

TEMPLE TORAT YISRAEL

## **Services**

### **Kabbalat Shabbat Evening Service**

Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 PM \*Zoom only\*

### **Youth Shabbat led by Rabbi Saks followed by potluck dinner**

Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 PM \*In Person only\*

### **Kabbalat Shabbat with Bat Mitzvah of Margot Theroux**

Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 AM \*In Person & via Streaming\*

### **Morning Shabbat**

Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM \*In Person & Zoom\*

### **Shavuot Service including Yizkor with Bat Mitzvah of Ramona Guyer-Osborne**

Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 AM \*In Person & via Streaming\*

### **Tuesday Minyan**

Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM \*Zoom only\*

## **May Events**

Bat Mitzvah of Margot Theroux

Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30am

Men's Gathering

Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00am

Hebrew Bootcamp

Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm

School Graduation/Moving Up Ceremony

Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am

Sprouts

Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am

Tikkun Leil Shavuot w/ free dairy dinner

Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm

Scholar in Residence w/ Rabbi Saks

Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm

Bat Mitzvah of Ramona Guyer-Osborne

Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30am

Sisterhood Brunch

Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> – information to follow

## **SAVE THE DATE:**

Beach Shabbat

Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

Challah with Shoshana

Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>

## From the Rabbi's Desk



### Deepening our Embrace of The Torah of Interfaithing at Torat Yisrael

There are moments in our lives as Jews when we are called to focus not just on the “why” of our traditions, but to wrestle with the profound “what” — the practical, lived expression of our values, particularly in the context of community. Lately, I have found myself returning again and again to the challenge, and opportunity, of supporting and embracing interfaith families here at Torat Yisrael — especially as the complexities of our world become more pressing for us all.

Over the past year, I have led several sessions exploring what I call the Torah of Interfaithing. Their guiding question: What does Jewish wisdom teach us about how and why we can lovingly and authentically welcome interfaith families into the heart of Jewish life? The theoretical “why” behind our actions is powerful, but unless it’s made real in our deeds, it risks remaining a noble idea that never quite touches the ground of our daily reality. Jewish wisdom calls us not just to believe, but to live — and to create vibrant, inclusive community in the process. When we consider what it means to embrace interfaith families, it is tempting to keep the discussion abstract. But for this conversation to matter — for it to shape our lives and our synagogue — it must be rooted in the real, ranging from daily living to the most profound lifecycle moments we experience as individuals and as families.

#### The Life Cycle: Embracing Holy Moments Together

Every religious tradition carves out rituals and wisdom for marking transitions — birth, coming of age, building families, facing loss. These life cycle moments are the heartbeat of community. For interfaith families, each moment becomes simultaneously more complicated and more potentially rich: do family members feel invited to participate fully and authentically? What practices are chosen? Are there points of contention — and if so, can they be reconciled in a way that honors each person’s background and beliefs?

Practically speaking, supporting interfaith families in our community requires us to ask: How can we make these transitions meaningful and inclusive? How can our traditions be a source of blessing rather than tension, a bridge rather than a dividing line?

#### Daily Living: Finding Holiness in Every Day

Life is not just weddings and funerals; it’s the routines and rituals of every day — how we eat, rest, parent, pray, work. Trying to live a committed religious life in today’s busy world is already difficult; how much more complex when two or more faith traditions share a home?

Often, I hear the assumption that interfaith families must simply “go at it alone” — one spouse does Jewish, the other does Christian, for example. But is this really our highest aspiration? Instead, what would it look like for daily life itself to become a site of shared exploration — for interfaith households to discover new ways to pray, to bless, to be present with one another within the beautiful complexity of their inheritances? This is not something we achieve by accident, but by intention and attention — and by communal support.

