



January / February 2022  
Teiveit/Shevat / Adar I 5782

## Temple Chayai Shalom KOL SHOFAR



### Tick, Tick... Boom

I recently watched the new movie “Tick, Tick... Boom,” a film adaptation (directed by Lin-Manuel Miranda) of a semi-autobiographical musical based on the life of Jonathan Larson, who is best known for writing the musical “Rent.”

I liked the movie, and the music, but that’s not why I’m writing about it. While the show itself is not explicitly Jewish (Larson was Jewish), it does convey a particular Jewish mindset that remains increasingly relevant today.

The name “Tick, Tick... Boom” connotes the idea that we never know what is about to happen to us, that time is passing and tragedy could strike at any moment, so we should strive with urgency to accomplish our goals. Larson wrote in the deepening shadow of the AIDS epidemic - a line in the show refers to “parents under 50 saying Kaddish for their children” - so the tenuousness of life loomed large over him, and in the course of the show two of the supporting characters are or become HIV-positive. (As I write this, the United States has just passed 800,000 deaths from COVID.) Larson himself died suddenly, suffering an aortic aneurysm shortly before his 36th birthday. Tick, tick... boom.

This perspective, of how we should live in a world of such uncertainty, echoes a famous Chasidic story, which tells us of the rabbi who instructed his disciples as follows: “Repent one day before your death.” “But Rabbi,” they replied, “how are we supposed to know what day that will be?” “Ah,” replied the rabbi. “Then you must live each day in such a way that if it were your last, you would be ready to go.” The rabbi exhorted his students to make sure that they did not leave any unfinished business, any atonement they had to make, any values they had to uphold, any family members they had to tell of their love. He charged them to make sure that they lived their lives well, because we do not know how much time we have.

We get this same message from a verse in Psalm 90, which says: “Teach us to number our days, so we may attain a heart of wisdom.” The context of the Psalm suggests that we do not know how many days we have, and therefore, we are supposed to count each one. Of course, it’s not really about counting them, in the sense of keeping track of the numbers; rather, it’s about making our days count. The Psalm reminds us that life is finite, and therefore we should focus on every day, making the most of every moment we have. Living with that perspective would reflect “a heart of wisdom,” living wisely.

The best-known song in the musical “Rent” is “525,600 Minutes.” In this song, Larson notes that that is how many minutes there are in a year, and asks how we can best measure our years. He suggests that the best answer would be to measure in love. As we begin this new year 2022, let us face our own uncertainty by counting each minute, each day, making it count by how much more love, goodness, kindness, and compassion we bring to our world. In that way, we too will attain a heart of wisdom. I wish you all a year of health, happiness, and wisdom.

Rabbi Kenneth Carr



### Shrimp with Lobster Sauce, Pork Lo Mein and Jewish Identity: Why Jews Eat Chinese Food on Christmas

In case you didn’t notice, Christmas

Eve fell on *Shabbat* this year. (It last did in 2015.) This lends even more poignancy to the question American Jews face every year: what’s a Jew to do on Christmas? For many, the answer is obvious. Go out for Chinese food.

What is it about Jews, Chinese food and Christmas? Did you have Chinese food on Dec. 24-25? Why? Maybe it used to be because they were the only restaurants open, and they were empty of all customers except Jews, so it was like an oasis of sorts. But not anymore. Now all kinds of restaurants are open, and lots of Christians are eating Chinese food alongside their Jewish neighbors. So we need to dig deeper. A Jewish friend of mine who is not at all religious said, when I asked him, that it felt good to eat Chinese food on Christmas, even though he didn’t particularly enjoy what he ordered. It seems to be a marker of secular Jewish identity, and it feels particularly satisfying to mark your identity as Jewish on the most holy day of Christendom. Now that’s interesting: Eating Pork Lo Mein and Shrimp with Lobster Sauce is a marker of Jewish identity. And that may actually be part of its appeal. It’s 100% secular and requires no religious belief, observance or knowledge – any Jew can do it!

But why has Chinese food achieved this status? Why not Indian food or Thai food? Why not eat kosher deli? Scholars speculate that the roots are in shared historical experience, combined with living near each other. Both immigrant communities clustered in the same areas of American cities, for example, New York’s Lower East Side, and both were outside the American mainstream because they were largely not Christian.

