



Services

Kabbalat Shabbat Evening Services

Friday, January 3rd, 17th, 24th & 31st from 5:45 PM – 6:15 PM ***Zoom only***

Musical Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Saks w/dinner to follow

See Attached Flyer

Friday, January 10th at 6:00 PM ***In Person & Streaming***

Morning Shabbat

Saturday, January 4th, 18th & 25th at 9:30 AM *** In Person & Zoom***

Morning Shabbat with Karnes Family Baby Naming led by Rabbi Saks

Saturday, January 11th at 9:30 AM ***In person & Zoom***

Tuesday Minyan

Tuesday, January 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th at 5:30 PM ***Zoom only***

January Events

Adult Ed with Rabbi Saks

Sunday, January 12th at 9:00 AM

Sisterhood Bowling Event ***see attached flyer***

Sunday, January 12th at 1:00 PM

Sprouts ***see attached flyer***

Sunday, January 19th at 9:30 AM

Men's Club Event: Table Tennis w/Dinner

Tuesday, January 7th, 14th & 21st at 6:00 PM

Yad Chesed Food Drive ***see attached flyer***

Entire Month of January

February/March Events

Programming: Rock Climbing Event

Saturday, February 8th at 5:45 PM

Sprouts

Sunday, February 9th at 9:30 AM

Sisterhood Book Review

Sunday, February 9th at 11:00 AM

Men's Club: Worldwide Wrap (Tefillin)

Sunday, February 9th Time: TBD

Men's Club Sushi Night

Thursday, February 13th at 6:00 PM

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

Saturday, March 1st at 6:30 PM

Congregational Shabbat Service led by Cohen Religious School

Friday, March 21st at 5:30 PM

Potluck Dinner to Follow



Make 2025 the Year You Spend a lot of time at Torat Yisrael

One of my favorite things to do as a rabbi is to teach Torah. It's fun, exciting, and I always leave my lessons learning a lot from my students, young and old alike. One of those lessons I learned from my students early on in my rabbinate was the following: The best educational programs are the best social programs,

because when you learn something fun and exciting you want to share it and discuss it with the people around you.

Not only is Jewish educational programming naturally social, but *all* of a Jewish community's programming is, by definition, *communal*. A central purpose for each of our programs is that they be experienced together in order to foster greater connections with each other in our Jewish home in East Greenwich. Yet in order for our programs to build strong bonds we need everyone to show up and participate.

In a survey I studied of obstacles faced by Jewish organizations in engaging Jewish teens, the consensus is that the two primary obstacles for teen engagement are competing for teen' time and attention (71%) and attracting participants (53%). Though I do not have data to back it up, I suspect the same can be said of adults as well. There are more options than ever before for young and old alike to spend their time, and though many of us may want to be more involved and build closer relationships with our Torat Yisrael family, participating in a synagogue program and being active in our community may not be that high of a priority.

As we begin this secular new year, let us re-prioritize making synagogue attendance a priority, because what a synagogue like Torat Yisrael offers is unique and different compared to all the other choices out there of how we can spend our time. What we offer is the lesson drawn from the knowledge that the best educational programs are the best social programs. It is the lesson that we have the potential to be an extended family of people who intimately care about each other because we are helping each other search for meaning in our lives. It is the lesson that we are at our best when we make meaning together, conversing over significant topics that inform our minds and fill our souls.

In Judaism, finding meaning in life is not an individual pursuit; it is a collective one. And that's what we're doing together at Torat Yisrael. The more you engage the more you will receive because Judaism and Jewish life have a lot of wisdom and insight to offer. Let's explore it all together in 2025!

Happy New Year,

Rabbi Ari Saks

Jan. Events

Adult Ed w/Rabbi Saks

Sun. Jan 12th @ 9:00 AM

Sisterhood Bowling Event

Sun. Jan. 12th; 1:00 PM

Sprouts

Sun. Jan. 19th @ 9:30 AM

Men's Club Event:

Table Tennis w/ Dinner

Wed. Jan. 7th, 14th & 21st @ 6:00 PM

Yad Chesed Food Drive

Entire month of January

Feb./Mar. Events

Programming: Rock Climbing Event

Sun. Feb 8th @ 5:45 PM

Sprouts

Sun. Feb 9th @ 9:30 AM

Sisterhood Book Review

Sun. Feb 9th @ 11:00 AM

Men's Club

Worldwide Wrap (Tefillin)

Sun. Feb 9th Time: TBD

Men's Club Sushi Night

Thurs. Feb 13th; 6:00 PM

Laugh the Night Away

III Comedy Night

Sat. March 1st; 6:30 PM

Congregational Shabbat Service led by Cohen Religious School w/potluck

Fri. March 21st; 5:30 PM



President's Message

We all play a role in supporting the TTY community, whether through our membership fees, additional monetary donations, volunteer hours, or any combination of these. In a few cases, we also provide some service outside the TTY community. We collect clothes, food, and diapers to be distributed to Rhode Island families in need.

While I participate in these activities where I can, I am always looking for additional ways in which we can actively contribute to effect positive change beyond our community. Recently,

Deb Burka provided us with an opportunity to do just that.

