



TEMPLE TORAT YISRAEL

Services

Thank G-d its Shabbat (TGIS) with the Rabbi w/Free Kid-Friendly Dairy Shabbat Dinner
Friday, May 6th from 5:00 PM – 5:30 PM *In Person only*

See attached flyer

Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, May 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th from 5:45 PM – 6:30 PM *Zoom only*

Torah at the Table with Rabbi Philmus

Saturday, May 7th & 14th at 9:00 AM

No Torah at the Table on May 21st & May 28th

Morning Shabbat

Saturday, May 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th at 9:30 AM * In Person & via Zoom*

Tuesday Minyan

Tuesday, May 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st at 5:30 PM *Zoom only*

Temple Events

Sprouts Program: Lag Ba'Omer

Sunday, May 15th at 9:30 AM

See attached flyer

School: Graduation/Moving Up Ceremony

Sunday, May 15th 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

School: Carnival w/pizza & cake

Sunday, May 15th from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

See attached flyer

Lag Ba'Omer Celebration

Wednesday, May 18th at 6:00 PM

Sisterhood Zumba

Sunday, May 22nd at 11:00 AM

See attached flyer

Fun by the Fire w/Pot Luck Kid Friendly BBQ Dinner at Guyer/Osborne Residence

Sunday, May 29th at 5:30 PM

See attached flyer



Shalom Friends,

Now that we have left Egypt and we are marching toward Mt Sinai, I want to take a brief look behind us toward the Sea of Reeds and the first song we sang altogether as a people. Being Jewish requires not just learning and action, but also a strong imagination, a holy imagination. So, I want to invite you to look deep into the soul of your Jewish memory and see with your mind's eye that you have just left Egypt, and a pillar of cloud is leading you to

the edge of the Sea of Reeds where there is no way forward. It's the middle of the night and you can hear the thunder of Pharaoh's horses and chariots. Your heart is pounding, and you cry out to Hashem, "This can't be how it ends! Please save us!" The pillar of cloud and fire circles behind us as Moshe holds his staff out over the sea. A mighty wind howls from the east, driving back the sea, opening the way before us.

We march on dry land through two giant walls of water and miraculously arrive safe on the other side. Pharaoh's army is chasing after us, but as the dawn arrives, we can see that their hooves and wheels are stuck in the mud and they are beginning to panic. Moshe waves his staff back over the waters and they collapse on our pursuers who are swallowed up by the sea and spit out onto shore. And for just a moment it is totally silent as we are struck dumb by the power of G-d's love for us and the fact that after hundreds of years of slavery, we are finally free! Now, imagine how anticlimactic it would be if the story ended there.

But instead, what happens next? Our movie goes from an action-adventure into "JEWS: THE MUSICAL!" As it says, "Then Moshe sang and the children of Israel, this song to Hashem." Now, if you were directing "JEWS: THE MUSICAL!" how would you choreograph it? Does everyone burst into song together at once? It says in the Torah that first Moshe sings (Yashir singular), and then vayomru the people sing. Rabbi Akiva explains, "Moshe sang a line and the people repeated back the opening words of each verse." Rabbi Eliezer said, "No, actually Moshe sang a line and the people repeated back the entire verse." Rav Nechemia said, "No no, actually it was more like how a school teacher leads the Shema, Moshe started singing the first word and they all joined in with him singing together."

No matter how you choreograph it though, Moshe is the sage on the stage that leads them in an epically long song rich with metaphor and beautiful poetry. But somehow this was not enough, because this musical number was just getting started! "Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a drum in her hand, and all the women went out after her with drums and circle dances. And Miriam chanted to them (one line) 'Sing to Yah, for He has triumphed gloriously; Horse and rider hurled into the sea.'"

Our sages wonder - Why did Miriam also have to have a song, and what does she add that is uniquely important? What is different about her song? If you look at the verses, you'll notice that before the singing even begins there are drums and dancing. Also, Moshe sang in the singular "Ashira" (I sing), whereas Miriam sings in plural "Shiru" (sing all of you). Moshe's song is more linear - long, poetic, rich with metaphor and we wonder if those runaway slaves were able to understand it all. Whereas Miriam's song is a simple account of an immediate experience, and its circular - repeating over and over so everyone can get it.

