



**Services**

Kabbalat Shabbat Evening Services

Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:45 PM – 6:15 PM **\*Zoom only\***

Passover-To-Go First Night Seder Takeout Dinner Pickup Date **\*see attached flyer\***

Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> between 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Second Night Passover Seder Dinner with Rabbi Saks joining by Zoom **\*see attached flyer\***

Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM **\*In Person only\***

Friday Night Live Service Celebrating Passover led by Rabbi Saks w/Catered Dinner by Men's Club

**\*see attached flyer\***

Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM **\*In Person & Streaming\***

Morning Shabbat

Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM **\* In Person & Zoom\***

Passover Shabbat Service w/Yizkor led by Rabbi Saks

Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM **\* In Person & Zoom\***

Boisvert Family Baby Naming w/Kiddush Sponsored by Stacey & Brett Boisvert and Linda & Bruce Weisman

Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> during Morning Shabbat Services at 9:30 AM **\* In Person & Zoom\***

Tuesday Minyan

Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM **\*Zoom only\***

**April - June Events**

Family Ice Cream Social **\*see attached flyer\***

Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:00 PM

Adult Ed with Rabbi Saks **\*see attached flyer\***

Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM

Sprouts **\*see attached flyer\***

Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM

Men's Club Breakfast w/Guest Speaker

Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM

Sisterhood Event: Mitzvah Day

Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> Time: TBD

Friday Night Live Service with Israeli Dinner

Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

Torah Study Session with Rabbi Saks

Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM

Sprouts

Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM

Last Day of School: Graduation/Moving Up Ceremony:

Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM

Sisterhood Winery Event

Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> Time: TBD

Mah Jong Tournament **\*see attached flyer\***

Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 AM



## Telling the Story of Passover

As we approach the holiday of Passover, my mind turns to the art of telling the story of Passover. In particular I'm thinking about the methods, the timing, and the layers of how we share the content of the Passover story. For centuries, the primary method we use to tell the story of Passover is through reading the *Haggadah* at the Passover seder. The seder is an ancient ritual, but not that ancient since it was

crafted by the rabbis of the Tannaitic period (approximately 100-300 CE). So how was the story of Passover shared prior to the seder?

We get a hint at the answer by virtue of the fact that the *Haggadah* itself does not retell the story of Passover, rather it is a rabbinic interpretation of six verses in the Torah on what the Israelites would say when they came to the Temple to perform their Passover sacrifices:

*And thou shalt speak and say before the LORD thy God: 'A wandering Aramean was my father, and he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there, few in number; and he became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous. And the Egyptians dealt ill with us, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage. And we cried unto the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice, and saw our affliction, and our toil, and our oppression. And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders. And He hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. And now, behold, I have brought the first of the fruit of the land, which Thou, O LORD, hast given me.' And thou shalt set it down before the LORD thy God, and worship before the LORD thy God. (Deuteronomy 26:5-10).*

Perhaps the reason the rabbis focused the *Haggadah* on interpreting these verses from Deuteronomy instead of telling the story of Passover from Exodus was to keep the continuity of the Passover ritual from one generation to the next. In other words, prior to the seder, Jews would tell the story through performing a sacrifice. Thus, the seder tells the story through the lens of that sacrifice.

While the *Haggadah* retains this rabbinic tradition, there has been a shift in recent decades from simply reading the *Haggadah* in the fashion of our ancient rabbis to telling our own Passover stories. In other words, just like the rabbis adapted the story of the ancient sacrifice to fit their storytelling style, so too do we adapt the rabbis' version to create a meaningful story for ourselves in connection with this beautiful holiday of redemption and freedom.

On April 13th, our congregation will celebrate the second Passover seder as a community. Unfortunately, I will not be able to share this night in person with all of you, but will be joining in by Zoom. The community seder will be in good and capable hands led by **Susan Smoller and David Wasser**. I cannot wait to hear all the good stories about the seder when I return to Torat Yisrael for the conclusion of the Passover holiday (April 18th-20th)!

That Friday night (April 18th), we will build off our seder experiences with a SPECIAL dinner and program that will continue the process started by the Tannaitic rabbis of adapting new ways to tell the story of Passover. Both kinds of storytelling - ancient and modern - are necessary so that the Passover story will continue to be meaningful for generations to come.

Looking forward to seeing you during Passover!

