



Services

Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, May 5th, 12th & 26th from 5:45 PM – 6:30 PM *Zoom only*

Meet & Greet Events with Rabbi Ari Saks *See attached flyer*

Friday May 19th (See events & times below)

School students & parents schmooze over ice cream with Rabbi Ari Saks in school all purpose room

Friday, May 19th from 4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

Schmooze over wine & Cheese Reception with Rabbi Ari Saks

Friday, May 19th from 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Friday Night Live (FNL) Service led by Rabbi Ari Saks with TTY Band

Friday, May 19th from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM *In Person & via Streaming*

Friday Night Live Family Style Dinner Catered by Chef Lary Norin

Friday, May 19th from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Morning Shabbat

Saturday, May 6th, 13th & 20th at 9:30 AM * In Person & via Zoom*

Shavuot Service w/Yizkor

Saturday, May 27th at 9:30 AM *In Person & via Zoom*

Tuesday Minyan

Tuesday, May 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th at 5:30 PM *Zoom only*

Events

Men's Club Breakfast w/Guest Speaker, Morey Hershgordon *see attached flyer*

Sunday, May 7th breakfast begins at 9:00 AM Speaker at 9:30 AM

Mahjong Tournament

Sunday, May 7th from 11:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Men's Club Rock Spot Climbing Family Event *see attached flyer*

Sunday, May 7th from 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Sprouts: Shavuot Theme *see attached flyer*

Sunday, May 21st from 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

School: Graduation/Moving Up Ceremony

Sunday, May 21st from 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM



The Significance of a Reborn Israel

Since at the time that you may receive this bulletin, we are still so close to having commemorated the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the modern state of Israel, which took place on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, I think that the occasion merits significant reflection as well as celebration. The third commonwealth of the Jewish people, the modern state of

Israel, as you know was founded in 1948. The world was decidedly transformed at that moment. Although the resettlement of Israel dates back to the late 1800's in modern Jewish history, with a substantial wave of immigration from Europe in the 20's and 30's, still, as a reality, many surviving Jews from the Holocaust period needed a land of safe refuge, and Israel, even before independence, was able to fulfill that role. Israel's impact upon Jewish life, and even in world history ever since, has been immense. As the only democracy in the region, with strong ties to the United States, Israel has remained not only a philosophical ally but also a strategic one as well. The following remarks will center more on the religious and cultural aspects of Israel's significance however, regarding which in itself a lot can and should be said. Here, we will focus firstly on the national renaissance as a unique historical phenomenon, then secondly on the linguistic miracle which took place, and finally on the more general and contemporary spiritual and religious significance of the existence of a modern Jewish state.

I know of no other example in world history where a nation had two previous periods of commonwealth independence and history, followed by a gap of nearly two millennia, and then was able to re-establish itself on its original land, with its original language and culture both intact and enhanced from its historical experience during the intervening period. We have all the blessings and complexities of a unique people unlike any other. Perhaps one of the best descriptions of the Jewish people was created by Mordecai Kaplan, when he referred to the Jewish world as "an evolving religious civilization." It's important to note, however, that that phrase was in fact coined during the 20's, prior to the establishment of the modern state of Israel. Put in modern political terms, many used to refer to the establishment of Israel as the manifestation of the "national liberation movement of the Jewish people," indeed returning to a land first demarcated in terms of national sovereignty some 3,000 years ago! All of the crucial elements of a nation were present then – a land with boundaries, language, and culture – and remain so now. The connecting strip of land inhabited by Israel served in ancient times as a bridge between Africa and Asia, and as such saw many contested rivalries for hegemony over its domain. Yet, the Jewish presence, ever since our origin, has been a constant one, and the existence of a Jewish state who in fact contributes so much to other states both in the region and to the modern world of international trade and commerce serves as an inspiration and example to other countries.

