

# HAKOL

The Home of Traditional Judaism in Dallas

## INVULNERABLE TISHA B'AV by Rabbi Shawn Zell

Vilify Vespasian to your heart's content. Remember however, that as Roman Emperor who was responsible for one of the greatest calamities to befall our people, he was a failure. It's no great military feat to lay siege to a holy city for three weeks, just as it's no sign of strength to destroy the Beit HaMikdash or holy temple. Intending neither disrespect nor sacrilege to the lugubrious day of Tish B'Av, a day that is remembered for both calamity and catastrophe, Vespasian leaves as his legacy, total lack of capability in three important areas of Jewish life:

Talmud Torah K'Negged Kulam – The study of Torah trumps all else. The great sage Yochanan ben Zakkai understood this truism implicitly when he negotiated the city of Yavneh along with select sages as a location to reconstitute Jewish learning. Jewish learning is impervious from external forces. Jewish learning finds its roots long before the Romans set foot in ancient Israel; Jewish learning continued to flourish long after Jewish captives of war were forcibly removed from Jewish soil on ships that were to lead them on a journey that would ultimately last for two thousand years. The great irony of it all, was that Italy itself produced prodigious pedagogues such as Ovadia Bartenura (there is a kosher wine that bears his name) known for his commentary on the Mishna, along with Moshe Chaim Luzatto (known by his acronym Ramchal) author of Mesillat Yesharim or Pathways of the Just. These are but two of many. The study of Torah would continue to flourish throughout Europe for close to two thousand years after Vespasian turned the holy Beit HaMikdash into rubble.



I have no idea what was going through Vespasian's mind in the Summer of 70, as the destruction of the holy Temple was unfolding. But if it was anything along the lines of "these Jews don't have a prayer", then Vespasian was showing utter ignorance and lack of understanding as far as the Jewish people. It was the synagogue that served as the spiritual life preserver for our people, as foreign powers sought to wreak poetic justice for an event that occurred 1 ½ millennia earlier. If Vespasian thought that the Jews would be swept away by the waves of displacement along with the strong currents of assimilation, as comeuppance for the Egyptians drowning in the Sea of Reeds, then Vespasian ought to have thought again. The destruction of the Beit HaMikdash catapulted the synagogue as the focal point of every Jewish community. And for the last 2000 years in those synagogues, Jews have been praying for the rebuilding of the Beit HaMikdash.

Holy Spirit is not, nor has it ever been a Christian invention. Holy Spirit is part of the Yom Kippur liturgy in all five services that span the awe filled Day of Atonement. As we beseech HaShem to hear our voice (Shma Koleinu), our plea is that He does not remove His holy spirit from us (Ruach Kodshecha al tikach mimeinu). Yet,

there exists another holy spirit within us. It is a holy spirit that is alluded to in Israel's national anthem, HaTikvah. Penned by Naftali Herz Imber, we remind ourselves: "Od lo Avdah tikvateinu". Our hope (spirit) has never become lost. The Jewish spirit is impervious to outside force. True to our moniker of being a stiff-necked people, our spirit actually grows stronger in the face of adversity. It would not in any way be an exaggeration I believe, to say that our spirit has been the secret to our survival. And this is what makes it holy. That spirit has seen us through difficult and trying times. That spirit has enabled us to defy the odds. Because it is a holy spirit, Vespasian could not have been expected to understand it, much less to appreciate it. It is this holy spirit that continues to burn brightly, long after Vespasian and his heirs have been consigned to history texts.

Come the last Wednesday evening and Thursday of this month, we mourn the destruction of the Beit HaMikdash. We grieve over a way of life that went up in smoke. We lament what befell us as a people. At the very same time, let us bear in mind that our holy Torah is invincible to outside forces. Let us recognize that the (the concept of) synagogue, because it is our spiritual life preserver is indestructible in the face of any army. Let us realize that because our spirit as a people, is a holy spirit, it is indomitable to those who wish to snuff it out. May our observance of Tisha B'av be filled with meaning and abundant in sensitivity.

*Rabbi Zell*

## Message from the President

Dear Friends,

As social distancing is still a part of our lives and with the upsurge in covid-19 cases, I hope that you and your families are safe and well.

