



Remember to Improve

How does the Purim story end? Many people think that the story concludes with (SPOILER ALERT!) Esther identifying Haman as the one who imperiled all of the Jews, King Ahasuerus removing Haman from power, Mordechai ascending to the prime ministership, and the Jews celebrating their salvation. That sanitized version summarizes what our *Purim shpiels* usually present. In truth, however, the *m'gilah* tells a much darker story. Haman is not merely impeached; he is impaled, on the very gallows that he had erected to be used on Mordechai. Mordechai does not only take over Haman's position; he takes over Haman's property. The Jews do not merely rejoice; they rampage, killing 800 men in Shushan (including Haman's ten sons) and 75,000 men throughout the empire.

Why is the full story of *Purim* so unfamiliar to many of us? There are three possible answers to this question. First, we do not tell young children the full version in school, because we want to spare them the bloodier details. Second, due to the limitations of time, at TCS we do not read the complete story even during services, in the same way that we usually do not read the full Torah portion on a regular *Shabbat*. While these two explanations are both true, there is a third potential reason as well, which is NOT accurate: we could have decided that this memory of Jews committing violence casts us in a bad light, and therefore we should not retell that episode, because it would make us uncomfortable with who our ancestors were or who we are. We could just pretend that whole part of the story never existed; it never happened.

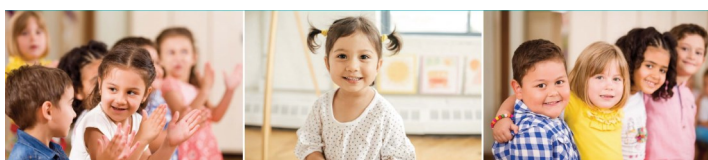
Right now, the United States is facing a tremendous surge of attempts to rewrite history by preventing reading history. Books that challenge a certain favored narrative have been banned; books that present alternative perspectives have been removed from library shelves; in some places, these "problematic" books have even been burned. Groups are trying to "defend" education by diminishing it, preventing children from reading or learning history that might challenge their preconceived ideas, or that might make them (or their parents) uncomfortable.

[Read More](#)



Get more out of Jewish prayer, whether it's in services or privately at home by improving both your understanding of the liturgy and Hebrew reading. 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](#).



Tot Shabbats on Fridays, March 4th & April 22nd 4:30 pm to 5:15 pm

Join us in celebration of family and community at our revamped Tot *Shabbat*. Rabbi Ken, Cantorial Soloist David and special guest Maya Emerson will lead kids in songs, stories, crafts, and a *Shabbat* candle-lighting. Be sure to invite your friends and family.



Hippie Shabbat, Friday, March 11th at 7:30 pm

Shalom, Flower Children! We've got a groovy band called the "Hebrew Hippies" to lead our *Shabbat* pray-in. They'll find the true cosmic meaning of songs by the Beatles, the Monkees, the Mamas and the Papas, the Doors, and Bob Dylan! So truck on down to TCS on Friday, March 11th at 7:30 pm for peace, love and prayers set to some of the greatest songs in classic rock! And don't forget that the Hebrew Hippies would love to see you in some groovy duds!

**Young Families
Event: Tot Purim
Wednesday, March
16th at 4:30 pm**

Let's celebrate *Purim* with tots at TCS!

We'll sing some lively songs, move our bodies, do a *Purim* craft and learn about the *Purim* story. Tots, parents and grandparents are welcome to come in costume.





**URJ SOUTH SHORE
COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022
@7:30 PM**

“Change and Challenge: Reform Judaism at a Crossroads”

