in this transaction? If you'll recall, I was the one that chose the cup and flavor, dispensed the yogurt, chose and then piled on the toppings. Heck, I even put the cup on the scale! To be honest, I'm not sure the yogurt girl even had to press one button in the entire ordeal. So I made the decision right then and there, that for the first time, I wasn't going to leave a tip. Maybe I should have?

We live in a society that has become increasingly entitled. For instance, a recent study revealed that 42 percent of four-year college grades are A's and 77 percent are either A's or B's; that's three times more common than they were in 1960. According to Forbes, the new generation of American workers are more likely to demand higher pay for menial jobs, break rules, want special privileges and act selfishly in the workplace. To put it simply, we want less work with more benefits. But what does Judaism say about this?

Well, the Sages in Pirkei Avot mention that one should "love work." Elsewhere, Rabbi Yehuda Ben Bathrya states: "If a person has no work to do, what should he do? If he has a dilapidated yard or field, he should go and occupy himself with it." Lastly, King David writes in the book of Psalms that "You shall enjoy the fruit of your labors; you shall be happy and you shall prosper." Likewise, there seems to be a theme within our Torah that we will get out of life—and God, what we put into them. Every morning we pray the shema prayer, which advocates that we should follow the rules that God has given us in order that we shall be granted rain, sustenance, and safety.

Now I'm not saying that the yogurt girl was lazy or didn't deserve a fair wage. What I am saying is that if you have the chutzpah to ask for a tip, you should at least attempt to engage with the customer! I think this is how it works with God as well. If we want all the benefits of being in relationship with our Creator, it's up to us to make an effort to initiate it.

Stay Cool! (Literally)
Rabbi Jonathan Hodson

FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY BILL MASON

Greetings fellow TBS Members. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the next Temple President. It is an honor to represent the TBS Community. Before getting into the specifics of the State of the Congregation for my first bulletin, please take a moment to think about, and thank, Jared Finkelstein for his past few years of service as a Board Member and Temple President. Jared helped guide TBS through some very tumultuous times. His service and dedication to the congregation was critical to allowing us to achieve what we were able to do during the economic slow-down and is greatly appreciated. Thank you Jared.

As Jared mentioned in the last Bulletin, TBS has financially weathered the economic upheavals caused by the worldwide pandemic; however, this was not without taking some serious damage. Temple membership has decreased, as well as enrollment in The Sandra and Stanley Mallin Early Childhood Center and the Lovee and Bob Arum Kindergarten. Getting our membership numbers back up to a sustainable amount and increasing our ECC enrollments to pre-pandemic levels will take some time. We as the Temple Board are committed to dedicate our efforts to making this happen. The success of our efforts requires the support and assistance of all TBS Members. TBS will be reaching out to you in the coming months to solicit your support in these various efforts. Some may be in the form of financial assistance, but many will be as simple as attendance at functions, coming to Shabbat Services, or just spreading the word about the benefits that TBS Membership offers. Any support provided is greatly appreciated.

Economically TBS faired ok during the pandemic, but this was mainly due to the efforts of the Temple Beth Sholom Team and certain Temple Members who provided support to make sure that TBS could adapt and offer quality programming for our community. Unfortunately, we are by no means on stable financial footing. The Temple facility is getting older and requires more and more money each year to maintain. A few major expenses on our horizon are upgrades to the ventilation and air conditioning system, repairs/replacement to our kitchen equipment, new sound system for the sanctuary, landscaping repairs, and scheduled upgrades to our exterior building finishes. These will all be significant hits to our capital expenditures budget. The Temple Board will be rolling out some creative and new programs in the coming months to help raise funds to pay the cost of the building maintenance items.

On the programming side, TBS will continue to offer our monthly Community Dinners, morning Minyan, Women's League, and a growing Men's Club to support the Temple Members. The Temple also continues to offer valued and creative opportunities to enjoy Judaism through our USY and KADIMA programs, and educational programs with The Judy and Ronald Mack School for Religious Studies. The Temple will also continue to house the Sperling Kronberg Mack Holocaust Resource Center to support remembrance and educational assistance. Please contact the TBS office if you want to know more about any of these offerings. Thank you for your trust and for allowing me to serve as the next Temple Beth Sholom President.

temple beth sholom

The Sandra and Stanley Mallin Early Childhood Center
The Lovee and Bob Arum Kindergarten

