



### Spring Forward

In the spring, everything seems possible. As the natural world awakens from its dormancy, growth and change lie ahead. The days are getting lighter; the temperature is rising; the plants and trees are budding. And most importantly, baseball season is beginning! Many fans feel that the surest sign that winter will end soon is the opening of preseason camps. Even though the process of getting ready for the season begins in February, when it is still winter, it is called spring training. But that time does not only train the players for spring; it gets the fans focused on spring as well. [Continued on page 7.](#)



### The Counting of the Omer – From Agricultural Offering to Personal Spiritual Growth

The period between the second day of Passover and *Shavuot* is known as the Counting of the Omer. In Leviticus 23:15, the Torah tells us to bring an omer of barley as an elevation offering, and then to count the days and weeks until we reach 50 days, that is, 7 weeks, and then we bring another offering and make that 50th day a festival. The Torah doesn't give us a reason or explanation of the purpose, but it's reasonable to assume that it was originally an agricultural form of worship, offering an agricultural product to God as a way to pray for a good harvest. In fact, the word *Shavuot* means weeks, referring to the 7 weeks that we count to get to it. The Torah gives no other explanation of the holy day. It's just the end point of the Counting of the Omer. [Continued on page 8.](#)



### SULAM and Geshet: Highlights of the Year

When we started this school year, I would never have imagined that Israel would suffer the heinous attack of October 7th and that, six months later, we would be embroiled in a war with significant loss of life in Gaza and fears that it could expand in the north, in the West Bank, and with Iran and its proxies. Having spent much of July in Israel, I was full of enthusiasm for the learning I had done and how I would share it with our students and community here at TCS. And, despite the war and the state of the world, we have done just that. [Continued on page 8.](#)

## 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  
Silent Auction, Wine, Beer, Hors d'oeuvres,  
Desserts and Museum Access  
Live Auction Begins at 7:00 pm

[Buy Tickets Here](#)  
or scan QR code



[Check out Pre-Event Online,](#)  
[In-Person Silent and Live Auction Here](#)

### Auction Update:

One of our generous sponsors, VIP Tires & Service, will be providing vouchers to all Live Auction Attendees for a free oil change at their soon to be opened location in Brockton, up to a \$100 Value! You must attend the live auction to receive the voucher at the end of the event.





 Temple Chayai Shalom  
Sunday, May 5, 2024  
11:30am - 1:00pm  
239 Depot Street, Easton

**Join the TCS community to help our neighbors in need**

- Make lunches for Father Bills & Mainspring
- Create soup bags for Ukraine
- Decorate flower pots and cards for local seniors
- Sell lemonade for Boston Children's Hospital
- Count and sort stamps for the Holocaust Stamp Project

**We are collecting diapers at TCS for the Charity Guild, now through May 5th!  
Donation Box in the Foyer**

Please Join Us for a  
Community Wide Service

# YOM HASHOAH V'HAG'VURAH

The Day of Remembering the  
Holocaust and the Bravery

Sunday, May 5th @7 pm

Temple Sinai  
25 Canton Street  
Sharon, MA



**\*\*In recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Memorial  
Scrolls Trust, we will also be holding a reunion of the  
Czech Torah scrolls housed in our participating  
congregations.\*\***

**Service will include: Candle-lighting, Reading of Names, Testimonies**

Free event open to the entire community.  
Join in person or through live stream

For More Information,  
contact Dina Rosenbaum (d.rosenbaum@comcast.net)

*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 Kol Tikvah, Temple Israel, Temple Sinai, Young Israel*

[Click Here to Link to the Service Online](#)

**Thursdays, May 2nd and June 6th**

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.

**"Tucci's Talks"**

Join Rabbi Ken  
11:30 am to 1:00 pm  
Private Room  
**Bertucci's**  
Mansfield Crossing



**Senior Send-off, Friday, May 3rd, at 7:30 pm**

During our *Shabbat* service this Friday evening, we will celebrate with our upcoming high school graduates! We will honor the class of 2024, sharing their plans for the future as well as some of what they have gained from their experiences at TCS. The teens will receive special blessings as they embark on this next phase of their lives. Come share in the joy of our community, and bring any words of wisdom you would like to offer the seniors!

For those who choose to participate remotely, [click here for information on how to connect.](#)

**Friday, May 10th, at 6:30 pm**

Bring your family & friends for an upbeat, exciting musical *Shabbat* experience for the whole family!



