

KOL SHOFAR

Temple Chayai Shalom



UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM
האיחוד ליהדות רפורמית
SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

November / December 2019
Cheshvan / Tevet 5780

Rabbi Kenneth Carr
David Rothberg
Cantorial Soloist

Sarit Ferreira
Education Director
Rabbi Paul Levenson
Rabbi Emeritus



Temple Chayai Shalom
239 Depot Street • Easton, MA 02375
chayaishalom.org • office@templechayaishalom.org
508-238-6385



Friday
November 15th
from 6:30 pm
to 8:00 pm

LET'S SING!
**Shabbat
NaShirah**
TEMPLE CHAYAI SHALOM



This uplifting musical and spiritual service will meet monthly. Pot luck Shabbat dinner 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm.
(Details on the back cover.)



All temple members and their families are invited to cheer on our beloved New England Patriots!

Sunday, November 17th from 3:45 pm to End of Game
Single ticket: \$18.00 • Couples ticket \$32.00

Your ticket includes non-dairy meal and snacks, soda, coffee and water. Plus every adult, over 18, will be entered into our "Football Squares" game for a chance to win a cash prize every quarter. TV's both indoor and outdoor- held rain or shine! Dress warm! Bring a comfy lawn chair and blanket. Fire pit will be lit! BYOB

Buy ticket online at: chayaishalom.org/sisterhood/ or mail your checks to TCS, Attn: Sisterhood Football Party.

RSVP by November 7th



Abraham and the Three Abrahamic Faiths

Torah Talk and Pot Luck Shabbat Dinner with David Rothberg on Friday, November 8th from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Join us for a delicious Potluck Shabbat dinner (bring a vegetarian or dairy dish to share) and some lively discussion of the week's Torah portion, Lech Lecha. As Abraham is introduced in this parsha, we'll be taking a look at Abraham as the father of the three Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam – including similarities and differences in their perspective on this towering figure.

Stay for Shabbat services at 7:30 pm and oneg. Kol Shalom will be singing.



Help out our neighbors at My Brother's Keeper

Stock their food pantry the last Tuesday of each month from 4:00 - 5:00 pm. Some light lifting involved, so plan on skipping the gym that day. Email Jodi Emerson at jodiemerson@comcast.net to reserve your space.

Easton Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, Nov. 17th at 7:30 pm
Covenant Congregational Church
204 Center Street, North Easton





From Craig B. Barger... Happy 5780!

As president of this synagogue, it is my responsibility to maintain and strengthen our Jewish community at TCS. However, I cannot and have not done this alone. It is critically

important that I acknowledge those individuals and groups that have worked so hard and continue to work to maintain this wonderful family, this dynamic, caring and supportive community. I want to enthusiastically acknowledge our professional staff and thank them for their commitment to TCS: Rabbi Ken Carr, Cantorial Soloist David Rothberg, Education Director Sarit Ferreira, Temple Administrator Meryl Levenson and School Administrative Assistant Denise Morgan. When you see these folks, thank them for their investment in our temple and for helping to sustain our community.

I want to acknowledge and thank Judy Jacobs and the Outreach Committee for their investment, commitment, and energy in articulating our...

Core Values



We value innovating education, learning and teaching our Jewish traditions creatively to promote meaningful self-discovery for our members of all ages.



We value building community, growing and strengthening the bonds of family, friendship, and community within the temple and beyond.



We value honoring individuality, welcoming and celebrating our community's diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and religious practices, so that all my feel comfortable within our Jewish home.



We value drawing meaning from Judaism, looking to Jewish culture, spirituality and learning as a source of guidance, insight, and meaning.



We value upholding our social responsibility, working as individuals and together to improve the world inside and outside our temple.



I want to also acknowledge all the members of our congregation who volunteer their time and expertise on our committees and social groups: the Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Senior Chai, Ritual Committee, Welcoming Committee, Engagement Committee, Fundraising Committee, Outreach Committee, School Committee, Security Committee, Building Committee, Investment Club, Oneg Coordinator, and TORCH Committee.

I sincerely thank all of you for your commitment to our community. Your investment of time and energy is greatly appreciated.

You can probably tell that TCS, this community, this family has become a significant part of my life. I hope that it is or will be a significant part of your lives as well. Participate in the activities, events, and services that we provide. Take advantage of what we have to offer. Let us know your ideas about activities that we may not currently offer, that you would like to see us offer. Volunteer for a committee, create a committee, volunteer to create an event or activity. Bring your creativity, your energy, your expertise to this community. Give us your feedback, your input is valuable and welcome.