Miriam and her brother Moshe - offer Two very different approaches to Jewish leadership. We learn from this story, that when Jews gather to celebrate and praise God, it is essential that we have a variety of pathways and styles of expression. Jewish life and learning can only thrive in a community that engages the full spectrum of body, heart, mind, and spirit. And this is what I have strived to build in my time at Torat. Moshe - who met G-d on the mountain, was perhaps closer to G-d than he was to the people. Moshe engages and challenges the intellect in a top-down kind of way. Whereas Miriam who knew how to draw water up from the earth was more bottom up - engaging the body and the heart with drums, dance and a simple chant.

Whether it is top down or bottom up, the Song of the Sea teaches us that being a Jewish leader and teacher is about drawing out of the people what they already have inside of them.

As your rabbi, I have tried to provide opportunities for you to experience a sense of awe and wonder, and to touch the great mystery in a way that piqued your innate curiosity. My goal as your leader has been to help you express that which

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has been living inside of you all along. I hope that in some small way I have succeeded in this effort and that my legacy will carry forward to the next Miriam or Moshe who will inevitably hold the staff and the drum of Torat Yisrael.

Yom Ha'atzmaut Same'ach! Happy Israeli Independence Day!

Rabbi Philmus



Shalom fellow Congregants.

Spring is always an exciting time, with trees beginning to bloom and the warmth of longer days beckoning us to resume our outdoor activities. The beauty of nature in the spring season is always a wonder as nature awakens from a giant slumber. The month of May is filled with excitement at Torat Yisrael. The Cohen Religious School year is rapidly coming to a close with graduation ceremony at 10:30AM on Sunday May 15, 2022. Immediately following the graduation ceremony, the school parents led by Dana Guyer will be holding a Carnival outside in the backyard. Lag Ba' Omer will be celebrated in our Sunday School on May 15, 2022, with an adult celebration around a bonfire at the Temple on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, weather permitting.

The Rabbinic Search Committee is continuing to interview candidates for either a permanent or interim Rabbinic position. Resumes from applicants are still being received, reviewed and interviews scheduled. At this time in the Rabbinic hiring season, we more than likely will be seeking a Rabbi for an interim position for one year. The Committee members take their responsibility very seriously to find a Rabbi who will be a good fit for both our congregation and for the applicant. During the past 8 years, the musical services conducted by Rabbi Philmus have left an indelible impression. The Committee is seeking a candidate who will continue integrating music into our services and also have the other qualifications that our congregants require. Our spiritual leader is an integral part of our synagogue. The Committee is searching for the best possible candidate to present to the congregation for its approval. Traditionally, most candidates have obtained positions by Passover. This year is no exception and is compounded by the fact that there are many fewer candidates to fill the vacant Rabbinic positions than there are openings. The Committee is meeting weekly and sometimes twice per week to fulfill its mission. As soon as it finds a suitable candidate for either an interim or permanent position, we will schedule a Shabbaton weekend.

We are reminded daily that COVID has not disappeared. Even with vaccinations and boosters, many are contracting COVID. Although the severity of the virus has drastically subsided since it initially swept across the U.S., its effects still linger. Please continue to be vigilant. Although mask wearing is optional in most venues throughout the country, including at Torat Yisrael, mask wearing is encouraged. If you do not feel well or have any COVID symptoms, please refrain from attending a TTY event for both your health and that of your fellow congregants.

TTY's second night Passover Seder was wonderful. Although Rabbi Philmus and his family were unable to attend in person since he and a few members of his family had COVID, he was able to lead the Seder via zoom with the assistance of Aeden. The Seder dinner was delicious. I want to thank Elaine Shapiro and everyone who volunteered to prepare the meal and set the Seder table. I also want to thank all the congregants and their families who attended for making the Seder a community event.

As we return to a new normal, we need to keep the people of Ukraine in our prayers. The COVID restrictions are small in comparison to the fight and suffering that the Ukrainians are experiencing to keep their freedom and democracy intact. We pray for peace for them and for everyone throughout the world.

Shalom,

Andrew G. Sholes



Torat Yisrael's Cohen School

We are in the home stretch with only a few weeks to go until the warmth of summer is upon us. We have some exciting events just around the corner to finish the school year.