Secondly, the revival of Hebrew as the national language of Israel is a subject of great interest to me, and serves as both a religious and cultural connection and cement to our very existence as a people. Although Hebrew was actually never completely dead as a spoken language, inasmuch as rabbis and scholars were constantly in discussion and learning using Hebrew texts, and the Torah was read and studied on a weekly basis by Jews all over the world between the end of the second temple period and when Israel was re-established, in terms of its use on a daily basis as a language of practical living, it sustained a period of long dormancy. Interestingly enough, it was revived as a daily living language largely through the practice and insistence of a single person – Eliezer Ben-Yehudah. Wikipedia gives the following precis of key information regarding his life: "Eliezer Ben-Yehuda -Russian linguist --Eliezer Ben-Yehuda was a Russian linguist, grammarian, and journalist, renowned as the lexicographer of the first Hebrew dictionary, and the editor of HaZvi, one of the first Hebrew newspapers published in the Land of Israel/Palestine. He was the main driving force behind the revival of the Hebrew language. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: January 7, 1858, [Vilna Governorate](#)

May Events

Men's Club Breakfast w/Guest Speaker, Morey Hershgordon
Sun. May 7th; 9:00 am

Mahjong Tournament
Sun, May 7th; 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Men's Club Rock Spot Climbing Family Event
Sun. May 7th; 2:30pm - 4:30pm

Meet & Greet Events with Rabbi Ari Saks (see below)
Fri., May 19th

School students & parents schmooze over ice cream with Rabbi Ari Saks in school all purpose room
Fri., May 19th; 4:00-4:45 pm

Schmooze over wine & cheese reception with Rabbi Ari Saks
Fri., May 19th; 5:00-6:00 pm

Friday Night Live Service led by Rabbi Ari Saks w/TTY Band
Fri., May 19th; 6:00-7:00 pm

Friday Night Live Family Style Dinner Catered Chef Lary Norin
Fri., May 19th; 7:00-9:00 pm

Sprouts Program: Shavuot
Sun. May 21st; 9:15 am

School: Graduation/Moving Up Ceremony
Sun. May 21st; 10:30 am

Died: December 16, 1922, [Jerusalem](#)

Children: [Itamar Ben-Avi](#), [Dola Ben-Yehuda Wittmann](#)

Spouse: [Hemda Ben-Yehuda](#) (m. 1892–1922), [Devora Jonas](#) (m. 1881–1891)”

From the moment that Ben-Yehudah immigrated to Israel, legend has it that although he knew many other languages besides Hebrew, he insisted on only speaking Hebrew for the remainder of his life. Interestingly, he spoke in such a scholarly manner with such elevated mellifluous language, that when my own Israeli Hebrew teacher recalled having heard his daughter, Dola on one occasion, that she said that she could barely understand anything that she said! It was through his unstinting and continuous efforts that Hebrew was revived, that the Sefardic pronunciation became standard, and the rest is indeed linguistic history! I know of no other example in the history of language and linguistics where anything even remotely like this happened, and has been documented and verified! These developments have completely transformed Jewish education in the intervening years, with many Jews in America now fluent both in the language of prayer and in modern conversational Hebrew! This linguistic revival has both rejuvenated the sense of spirituality possible in being able to understand and feel our ancient prayers, and at the same time enabled us to participate in our constantly changing and evolving modern world with Hebraic linguistic adaptation taking place on a daily basis within the framework of the language and culture itself.

The third area here, concerning the contemporary religious and spiritual significance of a revived Jewish state, could easily take up more explanation and space here than the other two combined. However, solely now for the sake of brevity let us consider just a few salient points: We recall that the existence and written record in the Bible of our existence as a people served as the foundational origin story for two of the other world’s great religions: Christianity and Islam. The fact that Israel now exists as a state –which in fact does honor and render legitimacy to the other two religions which developed on the intervening stage of world history – sometimes in conflict and war, and at other times with various degrees of tolerance and even cooperation – gives an underlying sense of validation to the original premise of the original reason for Jewish existence, namely our testimony to an eternal and living presence of a single and universal God. Both Islam and Christianity adhere to the concept of monotheism, the belief in a single God with a commanding moral and ethical import – and this was grafted onto and into their respective traditions from the original “tree” of Jewish theological thought rooted in the Bible. In remaining and eternal contradistinction to large communist governments in existence today, which are themselves based in their philosophical origins on totally non-religious grounds of dialectical materialism and Marxist economic determinism, the state of Israel, implicit in its very existence and continued presence, shouts out the unrelenting and eternal message to all of the other nations of the world: regardless of whether or not it is perceived and recognized, there is a real, consequential, and important ethical aspect to each and every action and policy taken by any and every government at any and every time throughout eternity!!!

--Rabbi David Barnett



Shalom Fellow Congregants.

We hired Rabbi Barnett last year as a transitional/interim rabbi with a one-year contract. His contract expires the first weekend of July. The Rabbinic Search Committee has been diligently working for months to find a full-time rabbi for our synagogue. The position was posted last October with the Rabbinical Assembly placement office (“RA”), which is the principal source of employment opportunities for conservative rabbis who have graduated from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York (“JTS”) and the Zeigler School for Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, CA. When we received only a few responses, we also posted the position with other rabbinic schools including Boston Hebrew College. The lack of qualified candidates has been, and continues to be, a problem.

