



***Note to change in Temple Schedule
Office closed July 3rd, July 6th, and July 20th**

Services

NO SERVICES JULY 3RD OR 4TH

Kabbalat Shabbat Evening Service

Friday, July 10th, 17th, & 31st at 5:45 PM *Zoom only*

Beach Shabbat at Goddard Park – followed by potluck dinner

Friday, July 24th at 5:30pm *In Person Only*

Morning Shabbat Service

Saturday, July 11th, 18th & 25th at 9:30 AM *In Person & Zoom*

Tuesday Minyan

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

July Events

Mahjong – beginners & experienced welcome!

Tuesday, July 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th at 11am

See attached flyer

Beach Shabbat followed by potluck dinner

Friday, July 24th at 5:30pm

See attached flyer



from the Rabbi's Desk

Celebrating America's Birthday as a Jewish Community

As America approaches its 250th birthday this July, I find myself reflecting on what it means for us, as Jews, to celebrate this day—not just as Americans, but as a community shaped by journeys, by hope, and by the enduring dream of religious freedom.

The journey of the Jewish people has always been a story of movement. Across the ages, we have made our lives in the corners of Europe, Asia, Africa, even in the far East—sometimes in great numbers, sometimes in sparse clusters. Throughout our history, we have carried within us a sense of both belonging and impermanence, feeling welcome for a time and then, abruptly, facing the chill of exclusion. There have been moments when we were brought into a land by the favor of a ruler who valued something special we offered—connections, commerce, learning. And there have been times when our presence was only as secure as that ruler's goodwill.

In each of those places, our ability to hold ourselves together as a distinct people is something remarkable. Maybe it was because others always saw us as “the other”—recognizing, for better or for worse, that we were not simply “like everyone else.” Remember what the evil Haman told King Achashverosh in the scroll of Esther which we read every Purim: “There is a people in your land who does not follow your laws,” a misrepresentation that has whispered through the generations and across continents, coloring the Jewish experience in exile.

Yet, in all of that, there is something profoundly different about our experience as Jews in America. The story of Jewish America is not born out of fear—fear for our safety or financial security—but from an idea. America was not simply a haven for us; it was, at its best, a place conceived in the hope that people could choose what they believe, live it openly, and be respected for it. This experiment, unique in history, is at the heart of what we celebrate on the Fourth of July.

Religious freedom is woven into America’s DNA. When Jews first arrived in New Amsterdam (now New York) in the 17th century, the old ways resurfaced quickly: suspicion and limitation were ever-present, and there was a sense that our presence would always be temporary. But rising alongside those old fears was something new—an idea championed by figures like William Penn, who founded Pennsylvania as a “holy experiment.” He dreamed of a land not ruled by religious dogma but animated by the conviction that each person must pursue truth as they understand it, with no authority dictating belief or belonging.

This was revolutionary. In Pennsylvania, Jews could live openly, build synagogues, and be recognized for practicing our traditions—respected for who we are. No longer was our stay conditional or our future uncertain. The ethos William Penn carried influenced the very foundations of the nation, working its way into the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Religious freedom and freedom of speech became not just policies, but promises.

In today’s America, we sometimes forget how special this truly is. In moments of societal anxiety, some fear that newcomers or different beliefs might threaten the character of our country. But the deeper story, so worth celebrating, is that America’s future is a patchwork shaped by all of us—and we each have the right and the responsibility to contribute our traditions, to reason together, to disagree civilly and respectfully.

This confidence in freedom is something I hold dear. In this country, we have achieved levels of acceptance and vibrancy that our ancestors could scarcely imagine. Our community has flourished, growing in religious and ethnic diversity, collaborating and building bonds with people from every walk of life. I am “bullish” on the prospects of the Jewish future in America, especially because I see so many of our young people strive not only to embrace Judaism, but to make it meaningfully their own—a reflection of William Penn’s vision of a society respectful of individual conscience.

We should all be proud of the Jewish community we have built during these 250 years of American history. Our challenge and our opportunity now is to continue weaving our Jewish values into the fabric of this land—to remind ourselves and our neighbors that the story of America is better, richer, and stronger with our voices at the table.

May we move forward together, celebrating this land as a true beacon of freedom—proud of our past, mindful of our present, and hopeful for our future.

With gratitude for our people and for our country.

Rabbi Ari Y. Saks



President’s Message

I’ll start by thanking our congregants who were able to come to the Annual Meeting. For those who were not able to come, here are some of the highlights.

The attendees voted on the slate of nominees for the board positions. Most of the members of Executive Board were reelected for another year. We all look forward to serving this sacred community for another year and thank everyone for the trust they have in us to continue in our

position. Jo-Ann Antin (Co-Vice President of Ways and Means) will continue as a member of the Board of Trustees. Beth Salk (Co-Treasurer) decided not to continue to serve as an officer of the Temple or on the Board of Trustees. Please join me in thanking them for their service.

