

Services

No Kabbalat Shabbat Evening Service

Friday, July 5th

Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, July 12th & 19th from 5:45 PM – 6:15 PM ***Zoom only***

Beach Shabbat at Goddard Park with potluck dinner to follow

Friday, July 26th at 5:30 PM ***In person only* *see attached flyer***

No Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, July 6th

Morning Shabbat

Saturday July 13th, 20th & 27th at 9:30 AM *** In Person & Zoom***

Tuesday Minyan

Tuesday, July 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th at 5:30 PM ***Zoom only***



Wishing you all a Safe & Happy 4th!!!!

Temple Office Hours week of 4th of July Holiday

Monday, July 1st 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Tuesday, July 2nd 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Wednesday, July 3rd 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Thursday, July 4th Closed

Friday, July 5th Closed



It will be time for the High Holidays before you know it

Quick trivia question: What do *Gone with the Wind*, *The Sound of Music*, *Titanic*, and *The Ten Commandments* all have in common? They are four of the top six highest grossing movies of all time (when adjusted for inflation) and all four of them run nearly or well above three hours long. Do these facts mean that long movies are inherently successful? Not at all. For every good long movie out there, there is another one that seems to drag on interminably until the final credits.

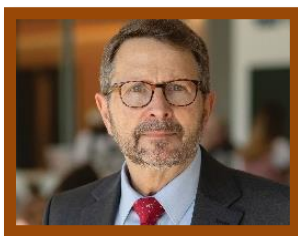
So, what, if anything, can we learn from these facts? My impression is that good stories often take time to develop. These stories begin slowly, introducing us to the characters and the plot lines in a way that force us to care about them. We build a rapport with our favorite characters and as the drama of the plot unfolds, we invest ourselves heavily in the fate that awaits our heroes. Once our heroes' fates are sealed, we need an opportunity to digest that reality, to understand it, and at the final moment to break from it and return to our own reality. All of this takes time, but in the good stories we are so wrapped up in, we lose all sense of time.

Before you know it, most of us will be gathered for the High Holidays in our beautiful sanctuary peering at a portion of Rhode Island's bucolic natural beauty. Though it is peaceful to gaze at nature many of us don't want to do so for three hours (or more) at a time. Due to the innovations in our services required by the COVID pandemic, our tradition is no longer to require such long services on the High Holidays, yet, they still run longer than all of our other synagogue services and (dare I say it), some folks pine for the pre-COVID service length of the High Holidays. Why such a desire for more time to be spent in shul? Because like the movies mentioned earlier, the High Holidays have a great story that needs time to tell.

There's intrigue, drama, and heartfelt emotion that, like any good story, must develop over time. But unlike the stories described in movies, books, or concerts, the central protagonist of the High Holidays is each one of us. We are the heroes of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur.

The plot of the High Holiday's story centers around the fate of our mortality: Will we live or we will die? But like any good drama, the plot is only as good as it makes us care about the characters, which in this case is ourselves. Does thinking about our mortality make us yearn to find meaning in our lives? Does it energize us to sing, dance, and participate with all of our strength and emotion? As the *mishnah* teaches us: *eyn t'filla ella tahaunim* – prayer only exists as supplication. Prayer is not something we just do for the sake of doing it, but prayer is really only prayer when the words and the emotion behind it are real and intentional. We pray not just for the sake of tradition, but for the sake of experiencing the High Holiday story. It's a good story because it's *our* story; and like any good story it takes time to make us lose all sense of time.

Rabbi Ari Y. Saks



President's Message

Well, my second year as president of the Temple's Board of Trustees has flown by. I wasn't able to accomplish all that I had hoped, but I'm happy to be able to report many positive changes that occurred over the course of this year.

We faced two major challenges at the beginning of the fiscal year- that of finding a new Rabbi and finding a new Religious School Director and teachers. We were very fortunate to find

Rabbi Ari Saks who contacted us last June as we were searching for a Rabbi and finding few candidates. It turns out that Conservative Jewish Rabbis are in very short supply - a precious commodity. Rabbi Saks had recently left Long Island for Philadelphia and he called with an idea we had not considered - having a part time rabbi.

After interviews with him and a visit, bringing him onboard at Temple Torat Yisrael seemed like it could be a great match and it turned out to be just that. We have all found that Rabbi Saks is a very learned Rabbi and has taught us much already, but even more important is the love and support of the members that he has demonstrated over the course of this past year.

He has invigorated adult education and has worked with our new school director and parents of our school-age children to improve the experience for our children of all grade levels. Rabbi Saks has gone beyond the terms of his contract,

occasionally leading Tuesday minyan services or sharing his experiences live from Israel, or contacting members who have experienced loss or a serious health issue because he cares about the needs of our congregation.