Kol Tuv and Chag Kasher v'Sameach,

Rabbi Ari Y. Saks

## April

**Boisvert Baby Naming w/kiddush sponsored by Stacey & Brett Boisvert and Linda & Bruce Weisman**

Sat. Apr. 5th; 9:30AM

**Family Ice Cream Social**

Sat. Apr 5th; 3:00 – 5:00 PM

**Adult Ed w/Rabbi Saks**

Sun. Apr 6th & 20th; 9:00 AM

**Sprouts**

Sun. Apr 6th; 9:30 AM

**Passover-To-Go First Night Seder Takeout Dinner Pickup Date**

Friday, April 11th;

11:00AM – 1:00PM

**Passover Seder Dinner**

Sun. Apr 13th @ 6:00 PM

**Friday Night Live Service Celebrating Passover w/Dinner catered by Men's Club**

Fri. Apr. 18th; 6:00 PM

**Passover Shabbat Service w/Yizkor**

Sat. Apr. 19th; 9:30 AM

## May/June

**Men's Club Breakfast w/Guest Speaker**

Sun., May 4th; 9:00 AM

**Sisterhood Event: Mitzvah Day**

Sun. May 4th; Time: TBD

**Friday Night Live Service w/Israeli Dinner**

Fri. May 16th; 6:00 PM

**Torah Study Session**

Sat., May 17th; 10:30 AM

**Sprouts**

Sun., May 18th; 9:30 AM

**Last Day of School: Graduation/Moving Up Ceremony**

Sun., May 18th; 10:30 AM

**Sisterhood Winery Event**

Sun., May 18th; Time: TBD

**Mah Jong Tournament**

Sun., June 1st; 10:30 AM



## President's Message

Here we are just a few weeks away from Passover. It's on the minds of most, if not all, of our congregation. During the kiddush after a recent Shabbat morning service, I was listening to a group of friends reminiscing about their families' traditions to prepare for Passover; gathering up the chametz and putting it in a cupboard that was tied shut, cleaning kitchen countertops and lining them with aluminum foil, getting out special Passover dishes and utensils, etc. I remembered that I did not grow up with many traditions. I do remember the

family seder on the first night and helping my mother the day before making matzah balls for the chicken soup. I also remember she would make a matzah brei some mornings during the holiday. She would sprinkle sugar and cinnamon, or pour maple syrup, over the matzah brei for breakfast. That is one tradition I have kept. I always make at least one matzah brei for myself every year (Ellie is not a fan of matzah brei).

During the morning service for that Shabbat, Susan Smoller gave a d'var Torah. She spoke about the way the Israelites organized to construct the Mishkan and she likened it to how we at TTY regularly come together to accomplish things for our community. Just this past month, members of the Ways & Means Committee gathered donations for the Comedy Night auction and a raffle that helped make the evening a fundraising success. Some made tasty food and eye-catching desserts. Others made beautiful decorations for the room. Many other community members attended, brought friends, bought raffle tickets and bid on auction items, all contributing to the success of the event.

More recently, members came together to put on this year's Purim Carnival for our children. They baked hamantaschen, set up games and crafts, and staffed stations to ensure our children had a wonderful day. Many members, most with children in the Religious School, but many without, came to support our children and our Education Director as they led a beautiful Friday night Shabbat service. Members also came on a recent Sunday morning to donate blood for a drive organized by Sue Sidel for the Rhode Island Blood Center. The Center was very grateful for the effort. Heather Robenhymmer of the Center stated that forty people in need of blood will be helped.

I want to take this opportunity to personally and publicly thank everyone for all that they contribute to the congregation. On our website, we describe ourselves as a "warm, vibrant and diverse community." It's so clear that this is not simply a slogan. This is who we are. I so look forward to continuing to be a part.

L'Shalom,

Michael



## Message from Our New Capital Campaign

Our Capital Campaign is vital for Temple Torat Yisrael's financial future. Our goal is to raise \$1,000,000 to reduce the Temple's mortgage and to build a new Aron Kodesh for our sanctuary. The Aron Kodesh is the focal point of the sanctuary and houses our Torahs. Our Temple is supported by the generosity of our members. Your commitment in perpetuating the Jewish religion and expanding our Jewish community in East Greenwich is the strength of our Temple. Your commitment to the Temple will make our fund raiser achievable.

The Committee continues to reach out to our members. We are over 1/3 toward our Capital Campaign goal from your generosity. Your support to the Campaign is heartwarming.

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? If not now, when? Thanks for your support.

