



## Temple Chayai Shalom



### Confirmation

Tuesday night, June 11, overflowed with joy! Of course our festival of Shavuot is always a special day, but particularly so when we mark the Confirmation of our students who continued their formal Jewish education through tenth grade. It is truly one of the great blessings of my rabbinate to teach the Confirmation class, to get to know these teenagers even better as individuals and as a group, to study together, to laugh together, to wrestle together. I am privileged to share their lives in this intense way at this intense time in their lives.

Through their study, their actions, and their example, these three amazing young adults have confirmed their place as leaders of our congregation. Mazal tov to Jacob Dancey, Esther Mellion, Roman Spivak, and their families!

The service they led that evening provided further “confirmation” of the firm foundation on which our future rests. They chose English readings and reflections that represented their emotions and their thoughts about where they are now. They skillfully led the vast majority of the service. They all wrote brief pieces identifying important components of their Jewish identities, and shared longer talks about parts of their journey that are particularly meaningful to them. They agreed to share their words here: I hope you will find them as moving as I did. [Read More](#)



### Let's Show Solidarity with Israel – By Going There!

by Cantorial Soloist David Rothberg

As I'm sure you know, we are in a time of great difficulty both for Israel and for American Jews (as well as other diaspora Jews). I'll spare telling you what you already know about October 7, the resulting war in Gaza, the forgetting or downplaying of Hamas's attack as the war grinds on and casualties mount, the resulting international condemnation and anti-Semitism. Let's move on to what we can do?

My suggestion is that we show our support for Israel and deepen our understanding of its situation going on an Israel Solidarity Mission. That's right. Let's go to Israel.

Most of you know that Rabbi Ken had planned a trip for this June, which unfortunately had to be postponed, but which will hopefully be able to go within the next couple of years. If you are looking for a trip that focuses on “highlights of Israel” tourism, Rabbi Ken's trip might be the right one for you. If you want a trip that has some tourism and fun, but is weighted more toward deepening your understanding of this moment in Israel's history and culture, including physically helping by volunteering, visiting sites important to understanding the current situation, and meeting with people helping put Israel back together after the horrors of October 7, this trip may be for you.

A few notes about my vision for this trip:

Timing idea: November, between the High Holy Days and *Chanukah*

Participants: Adults, meaning post *b'nai mitzvah* through seniors.

Open to non-members, and we may seek to partner with other congregations

I'm not interested in whitewashing Israel's faults or ignoring the many divisions in Israeli society

We will, of course, cancel or reschedule if it looks dangerous for the time we plan it

Of course, these are my initial thoughts. More important, what are your thoughts? The vision for this trip is subject to change based on your interests, concerns and vision. The first step is that I need to know if people are interested. Please contact me at [music@templechayaishalom.org](mailto:music@templechayaishalom.org) to let me know if you may be interested and any ideas you have about it. Or talk with me about it any time. And look for an email from me with a survey to gauge our congregation's interest.



### Discover Jewish Summer Camp and Israel: Great Options are All Around!

by Jeri Robins, Director of Education

As I write my article for this July/August issue of the TCS newsletter, I am feeling called to write, once again, about the benefits of Jewish day and overnight camps. After this difficult year, and the continued rise in antisemitism, providing spaces for our children to be surrounded by other Jewish kids is truly a gift. [Read More](#)



### President's Installation speech June 14, 2024

Shabbat Shalom. Whenever I mention to people that I will be taking on this presidency, they often say, “Wow, that's a big job” or they just simply ask, “Why?” My response to them is always, “Why not? If not me, then who?” Since we joined this amazing community, it was never a question in my mind that I would someday take on this role—it is very clear that organizations do not run themselves. For me, it is simply my turn.