Andrew Sholes informed us that over \$628,000 was contributed to the Capital Campaign. More contributions are still being received. He presented the following proposal to those in attendance: pay down \$600,000 of the remaining mortgage and refinance \$1.1 million under terms that will reduce our monthly mortgage payment by almost \$10,000. The remaining funds would be used to build the new torah ark for the sanctuary. The meeting attendees voted unanimously to move forward on the proposal.

This huge decrease in our mortgage payments will have an amazingly positive impact on our sustainability. Everyone who contributed deserves a todah rabah! The congregants who solicited those contributions also deserve our gratitude, especially Andrew and Barry Golden, who spearheaded this campaign. We will now shift attention to building a new, redesigned ark in the sanctuary.

I spoke about the different role TTY might play in the lives of our younger families. One initiative for the coming year will be a new Engagement Campaign, designed to provide new services and activities that better fit young family lives. My goal is to have TTY better meet the needs of this demographic, along with the needs of our older members. My hope is that this initiative will further encourage these families to maintain their involvement with the temple well into the future.

I will also be working with some Board members and with Hillary Guttin to combine this year's annual barbeque on August 23 with an open house event to attract new members. Anyone interested in helping to organize the open-house events, whether you are on the Board or not, will be more than welcome.

L'Shalom

Michael

Capital Campaign



We are excited to report that so far, we have raised \$628,000.00 in Capital Campaign donations. We are very appreciative and thankful for the contributions received from our Temple members and friends. In this month's Bulletin, we have published the names of all the donors to date who have generously contributed to our ongoing Capital Campaign to publicly acknowledge their continued commitment to the Temple. It is with our members' generosity that we will be able to place the Temple's finances on a firm footing. The Capital Campaign donations have been used to reduce the Temple's outstanding mortgage principal which has been refinanced to reduce the Temple's monthly mortgage amortization payments.

The Washington Trust Company issued the Temple a commitment letter to refinance the original mortgage upon our paying down the mortgage principal with our Capital Campaign donations. The original mortgage in May 2013 was in the amount of \$2,523,412.00. Over the years, we were able to reduce that outstanding mortgage principal to \$1,700,655.66. With the paydown from our current Capital Campaign, our new mortgage is in the amount of \$1,095,000.00. Quite an accomplishment in 13 years. The refinancing of our mortgage closed on June 30, 2026. During the Temple's annual congregational meeting held on June 23, 2026, the congregation unanimously voted on the mortgage refinance terms. When we set our original \$1,000,000 goal, we knew it would be a challenge to reach. With your help, we should be able to reach \$700,000.00. We need your support more than ever to get to the finish line. There are still a few congregants to whom we will be reaching out before ending this Capital Campaign.

With the excess funds, we are now turning our focus on designing and constructing a new Aron Kodesh ("Ark") for our sanctuary. Once we have a few designs, we will share them with the congregation before making a final decision.

Your commitment is critical to the continued long-term success of Torat Yisrael. Reducing the outstanding mortgage principal and resetting the amortization period greatly helped 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. If you have not yet contributed, now is the time and for those who have contributed, thank you and please consider an additional donation.

If you have not as yet been contacted, please reach out to me at (401) 741-9123 or at agsholes@sholeslaw.com to discuss how your donation is important to the Temple's success. Together we are stronger.

If not us, who? If not now, when?

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

Donors:

Allison and Frank Antin
Ruth and Arnold Blasbalg
Ilene and David Bojar
Deborah Burka
Linda and Mark Carboni
Jaime and Steven Cohen
Helen Davis
Ellen and Barry Golden
Laurie and Stephan Goldman
Norman Goodman
Ruth and Mark Guyer
Dana Guyer and Carlos Tighman-Osborne
Erica Janton
Linda and Mark Karnes
Elinore McCance-Katz and Michael Katz
Steven Katz
Guy Levy
Sarah and Naveh Levy
Suzanne and Reuven Levy
Melony and Robert Muller
Jill and Adam Niedelman
Anita and Alan Olinsky
Melissa and Greg Pezza

Ruth Ross
Beth and Jeffrey Salk
Jenn Schwab
Patricia Flanagan and Mark Schwager
Elaine and Steven Shapiro
Andrew Sholes
Martha and Richard Sholes
Dana and Steven Sholes
Susan Sidel
Judy and Harvey Silverman
Marcia Slobin
Susan Smoller
Sofya Tonkover
Susan Abbotson and David Wasser
Pam Grocer and Dan Weinstein
Linda and Bruce Weisman
Joel Westerman
Marion and Mark Woolf
Barbara Zenofsky



Message from Ways & Means

As summer settles in, things tend to slow down a bit for the Ways & Means Committee—but that doesn't mean we're not planning ahead! In fact, this is the perfect time to start preparing for our biggest fundraiser of the year, Comedy Night, coming up in March.