I have to say that one of the down sides of going to a part time Rabbi, was that we lost several families who thought that only a full-time rabbi would do, but I think most, if not all our members have found him available when he was needed. His enthusiasm for Judaism and for Jewish life have helped to invigorate our synagogue and I am pleased to be able to tell you that he is looking forward to serving us during the coming year. I don't expect that we will lose any members this year because of his part time status and I look forward to his ongoing important contributions and support.

We were also very fortunate to find Hillary Guttin to be our new Cohen Religious School Director. Hillary came to us with eight years of teaching experience at the Jewish Community Day School in Providence, as well as years of experience teaching music and theater. She was able to come into the school and on a very short timeline, find new teachers for the year. She introduced a new curriculum that incorporated music into Hebrew learning and brought in the teaching of Jewish values and ethics. Some of what was learned this year was highlighted by the children at the school's graduation ceremony last month.

This coming year will be even better. Hillary worked with the Rabbi and a parent group to get suggestions for improving the school experience. She will be bringing in several new teachers with deeper Hebrew knowledge and teaching experience. She will also launch an additional Hebrew learning program for interested students and parents. I'm hoping that the changes made will attract even more children to our Jewish education programs and help grow our congregation.

The change to a part time Rabbi at Temple Torat Yisrael made volunteerism at our shul even more important than in the past. Susan Smoller, David Wasser, and Laura Picraux have been the key to maintaining regular Shabbat services when the Rabbi is not here and we are grateful to them for this immense contribution. We now have a small, but dedicated group that comes regularly to Saturday morning services and we have a great kiddush after each service where people stay to talk, strengthening a sense of community. We'd love to have more members come to these services—you won't regret making it a part of your weekend!

Ruth Ross, Barbara Zenofsky, Andrew Sholes and Susan Smoller lead the Tuesday minyan service. Jaime Cohen, with a team of Religious School parents, has maintained the Friday night Youth Shabbat service, again strengthened Temple community relationships and provided an inviting atmosphere for children to participate in worship. It seems to me that having more members more involved with synagogue activities has been a huge boon to our congregation.

The Way & Means Committee did a fantastic fundraising job again with a second Comedy night, that with your help raised the largest amount ever from such an event, which is so helpful for maintaining our operations! The Men's Club continued their tradition of bringing in great speakers. Sisterhood had numerous events - everything from the kosher wine sale to clothing and diaper drives to help those less fortunate throughout Rhode Island.

We have members that have done a lot of work with upkeep of the synagogue property and we were able to reclaim a room to make it into an office that provides additional workspace for volunteers and staff. I hope you will agree that the synagogue has really evolved over the past year in ways that add to our lives as Jews. I want to also let you know that we will be launching a capital campaign to be able to better address our long-term financial needs. This campaign will be undertaken with the great leadership of Andrew Sholes and I will leave it to him to tell you more about this at a later date.

I want to finish by thanking all of you for the opportunity to serve as President of Temple Torat Yisrael. Your support, advice and friendship have meant so much and have been invaluable. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you in the coming year.

Bivrakha,

Michael



librarian's Corner

City of Laughter by Temim Fruchter

An ambitious, delirious novel that tangles with queerness, spirituality, and generational silence, *City of Laughter* announces Temim Fruchter as a fresh and assured new literary voice. The tale of a young

queer woman stuck in a thicket of generational secrets, the novel follows her back to her family's origins, where ancestral clues begin to reveal a lineage both haunted and shaped by desire.

Ropshitz, Poland, was once known as the City of Laughter. As this story opens, an 18th century badchan, a holy jester whose job is to make wedding guests laugh, receives a visitation from a mysterious stranger—bringing the laughter the people of Ropshitz desperately need, and triggering a sequence of events that will reverberate across the coming century. In the present day, Shiva Margolin, recovering from the heartbreak of her first big queer love and grieving the death of her beloved father, struggles to connect with her guarded mother, who spends most of her time at the local funeral home. A student of Jewish folklore, Shiva seizes an opportunity to visit Poland, hoping her family's mysteries will make more sense if she walks in the footsteps of her great-grandmother Mira, about whom no one speaks. What she finds will make her question not only her past and her future, but also her present.

Laura Steele



Sisterhood

Happy summer ladies!!

Our end of the year celebration and elections were held at Gregg's restaurant in North Kingstown on June 9th. It was a nice day for all who attended. As usual, the food was great, as was the company. We all then reviewed our year, did elections and started planning for next year.

