Services

**Kabbalat Shabbat**
Friday, December 2\(^{nd}\), 9\(^{th}\), 16\(^{th}\), 23\(^{rd}\) & 30\(^{th}\) from 5:45 PM – 6:30 PM *Zoom only*

**Morning Shabbat**
Bar Mitzvah of Elias Viner
Saturday, December 3\(^{rd}\) at 9:30 AM *In Person & Streaming*
Saturday, December 10\(^{th}\), 17\(^{th}\), 24\(^{th}\) & 31\(^{st}\) at 9:30 AM *In Person & via Zoom*

Free Kiddush Luncheon immediately following services
Saturday, December 10\(^{th}\) at 11:00 AM

**Tuesday Minyan**
Tuesday, December 6\(^{th}\), 13\(^{th}\), 20\(^{th}\) & 27\(^{th}\) at 5:30 PM *Zoom only*

Events

**Adult Education Classes Taught by Rabbi Barnett** *see attached flyer*
Starting on Sunday, December 11\(^{th}\) *In Person only*
Beginning Hebrew Reading from 9:30 AM – 10:15 AM
Jewish Literacy & Culture from 10:30 AM – 11:15 AM

**Sisterhood Hanukkah Party** *see attached flyer*
Sunday, December 11\(^{th}\) at 10:00 AM

**Sprouts Program: Chanukkah**
Sunday, December 18\(^{th}\) from 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

**Family Hanukkah Party** *see attached flyer*
Sunday, December 18\(^{th}\) at 12:00 PM

**Congregational Menorah Lighting** *see attached flyer*
Thursday, December 22\(^{nd}\) at 6:30 PM

**Men’s Club: Climb for the Health of it! Family Rock Climbing Event at Rock Spot in Peacedale, RI** *see attached flyer*
Saturday, January 7\(^{th}\) from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**Men’s Club: Team Building & Rock Climbing Event at Rock Spot in Boston/Dedham, MA** *see attached flyer*
Sunday, January 8\(^{th}\) from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Embrace the Chanukah Spirit with Determination, Courage & Action

As I am writing this message, we have already entered the Hebrew month of Kislev, which on Sunday night, December 18th, ushers in the festival of Chanukah. Deemed by the rabbis as a minor festival, in these times now I would suggest that in terms of its lasting importance and significance, it should move up to the “major’s league.” Of course, this is not a “pilgrimage” festival mentioned in the Bible – the events of the Maccabean rebellion, during the time of the Seleucid Greek empire, during the reign of Antiochus IV. Epiphanes took place millennia later during 168 B.C.E., whereas the codification of the Bible was also finished centuries earlier. However, if that rebellion in the face of militaristic repression had not succeeded, it is likely that we would not be here today. The Maccabees personified the qualities of determination, courage, and action which deserve mentioning and honoring in this context.

Some of the Jews, according to the Jewish historical scholarship of the late great Professor Elias Bickerman, would have been just as happy to assimilate into the Greek empire, disregard and obliterate key customs and rituals of Jewish survival, and not engage in war and hostilities. Against this backdrop, a zealous faction stood up against that tide and expressed a determination and a strong will for Jewish survival and freedom. They were so determined in this regard, that they placed their very lives and survival on the line. Had they lost, they and all those brave Jews fighting with them would have been slaughtered. Along with this, great courage was involved. Vastly outnumbered, the Jewish fighters, our ancestors, developed and employed guerilla war tactics not unlike those that the North Vietnamese Communists would employ two millennia later, leading to the loss of the war for the USA. Through this determination and courage, bold actions were taken that ultimately led to Jewish victory and regained hegemony with respect to the restoration of the Temple and the continuity of Jewish practice and freedom.

Today, we need to embrace our sense of Jewish identity just as strongly as the Maccabees did then within our context of survival now. Having the determination, the confidence, the will, and the drive to reach out to each and every marginal Jewish person we encounter and encourage and even implore them to “rejoin the fold” through support of our temples and synagogues will remain crucially important for not only our immediate present, but certainly for our future as well. Our vision needs to be welcoming of everyone as well as broad in scope, recognizing that our collective survival, in spite of all of the freedoms and blessings we enjoy, still needs to be based upon these three qualities of determination, courage, and action. We have a vibrant and noble tradition and legacy that deserves to be carried on, and it’s up to all of us to do so, embracing the original spirit of the Maccabees as an ongoing inspiration.