Two weeks ago, the Committee posted the opening for an interim position with the RA. Usually if full-time positions are not filled by Passover, the chances of finding a full-time rabbi for the year beginning July 1st greatly diminish.

To date, the Committee has received seven applications – six for a full-time position and one for a part-time position. The Committee Chair spoke with the applicants, some more than once. The entire Committee interviewed the applicants and had second interviews with several. During the interview process, one applicant withdrew his application and another applicant accepted a position at another synagogue. The Committee decided not to follow up on three other full-time position applications including one from Rabbi Barnett. The Committee decided that it was for the best interest of the Congregation and recommended to the Board of Trustees (“Board”) that we do not continue his contract past the current contract expiration in July 2023. A formal vote of the entire Board will be held next week. Rabbi Barnett has many strengths that are recognized by the congregation generally and the Board specifically, but connections have just not been made with the Sunday School and many young families in spite of many efforts to

facilitate those connections. The long-term survival of Torat Yisrael depends on our ability to attract and retain young families and grow our Sunday School.

The Committee is currently interviewing the remaining two applicants, one is for a full-time position and the other for a part-time position. Although the Committee did not advertise for a part-time position, it was approached by a JTS rabbi for a part-time position after that rabbi saw our recent posting for the interim position. The Committee discussed the possibility of employing a part-time rabbi for the coming year with the Board of Trustees at the April 18, 2023 Board Meeting and were advised to explore such an arrangement. The part-time applicant would be available for the High Holidays and the other major holidays, officiate at all the B'nai Mitzvah Shabbats, Second Night Seder, Purim Feast, Yizkor services and several other Shabbats. He would not be leading services at every Shabbat nor would he be leading Tuesday afternoon minyan, which would be lay led. He reads torah and plays the bongo. He would be writing the weekly update and the monthly bulletin articles. Obviously, there would be a significant cost savings employing a part-time rabbi. The applicant is leaving his current full-time position to pursue other interests while working part time as a rabbi.

The full-time applicant will be graduating from the Ziegler School in May. He had served several years as a cantor before deciding to become a rabbi. He plays guitar, is quite musical and has a very pleasant voice. He has taught B'nai Mitzvah students and Sunday School students. He has led many religious services as a cantor. He was born in Poland. While he has years of experience as a cantor, Torat Yisrael would be his first pulpit as a rabbi. Also, he has told us that he is looking at several other positions.

The Committee has invited Rabbi Ari Saks to visit Torat Yisrael on Friday, May 19, 2023. There will be a meet and greet wine and cheese reception, where congregants will have the opportunity to meet Rabbi Saks from 5:00 PM -6:00 PM. He will then lead services from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM and be available once again to speak with during dinner immediately following services. Due to prior commitments at his current synagogue, he will need to return to NY following the conclusion of Friday night dinner. The Committee hopes to bring in the other candidate provided he has not accepted an offer at another synagogue. The By Laws require that the congregation vote on hiring a full-time rabbi whereas employing a part-time rabbi requires a Board of Trustees vote. The Committee will keep everyone updated of its progress. It is late in the year and we unfortunately may not have a candidate for a full-time rabbi to present to the Congregation. Be assured that the Committee is doing everything possible to identify someone who will be able to lead us into the future.

Shalom



Torat Yisrael's Cohen School

It's hard to believe that it will be May soon. It feels like it was just Rosh Hashanah! There have been so many fantastic experiences at the school from holiday programs, in class learning, hands-on lesson plans and weekly prayer during Tefillah. It is such a pleasure to watch our students learn in the classrooms while at the same time enjoy spending time with each other outside. It really fills the heart to see the students on the recess field shooting baskets, playing gaga, swinging on the swings and laughing. That's an integral piece of our "whole student" centered educational plan that we strive to offer each Sunday. These peer relationship opportunities are what will help keep them connected to our Jewish community.

On April 2nd, the whole school participated in a "Passover Escape Room" challenge. This experience included hidden clues that they had to solve to complete the challenge. Students worked together and tested their knowledge of the story of Moses and the Israelites, the 10 plagues and other Passover facts. They all did an exceptional job and were able to complete the challenge and free the Israelites! I hope that the students enjoyed this activity as much as we did planning it!

