



**Services**

Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:45 PM – 6:15 PM **\*Zoom only\***

Youth Shabbat led by Rabbi Saks w/potluck dinner

Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM **\*In person only\*** **\*see attached flyer\***

Bar Mitzvah of Levi Weinberg

Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM **\* In Person & Streaming\***

Morning Shabbat

Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM **\* In Person & Zoom\***

Bat Mitzvah of Miriam Viner

Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 AM **\* In Person & Streaming\***

Tuesday Minyan

Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM **\*Zoom only\***

**September Events**

First Day of School:

Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM **\*see attached flyer\***

Adult Education with Rabbi Saks:

Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> & September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 AM

Sprouts:

Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM **\*see attached flyer\***

Congregational BBQ:

Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM **\*see attached flyer\***

Sisterhood Event: Providence River Boat Tour:

Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM

Sisterhood Event: Welcome Back Brunch:

Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM **\*see attached flyer\***

**High Holidays – Schedule of Services – \*SEE ATTACHED FLYER\***

Selichot:

Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

Erev Rosh Hashanah:

Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM

1<sup>st</sup> Day Rosh Hashanah:

Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 9:00 AM

\*Rosh Hashanah Children’s Service

Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 10:15 AM

2<sup>nd</sup> Day Rosh Hashanah:

Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 AM

\*Tashlich by the Pond (immediately following the service)

Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM

Yom Kippur Kol Nidre:

Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

Yom Kippur

Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 AM

\*Yom Kippur Children’s Service

Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:15 AM

\*(Pre-K – 1 in the school wing) \*(Grs. 2 – 6 in the chapel)

Minhah (afternoon)/Ne’ilah Service

Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:45 PM

Havdalah w/Community Break-the-fast

Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 PM

Sukkah Raising

Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

Sukkot Celebration

Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM

Shake Lulav w/Rabbi Saks in Sukkah

Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM

Simchat Torah Dinner

Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM

Simchat Torah Ma’ariv Service w/dancing & candy

Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM

Shemini Atzeret with Yizkor Service

Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM

**All High Holiday services will be In Person w/Streaming except Selichot, which will be In Person only**



## A leap of faith?:

### The Torah of Tandem Skydiving

For my 40th birthday, I fulfilled a life-long dream to skydive. But as I was about to leap out of the aircraft strapped to my instructor Dakota, I couldn't believe what I was about to do. Yes, I always wanted to

skydive, but to jump out of a stable and safe plane?!? I mean, that's crazy! As if sensing my last second reservations, Dakota assured me everything would be OK. He told me to cling tightly to the safety straps of my harness and once we were stable, he'd tap them signaling I could let go and put my hands up as we were free falling.

So, we leapt.

I tightly held onto the straps until Dakota tapped the harness allowing me to let go. I can't accurately describe the feeling of letting go of the straps and putting my hands up while falling through the sky. It was incredible. I felt like I could fly. But I couldn't have flown if I didn't take that leap out of the plane.

Many folks I've talked to about my skydiving experience tell me they never would have tried it themselves. Who in their right mind jumps out of a perfectly good airplane! It's too dangerous. Even when I shared how tandem skydiving - in which you are attached to an experienced skydiver like Dakota - has a strong safety record, many people could not believe it. The perceived risk of skydiving is so great that they mistook it for actual risk.

This kind of mistake, of confusing perceived risk for actual risk, is lamented by many scholars as a reason for why human beings are not good at assessing risk. We are scared about things that are safe, like tandem skydiving, and we feel safe about things that should make us fearful, like driving a car.

So why do we make such mistakes? Or to address the question from a spiritual perspective, what is unique to the human condition that we confuse our beliefs (like how "skydiving seems dangerous") for reality (like how "tandem skydiving is safe")? The spiritual scholar Alan Watts, in his book *The Wisdom of Insecurity*, delves deeply into this issue and argues that the answer can be found in understanding the difference between "belief" and "faith." Belief, says Watts, is a way of viewing the world as we "lie, or wish, it to be." Since jumping out of a plane sounds very risky, it must be so! On the other hand, faith is an approach to dealing with reality that is ever-changing and often, though not always, contrary to what we believe it to be. Our beliefs make us feel secure by giving us something to cling to, especially when life is hard and we want to know for sure that everything will be ok. On the other hand, faith is the courage to let go of beliefs that inhibit our ability to take the "leap of faith" necessary to embrace the opportunities available in our insecure world.

Watts clearly holds that "faith" is superior to "belief" because while belief clings to outdated ideas, faith gives us the ability to let go and experience the world as it is. While I find much of Watts' thinking on this topic very interesting, I wonder if he's ultimately mistaken about the superiority of faith over belief. Perhaps instead they should be read more in tandem with one another than opposing one another. Perhaps life is not about taking a leap of faith but rather taking a leap of belief that can turn into a flight of faith.