We are an interfaith family, yet Paul and I committed from the start to raising our children in Judaism. As a transplant, with my immediate family far away, we relied on the support we were given from our congregational family, to help us deeply instill the values and traditions of Judaism in our children. I grew up in a relatively observant, kosher home, which was strongly connected to Conservative Judaism. [Read More](#)

**Sisterhood News**

**Congratulations to next year’s Sisterhood Board!**

Co-Presidents: Rachel Colchamiro & Heidi Weber  
 Past President: Teresa Kempner  
 Treasurer: Becky Braidman  
 VPs Programming: Elissa Cohen, Rhonda Fleming  
 VP Membership: Heather Lambrecht  
 Recording Secretary: Michaela Farber  
 Corresponding Secretary: Bettina Buckman  
 Advisory Board: Jennifer Delaney, Beth Herr,  
 Sandy Newfield, Tracey Pavao  
 and Maggie Yaras

Remember that we accept donations for Dignity Matters at all Sisterhood events. They accept gently worn bras. This non-profit organization collects, purchases, and supplies feminine hygiene products, bras, and underwear to women and girls who are homeless or disadvantaged, to help them stay healthy, regain self-confidence, and live with basic dignity.

**We are proud of TCS's graduating high school seniors and wish them all the best.** *Mazel Tov* to Trevor Schwartz who received TCS Sisterhood’s *Tikkun Olam* Service Award for Community and Social Action.

**Many thanks to those who attended Sisterhood Bingo in April.** It’s always a favorite event. This year many didn’t want the fun to end and requested to play several additional rounds. Shout out to Sharon Balkman, and Rhonda Fleming for making this event so much fun!

**Finally, the Mindfulness 101 Workshop was a success.** We learned techniques on how to remain in the moment, which helps us make meaningful connections with those around us. Special thanks to Liz Novack, from Be Inspired Counseling, for guiding us to mindfulness.

**Upcoming Events:** Summer Pool Party (TBD)  
 Keep an eye out for info on kickoff event, which will be held in September, before the High Holy Days.

**Sail into Summer...**

Sisterhood had their final board meeting on Monday June 17th. We celebrated the start of summer, the installation of our new board members and recognized long time board members, Jen Delaney, Maggie Yaras, and Teresa Kempner, as they move on to different roles. A great time was enjoyed by all! Have a great summer everyone!



Photos by Ruthie Albert!



**Singers Wanted for Our Choir, Kol Shalom, or the High Holy Days!**

If you like to sing, we'd love to have you add your voice to our choir! No experience or music reading skill needed -- just a desire to sing. Rehearsals are mostly on Tuesdays over the summer (with a few Thursdays).

Please contact David Rothberg at [music@templechavaishalom.org](mailto:music@templechavaishalom.org) if you are interested.

# Tutors Needed!

For almost 20 years TCS has partnered with the Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy (GBJCL) in providing tutoring services to elementary schools in the local area. This past school year we were invited to tutor the amazing kids at the Gilmore School in Brockton. Tutors from TCS and other local synagogues spent an hour a week working with their assigned students.

This one hour of volunteering each week, provides so much to so many, including the staff, teachers, parents and especially the students. The GBJCL provides ongoing training to ensure that everyone involved is focused on the one goal of helping the students.

## More about GBJCL

Our Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy (GBJCL) mobilizes the Jewish community to tutor elementary school children and help them discover the joy of reading. Through partnerships with synagogues, Jewish community organizations, day schools, and local businesses, GBJCL engages volunteer tutors in school-based one-to-one literacy tutoring, mentoring, book drives, and advocacy efforts in under-served communities. The traditional volunteer model for GBJCL is tutoring one student weekly for the whole school year. These GBJCL volunteers join literacy teams from synagogues, Jewish organizations, and local businesses.

To learn how to become a tutor, please email Joe Emerson: [jemer414@gmail.com](mailto:jemer414@gmail.com).

[Click here to learn more about GBJCL.](https://www.jcrcboston.org/volunteer/)  
<https://www.jcrcboston.org/volunteer/>



On May 20th at Shovel Town Brewery, TCS Shovel Town 5K presented a donation check of \$1,000 to The Charity Guild during their annual fundraising event. Thank you again to the many volunteers who contribute to making our 5K wildly successful every year! Check out this link to see the wonderful work The Charity Guild provides to the surrounding towns and communities. <https://thecharityguild.org>

### New Drive Begins August 1st!

Cleaning out your closets for the fall?

