



Services

Beach Shabbat at Goddard Park led by Rabbi Saks with potluck dinner to follow
Friday, June 7th at 5:30 PM ***In person only* *see attached flyer***

Kabbalat Shabbat
Friday, June 14th & 21st from 5:45 PM – 6:15 PM ***Zoom only***

No Kabbalat Shabbat Evening Service
Friday, June 28th

Morning Shabbat
Saturday, June 1st, 8th & 22nd at 9:30 AM *** In Person & Zoom***

Shavuot Shabbat Service including a Yizkor
Saturday, June 15th at 9:30 AM ***In Person & Zoom* *see attached flyer***

No Shabbat Morning Service
Saturday, June 29th

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

June Events

Men's Club Breakfast w/Guest Speaker, Mark Patinkin
Sunday, June 2nd beginning at 9:00AM

Michael & Sharon Field's 50th Anniversary Celebration Kiddush
Saturday, June 8th immediately after services

Adult Education with Rabbi Saks
Sunday, June 9th from 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM ***see attached flyer***

Sisterhood End of the Year Celebration at Gregg's Restaurant in North Kingstown
Sunday, June 9th at 4:00 PM ***see attached flyer***

Congregational Meeting
Tuesday, June 25th Refreshments at 6:30 PM Meeting at 7:00 PM ***see attached flyer***

Temple Closing Early on:

Tuesday, June 4th & Thursday, June 20th

Temple Office Closed for Shavuot

Wednesday, June 12th & Thursday, June 13th



The Real Cleaning of Passover

“And they baked the dough which they brought out from Egypt into unleavened cakes, because it did not rise, because they were expelled from Egypt, and they could not delay and they also had not made preparations for themselves” (Exodus 12:39).

It's inevitable. No matter how far in advance we may remind ourselves that Passover is approaching, it is inevitable that it takes us to the last days (or last hours) to do our personal cleaning and preparations necessary to celebrate the holiday according to our personal traditions. And perhaps that's the point. As the quote above teaches us, we're supposed to rush around at the last minute before the holiday, perhaps as a reminder that significant changes (like going from slavery to freedom) aren't gradual changes but sudden ones. Whether it's getting fired from or being hired for a job, the onset of an illness, finding out you're pregnant or a whole host of other significant life moments, we often don't have time to ease ourselves into them. They come upon us like a sudden wave, swooping us into the ocean whether we want to or not. Thus, the central message of Passover is to recognize how freedom can suddenly appear before you.

But if Passover is about the suddenness of freedom, what about the teaching derived by ridding our homes of chametz that Passover is about ridding ourselves of the items that stop us from feeling free? Yes, we may physically achieve freedom quickly, but it takes us a very long time to adequately become spiritually free.

For those of us who truly want to do the self-work of cultivating the feeling of freedom, that process does not occur overnight. Becoming spiritually free often takes a mixture of two steps forward and three steps back as we slowly unlearn the parts of ourselves that need to be changed and replaced. If we're honest about this process, we must realize it will take a long time, a lifetime even. Many of us may never achieve the spiritual goal we set for ourselves.

That's why we need the period we're currently in -- the Omer. It's not only an actual lengthy period of time (50 days) but it's a spiritual time that connects our celebration of freedom at Passover with our acceptance of God's Torah at Shavuot. Or to put it another way, the Omer symbolizes the journey from the suddenness of the moment we realize we want to be free, to the actualization of the process of becoming free. by working to become a new reality of being free. If Passover symbolizes the intuition of freedom, then Shavuot is the practical realization of that intuition in our lives, and the Omer is the period for trying to figure out what that looks like.

As we count down the final days of the Omer in our approach to Shavuot, I invite you to consider how the Omer can help you improve your spiritual selves by cleaning away the *chametz* that impedes your best selves from becoming actualized.

Welcome to the REAL cleaning for Passover.

Rabbi Ari Y. Saks

June Events

**Men's Club Breakfast
w/Guest Speaker, Mark
Patinkin**

Sun. June 2nd; 9:00 AM

**Beach Shabbat led by
Rabbi Saks followed by
potluck dinner**

Fri., June 7th; 5:30 PM

**Michael & Sharon Field's
50th Anniversary
Celebration Kiddush**

Sat. June 8th; immediately
after services

**Adult Education with
Rabbi Saks**

Sun. June 9th; 9:00 AM

**Sisterhood End of the
Year Celebration at
Gregg's Restaurant in
North Kingstown**

Sun. June 9th; 4:00 PM

**Shavuot Shabbat Service
including a Yizkor**

Sat. June 15th at 9:30 AM

Congregational Meeting

Tues. June 25th; Desserts &
Refreshments 6:30 PM;



President's Message

Did you attend the Religious School graduation ceremony a few weeks ago? It was a joyous event that brought many of our members together to see our children show off some of what they had learned over the past nine months. They shared songs, prayers and life lessons with us. Families stayed and mingled after the formal program. The day exemplified some of the best features of synagogue life- prayer, learning, community.