BY JENNIFER ZUKOWSKI,
SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Camp K'ton Ton – The summer camp of The Sandra and Stanley Mallin ECC

Wonder abounds at Camp K'ton Ton, the official summer camp of the TBS ECC. At Camp K'ton Ton, children are embarking on a journey of summer fun, bursting with possibility. Through specialized instruction, hands-on activities, and on-site field trips, the children think, create and explore the world around them. The first two weeks were busy and included not only arts and crafts, read alouds, and games, but also Kona Ice, STEAM, a guest reader from the Summerlin Library, sports, a visit with Metro to explore a cruiser, Rhythm and Moves with JZ, cooking, and Friday talent shows where the children perform for their classmates. More is in store as summer camp continues with hands-on activities designed to inspire exploration. Next, we look forward to a visit from a local petting zoo, train rides, and Foam fever. As summer progresses, the children will continue to fine tune their new found skills in dance and cooking with our very own Director, Jennifer Zukowski, challenging the children with more complex hip hop moves during Rhythm and Moves with JZ, while Chef Christine incorporates a love of literacy through a combination of storytelling and cooking. Pictures and videos of these exciting events are highlighted on the school's main Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/TBSearlychildhoodcenter.lasvegas

For more information about summer camp at TBS ECC, contact Jennifer Zukowski, Director at jzukowski@bethsholomlv.org or 702-804-1333 ext. 112

YOUTH

BY D.J. SINAI
YOUTH/MUSICAL DIRECTOR

And just like that, the school year has ended and so has another amazing year at Temple Beth Sholom USY and KADIMA! To say that this year has been different would be an understatement, however, the amazing teens at TBS have been so creative and adaptive that you would think this type of programming is normal. I am so proud of the programming that our youth board has come up over the past year – from online dance parties to movie nights to weekly Lounge Night programming, the kids didn't skip a beat and made sure that programming was available for all who were interested.

Temple Beth Sholom USY surely knows how to end the year! After being stuck inside for over a year, the teens decided it was time to get outside and celebrate with one another. On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, members of TBS USY joined together for an awesome pool party, complete with pizza, games, and even s'mores! This event was hosted by Youth Director D.J. & Alyson Sinai and provided an opportunity for the group to party before the group broke for the summer.

Next school year Temple Beth Sholom USY and KADIMA will be back in full force, complete with weekly programming, Shabbat dinners, regional programs, Disney Day, and so much more! For more information on our amazing youth programming for Jewish students entering grades 4 – 12, please e-mail djsinai@bethsholomlv.org.

THE JUDY & RONALD MACK SCHOOL FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RABBI JONATHAN HODSON
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Dear TBS Religious School Families,

The Judy and Ronald Mack School for Religious Studies is pleased to announced that online registration for the 2021-2022 school year is now officially open! Please use the link below to register online.

Temple Beth Sholom is committed to hosting a safe, in-person religious school this Fall for all our students. Last school year was anything but normal, but our professional staff of teachers and administrators made sure to follow our health and safety guidelines to make sure everyone was protected. Because of this, our Religious School had zero Covid-19 transmission cases for the entire school year. We will continue to monitor and implement new safety measures as needed to ensure that our children stay healthy when they are on our campus.

Our religious school provides a solid foundation to teach our children Hebrew language skills and Jewish traditions in an innovative, vibrant, and spiritually uplifting environment. We lead students to understand the big ideas of Conservative Judaism; an experience that will have lasting value long after students leave the classroom!

Sincerely,

Rabbi Jonathan Hodson:
Director of the TBS Religious School

Sign Up Online Here:
https://bethsholomlv.wufoo.com/forms/religious-school-registration-20212022

Questions?
Contact the Religious School Director:
religiousschool@bethsholomlv.org

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Schwartz Judaica Shop

BY WHITNEY SADOW
WOMEN'S LEAGUE PRESIDENT

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Don't forget to shop at the Schwartz Judaica Shop run by Women's League of Temple Beth Sholom. Contact Ellen Lessinger at (775) 842 - 1550 to place orders.

Our installation was great it was nice seeing everyone who came out. I want to take a minute and WELCOME our new and returning board members. Being apart of the board is voluntary and I appreciate your commitment to this power group of women! I am looking forward to a year full of activities and friendships.