#### The Jewish Calendar: Seasons of Meaning Together

If daily life is the steady rhythm, then our holidays are the high notes, shaping our sense of time, memory, and identity. Shabbat, Passover, Hanukkah, Rosh Hashanah — these are moments of education, celebration, and togetherness. For interfaith families, the question arises: how do we celebrate in ways that honor both traditions? Can holiday tables be places of welcome, not confusion? Our desire — the desire of so many families — is to make these holy days inclusive, joyful, and rich in meaning for all who gather.

#### The Heart of Interfaithing: Torah, Education, and Inclusion

At the heart of all of these practices lies education. When we learn together, we grow in understanding, appreciation, and love. The Torah of interfaithing, then, is not only about rituals or customs, but about opening ourselves to learning. It’s about being honest that interfaith may not have seemed possible in previous generations, and that we must embrace everyone, including those in our Jewish community who still worry about these changes. But if Torah means anything, it is the call to listen, to learn, to embrace — even, and especially, when it is difficult.

It is not an accident that we are holding this conversation as we approach Shavuot — the holiday when we remember the giving of the Torah, the transmission of our greatest inheritance. On Shavuot, we celebrate the opportunity to learn deep into the night, to receive again and again God’s message of inclusion, love, and holiness.

As we gather this year for Tikkun Leil Shavuot on Thursday, May 21, I invite each of you to participate in learning what it truly means for interfaith families to live faithfully connected to their spiritual and cultural heritages, and for us as a synagogue to become more embracing, more supportive, and more united. Together, in the spirit of Torah, we will seek new ways to make our community a model of what is possible — a place where every family, every child, every background, is welcomed in the circle of our sacred tradition.

With gratitude for your trust and partnership on this path,

Rabbi Ari Y. Saks

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## President's Message

On a recent Sunday morning, a group of people came to the temple to hear David Cicilline speak about his connection to Judaism and why he recently decided to become a Bar Mitzvah. He has an inspiring story that many in the audience could relate to, but the discussion wasn't limited to the importance of Judaism to the president of the Rhode Foundation. We discussed the polarization in our culture, the function of Congress, and Mr. Cicilline's view of the role of the Rhode Island Foundation can play in our state.

Immediately after, members of Sisterhood, along with a few unaffiliated volunteers prepared peanut butter and jelly sandwiches that were delivered to Amos House in Providence. They set up tables, covered them with a plastic sheet to make clean-up easier, and got work making the sandwiches. As they worked, they traded stories, told a few jokes and just beautifully came together in the performance of a mitzvah.

Events such as these are a reminder of the beauty and the benefits of being part of the TTY community. For those who could not participate in either event, I encourage you to look at the monthly bulletins and the weekly emails to see what's happening. If you don't find anything of interest, you are always more than welcome to bring other ideas to any board member. We are always looking for ways to have more members feel part of the community. I hope to hear from you.

L' Shalom,  
Michael

Chag Pesach Sameach,  
Michael



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## Capital Campaign

We are excited to announce that an anonymous donor will match dollar for dollar all new Capital Campaign donations received after December 1, 2025 by Temple Torat Yisrael up to \$100,000.00 to help us reach our goal to raise \$1,000,000. We know that we have a tall challenge to reach that goal. We are over halfway to reaching our goal. We have raised over \$570,000.00. However, we need your support more than ever to get to the finish line. Please contribute as liberally as you can so that we may take full advantage of the Capital Campaign matching donation.

Your support is priceless. Your commitment is critical to the continued long-term success of Torat Yisrael. We need to reduce our outstanding mortgage principal to eliminate the Temple's structural deficit. By donating to the Capital Campaign, you will leave a legacy for our Synagogue to be a continued beacon to the Jewish community for generations to come. Be as generous as you can to place Torat Yisrael on a strong financial footing for now and for the future.

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. If you have not as yet been contacted, please reach out to me at 741-9123 or at [agsholes@sholeslaw.com](mailto:agsholes@sholeslaw.com) to discuss how your donation is important to the Temple's success. Together we are stronger. If not us, who?.