Lastly, I also wish to express my appreciation to those of you who made a recent donation to our synagogue in response to the High Holy Day Appeal. Our culture of philanthropy and your generosity helps to sustain our community.

Craig B. Barger
Craig B. Barger
President

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Our SULAM friends are glad to be back at TCS!

SULAM, our educational program for grades K-5 has returned to be housed at TCS on Sundays this year, after many years of using a rented space.

We have enjoyed being back at TCS, and especially for our weekly gathering at the sanctuary for "Taste of Torah" – an interactive summary of the weekly Torah portion and for the monthly Havdalah and birthday celebrations. We invite you to join us for these gatherings on Sundays at 9:00 am! Check the TCS calendar for SULAM dates or email Sarit for more information at education@templechayaishalom.org.



Bring your Friends to Tot Shabbat

November 1st ~ Thankfulness

December 6th ~ Chanukah

January 3rd ~ "Newness"

5:30 pm: Pizza & salad

6:00 pm: Music and movement-filled Shabbat service

6:30 pm: Snack and craft activity related to the themes



Young children make friends and have fun while exploring Jewish topics through music, games, movement and crafts.

Saturday 11/23/19

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Celebrate Shabbat!

Make a challah plate and a challah to put on it! Listen to a Shabbat story, sing and play!



Sunday 12/15/19

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

It's Chanukah!

Make your own dreidel, eat a Chanukah snack, listen to a Chanukah story, sing and play!



Saturday, 1/11/20

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Havdalah - A New Week!

Celebrate Havdalah with the school. For Parshat Sh'mot (names) make name crafts,



eat a special snack, listen to a story, sing and play!

Ages 3 to 5 Years
TCS membership is not required.

All sessions meet at TCS and take place during SULAM whole school events.

Cost: \$15 a session



Your Child Could Sing with Shir Harmony at the TCS Chanukah Celebration

Friday, December 27th at 6:00 pm

A choir for SULAM kids in grades 3-5 with a focus on fun, community and making music together.

A fun, community-building experience that reinforces and enhances learning of prayers.

Rehearsals from 11:30 pm to 12:00 noon
Sundays: November 17th, December 8th and December 15th, right after SULAM at TCS

Singing at TCS Shabbat Chanukah Dinner and Service, Friday, December 27th at 6:00 pm

Do you have a child who might be interested, have questions? Contact David Rothberg at music@templechayaishalom.org.



From Rabbi Ken.... Coming Right Up

Along with all the other kinds of renewal the High Holy Days offer us, they also mark the beginning of a new year of temple programming. I

wanted to highlight just a few opportunities that I mentioned in passing on Yom Kippur:

We all know how very fortunate we are that David Rothberg is part of our congregation's clergy team. His creativity, energy, and passion are manifesting themselves in a new way this fall, as he has been leading a group of around 15 congregants in developing a different service experience for us called "Shabbat NaShirah."

NaShirah means "Let's Sing," expressing that this service will be almost exclusively musical, with engaging melodies and instrumental accompaniment, entirely participatory and accessible, and powerfully spiritual. The service will also be followed by a potluck Shabbat dinner. We will be holding Shabbat NaShirah once a month; the first one is Friday, November 15th, at 6:30. All of us who have been preparing to help lead are so excited to get it started; please plan to join us!

In the last newsletter, I raised the question of whether people would be interested in an adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah class, which would culminate in an adult Bar/Bat mitzvah service. TCS has offered these adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah programs in the past that have been very meaningful to the participants, so I wanted to find out if anyone would want to start

Coming right up...

Shabbat NaShirah, adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah class, Introduction to Judaism class and get ready to vote to support Jewish pluralism...

a new cohort. If you are interested, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can start to plan.

One class that is definitely coming this fall is an Introduction to Judaism class, in which we will be partnering with 4 other local Reform congregations. The Rabbis will be taking turns teaching the various topics. The class will meet on Sunday afternoons from mid-December to mid-April.

If you are interested in converting to Judaism, or if you are curious about what that might entail, or if you just want to learn or refresh the basics of

Judaism, this course is for you. Please contact me for more information.

Finally, I mentioned that Israel still does not grant

Reform and Progressive Jews equal status in Israel. This coming year, we have our best recent opportunity to advocate for the rights of liberal Judaism. Every 5 years, the World Zionist Congress meets; the Congress allocates financial and other resources to organizations in Israel and exerts ideological influence on Israeli society. From January to March, voting will be open to elect delegates to the new session of the Congress. It is vitally important for the cause of Jewish pluralism that we have strong participation among Reform Jews and our allies. You will be seeing much more information about the election later in the fall and winter, but please, when you see the call to vote, please do participate. If you are interested in helping me publicize the election and support the cause, please let me know as soon as you can.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Shabbat Service

Friday, January 17th
We invite you to join us for an inspiring service honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King. The service will feature Kol Shalom singing

inspiring African American spirituals and other songs of peace, freedom and hope.