**Tot Shabbat**



**Friday, May 17th  
Time changed to 5:30 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 Aileen Newton will lead kids in songs, stories, crafts, and a *Shabbat* candle-lighting. Be sure to invite your friends and family. For more information, please email [Rabbi Ken](#) or call 508-238-6385.

**Friday, May 17th, at 6:30 pm  
Shabbat NaShirah Service**

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!

**Temple Chayai Shalom's Annual Congregational Meeting  
Wednesday, May 22nd, at 7:00 pm  
Budget Approval and Congregational Leadership Election**

# SPRING INTO AUCTION!

TCS and Fuller Craft Museum Present  
A Hamilton Fine Art Auction  
*Featuring Extraordinary Art, Jewelry, Travel and More!*

**CLICK HERE TO GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!**

**Saturday, May 11th**  
**6-9pm**  
**Fuller Craft Museum**  
**455 Oak St.**  
**Brockton, MA**

- Tickets \$50 each
- Limited tickets sold
- Access to the Museum

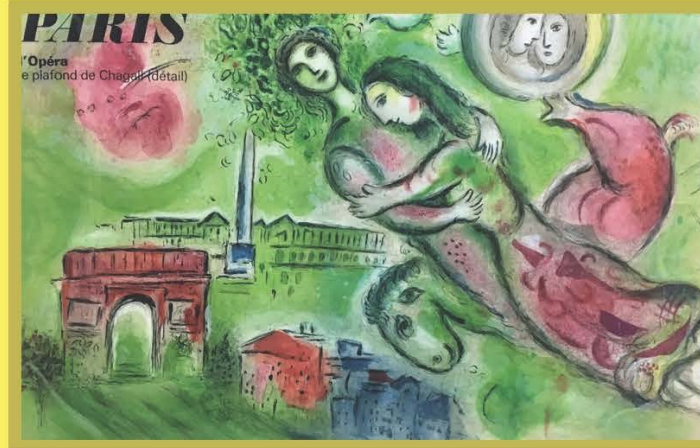
- Hors d'oeuvres
- Wine and beer
- Desserts
- Music



**Designer Handbags**



**Exquisite Jewelry**



*Original Art & Limited Editions may include:  
Chagall, Picasso, Miro, Renoir, Ilyayev,  
Neiman, Tobiassse, and more!*



**Exotic Trips**



**Fine Dining**



**Support your local community while shopping for Mother's Day. There's something for everyone! Register Now!**

For more information or for sponsorship opportunities, contact Davia Flashenburg at [DFlashenburg@FlashenburgLaw.com](mailto:DFlashenburg@FlashenburgLaw.com)

# Mindfulness 101 Workshop

**Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM at TCS**



Mindfulness is a "hot topic" these days, but what is it, and what can it do for us? Learn about the benefits of mindfulness, such as improving focus, reducing stress, and overall improvement in mental wellbeing. Explore mindfulness strategies to help you be in the present moment and practice these techniques during the workshop. Prioritizing your self-care is important, so let's put our minds to it and learn about mindfulness!

RSVP to [tcssisterhood@gmail.com](mailto:tcssisterhood@gmail.com) by Sunday May 12th  
Led by Liz Novacek LICSW, Associate Director, Be Inspired Counseling, LLC  
*Open to the Community and Funded by the TCS Past Presidents Grant*



### Spring Forward (continued from page 1)

At the start of the baseball season, optimism prevails. All the teams are in first place; no pitcher has yielded a run; no batter has gotten out; no fielder has made an error. The fan hopes: “This could be the year!” At least until the games begin, a championship is within everyone’s reach.

Usually. This year, the Red Sox enter the season with remarkably low expectations. After an offseason marked by the trades of some established players for raw prospects, uninspiring free agent signings, and injuries to some expected to take starring roles, strong consensus picks them to finish in last place in their division. Their realistic hope seems to be that their young players develop and improve this year, creating building blocks for future seasons. Their best-case scenario looks like, not ultimate victory, but measurable progress.

For many of us, the last six months (or seven by the time you are probably reading this) have been emotionally challenging, to say the least. Our hearts ache for Israel: the brutality of Hamas’ attack on October 7; Hamas’ continuing refusal to release the hostages they seized; the ensuing war that has brought great suffering to the people of Gaza and the Israelis who have been displaced from their homes in the south, but also in the north, fleeing Hezbollah’s rockets. We worry about our own country, as we gear up for an election that threatens to exceed 2020 for bitterness, partisan antagonism, and the ongoing degrading of our civil discourse. Other dangers loom as well: increasing (or at least more visible) antisemitism in our communities and on college campuses; climate change that has made each recent year hotter than the one before; an immigration crisis that is swamping even the ability of well-meaning institutions to care for new arrivals; and... and... and...