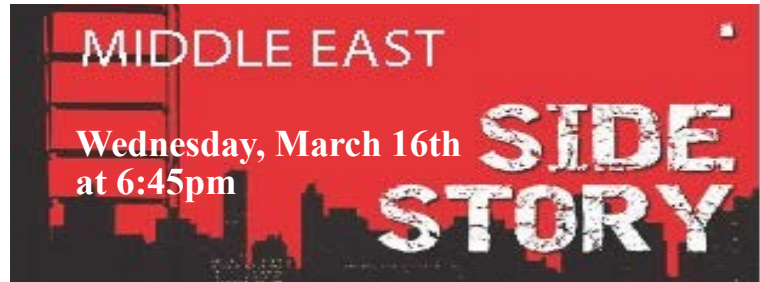
TCS will be participating so this will be our *Shabbat* service for the evening.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84264578910?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84264578910?pwd=RVVOOTdzbnIyRzk5L1JrRG5kL3pHOT09)
[pwd=RVVOOTdzbnIyR](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84264578910?pwd=RVVOOTdzbnIyRzk5L1JrRG5kL3pHOT09)
[zk5L1JrRG5kL3pHOT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84264578910?pwd=RVVOOTdzbnIyRzk5L1JrRG5kL3pHOT09)

Meeting ID: 842 6457 8910
Passcode: 082834



**Rabbi Jonah
Dov Pesner**



TCS Purim Shpiel and Megillah Reading

Hear the words of *Megillat* Esther chanted from the scroll. Then see the story told from the perspective of two gangs in 1950s New York, in *Middle East Side Story* (based on *West Side Story*). We'll also hear our TCS kids sing some awesome *Purim* songs and march around in the costume parade!

Bring a box of pasta to shake and drown out Haman's name, and then fulfill the *Purim mitzvah* of *Matanot L'Eivonim* (gifts to the poor) by donating it to Family Table.



**Havdalah Services Every Saturday
at 6:00 pm**

Join us on Zoom as we bid farewell to *Shabbat*. If you wish, bring your own cup of wine or grape juice, candle and spices (regular cinnamon or another spice of your choice will be perfect)!

March 27th at 9:00 am **TEMPLE CHAYAI SHALOM'S 6TH ANNUAL**
[register here](#)

Fee: \$25 or \$30 on race day



This is the sixth year TCS Shoveltown 5K committee has worked to organize and produce a fun and successful road race fundraiser. Our 5K is a favorite among local runners and running clubs. We have grown our registration and sponsor numbers year over year, and we plan to continue this trend!

We are looking for more temple volunteers to help on race day. Positions still available are "Same Day Registration" and "race bib and t-shirt table", all of which are located inside Richard Olmsted Elementary School lobby or gymnasium. Email [Teresa Kempner](mailto:Teresa.Kempner@templechayishalom.org) if you are interested

in volunteering. Thank you to everyone that has already volunteered! We are excited to work with you again!

Sisterhood News..... Sisterhood continues to provide programming both virtually and in person throughout each month so that we are able to maintain our connections with each other. We are here to provide any help or assistance you may need and as always, if you'd like a ride to an event simply let any of us know and we'd be happy to pick you up.

Please remember that if you are new to the temple, your 1st year with sisterhood is free and you are automatically enrolled as a member. If you are a current member of the temple, you can become a sisterhood member at any time throughout the year. Simply head to the [sisterhood page](#) on the TCS website.

In February we had another great turnout in our speaker/self help series. This time we learned about putting aside the to do list and creating a to be list. Through various exercises and self reflection we were able to see the qualities we valued and want to embody moving forward. By the time you receive this newsletter you will have already received our *PURIM* fundraiser form. Forms and payments were due back to Sisterhood by February 18th. *PURIM* is on Wednesday, March 16th so we hope to see you for the *Purim Shpiel*. Information on picking up your *Mishloach Manot* will be forthcoming and if for any reason you are not able to head out to get it, we are happy to deliver it to you.



BINGO Returns to TCS Sunday, March 6th @ 3:00 pm

Enjoy an afternoon of BINGO in person at the temple. The event is \$5.00 for all and everyone is

welcome. We will have 50/50 and raffles. Bring your lucky charms and your friends and come to have fun. **RSVP tcssisterhood.com.
no later than Friday, March 4th.**

Pinspiration - Where Community Meets Creativity..Early April Date to be Announced <https://www.pinspiration.com/locations/easton/projects/>

Yom Ha Shoah: Tuesday, April 26th

This will be a zoom event where we watch information about Eddie Jaku. Mr. Jaku was a holocaust survivor and passed just last year at the age of 101. More detailed information will follow, but it is sure to be a very meaningful, uplifting and educational event.