Andrew G. Sholes



## Torat Yisrael's Cohen School

So much has happened in the last few weeks! Our students had so much fun at our trip to Tamarisk, the Purim Carnival, and really showed their stuff at the Religious School Shabbat! Read on to find out more about what is going on in class...

Gr. K/1: Students are working hard on their Hebrew letter recognition with a theme while getting through the whole Hebrew alphabet. Students are also beginning to learn about Pesach (Passover).

Gr. 2: Students are working hard on their phonetic awareness in Hebrew, and learning many more Hebrew phrases and words. They are also learning about Passover, by creating works of art using the symbols of the holiday.

Gr. 3/4: Students have been continuing their decoding Hebrew skills through activities such as word searches and matching games and are beginning to learn about Passover by creating a Pesach placemat with the order of the Seder.

Gr. 5: Students continued their learning about various holidays. They are beginning to learn about Passover and will be creating visuals using the symbols of the holiday.

Gr. 6/7: Studying what an upstander is and pinpointing characteristics and connecting those traits in relation to the Passover story. Students will begin their Holocaust unit, with focus on the theme of being an upstander and fighting for justice.

*B'kavod,*

Hillary



## Message from Ways and Means

On March 1, 2025, Temple Torat Yisrael hosted "Laugh the Night Away IV," a comedy night that brought joy and unity to our community. The evening featured outstanding performances by talented comedians, numerous prizes, and a spirited auction led by Rabbi Saks, who remarkably secured \$800 for four dozen eggs, showcasing his exceptional skills and adding a unique touch to the event. This successful evening was

made possible by the dedication of our incredible committee members: Jo-Ann Antin; Ellen and Barry Golden; Linda and Bruce Weisman; Marion Woolf; Elaine Salinger; Leah Ross-Coke; Michael Katz; Susan Smoller and Andy Sholes. Their commitment and teamwork ensured a memorable experience for all.

Join us for a meaningful and festive Second Night Passover Seder on Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> in our Social Hall. The evening will feature a comprehensive Passover dinner, from soup to dessert. The cost is \$36.00 for Members and their guests only. Reservations and payments must be made by April 4<sup>th</sup>. To reserve your spot, please call TTY at 401-885-6600.

Mark your calendars for our annual Mahjong Tournament on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The event includes a delicious lunch, prizes for the top three high scores, and a 50/50 raffle. The participation fee is \$50.00. To secure your spot, please call our office at 401-885-6600 and feel free to invite your friends.

For more details about services, programs, or upcoming events, please visit our website at [www.toratyisrael.org](http://www.toratyisrael.org) or contact the office at 401-885-6600. We look forward to your participation in these events, which strengthen our community bonds and enrich our shared experiences.



## Message from Yad Chessed

Hi everyone!

The Temple had a very successful Blood Drive on Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank-you to all who donated, and to those that tried to donate and, for one reason or another, were unable to. There were at least three who donated at other donor

centers and asked to have their donation applied to the Torat Yisrael Drive. Thank you to Deanna and Sheryl in the office and Josh for all your help and encouragement, for the effective publicity and help with set-up!

Yad Chessed was in close contact with Heather Robenhymer at the Blood Center during the planning process.

[Click here](#) to view thank-you note sent from Heather to Torat Yisrael.

Thanks to everyone who made this a successful event!

Susan H. Sidel, Chairman

401-884-1899 [shsidel2@gmail.com](mailto:shsidel2@gmail.com)



## Librarian's Corner

### *The Gates of Gaza* by Amir Tibon

A gripping first-person account of how one Israeli grandfather helped rescue two generations of his family on October 7, 2023—a saga that reveals the deep tensions and systemic failures behind Hamas's attacks that day.

On the morning of October 7, Amir Tibon and his wife were awakened by mortar rounds exploding near their home in Kibbutz Nahal Oz, a progressive Israeli community less than a mile from Gaza City. Soon, they were holding their two young daughters in the family's reinforced safe room, urging them not to cry as gunfire echoed just outside the door. With his cell phone battery running low, Amir texted his father: "The girls are behaving really well, but I'm worried they'll lose patience soon and Hamas will hear us."

Some 45 miles north, Amir's parents had just cut short an early morning swim along the shores of Tel Aviv. Now, they jumped in their Jeep and sped toward Nahal Oz, armed only with a pistol but intent on saving their family at all costs.

In *The Gates of Gaza*, Amir Tibon tells this harrowing story in full for the first time. He describes his family's ordeal—and the bravery that ultimately led to their rescue—alongside the histories of the place they call home and the systems of power that have kept them and their neighbors in Gaza in harm's way for decades.