The overwhelming nature of this endless list makes it tempting to despair, to believe that these issues are intractable, and so to just give up, throw up our hands, and suffer. But that is a winter mindset. Spring offers us hope. To be clear, I am not suggesting that we can solve these problems quickly or easily. But I am suggesting that—even if we can’t see it in the winter—spring should remind us that it is possible for things to get better.

In particular, I draw reassurance, comfort, and inspiration from a teaching in *Pirkei Avot*, the Sayings of the Sages, a section of the Talmud that we read especially in these days between Passover and *Shavuot*. There we find that Rabbi Tarfon taught: “*Lo alecha ha-m’lachah ligmor* (it is not your responsibility to complete the work), *v’lo atah ben chorin l’hibateil mimenah* (but you are not free to desist from it).” This wisdom tells us that even if—even though—we can’t resolve our challenges once and for all, nevertheless we need to engage with them and work to make them better. As with the Red Sox, ultimate victory may be out of reach at this moment, but measurable progress that would make a building block for the future is achievable. We can advocate; we can protest; we can donate; we can educate. We can talk, and we can listen. It takes dedication, effort, and hope, but we can move forward. This could be the year.

### 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

Sharlene & Norman Azer, in memory of Peter Azer  
 Maxine Bloom, in memory of her husband, Maurice Bloom  
 Robert & Michelle Mellion, in honor of their daughter Hannah’s *Bat Mitzvah* Service

### Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund

Marcy LeBlanc, in honor of Myra Lapidés’ 90th birthday  
 (from her nephew Howie, her nieces Marcy & Cathy, and their families)  
 Myra Lapidés, in memory of Gloria Lapidés  
 Jeri and Glenn Malin, in memory of Judith Malin  
 Debra Sirota, in memory of Lawrence Fogelnest

### Caring for our Community Fund: T.O.R.C.H.-Social Action

Terry Starr-Klein, in memory of Dr. Stuart Klein

### Rabbi Levenson/Sol Krumins Youth Scholarship Fund

Laurel & Stuart Silverman, in memory of our parents, Richard Silver, Harvey Silverman, & Sandra Silverman

**Family Table** needs our help every month: 30 cans of tuna and 30 cans of vegetarian soup.





### The Counting of the *Omer* (continued from page 1)

However, the rabbis who created Judaism as we know it were never content with such an explanation. Since Passover was the anniversary of the Exodus, they inferred that 7 weeks later we received the law at Mount Sinai, and so this period commemorates the journey from slavery to revelation, and the spiritual preparation that must have taken place at that time. Thus the rabbis saw this as a time for us to re-enact this spiritual preparation by improving ourselves.

The Chassidic *rebbe*s took this idea to another level. As they were popularizers of Jewish mysticism, they identified each of the 7 weeks between Passover and *Shavuot* with one of the divine character traits developed in the *kabbalah*, which they instructed us to emulate: *Chesed* (lovingkindness); *Gevurah* (strength); *Tiferet* (harmony, compassion); *Netzach* (endurance); *Hod* (humility); *Yesod* (bonding); and *Malchut* (leadership). Each day of each week is also associated with one of these 7 traits, so you end up with 49 unique combinations of two of the traits, one to focus on each day. So, for example, the second week is about *Gevurah*, strength, and the first day of that week is about how *Chesed* (lovingkindness) and *Gevurah* (strength) intersect. So you might reflect on being gentle and considerate when exercising one's power.

As we go through the season of the *Omer* and *Shavuot*, I invite you to join me in reflecting how to go from freedom on *Pesach* to spiritual growth during the *Omer*, to receiving wisdom from the Torah, all of the fruits of our rich Jewish tradition.



### SULAM and Gesher: Highlights of the Year (continued from page 1)

In October, we welcomed the Whalemobile to hear the Jonah story from the *TaNakh* (Hebrew Bible) that we read as the *Haftarah* portion on *Yom Kippur* afternoon. Being "inside" the whale, we were able to imagine what it would have been like for Jonah. We connected the tale of his experience to

whales and ocean life, learning about how whales swim and eat. Inviting Young Families and members of the community, everyone had a tremendous amount of fun.