During the summer, a few ladies get together informally for the Garden City Concerts at the Gazebo, so keep an eye out for the dates and just show up if you want. They are entertaining and it is fun to catch up during the summer. There are also concerts in Narragansett throughout the summer that are free. If a group plans on going, we will post on our Facebook Page in case anyone is interested in driving together or meeting up for some Sisterhood!!

July 26th is the Temple's next Beach Shabbat, so hopefully we will see some of the ladies then for another beautiful Shabbat at Goddard Park.

Leah Ross-Coke and Marion Woolf, Co-Presidents



Message from Men's Club

Men's Club is looking for new and returning board members for 2024-2025.

Message from Temple Office

If you would like your monthly bulletin, yahrzeit notices and/or thank you notes by email only, please notify the Temple office by either calling 401-885-6600 or email Temple@toratyisrael.org.

Rabbi Saks will not be in Rhode Island in July
He will return in August the weekend of: August 16th – 18th

SAVE THE DATE:

Rabbi Saks will be leading Beach Shabbat at Goddard Park on Friday, August 16th AT 5:30 PM

RECENT GRADUATES!

The Temple would like to acknowledge recent high school and/or college graduates.

If you would like an announcement placed, please email details to deanna@toratyisrael.org

Updating Office Records

Please provide the following information to the office either by
mail or email: deanna@toratysrael.org

Your Hebrew Name _____ son/daughter of _____ & _____

Your Spouses Hebrew Name _____ son/daughter of _____ & _____

Children's Hebrew Names:

Family Name(s):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

If applicable, please provide Hebrew name for both mother and father

In Our Torat Yisrael Family



Mazel Tov to everyone celebrating a Birthday in July!

Matilda Guyer-Osborne (8 years old), Wyatt Weiss (8 years old), Helen Davis, Stephan Goldman, Sabrina Weiss, Taylor Pezza (10 years old). Elaine Salinger, David Bojar, Fredy Norin (19 years old), Gertrude Katz, Mynde Siperstein, Dr. Dale Steele, Dr. Sarah Levy, Hannah S. Cohen (10 years old), Jaime Cohen, Mallory Kaminski (9 years old), Joseph Shapiro, Ethan Truman Antin (17 years old), Jonathan William Antin (17 years old), David Barr, Jr., Joanie Bookbinder, Barbara Karetny, Dana Sholes & Maya Revkin (10 years old).

Mazel Tov to everyone celebrating an Anniversary in July!

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Kaplan (51 years), Mr. & Mrs. Lary Norin (24 years), Drs. Naveh & Sarah Levy (23 years), Mr. & Mrs. Scott Libman (31 years), Dr. & Mrs. Adam Niedelman (20 years), Ms. Deborah Burka & Mr. Joseph Theroux (15 years).

Recent Graduates

Mazel Tov to Fredy Norin! He graduated from Wheeler and is off to Quinnipiac in August. He turns 19 this month. His parents, Lary & Stephanie Norin are very proud of him.

Mazel Tov to Liana Weisbord! She graduated from Dwight Global Online School and will be pursuing her BFA in Musical Theatre at the University of Michigan in the Fall. This summer she will be a member of The School at Jacob's Pillow Musical Theatre Performance Ensemble in Becket, Massachusetts. Anyone interested can follow her journey on Instagram @thelianawise.com.

Our Torat Yisrael Community Acknowledges with Thanks the following

Generous June 2024 Donations:

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Sam Adelman
-Karen Wier

In Memory of Faye Birenbaum
-Beverly Rotenberg

In Memory of Gerald Carlin
-Paul Carlin

In Memory of Harry Davis
-Helen Davis

In Memory of Rose Eisenstadt
-Ray Immerman

In Honor of Sharon & Michael Field's
50th Anniversary!
-Barbara & Bill Karetny
-Ruth Ross

In Memory of Lotte Hirsch
-Helen Davis

In Memory of Harriet Landesberg
-Melvin Landesberg

In Memory of Benjamin Lerner
-Dr. Lon Kopit

In Memory of Stanley L. Musen
-Steven Musen

In Memory of Stephen Rappoport
-Helen Davis

-Barbara & Bill Karetny
-Alan & Anita Olinsky

-Ruth Ross
-Jeff & Beth Salk

In Memory of Trudy Rotenberg
-Barry Rotenberg

In Memory of Marc L. Sholes
-Steven Sholes

In Memory of Natalie Tanenbaum
-Harriet Bomzer

In Memory of Samuel W. Tapper
-Michael Tapper

In Memory of Sophia Tonkover
-Sofya Tonkover & Family

In Memory of Sidney Volin
-Ken Gray

MYER GROSSMAN FUND

In Memory of Myer Grossman
-Paul Grossman