We need your help! If you come across gift cards, gift certificates, unique items, or experiences that could be donated for our auctions or raffles, please keep us in mind. The earlier we begin collecting donations, the more exciting our prizes will be, and the more successful our fundraiser will be for our temple.

We're also looking for volunteers to help—not just on Ways & Means, but on all of our temple committees. Whether you have a little time or a lot, your help truly makes a difference.

I could especially use a few extra hands at our Friday night dinners. If you'd like to help in the kitchen, serve meals, or assist with cleanup, we'd love to have you join us. Many hands make light work, and it's a wonderful way to meet fellow congregants while supporting our temple community.

As the holidays approach, we'll once again be preparing our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur food sales. I'll keep everyone updated over the next few months, and we'll be looking for volunteers to help make those events a success as well.

Finally, although it's not officially a Ways & Means event, don't forget that Mahjong meets every Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the temple. We've had a terrific response, and players of all skill levels are welcome. We'd love to see some new faces!

Wishing everyone a safe, happy, and relaxing summer. Thank you for your continued support of Temple Torat Yisrael. I'll see you next month!

Elaine Shapiro
Ways & Means Committee

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 turning over the soil and weeding 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@toratysisrael.org so that you may be on the schedule and be a part of a wonderful experience.

Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who has hosted the Rabbi and his family for Friday and Saturday night dinners.

The Rabbi appreciates it very much.

He enjoys the game nights, eating pizza, meeting new congregants, going out for dinner, or just chilling at people's homes.

He loves getting to know the congregation.

If you would like the opportunity to host Rabbi Saks, please contact the office: 401-885-6600 or temple@toratyisrael.org and we'll schedule a night.



In Our Torat Yisrael Family

Mazal Tov to everyone celebrating a Birthday in July!

Matilda Guyer-Osborne (10th birthday), Wyatt Weiss (10th birthday), Helen Davis, Stephan Goldman, Sabrina Weiss, Taylor Pezza (12th birthday), Elaine Salinger, David Bojar, Fredy Norin, Rosalie Goldman (11th birthday), Dr. Sarah Levy, Hannah S. Cohen (12th birthday), Jaime Cohen, Mallory Kaminski (11th birthday), Jenn Schwab, Joseph Shapiro, Ethan Truman Antin (19th birthday), Jonathan William Antin (19th birthday), Joan Bookbinder, Barbara Karetny, Dana Sholes, Miles Katz (6th birthday), Maya Pamina Revkin (12th birthday)

Mazal Tov to everyone celebrating an Anniversary in July!

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Kaplan (53rd anniversary), Drs. Naveh and Sarah Levy (25th anniversary), Mr. and Mrs. Scott Libman (33rd anniversary), Dr. and Mrs. Adam Niedelman (22nd anniversary), Ms. Deborah Burka and Joseph Theroux (17th anniversary)

Our Torah Yisrael Community Acknowledges with Thanks the following Generous July 2026 Donations:

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Cecil Abbotson

-Dr. Susan Abbotson & Davd Wasser

In Memory of Joan Abbotson

-Dr. Susan Abbotson & Davd Wasser

In Memory of Hyman Blasbalg

-Arnold & Ruth Blasbalg

In Memory of Jeff Bookbinder

-Joanie Bookbinder

In Memory of Gerald Carlin

-Paul J. Carlin

In Memory of Gregory Goikhman

-Zinovy Goikhman

In Memory of Frank Goldman

-Hyman Goldman

In Memory of Leonard Yale Goldman

-Laurie & Stephan Goldman

In Memory of Kenneth Goodman

-Norman Goodman

In Memory of Harvey Ladin

-Marc & Miriam Ladin

In Memory of June Kirschbaum

-Hyman Goldman

In Memory of David Potash

-Phyllis Potash

In Memory of Enid Ross

-Ruth Ross

In Memory of Miriam Schindler

-Laurie & Stephan Goldman

In Memory of Marc L. Sholes

-Steven & Dana Sholes

In Memory of Abraham S. Singer

-Lorraine & Harvey Rappoport

In Memory of Samuel W. Tapper

-Michael Tapper

In Memory of Sophia Tonkover

-Sofya Tonkover & Family

In Memory of Louis Weisman

-Peter Silverboerg

KITCHEN FUND

In Honor of Ramona Guyer-Osborne's Bat Mitzvah

-Marcia Slobin

MEYER GROSSMAN FUND

In Memory of Rose Malachowsky

-Anita & Alan Olinsky

DAVID SMOLLER FUND

In Memory of Jacob Pomeraniec

-Susan & Michelle Smoller

In Memory of Jeanette Pomeraniec

-Susan & Michelle Smoller