



December 2025 Kislev/Tevet 5786

Services

Friday Night Live (FNL) Service Celebrating Hanukkah led by Rabbi Saks
with Dinner & Interfaith Discussion to follow

Friday, December 5th at 6:00 PM ***In Person & Streaming** ***see attached flyer***

Kabbalat Shabbat Evening Service

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

NO KABBALAT SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

Friday, December 26th

Morning Shabbat

Saturday, December 6th, 13th & 20th at 9:30 AM *** In Person & Zoom***

NO MORNING SHABBAT SERVICE

Saturday, December 27th

Tuesday Minyan

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

December/January/February Events

Torah Study Session with Rabbi Saks

Saturday, December 6th at 10:30AM ***see attached flyer***

Parent Café at TTY Social Hall

Sunday, December 7th at 8:45AM

Adult Education with Rabbi Saks:

Sunday, December 7th at 9:00AM ***see attached flyer***

Sisterhood Hanukkah Party

Sunday, December 7th at 11:30AM ***see attached flyer***

Hebrew Bootcamp

Sunday, December 7th at 12:00PM

Sprouts:

Sunday, December 14th at 9:30AM ***see attached flyer***

Canasta Lessons at TTY

Sunday, Dec. 14th, 21st & 28th at 9:30AM ***see attached flyer***

School Hanukkah Party

Sunday, December 14th at 12:00PM ***see attached flyer***

Blood Drive at TTY

Sunday, December 21st at 8:30 AM ***see attached flyer***

Mahjong Lessons at TTY

Sunday, Jan. 4th, 11th & 25th at 9:30AM ***see attached flyer***

Youth Shabbat followed by potluck dinner

Friday, January 30th at 5:30 PM

Comedy Night – Laugh the Night Away at TTY

Saturday, February 28, 2026 ***see attached flyer***



The Torah of Interfaithing: Why We Are Blessed to be Jews in 21st Century America

What if I told you that one of Judaism's most powerful teachings isn't hidden in ancient texts, but is unfolding right now in your neighborhood, your workplace, and maybe even your own home?

Over my years in the rabbinate and growing up as an American Jew, I've come to realize something remarkable: We're living in an unprecedented moment in Jewish history. We face ancient hatreds - antisemitism that stretches back millennia - yet simultaneously enjoy opportunities for peaceful coexistence that our ancestors could barely imagine.

This paradox has led me over the last few years - thanks to my work-life arrangement as rabbi of Torat Yisrael - to develop a framework of teachings to meet this moment. The "Torah of interfaithing," steeped in ancient and modern Jewish wisdom, reveals how Judaism not only permits but celebrates our deep engagement with people of different faiths, cultures, and backgrounds in 21st century America. I've offered this Torah in other congregations and in other learning communities, such as my *Interfaithing* podcast, but now it's time for me to share some of this Torah with you - my Torat Yisrael family.

The Gift We Take for Granted

Living as equals among nations. Working alongside people of different religions. Building homes and communities with neighbors from diverse backgrounds. For most of Jewish history, these weren't givens - they were dreams.

Yet here we are, American Jews in the 21st century, experiencing something our grandparents' grandparents could scarcely envision. We don't just interact with other faiths in boardrooms or city forums. We're doing life together - raising families, celebrating milestones, navigating challenges side by side with Christians, Muslims, atheists, and people of every background imaginable.

But here's the question that keeps me up at night: Are we merely coexisting, or are we truly understanding what makes this moment so sacred?

The ease of our current situation can breed complacency. We forget that this peaceful coexistence isn't just a happy accident of modern democracy. It's the fulfillment of something God intended for all nations - to live in peace and understanding, appreciating the unique ways human beings express their deepest values.

What the Torah of Interfaithing Really Means

The Torah of Interfaithing asks us to examine more deeply this unique moment in our people's history:

1. How do we express our core Jewish soul while fully participating in American life?
2. What does it mean to be proud of the diverse families and communities we're building?

These aren't theoretical questions. They're playing out in your home when you are putting up your interfaith family's Christmas tree. They're present when you collaborate with colleagues of different faiths on meaningful projects. They're alive when you stand alongside neighbors of all backgrounds to serve your community.

The work of living in peace with other traditions isn't separate from Jewish practice - it's central to it. When we build genuine relationships across faith lines in our homes and in our communities, we're not straying from Judaism. We're embodying it.

This is holy work. It's the work of helping all peoples live in peace, wholeness, brotherhood and sisterhood together. And it's work that American Jews are uniquely positioned to lead.

An Invitation to Learn Together

Beginning with my visit to Torat Yisrael on December 5th-7th I will offer one major session per weekend (for a total of 4 sessions) dedicated to exploring the Torah of interfaithing. The first session focused on the opportunities and challenges of Jewish life in the diaspora is entitled **The Complicated History of Jews and Assimilation**.