Sweet Shabbat Family Service

Friday, November 22nd
TCS at 6:30 pm

Experience the sweetness of Shabbat with a special "sweet treat" Seder as we explore the

meaning of the prayers in some unexpected and delicious ways. Don't miss this fun, interactive and educational service. You'll never look at the Friday night service the same way again!

Save the Date
Friday, January 24th
at 6:30 pm



An upbeat, exciting musical Shabbat experience for the whole family, featuring the Rockin' Shabbat Band!

"Personal leadership, Purpose and Meaning in Life"

Sunday, December 15th

Sisterhood Sponsored Event, free to all adult temple members
\$10.00 for non-members

Last year, Sisterhood ran an event featuring Annabel Beerel "From a Jewish childhood in South Africa to Today: A Spiritual Journey." We are pleased to announce that Annabel is once again going to join us for an engaging morning program.

This year's program is "Personal Leadership, Purpose and Meaning in Life" and Annabel will be taking us on a journey to find our inner power and influence and how to use that inner strength for personal leadership. We look forward to seeing you at this inspirational event.

Time: 9:00 am light refreshments; talk starts at 9:15 am

Place: Water Pointe, 8 Island Court, Easton

Community Room on 1st floor



Upcoming Sisterhood Events

January: Shabbat Service Event

February 9th: Game Night

March: Wine Tasting

cook
craft
create

Free Drop-in Activities

Preschoolers and their adults

Every Friday

Open to all

Be on the lookout for free weekly drop-in activities for preschoolers and their adults every Friday starting in December. Check the website and your TCS emails for details.



From S'lichot to the High Holy Days to Sukkot...






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Giving Tz'dakah is a Primary Jewish Value

A donation to the temple is a meaningful way to mark any occasion to celebrate a life cycle event, to honor someone, to remember a loved one, to thank the professional staff, or for any other reason and is always appreciated. A big thank you to everyone who has contributed.

All donations received after October 28th will be acknowledged in the next newsletter.



LET'S SING! Shabbat NaShirah TEMPLE CHAYAI SHALOM

Friday
November 15th
from 6:30 pm
to 8:00 pm



What should you expect when you walk into the sanctuary on this special day?

- ◆ Seating in concentric circles creates a closely connected community
- ◆ Several talented musicians and singers join Cantorial Soloist David and Rabbi Ken to lead engaging melodies with beautiful accompaniment
- ◆ The music draws you in and encourages you to sing, or to get lost in the groove of a hand drum, the airy tones of a flute, the strumming of guitars or the harmony of voices
- ◆ Your soul soars!

The service will be followed by a potluck Shabbat dinner at about 8:00 pm. Sign up to bring a dairy or vegetarian dish to share, the link is in your weekly email. Contact David Rothberg for more information music@templechayaishalom.org.



Shabbat Chanukah

Friday, December 27th at 6:00 pm

We'll enjoy a tasty potluck dinner, light our menorahs (bring yours from home) and sing Chanukah songs at our family service.



Planning your IRA withdrawals for 2020?

Consider donating to TCS through a Qualified Charitable Distribution!

Donations from generous members of our congregation are vital to keeping our doors open to all at TCS. Thanks to 2017 tax law changes, donating to the temple through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) could save you money – while helping support our temple community. What is a QCD?

It's a tax-free withdrawal from an individual retirement account (IRA) that is sent directly to a charity. [401(k) accounts are not eligible.]

Who can make a QCD?

Anyone who owns one or more IRAs and is 70½ or older, and therefore must make required minimum distributions (RMDs) from their IRAs.

How does a QCD help?

By donating to TCS directly in the form of an IRA withdrawal (RMD), you can exclude the amount of the gift from your taxable income – even if you're taking the standard deduction.

What do I have to do?

Instead of taking your RMD personally and having to pay tax on it, you can instruct the IRA custodian to make a direct distribution of any amount (up to \$100,000 annually) directly payable to Temple Chayai Shalom (a qualified charity).

The information above is not meant to be professional tax or legal advice. It is highly recommended that you consult your tax advisor, estate planner or investment advisor to determine if a QCD is the right move for you or those you know.



Tucci's Talks with Rabbi Ken

Thursdays, 11:30 am

November 7th and December 5th

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.



Torah Study with Rabbi Ken

9:00 am on Saturday Mornings at TCS