Thanks for your support.  
Andrew G. Sholes, Chair  
Capital Campaign Committee

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## Torat Yisrael's Cohen School

We recently finished reading Parashat Shmini, where the Israelites' priests are anointed and the laws of kashrut are introduced. In this moment, God reminds the people: "You shall sanctify yourselves and be holy, for I am holy."

I feel so proud to be part of our East Greenwich community, where this kind of intentionality is truly lived. While each family may practice differently, there is a shared commitment to showing up with care, awareness, and respect—for ourselves and for one another. Our children are watching, learning, and growing in a community that leads by example, and that is something truly special.

B'kavod,  
Hillary

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## Sisterhood

Finally, Spring has brought us some beautiful flowers and renewed energy! Sisterhood had some good news about our wine sale. We surpassed past sales and were able to put a little cash in our account to be able to donate back to our Temple community.

We got together to do Mitzvot on a Sunday morning making PB and J sandwiches for the unhoused and needy. A bit sticky, but was all for good.

Unfortunately, our boat tour scheduled for May 31st has to be postponed (not in our control) date tbd. Instead we moved up our end of the year elections and luncheon. So keep the date on your calendar and look out for details. If anyone wants to run for any board position, please let us know ASAP.

B'Shalom,  
Leah Ross-Coke and Marion Kaufman Woolf, co-presidents

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## Message from Ways & Means As Our Fiscal Year Comes to a Close...

As we approach the end of another successful fiscal year, it is the perfect time to reflect on all that we have accomplished together as a community. This year has been filled with connection, generosity, and a shared sense of purpose that continues to make our organization so special.

One of the highlights of the year was, once again, our *Laugh the Night Away* fundraiser. With a full room, wonderful food, and an evening filled with laughter, it truly showcased the spirit of our community. The success of our live and silent auctions, raffles, and creative donations demonstrated not only generosity, but also the fun and enthusiasm that make our events so memorable.

Our social and recreational programs also thrived this year. In addition to our regular Mahjong gatherings, we hosted a special Game Day that brought together both Mahjong and Canasta players for a lively and well-attended event. It was a wonderful day of camaraderie, friendly competition, and community spirit. We were especially pleased to introduce and teach both Mahjong and Canasta to new players, helping to grow participation and ensure these traditions continue for years to come.

Our dinners and social programs have continued to be a meaningful part of our calendar, offering members the opportunity to gather, connect, and enjoy time together.

A very special part of what we do is our holiday food offerings. From our prepared meals for holidays to our community-wide food sales, these efforts not only provide convenience and delicious options for families but also serve

as an important fundraiser for our organization. The continued support for these meals is deeply appreciated and reflects the strong connection within our community.

None of this would be possible without the incredible dedication of our volunteers, committee members, and staff. From planning and organizing to cooking, serving, teaching, and setting up, their hard work and commitment are the foundation of everything we do.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we are filled with optimism and excitement. We look forward to building on this year's successes, expanding our programs, welcoming new faces, and continuing the traditions that bring us together. With your continued support and participation, the future is bright.

Thank you for being such an important part of our community. Wishing everyone a wonderful spring and a meaningful close to our fiscal year.

– Ways & Means Committee



## Message from Yad Chessed

Hi Everyone,

Hopefully, spring is finding all of you well.

Our very successful prescription eyeglass collection for the E.G. Lion's Club went very well. The collection ended on April 30, 2026.

I hope that you're aware that Yad Chessed continues to send greeting cards to all of our members for all of life's milestones be it birthdays, anniversaries, get well, and condolences. If we're aware cards will also be sent for Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, Graduations and the purchase of a new home. The card sending is all being done by Marcia Slobin, and her conscientious execution of that job! To that end Marcia is running low on greeting cards. When you receive promotional greeting cards that you can't or won't use, or if you have extra cards that you don't intend to use, would you kindly bring them to the temple office so that Marcia's card inventory is replenished? Thanks in advance!