Drinks on the "Patio"...Event Sometime in May

With the weather warming we are thinking of enjoying some drinks, snacks and each other's company on an outside patio. More information will follow as the time gets closer.

SULAM Shabbat Saturday, March 12th

10:00 am SULAM

Learning Program

11:00 am *Shabbat Service*



Friday, April 8th at 7:30 pm



"Escape from Egypt"

Passover Escape Room for Families with Young Children

Sunday, April 10th from 10:30 am to noon

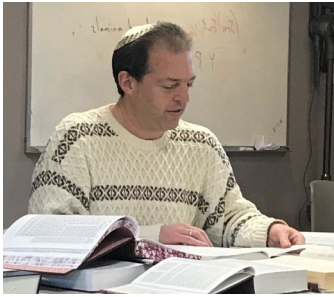
Join us for an adventure, designed for young families, echoing the Israelites' exodus from Egypt.



Yom HaShoah v'HaG'vurah: The Day of Remembering the Holocaust and the Bravery Wednesday, April 27th Mincha at 7:00 pm Program at 7:30 pm at Temple Sinai in Sharon

This special service will include candle lighting, reading of names and testimonies from survivors. Free event open to the entire community. Live service at Temple Sinai, as well as an option to [watch the service](#) through FaceBook.

For more information, or to add names to the list of Holocaust victims remembered by Temple Chayai Shalom, contact [Laurel Silverman](#).



Remember to Improve (continued from page 1)

That perspective is profoundly un-Jewish. Our sacred texts are full of stories that show our ancestors behaving in problematic ways. Abraham nearly sacrifices Isaac. Jacob deceives his father into blessing him instead of his older brother. Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery. Throughout their journey in the wilderness, the Israelites repeatedly complain and rebel, displaying a shocking lack of faith in God. Even Moses is flawed, so much so that he is not allowed to enter the Promised Land. All of these examples are just in the Torah—the later Biblical books of the Prophets go into much greater detail about how the people misbehaved in ways that the prophets needed to try to correct. And not just the “ordinary” Israelites—even the kings of Israel frequently sin selfishly, maliciously, and flagrantly!

Judaism takes the opposite approach from those who seek to censor history. By including all of these stories in our sacred canon, Judaism forces us to confront those parts of our history, of our story, of our selves, that make us uncomfortable, so that we can wrestle with them, learn from them, repair them, and do better the next time. Even on *Purim*, when we seek to drown out Haman's name to fulfill the Biblical command to “erase the memory of Amalek [Haman's equally malicious ancestor],” we have to remember to do so, and that remembering keeps Haman's [and Amalek's] memory alive, so we can continue to strive to improve. Another example: when we consider the Holocaust, we often assert “Never again!” But unless we know what happened, we cannot prevent it from recurring. We have to study history, even its messiest parts, in order to grow from that discomfort.

There is perhaps no better example of this process than Passover. At our *seders*, we do not skip over the difficult or painful parts. In fact, we specifically tell them—and not just with words, but with actions. We dip vegetables in salt water to remember the tears our ancestors shed; we remove wine from our cups to recall the pain of the plagues; we eat *maror* to evoke the bitterness of slavery. We are truly uncomfortable! But that discomfort serves a sacred purpose, because we remember that, as the *haggadah* says, “each of us should feel as if we ourselves had gone out of Egypt.” Our reenacting and retelling reminds us that we were slaves in Egypt. And in turn, that memory enables us, in the Torah's frequently-repeated words, to “know the heart of the stranger,” which inspires us to work on behalf of those who are excluded, oppressed, and powerless in our society. Because we keep our tarnished history alive, we are motivated to build a better future. So we end our *seders* invoking an idealized picture of the world to come, by proclaiming “Next year in Jerusalem!” As we acknowledged when we first uncovered the *matzah*, this year we (and others) are still enslaved; we hope that next year, everyone will be free.

May we remember to make it so.

