



Services

Kabbalat Shabbat Evening Services

Friday, February 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th from 5:45 PM – 6:15 PM ***Zoom only***

Youth Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Saks w/potluck dinner to follow ***see attached flyer***

Friday, February 7th at 5:30 PM ***In Person only***

Morning Shabbat

Saturday, February 1st, 15th & 22nd at 9:30 AM *** In Person & Zoom***

Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Bryk led by Rabbi Saks

Saturday, February 8th at 9:30 AM ***In person & Streaming***

Tuesday Minyan

Tuesday, February 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th at 5:30 PM ***Zoom only***

February Events

Programming: Rock Climbing Event ***see attached flyer***

Saturday, February 8th at 5:45 PM

NO Adult Ed on Sunday, February 9th

Sisterhood Book Review ***see attached flyer***

Sunday, February 9th at 10:30 AM

Men's Club Sushi Night

Wednesday, February 12th at 6:00 PM

Sprouts ***see attached flyer***

Sunday, February 23rd at 9:30 AM

March Events

Laugh the Night Away III Comedy Night ***see attached flyer***

Saturday, March 1st at 6:30 PM

Adult Ed with Rabbi Saks

Sunday, March 2nd at 9:00 AM

Purim Feast led by Rabbi Saks

Friday, March 14th at 6:30 PM

Sisterhood Shabbat followed by a free kiddush

Saturday, March 15th at 9:30 AM

Adult Ed with Rabbi Saks

Sunday, March 16th at 9:00 AM

Sprouts

Sunday, March 16th at 9:30 AM

Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 16th at 12:00 PM

Congregational Shabbat Service led by Cohen Religious School
with Potluck Dinner to Follow

Friday, March 21st at 5:30 PM

Blood Drive at TTY

Sunday, March 23rd from 8:30AM – 12:30 PM



Feeling the ecological spirit of Tu

Bishvat within our souls

The natural world beckons us to marvel at its mystery and grandeur. Standing amidst evergreens, peering over cliffs, or feeling the sand between our toes, we feel at once a stranger in a vast kingdom and right at home. Why is that? Perhaps, as one writer posits, the soul of humankind was forged in the environment of

the natural world. For 50,000 generations human beings and our ancestors lived in and part of the natural world. Only in the past 500 generations, with the advent of farming and thus civilization, have we separated ourselves from nature. Yet, despite the technological advances of civilization, those first 50,000 generations of human existence implanted within us an indescribable, but quite real, attraction towards nature. For many folks, feeling attracted to nature is synonymous with feeling God's presence.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Herschel once said that the most miraculous phrase of the Torah is "*vay-daber Adonai el Moshe leimor* — And God spoke to Moses saying." How amazing is it that God can speak in a way for human beings to understand! I'm not certain though that God can speak in, as orthodox theologian Rabbi Norman Lamm said, "discrete words and letters." Rather I think the kind of speech we hear from God is more akin to the feeling we get when we are surrounded by the incredible mystery and grandeur of nature. In that setting the voice of God is both around us in the sounds of the birds chirping, the leaves rustling, and the water flowing, and it is within us, a seed implanted within our souls from the 50,000 generations we spent living within the wilderness. We don't hear that voice of God; we feel it building within us.

This month we will celebrate the holiday of *Tu Bishvat*, the New Year of the Trees, on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of *Shvat* (corresponding this year to February 13, 2025). Embedded within its name, the holiday of *Tu Bishvat* hints at our deep spiritual connection with nature. "*Tu*" is an acronym of the Hebrew letters "*tet*" (*v*) and "*vav*" (*l*), which correspond in gematria (Jewish numerology) to the numbers 9 & 6 respectively ($9+6=15$ th day of *Shvat*). However, if we were following the normal rules of gematria, the letters we should use to add up to 15 are "*yod*" (*l*) and "*hey*" (*h*), which correspond to the numbers 10 & 5 respectively. We don't use these letters though because they spell God's name when they are combined together, and since we don't want to write God's name in vain, we choose a different letter/number combination to add to 15. **Thus, God's name is not explicit but rather hidden within the number 15, just as God's presence in nature is not seen but felt within our souls.**

So, on this *Tu Bishvat*, let us take a moment to give thanks for the gift of the natural world we see around us, and to appreciate the spiritual connection we feel with the natural world hidden within us.

