

Rabbi KENNETH CARR
CANTORIAL SOLOIST DAVID ROTHBERG
DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING KIM BODEMER
Rabbi PAUL LEVENSON, EMERITUS

Temple Chayai Shalom



EXPERIENCE THE MIRACLE OF ISRAEL

At our *Passover seders*, we celebrated the miracles that God did for the Jewish people in liberating us from Egyptian slavery. The burning bush, which captured Moses' attention so he could hear the call to return to demand our freedom from Pharaoh. The plagues, which, although innocent Egyptians suffered as a result of Pharaoh's stubbornness, ultimately convinced Pharaoh to yield. The splitting of the Sea of Reeds, which enabled the Israelites to leave Egypt behind once and for all, and begin their journey toward the Promised Land. And the miracles did not stop then; they continued as the Israelites began to cross the desert. Bitter water made sweet enough to drink. *Manna* appearing every day (except *Shabbat*), providing as much food as each person would

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THE GREAT JEWISH MYSTERY: WHAT HAPPENED AT SINAI?

As we look forward to the holiday of *Shavuot*, in which we commemorate *kabbalat Torah*, the receiving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, it is time to meditate on one of the great mysteries of Judaism and the Torah, perhaps the great mystery – exactly what happened on Mount Sinai? Or, put in a more general way, how did Torah and the Jewish religion, come to be?

One way to start to wrap our minds around the possible is to look at the margins, the two most opposite extreme responses to the mystery.

On one hand, some biblical literalists might hold the position that revelation is essentially dictation. God dictated

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IN SEARCH OF MORE TIME

Recently SULAM families had the chance to participate in an "Interactive Seder Family Challenge." This event took place a week before *Passover* and was designed to help families prepare for the holiday both physically and spiritually. There were 15 challenges that families had to complete – each one corresponding to a part of the *Passover Seder*. As I was cleaning up after the program I was struck by the materials created at one of the stations. The station explored the meaning of *matzah* – a bread of affliction AND a bread of hope. Families were then asked to

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TEMPLE CHAYAI SHALOM May - IYAR / SIVAN

May 1	7:15 pm	Grandparents' Community Meeting
May 3	7:30 pm 7:45 pm	School Committee Meeting TeCSY Meeting
May 4	11:30 am	'Tucci's Talk w/Rabbi Ken
May 5	7:30 pm	<i>Shabbat</i> Service Sr. Send-off
May 6	10:00 am	<i>Bar Mitzvah</i> Service of Samuel Liberman
May 7	9:00 am	Last Day of SULAM
May 9	7:30 pm	Ritual Committee Meeting
May 10	7:45 pm	TCS Board Meeting
May 12	6:30 pm	Family Service led by Wednesday <i>Madorim</i> & <i>Siyyum HaSefer</i>
May 15	7:30 pm	Sisterhood Board Meeting
May 17	8:00 pm	Brotherhood Board Meeting
May 19	5:30 pm 7:30 pm	Torah Talk & Pot Luck w/David Rothberg <i>Shabbat</i> Service w/ <i>Kol Shalom</i>
May 20	10:00 am	<i>Bat Mitzvah</i> Service of Isabella Tokarz
May 21	7:00 pm	Sisterhood BINGO
May 22	10:00 am	Women in Judaism w/Kim Bodemer
May 24	7:30 pm	Youth Committee Meeting
May 26	7:30 pm	<i>Shabbat</i> Service

May 29th Closed for Memorial Day

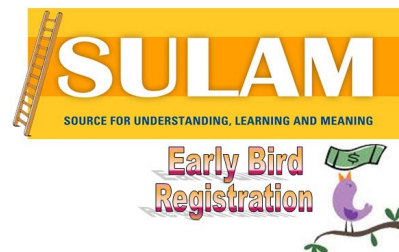
Temple Office Closing
at Noon for *Shavuot*

May 30	7:00 pm 10:00 pm	<i>Shavuot</i> Service w/Confirmation & <i>Yizkor</i> <i>Tikkun Leil Shavuot</i> (<i>Shavuot</i> Torah Study)
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May 31 Closed for *Shavuot*

GRADE K - 7
SULAM
REGISTRATION
'Early Bird'
REGISTRATION
DISCOUNT!

April 30th through
Friday, May 12th. Packets are available at
SULAM on Sunday and in the office at TCS during the
week. Please note that registration for rising 8th – 12th
graders will take place this summer featuring some new
offerings and travel options!