Wishing you, your families and friends a healthy, joyous, and meaningful Chanukah coming up!

Warmly,

Rabbi David Barnett
Shalom Fellow Congregants,

This past month has had a few memorable moments for me. I'll start with a bright moment— the participation of Reverend Eric Cherry in a recent Shabbat morning service. If you missed it, Reverend Cherry recently began an interim ministry at Westminster Unitarian Church in East Greenwich. The church has a tradition of lighting its sanctuary overnight beginning November 9th in witness to Kristallnacht. Rabbi Barnett and I thought that was a meaningful, albeit small gesture to remember this terrible event so we also kept the lights on at TTY on November 9th.

Reverend Cherry also thought to invite members of TTY to join church members this year in a candlelight vigil at the church on November 9th and Rabbi Barnett invited Reverend Cherry to the following Shabbat morning service. At that service, Reverend Cherry reminded us that one form of antisemitism, or hate against any group of people, often starts simply with words and that those words are often ignored. But the events of Kristallnacht and the holocaust that followed demonstrate the danger of ignoring such words.

While I am president, we will continue to light up our sanctuary on the anniversary of Kristallnacht, together with the Westminster Unitarian Church, but I’m looking to do more. Reverend Cherry just gave the contact information for my counterpart at the church. I will be contacting her after Thanksgiving to arrange a meeting with our Programming Committee to discuss social justice projects of interest to both congregations.

Reverend Cherry thought to contact Rabbi Barnett to, as he put it, “extend neighborly care and collegial support to you and Temple Torat Yisrael during these challenging days as antisemitic incidents increase . . .” He couldn’t know that a few weeks later, baggies of rat poison and antisemitic hate literature would be left in front of homes in Warwick. This was one of several public acts of antisemitism in Rhode Island. You should know that the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island is working with local law enforcement, with the Attorney General’s office and with other state officials to see that these acts are thoroughly investigated and perpetrators prosecuted. They are working with business and community leaders planning an anti-hate summit in the spring. They are also working with several school district leaders to implement anti-hate curricula for various student age groups.

A few members of our community have expressed feelings of anxiety and worry caused by these recent events. Remember that Jewish Collaborative Services has counselors available who can help. You can contact them at (401) 331-1244. Remember too that we have taken several steps including installation of cameras, shatterproof glass, locked doors, and increased patrolling by the East Greenwich police, and we will continue to take other practical steps to do what we can to keep our temple safe. Unfortunately, history teaches us that there will always be people who commit acts of hatred, and sometimes violence, against other people. I hope though that we all will refuse to let fear and negativity rule our community and that the coming months will only be memorable for joyous reasons. I hope too, that you find peace and blessings this Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Michael

Torat Yisrael’s Cohen School

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we are so very grateful each week to have amazing teachers and motivated, kind students in our school every week. We have our Hakarat HaTov/Gratitude tree in the school wing for parents and students to write on a leaf what they are thankful for. And by the looks of all the leaves on the tree - we are grateful for many things!

Our all school Tefillah program is going strong! Each week we practice specific Shabbat and Friday Night service prayers, sing songs and even have instruments and dancing parades. The students are learning the choreography of the prayers, the importance of the siddur and how to be leaders and members of the congregation. We are sharing our ruach/spirit and love for prayer together and at the same time exploring the sanctuary and its beauty.