Novelist Philip Roth, whose *Portnoy’s Complaint* is like one long, neurotic, offensive outburst, says that the Chinese are the only people that the Jews aren’t afraid of because “the way they speak English make my father sound like Lord Chesterfield” and “to them we are not Jews but white and maybe even Anglo Saxon.” Perhaps at a time when Jews felt judged and looked down upon, they didn’t feel that way in Chinese restaurants. Or, perhaps they felt comfort that the Chinese were even lower on the totem pole than they. This outlook feels dated; it may have had some truth at one time, but doesn’t seem to me to have any value anymore.

It may also be true that for Jews who held on to *kashrut* (Jewish dietary restrictions) in some form, Chinese food was “safe *treyf* (unkosher food),” because there is no dairy, so if you don’t order pork or shellfish, you’re good. It’s kosher-style friendly.

What seems to me most true today is that eating Chinese food on Christmas is a secular marker of Jewish identity, and that it has become a secular Jewish tradition. Traditions give us comfort in their predictable repetition, and in freeing us from having to create a new idea on a blank slate. I think Chinese food on Christmas serves that purpose for many. And it’s a tongue-in-cheek, playful tradition making it all the more fun. Plus, you get to eat delicious food!

I hope you enjoyed whatever you ate on December 24th/25th, Chinese food or not, and that you felt strong in your Jewish identity whether or not you set foot in a Chinese restaurant.

David Rothberg, Cantorial Soloist



### Hello TCS Community...

As we approach the end of 2021, I have been reflecting on the challenges we have faced over the last 12 months and how we responded to those challenges. I am so grateful to

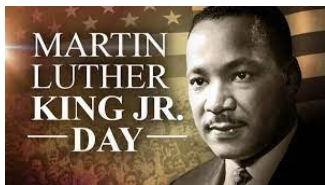
members of our congregation who volunteered when the need arose, whether by joining a committee or helping to move chairs in the sanctuary or by generously donating to our High Holy Day and *Chanukah* appeals. In the midst of this ongoing pandemic, our community faced the challenges together and, I believe, is stronger for its efforts.

I wish I could thank, personally, each member of our congregation who volunteered during 2021, but I am sure I would miss someone. So let me thank each of you by committee. Thank you to the T.O.R.C.H. Committee under the leadership of Jodi and Joe Emerson. Thank you to the Sisterhood under the leadership of Rachel Colchamiro and Teresa Kempner. Thank you to the Brotherhood under the leadership of Mike Cohen and Josh Parker. Thank you to the reinvigorated Senior Chai under the leadership of Stan Spiegelman, Myra Lapidés and Anita Hirschorn. Thank you to the School Committee, chaired by Alycia Dancey. Thank you to the Investment Club under the leadership of Brian DeLano who took over after the retirement of longtime chair, Ben Kravitz. Many thanks to the Welcoming/Membership/Engagement Committee chaired by Joe Emerson.

Thank you also to the Youth Committee and their advisor, Denise Morgan. Thank you to TeCSY and their advisor, Maya Emerson. Many, many thanks to the Ritual Committee under the leadership of Deb Shechter. Thanks to the volunteers who helped chair, Heather Lambrecht, on the Mitzvah Meals committee. Thank you to Adam Kempner for keeping our building standing and to Frani Spivak who is the Oneg Committee. Thank you to Mike Kamens and Lew Levine for their work as the IT Committee. Thank you to Josh Parker and Rob Newton of the Tech Team. And a very special thank you to the members of the Re-opening Task Force under the leadership of Alycia Dancey.

Finally, I want to thank the Board of Directors and our staff for being my partners in navigating a very challenging 2021. I look forward to 2022 knowing that together we will succeed.

Gary B. Berger



### MLK Shabbat: Friday, January 14th at 7:30 pm

Join us for an inspiring service in which we honor the Reverend Martin Luther King, including rousing songs of the

Civil Rights movement. Remote and in-person services.

