

Light these Lights

It is an old stereotype that Jews like to argue. Perhaps it comes from our tradition of the *Talmud*, when the ancient rabbis debated how to live a Jewish life in the way that (they thought) God wanted from them.

The positive spin on “arguing” is that it ensures that any decision we make has been well considered from all different perspectives; if everyone agreed from the beginning, maybe some voices were not being heard. [Read More](#)



The Roots of Shabbat NaShirah, Part 2: A YouTube Playlist

Shabbat NaShirah, our sacred circle of Jewish prayer-song, has a distinctive style of music with *Chassidic* and Middle Eastern as well as contemporary influences. The music is built on a principle of few words and repetition, making it accessible to all. Check out this short YouTube video playlist of the composers of some more of the songs we sing at *Shabbat NaShirah*, with a little explanation of each below. [After watching this playlist](#), I urge you to explore more music

by these artists. [Read More](#)



Extending Our K'hillah K'doshah - Holy Community

This year's theme in SULAM and Gesher is *K'hillah K'doshah* - Holy Community. We reinforce this theme when we are together, whether formally during class or, informally, during a meal or an activity. Allow me to give you a few examples that demonstrate how our students are learning, growing, connecting, and creating sacred space. [Read More](#)

Celebrate Purim with us at TCS!



TCS Purim Shpiel

Starring: Esther as Belle and
Ahasueros the King
as the Beast

Monday, March 6th at 6:30 pm

The service time is 6:30 pm and includes *Megillah* reading and Beauty and the Beast *shpiel* and costume parade. What else do you need?

Hear the words of *Megillat Esther* chanted from the scroll. Then, enjoy our *Purim shpiel*, as the story is told from the perspective of Belle, the Beast, and Gaston (based on Beauty and the Beast). 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'Evionim* (gifts to the poor) by donating it to Family Table.

Purim Carnival at TCS Sunday, March 5th at 11:30 am

Exciting games & prizes for everyone.
Brotherhood will serve pizza,
a drink, and a *hamantashen*.
Costumes are encouraged.



"Tucci's Talky"

Join Rabbi Ken
11:30 am to 1:00 pm
Private Room

Bertucci's
BRICK OVEN PIZZA & PASTA

Mansfield Crossing

Thursdays, March 2nd & 30th

(No meeting on April 6th in observance of *Passover*.)

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.

Sisterhood News...Save the Dates

Sisterhood *Shabbat* and *Oneg*: Friday, March 3rd

If you have any questions or suggestions email us at
tcssisterhood@gmail.com.

TCS Sisterhood Game Night

Sunday, March 5th

3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at TCS

\$5.00 to play

RSVP by March 1st

Get ready for BINGO, laughs...
and even a cookie swap!

Join us and try your luck in good
company. Details in your weekly email.



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

Friday, March 10th at 6:30 pm

***Shabbat NaShirah* Service, followed by Potluck Dinner**

Come elevate your soul with favorite melodies and spiritual moments in a circle of sacred song led by our *Mevarchim* ("blessers" who sing and play musical instruments).

We hope you can join us for a Potluck Dinner following the *Shabbat NaShirah* service. Please remember that dishes should be free of meat, chicken, shellfish, and all nuts. Feel free to bring a bottle of wine to share.

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!

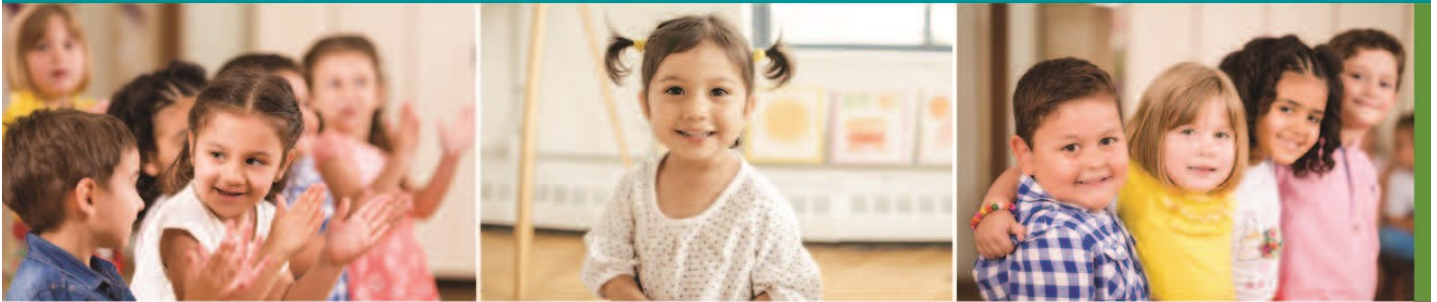
The service will be followed by a potluck *Shabbat* dinner at about 8:00 pm. [Sign up](#) to bring a dairy or vegetarian dish to share.