As part of our celebration of Israel's 75th Anniversary, on April 23rd, our Israeli Emissary Elihay came to the school to make Israeli chocolate balls with all classes. Students learned about Yom Haatzmaut in their classes and Elihay shared with them how they celebrate this holiday in Israel.

On May 7th, Stephanie Norin will be coming to make a special end of the year snack. She will be creating a Waffle Bar! Thank you to all of the parents that have donated snacks this year. The students really have enjoyed the variety and the sustenance.

The final session of Sprouts will be held on May 21st. The theme will be Shavuot and it will be led by Leah. We welcome all Sprouts families to stay for our end of the year celebration immediately following the program, especially those students that will be graduating from Sprouts and moving up to our Kindergarten class next year.

Our End of the year/Graduation Ceremony will be on May 21st. There will be classes from 9-10:30, and the ceremony will start at 10:30 in the main sanctuary. Parents will need to meet their children in the sanctuary and this is a FAMILY event. Each student will receive a certificate and goody bag. There will be a slideshow, graduation and awards, teacher/aide appreciation and a Sprouts Moving Up Ceremony. After the ceremony, please join us outside for a special treat!

This year has certainly passed quickly and we are already planning programs and lessons for next year. I am excited to announce that Tracey, Andrea and Brenda will all be returning to teach next year. We are also very happy to welcome Meredith Barr (a Cohen School parent as well) on board to teach our Kindergarten/First grade.

I want to thank all of the students, parents and teachers that have stepped up to make this school year incredible. I look forward to another year of learning together and exploring the awesomeness of Judaism and our community.

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



Librarian's Corner

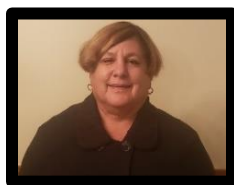
At The Hour Between Dog and Wolf by Tara Ison

At the Hour Between Dog and Wolf is the story of a twelve-year-old Parisian Jewish girl in World War II France, living "in hiding" as a Catholic orphan with a family in a small village.

When Danielle Marton's father is killed during the early days of the German Occupation, her mother sends her to live in a quiet farming town near Limoges in Vichy France. Now called Marie-Jeanne

Chantier, Danielle struggles to balance the truth of what's happened to her family and her country with the lies she must tell to keep herself safe. At first, she's bitter about being left behind by her mother, and horrified at having to milk the cow and memorize Catholic prayers for church. But as the years pass and the Occupation worsens, Danielle finds it easier to suppress her former life entirely, and Marie-Jeanne becomes less and less of an act. By the time she's fifteen and there is talk amongst the now divided town of an Allied invasion, not only has Danielle lost the memories of her father's face and the smell of her mother's perfume, but her very self, transforming into a strict Catholic and an anti-Semitic, fervent disciple of fascism.

Laura Steele



Sisterhood

We hope your Passover was joyous & looking forward to Shavuot!! Sisterhood Passover Wine Sale Fundraiser was a huge success!! We made over \$300 thanks to you all! We have exciting Spring events coming up!!

April 30th at 10:00 am is Sisterhood's Mitzvah/Linus Project - making fleece blankets with Martha Sholes.

Please bring 1 ½ yards of fleece & fabric, cutting scissors to make the blanket(s) and Martha will show us what to do.

These blankets are for needy children in hospitals. Leah has 2 extra pieces of fleece you can buy from her for \$7.00, first ask gets them. If interested, contact Leah at lrc275@verizon.net.

Note: Martha is also collecting new fabric that you can donate, so bring it along.

May 21st Winery trip: More information to come.

June 4th at 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 plan as you like. We will meet at Ben's Deli at 5:15 pm. You may pre-order dinner by emailing Sharon Field sharonfield1338@gmail.com your selections at an additional charge of \$24.00 (this is optional). If you decide not to pre-order dinner with Ben's, then you may meet back at Ben's by 6:30 pm, as the bus leaves from there at 6:45 pm and heads back to TTY. Bus travel time is 3 to 3 ½ hours. **Everyone is welcome!! Don't miss out on this great trip!! See flyer for more information. Deadline is May 3rd!!**

June - End of Year Lunch - More info to come. We will be doing a wrap up and vote in a new slate of officers. Leah and Marion will stay on as Co-Presidents. We are in need of a VP of Programming, Secretary, and a Co-Treasurer. Anita is staying on as Treasurer.

