



Services

Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, March 3rd, 10th, 24th & 31st from 5:45 PM – 6:30 PM *Zoom only*

Purim Feast w/Megillah Reading *see attached flyer*

Free dinner for all member families

Monday, March 6th from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Friday Night Live w/TTY Band & Family Style Chicken Dinner Catered by Men's Club With Chef Lary Norin *see attached flyer*

Friday, March 17th at 6:00 PM *In Person w/Streaming*

Family led Youth Shabbat Service w/Potluck Dairy Dinner *see attached flyer*

Friday, March 31st at 5:30 PM *In Person only*

Morning Shabbat

Saturday, March 4th & 11th at 9:30 AM * In Person & via Zoom*

Sisterhood Morning Shabbat *see attached flyer*

Saturday, March 18th at 9:30 AM *In Person & via Zoom*

Bat Mitzvah of Liza Picchione

Saturday, March 25th at 9:30 AM *In Person & via Streaming*

Tuesday Minyan

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

March Events

Sprouts Program: Purim

Sunday, March 5th from 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 5th at 12:00 PM

Laugh the Night Away at TTY Comedy Fundraiser *see attached flyer*

Saturday, March 11th Doors Open at 7:00 PM Show Begins at 8:00 PM

April Events

Sprouts Program: Passover

Sunday, April 2nd from 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

Sisterhood Passover Wine Sale

Sunday, April 2nd

Passover Seder Dinner

Thursday, April 6th at 6:00 PM

June Events

Sisterhood NYC Day Bus Trip *see attached flyer*

Sunday, June 4th bus leaves TTY at 6:50 AM



When Adar Arrives. Get Happier!

As I'm composing this message for our March bulletin, we have already entered and begun the Hebrew month of Adar. There is a famous rabbinic expression that says "Nichnas Adar, Marbim B'Simcha," which translated means "When Adar Begins, We Increase in our Happiness." Why is this so? Because during the month of Adar, we celebrate the festival of

Purim and commemorate both our survival and our freedom!

In point of fact, it seems that many of the exact historical details of the Purim story are somewhat sketchy; although the story is set in Persia, we don't seem to know exactly all of the details of many aspects, except as correlated and reported in the book of Esther. One thing remains clear, however: even if plans of the persecution set in place by the wicked vizier at the time, Haman, did not exactly occur as related in the story, nonetheless, throughout Jewish history there were indeed many persecutions and pogroms, and so the tale of survival and triumph of one community in particular is felt and celebrated by all Jewish communities.

The central motif of the story as it unfolds is that things are not as they may seem, and that key reversals take place as things unfold. Indeed, what appears as absolute certainty and foreboding evil during the first half of the story gets totally reversed by the end. In that sense, the real underlying sequence and truth of events remains "hidden." This is why the wearing of costumes and masks is so appropriate and fitting, as these are designed to hide the true identities of the various characters involved. Specifically in the story of Esther, the wicked Haman has great power and plans to destroy and annihilate all of the Jews; in the end, he and his ten sons meet their demise. Mordechai, who is lowly and despised at the beginning, dressing in sackcloth and ashes, in the end becomes the brave and honored hero. Esther, who at the beginning is just a rather timid and unassuming "nice Jewish girl," by the end is elevated to the status of queen, wielding great power of persuasion upon the monarch while very deftly maneuvering within the constraints of the byzantine politics and social structure of the time. Even the eunuchs, normally always in the background protecting just the women of the harem, "step up to the plate" and play a decisive role in remembering and acknowledging how important the role of Mordechai was in reporting and obstructing a plot to kill the king. In the end, while it was Haman's plot to destroy and kill all of the Jews, in the end they are allowed to defend themselves, and Haman gets the "short end of the rope" as he is hung on the very gallows that he had created in order to hang Mordechai!!

While every culture needs certain holidays to relax and balance out the more serious ones, certainly the story of Esther and the festival of Purim communicate very important themes to us: Our faith in God and in our ability to survive and thrive even in the presence of evil targeted to destroy us (even though notably the actual name of God is not specifically mentioned once in the story itself); and also most centrally, our important ability to discern and realize those truths and elements that are ultimately important, despite common and popular indications to the contrary.