Shiv'ah Meals

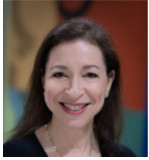
When a TCS member experiences the death of an immediate family member our community reaches out to offer support. Our “Shiv'ah Meal” provides a sense of comfort during a time of loss. We typically deliver a meal on the *Shabbat* (Friday evening) following *shiv'ah*. *Shiv'ah Meals* are sponsored by TCS Sisterhood and Brotherhood. Note: Although we would like to offer this for all loss, we are only able to offer this for current members after the loss of immediate family members (child, spouse, sibling or parent).



Mitzvah Meals

When a TCS member has surgery or is unable to go about daily life TCS *Mitzvah Meals* offers a helping hand. TCS members are automatically part of this committee and receive notification whenever TCS activates a *Mitzvah Meals* Meal Train. Meals are organized through Meal Train, an online service that makes the logistics easy for all involved. For people in need of *Mitzvah Meals* we generally offer 1-3 meals per week. These vary in duration depending on the needs of the individual or family. *Mitzvah Meals* is generally limited to meals, but has offered rides or other support when needed. If you are in need of assistance or know of a temple member who is in need, please reach out to the

[Rabbi](#). Thank you!



From the Director of Education

One of the wonderful things about being an educator is understanding that learning does not start and stop in school. In truth, it continues throughout our lives. We are all learning, growing, and adapting all of the time.

In Jewish educational settings, we talk not only about the formal learning that takes place in the classroom or the sanctuary, but also the role of informal education in such settings as camp and youth group, and on retreats and trips, such as those our TCS teens can take to Washington, DC as part of the *L'Taken* program through the Religious Action Center (RAC) or to New York City. The opportunity to be with other Jewish peers, living our Jewish values, strengthens the foundation of the Jewish identity that they get at home and in SULAM and Gesher.

As you think about your summer plans, we encourage you to think about Jewish camp, whether day or overnight, for your children. Wondering where to start, since there are so many great choices? In New England, there are both Reform movement based camps and independent Jewish camps. There are also single sex and co-ed camps. You can plan a tour or attend an open house ahead of when your child would attend to help you determine the best fit for your family.

Here are just a few of the many camps to consider as you explore your options: Crane Lake Camp, Camp Eisner and Six Points Sci-Tech Academy are all part of the Union for Reform Judaism camp network. Here, campers will interact with other campers from across New England and establish friendships with kids from around the area, some of whom they may then connect with at youth group events or on a trip to Israel. For more information about URJ camps visit: <https://urjnortheastcamps.org/>. Camp Pembroke is a girls camp located in Pembroke, Massachusetts and it is part of the Cohen Camps (<https://www.cohencamps.org/>), which also include Camp Tel Noar and Camp Tevya, both of which are in New Hampshire. Camp Jori (<https://campjori.com/>) is on Worden's Pond in Wakefield, RI and has been a source of many happy summer memories among TCS families in the past. For a boys camp, you can look into Camp Avoda (<https://campavoda.org/>) in Middleboro or Camp Bauercrest (<https://bauercrest.org/>) in Amesbury. Here is a more complete list of area Jewish overnight camps visit: <https://www.jewishboston.com/find/overnight-camps/>. If day camp is a better alternative for your child, then check out Camp Grossman (<https://www.bostonjcc.org/summer-camps/camp-grossman-0>) at the Hale Reservation in Dover or Camp Kaleidoscope at the Leventhal-Sidman JCC in Newton (<https://www.bostonjcc.org/summer-camps/camp-kaleidoscope-0>).

The reason that we talk about camp as being such a seminal experience is that it allows our children to live Jewishly away from home. They see Judaism not only through their own eyes, but also by sharing it with their peers. Counselors model Jewish life and talk about their experiences in high school and college. The ripple effect of these summers carries throughout the school year. Speaking from personal experience, my children lived what they used to call "10 for 2" - the ten months of the year at home for the two months of camp. Now in their late twenties, their camp friends remain among their closest relationships. Camp life absolutely influenced how they each approach their practice of Judaism as adults.