HELP US RAISE FUNDS  
 BY DONATING  
 CLOTHES, SHOES & MORE!



We are collecting your gently-used clothing, shoes, accessories, and household textiles.

(No small kitchen/houseware items, sport equipment, toys, or books for this collection drive.)

The Greater Attleboro Area Council for Children will receive cash from "Savers" for every pound donated. No donation is too small!

### Thank you all for your help with our Savers drive.

We had 9,500 pounds of soft goods and 1,330 pounds of books. Total raised was \$2,061! We are so grateful for your support! From Sandy Newfield and The Attleboro Area Council for Children

**Esther wrote:**

At his trial, Socrates said, "An unexamined life is not worth living." When this quote is analyzed, we can derive ideas of observation and questioning. Asking questions is an important part of my Jewish identity, and the Jewish religion in general. When we have our Passover seder we read about the Four Children in the Haggadah, three of which ask quintessential questions. The Wise Child asks, "What do you mean by the decrees, laws, and rules our God has enjoined upon you?" The Wicked Child asks, "What do you mean by this rite?" The Simple Child asks, "What does this mean?" To each of these children we are provided with a response to give that is supposed to grow their passion for the seder. Socrates was charged with corrupting the young and condemned to death; however, in Judaism we are encouraged to foster the act of asking questions.

My family has always encouraged me to ask questions. When I was younger, I would ask "Why?" until I got to the answer, "Because," or "That's the way it is." But my parents would always try to answer any questions that they could answer the best that they could with my Dad quipping, "Ok Socrates."

Questioning is important to my Jewish identity because, like my ancestors, I see questions can make us and the outside world better. To me, a major part of being a Jew is making the world a better place. Questioning makes me dangerous, and a threat to corruption, and evil doers who want control and power. In a world full of 24/7 news and a whole lot of sensationalization asking "Why?" is very important if we want to get the facts. In recent times the questioning of authority has also come to importance with the rise of dictators and, of course, those who are threats to our democracy and to our values that we all hold dear. To preserve democracy, we must question our leaders like the Four Children, asking, "What do you mean by this?" and "What are we doing this for?" If we do not ask questions, we become enslaved, our constraints being created by our own minds. Especially in these troubling times, we should ask questions if we want to protect our values and freedoms.

**Roman wrote:**

Throughout this Confirmation service and during my Confirmation classes, I have reflected many times on what Judaism means to me and how it has affected the traditions and actions of my family. To many people, Judaism can seem like a regular religion that is celebrated with simple holidays, but for me, the traditions and certain family gatherings have made my connection with Judaism so much stronger and amazing.

What is a tradition? It is defined as a custom or belief that generations in a family have. These traditions can be everyday experiences or they can be once a year things. Coincidentally, most of my traditions happen to be at my grandparents' house.

Whenever my family decides where to meet up for a Jewish holiday or just a place to settle down, almost all the time we end up going to my grandparents' house, which ends up being a tradition itself, but the traditions that happen there aren't exactly traditional, but they are meaningful in many ways and are able to give me belonging and comfort in my religion and in my family. For example, some running themes in my grandparents' house is hanging a giant dreidel pinata from the ceiling. There's also a Maccabee that ends up finding their way into our house. The dreidel pinata was set up for Chanukah so everyone could get a chance to break it open. It might not seem like much, but it surprisingly provided a sense of safety and stability because of all the effects it had on me. It made me happy and excited for my turn but it also gave me belonging. The place I had this memory made it feel as if I was in a fixed spot while the world was changing around me. What brings us all together is Judaism and these traditions may be unconventional, but I have learned that my religion can still be meaningful without normal traditions, and my religion can be majorly affected by my traditions by shaping Judaism into how I see it today.