Tot Shabbat

Fridays, March 17th and April 14th

Dinner starts at 5:45, followed by:

SONGS • STORIES • CRAFTS • AND MORE



Brotherhood Members Invited to a Pizza Tasting Sunday, March 19th, 1:00 pm at TCS

TCS Brotherhood will be hosting a Bar Pizza Tasting at the temple for active Brotherhood members. We'll be rounding up cheese pizzas from the top, local bar pizza establishments. This is a great event to hang out with the guys and vote for the best pizza around.

The cost is \$18 per person.

RSVP by Sunday, March 12th

If you are paying by check, make your check payable to TCS Brotherhood.

or pay via Paypal Here

URJ Shabbat Service Friday March 31st at 7:30 pm Speaker: Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie, President Emeritus of the URJ

Welcome *Shabbat* with Reform congregations from Westwood, Sharon, Canton, and Hingham. All are invited in person, or it can be viewed at:

<https://www.facebook.com/TempleSinaiSharon/>



**Save the Date..
Thursday, April 6th
Congregational Seder**



**Passover Information
Coming in the Weeks Ahead
Watch your Emails**

Light these Lights

When the Ritual Committee considers an issue of Jewish life at TCS, we try to make sure that we are hearing as many voices as possible. We learn about what Jewish tradition has said about that topic, and then we incorporate the perspective of our congregation in our time, as we understand it. In February, we studied an issue that we now want to share with the congregation, to invite your input, to ensure that when we return to the topic later to make a decision, we have taken into account the way our members feel.

A congregant asked us if there is a reason that, usually, only women light the *Shabbat* candles at our services. Does the gender of the person lighting the candles matter, or could men or nonbinary people light also? We began our discussion of this topic, as we often do, by considering what our traditional texts say:

- The *Talmud* (*Shabbat* 25b) tells us that it is an obligation to light *Shabbat* candles.
- Later (*Shabbat* 31b), the *Talmud* identifies lighting candles as one of the three *mitzvot* that women are especially mandated to do (because the consequences of not doing them are severe and tragic).
- *Midrash* connects this responsibility to the verse from Proverbs (20:27) that says that the human soul is the light of God. According to this *midrash*, because Eve gave Adam the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, humanity became mortal, which meant that she extinguished “the light of the soul;” therefore, she (and later women) are required to light the lights of *Shabbat*. (*Tanchuma*, *Noach* 1)
- In the 12th century, the great philosopher Maimonides gives a different (but perhaps equally challenging to a modern ear) rationale: women are particularly commanded to light the candles because they bear special responsibility for the home. (*Mishneh Torah*, *Shabbat* 5:3)
- *Maimonides* also clarifies that both men and women are obligated to have the candles in their home lit. (*Shabbat* 5:1)
- The 14th century legal code the *Tur* collates all of this discussion, reiterating that both women and men are obligated, but women more so than men, for the reasons mentioned.
- Two hundred years later, the authoritative code the *Shulchan Aruch* builds on this conversation to specify that men need to light the candles also. It says (*Orach Chayim* 263:6) that men who go off to study must light the candles in their room, unless they are married, in which case their wife can light for him. But men who are eating together (with no women mentioned) need to light the candles. (*OC* 263:8)