In our own community here at Temple Torat Yisrael in East Greenwich, we will be celebrating and commemorating the festival by reading portions of the megillah telling the story of Esther, as Jewish communities have done already for centuries now, as well as celebrating the occasion with a festive meal (a S'eudat Purim) and other elements of entertainment. This will take place on Monday evening, March 6, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Be sure to come in costume, and we will enjoy a great Purim/Israeli style meal prepared by Elaine Shapiro and crew featuring chicken shawarma meatballs, pasta, hummus, tabbouleh, and great drinks and desserts, along with a shortened reading of the Megillah! This is for our temple members only and is free of charge, but we do need your reservation by March 1. RSVP to Temple@toratyisrael.org

COME CELEBRATE THIS FUN OCCASION WITH US – IT'S A MITZVAH (truly!)

Rabbi David Barnett

March Events

Sprouts: Purim Sunday,
Mar 5th; 9:15 – 10:15am
Purim Carnival
Sunday, Mar 5th at 12:00pm
Purim Feast
Monday, Mar 6th at 6:00pm
Laugh the Night Away
at TTY Comedy
Fundraiser
Saturday, Mar 11th; Doors
open 7:00pm
Show begins 8:00 pm
Friday Night Live
w/TTY Band & Dinner
Catered by Men's Club
– Family Style Kosher
Chicken Dinner
Friday, Mar 17th; 6:00pm
Sisterhood Shabbat
Saturday, Mar 18th; 9:30am
Bat Mitzvah of Liza
Picchione
Saturday, Mar 25th; 9:30
am
Family led Youth
Shabbat Service
w/Potluck Dairy Dinner
Friday, Mar 31st; 5:30 pm

April Events

Sprouts Program:
Purim
Sunday, April 2nd; 9:15 am
Sisterhood Wine Sale
Sunday, April 2nd
Passover Seder Dinner
Thursday, April 6th; 6:00
pm

Save the Date in June

Sisterhood NYC Trip
Sunday, June 4th
RSVP's needed by 4/12
See enclosed flyer



Shalom Fellow Congregants.

February was a month filled with some wonderful events. Sisterhood sponsored a book review and yoga session. Men's Club held a lox-making demonstration and dinner, with a fabulous lox breakfast the following Sunday. An informal bagel and coffee Kiddush followed several Saturday Shabbat morning services, which gave the participants (including some of our Hebrew school students) a chance to gather socially. Our young families held their second

Friday night Family Shabbat, which again was such a joy to see.

March promises to be equally eventful. The members of the Ways and Means Committee have been working tirelessly in preparation for the March 11 Comedy Night fundraiser. Elaine Shapiro and Jo-Ann Antin have put together such a dedicated team! If you haven't yet purchased your tickets, please do so soon and invite your friends. We need everyone's help to make this the best, most enjoyable event it can be. In addition to buying your tickets, consider being an event sponsor. If you can't attend, you can still show your support by being a sponsor.

Susan Smoller is leading the Rabbi Search Committee, which is working hard to evaluate applications and meet (virtually, thus far) with candidates. The process is moving along slowly, but it is moving and the committee hopes to have one or more candidates to present to you soon.

The Board of Trustees recently held its February meeting, where I learned that we have not received this year's dues from a number of congregants. Dues are our primary means to fund the temple. If you haven't yet paid your dues, please do so now. If you need help with a modified payment plan, please contact either Barry Golden or Naveh Levy and schedule a confidential discussion.

The Tuesday minyan was also discussed at the board meeting. Our members who have recently suffered the loss of a loved one or are recognizing the anniversary of such a loss need your help at the Tuesday minyan to recite the Mourners Kaddish. Deanna sends the TTY update every week, which contains the Zoom link for the Tuesday Maariv Minyan at 5:30pm. Your community members need your support. Please make a note on your calendars and join to ensure that we have minyan.

Aside from speaking with some of you at temple events and services, I've had a chance to speak with several of you individually. It's a chance for me to hear your stories and learn of your aspirations for our community. I'll continue to reach out to you, but please feel free to reach out to me first. Shabbat morning services are generally a great time to catch me. You can send me an email to confirm I'll be there and we can talk after the service over coffee, bagels and who knows what else.

Michael



Torat Yisrael's Cohen School

February at The Cohen School was filled with classroom exploration, Hebrew, parshah of the week lessons and the focus on the holiday Tu B'shevat. Some classes created wonderful tree crafts and read books about trees while others enjoyed sampling the seven species of Israel: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates.