Beyond the summer, I also want to encourage you to think about the informal Jewish experiences available throughout the year; whether it's attending a holiday celebration, a social event, or a service, there is a rich array of ways to get involved at TCS for the entire family. When your children are old enough, we hope that they will continue their formal education through Confirmation and Teen Oasis and, informally, participate in our youth group, TeCSY, as well as going on the teen trips and traveling to Israel (our Passport to Israel program will be the subject of another bulletin article). We value the home-school partnership; you are your children's first teachers and we are always here to support your family in creating and strengthening your Jewish lives. Please reach out if we can offer ideas or support.

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 honor of Becky & Steve Braidman's 49th anniversary

Ruth Albert, in memory of Hilda Ring

Ruth Albert, in memory of Meyer Reines

Ruth Albert, in memory of her friend, Irma Cohen

Ruth Albert, in memory of her aunt, Rose Handel

Craig & Elaine Barger, in memory of Hilda Ring

Brotherhood

Michelle Clapp, in memory of her beloved mother, Myra Sachs

Mike & Elissa Cohen

Jen & Andy Faber

Rhonda Fleming

Marjorie and Gary Fradin, in memory of Judith Rosen

Erica & Ira Krull, in memory of Erica's mother, Rika Meghid

David & Libby Reichman

Paul & Meri Schreiber

Sisterhood

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund from:

Bonnie Hirsh, in memory of Bruce Ring's mother, Hilda Ring

Myra Lapides, in memory of her father, Charles Sachs

Myra Lapides, in memory of Marty Weiner's father

Meryl & Carl Monaco, in memory of Marty Weiner's father

Joyce & Mel Westerman, in memory of Steve Garr

Joyce & Mel Westerman, in memory of Julius Westerman, father of Mel Westerman

Joyce & Mel Westerman, in memory of Hilda Ring, mother of Bruce Ring

Rabbi Levenson/Sol Krumins Youth Scholarship Fund

Elissa & Mike Cohen, in memory of Harold Hoffman, beloved father of Elissa Cohen

Laurel and Stuart Silverman, in memory of Steve Garr

General Giving Fund from:

Ruth Albert, in appreciation of Rabbi Carr

Ruth Albert, wishing Carol Brooker a speedy recovery

Ruth Albert, in memory of her aunt, Beverly Handel

Ruth Albert, in memory of Dr. Alan D. Weiner, father of Marty Weiner

Craig & Elaine Barger, in memory of Dr. Alan D. Weiner, father of Marty Weiner

Thomas Finn & Roseanne Bernardy, in memory of Hilda Ring

Maxine Bloom, in memory of her father, Benjamin Clayman

Maxine Bloom, in memory of her mother, Ida Clayman

Mike and Ruth Feldman, in memory of Hilda Ring

Marjorie & Gary Fradin, in memory of Dr. Alan D. Weiner, father of Marty Weiner

Ken Grossman, in memory of Hilda Ring

Marcia & Bob Hicks, in memory of Bruce Ring's mother

Susan Polikoff, in memory of her father, Max Mills

Paul & Meri Schreiber, in memory of Bruce Ring's mother

Bertha Shear, in memory of her father, Jacob Turteltaub

Terry Starr-Klein, in memory of Bruce Ring's mother

COVID Update and Masking Information

Dear Friends:

Since several of the towns that feed into the TCS community have begun to lift their mask mandates, the Covid Reopening Task Force met to re-assess our TCS protocols. Our goal as a community is to be as welcoming as possible to the many people we serve, young and old.

The Task Force was also conscious of February school vacation and a possible uptick in cases with people traveling. Following the advice of the medical and scientific professionals on the Reopening Task Force, we have elected to continue to abide by the CDC masking guidelines for services and school classes and functions for the time being. **We ask everyone who enters Temple Chayai Shalom to continue to wear a well-fitted mask.** We also strongly encourage all adults and children who are eligible to be fully up-to-date on all applicable vaccinations, including a full course of COVID-19 vaccinations and eligible booster doses. We are in close touch with our advisors and will reevaluate this policy as conditions change.

You can expect to hear more from us by the middle of March as we evaluate returning to our Oneg Shabbat on Friday nights and serving dinner to our Gesher, Confirmation, and Teen Oasis students.