#### Here is the information for remote connection:

Zoom link for socializing before and after services:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84217024817?pwd=d29ZMVhFbnI3b2FhVTIXL1pmYjJ2UT09>

#### Meeting ID 842 1702 4817, Passcode 792208.

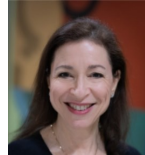
Note: the service itself will NOT be on Zoom; Zoom will only be for socializing. The YouTube link for the service broadcast will be active starting at 7:30 pm. The link is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtrm3ELXgXedTRV2f9sFcZA>.

This link will take people to the TCS Channel page. On that page, starting at 7:30 pm, there will be a video with the word "Live" in red.

Clicking that video will enable people to see the service.

With the service on YouTube, we cannot share a screen with the text of the prayers on it. For those who want to follow along with the prayers, the text of the service can be found at this link: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eUgrYF1xvuiJ5deffcs0SL\\_DvnqjoAH/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eUgrYF1xvuiJ5deffcs0SL_DvnqjoAH/view?usp=sharing).

Another option is to use a hard copy of our prayerbook Sim Shalom; anyone who does not have one at their home may come to the temple to sign one out.



### Jewish Education Is More than Jewish Studies and Hebrew

As part of my Director of Education portfolio, I take my role as a learner very seriously. I participate in weekly meetings with other

directors in the Greater Boston area, engage in Communities of Practice around special education and other areas of development, and expand my knowledge through study, including a recent class on Israel and how to teach about it. Together with the staff and faculty of SULAM, Gesher and our teen programs, we strive to create a culture of engaging with the teachings of Torah, like we are commanded to do לַעֲסֹק בְּתוֹרָה-בְּדְבָרָה (*la-asok b' div-rei Torah*). We hope to "Soak 'em Up" as our Cantorial Soloist David Rothberg so beautifully put to music in his setting of this prayer.

Among the challenges that we have all faced over the last nearly two years is how to keep our students on track in their Hebrew and Jewish studies, as we pivoted to remote learning and back to in-person instruction, while also reducing the number of days per week that our SULAM/Gesher programs meet, from two to one. Please note that this thoughtful restructuring allowed for essentially the same number of hours per week, but on one day instead of two.

If this structural change was not enough, due to the pandemic, our sense of normalcy has been disrupted. With social distancing and masking, we have lost social cues and have had to redefine how we function in our classrooms and school community. Attendance is impacted by quarantining and COVID protocols. Being attentive to and respectful of the social and emotional learning needs in this dynamic environment is an important part of our responsibility as a religious institution that values and cares about every student and every family, along with the Hebrew and Jewish studies curriculum.

In working with the teachers, one of the things that we are focusing on is making sure to incorporate time for this social and emotional piece, whether through play time for our younger grades or the dinner before Gesher begins. Check-ins at the beginning of class and space to talk also provide our students with chances to express how they are doing. We make sure that conversations are age-appropriate and responsive to the students' needs. Teachers ask open-ended questions and encourage risk-taking, being supportive of any progress, and frame trying and failing as essential elements of learning.

All of these things work best as part of a home-school partnership and we look to parents, grandparents and other adults in your children's lives as a vital part of sharing these values and supporting their Jewish education. If you ever have any questions that any of us on the staff can answer for you, please let us know. We are also exploring the possibility of offering some parent classes next year, depending upon interest and space availability. We can all be learners!

*Kol tuv* /all the best, Jeri Robins, Director of Education





### Dear Fellow Worshipers,

Although the past year or so has been crazy for everyone, the future itself is still very bright. After much thought and discussion with a few members of the congregation and the Rabbi, I have concluded

that I want to focus more on the area where I pray and congregate.

In the past, I have had the pleasure of serving on the Board of Directors, where together we shaped the future. Now is the time, in my own little way, where I hope to assist even more.

For those of you who don't know me, I have owned New England Real Estate Center, Inc. in Easton for many years and have built an extremely tight and dedicated team. After talking to the team, we have decided that going forward we will give 10% of the commission on the sale of the homes we sell for TCS members as a donation to the temple in your name when you list your home with us!

Right now, Temple Chayai Shalom needs our help, and what better way than a financial gift? We have always been there for each other, and now is a perfect time to band together again!

It will cost you nothing, and you might even save money as we will list your home for 4% commission. After it sells, 10% will come right off the top of the team's portion of the commission and go directly to the temple in your name.