On October 30th, the entire school made rainbow challah with Shoshana Laufer of West Bay Chabad, to explore the parashat Noach. Students learned about Noah in their classrooms prior to baking. The challah program was sponsored by Shalom Memorial Chapel. A great thank you to our parent volunteers that helped make the program a huge success. The students loved all the rainbow colors, and learned how to braid the challah. They all left with their own challah to enjoy at home with their families. Also, they enjoyed a fun “Noah’s Rainbow” trail mix for snack with animal crackers, fruit loops and m & m’s.
On November 13th, our monthly Sprouts program, was led by Leah Ross Coke and Rabbi Barnett and focused on a Jewish version of Thanksgiving. There was story time, singing, snacks and the students even a chance to make a thankful flower. The next Sprouts will be Chanukah themed and will be on December 18th. We welcome all Sprouts families to stay for the Chanukah party that same day at noon. The Sprouts program is $12 per session/$80 for 8 sessions. The Sprouts program meets once a month from October- May.

Hebrew Bootcamp is up and running strong. We now have 9 students and it is taught by Andrea Allgood and Dori. This Hebrew program meets on Tuesdays from 4:30-5:30 at $10 a session. We also have fun in person and online games, and creative ways to keep Hebrew learning exciting! Many participants are flying through their Aleph Champ levels! It's not too late to join the Tuesday night fun. Contact Dori for more details.

Looking ahead to December, there will be lots of Chanukah excitement. We will have sufganiyot for snack and a Family Chanukah party that is scheduled for December 18th. I know that there will also be latke frying in preparation for the party. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these opportunities, please contact Ally Antin @ abantin3@gmail.com.

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

**librarian’s Corner**

*As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel by Elizabeth Poliner*

A multigenerational family saga about the long-lasting reverberations of one tragic summer by "a wonderful talent [who] should be read widely" (Edward P. Jones).

In 1948, a small stretch of the Woodmont, Connecticut shoreline, affectionately named "Bagel Beach," has long been a summer destination for Jewish families. Here sisters Ada, Vivie, and Bec assemble at their beloved family cottage, with children in tow and weekend-only husbands who arrive each Friday in time for the Sabbath meal.

During the weekdays, freedom reigns. Ada, the family beauty, relaxes and grows more playful, unimpeded by her rule-driven, religious husband. Vivie, once terribly wronged by her sister, is now the family diplomat and an increasingly inventive chef. Unmarried Bec finds herself forced to choose between the family-centric life she's always known and a passion-filled life with the married man with whom she's had a secret years-long affair.

But when a terrible accident occurs on the sisters' watch, a summer of hope and self-discovery transforms into a lifetime of atonement and loss for members of this close-knit clan. Seen through the eyes of Molly, who was twelve years old when she witnessed the accident, this is the story of a tragedy and its aftermath, of expanding lives painfully collapsed. Can Molly, decades after the event, draw from her aunt Bec’s hard-won wisdom and free herself from the burden that destroyed so many others?

Laura Steele

**Sisterhood**

November/December is Warm Clothing Drive Month now thru December 16th. Keep us in mind while you’re cleaning out your closets. Warm coats and other clothing to be donated to the students and families of large urban High Schools in Providence, and the Clothing Closet of the Edgewood Church. Please bring items to Temple Torat Yisrael.

**On November 20th,** Sisterhood held our book review. We read and discussed "Florence Adler Swims Forever" by Rachel Beanland. Thank you, Barbara Karetny for leading the book review!!

**December 11th at 10:00 am - Chanukah Party with a good old fashioned Yankee Swap.** It’s time for a party, with food and gifts. It’s time to put on your Chanukah sweater, if you’d like and bring a gift worth no more than $20.
Get ready for a game where we swap gifts. This event is always a fun time!! RSVP either on Facebook or to ttysisterhood@gmail.com by December 8th.

**January 22nd Event TBD at this time**

**February 26th at 10:30 am - Book Review - "Once we were Brothers"** by Ronald H. Balson

**March 18th at 9:30 am - Sisterhood Shabbat**

Save the Date - June 4, 2023, 6:45 am sharp - Bus Trip to New York City!! 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 for dinner (we are looking into 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.

Please join Sisterhood and send in your dues, $25 year + $5 for the Mitzvah fund. The Mitzvah Fund pays for the candlesticks for our Bat Mitzvah girls as well as items needed for our Temple's kitchen.

**Note:**

* Membership in Sisterhood & Men's Club for five years entitles your child to apply for the $5,000.00 Frederic G. & Lawrence G. Cohen College Scholarship.

