

September 2023 Elul/Tishri 5783-5784

Services

Kabbalat Shabbat

No Kabbalat Shabbat Service on Friday, September 1st
Friday, September 8th, 22nd & 29th from 5:45 PM – 6:30 PM *Zoom only*

Morning Shabbat

No Morning Shabbat Service on Saturday, September 2nd
Saturday, September 9th, 23rd & 30th at 9:30 AM * In Person & via Zoom*

Tuesday Minyan

Tuesday, September 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th at 5:30 PM *Zoom only*

Events

First Day of School: Sunday, September 10th from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Congregational BBQ & Open House – Free to all: Sunday, September 10th at 12:00 PM *see attached flyer*

High Holidays – Schedule of Services – See attached flyer

Selichot:

Saturday, September 9th at 7:00 PM

Erev Rosh Hashanah:

Friday, September 15th at 6:00 PM

1st Day Rosh Hashanah:

Saturday, September 16th beginning at 9:00 AM

*Rosh Hashanah Children's Service

Saturday, September 16th beginning at 10:15 AM

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

2nd Day Rosh Hashanah:

Sunday, September 17th beginning at 9:00 AM

*Tashlich by the Pond (immediately following the service)

Sunday, September 17th at 12:30 PM

*Meet at pond by Water Wheel on Tillinghast

Yom Kippur Kol Nidre:

Sunday, September 24th at 6:30 PM

Yom Kippur

Monday, September 25th beginning at 9:00 AM

*Yom Kippur Children's Service

Monday, September 25th beginning at 10:15 AM

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

Minhah (afternoon)/Ne'ilah Service

Monday, September 25th at 5:00 PM

Havdalah w/Community Break-the-fast

Monday, September 25th at 7:00 PM

Sukkah Raising

Friday, September 29th at 9:00 AM

Sukkot - Simchat Torah – Lulav Shaking

Sunday, October 1st at 11:00 AM

Shemini Atzeret & Yizkor Service

Saturday, October 7th at 9:30 AM

Simchat Torah Dinner

Saturday, October 7th at 5:30 PM

Simchat Torah Family Celebration

Saturday, October 7th at 6:00 PM

Dessert

Saturday, October 7th at 7:00 PM

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



That Rosh Hashanah Feeling

Rosh Hashanah is a bit of a schizophrenic holiday. On one hand we tell each other “*Shana Tova umetukah*” (have a good and sweet new year), eat apples and honey, and celebrate life at large family feasts. On the other hand, the holiday is called Yom Hadin, the Day of Judgment, which is why according to one midrash we should not offer praises of joy on Rosh Hashanah because “books of death [are] open before God”

(Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Rosh Hashanah 32b). Thus, you get the schizophrenic “Rosh Hashanah feeling, a feeling in which we’re celebrating life and fearing death at the same time.

I wonder if some of you are sensing an analogous “feeling of Rosh Hashanah” at the commencement of this year’s 5784 High Holiday season at Torat Yisrael. After all, this is the first year that you’re having a “part-time” rabbi after an illustrious history of full-time rabbis at a full-service synagogue. Does this mean the best days of Torat Yisrael are behind us?

On the other hand, perhaps this creative and innovative approach to serving Torat Yisrael’s rabbinic needs may be just what the congregation requires to thrive and flourish, at least in the near future. Personally, I find myself full of energy and excitement to make every minute count when I am with you. I have also heard from members that my part-time schedule provides incentive to come more frequently to synagogue programming when, ironically, that incentive did not exist with a full-time rabbi.

Both of these perspectives are important to keep in mind as we move forward together, which is why I’m so grateful that the first holiday we’ll celebrate together is Rosh Hashanah. More than anything else, the “Rosh Hashanah feeling” of tension between hope and fear reminds us that in each moment we are given the opportunity to “choose life” (c.f. Deuteronomy 30:19). When we are worried that we’ve already accomplished what we’re going to do with our lives then the fear of death grips us. But if we feel that life is still unfolding before us, like an unfinished painting (or song), then we celebrate the gifts that life keeps giving us. I pray that as we take this next step together, no matter how many steps we end up taking, as long as we are graced with the gift of life we can choose for life to flourish at Torat Yisrael.

On this Rosh Hashanah, may we all sense that “Rosh Hashanah feeling,” a feeling that encourages us to appreciate the preciousness of the life we have lived and the life we have yet to live. May this be the sweetest year of all.

Shana Tova Umetukah (Have a good and sweet new year),

Rabbi Ari Yehuda Saks



Shalom fellow Congregants.

Well, our new fiscal year has gotten off to a very good start. Last month I reported that we were in discussions with Hillary Schulman Guttin to be our new Cohen Religious School director. I am very pleased to report that Hillary has agreed to lead our school going forward. You can read more about her

experience elsewhere in this bulletin. Hillary has received commitments from three teachers. She is working to secure a full complement of teachers for our children and parents to meet on the first day of school.

