



Clothing and Tallit

As I write these words, the Torah portion of the week pictures the Israelites gathered at Mount Sinai, getting commandments from God through Moses. Most modern religiously liberal Jews no longer see the *mitzvot* as coming from God as literal directives that we are obliged to follow. Instead, we more often view them as our ancestors' best understanding of what God wants from us. We take upon ourselves the responsibility to determine whether those mitzvot remain spiritually meaningful to us (and therefore we should continue to observe them) or whether they no longer add holiness to our lives (in which case we can let them go). The strength and the struggle of Reform Judaism is that we invest each individual with the power to make that decision for themselves, and therefore it is very rare for a Reform congregation to tell its members what they **MUST** do. [Continued on page 6.](#)



Purim: More Than Fun and Games for Children

"*Mishenichnas Adar, marbim b'simchah!*" Upon entering the month of *Adar*, joy increases!" Such is the saying of the month that includes *Purim*, and it's easy to see why. *Purim* includes a party atmosphere of revelry and irreverence, a fun play, delicious *hamantaschen*, a festive meal, costumes, giving and receiving edible gifts, a carnival for the kids, *tzedakah* (caring for the poor) – what's not to like? But... [Continued on page 7.](#)



Train Yourself to Always Show Up

In a recent meeting of Jewish professionals, the facilitator shared a January 2024 New York Times opinion piece written by Rabbi Sharon Brous, the founding and senior rabbi of Ikar in Los Angeles. Titled "Train Yourself to Always Show Up," Rabbi Brous refers to a *mishnah* from *Middot* 2:2. [Continued on page 8.](#)



Purim Costume Fun!
Join us at Great Gatsby
Night of Mystery
Saturday, March 23rd 7:00
pm Sharp

Sponsored by Sisterhood and Brotherhood. Tickets are \$10pp to include mystery game fun, food, and soft drinks. BYOB
[RSVP by March 10th to tcssisterhood@gmail.com.](#)

Let us know if you want to be assigned a role in the mystery to act out the game!

After you RSVP, a PayPal link for purchasing tickets will be emailed to you.



Celebrate Purim Sunday, March 24th

See a Barbie-themed *Purim Shpiel*, hear the *Megillah* and eat delicious *hamantaschen*,
9:15 am to 10:30 am!

You can also fulfill the *mitzvah* of *matanot l'evionim* (gifts to the poor) by bringing cans of vegetarian soup or tuna.

TCS Brotherhood's Purim Carnival at 11:30 am.

Bring kids to enjoy our annual *Purim* carnival, featuring fun, games and prizes
A great time will be had by all!



Sisterhood's Purim Bag Fundraiser

Through last year's *Purim* Bag Fundraiser, the TCS community raised \$1200 to donate to charity. This year we will donate funds to The Charity Guild!
Form on Next Pages or [Order Here by March 15th](#)

TEMPLE CHAYAI SHALOM— LET'S CELEBRATE! PURIM BEGINS MARCH 23 AT SUNDOWN

Purim

celebrated on the 14th of Adar, is a jolly, action-packed holiday! Twenty-four hundred years ago, Haman, the Persian prime-minister, ordered genocide of all the Jews. His plan was thwarted by Esther and Mordechai—and we celebrate by observing the following FOUR rituals:



- *Reading the Megillah, recounting the story of the Purim miracle.*
- *Giving monetary gifts to at least two people in need.*
- *Sending gifts with two kinds of food to at least one person.*
- *A festive Purim feast, which often includes wine or other intoxicating beverages.*

TCS Sisterhood would like to help you fulfill two of these special mitzvot. First, by sending Mishloach Manot (gift bags) to members of our congregation that you choose. These festive gift bags will consist of food and other items to help celebrate Purim. And second, is the opportunity, through the purchase of these gift bags, to make a donation to one of our local community food pantries. Through last year's Purim Bag Fundraiser, the TCS community raised \$1200 to donate to charity. This year we will donate funds to The Charity Guild!

How it works

As a Donor, you will choose the **TCS Recipients** you would like to honor with a Purim gift bag. Each **TCS Recipient** selected will receive one gift bag and a certificate listing all the **TCS Donors** who purchased a honor for them. For example, if ten **TCS Donors** choose to honor Rabbi Ken with a gift bag, Rabbi Ken will receive one festive gift bag and a beautiful certificate listing the ten **TCS Donors**.