To return to the tandem skydiving metaphor, my instructor Dakota told me that when he'd tap my safety harness, I could let go from clinging to feel like I was flying. If I clung to my harness throughout the jump, I would be safe, but I would never have been able to fly. However, if I put my hands out when I first jumped,

#### Sept. Services/Events

**Bar Mitzvah of Levi Weinberg**

Sat. Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>; 9:30am

**First Day of School**

Sun. Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>; 9:00am

**Adult Ed w/Rabbi Saks**

Sun. Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>; 9:00am

**Sprouts**

Sun. Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>; 9:30am

**Congregational BBQ**

Sun. Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>; 12:00pm

**Sisterhood Event: Prov.**

**River Boat Tour**

Sun. Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>; 4:00pm

**Sisterhood Welcome**

**Back Brunch**

Sun. Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>; 10:30am

**Youth Shabbat led by**

**Rabbi Saks w/potluck**

**dinner**

Fri. Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>; 5:30pm

**Bat Mitzvah of Miriam**

**Viner**

Sat. Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>; 9:30am

**Selichot**

Sat. Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>; 7:00pm

#### Oct. Services/Events

**Erev Rosh Hashanah**

Wed. Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>; 6:00pm

**1<sup>st</sup> Day Rosh Hashanah**

Thurs. Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>; 9:00am

**RH: Children's Service**

Thurs. Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>; 10:15am

**2<sup>nd</sup> Day Rosh Hashanah**

Fri. Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>; 9:00 am

**Tashlich by the Pond**

Fri. Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>; 12:30pm

**Yom Kippur Kol Nidre**

Fri. Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>; 6:00pm

**Yom Kippur**

Sat. Oct 12<sup>th</sup>; 9:00am

**YK: Children's Service**

Sat. Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>; 10:15am

**Minhah/Ne'ilah Service**

Sat. Oct 12<sup>th</sup>; 4:45pm

**Havdalah Community**

**Break-the-fast**

Sat. Oct 12<sup>th</sup>; 6:45pm

**Sukkah Raising**

Mon. Oct 14<sup>th</sup>; 10:00am

**Sukkot Celebration**

Sun. Oct 20<sup>th</sup>; 12:00pm

**Shake Lulav w/Rabbi Saks**

**in the Sukkah**

Fri. Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>; 5:00pm

**Shake the Lulav w/Rabbi**

**Saks in the Sukkah**

Fri. Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>; 5:00pm

**Simchat Torah Dinner**

Fri. Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>; 5:30pm

**Ma'ariv Service w/dancing**

**& candy**

Fri. Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>; 6:30pm

**Shemini Atzeret Service**

**w/Yizkor**

Sat. Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>; 9:30am

we would not be stable enough to fly together. Sometimes clinging onto a core belief is the first step to eventually being able to have the faith to let go and experience the thrill of living.

There is a beautiful Hasidic story from the Holocaust about a different kind of tandem skydiving. Once there was a group of Nazi concentration camp guards who forced a rebbe and his followers to dig a massive hole for a mass grave. In their sick and twisted sense of humor, the Nazis said to the rebbe and his followers, "If you can jump across this massive hole, we will let you live. But if you jump and fall in, we will kill you. And if you don't jump at all, we will kill you." There was no way the rebbe and his followers could physically jump to the other side of the massive hole, but what choice did they have? So, they jumped, and miraculously everyone made it to the other side. When they got to the other side, the rebbe's followers were so astonished they asked the rebbe, "How did you fly across?" The rebbe answered, "As I jumped, I saw an angel come down and they brought me across." Then with a similar feeling of astonishment the rebbe turned to his followers and asked, "My friends, how did you fly across?" They looked at each other and smiled, "Rebbe, as you were holding onto the angel, we were clinging onto your coattails."

May we all cling to beliefs that securely get us in the air and may we have the courage to let go and fill our hearts with the faith we need to fly.

All the best,

Rabbi Ari Yehuda Saks



## President's Message

Here we are at the end of summer and the pace of temple life is picking up. The Rabbi is back from Camp Ramah, members of the Religious Committee are preparing for High Holiday services, Hillary Guttin and the Religious School teachers are preparing for the school opening on September 8<sup>th</sup>, and others, some on the board and some not, are preparing for our annual cookout, which will also take place on September 8<sup>th</sup>. I'm looking forward to greeting the parents dropping off their children at the school and speaking with

everyone at the cookout. There are some new and not so new members, whom I haven't met in person. I'll be looking to introduce myself to new faces, but if I miss you, please walk up and introduce yourself.