I know a few families decided to leave the temple because of the change from a full-time to a part-time rabbi. I want to thank all of you who stayed in support of our community and who are giving Rabbi Saks and our lay leaders; Susan Smoller, David Wasser, Laura

September

Services/Events

Selichot

Sat. Sept. 9th; 7:00pm

In Person & via Zoom

First Day of School

Sun. Sept. 10th; 9:00am

Congregational BBQ

Sun. Sept. 10th; 12:00pm

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Fri. Sept. 15th; 6:00 pm

In Person & Streaming

1st Day Rosh

Hashanah

Sat. Sept. 16th; 9:00 am

In Person & Streaming

2nd Day Rosh

Hashanah

Sun. Sept. 17th; 9:00 am

In Person & Streaming

Tashlich by the Pond

Sun. Sept. 17th; 12:30 pm

Yom Kippur Kol

Nidre

Sun. Sept. 24th; 6:30 pm

In Person & Streaming

Yom Kippur

Mon. Sept. 25th; 9:00 am.

In Person & Streaming

Minhah/Ne’ilah

Service

Mon. Sept. 25th; 5:00 pm.

In Person & Streaming

Havdalah Community

Break-the-fast

Mon. Sept. 25th; 7:00 pm

Sukkah Raising

Fri. Sept. 29th; 9:00 am

October

Services/Events

Sprouts

Sun. Oct. 1st; 9:30 am

Sukkot/Simchat

Torah/Lulav Shaking

Sun. Oct. 1st; 11:00 am

Pizza in the Hut

Sun. October 1st; 12:00

pm

Shemini Atzeret &

Yizkor Service

Mon. Oct. 7th; 9:30 am

Simchat Torah

Dinner

Sat. Oct. 7th; 5:30 pm

Simchat Torah

Celebration

Sat. Oct. 7th; 6:00 pm

Dessert

Sat. Oct. 7th; 7:00 pm

Sisterhood Welcome

Back Brunch

Sun. Oct. 15th; 12:00 pm

Picraux and Ruth Ross, the opportunity to provide the spiritual and educational elements that allow us to continue as a fully functioning synagogue. As it turns out, we have enough new members to start the new year with a net increase of two-family units over the past fiscal year and those members who have spoken with me about their interaction with Rabbi Saks have had only good things to say.

So, if the Cohen School can emerge stronger than ever from the transition to a new director and teaching staff, and we can maintain and hopefully continue to grow the size of the TTY community, then my next concern is our long-term financial health. If you attended the annual meeting in June, you heard that we have an operational deficit and if you attended the annual meeting in June 2022, you know our operational deficit is not new. Addressing this situation is the number one priority for the board this year but we need everyone's help.

As the president of TTY Board of Trustees, it will be my job to make an appeal to the congregation to donate additional money as part of the High Holiday services. This is not an obligation I look forward to. I know that for some, membership in this community is simply transactional- I pay dues for which I expect certain spiritual and educational services and when I no longer need those services, I will leave the congregation. But as the great majority of our membership knows, we are so much more than a service organization. We are a community with a history that goes back just over one hundred years with the founding of Temple Beth Israel in 1921. We've inherited the result of several generations of dedication, of commitment. Ellie and I feel that we have found a home so to speak at Torat Yisrael—a community of caring people who have made us feel welcome and who care about the future of the Jewish community not only in East Greenwich, RI, but in all locales. We feel an obligation to do what we can to ensure that future generations can enjoy and find meaning in what was begun all those years ago and will carry forward for so many more. I hope these high holidays will be a time for reflection and for renewing our strength and joy as a Jewish community with much to share and that you will join me in doing what you can to ensure the future of Torat Yisrael.

Kol tuv,

Michael Katz



Torat Yisrael's Cohen School

Shalom Temple Torat Yisrael families,

I am incredibly excited to be your new Director of Education for the Cohen Religious School! Hailing from South Florida, I grew up loving going to Junior Congregation and Hebrew School (even though I wasn't a traditional learner). I am a product of Camp Ramah Darom in Clayton, GA, attending there as a camper for all 8 summers, and spent three summers on staff. I also spent a summer on staff at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin. I also spent a summer attending the BIMA Arts program at Brandeis University. It was through these Jewish camping experiences

where I really solidified my Jewish identity with Jewish music and a love of finding alternative ways to connect to my Judaism. I spent all four years of my undergraduate career at Brandeis University, where I became incredibly involved with Hillel and Jewish a cappella.

After graduation, I began working at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island as a development associate and fell in love with Rhode Island. I also accepted a teaching position at Temple Torat Yisrael, where I taught Jewish ethics and Hebrew. It was then that I realized how much I missed teaching and then began working at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island as a Judaic Studies teacher for the upper grades. This year will be my 8th year there. While teaching there, I continued my studies with the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, where I learned how to design and develop curricula.