While you may think this is a sales pitch, honestly it's not. It's a way for us to join together to give thousands of much needed dollars to our temple. It's our job to make sure the temple remains for our children and many more generations to come!

Please call me with any questions. Whether you list with New England Real Estate Center, Inc. or not, I am more than happy to answer questions and walk you through any real estate concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Jane Dunlap



### Get more out of praying in services or on your own!

You can get more out of Jewish prayer, whether it's in services or privately at home. You don't need to commit to attending regularly; feel free to drop in

any time. **First and third Thursdays of each month from 1:15 pm to 2:15 pm.** Classes will also be recorded and on the TCS YouTube Channel. For more information, feel free to contact [David Rothberg](mailto:David.Rothberg@tcs.org).

**Class Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82622994720?pwd=OE9vNmxiakVubUYxR1k5VTNxbHlnUT09>

**Meeting ID: 826 2299 4720, Passcode: 681053**

### Family Table Needs our Help Every Month

Family Table serves more than 100 towns across Greater Boston, the North Shore and the South Area. Currently, Family Table is helping more than 400 families each month with groceries and connections to other services. It is the largest kosher food pantry in New England.

TCS is committed to providing 30 cans of tuna fish and 30 cans of vegetarian beans each month. Bring your contributions to the temple and either place them in the bin in the foyer or leave them by the front door.



### Brotherhood Virtual Trivia Free & Open to Everyone Sat., Feb. 5th at 7:30 pm

Bring your friends, enjoy a great night of fun! Our virtual trivia nights have been a huge success as we continue to grow – we are up to 12 teams and have been able to donate a significant amount of money to the temple during this critical time of need.

Donations are again encouraged as the Brotherhood will continue to donate to the general temple fund to assist with anyone who has been affected by the COVID-19 virus. If you do not have people to play with – no worries, we will place you on a team, email: [TCSEastonbrotherhood@gmail.com](mailto:TCSEastonbrotherhood@gmail.com). Donations can be made by either sending a check made payable to Brotherhood of Temple Chayai Shalom (mailed to the temple office) or via PayPal by going to <https://chayaishalom.org/virtual-trivia/> and clicking the “donate button at the bottom of the page. It would be amazing to see a donation number that beats our high of over \$700!



### Upcoming 2022 Young Families Events

As you may know, we at Temple Chayai Shalom created several opportunities for young families to gather this past fall.

Put these dates on your calendars and share the information with family and friends with preschool children:

- **Saturday, February 5th** from 4:00 pm to 5:15 pm  
Pajama *Havdalah* experience to mark the end of *Shabbat*
- **Wednesday, March 16th** at 4:30 pm  
Tot *Purim* celebration with costumes and silliness
- **Sunday, April 10th** late morning  
*Passover* escape room adventure, designed for young families, echoing the Israelites' exodus from Egypt



### Brotherhood 3rd Chili Cookoff Sunday, Feb. 27th 1:00 pm at Gaslight Village Condominium Clubhouse

(off Rt. 106, behind Subway & Audio Video Intelligence)  
Sample some of the best chili this side of the Mississippi from our “celebrity” Brotherhood members. Vote for your favorite! The winner receives the coveted “TCS Brotherhood Chili Master Chef Blue Ribbon” and other great prizes.

TCS members and friends only, \$10.00 per person (\$20.00 family maximum) pay at the door, cash only.

RSVP [tcseastonbrotherhood@gmail.com](mailto:tcseastonbrotherhood@gmail.com)



### Virtual Life Coach Event: Creating Your "To-Be" List via Zoom Tuesday, Jan. 11th at 7:00 pm

Open to all: \$15 for sisterhood members & \$20 for non-members.

#### RSVP no later than Friday, January 7th

This highly-anticipated event is next in a series with life coach Sara Smeaton ([sarasm Eaton.com](http://sarasm Eaton.com)). Previous attendance at the "Should Monster" event is not a requirement to join us.

[Click here for more detailed information and paypal link for payment.](#) Materials will be sent upon receipt of RSVP.