With many blessings,

Rabbi Ari Y. Saks

Feb. Services/Events

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Sat. Feb 8th @ 9:30 AM

Programming: Rock Climbing Event

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NO Adult Ed

Sun. Feb 9th

Sisterhood Book Review

Sun. Feb 9th @ 10:30 AM

Men's Club Sushi Night

Wed. Feb 12th; 6:00 PM

Sprouts

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Mar. Services/Events

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from 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM



President's Message

This is one of those months when I find it easy to sit and write a message to you. Let me start by telling about the work of the Ways & Committee preparing for their big annual event, the 2025 Comedy Night. The committee members, as well as other members at large, have been collecting some wonderful items to auction off on March 1st. They've also secured a number of sponsorships (if you or your business would like to be a sponsor, please hurry to call Elaine Shapiro or Jo-Ann Antin). This year's event will be bigger and better than ever. They're bringing back the popular performer, Linda Belt. They made some changes to the event flow that should make this year's evening the most enjoyable yet. Don't miss out.

Andy Sholes recently brought the Capital Campaign Committee members together to lay out a strategy to advance the campaign. He reported that he had already secured some number of pledges and received some contributions that put us over the amount needed to take full advantage of the anonymous match, so we are well on our way to raise the funds needed to help us retire our mortgage. Over the next few months, he and other members of the committee will be reaching out to all our members. TTY has provided so much to so many- providing both a spiritual and social community for many members; grounding in Jewish traditions and ethics for our children. Please help to ensure that this great legacy continues "from generation to generation."

I'll end this month's letter by reminding you that Rabbi Saks told the board leadership he wants to renew his contract. We are in discussions with him to finalize the contract terms. I haven't spoken to anyone who doesn't think he is a wonderful rabbi for TTY. I even receive notes from guests who have attended one of his services, telling me how much they enjoyed the service and appreciated his role. I want to sincerely thank each and every member who has done so much to make the Rabbi feel that he is a welcomed, integral part of the congregation, whether you have hosted him for a meal or simply engaged him in conversation.

L'Shalom,

Michael



Message from Our New Capital Campaign

Our Capital Campaign continues to maintain momentum. As of January 23, 2025, we have received donations from our members in the amount of \$278,000.00. We are almost at 30% of our goal to raise \$1,000,000.00. In addition, we have received pledges from members, which total more than \$100,000.00. The Committee is in the process of reaching out to our members. Please answer their call and set aside time to meet with them. We need everyone to participate in reducing the Temple's mortgage and be a part in the building of our new Aron Kodesh.

Besides making a donation by check, direct transfers to the Temple from one's retirement account may satisfy the donor's required annual minimum distribution. Donations of marketable securities allow the donor to receive a tax deduction at the current fair market value of the donated securities without having to recognize any income tax gain between the original cost of the securities and its fair market value on the date of transfer. Donors of appreciated securities may receive a charitable deduction on their individual income tax return if the amount of their donations exceed the minimum deductible threshold set by the IRS. Even if one is not able to take advantage of a charitable deduction, any gain on the direct transfer to the Temple of marketable securities having a current market value in excess of their original cost is not recognized by the donor.

Donors will be recognized according to their level of giving on a plaque to be erected in the Temple. Together we are stronger. We thank the generosity of those members who have already contributed to the Capital Campaign. The funds donated will be used to reduce the Temple's mortgage to place it in a strong financial condition. With your generous support, TTY will be able to serve our Jewish community for generations to come.

If not us, who? There is no one.

Thanks for your support.

Andrew G. Sholes



Torat Yisrael's Cohen School

Happy New Year! Hope everyone had a fabulous break. Read on to hear about the exciting activities your children have been working on.

Gr. K/1: Students have been working hard on their Hebrew letter recognition and getting through the whole Hebrew alphabet. We have a theme that goes with each letter and includes writing, tracing & art projects.

Gr. 2: Students have been working hard on their phonetic awareness of Hebrew and learning many more phrases & words. They are currently focused on the Amidah and are also exploring T'filot. They are familiarizing themselves and acting out scenes to further their understanding.

Gr. 3/4: Students have been continuing decoding Hebrew skills through word search and matching game activities. They are also learning how to read/sing the Shema and V'ahavta based on their abilities to decode.