Over the next couple of months, we are starting to plan activities and gatherings for the fall. After a year of zooming, we have lots of ideas but if there is anything you would like to see on our calendar this year, please reach out to us.

Before you start your summer fun, don't forget to pay your membership dues. If you would like to be part of the Mazal Greetings let us know. Also, to be part of our Annual New Year Greeting Card, please let us know by Aug. 20th. Have a safe & fun summer we look forward to seeing you soon.

WELCOME NEW TEMPLE MEMBERS!

Cheryl & Edward Goldenberg

Julie & Michael Smith

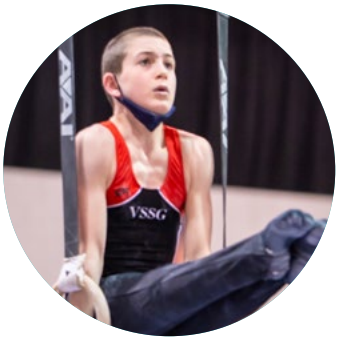
Burt Reiner

Agnes & Herb Warren

DEAN MINUSKIN
AUGUST 7TH

Dean Minuskin will become a Bar Mitzvah on August 7th, 2021. Dean is the 3rd out of 5 brothers. He was born in Wisconsin. We moved to Las Vegas when he was 6 years old. He is self-confident, independent, modest, super smart and quiet. His curly hair adds flavor to his life. He has always been mature beyond his years. Evidenced by his ability to take turns with his brothers at only 18 months of age. He is not a follower and blazes his own path. Dean will find his own way to do things correctly and create novel ideas. He accepts what is given to him and doesn't present a lot of demands. He is kind-hearted and always lends a helping hand to all. He usually compromises and avoids confrontations. He is so adorable that we want to eat him up all the time. He plays the piano and trombone. Dean finished 7th grade at Sig Rogich Middle School. His grades are outstanding. He is computer savvy. This year he received awards for straight As and outstanding student of the year. He has always made us proud. We are so excited to be celebrating his Jewish manhood at Temple Beth Sholom.

CALEB BURDA
AUGUST 21ST



Caleb Jonah Burda will become a Bar Mitzvah on August 21, 2021. He is the son of Elissa and Reuben Burda, the younger brother of Avery, and grandson of Melanie and Gene Greenberg and Sally and Leonard Burda. He will be the 3rd generation in our family to have a B'nei Mitzvah at Temple Beth Sholom. Caleb is a straight A 8th grader at Cashman Middle School and is part of the STEM magnet program. Caleb really enjoys science, math, and robotics and dreams of one day being an aerospace engineer. Caleb is also a competitive gymnast. He is a three-time Nevada State Gymnastics Champion, Region 1 Champion, and came in 4th at Nationals this year. Caleb will be raising money to help low-income students experience robotics. Caleb's parents are very proud of him and are excited to see what his next adventures bring.

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Pirate & Princess Shabbat and Dinner

Temple Beth Sholom held a Pirate & Princess themed Shabbat and Community Dinner on Friday, June 11th. This day marked the first TBS event at 100% capacity since March of 2020. The turnout was tremendous! Costumes were encouraged and many came dressed in their best Pirate or Princess costumes. The Pirate & Princess Shabbat service was decorated with beautiful Pirate & Princess themed balloon setups made by Temple Member, Annie Lepage, at Picture Perfect Party Décor. During the service, songs were adapted with Pirate & Princess themes, sung by children and parents alike. Pirates & Princesses interacted in story, and many cheered with "Arghs", "Ahoys" and a few "YoHoHos". Following service, the Community Dinner was held outdoors on the patio, which was decked out with Pirates and their treasures. Many guests were able to get family photos with the Pirates and collect sparkly jeweled necklaces. Over 200 people were in attendance, costumed and otherwise, enjoying the delicious Hot Dogs, Burgers, Tater Tots, Baked Beans & Coleslaw served buffet style.

Thank you to all who attended and helped make the Pirate & Princess Shabbat Service and Community Dinner a success!