On April 3rd, there was a fun Passover Sprouts program led by Rabbi Philmus and Leah Ross Coke. Children and their families really had a fantastic time learning about the holiday of Passover. Students heard the story of Passover, participated in a mock exodus and loved making their own matzah in the

kitchen.

The Cohen School Passover program was on April 10th. The students explored the holiday of Passover with a model seder. Students practiced many steps of the Seder, sang Passover songs, ate some matzah, macaroons, horseradish and delicious charoset (Thank you Elaine!), recited Passover blessings and dressed up in costumes as if they were our ancestors leaving Egypt.

On May 1st, we will have an all-school Israel Celebration. All of the students will be writing notes and visiting the K/1 classroom to put the notes on the wall the K/1 class created. Alyse will be placing them in the real Kotel in Israel in the following weeks. Students will also enjoy a special snack of falafel, hummus, Israeli salad and pita for a great Israeli celebration. A huge thank you to Stephanie Norin and volunteers for all of her hard work and support in the kitchen with this program.

On May 15th, there will be the last Sprouts program at 9:30am focused on Lag B'Omer. We invite all families to stay after the program and attend the school end of the year ceremony. For all students moving up to kindergarten, we will have a special "Moving Up" ceremony.

Our Graduation/End of the Year Ceremony will also be held on May 15th. There will be class time from 9:00am-10:30am, followed by a ceremony at 10:30am. This is a family event and all students must be accompanied by an adult. Please join us to celebrate a successful year for all of our teachers and students and to honor our outgoing 7th graders with certificates and awards. There will also be a Sprouts Moving Up ceremony. We will also be celebrating Rabbi Philmus and wishing his family a safe "Bon Voyage". A carnival run by the parent committee will be immediately following the ceremony.

We are already looking forward to next year! I am excited to announce that all of our amazing teachers will be returning next year. Together we are planning great lessons and programs for next Fall!

Feel free to contact me at school@toratyisrael.org regarding school programs and policies.



Librarian's Corner

All the Shining People by Kathy Friedman

All the Shining People explores migration, diaspora, and belonging within Toronto's Jewish South African community, as individuals come to terms with the oppressive hierarchies that separate, and the connections that bind. Seeking a place to belong, the book's characters — including a life-drawing model searching the streets for her lover; a woman confronting secrets from her past in the new South Africa; and a man grappling with the legacy of his father, a former political prisoner — crave authentic relationships that replicate the lost feeling of home. With its focus on family, culture, and identity, *All the Shining People* captures the experiences of immigrants and outsiders with honesty, subtlety, and deep sympathy.

Laura Steele



Sisterhood

Wow!! Spring has sprung and its finally May! We hope everyone's Passover was a joyous one.

March and April's event was the Sisterhood Passover Wine Sale, a true success! A BIG THANK YOU, for all the support we get from our community!! We will be making a donation to the Temple for one of their ongoing projects.

On April 24th the Men's Club Paid up Breakfast happened. You may ask why am I advertising a Men's Club event? Sisterhood lost the bet on the food donation challenge from a few months back. Men's club brought in more food than Sisterhood and the bet was the losing team had to set up, cook, clean up & pay for breakfast! Our Sisters took on the task with our heads held high and everyone had a wonderful breakfast!! The true winners were the food pantries that received the collected food. Thanks Ladies!

May 22nd at 11:00 am for a Zumba class. If you don't exercise, come to socialize! See flyer for details.

June 12 - End of the Year Event & Elections. We are looking for some new faces on our board.

*To RSVP to any of our events please use our Sisterhood email: ttysisterhood@gmail.com

Please join our Temple Torat Yisrael Sisterhood Facebook Page

Respectfully ~Judy Finkle Programing VP of Sisterhood - email Judy hotpinkjudy@yahoo.com with any new ideas

Frederie G. & Lawrence G. Cohen Educational Scholarship

Any student entering full-time college or currently in college full-time who has not received the Cohen Scholarship previously may be eligible for a \$5,000 scholarship over the number of years in college. Parents or parent must be a current member in good standing for the past 5 years prior to applying. They must also be a current member of the Men's Club and/or Sisterhood for the past 5 years before applying. If interested and to obtain an application, please contact the Torat Yisrael office at (401) 885-6600. The application must be received in the Temple office by June 10, 2022.