My philosophy in Jewish education stems from the fact that one's connection to Judaism as a whole is personal. There are many ways to connect, and it is up to us as educators and guides to help the next generation find their Jewish niche. I look forward to working together with all of you to create an enriching experience at the Cohen School. I hope to bring in members of the global Jewish community that have found their Jewish connections in various ways other than education and rabbinical studies. I aim to shed light on the entire spectrum of Judaism and help our students foster a love and excitement about being Jewish.

I also hope to bring a love of the natural world into our school. Since moving to our family farm in North Scituate, I have connected deeply with the idea of self-sustainability. I have participated in the TEVA program at the Isabella Freedman Retreat Center, and during the COVID years have helped recreate a TEVA-esque experience for students both at Torat Yisrael and at my own homestead. I hope to bring more programs around gardening into the classroom, and bring the classroom outside as well.

I am excited to start school on September 10th, and look forward to meeting all of you and our fabulous students!
B'kavod,

Hillary Guttin



Librarian's Corner

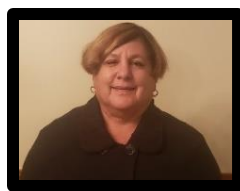
The Postcard by Anne Berest

Winner of the Choix Goncourt Prize, Anne Berest's *The Postcard* is a vivid portrait of twentieth-century Parisian intellectual and artistic life, an enthralling investigation into family secrets, and poignant tale of a Jewish family devastated by the Holocaust and partly restored through the power of storytelling.

January, 2003. Together with the usual holiday cards, an anonymous postcard is delivered to the Berest family home. On the front, a photo of the Opéra Garnier in Paris. On the back, the names of Anne Berest's maternal great-grandparents, Ephraïm and Emma, and their children, Noémie and Jacques—all killed at Auschwitz.

Fifteen years after the postcard is delivered, Anne, the heroine of this novel, is moved to discover who sent it and why. Aided by her chain-smoking mother, family members, friends, associates, a private detective, a graphologist, and many others, she embarks on a journey to discover the fate of the Rabinovitch family: their flight from Russia following the revolution, their journey to Latvia, Palestine, and Paris. What emerges is a moving saga that shatters long-held certainties about Anne's family, her country, and herself.

Laura Steele



Sisterhood

Welcome back to a new Jewish Year at Torat Yisrael!

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our paid-up brunch on Sunday, October 15th at noon in the Temple social hall.

A letter should be sent out soon with the expectation that dues are paid. Due to the economics of today, we are going up slightly on the dues to \$30.00 for the year and an optional donation of \$6.00 for the Mitzvah fund, that helps pay for the candlesticks for girls having a Bat Mitzvah, among other things. You can send a check to the temple office or pay at the brunch.

Remember, for those of you that are members in good standing (along with Men's Club, if eligible) for five consecutive years, your children will be eligible for the Cohen Scholarship for five thousand dollars towards college.

A sneak peek to some of our planned events for the year: return visit to the winery, explore the Providence River by boat, Sisterhood Shabbat, Passover wine sale, outing to the RISD museum and eating at the new deli in Providence. We hope to see you at some or all of our events. We welcome suggestions and you do not need to be a member of the synagogue to join us, so tell your friends. Jewish sisterhood and comradery are important and we love to have fun.

Contact us by email tysisterhood@gmail.com

Leah Ross-Coke and Marion Woolf, Co-Presidents

First Day of Cohen Religious School

Sunday, September 10th beginning at 9:00 AM

Welcome back! First day of religious school will be Sunday, September 10th at 9:00 AM. Please be sure to bring your registration forms and payment if you have not already sent in.

Sprouts is back! First Session: Sunday, October 1st at 9:30 AM

Sprouts is back with Rabbi Ari Saks and Morah Leah Ross-Coke. Spread the word!

The Cohen School and Temple Torat Yisrael, located in East Greenwich, R.I., is very excited to announce their 2023-2024 year of *Torah Sprouts*. This preschool program, is designed for young children ages 3-5 and their families.

The program will meet one Sunday of each month, beginning on October 1st and ending on May 19th. Classes will be in session from 9:30 am -10:30 am in the Temple library. Our teacher, Morah Leah Ross-Coke will be facilitating this amazing, authentic and hands-on learning time along with Rabbi Ari Saks.

Torah Sprouts will provide a positive, engaging experience with Judaism and will allow opportunities to create social connections with other young Jewish families. *Torah Sprouts* will inspire a lifelong love of Jewish learning.

Children and families will be introduced to Jewish Holidays and traditions through experiential learning such as cooking, singing, playing, dancing, story-time and arts and crafts.