This school year came with its challenges. Hillary Guttin was a new school director. She had little time to find and hire a new teaching staff before the first day of school. She wanted to make changes to a curriculum and a system that had been under the direction of the same person for nine years. Some of the teachers were not as skilled as she and I had hoped. Some parents questioned whether some of the curricular changes would be less effective in giving the children a working knowledge of Hebrew prayer and Jewish learning. I thought the tefillah recited by the younger children to open the ceremony and the discussion of some life lessons learned by the older children clearly demonstrated that overall, this was a successful first school year.

Hillary has been working hard to ensure that next school year will be even better. She is interviewing and hiring some new teachers, more knowledgeable in Hebrew. After meeting with some of the Religious School families to get their thoughts on ways to improve the school experience, she is making curriculum changes and additions to improve and enhance the learning experience for our children. Hillary will also participate in the New Directors' Institute 2024 conference to advance her skills as a Jewish educator. When you see her next Fall, thank her for the job she is doing and the service she's providing.

At the May board meeting, someone raised the issue of Shabbat service attendance. The Friday night video service is generally poorly attended. The Saturday morning service has a core group of attendees to make a minyan but it hasn't grown. The comment led to a discussion in which it was pointed out that different groups in our congregation participate in different sets of activities.

For example, the members who attend most Shabbat services do not come to Youth Shabbat services and vice versa. It was also pointed out that there are groups of families that get together regularly outside of the temple. What became clear is that we have a much more engaged community than many of us appreciate and that various groups of members engage in different aspects of synagogue life.

Would you be willing to share any of those experiences with the rest of the congregation? It could be as easy as sending a sentence or two reporting on what you did and we could share it in a bulletin or email update - perhaps a new section of the bulletin, letting as many congregants as possible know just how robust our community is.

Shalom,

Michael



Torat Yisrael's Cohen School

The Cohen School End of the Year Graduation & Moving Up Ceremony was held on Sunday, May 19th. Rabbi Saks was there to congratulate students.

Attached, you will find the registration form for your children to join us again for next year. [Click here](#) to access form. I hope you will all join me for another wonderful school year next year!



Librarian's Corner

A Day in the Life of Abed Salama: Anatomy of a Jerusalem Tragedy by Nathan Thrall

Five-year-old Milad Salama is excited for a school trip to a theme park on the outskirts of Jerusalem. On the way, his bus collides with a semitrailer. His father, Abed, gets word of the crash and rushes to the site.

The scene is chaos—the children have been taken to different hospitals in Jerusalem and the West Bank; some are missing, others cannot be identified. Abed sets off on an odyssey to learn Milad's fate. It is every parent's worst nightmare, but for Abed it is compounded by the maze of physical, emotional, and bureaucratic obstacles he must

navigate because he is Palestinian. He is on the wrong side of the separation wall, holds the wrong ID to pass the military checkpoints, and has the wrong papers to enter the city of Jerusalem.

Abed's quest to find Milad is interwoven with the stories of a cast of Jewish and Palestinian characters whose lives and histories unexpectedly converge.

I found this book eye-opening and particularly timely and relevant.

Laura Steele



Sisterhood

It is finally summer ladies, or at least it feels that way!! Looking forward to seeing you at our end of the year celebration and elections on Sunday, June 9th at 4 pm at the Gregg's restaurant in North Kingstown. We will each pay for our own and then review our year, have elections and plan on next year!! Please join us and email TTYsisterhood@gmail.com to RSVP.

If you are interested in joining the board and running for office, let us know.

We donated \$200.00 to the temple from our wine sale and beautiful tablecloths were purchased for use during the 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!!

June 7th is the Temple's first Beach Shabbat, so hopefully we will see some of the ladies for a beautiful Shabbat at Goddard Park.

Leah Ross-Coke and Marion Woolf, Co-Presidents



**WAYS
AND MEANS**

Message from Ways and Means

Successful Mah Jong Tournament at Torat Yisrael

On May 5th, Torat Yisrael hosted a highly successful Mah Jong tournament, demonstrating the community's growing interest in this traditional game.

Despite a modest turnout of 28 participants, the event was a resounding success, both in terms of enjoyment and fundraising.

One of the tournament's highlights was the participation of the first male player, breaking traditional gender barriers and adding a new dynamic to the game. This inclusivity reflects the evolving nature of Mah Jong as a universal game, bringing together people of all backgrounds and genders.

Carol Desforges, an experienced Mah Jong organizer, was hired to oversee the event, ensuring its smooth operation. Her expertise and organizational skills were evident, as the tournament proceeded without a hitch, much to the delight of the participants and spectators alike.

Financially, the tournament was a triumph, netting \$1,000. These funds will support the various programs and activities at Temple Torat, contributing to the community's ongoing growth and enrichment.

Participants enjoyed a day filled with strategic play, good food, and a shared passion for Mah Jong. The positive feedback from attendees highlights the event's success and has already sparked anticipation for the next tournament.

