



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

8 November 2023 ~ 24 Heshvan 5784
Parashat Chayei Sarah

Shalom, chaveirim - hello, friends -

Everyone I know is exhausted. Exhausted from sleepless nights and constant scrolling through the news from Israel. Exhausted from the reality of what Israel faces - and quite frankly, the Jewish people.

We just exited the first 30 days (sheloshim), which is the initial period of mourning for immediate loved ones. As stories become clearer and realities sink in deeper, Israelis - from right and left - are ever more committed to eliminating Hamas' control over the Gaza Strip.

Fighting from the outside, we know very well and Israel is experiencing it in ways it has not known since 1948. Nonetheless, much as Micah Goodman (a leading Israeli thinker) predicted by October 13th, the world opinion has shifted against Israel as it fights for its existence. Whereas Israel was on the cusp of a regional alliance with Saudi Arabia, Hamas took seize of the stage by reinserting the elimination of Israel via the Palestinian cause into center stage. I am amazed how the leader of Hamas, who sits in his comfortable surroundings in Qatar, has unabashedly declared that it does not matter how many Palestinian lives are lost in the battle against Israel. Hamas operates to destroy Israel - not to lift up Palestinian lives and create a workable two state solution.

For Hamas, the larger goals are to eliminate Israel and to draw the United States into a war with Iran, which is why the U.S. has two fleets in the eastern Mediterranean.

And at the same time, there are those in our Jewish world who have sided with Hamas - often misguided and simply following a line of "Free Palestine" - and in so doing are calling for genocide against Israel and subsequently, the Jewish people. "Free Palestine" seeks the removal of Jews from the river to the sea. This current battle, which finds its greatest front outside of Israel, on college campuses has created a dangerous and intimidating environment for our Jewish children and grandchildren.

In response, the [Melton School](#), which is a world-class and world-recognized center of Jewish learning, is offering a "Parent empowerment Initiative" to help parents and grandparents find the language and understanding for this moment, particularly with family members. To learn more, explore [THIS FLYER](#). Classes are being offered as "one-off"s starting Sunday evening.

While we will not change the outcome of the war, come join me, Mayor Pete Bass, Pastor Justin Gailey of Living Stones Church and other friends for a **RAISING OF THE ISRAELI FLAG outside New Milford Town Hall: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH AT 1:00 PM**. There are those who seek the downfall of Israel. It is true. But there are those who are our allies, our friends, our supporters, and our fellow "Lovers of Israel." May we feel their love and remember we are not alone!!

Reach out as you need. I'm happy to talk or to listen, to respond or to share resources.

Bivracha, with blessing,

Rabbi Mark Cohn

**Recommended
Resources from the
Rabbi's Desk(top)**

Constant and important
updates, podcasts,



**Shabbat
Services & Study**

blogs, and articles from [Times of Israel](#) and [Tablet Magazine](#).

EVENTS OUT AND/OR ON-LINE ...

**The Crisis of Higher Education:
And what it means for Jews
Thursday, November 9th, 8:00 PM**

Sponsored by [The Tikvah Fund](#).
[Learn more and register here.](#)

THE TIME IS NOW! [MARCH FOR ISRAEL!!](#)

**Tuesday, November 14th, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Gates open at 10:00 AM
National Mall, Washington, D.C.**

We've all heard voices of hatred and antisemitism around the globe glorifying the October 7th attacks. But these voices must never drown out those of Americans who stand against terror and with Israel. Now is the time to raise your voice: to defeat antisemitism, to demand freedom for the hostages, and to demonstrate that America stands with Israel. ***If you plan to go, be in touch with Rabbi Cohn (rabbicohn@tsholom.org) who is going!!**
Learn more at: <https://marchforisrael.org/>

ARTICLES

[Propaganda, Lies & More Rockets – Hamas Wages War on All Fronts](#) from The Focus Project: A Joint Initiative of a Broad Coalition of U.S. Jewish Community Organizations.

**Kabbalat Shabbat on
Friday Evenings
6:30PM**

**VIA ZOOM:
Nov. 10 & 24**

**IN PERSON:
Nov. 17**

**Shabbat Morning
Torah Study - 9:30am**

**IN PERSON with CJ
Kelly**

["The Antisemites Scream and I Stiffen my Spine,"](#) by Batya Ungar-Sargon in *The Free Press*.

["For American Jews, Every Day Must Be October 8th"](#) by Bret Stephens in *The New York Times*.

[Israel fights back despite its government and wonders how much time it has,"](#) by David Horowitz, Founding Editor of *The Times of Israel*.

[Get Phones Out of Schools Now](#) by Jonathan Haidt, in *The Atlantic*. NOTE: Haidt is teaching in NYC on December 6th ... details to follow.

AUDIO

["Israel-Hamas War and the future of American Progressive Coalitions"](#) An excellent conversation on *Sapir* with Sheila Katz, CEO of the National Coalition of Jewish Women and Joel Rubin, longtime foreign policy advisor.

["Israel at War: From the River to the Sea,"](#) Most recent episode of the Shalom Hartman Institute's "For Heaven's Sake" with Donniel Hartman and Yossi Klein Halevi.

TUESDAY LUNCH & LEARNS NOON - 1:00 PM

Bring a friend! Bring lunch (dairy only - no meat) if you want!

Friday, Nov. 17*
(no class on Tuesday because of National Rally in DC)

"Mapmaker, Mapmaker, make me a map..." Making sure we understand the geography (and topography)

Tuesday, Nov. 21

Deconstructing a text, a post, and a video: How social media makes things difficult.

Tuesday, Nov. 28

So, what happens to the Jewish Left, now?

Our hour will take one topic to focus on what is happening in Israel. Invariably, because events are shifting quickly, topics might be slightly (or significantly) altered.

And it's a ways off ... but not as much as you might think:

GET READY FOR A HANUKKAH PARTY AT THE SHERMAN JCC!!

Hanukkah Party

Sunday, December 10th

1-3pm @ the JCC in Sherman (9 CT-39, Sherman)

Details to follow!

In the meantime, check out the JCC in Sherman's outstanding schedule - including this coming Saturday's

"Jazz Standards and Stories." November 11th, 7:00 PM

JCCINSHERMAN.ORG

Tzedakah: WAYS TO HELP IN ISRAEL!!

[City of Gold Apartments](#) Emergency Housing Projects. This organization was recommended from Linda Lieff Altabef, who grew up in our temple community and lives in Rosh Pina (northern Israel) By way of connection, Linda is a daughter one of founding members, Marilyn & Chick (z"l) Lieff. She wrote as follows: "I have been volunteering with families from **[Netivot](#)** as part of the **[City of Gold Apartments](#)** emergency housing project and we need your help! We have helped over 100 families from Netivot who aren't receiving government funding. We are not only providing them with apartments in Jerusalem, but we also provide the families with basic necessities including food, pots and pans, clothes, toiletries, etc. Our goal is to help another 100 families." **[Read a](#)**

[recent op-ed, "Refugees at Home"](#) about the internal displacement of roughly 500,000 Israelis.

[Achva BaKerem](#). Help support a Reform Jewish community in Jerusalem that has been spending these past few weeks bringing food to evacuees from the South and the North, providing entertainment and Shabbat services, and giving comfort during these most difficult of days. [Donate here via New Israel Fund](#) or here via [KBY Congregations Together](#). In either case: make sure to designate for Achva BaKerem, run by Rabbi Tamir Nir of Jerusalem - a friend and colleague of Rabbi Cohn.

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