Tuesday and Friday morning services began a few weeks ago on the back parking lot and recently moved into the foyer. Social distancing is marked with blue tape on the floor to separate the chairs. Sanitizing stations are set up and a mask is required upon entering the building.

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel two major events; the July 4th Shabbat service and the July 5th drive by lunch due to the upsurge. However, our split 50/50 raffle whereby the winner receives half of the 'pot' and Tiferet Israel receives the other half was not cancelled. The winner of the cash and the amount will be announced in a future eblast.

Tiferet Israel continues to be active with community Mitzvah projects under the leadership of Gina Tolmas. In June, our volunteers made 600 meal tray cards with a July 4th theme for Meals on Wheels. This month's mitzvah project is the Dallas Shared Housing Center which currently operates two distinct housing services along with a variety of supportive services, children's programs, and special projects which focus on self-sufficiency and family stability. Items requested at listed at the bottom of this page can be dropped off at Gina Tolmas' home Her address is listed in the directory or contact Jennifer or Colleen in our office. We also contributed bottles of water to the Southwest Jewish Congress Program for their feeding the Heroes and Neighbors humanitarian program.

Planned for August is a Virtual Auction co-chaired by Gina Tolmas and Debby Rubin. The firm we are using has had great success for this type of event and the importance of raising money is based on the items auctioned. We invite you to be a partner either by contributing or soliciting new items in electronics, sport memorabilia, health and fitness (either equipment or virtual on line service), jewelry, kosher restaurant gift certificates, and home goods such as decorative items. If you are not sure about an item or have any questions, please contact Gina.

The Membership Directory will be updated over the next few months. This year chairs are Sonia Melter, Sue Kretchman and Esther Hazan-Cohen. Our Book Club, after celebrating 10 years of meeting bi-monthly, can now be found on a Zoom session with Sonia Meltzer sharing her talents as a reader/presenter par excellence. You can join us for her program on July 14th to hear "A Jerusalem Maiden."

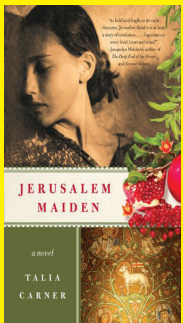
Remember to watch Rabbi Zell with his weekly presentations – "Shabbat Talks," "Ask the Rabbi," and "Skittish about Yiddish classes" either live on Facebook each Tuesday, or by visiting our website to catch up on previous lessons. Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/tiferetisraelcongregation](http://www.facebook.com/tiferetisraelcongregation) or at our website: [www.tiferetisrael.org](http://www.tiferetisrael.org).

Wishing each of you a safe summer.



Shirley

### Tiferet Israel Virtual Zoom Book Club



*Jerusalem Maiden*  
by Talia Carner

Tuesday, July 14  
4:30 PM

via Zoom with Sonia Meltzer

Zoom link will be provided via eblast

### July Mitzvah of the Month Shared Housing Project

Full Size personal care items are needed:

Shampoo and Conditioner  
Body Lotion  
Body Wash  
Bar Soap  
Toothpaste  
Deodorant

Please drop off at box on Gina Tolmas' porch.  
Address is in the Tiferet Membership directory

## July Birthdays:

<b>July 1:</b> Raymond Cahen	Adele Miller
<b>July 2:</b> Marcy Berman Fredell Shulkin	<b>July 15:</b> Harriet Gross Margo Strull
<b>July 3:</b> Rebeca Escamilla Leslie Schwanke	<b>July 17:</b> Peggy Tobolowsky
<b>July 4:</b> Leah Polk	<b>July 19:</b> Rabbi Shawn Zell
<b>July 6:</b> Joan Berman Mannie Kisin Ollie Kisin	<b>July 23:</b> Blake Reisman
<b>July 7:</b> Terri Schepps	<b>July 25:</b> Lynda Steinberg
<b>July 11:</b> Elaine Reisman	<b>July 26:</b> Jose Escamilla-Perez
<b>July 12:</b> Charles Teichman	<b>July 30:</b> Deborah Deitsch-Perez Cecilia Hassouni Gina Tolmas
<b>July 13:</b>	<b>July 31:</b> Sharon Blend Carol Kreditor

## July Anniversaries:

<b>July 3:</b> Simon & Clarice Post
<b>July 5:</b> Theodore & Debby Rubin
<b>July 6:</b> Jaime & Marcia Kopel
<b>July 9:</b> Dr. Lionel & Gloria Reiman
<b>July 26:</b> Harold & Ina Weingarten
<b>July 31:</b> Steven & Linda Blasnik

A Very Happy Belated Birthday to

**Rachel Hassouni!**

She was inadvertently left off the June  
Birthday list!