Susan H. Sidel, Chairman  
401-885-6600



## Let's Celebrate Margot Theroux's Bat Mitzvah

Margot Theroux will be called to the Torah on May 2nd, 2026. She is 12 years old and attends Davisville Middle School in North Kingstown. Margot loves embracing her Jewish roots every summer at Camp Jori. Her favorite part of camp is participating in the Olympics! Margot lives with her mom, dad, and younger sister, Talia... plus her three cats, Ralphie, Neville, and Vera! She enjoys reading, playing the piano, and spending time with her friends. For her mitzvah project, Margot raised over \$1000 to make care packages for Hasbro Children's Hospital. She wants to thank her TTY community for their generosity in supporting her cause.



## Let's Celebrate Ramona Guyer-Osborne's Bat Mitzvah

Ramona will be called to the Torah on May 23, 2026, and will be reading a very important parsha, the presentation of the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai. Ramona is a 7th grader at Cole Middle School. She enjoys art, dance, softball and playing clarinet and cello. She is an excellent student and a great friend. Ramona is doing ten small mitzvah projects—one for each commandment. A few examples include volunteering with Save The Bay, expanding her Jewish knowledge, and collecting clothing and books for Clothes 2 Kids. There will be a collection box at TTY for gently used or new clothing and books. She looks forward to celebrating her Bat Mitzvah with her family, friends and temple community.

## **Mitzvah Garden – Volunteers Needed!**

One of Temple Torat Yisrael best kept secrets is our wonderful Mitzvah Garden. Located in the Temple's backyard, it has been tended to be a dedicated group of volunteers since the garden's inception over 12 years ago. The various produce that has been grown in the Mitzvah Garden each year include tomatoes, peppers, green beans, cucumbers, summer and winter squash, and herbs. The Temple uses some of what is produced for the food that our kitchen volunteers cook during the summer and fall. However, the bountiful garden produces more produce than the Temple consumes. Most of the produce is donated to food pantries in East Greenwich, North Kingstown and Cranston. Since the garden's inception, Judy and Harvey Silverman and Sue Sidel have tended to the garden from growing seedlings, turning over the soil, planting, weeding and harvesting the bounty. We salute them and thank them for their dedicated work to keep the Mitzvah Garden continuously producing vegetables. They have been the primary volunteers to plan the vegetables to be planted and maintain the garden. They need a few volunteers to assist them especially in the spring, to turn over the soil and to weed during the summer months. They need help for tending to the plants, harvesting and delivering the produce to the food pantries. If you would like to volunteer whether it is one hour per week or one hour per month, please contact Michelle at the Temple office (401)885-6600 or email: [Michelle@toratyisrael.org](mailto:Michelle@toratyisrael.org) so that you may be on the schedule and be a part of a wonderful experience.

**TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSING AT 1:30 MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>**

**TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED MAY 22<sup>ND</sup>, MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>**

## **LET'S BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED!**

*Do you have ideas?*

**Do you enjoy spending time with friends?**

**If so -we have the place for you on our committees**

**Ways and Means • Membership • Programming • Social Action  
Sisterhood • Men's Club • Mitzvah Garden • School**

**We are actively recruiting new members to add value.**

**If you are interested in any of these committees,  
please notify Michelle at Torat Yisrael (401)885-6600 so we can include you!**

## In Our Torat Yisrael Family



### Mazal Tov to everyone celebrating a Birthday in May!

Jamey Herzog, Ramona Guyer-Osborne (13 years old), David Wasser, Carlos Goncalves, Ellen Golden, Jason Vanderhoff, Erica Janton, Sadie Sproul (13 years old), Joel Westerman, Michael Field, Tom Sproul, Dr. Harvey Rappoport, Ilene Bojar, Scott Katz, Susan Smoller, Miriam Ladin, Jeffrey Salk, Levi Weinberg (15 years old), Ella Niedelman, Steven Cohen, Macie Joie Kaminski (3 years old), Evelyn Levy (12 years old), Avital Weinberg (13 years old), Dana Ginestet