We also thank the members of the Reopening Task Force for their continued dedication to the health and welfare of our congregants and their families and anyone who visits our community.

Alycia Dancey, Chair

Craig Barger, TCS President

Rabbi Ken Carr

David Rothberg, Cantorial Soloist

Jeri Robins, Director of Education

Aaron Bornstein

David Farber

Michaela Farber

Michelle Farley

Ruth Karacek

Adam Kempner

Libby Reichman

Frani Spivak

Sheri Weintraub

Save the date for the TCS Community Seder! Second Night (Saturday, April 16th) on Zoom. More info to come!

***Pesach* is a Time for Renewal**

The sun comes out and spring brings new blooms. We clean our homes and renew our souls by telling the story, relating to suffering in the world today, drinking 4 cups of wine, eating *matzah* and reclining as we celebrate our freedom with the seder meal.

Whether you are planning your first or fiftieth seder, your ritual committee wants to be there. We are offering select Passover basics. Take a look and you may find something for your table, something for your favorite college student, family member or a gift for your host. We even offer all packages of all the symbols you need to fill your seder plate. (Traditional symbols or Vegan symbols are available.) Let us shop for you, and of course, all proceeds go to TCS!

Passover Items

Click the link below to place your order online

<https://templechayaishalom.mypaysimple.com/s/2022-tcs-passover-order>

The last day to order your Passover items is Thursday, March 31st. You will be notified when they are available and pickup will be at TCS. Every order includes a free TCS Passover Bingo game, including 6 Bingo cards with markers and is suitable for ages 5 to 120. It can be played during the seder or separately, like standard Bingo.

Available items:



Melamine Seder Plate with Traditional Symbols...\$18.00

Melamine Passover seder plate with traditional symbols. Brilliant colors illuminate a Jerusalem motif, the perfect scene for a Passover table. Hand wash only, not suitable for microwave use, BPA free, melamine material, 12".



Melamine Seder Plate with Vegan Symbols...\$18.00

Melamine Passover seder plate with vegan symbols (avocado pit substitute for egg, roasted beet instead of lamb shank bone, no honey charoset). All the symbolic foods to bring the Passover story alive. Brilliant colors illuminate a Jerusalem motif, the perfect scene for a Passover table. Hand wash only, not suitable for microwave use, BPA free, melamine material, 12".

Seder Plate Glass Traditional Symbols...\$36.00

Elegant glass Passover seder plate with traditional symbols. All the symbolic foods to bring the Passover story alive. You'll be all set to start the Seder! Beautiful, practical for many years of use. 12x12x1 inches, hand wash only, do not use abrasive cleaners, not dishwasher or microwave safe.



Seder Plate Glass Vegan Symbols...\$36.00

Elegant glass Passover seder plate with vegan symbols (avocado pit substitute for egg, roasted beet instead of lamb shank bone, no honey charoset). All the symbolic foods to bring the Passover story alive. You'll be all set to start the seder! Beautiful, practical for many years of use. 12x12x1 inches, hand wash only, do not use abrasive cleaners, not dishwasher or microwave safe.

Traditional Seder Plate Symbols...\$18.00 one for each item on the seder plate.

Vegan Seder Plate Symbols...\$18.00 one for each item on the seder plate.



Passover Matzah Tray...\$21.00

Beautiful clear acrylic with gold foil accents, gently wipe clean with a damp cloth and comes filled with *matzah* ready for your table.



Passover Linen Table Runner...\$18.00

Durable and reusable waterproof without fading. Size: 13x72 inch (33x183 cm), appropriate for a table that can seat 4-6 people, easy to clean.



Manischewitz Concord Grape Wine...\$9.00

750ml bottle

Pomegranate Design Stainless steel kiddush Cup Set...\$36.00

The pomegranate is a symbol of righteousness, knowledge, and wisdom because it is said to have 613 seeds, each representing one of the 613 *mitzvot* (commandments) of the Torah. Laser engraved design, 7.5 oz. wine cup & matching coaster. (for *Shabbat*, Passover and holidays)