From this discussion, we learned that traditionally, both women and men needed to light the candles. There is certainly no prohibition on men lighting candles, but customarily, if there were women present, they would do it. However, we then took into account so many other commandments that are either obligated or restricted by gender, for which we as contemporary egalitarian Jews no longer observe those qualifications. A 1981 responsum from the Central Conference of American (Reform) Rabbis asks about women lighting the candles and men saying the *Kiddush*; after explaining the traditional limitations, it affirms “Naturally, this conclusion has been rejected by Reform Judaism in keeping with its emphasis on the equality of men and women... Although it has become customary for women to light the candles and for men to recite the [*K*]iddush, there is absolutely nothing within Reform tradition which would preclude a reversal of these roles... In keeping with the current emphasis on equality, it would be good to vary the practice in the synagogue.” (<https://www.ccarnet.org/ccar-responsa/carr-263-265/>)

And indeed, anecdotally, many Reform synagogues do vary the practice. A few months ago, a Reform Rabbi asked the CCAR Facebook group if men ever lit the candles at *Shabbat* services without women accompanying them. Of the more than 50 responses that post received, virtually all of them were enthusiastically positive. Virtually all. A couple of responses suggested that, although they do offer men the opportunity to light candles, there had been (or may still be) some resistance on the part of certain congregants. A few answers indicated that while they do it, some men are hesitant to accept the honor.

In conclusion, the Ritual Committee recognized that legally and philosophically, the gender of who lights the candles should not matter; it should not be restricted to women. Nevertheless, emotionally, customs are very powerful. So we wanted to invite comment and conversation from the congregation. What do you think about this issue? Should we continue to limit our candlelighters to women? Please send your input to me (rabbiken@templechayaishalom.org) and/or to tcsritual@gmail.com, and we will consider your thoughts at a future meeting. Additionally, I will be discussing this topic at a service, as well as at Tucci’s Talks on March 2nd, to provide more opportunities for hearing as many voices as possible.

On a related topic, the Ritual Committee is looking for more members to increase our representation in the congregation. If you are interested in topics like this, or would like to help shape the spiritual life of our community, please let us know. In particular, we do not currently have anyone on the Committee who is a parent of a SULAM student, so please consider joining us!

[Back to Front Page](#)

The Roots of *Shabbat NaShirah*, Part 2: A YouTube Playlist

Niggun Tishrei, by Nava Tehilla

This was the first piece we ever sang at *Shabbat NaShirah*, as it opened the first service, and we still sing it often. A beautiful *niggun* (wordless spiritual melody) that's a classic of the style – beautiful, easy to sing and stands up to repetition. It was written for the month of *Tishrei*, which includes *Rosh Ha-Shanah*, *Yom Kippur* and *Sukkot*. But it is sung all year around.

Tu B'shevat, by Batya Levine

This is the most recent *niggun* we've added to the *Shabbat NaShirah* repertoire, by an artist of the new generation of Jewish song leaders writing in the *NaShirah* style, Batya Levine. It's another example of a song written with a particular holiday in mind, but which we sing all year round.

Shema, by Tzika Pik

We often sing this version of “Shema” by the late Israeli rock star, Tzika Pik. Known in Israel much more for his rock and pop hits than liturgical music, Pik first came to prominence in Israel's production of the musical, “Hair.” Pik wrote several of Israel's entries in the Eurovision Song Contest, including “Diva,” which won the contest in 1998. “Shema” was his entry for the *Chassidic Song Festival* in 1972 and was one of the first rock settings of a prayer, and it caused quite a stir in the ultra-Orthodox world, where it was banned from use, saying, “because of him they are saying the holy *Shema Yisrael* in discotheques.” It was featured on his album of that year, which also included a picture of him wearing nothing but silver metallic paint from the neck down. However, within a few years, the rabbis gave up, and Pik's *Shema* was being sung not only in Jewish summer camps and synagogues, but some of the most ultra-Orthodox *yeshivas*.

Ya'aloz Sadai, by Yoel Sykes/Nava Tehilla

Another piece by Nava Tehilla, who have done so much to establish and popularize the style *Shabbat NaShirah* is based on. A verse from Psalm 96, “*Ya'aloz Sadai*” is about seeing the natural world with spiritual eyes, saying, “Let the field and everything in it exult! Let the forest and its inhabitants sing with joy!” And the fun, upbeat music matches that sentiment exactly.