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT Temple Chayai Shalom JUNE - SIVAN / TAMMUZ

June 2	5:30 pm 7:30 pm	Tot Shabbat Shabbat Service
June 3	10:00 am	Bat Mitzvah Service of Kylie Spillane
June 5	7:15 pm	Grandparents' Community Meeting
June 6	7:30 pm	TCS Annual Meeting
June 7	7:30 pm 7:45 pm	School Committee Meeting TeCSY Meeting
June 9	7:30 pm	Shabbat Service
June 10	10:00 am	Bar Mitzvah Service of Logan Crowley
June 11	10:30 am	Sisterhood Life Member Brunch
June 13	7:30 pm	Ritual Committee Meeting
June 14	6:00 pm	TCS Board Meeting
June 16	6:30 pm	Shabbat Service Front lawn of the Robinson School, Mansfield Sisterhood Relay for Life
June 17	10:00 am	Bat Mitzvah Service of Leila Turet
June 19	7:30 pm	Sisterhood Board Meeting
June 21	7:45 pm 8:00 pm	TeCSY Meeting Brotherhood Board Meeting
June 23	7:30 pm	Shabbat Service / Board Installation
June 24	10:00 am	Bar Mitzvah Service of Brad Parad
June 28	7:30 pm	Youth Committee Meeting
June 30	7:30 pm	Shabbat Service

BROTHERHOOD

This year, the TCS Brotherhood really had their work cut out for them trying to vote for the Sol Krumins scholarship award. There were 6 terrific applicants. All 6 should be very proud of their commitment to Judaism and the ways they have given back, both to TCS and outside the TCS community. After lengthy deliberation, the Brotherhood decided that 2 candidates stood out just above the others. The winners for this year's Sol Krumins scholarship will be split between Andrew Morgan and Alyssa Jellenik. Congratulations to both of them.



SISTERHOOD



The Sisterhood is happy to announce that Andrew Morgan is the winner of the Sisterhood *Tikkun Olam* Service Award for Community Service and Social Action. This is a \$500 scholarship awarded to a high school senior who has demonstrated a dedication to performing *Tikkun Olam* within their community.

Congratulations to him and all who applied for all their hard work and community service they have done over the years. They are an inspiration to us all.

Join us for our **Annual Sisterhood BINGO** on May 21st 7:00 pm at the temple. There will be dinner, prizes, 50/50 and as always lots of fun.

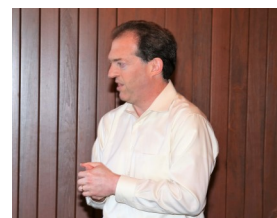


Sisterhood/Mansfield Relay for Life will take place on June 16 and June 17 and will be held at the Mansfield High School. There will be a *Shabbat* service, Friday, June 16th at 6:30 pm prior to the start at the Robinson school followed by a pizza oneg at our tent. There is still time to join our team. Please contact Jen Delaney at delaneyjpc@yahoo.com with any questions.

On June 11th @ 10:30 am Ricki Wahl will host the **Lifetime Member Brunch**. If you are not a lifetime member there is still time to join and attend the brunch. Please fill out the application found on the sisterhood page of the temple website and mail to the temple with payment no later than June 1st.

'Tucci's Talks with Rabbi KEN

Monthly learning...join Rabbi Ken for informal learning over lunch at Bertucci's in Mansfield Crossing. Each session is organized around a theme – something in the news or relevant on the Jewish calendar.



FROM THE CO-PRESIDENT...

Last month, the question was answered as to why we have a rabbi installation, and all members were asked to join us during the weekend of April 28th and 29th. The event gained much traction over the last few months as well it should. Over the last year, Rabbi Ken has displayed leadership, compassion, community building and collaboration along with the consistent ability to give meaningful sermons that make us reflect. As temple Co-President, I have enjoyed working with Rabbi Ken on many different levels; having him here for the foreseeable future puts the Temple in a great position. We must not forget to give a big thanks to Laurel Silverman and the Rabbi Search Committee; one year in and it's safe to say that they got us a great one! The installation weekend has been a memorable one of much learning, praying and celebrating with our entire congregation. It started Friday evening with the always entertaining Rockin' Shabbat featuring our beloved Cantorial Soloist David Rothberg and ended on Sunday with our always innovative Director of Congregational Learning Kim Bodemer and our amazing SULAM program. In between, we officially celebrated the addition of Rabbi Ken to the TCS family with a fantastic dinner and silent auction. Congratulations Rabbi; you suit us well.

Save the Date! Our annual congregational meeting is fast approaching. On **June 6th** we will vote on the incoming board, as well as make decisions regarding the coming years budget. I would like to thank the current board members for their hard work and dedication to TCS. Focusing on the word "volunteer," it never ceases

to amaze me how many people in this community give their time to make Temple Chayai Shalom such an amazing place. It certainly would not run as smoothly as it does on a day-to-day basis without the collaborative minded people that we are blessed to have in our congregation. Your commitment and passion for TCS does not go unnoticed.

Another date to save is Friday, June 23rd. At this *Shabbat* service the new board will be installed for the upcoming year beginning on July 1, 2017.

I have said it before, and I will say it again – TCS wants you! With the upcoming new fiscal year fast approaching, movement is expected within many of our committees. People take on new positions, move to new committees – now is a great time for you to inquire about being on a TCS committee and getting involved! Please send me an email to: president@templechayaishalom.org and I will steer you in the right direction.

