



## שלום קישור ~ Kishur Sholom

Staying Connected with the Temple Sholom Community

15 July 2024 ~ 9 Tammuz 5784

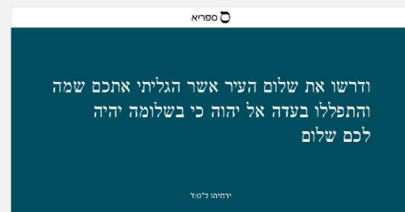
Parashat Balak

### Tumultuous times call for prayer.

Truth is: quiet times do as well.

And why do we pray? In order to help us remember how to act.

Following the events of Saturday afternoon in Butler, PA, I immediately began to think about how to address this moment from a Jewish perspective. After all, there are plenty of people who can, will, and already have sought to address it from an historic or political perspective. One of the best I read was from Douglas Murray found below.



As one of my rabbinic colleagues wrote, “We resolve our political differences with ballots, not bullets.”

What more need to be said?

Quite a lot, I’m sure.

We all know how sensitive, fraught, and “hot” this moment is as we near political conventions, rallies, and of course: November.

I am taken to a line from the Book of Jeremiah (shown above).

*“Seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away as captives. Pray on its behalf to God; for in its peace shall you have peace.”*  
(Jeremiah 29:7)

Jeremiah wrote those words in 586 BCE for his fellow Israelites as they had been expelled by the invading Babylonians who had conquered the land of Israel and namely, our eternal capital, Jerusalem. With our holy Temple in ruins, we were driven into exile as captives. And Jeremiah taught us to pray for the well-being of our new host nation because its well-being would enable our own.

Indeed, as America thrives, so do we - and when America is in turmoil, so are we.

Jews have a long history in the upbuilding of this great nation - and it is vital we remember, hold onto, and contribute to our legacy in a moment of crisis and uncertainty.

An assassination attempt on a president and current contender for the White House is an egregious sin. It is a sign of desperation, exasperation, malice, and quite frankly: the heckler's veto taken to the ultimate extreme.

Beyond the words of Jeremiah, which give the basis for reminding us to pray and work for peace and strength for our nation, I hope that these coming weeks and months force our leaders of all offices - from local to national - to lead with humility and honesty, giving America a chance to "... *to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility...*" As the voters, we have a say as well in the nature of how we talk to one another, frame the discussions, and consider next steps.

No matter if we are blue or red, white or black, Jew, Muslim, or Christian, we all must work to "... *provide for the common defense promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.*" It is upon us to participate actively in the welfare of the nation - the shalom of our union. May we do so with intention, thoughtfulness, and desire to build something positive.

Ken Y'hi Ratzon - כן יהי רצון - may it be God's will and may we make it our own.

Rabbi Mark Cohn

#### ARTICLES & PODCASTS -

["We need to study our successes,"](#) (12 July 2024) by Julie Marzouk in *eJewishPhilanthropy*.

#### SHABBAT AT THE JCC IN SHERMAN - 7/19

**A special Kabbalat Shabbat at the JCC in Sherman!! Friday, July 19 at 6:30 PM**, followed by the showing of [\*We Will Dance Again\*](#) at 7:30 PM. A discussion will follow with the film's

["Despite death threats, young Moroccans visit during Gaza war to hear Israel's side,"](#) (15 July 2024) by Ariela Lopez in *The Times of Israel*.

["Things Worth Remembering: How to Respond to an Almost Assassination"](#) (14 July 2024) by Douglas Murray in *The Free Press*.

["Melanie Phillips on the British Elections and the Jews"](#) on the *Tikvah Podcast* with Jonathan Silver.

Executive Producer, Terence Wrong. The film is a documentary examining the horrific Hamas terror attack of October 7th. Temple Sholom is holding its Kabbalat Shabbat service at the JCC in order to partner on this most important topic. All are welcome. 9 Route 39 South, Sherman.

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In order to show support to Israelis facing the reality of a nine-month war and the upheaval of displaced citizens from the North and South, consider the work of [Leket Israel](#). Learn more from this video, ["Amidst war, Nelly Tagar visits Asaf Schwartz, a farmer on the Lebanon border."](#)

## **The Destruction of Sanctity: Living with Brokenness and Building Hope**

**Tuesday, July 23 at Noon**

**Temple Library**

**Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Tamir Nir**

Using slides and video, Rabbi Nir will talk about his community since October 7th, the situation in Israel these days, and how we, as a liberal Jewish



community, and he, as a Reform rabbi, operate within this complex reality - mentally, religiously, politically, and more. To get to know him a little, have a look at this video, "[Rabbi Tamir Nir.](#)"

*Rabbi Nir is a friend of Rabbi Cohn and will be visiting CT and MA in July. Rabbi Nir serves as the congregational rabbi for Congregation Achva Bakerem, which he founded in 2007. He is an instructor of Jewish and Islamic thought in a high school for religious and secular Israelis. Rabbi Nir has served recently as Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem where he bridged differences between the many diverse communities that make up the city, as the head of the BINA Secular Yeshiva, and as chair of the Heschel Center for Sustainability. While having been ordained as a Reform Rabbi, he also holds an MA in Jewish Education and a BA in Architecture and Urban Planning.*

#### SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

##### FRIDAYS AT 6:30 PM

JULY 19\*

AUGUST 2, 16, 30

SEPTEMBER 6, 20, 27\*\*

\*July 19 will be at the JCC in Sherman. See panel above.

#### SHABBAT TORAH STUDY

Led by CJ Kelly

##### SATURDAYS AT 9:30 AM

JULY 20, 27

AUGUST 3\*, 10, 17, 24, 31

\*Led by Rabbi Cohn

\*\*September 27 will be the Installation  
Service for Rabbi Cohn

**SATURDAYS AT 10:30 AM**

AUGUST 3

SEPTEMBER 7



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