Whenever I think of anything Jewish-related, those simple yet odd traditions always come to mind, making Judaism and my family so close in my mind. Putting the two together and then mixing them into my identity. I see my religion and experience it through these many traditions. If it weren't for those unconventional traditions, Judaism would seem boring and not a part of me. Which is exactly how I felt when I was growing up. When I was young, I would see going to my grandparents as a task and wouldn't understand why they would have me participate by hitting the pinata, but as I grew older and saw more traditions, that's when I began to connect Judaism and traditions.

How meaningful my religion is is just as meaningful as the bond I have with my family but thankfully Judaism is strongly a part of me and has shaped my life. Traditions as simple as hiding presents make me more observant of decisions I need to make, and that skill allows me to always take a closer look at anything. As a result of the lessons the traditions taught me, I related it to being religiously observant. I tried my best to make sure no little things got unnoticed. I tried seeing the effort people put into small details. And the work that was needed for improving my life. Once I did that, the skill of being more observant from the traditions I experienced made my observation of my religious future clearer.

The idea of the traditions being new or a little scary taught me that my future can be a little scary but I must try new things. Just like how I didn't want to attend my grandparents' traditions, I grew up and started seeing things from a new angle. Just like how religiously I grew up and saw many things from a new angle. For example, deciding to attend Confirmation classes is a skill I got from going to my grandparents and experiencing a new tradition. Even going through a generational tradition helped me. Just like how my father attended his Confirmation classes and went through his Confirmation. My traditions and my experiences religiously are parallel. They have become one, teaching me so many new things and having me create memories that I would never think to be possible.

**Jacob wrote:**

The first of the Ten Commandments states that "I am Adonai, your God". To me this means that there is some "thing" with a white beard sitting up in the clouds watching over us. I believe this view has been shaped in part by pop culture, but also because anything other than this "thing" seems too easy to dismiss as false. To me, the only way for God to exist is for there to be a big man with a white beard up in the clouds, or for there to be nothing at all; this makes it difficult, if not impossible, for me to believe in God.

Throughout Confirmation class I have had my eyes opened to the innumerable different Jewish views on what God is, and has been to others. Some see God as the world's beauty, its kindness, its creativity; others see God as a guiding force floating through the wind, and resting on the tips of our tongues when we need the right thing to say. This sort of view on prayer and God are very close to Mordecai Kaplan's views on the topic. These are that God is not a supernatural force, but rather the powers that make us better

humans, much like the “God is creativity” approach. After Rabbi Ken introduced me to this view, and after thinking about it, I have figured out why it is close, but not quite on the money for what I believe. This is because Kaplan’s views, in my eyes, provide an answer for a non-existent question. This being, what causes hope, creativity, anger, or why do these things happen? How? My views are that these emotions or states of being are no more than electrical impulses firing based on outside stimuli, affected by our surroundings and the chemicals in our body. I believe there doesn’t need to be an answer when, to me, there is no question. I see all of these emotions and creativity as coincidences, explainable by natural causes, or simply the flaws in the human brain. This thought process has been skipping hand in hand with my views on prayer for some time now, and they have shaped each other at every twist and turn, and push and pull of my Jewish experience.

Some people may wonder how I can pray when I don’t believe in something to pray to. But I have found over the years that I do not need to be praying to God to get the value out of prayer; all I need is the prayer itself. Let me explain. When I was younger and in services, the silent prayer section would come up and I, not knowing how to read the Hebrew in the books, would stand for as long as my mom did, and then sit down, as simple as that. Soon I became bored of this, but I didn’t know what to do because I thought I had nothing to pray to, so I started mock praying. I would stare at the bema, and imagine this guy with a big beard up in the clouds looking down on me and I would think “What up God, I don’t have much to say, but maybe can you help me this that and the other thing?” This kind of prayer didn’t really mean much then, but would help shape my views in the future.