The temple will be making a concerted effort this upcoming year to assess and leverage social media tools to keep congregants informed of all temple happenings. Please go to the temple website: www.templechayaishalom.org as well as our Facebook page for the latest information on all things TCS including upcoming Spring and Summer events.

Hevi D. Wen

E-BOARD NOMINATIONS

Judy Jacobs, Co-President, Two-Year Term to replace Rhonda Jellenik

Paul Kaufman, Vice President, One-Year Term to fill Judy Jacobs's unexpired term

Rhonda Jellenik, Immediate Past President to replace Marcia Hicks

GENERAL BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS

Joe Emerson, Three-Year Term

Rhonda Fleming, Three-Year Term

Frani Spivak, Three-Year Term

Howard Wiseman, Three-Year Term

Bob Dichter, Two-Year Term to fill Paul' Kaufman's vacancy

RITUAL COMMITTEE

2017 marked our second TCS Seder, a beautiful evening, in our temple home, sharing rituals, great food and spirit as we remembered our deliverance from slavery to freedom.

This month we come upon three powerful days. On *Yom Hashoah* and *Yom Hazikaron* we remember and on *Yom Haatzmaut* we celebrate. From one day to the next, we experience an abrupt change in spirit and emotions, which is stunning and says so much about our history and Israeli society.

At TCS music, prayer, movies, readings and learning, the tools of Jewish tradition, guide our community through these days. Take part. As Hillel said: "Do not separate yourself from the community..."

Shalom Rav,

Deb Shechter
Ritual Chair

THANK YOU! PASSOVER KITCHEN CLEANING HELPERS

Amy Glaser, Barry Grunin, Ruth Karacek, Carine Levine, Lew Levine, Deb Shechter and Bruce Tanzer

PRESENTING OUR UPCOMING B'NAI MITZVAH...PAUL KAUFMAN

Spring is in full effect, and we bear witness to several children entering into adulthood by becoming *B'nai Mitzvot*. Samuel Liberman, son of Scott and Maureen, will be called to the Torah on May 6th, while Isabella Tokarz, daughter of Paul and Susan, will take her place in adulthood at the *bimah* on May 20th. Kylie Spillane, daughter of Michael and Shari, will be called to the Torah on June 3rd, and Logan Crowley, son of Adam and Barbara, reads from the *bimah* on June 10th. Leila Turet, daughter of Meegan Gliner, will proudly step up to the *bimah* on June 17th, while Brad Parad, son of Michael and Joy, reads from the Torah on June 24th. Let's wish them all a hearty *mazel tov* on becoming sons and daughters of The Commandments.

Isabella Tokarz (May 20th)

Social studies is Isabella's favorite school subject, while she enjoys dancing outside of the classroom. According to Isabella, her *Bat Mitzvah* is important to her "...because I am now going to be considered an adult in Jewish law," and, she adds, "...this tradition will start a new and exciting chapter in my life." Isabella's *mitzvah* project revolves around collecting donations for Hasbro Children's Hospital. She explains, "For most children, going to the hospital is a scary experience." She hopes that these donations will "...give children something positive to focus on while bringing smiles to their faces."

Kylie Spillane (June 3rd)

Due to her love of writing, Kylie's favorite subject is English. Outside of school, she has been dancing since age 3, and has performed on a dance team for the past two years. Ever the entertainer, Kylie also enjoys acting and singing. Kylie has always enjoyed *Mitzvah Day* and has also volunteered at My Brother's Keeper. She can't wait to celebrate becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*, adding, "I have watched all my cousins and siblings on their special days and now it is finally my turn!" For her *mitzvah* project, Kylie plans on visiting several nursing homes this spring and summer accompanied by her dance teacher, where they will entertain residents and play games with residents while visiting.

Logan Crowley (June 10th)

Logan attributes one of his favorite school subjects, ELA, to his passion for reading, while he also "...loves Band because my teacher is the best!" Musically speaking, he enjoys playing trumpet and improvising in Jazz Band. Logan performs *Mitzvah* days and family table on behalf of the temple, and realizes the importance of his Bar Mitzvah: "It only happens once and it represents my taking on more responsibilities, where I can take a greater part in the community," he shares. Logan's *mitzvah* project took him into a retirement home, where he collected and served food, along with conversing with the residents. Along with his friends, Logan also played music for the residents. "This project made me happy because I was doing good things for others," he explains.

Leila Turet (June 17th)

Leila's favorite school subjects include art and math, while outside of the classroom, she enjoys sewing and arts & crafts. Leila understands that her *Bat Mitzvah* represents more adult responsibilities, having been in Jewish schools since age 3. "This signifies a large turning point and milestone in my life. It's a celebration of all I've done and worked for," she states. Leila's *mitzvah* projects consisted of her love of sewing and wanting to help others around the world. Specifically, she designed, sewed, marketed, and sold wristlets and bags, donating all proceeds to Heifer International. Her ambitious goal of raising \$1,000 was reached 8 months ahead of time and she continues to donate profits above and beyond her initial goal. She first grew interested about Heifer at age 6, and soon thereafter, sold bracelets and necklaces for a couple of years, raising \$750 in the process. She incorporated her new sewing skills as part of her *mitzvah* project, and wanted the monetary goal to be larger because, she explains, "I'm older now and can take on greater challenges."