We'll examine texts, share stories, and grapple with real questions about the impact of living in an interfaith and diverse 21st century America. But here's my challenge to you: **Don't come alone.**

Bring your family, your neighbors, your friends - Jewish and non-Jewish alike. Bring your Christian colleague, your Muslim neighbor, your atheist book club member. Bring anyone who's part of this wonderful, diverse tapestry we call America.

Why? Because the Torah of interfaithing isn't just for Jews. It's wisdom about how different communities can honor their distinct identities while building something beautiful together. Jewish or not Jewish, we have much to contribute to these conversations.

Building Peace, One Relationship at a Time

The opportunities before us as American Jews are staggering. We can live openly as Jews while fully participating in the broader society. We can maintain our distinct identity while learning from and contributing to other traditions. We can model what it looks like when different communities honor their uniqueness while working toward shared goals. But these opportunities come with responsibility. We must actively choose engagement over isolation, curiosity over assumption, relationship over stereotype. We must do the holy work of interfaithing with intention and wisdom. That's what these upcoming sessions are about - equipping ourselves with the Torah, the teachings, the framework to do this work well. To live as proud Jews in a pluralistic world. To build the peace that God intended for all nations.

I cannot wait to share this Torah with you.

More importantly, I cannot wait to learn from you - from your experiences navigating interfaith relationships, from your questions and struggles, from your wisdom about what it means to be Jewish in America today. Together, we'll explore how the ancient wisdom of our tradition provides the courage we need to continue the holy work of living in peace, wholeness, and understanding with all peoples.

May we have the wisdom to recognize the gift we've been given, and the courage to use it well.

All the best,

Rabbi Ari Y. Saks



President's Message

The Rabbi's four-part series on the foundational pillars of Judaism recently ended. During the last session, the Rabbi surprised me by stating that Israel should be/can be (I'll ask him to clarify for me) an idea linked to Torah, which is different from Israel the political state. Without Torah, there is no Israel.

Lily Salomon was recently called to the Torah for her Bat Mitzvah. I'm always impressed at the level of proficiency our B'nai Mitzvah students demonstrate on these days. We, as the TTY community, teach our children G_d's commandments, we teach Torah.

Our commitment to this institution, the TTY community, which is embodied in our temple, is therefore our contribution to the perpetuation of Israel through the perpetuation of the Jewish people.

As I mentioned during the High Holidays, the TTY community traces its origins back 100 years. When I see our young people coming up to the Torah and continuing to come to the temple after their B'nai Mitzvah ceremony, I can't help but think that we will be here for another 100 years.

Wishing you all a Happy Chanukah,

Michael



Capital Campaign

Our Capital Campaign goal is to raise \$1,000,000 to reduce our mortgage. We know that we have a tall challenge to reach that goal. With the support of our congregants and the hard work of the Capital Campaign Committee members our goal is obtainable. To eliminate TTY's structural deficit, we need to reduce the mortgage on the building. The reduced interest expense and principal payments will eliminate our deficit and reduce our cash flow requirements.

Your support to place the Temple in a strong financial condition is priceless. Your commitment is critical to the continued long-term success of Torat Yisrael. By donating to the Campaign, you will leave a legacy for our Synagogue and a home for worship and social gatherings for the Jewish community. Be as generous as you can to place Torat Yisrael on a strong financial footing for now and for the future.

Besides donating to the Capital Campaign 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 more than their original cost is not recognized by the donor.

Our goal is attainable with your support. Members of the Capital Campaign are reaching out to all the congregants. Please answer their calls, meet with them and hear our need. We need everyone's support to reach our goal. Together we are stronger.

If not us, who? Thanks for your support.

Andrew G. Sholes



Torat Yisrael's Cohen School

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving spent with their loved ones.

Friday Night Shabbat services on November 21st, were led by our Religious School students and followed by a potluck dinner. I am so proud of our students, they did an amazing job and it was a nice night that brought the entire congregation together.

Hope to see you at the next couple of events. Our next Parent Café is on Sunday, December 7th at 8:45 AM and will be held in the lobby. Rabbi Saks will also be stopping by!

The School Chanukah Party will be held on Sunday, December 14th at 12:00 PM and should be a fun day!

B'kavod,

Hillary



Sisterhood

We hope you are all keeping warm as the New England weather shows us that fall leads to winter.

Our first annual craft fair was successful thanks to many of our members who volunteered and shopped. We appreciate all of you and we earned enough to help with some of the Temple's needs. We will be having a meeting to see what went well and what we could do better next year. If you have any suggestions, please email us at TTYsisterhood@gmail.com

Our Chanukah party is on Sunday, December 7th at 11:30 am, please remember to RSVP, wear your festive Chanukah outfits and bring an item valued around \$25 for our much-anticipated swap. Best advice is to bring something you may not mind taking home as some of our ladies do competitively swap out their gifts.

Our chair yoga may have been small, but those that attended left relaxed and satisfied with some new skills. We are planning for upcoming activities so please join us. Remember new temple members get free Sisterhood membership and we encourage you to bring prospective members so they can join us, and they do not have to join the temple even if we hope they eventually do join us.