Woven throughout is Tibon's own expertise as a longtime international correspondent, as well as more than thirty original interviews: with residents of his kibbutz, with the Israeli soldiers who helped to wrest it from the hands of Hamas, and with experts on Gaza, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the failed peace process. More than one family's odyssey, *The Gates of Gaza* is the intimate story of a tight-knit community and the broader saga of war, occupation, and hostility between two national movements—a conflict that has not yet extinguished the enduring hope for peace.

Laura Steele



## Sisterhood

Happy Spring!!

Sisterhood celebrated Shabbat and the value of women in Jewish history on Saturday, March 15th. Rabbi Saks commented that there is a value of Sisterhood in the synagogue community all throughout the country and is noticed here at Torat Yisrael.

Angela Libman added her beautiful melodies to the service and many women had parts or added to our congregational spirit. A delicious kiddush lunch followed the service including homemade hamantaschen. The connection to Purim is the role of Queen Esther who was the heroine in saving the Jewish people. A great example of the importance of women.

Our next event is a Mitzvah Day on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, when Sisterhood and others are invited to make knitted caps for Israeli soldiers. You do not need to know how to knit, others will show you and it will be a fun and meaningful project. Exact time to be announced soon.

Leah Ross-Coke and Marion Woolf, Co-Presidents



## Exciting Mitzvah project for IDF!

Temple Torat Yisrael Sisterhood is sponsoring a project to knit hats for the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). The hats will be sent to Israel and donated to soldiers who need them. The hats are used as

insulation under the soldiers' helmets to keep the soldiers head warm.

There is a specific pattern that must be followed to ensure the hats are in compliance with the IDF regulations. Only worsted black yarn may be used and is described on the pattern.

[Click here](#) for the pattern. If you are unable to download pattern through this link and are in need of a paper copy, please contact the Temple office and they can provide you with one to pick up.

If you are a knitter, please participate and drop off the hats at the Temple as they are completed. This is an ongoing project and open to all knitters! Please ask your friends to assist in this mitzva and let the committee know, through the Temple office, if you need instruction or have any questions. The committee is composed of Lynn Field, Elaine Salinger and Susan Smoller. Thank you.

## 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.

[Click here](#) for application and criteria page with more details and deadline dates.

## In Our Torat Yisrael Family



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

Sherrie Salinger, Sheryl Barlow, Nathan Malinow (18 years old), Adair Kentor (9 years old), Rachel Silverman, Samantha Barr (10 years old), Sigal Bryk, Anita Olinsky, Barbara Goldberg, Tim Handford, Stephen Salinger, Allyson Antin, Joseph Janton, Sharon Field, Emma Donovan (10 years old), Baya Ginsburg (21 years old), Esme Ginsburg (21 years old) & Scott Libman.

**Mazel Tov to everyone celebrating an Anniversary in April!** Mr. & Mrs. Steven Shapiro (52 years).

## Our Torat Yisrael Community Acknowledges with Thanks the following Generous March

### 2025 Donations:

#### GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Trude Antin  
-Norman B. Antin  
-Ellen, Barry, Mitchell & Eddy Golden  
In Memory of Irene Buckin  
--Sheila Kaplan  
In Memory of Bella Goloborodko  
-Lina Goikhman  
In Memory of Helmut Hirsch  
-Helen Davis  
In Memory of Fannie M. Klitzner  
-Lynn Field  
In Memory of Helene Liner  
-Arnold & Ruth Blasbalg  
In Memory of William Meyerson  
-Mr. & Mrs. Larry Meyerson  
In Memory of Esther Monzack  
-Jason & Judy Monzack  
In Memory of Rose Rottenberg  
-Marcia Slobin  
In Memory of Bella Rubin  
- Ruth & Arnold Blasbalg  
In Memory of Anna Sholes  
-Andrew G. Sholes  
In Memory of Helen Janis Shuman  
-Bruce Shuman  
In Memory of Myron T. Slobin  
-Marcia Slobin  
In Memory of Clara Stairman  
-Arnold Stairman

#### MYER GROSSMAN FUND

In Memory of Bella Foster  
-Alan & Anita Olinsky  
In Memory of Clara Olinsky  
-Alan & Anita Olinsky

#### LEO MAL ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Leo Mal  
-Alan & Anita Olinsky

#### STREAMING FUND

In Memory of Margaret Meisner  
-Elaine & Steve Shapiro