Brad Parad (June 24th)

Brad enjoys studying social studies in the classroom, and practicing karate in the dojo. His *mitzvah* project is dedicated to helping out the hungry, while his *Bar Mitzvah* is the culmination of all of the accomplishments in his life.



A big thank you to everyone who pitched in to make Rabbi Ken's installation weekend a huge success. We apologize for any omissions. We greatly appreciate everyone's effort to organize the weekend and to celebrate TCS!

Sandy Arnold, Mike Cohen, Elissa Cohen, Loryn Cohen, Jen Delaney, Lisy Delano, Joe Emerson, Jen Faber, Barry Grunin, Marcia Hicks, Rhonda Jellenik, David Jellenik, Mike Kamens, Paul Kaufman, Ira Krull, Judy Jacobs, Lew Levine, Caren Levine, Denise Morgan, Sandy Newfield, Rob Newton, Joy Parad, Josh Parker, Laurel Silverman, Rita Spiegelman, Rhonda Spiegel, Shari Spillane, Heidi Weber, Scott Weber, Kathy Weiner, Marty Weiner, Howard Wiseman and Randy Yaras

Safety & Security Committee Forming

We are re-establishing the temple Safety & Security committee. The committee will be responsible for making recommendations and creating/updating policies geared around safety and security best practices. It will be addressing all temple community safety and security concerns - whether it be at the congregation or at SULAM. We are looking to have the committee fully formed with a kick-off meeting late spring/early summer. If you are interested in participating or have any general questions, please reach out to one of our co-chairs.

Andy Sternburg Andrewsternburg@comcast.net
Scott Weber Scott_Weber@miltoncat.com

Books Needed for Kids at ARNONE School



Bring new or gently read books to TCS and place them in the box in the foyer by May 10th.

The Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy Celebrating its 20th Year!

For 20 years, countless GBJCL volunteers have made profound differences in the lives of Great-

er Boston's school children by fostering a love of learning. Please join us in making an even greater impact on the students we serve by contributing books to participating schools. Support JCRC in meeting the goal of providing 2,000 books to students and continuing to create lifelong readers.



"Young Explorers" for All Families with Children 3 to 5 Years Old

Sundays, 9:30 am to 11:00 am \$72 per child

September 10th	New Beginnings
October 1st	Welcoming Guests
November 19th	Gratitude & Blessings
December 10th	Light & Hope
January 21st	Caring for the Earth
February 11th	Courage & Bravery
March 18th	Freedom
April 29th	Community



Registration Info in Office
and on TCS Website



reflect in their own lives about things that afflicted them (made things hard) and things that gave them hope. I was thumbing through the materials and realized that about 90% of families responded that the thing that afflicted them was feeling too busy – of not having enough time to be together.

The next week I was having a conversation with the sixth graders about this and they reiterated the stress they feel around being busy. They pushed back when I suggested that they had a choice about how busy they were with, "What do you mean? Are you telling us that we don't have to go to school and when we grow up, we don't have to go to work?" I explained that in fact there are things in life that we don't have control over – that we have to go to school and we have to work to make a living but how we spend our remaining time is in our control. I went on to share how Judaism gives us a framework for taking a break from our busy lives – it's called Shabbat. In the book, *A Day Apart*, Joel Lurie Grishaver comments on Torah verse, "On the seventh day God rested and was refreshed (*va-yinafash*)" (Exodus 31:17). He says, "Club Med's marketing department understands the dynamics of *va-yinafash*; they know the difference between 'leisure' and 'recreation.' Leisure is just 'time available;' recreation is a process through which one's essence (the original creation) is 'renewed.' The word *va-yinafash* is rooted in the Hebrew word *nefesh* which means 'soul.' A Club Med vacation is marketed as an opportunity to restore oneself to one's essence. Shabbat was created as a tool for perpetual self-renewal."

For many of us it may seem indulgent and quite impossible to carve out 25 consecutive hours to refresh ourselves each week. And yet, we do need a 'Shabbat' to reclaim time for ourselves and our families, to be in touch with the things we are grateful for and to reflect on our lives and the decisions we make. Perhaps we can start by scheduling, yes I do mean actually putting it on the calendar, a few hours a week, to refresh and restore our souls. This can be a plan to stay home, go for a hike, read a book, go for a bike ride or anything that you plan. It might mean saying no to last minute invitations and resisting the temptation to run out to the store to pick something up. It definitely means setting boundaries and staying true to them. We deserve to celebrate 'Shabbat,' restoring ourselves and reclaiming time for the things that are most important to us.