### Mazal Tov to everyone celebrating an Anniversary in May!

Mr. and Mrs. Zack Kentor (16 years), Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Janton (17 years), Mr. and Mrs. Michael Field (52 years), Dr. Dana Guyer and Dr. Carlos Tilghman-Osborne (18 years), Mr. and Mrs. Barry Golden (38 years)

## Our Torat Yisrael Community Acknowledges with Thanks the following Generous May 2026 Donations:

### GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Irving Abrams  
-Beverly A. Paris

In Memory of Louis Binder  
-Melony Muller

In Memory of Harold David  
-Helen Davis

In Honor of Jake Donovan's Bar Mitzvah  
-Robert & Robin Greenberg

In Memory of Robert Fields  
-H. Herman Goldman

In Memory of Yakov Goloborodka  
-Lina Goikhman

In Memory of Etta Jagolinzer  
-Helen Davis

In Memory of Lewis Kenner  
-Marlan Kenner

In Memory of Tillie Kenner  
-Marlan Kenner

In Memory of Belle Kotlen  
-Helen Davis

In Memory of Richard Kremsdorf  
-Debby Kremsdorf

In Memory of Norton M. Rappoport  
-Harvey & Lorraine Rappoport

In Memory of Stephen Rappoport  
-Harvey & Lorraine Rappoport

In Memory of Ed Roth  
- Robert & Robin Greenberg

In Memory of Albert J. Shuman  
-Bruce Shuman

### MYER GROSSMAN FUND

In Memory of Stanley Foster  
-Anita & Alan Olinsky

In Memory of Rosalie Gleckman  
-Anita & Alan Olinsky

In Memory of Myer Grossman  
-Anita & Alan Olinsky

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND

In Honor of Jake Donovan's Bar Mitzvah  
-Marcia Slobin



TEMPLE  
TORAT YISRAEL

# SPONSOR OUR *Kiddish!*

Honor a special occasion, remember a loved one,  
or simply give back to our shul community.

## YOUR KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIP:



Brings our  
community  
together



Creates a warm  
and welcoming  
atmosphere



Supports the  
operations and  
programs of our shul



Honors traditions  
that connect us  
all

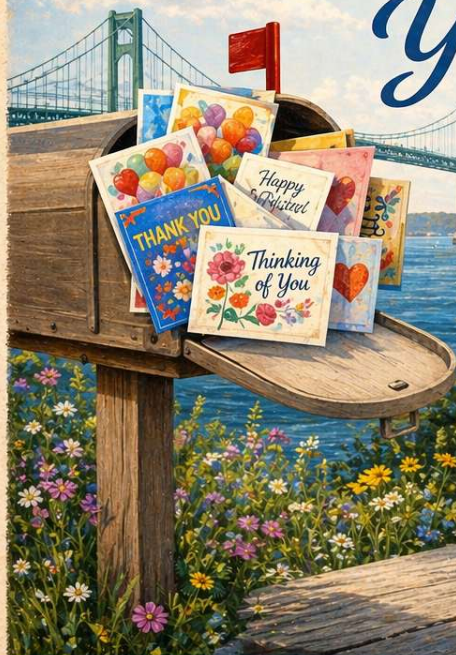
DONATION  
MINIMUM  
**\$50**  
MINIMUM



TO SPONSOR A KIDDUSH, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE 401-885-6600  
Donations will be recognized in the monthly bulletin  
*Thank you for your generosity and continued support!*

# *Please Donate Greeting Cards to Yad Chesed!*

Help Us Spread Kindness  
& Support Those in Need!



TEMPLE TORAT YISRAEL  
There is a collection basket  
in the lobby of the Temple  
for your donated cards.  
*Your kindness  
makes a difference!*

**Donate Your Unused & New Greeting Cards Today!**