"We're thrilled with the enthusiasm everyone showed," and we're looking forward to hosting more tournaments in the future."

A Challah Mishap and a Plea for Support

In an unfortunate turn of events, while preparing dough for challah, our trusty mixer leaped off the counter, collided with the sink which fell off the wall and preceded to hit the floor and shattered beyond repair. This beloved appliance, which has faithfully served us for years, is now in need of replacement.

We are seeking donations to help cover the cost of a new mixer, estimated at \$1,000.00. Any contributions, no matter the size, would be greatly appreciated and will ensure that we can continue baking delicious challah and desserts for our community events.

Thank you for your support and generosity.

Warm regards, Elaine Shapiro and Jo-Ann Antin



Message from Yad Chessed

In the month of May, Marcia Slobin continued to mail greeting cards for Yad Chessed to congregants for various life events.

We made a shiva call, and are here for you for transportation to synagogue services and/or temple events. Please reach out to us via the temple office or via my email (shsidel2@gmail.com), if you would like to make use of this service.

Susan H. Sidel, Chairman



Let's Celebrate Michael & Sharon Field's 50th Anniversary

Michael & Sharon Field will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary on Saturday, June 8th. They are looking forward to sharing this special occasion with their family and the entire Temple Torat Yisrael community.

Please join them for a free kiddush immediately after services sponsored by the Field Family in honor of their special day.

Frederic G. & Lawrence G. Cohen Educational Scholarship

Any student entering full-time college or currently in college full-time who has not received the Cohen Scholarship previously may be eligible for a \$5,000 scholarship over the number of years in college. Parents or parent must be a current member in good standing for the past 5 years prior to applying. They must also be a current member of the Men's Club and/or Sisterhood for the past 5 years before applying. If interested and to obtain an application, please contact the Torat Yisrael office at (401) 885-6600. The application must be received in the Temple office by June 10, 2024.

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**

In Our Torat Yisrael Family



Mazal Tov to everyone celebrating a Birthday in June!

Susan Sidel, Jonathan Viner, Adina Revkin (7 years old), Ruth Guyer, Earl Vanderhoff, Milo Guyer-Osborne (14 years old), Donna Evans, Deborah Burka, Eden Pais, Martha Sholes, Emily Bryk (8 years old) & Arnold Blasbalg.

Mazel Tov to everyone celebrating an Anniversary in June!

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Weisman (41 years), Dr. & Mrs. Aaron Salinger (12 years), Mr. & Mrs. Alan Olinsky (52 years), Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Silverman (57 years), Mr. & Mrs. Barry Kaplan (52 years), Mr. & Mrs. Sanford Karp (40 years), Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Wilfand (47 years), Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Revkin (14 years), Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Salinger (48 years).

Our Torat Yisrael Community Acknowledges with Thanks the following

Generous May 2024 Donations:

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Enid Antine
-Joanie Bookbinder
In Memory of Gladys Bloomenthal
-Elaine Salinger
In Memory of Harry Davis
-Clare & Morris Yaffe
In Honor of Barry & Ellen Golden's
Anniversary!
-Phyllis Potash
In Memory of Yakov Goloborodko
-Lina Goikhman
In Memory of Etta Jagolinzer
-Clare & Morris Yaffe
In Memory of Melvin Kahn
-Ruth Ross
In Memory of Lewis Kenner
-Marian Kenner
In Memory of Tillie Kenner
-Marian Kenner
In Memory of Belle Kotlen
-Clare & Morris Yaffe
In Memory of Greta Labush
-Sheryl Barlow
In Memory of David Potash
-Phyllis Potash

In Memory of Norton M. Rappoport

-Harvey Rappoport

In Memory of Stephen Rappoport

-Andrew G. Sholes

In Memory of Annie Sarah Ross

-Ruth Ross

In Memory of Thelma (Tek) Ross

-Lynn Field

In Memory of Anna R. Sholes

-Andrew G. Sholes

In Memory of Albert J. Shuman

-Bruce Shuman

In Memory of Harry Stairman

-Arnold Stairman

In Memory of Arline Volin

-Julie Gray

In Memory of Sarah Zenofsky

-Barbara Zenofsky

BERTHA & BERNARD GOLDBERG ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Bernard Goldberg

-Bertha & Barbara Goldberg

MYER GROSSMAN FUND

In Memory of Stanley Foster

-Anita & Alan Olinsky

In Memory of Myer Grossman

-Anita & Alan Olinsky

In Memory of Joe Mal

-Anita & Alan Olinsky

JEROME J. KATZ ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Jack Jessel, Jr.

-Trudy Katz

MICHELE PAM ROSS ENDOWMENT FUND

In Honor of Darran Watts' Bar Mitzvah!

-Marcia Slobin

DAVID A. SMOLLER FUND

In Memory of Stephen Rappoport

-Susan Smoller

STREAMING FUND

In Memory of Stephen Rappoport

-Elaine & Steve Shapiro