Kol tuv (All the best),

Kim
Kim

Learn more about the holidays that make up the Jewish year as we explore the rituals, traditions, food & stories in hands-on family friendly gatherings.

Make new friends or meet up with old friends as we build and strengthen our connection to the Jewish community. (a parent/child experience)



need. Military success in the battle against Amalek. The revelation at Mount Sinai, as all the people heard God's voice giving the Ten Commandments. And many more miracles besides, during the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, before the people actually entered the Promised Land.

This settlement was not to be permanent. Having been defeated by the Assyrians, conquered by the Babylonians, permitted to return and rebuild by the Persians, and occupied by the Syrians, the Israelites were finally exiled by the Romans. But more miracles lay in store. 1800 years later, Jews emerged from their Diaspora and immigrated to the land. Although a noticeable Jewish presence had remained continuously in the land, the first waves of *aliyah* at the end of the nineteenth century swelled the Jewish population considerably. They began to resettle in the land in towns such as *Petach Tikvah* and *Rishon L'Tzion*, building up the land.

Which brings us to the miracles of modern Israel, starting with her very existence. On November 29, 1947, the United Nations voted to designate land in Palestine as a Jewish state: miraculous. On May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the state of Israel on that land: miraculous. Immediately, and then again, and then again and again and again, Israel's neighbors tried to erase her from the map, but she triumphed, grew, and strengthened herself: miraculous. And Israel has done more than merely survive. Tel Aviv was founded in 1909, as nothing but a sand dune, but over the next century it would evolve into the bustling, pulsing, cutting-edge center of contemporary Israel: miraculous. Israel is a pioneering center of high-tech innovation and business: miraculous. She continues to thrive as a healthy, vibrant democracy: miraculous. She shines brightly as a beacon of Jewish culture and inspiration, with recent successful efforts to strengthen religious pluralism leading to state funding for Reform rabbis (as for others) and to the historic victories (and continuing struggle) of Women of the Wall in insisting that the Western Wall is not an Orthodox synagogue but rather belongs to the entire Jewish people: miraculous.

Even with all her miracles, Israel is not without flaws, but then neither is the United States. The best way to learn about and to experience the miracle of Israel is to go see for yourself. So I am excited to announce that I am starting to plan a congregational trip to Israel for the near future! Our journey together will include a fabulous itinerary, from the Old City of Jerusalem to the modern metropolis of Tel Aviv, from exploring Masada's ruins to floating in the Dead Sea, from riding jeeps in the Golan Heights to joining an archaeological dig, including both well-known sites and some places off the beaten track. This trip promises adventures, memories, and friendships to last a lifetime!

I would like to plan this trip for the time when the maximum number of people will be able to go. So before I carve any details in stone, I want to invite your input into this trip. Within the next couple of weeks, you will be

receiving an e-mail from me with a link to a survey asking your opinion. Questions will include: What time of year would be best to go? Should this trip be with children or without children? How long should we stay? If you are at all interested in going, please complete this survey as soon as possible, so we can plan in earnest. If you would like more information or if you have any questions at all, please contact me (rabbiken@templechayaishalom.org or 508-238-6375 X 104). I look forward to experiencing the miracle of Israel with you!

TORAH Tidbits

May 6: *Acharei Mot/K'doshim*, Leviticus 16:1 – 20:27
God commands Moses to instruct Aaron about the ritual for *Yom Kippur*. Aaron needs to sacrifice a sin-offering to make atonement for himself and for his family before making atonement for the rest of the people. He sacrifices one goat as the people's sin offering, and then sends a different goat out into the wilderness, symbolically carrying off all of the people's sins. *Yom Kippur* is established as a day of atonement and self-denial. Sacrificial practices are centralized at the Tabernacle. The Israelites must pour out the blood of any animal they kill for food; the blood is not to be eaten. God details which sexual relationships are forbidden. God tells Moses to tell the people to be holy because God is holy, and then provides several illustrations of ritual and ethical behavior that lead to holiness, from not making idols to leaving the corners of the fields for the poor to loving one's neighbor as oneself. More sexual prohibitions follow.

May 13: *Emor*, Leviticus 21:1 – 24:23
God gives Moses commandments for the priests. They need to be careful about approaching dead bodies, about getting haircuts, and about whom they marry. They need to be physically complete and ritually pure. Only animals that are healthy and whole may be offered as sacrifices. God then details the calendar of festivals: *Shabbat*, *Passover*, the *omer*, *Shavuot*, *Rosh Hashanah*, *Yom Kippur*, and *Sukkot*. God describes the oil and the bread to be used in the Tabernacle. Finally, a man blasphemes God's name, and is sentenced to death by stoning.