Lechu, by Yosef Goldman

“*Lechu*,” by Yosef Goldman, sets the first verse of Psalm 95, the first of the *Kabbalat Shabbat* Psalms. It has become a regular for *Shabbat NaShirah*. I like how the first section is kind of jazzy and builds anticipation with the Psalm's invitation to sing to God, “Come, let us joyfully sing to God.” And then the 2nd section bursts with joyful energy: “Let's greet God with thanks, sing out to God!”

[Back to Front Page](#)



Friday, April 14th at 7:30 pm

The Hebrew Hippies, our groovy band, will have a few new tricks up their sleeves for this year's *Shabbat Pray-In*! We're cooking up some NEW Shabbatified songs from the 60s and 70s that will blow your minds! And that's on top of the psychedelic songs we've been putting down for you from The Beatles, The Doors, Bob Dylan and their brothers and sisters.

So put on your best hippie threads and truck on down to TCS for peace, love and prayer music set to the greatest hippie songs of the 60s and 70s! Outasight!

Extending Our *K'hillah K'doshah* - Holy Community

Shira (music) and *T'fillah* (prayers)

First, on the Sundays when David is off, I get the pleasure of leading singing and *t'fillah* (prayers) with our SULAM students. One of the joys of this is getting to spend time with them and hear what's on their hearts. I have had amazing conversations that demonstrate their curiosity, depth, and insights. It's also been lovely to see them forging relationships with each other.

Gesher Friendships

Speaking of relationships with each other, our Gesher students are thoroughly enjoying their social time before class begins. At times last year, we had to ask them to put their phones away and hoped that they would interact. This year, the students are animated and engaged with each other, sitting together as a group catching up on the week's events.

Shabbat Services

We had our first SULAM-led *Shabbat* service at the end of January and were so very proud of our students. We had wonderful attendance and each class confidently and capably led their assigned prayers. Several of our Gesher students were there and they also participated. It was a real highlight of the year, so far. This is a way that we extend our *K'hillah K'doshah* beyond the classroom. Please make sure that you have Saturday morning, March 11th, and Friday night, April 28th, reserved for our next SULAM services.

Tzedakah (Charity)

Next, the generosity of the students is palpable on Sunday mornings when they eagerly add their coins and bills to the *Tzedakah* box. They get very excited when asked to think of charities to support and offer many worthy causes to choose among. They think of others who are in need, whether children like themselves through Birthday Wishes (which makes a difference in the lives of homeless children and their families by bringing them the joy of a birthday party), local animal shelters, or Family Table.

One week, the congregation did not meet their quota of soup cans for Family Table, so the students agreed to take \$35 from their *Tzedakah* contributions to make up the difference. Amy Glaser, the congregant who has taken responsibility for delivering our Family Table donations of tuna fish and vegetable soup, then went to the store to buy the soup. She left her purse in the car and only brought in the \$35 in cash and, when she went to check out, the total was \$40, so she asked the cashier to remove a couple of the cans. In a beautiful example of paying it forward, someone in the aisle next to her overheard and gave her the \$5 to be able to buy all of the soup. This is one way that we extend our *K'hillah K'doshah* beyond the walls of TCS.

Young Family Programming

In addition to our religious school programming, our Young Families' events, Tot *Shabbats*, and Young Explorers classes have been attracting prospective families. These activities are an important way that we can continue to build the TCS community. We hope that you can share these events within your circles. Word of mouth is one of the best ways to let people know about us.

Registration

In the coming weeks, registration information will be going out for next year. The process is almost entirely on-line and we do everything we can to make it simple for you. Please take the time to register early as it really does help us with planning. We will be hosting some Open Houses and we would appreciate your support in promoting them.

Making Connections

Finally, how can we help YOU to feel more connected to the TCS Family? Can we facilitate a *Shabbat* dinner or grabbing a bite with a classmate's family after SULAM? Are you willing to help by hosting an adult evening or organizing a meet-up at a playground? Please let us know what we can do to make you feel even more a part of our *K'hillah K'doshah*.