CHOOSE YOUR CATEGORY:

MISHLOACH MANOT: Donate one Purim Honor for \$8

HAMANTASCHEN: Donate 5 Purim Honors for \$36

ACHASHVEROSH: Donate up to 10 Purim Honors for \$54
[And Sisterhood will donate \$10 to the food pantry]

VASHTI: Donate up to 15 Purim Honors for \$90
[And Sisterhood will donate \$15 to the food pantry]

MORDECHAI: Donate up to 20 Purim Honors for \$126
[And Sisterhood will donate \$20 to the food pantry]

QUEEN ESTHER:

Donate up to 45 Purim Honors for \$144

[And Sisterhood will donate \$30 to the food pantry!!!]

Everyone that receives a gift bag will be notified via email on March 18th. Gift bags can be picked up at Temple Chayai Shalom on or after March 20th when the temple is open. Members of Sisterhood will be on hand to pass out gift bags during Geshet on Wed. 3/20, Shabbat services 3/22, the Purim Night of Mystery 3/23 and the Purim carnival 3/24.

What would you like to do if you receive a Purim Gift Bag?

- ☐ Yay! I'll pick up my bag on or after March 20th when temple is open.
- ☐ No gift bag please, but I'd like to receive my Purim Certificate via email. Donate bag proceeds to local charity.
- ☐ Please contact me because I need an alternative option to pick up my bag.

Would you like us to reciprocate a Purim bag to those donors that are not on your recipient list? (no extra fee)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

☐ Hamantaschen 5 for \$36 ☐ Achashverosh 10 for \$54 ☐ Vashti 15 for \$90 ☐ Mordechai 20 for \$126

☐ Queen Esther up to 45 for \$144 Fill in category amount = \$ _____

How many Single Mishloach Manot honor _____ X \$8 = \$ _____

How many Extra Gift Bags for Non-Members? _____ X \$8 = \$ _____

Contact Name and phone: _____ Total donation : \$ _____

☐ I'll pay by credit card. Send me an invoice via email.

☐ I'll pay by check made out to TCS Sisterhood. Mail to:

Temple Chayai Shalom, attn Sisterhood/Purim, 239 Depot Street, South Easton, MA 02375

This form and payment MUST BE RECEIVED no later than Wed. March 13, 2024

TEMPLE CHAYAI SHALOM— LET'S CELEBRATE! PURIM BEGINS MARCH 23 AT SUNDOWN

Important How do you want your name displayed on Purim Certificates? (i.e. From: The Smith Family or Tom & Sue Smith)