May 20: *B'har/B'chukotai*, Leviticus 25:1 – 27:34
God tells Moses that, when the Israelites enter the Promised Land, the Land too needs to observe a *Shabbat*. Every seven years, the land must be allowed to rest. Whatever the fields grow on their own may be eaten, but the land may not be worked in the seventh year. After seven times seven years, the fiftieth year shall be called the Jubilee. Land that has been sold shall revert to its original owner, and Israelites indentured to other Israelites shall be freed; they may not be ruthlessly enslaved. Israelites may not charge interest on loans to other Israelites. God promises that if the Israelites follow the commandments, they will be richly blessed, but if they violate the commandments, there will be devastating consequences. The book of *Va-yikra* (*Leviticus*) concludes with laws about vows, items consecrated to God, and tithing.

May 27: *B'midbar*, Numbers 1:1 – 4:20

The book of *B'midbar* (Numbers) begins with God instructing Moses to take a census of all of the Israelite males over the age of 20. From all of the tribes except the Levites, there are 603,550 adult men. The Levites are separated out for their special tasks of carrying and caring for the Tabernacle. The layout of the Israelite camp is described, noting where each tribe camps relative to the Tabernacle. God calls the Levites to attend upon Aaron and the priests, taking the place of the first-born Israelite males whom God had previously called to service. The Levites are counted; there are 22,000 over the age of one month. There are 22,273 first-born Israelite males over the age of one month; the excess 273 pay 5 shekels each to redeem themselves from service. God then has Moses specifically count those Levites between the ages of 30 and 50; they are assigned specific tasks regarding the Tabernacle.

June 3: *Naso*, Numbers 4:21 – 7:89

The listing of the specific tasks of the Levites concludes. God describes the procedure for determining if a woman who has been accused by her husband of infidelity actually did commit adultery. The process by which a person may take a vow to consecrate himself to God for some time is detailed. God tells Moses the words by which the priests should offer blessing for the people, the Priestly Benediction. The Torah's narrative then resumes with the offerings the leaders of each tribe brought in celebration of the completion of the Tabernacle.

June 10: *B'ha-alotcha*, Numbers 8:1 – 12:16

God tells Moses to instruct Aaron in the proper way to place the lamps in the lampstand of the Tabernacle. Moses cleanses the Levites and dedicates them to assisting Aaron and the priests. God reminds Moses about the people observing *Passover*. Those who are ritually unclean at the proper time for *Passover* are allowed to celebrate it a month later. God's Presence covers the Tabernacle, appearing as a cloud by day and fire by night. When the cloud lifted, the Israelites would resume their journey. God has Moses make trumpets to tell the people when to set out or when to convene. The people complain that all they have to eat is manna; they want meat. Moses tells God that he cannot handle the people by himself, so God has Moses gather seventy elders of the people who will get some of Moses's spirit. God warns Moses that the people will get more meat than they know what to do with. God sends an enormous flock of quail to the camp; the people spend two days gathering it, and then they are struck by a plague. Miriam and Aaron speak out against Moses. Miriam is afflicted with leprosy, and Aaron asks Moses to heal her. Moses prays on her behalf, and she is healed after seven days.

June 17: *Sh'lach-L'cha*, Numbers 13:1 – 15:41

Two years after leaving Egypt, the Israelites are approaching the Promised Land. God tells Moses to send twelve spies, one from each tribe, to scout out the land of Canaan. They return forty days later, reporting that the land is exceedingly fertile, flowing with milk and honey. However, ten of the spies add that giants live in the land, and the Israelites will not be able to conquer them. The people begin to wail. The other two spies, Caleb and Joshua, attempt to reassure the people that God is with them, and so they will win, but the people do not listen.

God threatens to wipe all the people out and start over with Moses, but Moses appeals on their behalf. God renounces the extinction, instead sentencing the people to wander in the wilderness for 38 more years, until the generation that left Egypt has died. The only survivors who will ultimately enter the land will be Caleb and Joshua. When the people hear this decree, they renounce their lack of faith and go to invade the land, but they are defeated. Miscellaneous sacrificial laws are given. An Israelite man is found gathering wood on *Shabbat*; he is stoned to death. God tells Moses to have the Israelites put fringes on the corners of their garments, to remind them of the commandments.

June 24: *Korach*, Numbers 16:1 – 18:32

Korach, *Dathan*, and *Abiram*, who are Levites, rebel against the leadership. They, along with 250 other Israelites, accuse Moses and Aaron of putting themselves above the rest of the people. The ground opens up and swallows the three rebels and their households, and a fire from God consumes the other 250 men. The whole community then turns on Moses and Aaron, and a plague goes forth among them. God tells Moses to collect a staff from each of the heads of the 12 tribes, writing the chief's name on his staff; Aaron's staff is to be the staff for Levi. All the staffs are to be put in the Ark, and one of the staffs will sprout. The person whose name is on that staff is the one whom God has chosen. In the morning, Aaron's staff has sprouted, reaffirming God's choice of the Levites for special responsibilities. The Levites are also to be allowed to eat the gifts, sacrifices, and tithes that people bring for God.