[Back to Front Page](#)



\$20 per session per family

Parents are welcome to stay with their children.

[Click here](#) to register. Questions? Contact [Jeri Robins](#), Director of Education.

March 26th: Preparing for Passover

May 7th: A Party to Celebrate Israel's 75th Birthday

A successful raffle will help us balance our budget and meet our fundraising needs for this year.



May 6th at 7:00 pm
Thorny Lea Golf Club in Brockton

TCS Comedy Night
and
\$5,000 Cash Raffle
Great Odds, only 250
Tickets will be sold!



Raffle Drawing at our Comedy Night, Featuring 3 Top Comedians



Jimmy Dunn is a comedian and actor who is most recognized from the CBS sitcom The McCarthys, where he co-starred as Sean McCarthy.



Mike Koutrobis has been entertaining audiences as a stand-up comedian for over twenty years.



Howie has brought his reasonably smart brand of humor to the biggest venues in the area including Comix Mohegan Sun, Nick's Comedy Stop, and the Xfinity Center.

Link for
Information
and
[Buy Tickets at
winthis.org/](http://winthis.org/)





SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023 @ 9AM

COST: \$30 RACE DAY: \$35

101 LOTHROP ST, EASTON MA (DOORS OPEN 7AM)

www.tcsshoveltownrun.com

Tuesday, April 18th at 7:00 pm

Yom HaShoah v'HaG'vurah

The Day of Remembering the Holocaust and the Bravery

Please join us for a community wide service at
B'nai Tikvah, 1301 Washington St. in Canton.

This special service is free and open to the entire community.
It will include candle-lighting, reading of names and testimonies.
Join in person or through live stream which will be publicized
in upcoming emails. For more information contact

[Rachel Colchamiro](#).



Sponsored by: *Adath Sharon Sisterhood*,
Ahavath Torah of Stoughton, *B'nai Tikvah*,
Temple Beth David of the South Shore,
Temple *Beth Emunah*, Temple *Chayai*
Shalom, Temple Israel, Temple *Sinai*,
Young Israel

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](#)

General Giving Fund

Nathalie Berkowitz, in memory of her sister, Willa Rosenthal
Maxine Bloom, in memory of her mother, Ida Clayman
Kim & Brian Bodemer, in memory of Bob Hicks
Kim & Brian Bodemer, in honor of David Rothberg and the release of his album
Liz & Aaron Bornstein, in memory of Bob Hicks
Esta & Howard Jacobs, in memory of Dorothy Uditsky
Myra Lapides, in memory of her father, Charles Sachs
Lenny Levine, in honor of the *yahrzeit* of Pearl Levine
Finn Ring Family Fund, in memory of Mary Ruth Finn and Hilda Miriam Ring
Jack & Bertha Shear, in honor of the *yahrzeit* of Jacob Turteltaub
Alan & Debra Sirota, in memory of Ida Sophia Sirota

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Norman & Sharlene Azer, in memory of Bob Hicks
Rhonda Fleming, in memory of Bob Hicks
Melissa & Matt Gilman, in memory of Bob Hicks
Rhonda & David Jellenik, in memory of Bob Hicks
Myra Lapides, in memory of Bob Hicks
Joyce Levine, in observance of the *yahrzeit* of her father, Milton Rotenberg
Lenny Levine, in observance of the *yahrzeit* of his mother, Pearl Levine
Parker family, in memory of Bob Hicks
Tracey & Tony Pava, in memory of Bob Hicks
Mel & Joyce Westerman, in honor of Mel's father

Rabbi Levenson/Sol Krumins Youth Scholarship Fund

Zenack family, in memory of Bob Hicks



T.O.R.C.H. Committee

Please remember to bring in donations for **Family Table**. We collect 30 cans each of tuna fish and vegetarian soup. The donation box is located in the lobby of the temple.

Family Table serves more than 100 towns across Greater Boston, the North Shore, and the South Area. It is the largest *kosher* food pantry in New England.