Lastly, we extend our deepest sympathies to Jaime Cohen on the loss of her beloved mother.

Sincerely,

Marion and Leah



Message from Ways & Means

The Ways & Means Committee is excited to announce that planning is already underway for our annual Comedy Night, coming up on Saturday, February 28, 2026! This popular event promises an evening of laughter, friendship, and community spirit — all to support Temple Torat Yisrael's ongoing programs and activities.

To help make this fundraiser a success, we're asking for your support. We'll once again feature our two famous raffle centerpieces — the Restaurant Tree and the

Lottery Tree — both of which have been tremendous moneymakers in past years!

Here's how you can help:

- Donate restaurant gift cards to add to our Restaurant Tree.
- Contribute scratch-off lottery tickets for the Lottery Tree.
- Become an event sponsor — sponsorships help cover costs and ensure that more of the evening's proceeds go directly to Temple programs.

And stay tuned for details about our next Mah Jong Tournament, another fun and friendly fundraiser coming soon!

Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference. Donations and sponsorship pledges can be dropped off at the Temple office or given to a member of the Ways & Means Committee.

Let's make Comedy Night 2026 and all our upcoming events our most successful — and laughter-filled — fundraisers yet!



Message from Yad Chessed

Thank-you to everyone who donated to our November Clothes Drive! The Church of Transfiguration helps many homeless people. This time of year, especially, there's a great need for socks, underwear and thermal underwear. The winter clothing will also be helpful to students in need at Mount Pleasant High School.

This year Yad Chessed will be hosting (2) Blood Drives. One now in December on Sunday morning Dec. 21st from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM and another in the Spring. For any of you who are regular donors and are due to make a donation in December, it would be helpful and much appreciated if you could make your donation at the Temple on Dec. 21st. If that is inconvenient, please ask to have your donation credited to the Temple Torat Yisrael Drive. As always there's a great need. The Blood Center is extremely grateful to have a drive scheduled around the Holidays and for your donation.

Happy Channukah!

Susan H. Sidel, Chairperson
401-884-1899



Kol Nidre Pledge

Please send in your Kol Nidre appeal pledge as soon as possible.

We have an anonymous donor who will match the pledges received before **December 29, 2025!**



Saturday, February 28, 2026

SAVE THE DATE!

Comedy Night at TTY – Laugh the Night Away will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2026.

Temple Office Closures in December/January

Wednesday, December 24th

Thursday, December 25th

Wednesday, December 31st

Thursday, January 1st

In Our Torat Yisrael Family



Mazal Tov to everyone celebrating a Birthday in December!

Elizabeth Handford, Sandford Karp, Jonah Micah Cohen (9 years old), Suzanne Salomon, Julie Malinow, Edward Steiner, Mark Carboni, Linda Carboni, H. Herman Goldman, Valerie Hartman, Alan Silverman, Dora Jane Colletti (12 years old), Tylah Coke (17 years old), Sheila Kaplan, Andrew Katz (15 years old), Jo-Ann Antin, Beverly Sue Goncalves, Deborah Kremsdorf & Beth Salk.

Our Torat Yisrael Community Acknowledges with Thanks the following Generous November 2025 Donations:

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Eunice Abeshaus

-Debra B. Abeshaus

-Marc & Debbie Abeshaus

In Memory of Melvin Blasbalg

-Arnold & Ruth Blasbalg

In Memory of Ellen Brooks

-Seymour Brooks

In Memory of Paul Gershman

-Judy & Norman Goodman

In Memory of Sarra Goikhman

-Zinovy Goikhman

In Memory of Nathan Honig

-Dr. Richard Honig

In Memory of George Labush

-Ruth Ross

In Memory of Eleanor Ladin

-Marc & Miriam Ladin

In Memory of Harriet Landesberg

-Melvin Landesberg

In Memory of Carolyn Salk

-The Salk Family

In Memory of Evelyn Robbins Shapiro

-Joseph & Debra Shapiro

In Memory of Sidney Shapiro

-Joseph & Debra Shapiro

In Honor of Andrew Sholes' First Grandchild!

-David Wasser & Sue Abbotson

In Memory of Irwin "Sonny" Silver

-Allyson & Frank Antin

In Memory of Lois Silver

-Allyson & Frank Antin

In Honor of Susan Smoller's Retirement!

-David Wasser & Sue Abbotson

In Memory of Theodore Zenofsky

-Barbara Zenofsky

EDWIN & GERTRUDE ANTIN ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Edwin Antin

-Frank & Allyson Antin

COHEN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Memory of Marcy Goldenberg Koff

-Susan H. Sidel

-David Wasser & Sue Abbotson

MYER GROSSMAN FUND

In Memory of Marcy Goldenberg Koff

- Alan & Anita Olinsky

STREAMING FUND

In Memory of Sidney Shapiro

- Elaine & Steve Shapiro