JOIN US ON TUESDAY, MAY 30TH

SHAVUOT SERVICE w/ CONFIRMATION & YIZKOR
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Come celebrate *Shavuot*, and the Confirmation of our TCS tenth-graders, at our meaningful *Shavuot* services! Services, which will be co-led by the TCS Confirmation class, will include a Torah reading of the Ten Commandments to commemorate receiving the Torah on Mount Sinai, as well as *Yizkor* memorial prayers.

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT (SHAVUOT TORAH STUDY)
10:00 pm to 12:00 am

The holiday of *Shavuot* celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai; a mystical teaching holds that at midnight that night, the heavens open and we re-experience the moment of revelation. It is traditional on *Shavuot* to celebrate receiving the Torah with study into the night, accompanied by dairy treats such as cheesecake. So we dedicate the night of *Shavuot* to a program of study, snacks, and socializing, called a **Tikkun Leil Shavuot**. This year we will mark the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem by learning about Jerusalem through Jewish texts and music, led by Rabbi Ken Carr and David Rothberg.

CHARLOTTE SHEER HONORED with HOLOCAUST EDUCATION AWARD



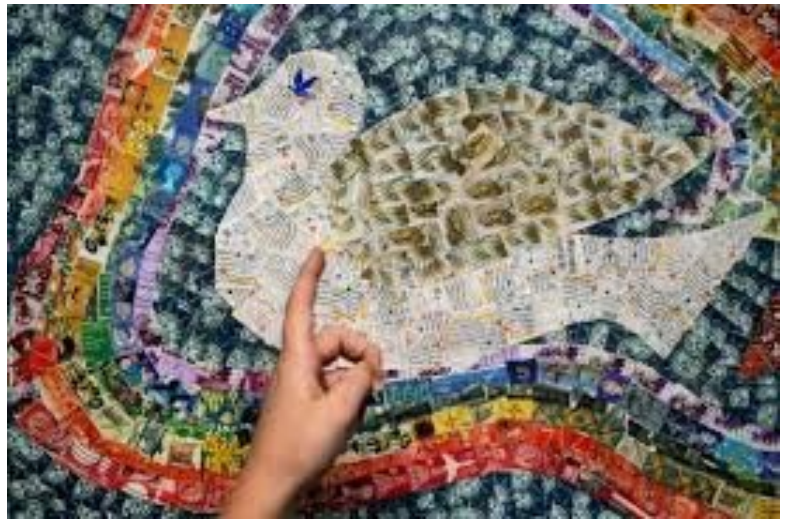
TCS congregant Charlotte Sheer was honored by the Jewish Community Relations Council with the Leadership in Holocaust Education Award for her creative, compassionate and ground breaking work in creating the Holocaust Stamps Project. She

received the award at Boston's 2017 Community Holocaust Commemoration at Faneuil Hall on Sunday, April 23rd.

The Holocaust Stamps Project began in 2009 at Foxborough Regional Charter School when Charlotte challenged her 5th grades students to collect a cancelled postage stamp for every life lost in the Holocaust.

The project became a school wide community service learning initiative, using thousands of donated stamps to create collage-style artwork depicting Holocaust related themes. The TCS community has contributed to this effort through the collection of stamps in the temple lobby, as well as through an ongoing *Mitzvah* Day activity. Since Charlotte's retirement, the project has continued and to date over 9 million stamps have been collect, approaching the goal of 11 million.

For eight years, the Holocaust Stamps Project has served as a spring board for using world history to teach tolerance, acceptance and respect for differences. We are so proud that Charlotte's ground breaking work has opened the minds and hearts of students, teachers and community members.



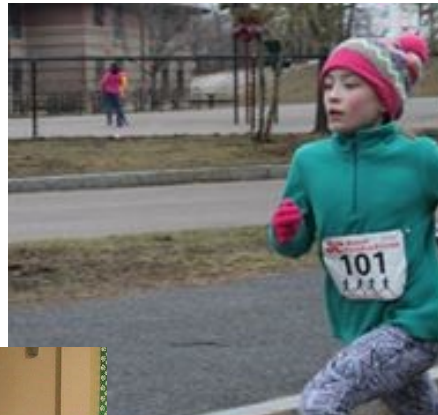
BROTHERHOOD & SISTERHOOD MURDER MYSTERY DINNER



TCS SHOVELTOWN RUN 2017

Thanks to our volunteers, sponsors and runners for making this our best race yet. Look for more to be added and a race day of April 8, 2018.

Run well, Adam Kempner





the Ten Commandments, and essentially the rest of Torah to Moses (with a few minor exceptions), and the only human role was to accurately record it.

On the other hand, some biblical source critics might hold that all we have is a composite of sources from different ancient oral traditions that, despite their contradictions and differing points of view, were stitched together to create the Torah. Did anything happen at Sinai? Who knows? And who cares? It might be just a story, or maybe it's based on something, who knows what. All we can do is try to understand the text as accurately and academically as possible.