Your Name: _____

Please select TCS Recipients for your Purim Gift Bag Honor

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ruth Albert | <input type="checkbox"/> Beth Herr | <input type="checkbox"/> Aaron & Rhonda Polansky |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gloria Aronson | <input type="checkbox"/> Marcia Hicks | <input type="checkbox"/> Susan Polikoff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Norman & Sharlene Azer | <input type="checkbox"/> Leslie & Marcia Hirsch | <input type="checkbox"/> Ben & Alyson Powers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leslie Bahadosingh & Ruth Karacek | <input type="checkbox"/> Anita Hirschorn | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark & Lori Powers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Balkman | <input type="checkbox"/> Julie Howard | <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua & Hallie Pransky |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Craig & Elaine Barger | <input type="checkbox"/> Justin & Jill Israel | <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Rauch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brian & Alexandra Beckenstein | <input type="checkbox"/> Gene Jacobs & Judy Lehrer Jacobs | <input type="checkbox"/> David & Libby Reichman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Norm Berk | <input type="checkbox"/> Howard & Esta Jacobs | <input type="checkbox"/> Chuck Reingold |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nathalie Berkowitz | <input type="checkbox"/> David & Rhonda Jellenik | <input type="checkbox"/> Andrew Reservitz |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leslie Berman | <input type="checkbox"/> Philip & Paula Kachinsky | <input type="checkbox"/> Sean & Sheri Richards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeffrey Blackman | <input type="checkbox"/> Michael & Marsha Kamens | <input type="checkbox"/> Bruce & Mary Catherine Ring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marc Bloom | <input type="checkbox"/> Dan Katz & Lisa Klein | <input type="checkbox"/> Bill & Kim Rosen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maxine Bloom | <input type="checkbox"/> Nathan & Judy Katzen | <input type="checkbox"/> Keith & Ilana Rugg |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aaron & Liz Bornstein | <input type="checkbox"/> Paul & Sara Kaufman | <input type="checkbox"/> Paul & Meri Schreiber |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steve & Becky Braidman | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Keller | <input type="checkbox"/> Brian & Stephanie Schwartz |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joel Brandwine & Mari McIntosh | <input type="checkbox"/> Adam & Teresa Kempner | <input type="checkbox"/> Michael & Diane Seigal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corey & Jennifer Brown | <input type="checkbox"/> Todd & Jessica Kerensky | <input type="checkbox"/> Jack & Bertha Shear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kirk & Bettina Buckman | <input type="checkbox"/> Eric & Adena Kollar | <input type="checkbox"/> Tal & Deborah Shechter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joan Carr | <input type="checkbox"/> Rob & Natalia Kramer | <input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Silberman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ken & Rebecca Carr | <input type="checkbox"/> Ben & Denise Kravitz | <input type="checkbox"/> Adam Silver |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michelle Clapp & Karen Galvin | <input type="checkbox"/> Bob & Lily Krentzman | <input type="checkbox"/> Eric & Beth Silverman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michael & Elissa Cohen | <input type="checkbox"/> Ira & Erica Krull | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert & Joanna Silverman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel & Rachel Colchamiro | <input type="checkbox"/> Carl & Heather Lambrecht | <input type="checkbox"/> Stuart & Laurel Silverman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Josh Coleman & Michelle Browning | <input type="checkbox"/> Myra Lapides | <input type="checkbox"/> Alan & Debra Sirota |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stephen & Alycia Dancey | <input type="checkbox"/> David & Meryl Levenson | <input type="checkbox"/> Richard & Rona Slotnick |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paul & Jennifer Delaney | <input type="checkbox"/> Paul Levenson | <input type="checkbox"/> Josh & Marci Slovin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brian & Alisa DeLano | <input type="checkbox"/> Lenny & Joyce Levine | <input type="checkbox"/> Steve & Ellen Spector |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Dem | <input type="checkbox"/> Sumner Levine & Judy Romaine | <input type="checkbox"/> Rhonda Spigel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bob & Gayle Dichter | <input type="checkbox"/> Lew & Caren Levine | <input type="checkbox"/> Gregg & Frani Spivak |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jane Dunlap | <input type="checkbox"/> Sally Levy | <input type="checkbox"/> Terry Starr-Klein |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donna Elias | <input type="checkbox"/> Doreen Lipman | <input type="checkbox"/> Paul & Janet Sturman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joe & Jodi Emerson | <input type="checkbox"/> Jon & Dayle Lipsky | <input type="checkbox"/> Bruce & Joan Tanzer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Andrew & Jennifer Faber | <input type="checkbox"/> Glenn & Jeri Malin | <input type="checkbox"/> Duane & Hannah Thomas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> David & Michaela Farber | <input type="checkbox"/> Erica Marzella | <input type="checkbox"/> Randi Tillman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> James & Michelle Farley | <input type="checkbox"/> Ross & Joni Mayer | <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua & Darcie Tuton |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michael & Ruth Feldman | <input type="checkbox"/> Randi McCarthy | <input type="checkbox"/> Martin & Ricki Wahl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Norm & Helen Finkelstein | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert & Michelle Mellion | <input type="checkbox"/> Scott & Heidi Weber |
| <input type="checkbox"/> David & Lili Flashenburg | <input type="checkbox"/> Barry & Mary-Ellen Meltzer | <input type="checkbox"/> Marty & Kathy Weiner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rhonda Fleming | <input type="checkbox"/> Nancy Methelis | <input type="checkbox"/> Jacob & Sheri Weintraub |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gary Fradin & Marjorie Goldstein-Fradin | <input type="checkbox"/> Howard & Mollie Miller | <input type="checkbox"/> Mel & Joyce Westerman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adam Garber | <input type="checkbox"/> Martin & Adele Miller | <input type="checkbox"/> Carol Whalen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaac & Jen Gerofsky | <input type="checkbox"/> Jon & Denise Morgan | <input type="checkbox"/> Howard & Veronica Wiseman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yuriy & Millie Gerzon | <input type="checkbox"/> Justin & Jane Nash | <input type="checkbox"/> Randy & Maggie Yaras |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew & Melissa Gilman | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandra Newfield | <input type="checkbox"/> Glenn & Jessica Zimmerman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amy Glaser | <input type="checkbox"/> Rob & Aileen Newton | <input type="checkbox"/> Brian & Christine Zive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua & Mary Glaser | <input type="checkbox"/> Josh & Sara Parker | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandra Glazer | <input type="checkbox"/> Tony & Tracey Pavao | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ken & Roslyn Golden | <input type="checkbox"/> Saul & Suzanne Payne | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barry & Suzi Grunin | <input type="checkbox"/> Justin & Suzanne Peavey | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michael & Beth Hanley | <input type="checkbox"/> Tom & Nancy Peel | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michelle Hart | | |