We wish her all the best and wish her  
many, many more simchas to come!

## Donations:

### General Fund:

*In Memory of:*

Miriam Malka

Lily Wider

Stephanie & Dan Prescott

Miriam Kaplan Deitsch, Ph.D

Rick & Mindy Cohen

Harry Hermann

Stephanie & Dan Prescott

Harold & Ina Weingarten

Kaherine Krause & Warren Zahler

Leslie & Carl Schwanke

Friedel Marx

Rick & Mindy Cohen

Jaime Hazan Cohen

Stephanie & Dan Prescott

Fred Dunsky & Aviva

Hopkovitz Dunsky

Sheila & Marvin Yudenfreund

Janet Gadol

Dr. Elliot Ginchansky

Vered & Moshe Golan

Dr. Marta Olchyk

Dr. Lionel & Gloria Reiman

Nathan & Kohava Malka

Leslie & Carl Schwanke

Friedel Marx

Jaime & Marcia Kopel

David & Danielle Weiner

Natalie & Jerry Levy

Idalee & Doug Cathcart

Linda Greenberg

Irene & Mark Jacobs

Hal & Ina Weingarten

Marsha Barron

Howard & Minnette Kless

Debora & Elliot Grossman

Sandra & Bill Spett

Gilit & Ulli Mandelbaum

Rick & Mindy Cohen

Lawrence Miner

Janet Gadol

Fred Dunsky & Aviva

Hopkovitz Dunsky

Linda Greenberg

Abram Kozlchyk

Dr. Marta Olchyk

Efrim Schmidt

Zeev & Jennifer Saggi

Raquel Prupas

Susan L. Garber

Irving Reiter

Hal & Ina Weingarten

*In Honor of:*

Shirley Rovinsky & The Board

Stephanie & Dan Prescott

Friedel Marx - 99th birthday

Fred Dunsky & Aviva

Hopkovitz Dunsky

Linda Greenberg

Harold & Ina Weingarten

Allison & Josh Becker - Birth of son

Julie Blasnik - birth of son

The Schultz Family

Jessica Lampert - Graduation

Melissa Lampert

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

*In Honor of:*

Rabbi Zell

Harold & Ina Weingarten

Robert & Carolyn Gold

*In Memory of:*

Jan Pastor

Dr. Jeanie Tolmas

Lawrence Miner

Idalee & Doug Cathcart

Roy & Helen Levin

Jaime Hazan Cohen

Gerald Vaiser

Jenifer & Dr. Michael Blum

Frank Smith

Sherrie & Steve Grunfeld

Alan & Gina Tolmas

Dr. Jeanie Tolmas

Harry Hermann

Gary, Joan, & Marcy Berman

Alan & Gina Tolmas

Roy & Helen Levin

### Sadie Samuelsohn Book Fund:

*In Memory of:*

Wyman Parker

Jaime Hazan Cohen

Suzi & Jerry Candy

### Boruch Frishman Scholarship Fund:

*In Honor of:*

Linda & Steve Blasnik

Bina, Chaim, & Michelle Domb

*In Memory of:*

Jaime Hazan Cohen

Bina, Chaim, & Michelle Domb

### Sunshine Fund:

*In Memory of:*

Lawrence Miner

Ritz Zaslowsky

Jaime Hazan Cohen

Leah Polk

Debbie Ginchansky

Dr. Jeanie Tolmas

Shirley & Erv Rovinsky

Sonia Meltzer

Robert Silverman

Janet Gadol

*In Honor of:*

Yana & Daniel Rubin - birth of son

Shirley & Erv Rovinsky

## July Donations - Continued:

Friedel Marx - 99th birthday  
 Dr. Alan & Fredell Shulkin- new grandson  
 Rabbi Shawn & Shirah Zell  
 Bina, Chaim, & Michelle Domb