Thinking about who you are being in the world as much as you think about what you are doing is key to showing up powerfully and with intention. In this workshop, we put aside the to-do lists and focus on "who" we want to be first. We do this through surprising and playful exercises that bypass the "Should Monsters" and help participants see which qualities they value and want to embody. You leave the workshop with your very own custom "To-Be" list, ideas about how being that person might inform what you will do, and some fun practices for keeping your list alive.



### Sisterhood Game Night Sunday, February 13th at 2:00 pm in person at TCS

We will be gathering at the temple for our ever popular Bingo Night. There will be a 50/50 and some raffles so gather up your lucky charms and your friends and come

join us for a great night of fun. All are welcome and you do not need to be a TCS member to attend. [RSVP no later than Thursday, February 10th.](#) Open to all: \$5:00.

### Sisterhood Meetings are Open to All

Please consider coming to a meeting to see what we are all about. Our next two meeting dates are Tuesdays, **January 18th** and **February 15th**. Meetings are at 7:00 pm and held at TCS with a Zoom option.

### Sisterhood Event...walk through Borderland

A handful of us gathered and took a nice walk for about an hour through the trails. We stopped to see some sights along the way, including a bird watching structure that, we are told, was built by Amy Glaser's grandson. It was a beautiful day.



## TCS SHOVELTOWN 5K RUN

### TCS Shoveltown 5K Sunday, March 27th at 9:00

We are excitedly prepping for our annual spring road race, and we look forward to gathering in person for 2022! Our race is a favorite among local runners and running clubs due to our flat racecourse and many festive race day activities. We will attract more than 530 registered runners which would exceed our high in 2019.

Our committee is currently contacting past sponsors for sponsorship renewal. If you know a local company that may be interested in sponsorship let us know. We will contact them with more details about our event. Our sponsorship levels are described below.

#### Platinum \$1000 Sponsor

- (5) complimentary race entries  
contact Adam Kempner for registration
- Display table opportunity on race day
- Finish-line sign advertising
- Top Tier Logo placement on race webpage
- Top Tier Logo placement on race t-shirt

#### Gold \$500 Sponsor

- (3) complimentary race entries  
contact Adam Kempner for registration
- Display table opportunity on race day
- Race day sign advertising
- Mid-Tier Logo on race webpage
- Mid-Tier Logo on race t-shirt

#### Silver \$360 Sponsor

- (2) complimentary race entries  
contact Adam Kempner for registration
- Display table opportunity on race day
- Lower Tier Logo on race webpage
- Lower Tier Logo on race t-shirt

#### Bronze \$180 Sponsor

- (1) complimentary race entry  
contact Adam Kempner for registration
- Company Name printed on race webpage
- Company Name printed on race t-shirt

Thank you in advance for supporting the TCS Shoveltown 5K the BEST early-spring road race in Eastern Massachusetts!

For more information contact: [Adam Kempner](#), Race Director or call (508) 930-5742.

### Sisterhood's Chanukah Celebration

On the last night of Chanukah, Sisterhood lit all 8 candles of the temple's outside *m'norah* while enjoying some hot chocolate and jelly donuts. Afterwards we met up via zoom to exchange our Chanukah Harriet gifts. Everyone was overjoyed with the thoughtfulness that went into each gift.





## 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. [Click Here to Donate Today](#)

### Chanukah Appeal

Ruth Albert, in memory of Rafi Carr  
 Ruth Albert, in appreciation of the TCS teaching staff  
 Ruth Albert, in appreciation of the Reichman family and their continued generosity  
 Ruth Albert, in appreciation of Howard Wiseman and his continued generosity to TCS  
 Ruth Albert, in memory of Susan Pike  
 Richard Albert, in appreciation of Torah study  
 Ruth Albert, in honor of the 49th wedding anniversary of Becky and Steve Braidman  
 Maxine Bloom  
 Craig & Elaine Barger, in memory of Hilda M. Ring, mother of Bruce Ring  
 Marti McIntosh & Joel Brandwine  
 Joan Carr  
 Mike & Elissa Cohen  
 The Farber Family, in memory of Dr. Morton Farber  
 Michael & Ruth Feldman  
 Rhonda Fleming  
 Marjorie Goldstein Fradin & Gay Fradin, in memory of Judith Rosen  
 Matt & Melissa Gilman, in memory of Bud Gorman  
 Gene Jacobs & Judy Lehrer Jacobs  
 Erica Krull, in memory of Rica Meghid  
 Jonathan & Dayle Lipsky  
 Network for Good  
 Tracy Pavao, in memory of Barbara Sirkin, missed and thought of every single day. We are sending our love on the 20th anniversary of auntie Barbara's *yahrzeit*.  
 Tracy & Tony Pavao, in memory of Fannie Kaufman  
 Chuck Reingold  
 Fradin Silberstein Foundation  
 Rona & Richard Slotnick  
 Rhonda Spigel  
 Terry Starr-Klein  
 Sheri Richards, in memory of Murray Steinberg  
 Yaras Family  
 TCS Sisterhood