TCS STAFF

- ☐ Rabbi Ken Carr
- ☐ David Rothberg
- ☐ Jeri Robins
- ☐ Meryl Levenson

☐ Brenda Leonard

- ☐ Denise Morgan

SULAM & GESHER

- ☐ Tammi Kassler
- ☐ Julie Howard
- ☐ Aileen Newton
- ☐ Shari Spillane

☐ Karen Swartz

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

- ☐ Alycia Dancey
- ☐ Susan Feldman

SOUTH SHORE SHABBAT

WITH RABBI JOSH WEINBERG,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ARZA
AS OUR GUEST SPEAKER



**MAR
29**
7 PM

AT
**CONGREGATION
BETH JACOB**

**8 PLEASANT ST
PLYMOUTH**

A JOINT SERVICE OF
CONGREGATION BETH JACOB, PLYMOUTH
TEMPLE BETH DAVID, WESTWOOD
TEMPLE BETH DAVID OF THE SOUTH SHORE, CANTON
TEMPLE CHAYAI SHALOM, EASTON
CONGREGATION SHA'ARAY SHALOM, HINGHAM
TEMPLE SINAI, SHARON, MA

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Please Note...
**There will be no
Shabbat service at
TCS on March
29th.**

**Please email [Meryl
Levenson](#) to let us
know when you
would like us to
read these names
that are on the
yahrzeit list for
March 29th.**

**Samuel Albert
*Peter Azer
A. C. Barger
Harvey Blackman
Bernice Bovarnick
Edith Goldberg
Israel Kamens
Miriam Krentzman
Augusta Rosenblume
Levenson
Benjamin Lipman
Douglas Morgan
Sarah Ofengand
Harvey Payne
Albert Sachs
Sandra Seigal
*Sara Gladys Shair
Bernice Sherman
Charlotte Wernick
Debra Sue Zeidman**

Tot Shabbat



**Fridays, March 15th and April 12th
5:45 pm to 7:00 pm
Dinner Included**

Enjoy *Shabbat* dinner at TCS! Join us in celebration of family and community at our monthly Tot *Shabbat*. Rabbi Ken, cantorial soloist David Rothberg, and special guest Alycia Dancey will lead kids in songs, stories, crafts, and a *Shabbat* candle-lighting. Be sure to invite your friends and family.



**TCS Pickleball Tournament
Fundraiser**

Sunday, April 14th, from Noon to 4:00pm
Brown Billone Club • 153 Chestnut Street, North Easton
[Register Here](#)



*Save the date...Saturday, May 11th
Spring into Auction!*

TCS & Fuller Craft Museum present...
a Hamilton Fine Art Auction

Featuring exquisite art, fine jewelry, exotic
travel and more!

Saturday, May 11th • 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Fuller Craft Museum

455 Oak Street • Brockton

More information
coming soon!



Clothing and Tallit

At TCS, our Ritual Committee is charged with establishing policy for the spiritual life of our congregation. Balancing that responsibility with the emphasis on individual choice means that often, the Committee focuses on educating, articulating the values one should consider in making one's own decision. I want to highlight two areas that have arisen in recent years for which Ritual has attempted to offer guidance.

In a couple of weeks (perhaps the week you are reading this!), the Torah portion will detail the clothing that the Biblical priests were supposed to wear during their service. A few years ago, when a question arose at TCS regarding appropriate attire for our services, especially for service leaders, we looked back to that text to find a value to guide our thoughts. We settled on the following statement:

Clothing tells a story. It expresses how the wearer feels about him- or herself, and how the wearer wants to be perceived. That story may change depending upon the time and place. In the book of Exodus, Chapter 28, the Torah describes the special garments worn by the Israelite priests when they served God. These commandments recognize that different attire is appropriate for different contexts. Our clothing ought to be attuned to the occasion, suitable for the location, respectful of the other people participating, and reflective of our self-image. These factors are particularly important for service leaders to consider, so *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* candidates and their families especially should take them into account.

