



קישור שלום ~ Kishur Sholom
Staying Connected with the Temple Sholom Community

12 February 2024 ~ 3 Adar I 5784
Parashat Terumah

Shalom, chaveirim - hello, friends -

Having grown up in the San Francisco Bay Area, you can imagine who I was rooting for last night! My wife, Amy, was a rabbi in Kansas City for 13 years and two of her kids were born there ... so you can imagine where their allegiances lay. Alas, when we went into the night, we figured that one of us would be walking away with a championship ring. And indeed, we did.



Being a 49ers fan is easy because a) my family came to California as part of the Gold Rush - just a few years after 1849 and b) 49 is a great Jewish number (think 7 - 7s, what could be better!?).

With all that is going on in the world - and particularly in the Jewish world, it felt a little indulgent to sit back and just watch television for several hours and yet there was an ad thanks to Robert Kraft and #StandUpToJewishHate.

It is something to note that among ads for food, drink, and various products, there was an ad to combat antisemitism with the spokesman none other than Clarence Jones, a speechwriter to Martin Luther King Jr. I have no idea if such things make a difference and the truth is Clarence

Jones and Bob Kraft are very much of an older generation. You might appreciate their discussion with one another [here](#). The challenge is the current - and namely younger - generation and combatting an ideology that seems to grow.

It was a good night for the 49ers and a better night for the Chiefs if victory is your measurement of "good." The fact that these outstanding athletes and teams were able to make it to the championship speaks to their excellence in a thousand ways. The fact that a Jewish man and a black man can advocate against antisemitism on that platform is both a moment of pride and a moment of awful for its necessity at the same time.

There were Christian-based ads as well last night. They promoted values that we, in the Jewish world, recognize immediately as deeds of loving-kindness, *g'milut chasadim* ~ גמילות חסדים and are based on a central teaching of Torah: Love your neighbor as yourself, *v'ahavta l'rei-ehcha kamocho* ~ ואהבת לרעך כמוך. I have to say - those ads were a reminder of what matters on and very much off the field. For us the language is: God, Torah, & Israel (the people and the land).

And so as the confetti gets cleaned up and we go about our new week, may we take the time to focus on God, Torah, & Israel working to strengthen our own faith and people as well as recognize our common humanity to fight against those who perpetrate hate.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Mark Cohn

**Join me for a one-week solidarity mission to Israel!!
March 26 - April 2**

Together with Temple Beth El in Springfield, MA, my wife and I have created a week-long trip to show support to Israelis, volunteer in meaningful ways, and to bear witness to the reality of the last four months in Israel. For more information, consult the [itinerary](#) and the [expenses](#). This trip is not for people who want to explore the whole of the country. Now is not the time to do that. This is a time to ensure that our brothers and sisters in Israel feel the love and support of our community. If you have any questions, please feel free to [email](#) me at rabbicohn@tsholom.org.

Recommended Resources from the Rabbi's Desk (or more likely laptop)

Constant and important updates, podcasts, blogs, and articles from [The Free Press](#), [Times of Israel](#) and [Tablet Magazine](#).

ARTICLES

["Delete your account: How social media may be metastasizing terror in service of Hamas."](#) This article is about the combination of the war in Gaza, social media, and antisemitism.

["Why Campus Antisemitism Matters,"](#) by Leonard Saxe of Brandeis University in *Tablet Magazine*.

["In Israel, Iranian artist unveils Oct 7-themed mural honoring Persian-Jewish ties,"](#) by Gianluca Pacchiani in *The Times of Israel*.

AUDIO

["Israel at War: The Hostage Dilemma,"](#) with Rabbi Donniel Hartman and Yossi Klein Halevi on *For*



"Lunch & Learn" with Rabbi Mark Cohn NOON - 1:00 PM

Examining
["Jewish Priorities"](#), edited by David Hazony

Bring a friend! Bring lunch if you want (dairy only - no meat)! These essays were assembled by the editor to find the points where we can agree and disagree, helping us define our own borders and places for expansion.

Tuesdays:
February 14*, 20, 27
*Wednesday

February 14 (THIS Wednesday), Hen Mazzig's essay: ["An End to Ashkenormativity: Let's put bagels and lox behind us."](#)

Heaven's Sake from the Shalom Hartman Institute.

VIDEO

[#StandUpToJewishHate: TONY](#) From the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism, this video was released ten months and was aired during the Super Bowl. Hen Mazzig, whose essay we are looking at this week, specifically posted it on his Twitter account before the big game.

["Orland Park Mayor Keith Pekau's Mic Drop following Gaza Ceasefire Request."](#)

Listen to this mayor demonstrate civility and an outstanding explanation / rebuttal to those who seek not just a ceasefire but such things as intifada and the destruction of Israel.

ACTIONS

[Sign a LETTER to show support and express gratitude.](#) Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont recently came under attack for his support of Israel at a forum in New Haven by a group of hecklers. The Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT) has organized [this letter](#) to show and express solidarity and gratitude.

February 20, Izabella Tabarovsky's essay: *"How to beat the New Antisemitism: It's Not about Human Rights. It's about Soviet Propaganda."*

Turning away for a week from *Jewish Priorities* ...

February 27, Before and After October 7th. [A Before & After October 7th, A Symposium](#) with leading American and Israeli Jewish thinkers, presented in *The Jewish Review of Books*.

Shabbat Services & Study

Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday Evenings 6:30PM

IN PERSON
February 16 - this week!
March 1, 15, 29

VIA ZOOM
February 23
March 8, 22

Shabbat Morning Torah Study - 9:30am
IN PERSON w/ CJ Kelly
February 17, 24

The Jewish Experience in New Milford

The New Milford Historical Society & Museum has begun work on a new exhibit entitled *The Jewish Experience in New Milford*. If anyone has any historical information, photos or other artifacts relevant to this upcoming project or an interest in participating, please contact Sandy Ivler at sandy@ivler.net or David Cohen at davidxxcohen@gmail.com



Help Needed for the Oneg

We have two Onegs a month all year long now. The Board of Trustees has cheerfully taken on the responsibility of sponsoring the Onegs since July. However, having only the Board sponsor the Onegs is self-defeating. Onegs bring people together after Shabbat services on Friday. Onegs help build community and are a way for people to introduce themselves to the Temple and to each other. And most importantly, it's a time to shmooze. And best of all: It's easy! A challah, some cookies, some wine and juice. That's it. Challah and wine are supplied by the Temple. The Rabbi will take care of the Kiddush blessings. A quick clean up and your finished with one of the 24 Onegs we will have.



And of course, a Board member is always ready to assist and help you. Call the office (860.354.0273) if you would like to sponsor an Oneg.

Temple Sholom
122 Kent Road ~ P.O. Box 509
New Milford, CT 06776
(860) 354-0273

[Temple Sholom Website \(www.tsholom.org\)](http://www.tsholom.org)
[Temple Sholom Facebook](#)