### Building Fund:

*In Honor of:*  
 Shirley Rovinsky  
 Sheldon & Terri Schepps

### Sisterhood Fund:

*In Memory of:*  
 Jaime Hazen Cohen

Sue Kretchman  
*In Honor of:*  
 Friedel Marx  
 Sue Kretchman

### Youth Fund:

*In Memory of:*  
 Jamie Hazan Cohen  
 Larry Miner  
 Stuart & Andrea Roosth  
 Charlotte Golding  
 Bella Lipps

Debra Polsky  
 Harry Hermann  
 Raquel Prupas  
 Stephen & Dena Denn  
*In Honor of:*  
 Friedel Marx - 99th birthday  
 Yana & Daniel Rubin - birth of son  
 Stuart & Andrea Roosth  
 Doug & Idalee Cathcart

## July Yahrzeits:

July 1 - Tammuz 9:  
 Max Dwortz  
 July 2 - Tammuz 10:  
 Shirley Bier  
 Zelma Horwitz  
 Arthur O'Krent  
 Sarah Tobolowsky  
 Jacob Vaiser  
 July 3 - Tammuz 11:  
 Isaac Prengler  
 Charles Spigel  
 July 4 - Tammuz 12:  
 Yale Candy  
 Leona Dunsky  
 July 5 - Tammuz 13:  
 Ludwig Gottlieb  
 Celia Zucker  
 July 6 - Tammuz 14:  
 Dr. Richard Bayles  
 July 8 - Tammuz 16:  
 Jake Bender  
 Margaret Bender Smith

Eugene Stern  
 July 9 - Tammuz 17:  
 Joseph Feigenbaum  
 July 10 - Tammuz 18:  
 Rachael Goldman  
 July 12 - Tammuz 20:  
 Paul Abraham Lowengrub  
 Orin Schwanke  
 Aaron Seidman  
 Joseph Summer  
 Joseph Weinberg  
 Ida Zell  
 July 14 - Tammuz 22:  
 Fanny Candy  
 Sophie Minsky  
 July 15 - Tammuz 23:  
 Andre Bialolenki  
 Arnold Jerome  
 July 16 - Tammuz 24:  
 Isaac Sturman  
 July 18 - Tammuz 26:  
 Arleyne Kuhn

July 19 - Tammuz 27:  
 Sam Schwartz  
 July 20 - Tammuz 28:  
 Becky Sacks  
 July 21 - Tammuz 29:  
 Meyer Millstone  
 July 22 - Av 1:  
 Harry Bock  
 Bernard Cohen  
 Amram Sonogo  
 July 23 - Av 2:  
 Malcolm L. Schiller  
 July 24 - Av 3:  
 Helen Friedman  
 July 27 - Av 6:  
 Berthold Hess  
 Adeline Robinson  
 July 28 - Av 7:  
 Pauline Cohen Israel  
 Meyer Tobolowsky  
 July 30 - Av 9:  
 Eddie Ferber

We are pleased to announce that Jennifer Williams is now a Notary Public  
 Call the office to schedule an appointment as needed: 214-691-3611

## Video Learning Opportunities at Tiferet!

Classes will not meet at Tiferet at this time due to the current health concern.

Classes are available online, recorded weekly. Links are provided in the weekly eblast and on the main page of our website after the class has been recorded, via Facebook.

You can find our Facebook pages at:  
 Tiferet Israel Congregation

[Http://facebook.com/tiferetisraelcongregation](http://facebook.com/tiferetisraelcongregation)

Classes: What does Judaism say About...  
 & Skittish about Yiddish -  
 both led by Rabbi Zell.  
 Weekly Shabbat talk by Rabbi Zell.

Tiferet Israel Young Families

<http://facebook.com/TiferetIsraelyoungfamilies>

Tuesday night at 8:30 pm -  
 Tuesday Torah Live with Rabbi Sabo.

You do not have to have a Facebook page to enjoy these classes. If you have a Facebook page and like our pages, you will be notified when we upload new classes. Please like and share these posts to help us grow our social media!

New links are uploaded each week to our website:

<http://www.tiferetisrael.org>