***Please use our Sisterhood email ttysisterhood@gmail.com to RSVP to our events.**

Respectfully,

~Judy Finkle Programing VP of Sisterhood

In Our Torat Yisrael Family



Mazal Tov to everyone celebrating a Birthday in May! Ramona Guyer-Osborne (10 years old), David Wasser, Carlos Goncalves, Ellen Golden, Susan Gertsacov, Shayna Vanderhoff (17 years old), Lynn Field, Joel Westerman, Lucas Deutsch (17 years old), Michael Field, Dr. Harvey Rappoport, Ilene Bojar, Barry Gilstein, Susan Smoller, Miriam Ladin, Jeffrey Salk, Levi Weinberg (12 years old), Ella Niedelman (18 years old), Steven Cohen, Evelyn Levy (9 years old), Avital Weinberg (10 years old), Dana Ginestet & Ari Singer-Leavitt (8 years old).

Mazal Tov to everyone celebrating an Anniversary in May! Mr. & Mrs. Zack Kentor (13 years), Mr. & Mrs. Michael Field (49 years), Dr. Dana Guyer & Dr. Carlos Tilghman-Osborne (15 years) & Mr. & Mrs. Barry Golden (35 years).

Our Torat Yisrael Community Acknowledges with Thanks the following Generous April

2023 Donations:

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Sadie Segal Birenbaum
-Judy & Eddie Steiner
In Memory of Ruth Esther Blasbalg
-Arnold & Ruth Blasbalg
In Memory of Martin S. Chernick
-Andrew Chernick
In Memory of Harold Davis
-Helen Davis
In Memory of Harry Davis
-Helen Davis
In Memory of Alan Field
-Joanie Bookbinder
-Helen Davis
-Barry & Ellen Golden
-Gloria Golden
-Laurie & Stephan Goldman
-Barbara & Billy Karetny
-Alan & Leta Klitzner
-Leslie Klancnik EA Langenfeld
-Lois & Fred Lury
-Francey J. Nathan
-Phyllis Potash
-Leah Ross-Coke
-Ruth Ross
-Jeff & Beth Salk
-Marcia Slobin
-Jeff & Glenna Stolzberg
-Your Family at Big Blue Bug Solutions
-Louise Zuckerman
In Memory of Etta Jagolinzer
-Helen Davis
In Memory of Melvin Kahn
-Leah Ross-Coke
In Memory of Marcia Katz
-Phyllis Potash
In Memory of Belle Kotlen
-Helen Davis
In Memory of Dorothy Kramer
-Leah Ross-Coke
In Memory of Evelyn Nussenfeld
-Elise Penn Pansey

-Michael, Lisa, Allison & Jolie Penn
In Memory of Joel Prohofsky
-Phyllis Potash
In Memory of Norton M. Rappoport
-Harvey & Lorraine Rappoport
-Steve & Ellie Rappoport
In Memory of Annie Sarah Ross
-Leah Ross-Coke
In Honor of Steve & Elaine Shapiro's
50th Anniversary!!!
-Ruth Ross
In Memory of Rita Singer
-Lorraine Rappoport
In Memory of Ada & Myron Slobin
-Marcia Slobin
In Memory of Cantor Jack S. Smith
-Sondra & Ronald Meyer
-Michael D. Smith
In Memory of Harry Stairman
-Arnold Stairman
In Memory of Harold Davis Sugarman
-Iris Sugarman Dershowitz
In Honor of Ari Nathan Tanner's
Bar Mitzvah
-Joanie Bookbinder
In Memory of Sarah Zenofsky
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**BERTHA & BERNARD GOLDBERG
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In Memory of Alan Field
-Bertha & Barbara Goldberg
In Memory of Bernard Goldberg
-Bertha & Barbara Goldberg

MYER GROSSMAN FUND

In Memory of Alan Field
-Alan & Anita Olinsky
In Memory of Gladys Lane
-Alan & Anita Olinsky
In Memory of Saul Olinsky
-Alan & Anita Olinsky

JEROME J. KATZ ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Jack Jessel, Jr.
-Trudy Katz

KITCHEN FUND

In Memory of Thelma (Tek) Ross
-Lynn Field

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory of Melvin Kahn
-Ruth Ross

MICHELE PAM ROSS FUND

In Memory of Annie Sarah Ross
-Ruth Ross

DAVID A. SMOLLER FUND

In Memory of Alan Field
-Susan Smoller

STREAMING FUND

In Memory of Alan Field
-Elaine & Steve Shapiro