Gr. 5: Students are exploring the concepts of Shabbat, such as what it means to rest and find peace & joy. They are also diving deep into the Shema and exploring the values people live by and why they are important.

Gr. 6/7: Students are learning about Torah trope (cantillation) and the value of Shalom Bayit.

B'kavod,

Hillary



Message from Ways and Means

Our Comedy Night Fundraiser is Under Way!

We have been planning for our main fundraiser event of the year—**Comedy Night on March 1, 2025!** This event is our biggest revenue source, so we need everyone's support to make it a hit. We welcome your ideas and any assistance in gathering items for the auction. It

takes a village to pull this off so please help out. Our headliner this year is **Linda Belt**—for those who joined us in the first year, you know she was fabulous, and we're excited to have her back!



Message from Yad Chessed

Thanks to everyone who has donated food to our January Food Drive. The Kosher Food Bank and St. Luke's Food Pantry will benefit from your generosity.

Yad Chessed has been communicating with the R.I Blood Center for them to host a blood drive at the Temple on Sunday morning, March 23rd from 8:30 AM to

12:30 PM. The Blood Center is hoping to collect 15 to 24 pints of blood. If you are a regular donor, and your next donation is due in March, it would be great if you would consider donating at the Temple. There will be flyers and additional information coming soon.

Please keep us informed about any of our Temple members, who might benefit from a ride to the Temple for services, or the Rabbi's Study Groups or for any of the Temple's Social events by notifying the Temple office or me directly.

Susan H. Sidel, Chairman

401-884-1899 shsidel2@gmail.com



Librarian's Corner

Trajectory by Cambria Gordon

Seventeen-year-old Eleanor is nothing like her hero Eleanor Roosevelt. She is timid and all together uncertain that she has much to offer the world. And as World War II rages overseas, Eleanor is consumed with worry for her Jewish relatives in Europe. When a chance encounter proves her to be a one-in-a-generation math whiz--a fact she has worked hard all her life to hide--Eleanor gets recruited by the US Army and entrusted with the ultimate challenge: to fine-tune a top-secret weapon that will help America defeat its enemies in World War II and secure the world's freedom. This could be her chance to help save her family in Poland. Soon, she's swept from the basement of an Ivy League engineering school, to the desert of California, to an Army Air Corps base at Pearl Harbor, and finally she takes to the skies above the South Pacific. But before she can solve this complicated problem, she must learn to unlock a bigger mystery: herself.

Critically acclaimed author of *The Poetry of Secrets*, Cambria Gordon weaves an extraordinary story of remarkable courage and the will to unearth our deepest secrets, based on previously undiscovered true events.

Laura Steele



Sisterhood

The Sisters hope that you are finding ways to stay warm and cozy during our recent cold spell.

On Sunday, January 12th, a solid group of women met at Kingstown Bowl to try our hands at bowling. We quickly realized that Elaine comes prepared with her own ball, the two Marion's are a force to be reckoned with and some of us (myself included) did not inherit the ability to knock those pins down. In fact, I even tried the child's tool and still got a gutter ball! All in fun, we munched on some cheese sticks, onion rings and pizza and left smiling.

Looking forward to our book review on Sunday, February 9th at 10:30 am, when Barbara Karetny will be leading a discussion of the novel, [The Things We Cannot Say](#) by Kellie Rimmer. I must admit that I purchased the book a few months ago and let it sit, but I literally picked it up in the morning and could not stop reading until I finished at the wee hours of the morning. I highly recommend that you read this intriguing novel and be prepared to engage in a great discussion while having a hot beverage and a nosh.

Looking forward to many sign ups to participate in the Sisterhood Shabbat in March.

Leah Ross-Coke and Marion Woolf, Co-Presidents



Let's Celebrate Samuel Bryk's Bar Mitzvah

Samuel Bryk will be called to the Torah on February 8, 2025.

Sam is 13 years old and looking forward to becoming a Bar-Mitzvah. He resides in East Greenwich and is the son of Sigal and Joel Bryk.

He is presently a 7th grade student at Cole Middle School. He is very active and especially enjoys basketball, football, and gaming. He is excited to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah with his friends by attending an upcoming game between the Celtics and his beloved NY Knicks.