If you have pre-school age children, you know it is very difficult to find affordable, quality childcare. In Rhode Island, the average cost of childcare far exceeds the affordability benchmark established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The state's Child Care Assistance Program provides subsidies to offset, or completely cover, the cost for eligible families. Still, it is difficult for these families to find childcare centers that will accept that level of payment. Deb volunteers for one childcare center in East Greenwich that does - London Bridge Learning Center. Most of the families that send their children to the center have no co-pay. To do this though, the center staff have to raise additional funds, and they do this in part by holding an annual gingerbread house sale.

On a recent Friday, Deb and a small group of supporters spent most of the day in the temple's kitchen making gingerbread to assemble into gingerbread houses. The houses were taken back to the Center, where children decorated them for purchase at the center's event. Deb and the Center Director told me that the contribution of our kitchen was critical in helping them meet their fund-raising goal and Temple Torat Yisrael was recognized as an event sponsor.

It was a small gesture to support the well-being of others in the larger East Greenwich community. It was also a way to let others know about the positive role Temple Torat Yisrael plays in East Greenwich. If you have ideas about how we might be able to support other local nonprofit organizations, please let me know.

L'Shalom,

Michael



Message from Our New Capital Campaign

The Capital Campaign is receiving enthusiastic support from our Temple community. To those members who have already contributed, we thank you for your generous support. To date, our Capital Campaign Fund has received over \$91,000 in contributions and with the matching donation, we have reached \$182,000.00. We are at 18% of our \$1,000,000.00 goal. We have members who have pledged additional donations and others who are making donations in installments. The Committee is in the process of reaching out to all our members. 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 be treated as satisfying the donor's required annual minimum distribution. Donations of marketable securities allows 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 non recognizable to the donor.

All donors will be recognized according to their level of giving by a plaque that will be erected in the Temple. Together we are stronger. We want to make a lasting impact upon the Jewish community in East Greenwich by drastically reducing the Temple's mortgage to place it in strong financial condition. With your generous support, TTY will be able to serve our Jewish community for generations to come.

The Committee has started contacting members individually to solicit donations. Please answer their call and set aside some time to meet with them. We need your support to make our Capital Campaign a success.

If not us, who? There is no one.

Happy Chanukah!

Andrew G. Sholes



Torat Yisrael's Cohen School

It was so wonderful seeing so many of you at our Religious School Shabbat that was held on Friday, December 6th. Hope to see even more families at our next one on Friday, March 21st.

Gr. K/1: Students have been working hard on their Hebrew letter recognition and getting through the whole Hebrew alphabet. They also learned about Hanukkah & how different people celebrate.

Gr. 2: Students have been working hard on their phonetic awareness of Hebrew and learning many more phrases & words. They have been reviewing words that begin with certain letters and different categories such as colors and foods.

Gr. 3/4: Students practiced for their Hanukkah play and were excited to showcase it during Tefillah. They have also been working on their letter sound/recognition. This helps them decode and learn common Hebrew words and prayers.

Gr. 5: Students have been working hard on learning new vocabulary and prayers by using Hebrew to English dictionaries in a competitive game to help them remember.

Gr. 6/7: Students participated in a parsha play along with working on and learning the Amidah for Shabbat morning.

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

Hello Everyone! After a very successful Clothing Drive in November, Yad Chessed has decided to have a Food Drive beginning now through January 31st.

The food will be distributed to the Kosher Food Bank and St. Luke's Food Bank. St. Luke's Food Bank is one of Temple Torat Yisrael's beneficiaries because of

the synagogue's need to help support our local community.

Yad Chessed wishes all of you a Happy Channukah and a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year!

Susan Sidel, Chairman

401-884-1899 shside12@gmail.com



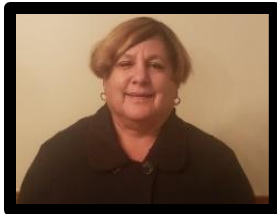
Librarian's Corner

Kantika: A Novel by Elizabeth Graver

A kaleidoscopic portrait of one family's displacement across four countries, *Kantika*—“song” in Ladino—follows the joys and losses of Rebecca Cohen, feisty daughter of the Sephardic elite of early 20th-century Istanbul.

When the Cohens lose their wealth and are forced to move to Barcelona and start anew, Rebecca fashions a life and self from what comes her way—a failed marriage, the need to earn a living, but also passion, pleasure and motherhood. Moving from Spain to Cuba to New York for an arranged second marriage, she faces her greatest challenge—her disabled stepdaughter, Luna, whose feistiness equals her own and whose challenges pit new family against old. Exploring identity, place and exile, *Kantika* also reveals how the female body—in work, art and love—serves as a site of both suffering and joy. A haunting, inspiring meditation on the tenacity of women, this lush, lyrical novel from Elizabeth Graver celebrates the insistence on seizing beauty and grabbing hold of one's one and only life.