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund from:

Myra Lapides, in memory of her mother, Bess Sachs  
 Joni Mayer, in memory of her brother Neil Wilensky  
 Joni Mayer, in memory of her beloved papa and father, Julius Wilensky  
 Ross Mayer, in honor of Sidney Mayer's *yahrzeit*

### Malie Baier Educational Fund from:

Mike & Elissa Cohen, in memory of beloved father, Robert Cohen  
 Terry Starr-Klein in memory of Marika Steir, daughter of Michael Steir and niece of Rita and Stan Spiegelman

### Music Program:

Michelle, James, Sarah & Allison Farley, to thank David Rothberg and Rabbi Ken for their help and guidance to Sarah as she become a *Bat Mitzvah*."

### Social Action -T.O.R.C.H. from:

Ben & Denise Kravitz, in memory of Susan Dembo Weinstein  
 Ben and Denise Kravitz, in memory of Bruce Ring's mother, Hilda Ring, may her memory be a blessing

### General Giving Fund from:

Ruth Albert, in memory of Marika Steir, niece of Rita & Stan Spiegelman  
 Ruth Albert, in memory of Rose Albert (Bubbi) paternal grandmother  
 Ruth Albert, to wish May Braidman a happy birthday  
 Ruth Albert, speedy recovery for Annie Braudy  
 Craig & Elaine Barger, in memory of Joyce Westerman's mother, Gladys Berkowitz  
 Norm Berk, in memory of Marika Steir, niece of Rita and Stan Spiegelman  
 Mike & Nathalie Berkowitz, in memory of our mother and sister, Mollie Meyerhoff and Judy Bradley  
 Thomas Finn & Rosanne Bernardy, in memory of the mother of Bruce Ring  
 Brian & Alisa DeLano, in memory of Gladys Berkowitz, mother of Joyce Westerman  
 Michael & Ruth Feldman, in memory of Hilda M. Ring, mother of Bruce Ring  
 Bonnie V. Hirsh, in memory of Gladys Berkowitz, mother of Joyce Westerman  
 Terry Starr-Klein in memory of Gladys Berkowitz, mother of Joyce Westerman  
 Ira & Erica Krull, in memory of Ira's father, Arthur Krull  
 Myra Lapides, in honor of the *yahrzeit* of her in-laws, Samuel and Polly Lapides  
 Myra Lapides, in memory of Gladys Berkowitz, mother of Joyce Westerman  
 Network for Good

### High Holy Day Appeal

David Wolf

### COVID Update and Masking Information

TCS is continuing to follow the most recent CDC guidance, as well as responding to the changing conditions with the highly contagious Omicron variant. We are glad to keep gathering in person, while also keeping each other safe and, to that end, we continue to encourage everyone to get vaccinated and boosted as soon as they are eligible. This is the best way to protect each member of our whole community against infection and severe symptoms and is consistent with the Jewish value of *piku-ach nefesh* (saving a life).

**All indoor services will continue to be masked for everyone (covering the nose and mouth at all times), regardless of vaccination status (except people actively leading the service). We are requesting that people wear surgical masks or N-95s, rather than cloth masks, as they are proving to be more effective. There are surgical masks available at TCS, if you do not have one of your own. Masks should also be worn by people attending indoor meetings.**

We are suspending serving challah and juice for now. We have every reason to believe that this will be a temporary measure and that we can look forward to returning to a modified *Oneg Shabbat* in the future.