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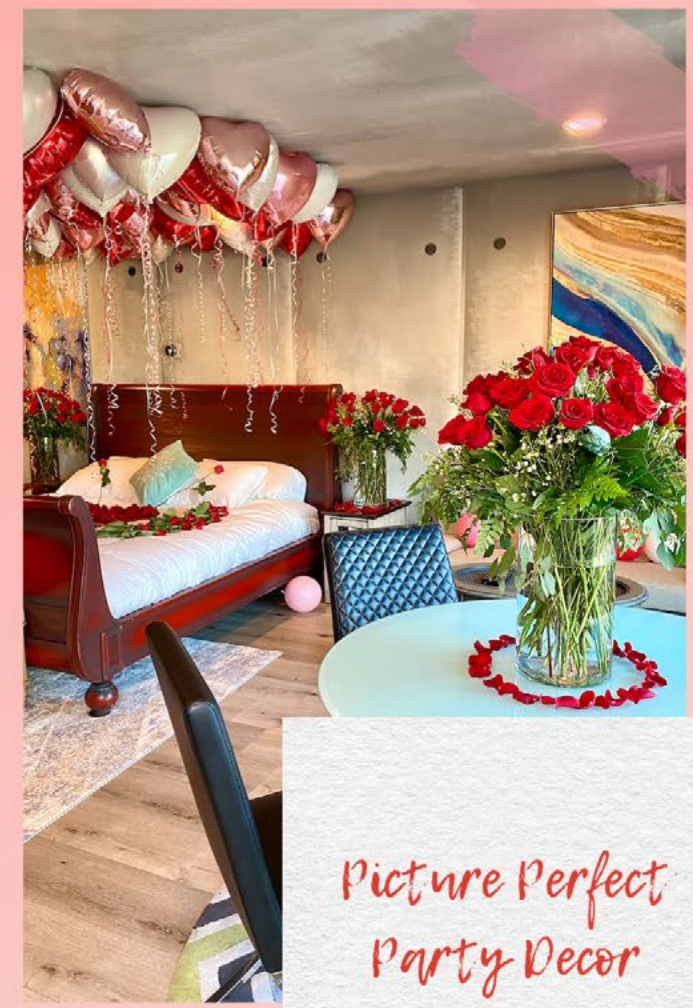

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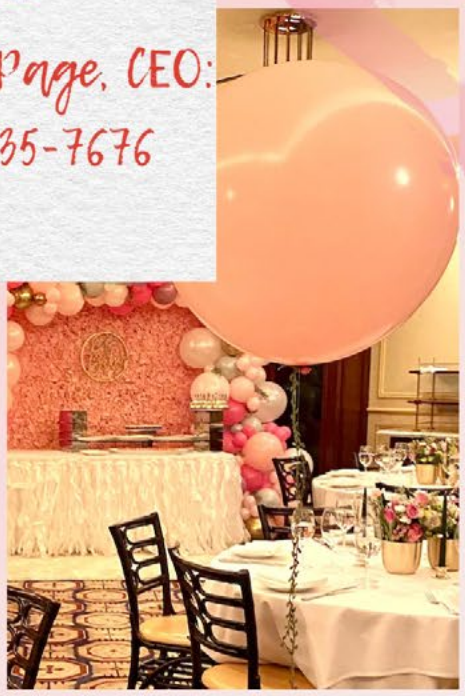

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Service	Day/Time	Main Service Times
Selihot	Saturday, Sept. 28	8:00 pm
Erev Rosh Hashanah	Monday, Sept. 6th	8:00 pm
Rosh Hashanah Day 1	Tuesday, Sept. 7th	8:30 am
Rosh Hashanah Evening	Tuesday, Sept. 7th	7:30 pm
Rosh Hashanah Day 2	Wednesday, Sept. 8th	8:30 am
Kever Dorot (Woodland cemetery)	Sunday, Sept. 12th	TBD
Tashlich (Floyd Lamb Park)	Sunday, Sept. 12th	TBD
Kold Nidre	Wednesday, Sept. 15th	6:30 pm
Yom Kippur	Thursday, Sept. 16th	9:00 am
Yizkor	Thursday, Sept. 16th	Noon
Mincha	Thursday, Sept. 16th	4:00 pm
Neilah	Thursday, Sept. 16th	5:30 pm

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Susan Fine & Max Spilka
Helen Starr
Carol Starr
Ethel Evans Schleifstein
Sidney Lee Marsh
Sara Saltzman
Arthur Marshall
Ruth Steil
Marcy & Jack Simon
Elias Stendig
Faye Steinberg & Family
Phillip P. Wilenksy
Terri Wilensky-Genzer & Robert S. Genzer
Abraham Winner
The Demby Family
Ewald Weinberg
Lois & Michael Weinberg
Rueben Zucker
Carol & Jeff Zucker
Emanuel Zakar
Rita Zakar
Ronnie & Neil Schwartz
Rose Zwiren
Bernardine Zaben