Laura Steele



Sisterhood

Hoping the New Year brings health, happiness and peace to you all. Chanukah spanned two years and two months in only eight days!! Hopefully, the extra candles brought some cheer and positivity into the dark days of Winter. Sisterhood celebrated Chanukah with our traditional Yankee Swap, delicious food & the wearing of festive garb at our yearly party on 12/22.

Please join us for Bowling and snacks on January 12th from 1-3 pm at Kingston Bowl. Flyer with more info is included.

We are reading the Book, The Things We Cannot Say by Kellie Rimmer to be discussed on February 9th at 10:30 am led by Barbara Karetny with light snacks. Even if you do not read a lot, check out the summary and join us for some Sisterhood.

Thanks for your continued support, see you all soon.

Leah Ross-Coke and Marion Woolf, Co-Presidents



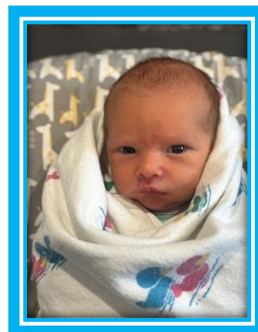
Temple Choir

Temple Torat Yisrael would like to start a Temple Choir. Anyone interested, please email deanna@toratyisrael.org or call the Temple Office: #401-885-6600.

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.

Temple Office Closed on Wednesday, 1/1/25 – New Year's Day



Birth Announcement

Roland George Ritz was born on December 9, 2024 at 10:48 am at Women and Infants Hospital, Providence, Rhode Island to parents, Michaela and Joshua Ritz and big sister, Brienne. He weighed 7lbs. 11oz. and was 20 inches long.

In Our Torat Yisrael Family



Mazal Tov to everyone celebrating a Birthday in January!

Elan Smith (12 years old), Esta Karp, David Levy (16 years old), Rhodes Kentor (12 years old), Dr. Melissa Pezza, Dr. Naveh Levy, Rebecca Ginsburg, Sonya Colletti, Eden Smith (10 years old), Samuel Bryk (13 years old), Ellie Sproul (7 years old), Gary Siperstein, Stephanie Norin, Benjamin Revkin, Judith Steiner, Ruth Blasbalg, Jill Niedelman, Lary Norin, Kurt Salomon (15 years old), Keelia Kentor, Wendy Breene & Alan Olinsky.

Our Torat Yisrael Community Acknowledges with Thanks the following Generous December, 2024 Donations:

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of William Abeshaus
-Debra B. Abeshaus
-Marc & Debbie Abeshaus
In Memory of Lillian Abrams
-Beverly Paris
In Memory of Philip Birenbaum
-Beverly Rotenberg
In Memory of Melvin Blasbalg
-Ruth & Arnold Blasbalg
In Memory of Ida Blazar
-Sylvia Blazar
In Memory of Ellen Brooks
-Seymour Brooks
In Memory of Harold Coleman
-Julie Gray
In Memory of Bertha Davis
-Helen Davis
In Memory of Muriel Davis
-Helen Davis
In Memory of Sarra Goikhman
-Zinoviy Goikhman
In Memory of Hermione Goldman
-Hyman Goldman
In Memory of Celia Greene
-Bernice Greene
In Memory of Leo Greene
-Bernice Greene
In Memory of Sally Heimann
-Sam & Lillian Mendelowitz
In Memory of Edith Honig
-Dr. Richard Honig
In Memory of Nathan Honig
-Dr. Richard Honig
In Honor of Macie Joi Kaminski's Baby
Naming
-Barbara & Ted Grab
In Memory of Eleanor Ladin
-Marc & Miriam Ladin
In Memory of Jerry Manekofsky
-Beverly Paris

In Memory of Clarence D. Marer
-Carol Haig
In Memory of Benjamin Mendelowitz
-Sam & Lillian Mendelowitz
In Memory of Alfred Mittler
-Peter & Elizabeth Mittler
In Memory of Anne B. Musen
-Steven Musen
In Memory of Michele Pam Ross
-Leah Ross-Coke
In Memory of Louis Russian
-Sheila Russian
In Memory of Irwin Silver
-The Family of Norman Antin
-Andrew G. Sholes
-Sue Sidel
In Memory of Rose Tishler
-Catherine L. Copp
In Memory of Ethel Tobias
-Joan Coken
In Memory of Eleanor Westerman
-Joel Westerman
In Memory of Jack Westerman
-Joel Westerman
In Memory of Sara Westerman
-Joel Westerman

MYER GROSSMAN FUND

In Memory of Eda Motelovna Borodkina
-Anita & Alan Olinsky
In Memory of Emma Cohen
-Anita & Alan Olinsky
In Memory of Abraham Mal
-Alan & Anita Olinsky
In Memory of Irwin Silver
-Alan & Anita Olinsky

MICHELE PAM ROSS ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Evelyn Vera Labush
-Ruth Ross
In Memory of Michele Pam Ross
-Ruth Ross

DAVID SMOLLER FUND

In Memory of Les Cohen
-Susan & Michelle Smoller
In Memory of Irwin "Sonny" Silver
-Susan & Michelle Smoller

STREAMING FUND

In Memory of Irwin Silver
-Elaine & Steve Shapiro