Judaism teaches that each of us is made in the image of God. That image is contained in many different shapes, sizes, and colors. Consequently, we do not want to prescribe or proscribe certain attire. For services, we expect that all of our attendees will choose clothing that, whatever its form, tells a story of being ready to enter a sacred space of prayer and community. We hope that clothing will enable participants to feel present in services, comfortably and without distraction. We will be happy you are here, no matter what you choose to wear.

More recently, the Committee noticed diversity in our practice about whether congregants wear a *tallit* on the *bimah*. After study and discussion, we affirmed the following position:

In our synagogue, all people are invited to wear a head covering, called a *kippah* or *yarmulke*, as a sign of respect for God. All adult (over age 13) Jews are welcome to wear a *tallit*, or prayer shawl, which traditionally is worn every morning. Attached to the *tallit*, on the four corners, are fringes to remind us of the 613 *mitzvot* (commandments) found in the Torah. In our congregation, all adults with Torah honors (including opening or closing the ark, lifting or wrapping the Torah, or reading the blessings over the Torah) are encouraged to wear a *tallit*. *Kippot* and *tallitot* may be found in the foyer.

On both of these topics, Ritual sought to honor traditional Jewish values while also validating individuals' spiritual choices and preferences. Part of the beauty of our congregation is our diversity of background and practice, so we attempt to draw a circle around our community in a way that everyone can feel included and respected. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

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!

Temple Chayai Shalom

Pickleball

Tournament

Fundraiser

Sponsored by Red Ball Promotions

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, April 14th

12:00 - 4:00pm

BROWN BILLONE CLUB

153 CHESTNUT STREET • EASTON

Register & Pay Here by April 1st

For information on volunteering or becoming a sponsor please email Joe Emerson at JEMER414@GMAIL.COM

See you in the Kitchen!



TCS Shoveltown 5K Road Race

Sunday, April 7th, at 9:30 am

Please help us by inviting family and friends to register to run, hang flyers at local community buildings (there are preprinted flyers in the temple lobby), and volunteer on race day. We love the great support from temple members, but we can always use more! Contact [Adam Kempner](#) if you have questions or want to volunteer.

Purim: More Than Fun and Games for Children

Purim also includes the opposite view. One of the central themes of *Megillat Esther* is “*v’nahafoch hu*,” which means “the opposite happened,” or “reversal” or “it was put on its head.” The story of Esther is full of reversals, such as Haman being impaled on the pike he built to impale Mordechai, Mordechai being honored on the king’s horse that Haman ordered thinking it was for his own honoring, the Jews becoming the king’s favorites rather than subject to genocide, and so on. On a deeper level, the theme also can include the idea that the Jews seemed to be doing just fine, and, on a dime, the world got turned upside down as everything got incredibly ugly in an instant. And then that got reversed and turned upside down in the end. (Seems a bit uncomfortably realistic all of a sudden, doesn’t it?)

In fact, that saying in the Talmud about drinking until you can’t tell cursed is Haman from blessed is *Mordechai*, which might sound like it’s an endorsement of fun and debauchery, actually comes packaged with its opposite. It tells the story of two rabbis, Rabba and Rabbi Zeira, who were having their *Purim* meal together, and Rabba got so drunk, he killed Rabbi Zeira. The next morning, he prayed for mercy and God resurrected his slain friend. The next year, the Rabba again invited Rabbi Zeira to a *Purim* meal. His friend declined. Rabba asked why, as God resurrected him last year, so all was well. Rabbi Zeira replied that one shouldn’t count on a miracle. The story is darkly comic, a reflection of *Megillat Esther*. “They tried to kill us, they failed, let’s eat,” is a darkly comic commentary on Jewish history.