At a recent Sunday morning Adult Education class led by Rabbi Saks, we discussed the role of the synagogue in the United States. He said that in Israel, synagogues are generally not the religious center of communities. Israelis pray in any number of places- synagogues, their homes, the Western Wall or the Temple Mount. Someone asked why he thought some people join synagogues but do not regularly participate in synagogue life. I'm sure there are many factors that make up the answer to that question, but Rabbi Saks mention one that I hadn't thought of- the American synagogue is in some ways like a country club, a culture developed in part from the fact that American Jews in the past were excluded from all types of established social clubs.

I had never thought about synagogues in that way, so I set out to learn a bit more about this concept. I found an opinion piece from 2017 in a publication of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency by Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz entitled, "The country club synagogue and future of orthodoxy." In the piece, Rabbi Steinmetz suggests that most synagogues in the United States are "country clubs." They exist to serve their members. Members may have their own seats. A stranger coming into a service might be told they are in someone else's seat. I never experienced that, but I remember reading the same example in Ron Wolfson's book, "Creating Sacred Communities."

I'm glad that we do not fit that model but are best described as an "open house" synagogue. I hope you agree. In my experience at TTY, anyone walking into the temple or coming to a service is warmly welcomed and invited to the kiddish and lunch. No one would ever be told, "you're sitting in my seat." I'm proud to be a member of such a welcoming synagogue. If by chance, you have not felt so warmly welcomed, please reach out to me and give me a chance to change that perception.

I look forward to all of seeing you at the Annual Cookout and hope to see more of you at an upcoming Shabbat morning service.

L'shalom,

Michael



## Torat Yisrael's Cohen School

Hello wonderful Cohen School families! We are so excited for the beginning of school on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>!

If you have not registered your child for our Religious School, please [Click here](#) to access form. If you have any questions, please contact Sheryl at the Temple office at [sheryl@toratyisrael.org](mailto:sheryl@toratyisrael.org). Our first parent meeting will take place at 9:30am in the social hall. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

Please find below the teacher assignments for our classes (things have changed!) and the schedule for our school day.

### Teachers:

K/1: Julia Levine  
2: Roy Vaknin  
3/4: Rivkie Gerber  
5: Reese Sock  
6/7: Andrea Allgood

### Here is the layout for the school day:

8:45-9:00: Students arrive  
9:00-9:10: All-school morning meeting  
9:10-10:10: Period 1  
10:10-10:25: snack/recess  
10:30-11:30: Period 2  
11:30-12:00: *T'fillah* in the chapel  
\*Pick up will be in the synagogue lobby outside the chapel\*

If you are staying for the Sunday Hebrew cohort, that will be from 12:15-12:45. Pick up from then will be at 12:45pm at the school building.

If you have not sent me your preference for the midweek Hebrew option, please do so ASAP. The final decision will be sent out next week.

If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to ask. I am available via phone or email.

*B'kavod,*

Hillary



## librarian's Corner

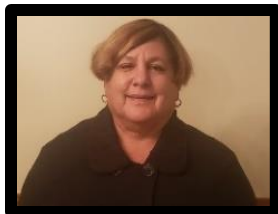
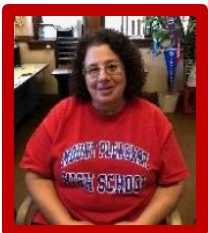
### *The Woman Beyond the Sea* by Sarit Yishai-Levi

An immersive historical tale spanning the life stories of three women, *The Woman Beyond the Sea* traces the paths of a daughter, mother, and grandmother who led entirely separate lives, until finally their stories and their hearts are joined together.

Eliya thinks that she's finally found true love and passion with her charismatic and demanding husband, an aspiring novelist—until he ends their relationship in a Paris café, spurring her suicide attempt. Seeking to heal herself, Eliya is compelled to piece together the jagged shards of her life and history.

Eliya's heart-wrenching journey leads her to a profound and unexpected love, renewed family ties, and a reconciliation with her orphaned mother, Lily. Together, the two women embark on a quest to discover the truth about themselves and Lily's own origins...and the unknown woman who set their stories in motion.

Laura Steele



## Sisterhood

The Sisterhood has been meeting and planning this summer and we are excited to see many of you on our Providence River Boat Tour on September 8<sup>th</sup> and at the Welcome Back Brunch on September 15<sup>th</sup> at the Temple, starting at 10:30 am.

Remember that if you are a member of the Sisterhood for 5 consecutive years and your husband, a member of the Men's Club, then your college aged children will be eligible for the \$5,000 Cohen Scholarship.