The students have also been busy preparing for our Purim Megillah celebration coming up in March. In addition to exploring the story, characters and traditions of the holiday, the classes are either making groggers, paper Megillahs and/or Mishloach Manot. On March 5th, students will be baking hamantaschen, participating in an in-school Purim Megillah program and can enjoy the parent run Purim Carnival after school at noon. Please contact Dana Guyer if you can volunteer to help with the Purim Carnival.

Each week all of the classes meet in the main sanctuary to practice the prayers that they are learning in their classrooms. The students continue to work hard to learn the tunes, Hebrew and the choreography of the service. Every student, whether in kindergarten through seventh grade, each week, has the opportunity to lead a prayer from the bimah. In fact, sometimes, we have too many volunteers! It really has been such a wonderful learning experience and we hope that the students are learning to be comfortable in a sanctuary.

The second session of Bootcamp is off to a great and energetic start. This program runs for 10 weeks, on Mondays 4:30-5:30 for \$100. Please see Dori if you are interested in signing your child up. We are in week five but it's not too late to join the fun. We play Hebrew games, sing songs, practice Aleph Champ skills and even play Hebrew number musical

chairs! We have seen consistent Hebrew skills gains and the participants often go through the levels much quicker with the extra learning time.

Our next Sprouts program, led by Leah Ross-Coke, will be on March 5th at 9:15 and will be Purim themed and they will be making yummy Hamantaschen. Families are welcome to stay for the Carnival at noon. There will be a Passover Sprouts program on April 2nd. And the final session will be on May 21st.

We also need more parent volunteers to sign up for school snack in April. We really appreciate all the support that we have received this year from parents who have already generously donated snacks. The students really do enjoy being able to pick what their parents donate and many times it brings them much pride to say that they selected and provided the snack. There is a sign-up sheet on the door of the school wing. Please see Dori if you have any questions.

Please email me at school@toratyisrael.org should you have any questions about the Cohen School or the Sprouts program.



Librarian's Corner

The Night Travelers: A Novel by Armando Lucas Correa

Berlin, 1931: Ally Keller, a talented young poet, is alone and scared when she gives birth to a mixed-race daughter, she names Lilith. As the Nazis rise to power, Ally knows she must keep her baby in the shadows to protect her against Hitler's deadly ideology of Aryan purity. But as she grows, it becomes more and more difficult to keep Lilith hidden so Ally sets in motion a dangerous and desperate plan to send her daughter across the ocean to safety.

Havana, 1958: Now an adult, Lilith has few memories of her mother or her childhood in Germany. Besides, she's too excited for her future with her beloved Martin, a Cuban pilot with strong ties to the Batista government. But as the flames of revolution ignite, Lilith and her newborn daughter, Nadine, find themselves at a terrifying crossroads.

Berlin, 1988: As a scientist in Berlin, Nadine is dedicated to ensuring the dignity of the remains of all those who were murdered by the Nazis. Yet she has spent her entire lifetime avoiding the truth about her own family's history. It takes her daughter, Luna, to encourage Nadine to uncover the truth about the choices her mother and grandmother made to ensure the survival of their children. And it will fall to Luna to come to terms with a shocking betrayal that changes everything she thought she knew about her family's past.

Separated by time but united by sacrifice, four women embark on journeys of self-discovery and find themselves to be living testaments to the power of motherly love.

Laura Steele



Sisterhood

We wish you a very joyful Purim!! We had some exciting winter events & some upcoming Spring events too!

November - February - Warm Clothing Drive: Thank you for all of your donations!! Many warm coats and other clothing were donated to the students and families of large urban High Schools in Providence, as well as the Clothing Closet of the Edgewood Church.

On January 22nd Sisterhood held Yoga & Meditation class in the social hall. 15 people came. Thank you to the instructor, Shannon Menihan for teaching a great class!

February 26th was our Book Review of "Once we were Brothers" by Ronald H. Balson. Thank you, Barbara Karetny, for leading the book review!!

March 18th at 9:30 am will be Sisterhood Shabbat & light Kiddush All are welcome to participate in the service.

March is the Sisterhood Passover Wine Sale Fundraiser Order forms to purchase wine, are coming soon. **Orders need to be in by March 17.** Buy wine for yourself or as gifts. **Delivery is April 2nd.**

April 2nd: Wine sale morning pickup. More information coming soon.