I wrote a *Purim* song that is not a kids’ song, called “Let’s Turn the World Around/A *Purim* Story.” It is on this very theme, putting the story of Esther in contemporary terms, to call attention to parallels with our lives today. Our world is upside down, and we need to turn it around. I invite you to listen to a video I made of the song, to have a joyous month of *Adar* and *Purim*, and to remember that there’s more to the holiday than fun and games for kids. It gives us the opportunity to reflect on our world. How is it upside down, and how can we do our part to turn it around?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0Zsn-ICIPg>

Let’s Turn the World Around (A *Purim* Story)

by David Rothberg and Caitlin McLaughlin

V’nahafoch hu, v’nahafoch hu

The world is upside down

V’nahafoch hu, v’nahafoch hu

Let’s turn the world around

A man said to a woman

I’m gonna put you on display

She said, “No, I have my dignity”

So he sent her on her way

He found another woman

Brave as she could be

She won his heart and used her smarts

And changed our history

V’nahafoch hu, v’nahafoch hu

A no-good man with an evil plan

Lied and tried to divide

To put himself in power

He dreamed of genocide

She learned of the plot, it tied her in knots

She said this crime won’t pay

She turned that clown upside down

And found a way to save the day

V’nahafoch hu, v’nahafoch hu

When you see danger, don’t be a stranger

Maybe you can make things right

Maybe you can help another and yourself

Come and join the fight

If you see something broken, get well-spoken

See what you can do

Get yourself together, be another Esther

Make our days like new

Chadeish yameinu, chadeish yameinu

Make our days like new

Chadeish yameinu k’kedem

Make our days like new

You can be a hero, too

V’nahafoch hu, v’nahafoch hu

The world is upside down

V’nahafoch hu, v’nahafoch hu

Let’s turn the world around

Train Yourself to Always Show Up

All who entered the Temple Mount entered by the right and went round [to the right] and went out by the left, save for one to whom something had happened, who entered and went round to the left. [He was asked]: “Why do you go round to the left?” [If he answered] “Because I am a mourner,” [they said to him], “May the One who dwells in this house comfort you.”

כָּל הַנִּכְנָסִין לְהַר הַבַּיִת וְנִכְנָסִין
דָּרָךְ יָמִין וּמִקִּיפִין וְיוֹצְאִין דָּרָךְ
שְׂמָאל, חוּץ מִמִּי שְׂאָרְעוּ דָּבָר,
נֶשְׁהוּא מִקִּיף לְשְׂמָאל. מַה לָּהּ
מִקִּיף לְשְׂמָאל, שְׂאֵנִי אָבֵל,
הַשּׁוֹכֵן בְּבֵית הַזֶּה יְנַחֲמָהּ.

The lesson of this *mishnah* is that the community is there to support those who are suffering. No matter the source, whether you are in pain because of sickness, grief, loneliness, or any circumstance that leaves you feeling lost and alone and in a place where you want to isolate, you are encouraged to show up. At a time when you feel particularly vulnerable and tender, you honor the congregation by coming and letting people ask how you are. Not a perfunctory “How are you?” but a deep and heartfelt “How are you, really?”

As Rabbi Brous writes, “This timeless wisdom speaks to what it means to be human in a world of pain. This year, you walk the path of the anguished. Perhaps next year, it will be me. I hold your broken heart knowing that one day you will hold mine.” She continues that it teaches us not to withdraw and stay home. Rather, it encourages us to lean in to those who will hold us gingerly, given the opportunity, and who will bless us with the gift of their presence. There is both an implicit acknowledgment that it may be uncomfortable and unsettling to witness someone’s sadness and not abandon them, and an understanding that there will inevitably come a time when it will be our turn to be comforted. These exchanges are some of the richest experiences that we do our best to model in **SULAM** and **Gesher**, and what we share as a congregation, in prayer and holy day celebrations, and at social events.

March brings us the observance of *Purim*, with the *Shpiel* and *Purim* Carnival (thank you to Brotherhood for running it each year) on Sunday morning, March 24th. Our theme this year is “Barbie,” so be sure to break out the pink and join us! In April, we will celebrate *Passover*, with the cleaning, the Seders, and the *matzah*. Temple Chayai Shalom will host the 2nd night *Passover Seder* on Tuesday, April 23rd. Both holidays have an element of the old Jewish joke, “They tried to kill us, we survived, let’s eat.” In a year like this, with the war with Hamas and the rise in antisemitism, that sentiment feels much heavier and fraught. A solution? Show up. Recognize the challenges, honor the emotions, and come anyway. Quoting Rabbi Brous, “We maintain the ability, even in the dark of night, to find our way to one another. We need this, especially now.”

When we ask people to share their history and both witness and bless them with our presence, we find our way to each other in deep and meaningful ways that not only promote friendship, but also connection with the divine in each of us. We show up and support. We show up and heal. We show up and love.