In December, Jordan B. Gorfinkel, known as Gorf, a cartoon editor for Marvel Comics and the Batman series, joined us for a special afternoon that we spent creating a [Chanukah comic book](#). Again, we extended the opportunity to the community at large and welcomed several visitors who participated. From kindergarten to adults, everyone designed a page and, together, we told the *Chanukah* story. Gorf also taught us about how many Jewish values are demonstrated through our comic book heroes, including strength, bravery, resilience, and hope.



January brought us Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, during which time *Chayai Shalom* hosted Rav Tiferet Berenbaum, the Rabbi of Congregational Learning and Programming at Temple Beth Zion in Brookline. Rav Tiferet is both a Jew by choice and a Jew of color. She spoke at Friday night services and attended SULAM with her daughter, Galya. At SULAM, she shared the story [As Good as Anybody](#), which describes the experiences and friendship of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and Dr. King, drawing parallels to the prejudice and bigotry each suffered as children and how it shaped their shared goals to bring social justice and racial equality to the world. Our day culminated with students doing a [text study](#) around housing and making sandwiches and decorating lunch bags for the clients at Father Bill's in Brockton.

[\(continued on next page\)](#)



## SULAM and Gesher: Highlights of the Year (continued from page 9)

Students in Gesher went on several field trips, including:

- **Family Table** in Canton and the Easton Food Pantry to develop an understanding of what it means to experience food insecurity and how important these resources are for those in need and to have empathy for those who benefit from these services.
- **Mayyim Hayyim**, the community mikvah (ritual bath) in Newton, to learn about the rituals of *mikvah* and reasons why people immerse, including conversion, life transitions, such as marriage or becoming *B'nai Mitzvah*, before Shabbat or holy days, and for *niddah* (a practice of going to the *mikvah* after the conclusion of the menstrual cycle).
- **Stanetsky Funeral Home** in Canton to gain insight into Jewish practices around death and dying and mourning our loved ones.



In addition to these special programs, classroom learning centered on *mitzvot*, holy days, Israel, *tzedakah*, Hebrew, and our Jewish legacy. Our teachers, Julie Howard, Tammi Kassler, and Karen Schwartz continued to educate our students with energy, creativity, and dedication. We were also very grateful to Susan Feldman, a retired teacher who called SULAM to volunteer, and has been coming on Sunday mornings to assist in Hebrew, providing our students more individualized attention.

Speaking of volunteers, Aileen Newton taught Young Explorers for the second year in a row. We have had six students who have joined us for our sessions. Each lesson is devoted to a different holy day and the participants sing songs, make crafts, hear stories, and share snacks. For example, for *Tu Bi-Sh'vat*, they got to taste a variety of fruits and, for Pesach, they all made *charoset*. Two of our Young Explorers will be in kindergarten next year and the remainder will be in kindergarten in two years.

Thank you to the volunteers who make the work of our Education Committee so meaningful. Marti McIntosh took over the leadership this year, along with Michelle Farley, Jennifer Gerofsky, and Jessica Zimmerman. We would love some new members, so please reach out to [Marti](#) or to [me](#) if you would like more information. Generally, we meet on the first Tuesday evening of the month on Zoom. I also appreciate the teamwork, support, and collaboration of our professional staff, including Rabbi Ken, David Rothberg, and Meryl Levenson, as well as the many contributions of our School Administrator, Denise Morgan.

Gesher will end the year on May 15th with students presenting their Legacy Projects, interviews that they have conducted with family members about their Jewish journeys. SULAM will wrap up on May 19th with a special sweet treat to send everyone off for the summer.

Registration is open, so please sign up your students as soon as you can! Please share the information with friends or neighbors who may be looking for a congregational community and/or a religious school for themselves.

I am planning to return to Israel this summer to participate in an eight-day program at *Yad Vashem* for Educators and to do some volunteering. I will also be attending NewCAJE, a national conference for educators which I always find inspiring and reinvigorating.

Wishing you all a wonderful end to the school year and a peaceful summer.



## Celebrate *Shavuot* at TCS and the Confirmation of our TCS tenth-graders! Tuesday, June 11th, at 7:00 pm

The Confirmation class will lead the service, including a Torah reading of the Ten Commandments to commemorate receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai as well as *Yizkor*. Our whole community rejoices in their commitment and accomplishments!

Watch for more information...*Shabbat* in the Park on June 14th  
Dinner at 5:30 pm and Service at 6:30 pm