April Date TBD - Linus Project - Making fleece blankets with Martha Sholes.

Save the Date June 4, 2023, 6:45 am sharp - Bus Trip to New York City!! Cost: \$54.00, your payment is your reservation. No Refunds. We will leave our cars at TTY, and take the bus to NYC for the day. The day is open so please make your own plans. We will meet at Ben's Deli and pre ordering dinner at an additional charge and get back on the bus at 6:45 pm and head back to TTY. More information to follow. Bus travel time is 3 to 3 1/2 hours. **Everyone is welcome!!**

~Respectfully, Judy Finkle, Programing VP of Sisterhood



Let's Celebrate Liza Picchione

Elizabeth Picchione will be called to the Torah on March 25, 2023, to read the Torah portion Vayikra. Liza joined the Cohen School at Temple Torat Yisrael in 2017 and is preparing with the help of Mora Andrea Allgood. Liza lives in East Greenwich with her parents, AJ and Lilly Picchione and her older brother, Avery. She attends Lincoln School in Providence where she is learning French and Latin. Liza enjoys learning languages and is also teaching herself Japanese. She likes to sing, paint, and watch anime. She is the granddaughter of Bill Shuey and Frances Shipps; the late Iris Levine Shuey, MD; and the late Anthony and Jacqueline Picchione. A kiddush lunch will follow the 9:30 AM service.

In Our Torat Yisrael Family



Mazal Tov to everyone celebrating a Birthday in March! Dr. Aaron Salinger, Craig Zettel, Sharon Schwartz-Vanderhoff, Nancy Goldstein-Waszki, Michael Katz, Liza Picchione (13 years old), Rebecca Plonsky, Adam Smith, Meredith Barr, Phyllis Potash, Mark Woolf, Nathan Salinger (9 years old), Roberta Wilfand, Roberta Gilstein, Jonathan Finkle, Rebecca Laptok, Hope Silverman (18 years old), Ryan Silverman (20 years old), Liana Weisbord (17 years old) & Zane Pezza (12 years old).

Mazal Tov to everyone celebrating an Anniversary in March! Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Shapiro (41 years), Mr. & Mrs. Frank Antin (14 years), Mr. & Mrs. Paul Brandies (51 years), Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Salk (40 years) & Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Goncalves (30 years).

Our Torat Yisrael Community Acknowledges with Thanks the following Generous February 2023 Donations:

GENERAL FUND

Get Well Wishes to Alan Field
-Barry & Ellen Golden

In Memory of Manuel Finkle
-Jonathan, Judy & Ariel Finkle

In Memory of Linda Friedman
-Helen Davis

-Michael & Sharon Field
-Barry & Ellen Golden

-Phyllis Potash
-Leah Ross-Coke

-Andrew G. Sholes
-Sue Sidel

In Memory of Benjamin Gilstein
-Barry & Roberta Gilstein

In Memory of Lillian Gold
-Bernard Labush

In Memory of Bella Goloborodko
-Lina Goikhman

In Memory of Emanuel Holland
-Helene Holland

In Memory of Stan Koval
-Jeff Koval

In Memory of Abe Kozlov
-Elaine & Steve Shapiro

In Memory of Abraham Mal
-Anita Olinsky

In Memory of Debra Mann
-Beverly Paris

In Memory of Bella Mendelowitz
-Sam & Lillian Mendelowitz

Get Well Wishes to Anita Olinsky
-Barry & Ellen Golden

In Memory of Dr. Harry E. Pass
-Harvey Rappoport

In Memory of Selma Rappoport
-Harvey Rappoport

-Stephen & Ellie Rappoport

In Honor of Baby-to-be Ritz
-Josh & Michaela Ritz

In Memory of Rose Rotenberg
-Marcia Slobin

In Memory of Joseph Saltzman
-Richard Saltzman

In Memory of Ada Slobin
-Marcia Slobin

In Memory of Mollie Tapper
-Michael Tapper

In Memory of Helmut Waszkis
- Nancy Waszkis

BERTHA & BERNARD GOLDBERG ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Morris Friedman
-Bertha & Barbara Goldberg

MYER GROSSMAN FUND

In Memory of Norma Friedman
-Alan & Anita Olinsky

DAVID A. SMOLLER FUND

In Memory of David A. Smoller
-Lonna & Stan Picker

-Susan & Michelle Smoller