The article concludes, “Imagine that we hear one another’s stories, say ‘amen’ to one another’s pain, and even pray for one another’s healing. I call this the ‘amen effect’: sincere, tender encounters that help us forge new spiritual and neural pathways by reminding us that our lives and our destinies are entwined.”

I encourage you to show up for our **SULAM** and **Gesher** events, *Shabbat* and holy day observances, and social gatherings, and bless someone with your presence. If it is your turn to be struggling, share your story. If it’s your turn for things to be going well, offer your comfort. We owe ourselves this gift and this chance to heal. No matter where you are in this season, I hope to see you soon and learn more about your life and how you are. Really.



May 13th...Save the Date!
Field Trip to the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst

The bus leaves from the TCS parking lot at 9:00 am and returns around 5:00 pm.

The cost is \$20.00 pp/person and includes transportation and admission to the Yiddish Book Center. (Lunch opportunity at Atkins Farms, a farmer's market next to the center.) The trip is limited to the first 30 who RSVP with a check, for \$20 per person, payable to Senior Chai. Please mail your check to Temple Chavai Shalom, 239 Depot Street, South Easton 02375, include your e-mail and the name(s) of those going with your check. A major part of the cost of the chartered coach has been paid for by a grant from the TCS Past Presidents Group. Any questions, contact ruthalbert@comcast.net



Tiles At The Temple

An afternoon of friendly Mah Jongg at
Temple Chayai Shalom - South Easton, MA

Sunday, March 17th

Doors open at 12:30PM - Play begins promptly at 1:00PM

\$36 per person

RSVP by March 10th

[RSVP](#)
[Now](#)

"Tucci's Talks"

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

Bertucci's
BRICK OVEN PIZZA & PASTA
Mansfield Crossing

Save the Date...

Thursday, April 4th

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.

Save the Date...

Friday, April 12th at 7:30

pm



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 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 your hippie duds!

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](#)

General Giving Fund

Craig & Elaine Barger, in memory of David Sirkin, father of Tracey Pavao

Maxine Bloom, in memory of her mother, Ida Clayman

Maxine Bloom, in memory of her father, Benjamin Clayman

James & Michelle Farley, in celebration of Allison's *Bar Mitzvah*

Zac & Andrea Fox, in loving memory of Donald A. Finkel

Leslie & Marcia Hirsch, in memory of Harry & Florence Finkel

Ross Mayer, in memory of his beloved father, Sidney Mayer

Paul & Meri Schreiber

Jack & Bertha Shear, in memory of Ida Sear & Jacob Turteltaub

Jack & Bertha Shear, in memory of Terry Dunlop

Alan Sirota, in memory of Ida Sirota

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Mike & Elyssa Cohen, in memory of Elissa's dad, Harold Hoffman

Mike & Elyssa Cohen, in memory of Elissa's mother, Marilyn Hoffman

Melissa & Matt Gilman, in memory of Melissa's grandparents, Beatrice & Harry Rotman

Myra Lapides, in memory of her mother & father, Bess & Charles Sachs

Myra Lapides, in memory of her brother-in-law, Ed Lapides

Myra Lapides, in memory of Marcia Goldberg

Joyce Levine, in observance of the *yahrzeit* of her father, Milton Rotenberg

Lenny Levine, honor of his mother, Pearl Levine

Carl & Meryl Monaco, in memory of their uncle, Ed Lapides

Sona Slotnick, in observance of the *yahrzeit* of her beloved mother, Esther Goldman

Rabbi Levenson/Sol Krumins Youth Scholarship Fund

Stuart & Laurel Silverman, in memory of Tracey Pavao's father, David Sirkin

High Holy Days Appeal

Robert & Gayle Dichter

Security Fund

Paul & Janet Sturman in memory of our mother, Diana Sturman



You can donate money to Family Table monthly instead of the food.

Click below if you don't get to the temple but would like to donate. Thank you so very much. <https://www.jfcsboston.org/give/donate-online>. Family Table needs our help every month: 30 cans of tuna and 30 cans of vegetarian soup.



Spring Cleaning??? Clean out your closets for the Greater Attleboro Area Council For Children Inc.

We are collecting clothes, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, belts, backpacks, books, etc. Household textiles: bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, linen, tablecloths, curtains, pillows, etc. Bring your donations, in plastic bags, to TCS.

Questions? [Email Meryl Levenson](#).