* If you are a New Member of Temple Torat Yisrael, your first year of dues to Sisterhood is Free! Come check us out.

*Please join our Temple Torat Yisrael Sisterhood Facebook Page*

*To RSVP to all of our events, please use our Sisterhood email; ttysisterhood@gmail.com*

We wish your Chanukah to be joyous and full of light!

~Judy Finkle Programing VP of Sisterhood

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**Let's Celebrate Elias Viner**

Elias Viner will be called to the Torah on December 3, 2022. The Torah portion he will be reading is Vayetzei. In this parsha, Jacob falls in love with Rachel and promises to work for her father Laban for seven years in exchange for permission to marry her. Jacob marries Rachel after seven years, only to find out the next day that it was actually Leah, Rachel's sister. Jacob perseveres in working for another seven years and eventually marries Rachel as well. For Elias's bar mitzvah project, he is collecting clothes, books, and toys from family and friends to donate to those in need. Elias is in the eighth grade at Cole Middle School and enjoys technology, cooking, and spending time with his friends. He looks forward to celebrating with family, friends, and the Torat Yisrael community.

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**Temple Office December Holiday Hours**

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Mazal Tov to everyone celebrating a Birthday in December! Jennifer Erickson, Sanford Karp, Ariana Smith (6 years old), Noah Silverman (20 years old), Jonah Micah Cohen (6 years old), Jeffrey Koval, Suzanne Salomon, Julie Malinow, Edward Steiner, Marc Benjamin Gertsacov, Victoria Fields (8 years old), Paul Brandies, Matthew Smith (19 years old), H. Herman Goldman, Alan Silverman, Dora Jane Colletti (9 years old), Elliot Massey (7 years old), Tylah Coke (14 years old), Sheila Kaplan, Andrew Katz (12 years old), Jo-Ann Antin, Beverly Sue Goncalves, Anthony J. Picchione, Teddy Laptok (5 years old) & Beth Salk.

Our Torat Yisrael Community Acknowledges with Thanks the Following Generous November 2022 Donations:

**GENERAL FUND**
In Memory of Eunice Abeshaus
-Debra Abeshaus
-Marc & Debbie Abeshaus
In Memory of Marc Davis
-Judy Bergel
-Brenda Korn
In Memory of Muriel Davis
-Helen Davis
In Memory of Phillip Davis
-Helen Davis
In Memory of Lani Fleisher
-Andrew G. Sholes
In Memory of Jack Garfinkel
-Stephen M. Garfinkel
In Memory of Sarra Goikhman
-Zinovy Goikhman
In Memory of Rose Greene
-Jim & Sana Greene
In Memory of Bertha Grossman
-Barbara Zenofsky
In Memory of Nathan Honig
-Dr. Richard Honig
In Memory of Eleanor Ladin
-Marc Ladin
In Memory of Carolyn Salk
-Beth & Jeff Salk
In Memory of Evelyn Robbins Shapiro
-Joseph & Debra Shapiro
In Memory of Sidney Shapiro
-Joseph & Debra Shapiro
In Memory of Theodore Zenofsky
-Barbara Zenofsky

**BUILDING FUND**
In Honor of Robert & Amanda Karp’s Wedding
-Sanford & Esta Karp

**BERTHA & BERNARD GOLDBERG ENDOWMENT FUND**
In Memory of Sidney Kramer
-Bertha & Barbara Goldberg
In Memory of Jacob Zweig
-Bertha & Barbara Goldberg

**MYER GROSSMAN FUND**
In Memory of Eda Motelovna Borodkina
-Anita Olinsky

In Memory of Emma Cohen
-Anita & Alan Olinsky
In Memory of Hyman Jacob Malachowsky
-Anita Olinsky

**MICHELE PAM ROSS FUND**
In Memory of George Labush
-Ruth B. Ross
In Memory of Michele Pam Ross
-Ruth B. Ross

**REFRIGERATOR FUND**
In Memory of Louis Ross
-Lynn Field

**STREAMING FUND**
In Memory of Evelyn & Sidney Shapiro
-Elaine & Steve Shapiro