TAMUZ - AV 5781

JULY 2021

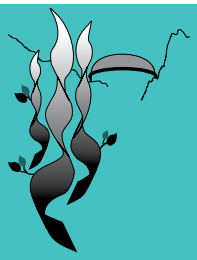
*CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	Shabbat
				7:30 am Morning Minyan 1	7:30 am Morning Minyan 2 7:44 pm 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service 3
9:00 am Morning Minyan 4	9:00 am Morning Minyan 5 TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED	7:30 am Morning Minyan 6	7:30 am Morning Minyan 7	7:30 am Morning Minyan 8	7:30 am Morning Minyan 9 7:42 pm 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service 10
9:00 am Morning Minyan 11	7:30 am Morning Minyan 12	7:30 am Morning Minyan 13	7:30 am Morning Minyan 14	7:30 am Morning Minyan 15	7:30 am Morning Minyan 16 7:39 pm 7:30 pm Acoustic Kabbalat Shabbat	9:00 am Shabbat Halelu Morning Service 17
9:00 am Morning Minyan 18	7:30 am Morning Minyan 19	7:30 am Morning Minyan 20	7:30 am Morning Minyan 21	7:30 am Morning Minyan 22	7:30 am Morning Minyan 23 7:35 pm 7:30 pm Acoustic Kabbalat Shabbat	9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service 24 10:30 am Shabbat Katan
9:00 am Morning Minyan 25	7:30 am Morning Minyan 26	7:30 am Morning Minyan E 27	7:30 am Morning Minyan 28	7:30 am Morning Minyan 29	7:30 am Morning Minyan 30 7:29 pm	9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service 31

AV - ELUL 5781

AUGUST 2021

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	Shabbat
1 9:00 am Morning Minyan **10:00 am Religious School Open House**	2 7:30 am Morning Minyan	3 7:30 am Morning Minyan	4 7:30 am Morning Minyan	5 7:30 am Morning Minyan	6 7:30 am Morning Minyan **7:23 pm** 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat w/ Ruach Ensemble	7 **9:00 am Shabbat Service Dean Minuskin Bar Mitzvah**
8 9:00 am Morning Minyan	9 7:30 am Morning Minyan	10 7:30 am Morning Minyan	11 7:30 am Morning Minyan	12 7:30 am Morning Minyan	13 7:30 am Morning Minyan **7:15 pm** 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	14 **9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service**
15 9:00 am Morning Minyan	16 7:30 am Morning Minyan	17 7:30 am Morning Minyan	18 7:30 am Morning Minyan	19 7:30 am Morning Minyan	20 7:30 am Morning Minyan **7:06 pm** 7:30 pm Acoustic Kabbalat Shabbat	21 **9:00 am Shabbat Service Caleb Burda Bar Mitzvah**
22 9:00 am Morning Minyan	23 7:30 am Morning Minyan	24 7:30 am Morning Minyan	25 7:30 am Morning Minyan	26 7:30 am Morning Minyan	27 7:30 am Morning Minyan **6:57 pm** 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	28 **9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service** 10:30 am Shabbat Katan
29 9:00 am Morning Minyan	30 7:30 am Morning Minyan					



Our Team

Rabbi
Felipe Goodman - x104
rabbi@bethsholomlv.org

Assistant Rabbi & Religious School Director
Jonathan Hodson - x104
rabbijhodson@bethsholomlv.org

Musical & Youth Director
D.J. Sinai - x107
djsinai@bethsholomlv.org

The Sandra & Stanley Mallin and Lovee & Bob Arum Early Childhood Education
Jennifer Zukowski, Director - x112
jzukowski@bethsholomlv.org

Director of Operations
Dianna Rowe - x133
drowe@bethsholomlv.org

Administrative Assistant
Nicole Lamb - x100
info@bethsholomlv.org

Assistant to the Rabanim
Nancey Eason - x104
neason@bethsholomlv.org

Director of Marketing
Kenzie Woder - x128
kwoder@bethsholomlv.org

702.804.1333

Temple Beth Sholom
10700 Havenwood Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89135

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2021 - 2022

board@bethsholomlv.org

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