I have purposely made these positions sound as extreme as possible, maybe to the point of caricature, to make a point: while there are certainly significant numbers of people who hold these positions, there are also many positions between the two that are defensible, logical and far more palatable to contemporary Jews like us.

Why do I think positions in the middle are more palatable to contemporary Jews like us? Well, for one thing, they let us avoid the problems of the extremes. The problem with the biblical literalist extreme is that, for most of us, it's not believable, and it requires us to ignore or shun modern scholarship and science. The problem with the academic source criticism extreme is the "who cares?" question: what does this have to do with my religious or spiritual life? There are other problems with both extreme positions, but I think we have the idea.

What might a middle position look like? Well, first of all, there are a lot of them. One of the most famous is Martin Buber's I-Thou philosophy, which holds that revelation is a process of dialog between God and the believer, and that Torah grew out of such a process. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel had a similar view, teaching that God and human beings were, and continue to be, partners in the authoring of Torah. Some people call views like these "Participatory Revelation" as opposed to "Stenographic Revelation." These approaches elevate and spiritualize the human contribution to Torah, while still embracing modern scholarship. They also often speak of something like "moments of elevated consciousness," as Heschel put it, that inspire people to create Torah.

Before we conclude this topic, it's important to avoid a few stereotyped pitfalls about who believes what. You might think...the biblical literal believers are Orthodox Jews and evangelical Christians, and the academic source scholarship folks are liberal Jews and atheists. WRONG! Well, sort of; there is a grain of truth. It's true that there are Orthodox Jewish communities that are biblical literalists, but there are many Orthodox Jews and communities that are not; similarly there are a lot of traditional Jewish texts with nuanced and sophisticated views. On the other hand, there are tons of people who are not Orthodox Jews or Evangelical Christians who are

biblical literalists mainly because they have not been exposed to or learned about other possibilities, and haven't thought deeply about the issues. And there are also many people who don't believe in the bible literally, but who haven't thought or learned much about what they might believe.

As *Shavuot* approaches, the Torah tells us to count the *Omer*, the 49 days leading from the 2nd day of *Pesach* to *Shavuot*. Jewish mystics interpreted this counting as an opportunity to reflect upon ourselves and refine our character in preparation for the receiving of Torah. I'd urge us all to use some of that time to learn and think about what Torah and revelation mean to us.

Kol tuv (all the best),

David Rothberg, Cantorial Soloist

MITZVAH MEALS – IN NEED of NEW MEMBERS

Here at TCS we pride ourselves on being a caring community that reaches out to one another during times of joy and in times of need. As a congregational family, we can lighten the burden of others through acts of kindness. Mitzvah Meals is a committee at TCS with the sole purpose of helping members in need. We make or pick up meals and deliver them to TCS members who are going through significant challenges. Our meals not only care for the physical needs of the family, but we hope that it shows our caring and support as they manage difficult times.

Signing up to be on the committee does not obligate you to do anything. Rather, it allows you to stay informed of any needs in our community and to sign up if or when you are able to do so. You do not need to be a good cook to help!

You can pick up a meal at the grocery store or takeout restaurant, or you can offer to deliver a meal someone else

prepared. We use MealTrain.com, an online resource, to organize and disseminate information, thus minimizing the

volume of emails and facilitating the organization of a large group of people.

If you have questions or are interested in joining Mitzvah Meals please contact: Heather Lambrecht at 508-454-5528. or h_lambrecht@hotmail.com,

Thank you!

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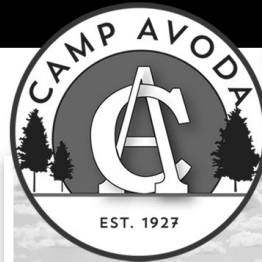
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Rabbi KENNETH CARR

CANTORIAL Soloist David Rothberg

DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING Kim Bodemer

Rabbi Paul Levenson, Emeritus

Mitzvah Day

On March 26th over 50 members of TCS came together to engage in a variety of projects to provide for those in need, this year resulted in some great achievements...

Volunteers decorated and planted 50 flower pots that were donated to the residents of The Residence in Easton 5 Corners.

- We made over 100 lunches that were then donated to Father Bill's Mainspring House.
- Ten fleece blankets were made and are being donated to Boston Children's Hospital.
- Several members of TCS visited with the residents of The Residence in Easton.
- Hundreds of stamps were counted for the Holocaust Remembrance project.
- We had volunteers help with the Rebuild Together Project in Jamaica Plain.
- Our youngest volunteers were very excited to work our lemonade stand and, even though it was not a sunny, spring day, we were able to raise \$200 to benefit Boston Children's Hospital.
- The TCS community all together donated 2 SUV's full of items to send to Syrian refugees, along with the 7 handmade skirts that were sewn and assembled on *mitzvah* day. A special thank you to the Lion's Club of Easton for their very generous donations to this cause and to the Morgan family who helped coordinate the Lion's efforts!

Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped make the day such a success!