Letters went out to our members from last year. Please invite others as they do not need to belong to the Temple to join the Sisterhood. Bring them to our brunch. Also, any first-year temple members are welcome to join us for free!! Looking forward to seeing you in person on the 8<sup>th</sup> for our Temple Barbeque or later that afternoon at the Boat Tour. We have some great things happening this year, some traditional events like our Chanukah Party and Sisterhood Shabbat and some new ideas, like an art night, and a group Mitzvah Day.

Please contact us if you have any questions at [TTYsisterhood@gmail.com](mailto:TTYsisterhood@gmail.com)

Leah Ross-Coke and Marion Woolf, Co-Presidents



## Let's Celebrate Miriam Viner's Bat Mitzvah

"Miriam Viner will be called to the Torah on September 21, 2024. The Torah portion she will be reading is Ki Tavo.

Miriam is in seventh grade at Cole Middle School. Her interests include cross-country running, dance, and violin.

She looks forward to celebrating with family, friends, and the Torat Yisrael community."

## Message from Temple Office

If you would like your monthly bulletin, yearzeit 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](mailto:Temple@toratyisrael.org).

## Cemetery Plots Available for Sale

Torat Yisrael has 2 sets of two cemetery plots available for sale at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery in Warwick, Rhode Island. If you are interested in purchasing either or both sets of these plots, please contact Barry Golden ([goldenbarry@ymail.com](mailto:goldenbarry@ymail.com)) for more information on section and plot location as well as pricing.

### Temple Office Closed

Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> for Labor Day

## In Our Torat Yisrael Family



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

Miriam Viner (12 years old), Joseph Theroux, Charlotte Katz (11 years old), Talia Theroux (8 years old). Jacob (Jake) Donovan (12 years old), Eve Handford (12 years old), Brandon Salomon, Bonnie Epstein-Silverman, Angela Libman, Dr. Adam Niedelman, Liam Levy (17 years old), Barry Kaplan, Barry Golden, Tamar Weinberg (8 years old), Lily Salomon (12 years old) & Elaine Shapiro.

### Mazel Tov to everyone celebrating an Anniversary in September!

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Sholes (8 years), Mrs. Meredith Barr & Mr. David Barr, Jr. (12 years), Mr. & Mrs. Steven Cohen (16 years), Mr. & Mrs. Brandon Salomon (23 years) & Rachel and Daniel Silverman (28 years).



# Our Torat Yisrael Community Acknowledges with Thanks the following

## Generous August 2024 Donations:

### GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Sheldon Sydney Abrams

-Beverly Mann-Paris

In Memory of Beatrice Bojar

-David Bojar

In Memory of William Bojar

-David & Ilene Bojar

In Memory of Marty Cooper

-Lynn Field

In Memory of Sanford Cotton

-Beth & Jeff Salk

In Memory of Aaron Davis

-Helen Davis

-Clare & Morris Yaffe

In Memory of Marc Davis

-Helen Davis

-Clare & Morris Yaffe

In Memory of Frank Goldman

-Hyman Goldman

In Memory of Foma Kirzhner

-Sofya Tonkover & family

In Memory of David Kotlen

-Helen Davis

-Clare & Morris Yaffe

In Memory of Eve Mittler

-Peter & Elizabeth Mittler

In Memory of Enid Ross

-Leah Ross-Coke

-Ruth Ross

In Memory of Sarah Ross

-Lynn Field

In Memory of Maurice Rothberg

-Rabbi & Mrs. Samuel Rothberg

In Memory of Harold Salk

-Lynn Field

-Michael & Sharon Field

-Ellen & Barry Golden

-Barbara & Billy Karetny

-Leah Ross-Coke

-Andrew G. Sholes

In Memory of Martha Schneider

-Peter & Elizabeth Mittler

In Memory of Melvin Shuman

-Bruce Shuman

In Memory of Bernard Silver

-Ellen & Barry Golden

In Memory of Samuel Blake Steiner

-Ed & Judy Steiner

In Memory of Carole Kwasha Sugarman

-Iris Sugarman Dershowitz

In Honor of Temple Torat Yisrael

-Laura Picraux, John Delacruz & Rachel Picraux

In Memory of Abraham Tobias

-Joan Coken

In Memory of Roman Tonkover

-Sofya Tonkover

In Memory of Irene Wilfand

-Wayne & Roberta Wilfand

### KITCHEN FUND

Get Well Wishes to Elaine Shapiro

-Ellen & Barry Golden

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory of Harold Salk

-Helen Davis

-Sue Sidel

### SECURITY FUND

In Memory of Edmund Beck

-Ilene Bojar

### DAVID A. SMOLLER FUND

In Memory of Harold Salk

-Susan & Michelle Smoller

### STREAMING FUND

In Memory of Harold Salk

-Elaine & Steve Shapiro