Please feel free to come and create precious Jewish memories at *Torah Sprouts*.

All families in the R.I. community are invited to join in on the fun! Registration and a minimal fee are required, so please contact the Temple office at 885-6600 to pre-register. The 8 classes are divided into 2 semesters, with four class sessions each. The fee for the first semester is \$48.00. Pre-payment is required.

[Click here for 2023-2024 Schedule](#)

Message about Funeral Officiations

Although Rabbi Ari Saks will be Temple Torat Yisrael's part time Rabbi this year, his schedule does not provide for him to officiate at funeral services. As part of being a member, the Temple's Rabbi has always officiated at a member's funeral without any compensation or honoraria. The Temple will be continuing that benefit.

We have made arrangements with Rabbi Ethan Adler to officiate at all funerals for members of the congregation for this year. The Temple will be compensating Rabbi Adler directly so that the congregant's family will not incur any costs for his services. In the event of an untimely demise of a Temple congregant, please contact the Temple office or email temple@toratyisrael.org. We have informed Shalom Memorial Chapel and Sugarman Sinai Memorial Chapel of the arrangement so that they may contact Rabbi Adler directly.

Please note that the Temple will pay for funeral services of Temple members only. The Temple does not provide a Rabbi for the funeral service of a non-member, even if that non-member is related to a member. For example, the Temple does not provide a Rabbi for the parent of a member if the parent is a non-member.

In the event that Rabbi Adler is unavailable to lead a Shiva minyan, please contact the Temple Office (885-6600) or email temple@toratyisrael.org and we will furnish a lay leader to lead the minyan in person at the Shiva home.

Please contact Michael Katz or the Temple Office with any questions or comments. Thank you for your understanding and assistance.

Church of the Transfiguration Clothing Drive

Church of the Transfiguration in Edgewood is asking for gently used school age children's clothing. Please drop them off to the Temple.

Operation Isaiah: Kol Nidre Food Drive

In conjunction with Conservative congregations throughout the country, we ask you to please plan to bring a significant quantity of non-perishable food items with you to our Kol Nidre service on Sunday, September 24th. We plan to collect food until Sunday, October 15th. We collect food for two community-based food support programs:

Edgewood Food Closet: They are in need of cans of tuna, soups, pasta sauces, peanut butter, boxes of cereal and fruits and vegetables.

The Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry: Please bring food with kosher certification with you to support our peers in the Jewish community who are food-sensitive.

Temple Office Closures Announcement

The Temple office will be closed the following days in September:

Friday, September 1st

Monday, September 4th for Labor Day

Monday, September 25th for Yom Kippur

In Our Torat Yisrael Family



Mazal Tov to everyone celebrating a Birthday in September!

Miriam Viner (11 years old), Samuel Lev Singer-Leavitt (6 years old), Joseph Theroux, Talia Theroux (7 years old), Jacob (Jake) Donovan (11 years old), Eve Handford (11 years old), Brandon Salomon, Bonnie Epstein-Silverman, Charlotte Katz (10 years old), Angela Libman, Seymour Brooks, Dr. Adam Niedelman, Liam Levy (16 years old), Barry Kaplan, Barry Golden, Tamar Weinberg (7 years old), Lily Salomon (11 years old) & Elaine Shapiro.

Mazel Tov to everyone celebrating an Anniversary in September! Mr. & Mrs. Steven Sholes (7 years), & Mr. & Mrs. David Barr, Jr. (11 years), Mr. & Mrs. Steven Cohen (15 years), Mr. & Mrs. Brandon Salomon (22 years) & Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Silverman (27 years).

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

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Dorothy Bookbinder
-Joanie Bookbinder

In Memory of Aaron Davis
-Helen Davis
-Morris & Clare Yaffe

In Memory of Marc Davis
-Helen Davis

In Memory of Alan Field
-Steve & Lisa Sack

In Memory of Norma Gouse Goldman
-Laurie & Stephan Goldman

In Honor of Milo Guyer's Bar Mitzvah
-Marcia Slobin

In Memory of Rachel Jewett
-Helene Holland

In Memory of Albert Ross
-Leah Ross-Coke

In Memory of Sarah Ross
-Lynn Field

In Memory of Estelle Saltzman
-Karen Lubin
-Richard Saltzman

In Memory of Rosella "Cookie" Shwartz
-Helen Davis

In Memory of Carole Kwasha Sugarman
-Iris Sugarman Dershowitz

In Memory of Abraham Tobias
-Joan Coken

In Memory of Roman Tonkover
-Andrew G. Sholes

EDWIN & TRUDE ANTIN ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Bernard Silver
-Ellen, Barry, Mitchell & Eddy Golden

MICHELE PAM ROSS FUND

In Memory of Albert Ross
-Ruth Ross

In Memory of Libby Rudnick
-Ruth Ross