Frederic G. & Lawrence G. Cohen Educational Scholarship Eligibility & Criteria

Torat Yisrael provides scholarships for post-secondary education to members of Temple Torat Yisrael (TTY). In order to apply, parents must be a current member in good standing of TTY for at least 5 prior years and also be a current member in good standing for at least 5 years with TTY's Men's Club and/or Sisterhood. The applicant shall write a 2-page criteria statement of their commitment to Judaism as well as submit 3 reference letters and a financial award letter from the college they are attending showing total cost of enrollment. Applications will be judged and chosen with several factors being taken into consideration. Application with more details and deadline dates will be available in the Spring of 2025.

In Our Torat Yisrael Family



Mazal Tov to everyone celebrating a Birthday in February!

Zack Kentor, Marc Ladin, Bertha Goldberg, Pearl Kaplan, Andrew G. Sholes, Sabine Ginestet (10 years old), Lina Goikhman, Wayne Wilfand, Daniel Morris Silverman, Mitchell Sproul (10 years old), Eli Levy (21 years old), Bruce Weisman, Marion Woolf, Darcie Lynn Colletti (9 years old), Gloria Viner (7 years old), Ryan Evans (17 years old), Lori Rush, Laurie Goldman, Emily Viner, Zinovy Goikhman, Ilana Revkin & Richard Sholes.

Our Torat Yisrael Community Acknowledges with Thanks the Following Generous January

2025 Donations:

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Irving Abrams
-Beverly Paris
In Memory of Eva Davis
-Helen Davis
In Memory of Ida Dubin Fields
-Hy Goldman
In Memory of Fred Swartz Goldman
-Hy Goldman
In Memory of Lenore Goldstein
-Nancy Waszkis
In Memory of Gladys Greenberg
-Gerald & Marlene DiPrete
In Memory of Gladys Greenberg
-Robert & Robin Greenberg
In Memory of Celia Greene
-Jim & Sana Greene
In Memory of Leo Greene
-Jim & Sana Greene
In Memory of Julius Heimann
-Sam & Lilliam Mendelowitz
In Memory of Ruth Hirsch
-Jim & Sana Greene
In Memory of Ilse Huterer Kalman
-Roslyn Glick
In Memory of Harry Klitzner
-Lynn Field
In Memory of Bernard "Buzzy" Labush
-Arnold & Ruth Blasbalg
-Helen Davis
-Joan Goralnik
-Andrew G. Sholes
-Barbara Zenofsky
In Memory of Norman Levine
-Joanie Bookbinder
In Memory of Joseph M. Rotenberg
-Barry Rotenberg
In Memory of Edna Rubin
-Arnold & Ruth Blasbalg
In Honor of Beth Salk's Birthday!
-Marion Cotton
In Memory of Andrea Saltzman
-Richard Saltzman
In Memory of Herbert William Schindler
-Laurie & Stephan Goldman
In Memory of Lillian Schwartz
-Sandra Gross
In Memory of Marilyn Schwartz
-Sharon & Earl Vanderhoff
In Memory of Edith Shuman
-Bruce Shuman
In Memory of Sara Westerman
-Rachel Silverman

BERTHA & BERNARD GOLDBERG ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Dr. Leslie Cohen
-Barbara & Bertha Goldberg
In Honor of Bertha Goldberg's 104th
Birthday!
In Memory of Elaine Hoffman
-Barbara & Bertha Goldberg
In Memory of Arthur Mossberg
-Barbara & Bertha Goldberg
In Memory of Carl Sadler
-Barbara & Bertha Goldberg

MYER GROSSMAN FUND

In Memory of Bernard "Buzzy" Labush
-Alan & Anita Olinsky

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory of Bernard "Buzzy" Labush
-Sue Sidel

MICHELE PAM ROSS ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Bernard Labush
-Lois Cohen & Mitchell Cohen
In Memory of Bernard Labush
-Phyllis B. Solod
In Memory of Evelyn Vera Labush
-Ruth Ross

LEONARD J. SHOLES ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Leonard J. Sholes
-Andrew G. Sholes

SHOLES BOOK FUND

In Memory of Bernard Labush
-Richard & Martha Sholes
In Memory of Leonard J. Sholes
-Richard & Martha Sholes

DAVID SMOLLER FUND

In Memory of Bernard "Buzzy" Labush
-Susan & Michelle Smoller