Temple Announcement

In January 2022, our 9-year-old hot water heater broke and needs to be replaced. This expenditure was not budgeted for and is projected to cost us about \$12,000.00. Please consider donating towards the Hot Water Heater Fund.

In Our Torat Yisrael Family



Mazal Tov to everyone celebrating a Birthday in May!

Ramona Guyer-Osborne (9 years old), Samuel Jacob Bresky (20 years old), David Wasser, Carlos Goncalves, Jameson Lindberg (5 years old), Ellen Golden, Susan Gertsacov, Lynn Field, Joel Westerman, Lucas Deutsch (16 years old), Alan Field, Michael Field, Dr. Harvey Rappoport, Ilene Bojar, Barry Gilstein, Susan Smoller, Miriam Ladin, Jeffrey Salk, Dr. Keith Schoen, Levi Weinberg (11 years old), Ella Niedelman (17 years old), Steven Cohen, Marc Davis, Evelyn Levy (8 years old), Avital Weinberg (9 years old), Dana Ginestet, Sophie Philmus (15 years old), Ari Singer-Leavitt (7 years old)

Mazel Tov to everyone celebrating an Anniversary in May! Mr. & Mrs. Michael Field (48 years), Dr. Dana Guyer & Dr. Carlos Tilghman-Osborne (14 years) & Mr. & Mrs. Barry Golden (34 years).

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

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Mary Bennett
-Phyllis Potash
In Memory of Ruth Esther Blasbalg
-Ruth & Arnold Blasbalg
In Memory of Martin S. Chernick
-Andrew & Melissa Chernick
In Memory of Harold Alan Davis
-Clare & Morris Yaffe
In Memory of Harry Davis
-Clare & Morris Yaffe
In Memory of Barry N. Does
-Joanie Bookbinder
In Memory of Irving Greenberg
-Marlene & Gerry DiPrete
-Robert & Robin Greenberg
In Memory of Etta Jagolinzer
-Clare & Morris Yaffe
In Memory of Belle Kotlen
-Clare & Morris Yaffe
In Memory of Eli Krasnoff
-M.R. Kaye
In Memory of Harriet Landesberg
-Melvin Landesberg
In Memory of Helene Y. Liner
-Arnold & Ruth Blasbalg
In Memory of Nathan Monzack
-Jason & Judith Monzack
Get Well to Lary Norin
-Andrew G. Sholes

In Memory of Norton M. Rappoport
-Harvey Rappoport
-Steve & Ellie Rappoport

In Memory of Harold Roggen
-Joanie Bookbinder
-Barry & Ellen Golden
-Lois & Fred Lury
-Ruth Ross
-Andrew G. Sholes

In Memory of Anna R. Sholes
-David H. Sholes
-Steven & Dana Sholes

In Memory of Cantor Jack S. Smith
-Sondra F. Meyer
-Michael & Marilyn Smith & Family

In Memory of Sarah Zenofsky
-Barbara Zenofsky

HOT WATER HEATER FUND

In Memory of Martin Becker
-Judy Finkle

In Memory of Selma Becker
-Judy Finkle

In Memory of Harold Roggen
-Leah Ross-Coke

KITCHEN FUND

In Honor of Kitchen Fund
-Gloria Golden
In Honor of Temple Torat Yisrael
-Tony Sabella

REFRIGERATOR FUND

In Memory of Melvin Kahn
-Ruth Ross

In Memory of Helene Y. Liner
-Ruth Ross

In Memory of Annie Sarah Ross
-Ruth Ross
-Leah Ross-Coke

DAVID A. SMOLLER FUND

In Memory of Woolf Kantor
-Susan & Michelle Smoller

In Memory of Irving Nemtsov
-Susan & Michelle Smoller

In Memory of Harold Roggen
-Susan & Michelle Smoller

STREAMING FUND

In Memory of Harold Roggen
-Steve & Elaine Shapiro

In Memory of Thelma (Tek) Toss
-Lynn Field

JOE & ESTELLE SALTZMAN ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Joe & Estelle Saltzman
-Richard Saltzman

LEONARD J. SHOLES ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Anna R. Sholes
-Andrew G. Sholes