Now, this continued up until about the time we started Confirmation, when our class did an activity comparing parents’ perspectives on prayer to their children’s, and my mother opened my eyes to thinking that prayer doesn’t have to be asking for something; it can just be telling a story, or a time to think. I would think about what was stressing me out and make a plan for the day or the week, or I could try and solve a problem in my life by talking to the man with the beard in the clouds. I still wasn’t really talking to anyone or anything; it was like I was talking to a therapist. I didn’t need comfort or pity; I just needed to talk it out and think. It was like the world stopped and I had 30 seconds to say what was on my mind. I realize now that many believers in God use prayer to do this as well, and it is interesting having others share these views.

Silent prayer isn’t the only type of prayer of course; there are also the prayers we say every service for healing, strength, etc. I of course want others to heal, but don’t need to pray about it, so these prayers have had a very arbitrary meaning for me, up until recently when I realized that I liked the prayers because they had music in them; they were music. I liked coming to services so I could hear the music and not have to, or be able to, think about anything else. It didn’t really matter what the prayers meant or if I was praying to a God or not; listening to the harmonizing voices in a soothing tune was enough to go to a couple Friday nights here and there. It feels weird saying it but I have gotten actual goosebumps when we sing “Hallelujah,” or during the call and response portion of “*L’cha Dodi*.” I have never really read the translations of the prayers, even these ones I speak of so fondly, and I don’t think I will ever need to, because like I said, it’s not the words, but the music and community that counts. It’s almost as though me not praying has turned into an even better, more personalized version of prayer for myself. Prayer to me is not dropping down to one’s knees to ask for forgiveness from God, but instead talking to someone, and making myself better because of it. I feel that this view would not be able to come about if I knew Hebrew.

The beliefs that I have just shared are very closely aligned to those of the aforementioned Mordecai Kaplan. And, as I disagree with Kaplan, my conflicting views with the traditional Jewish view of prayer have allowed me to take a more lighthearted and casual approach to prayer. I don’t have to feel like I need to ask for something, or that I shouldn’t be asking for anything. There is no guilt in prayer, although I wouldn’t expect anyone else to be guilty while praying; it’s just that I don’t have a vision of what I am supposed to be doing, or of what I want to be doing, so whatever I end up doing ends up working.

Sometimes I wish that I did believe in God though. It would make prayer feel more real; when it needs to feel like something is going to happen because I am praying, believing that I am praying to nothing doesn’t help a lot when I need it. I have been lucky enough to have very few times when I have needed it, and this has definitely shaped my views. As well, it really is a 50-50 chance which way I feel. But that just means my relationship with the big man up in the clouds is ever changing. Prayer has made me feel more connected with myself, but maybe not God. God is merely the medium by which prayer is conducted.

As for the prayers that I do understand, such as the motzi, it is nice to be reminded to be grateful for food, among other things. Prayer can make me reflect on my actions and teach me how to help others, without God. Some may say that prayer is to worship God; this is one original meaning of prayer, especially on days like Yom Kippur when we fast to have more time to pray and thank God, but since I don’t believe in God, I can’t do this. Even though I still fast, I try to set a plan for self-improvement in the next year instead of praying. This worship of a God has been replaced by nothing; there is still kind of a hole when I enter the temple, but it doesn’t necessarily feel like it needs to be filled, or is significant enough to require any action. I don’t really feel that I need something to worship, or that there is something that deserves worshiping; it is more of being at services that is the nice part, not the prayer and worship themselves. Although there is nothing to worship, I still find great interest in hearing Rabbi Ken’s sermons about the rules of Judaism and how to pray. These rules give me an insight on how the Torah and Talmud say we should act, which is a moral code I would like to follow. It is like hearing a metaphor instead of a real-life experience. Along those lines as well, the meaning behind the prayers that I do understand are important, even though I focus on the music aspect. For example, gratitude is important. So I find meaning in prayer, but not who I am praying to. It is like I believe in the Jewish teachings but not in the God who kickstarted them.

To conclude, prayer to me is a dialogue between me, myself, and I, about how I can improve, not a dialogue between me and God. It is nice to go to services and have a designated time to do this sort of thing. Prayer has shaped my Jewish identity by influencing how I view going to services, how the message of the Torah is presented, and what deeper meaning can be taken out of my faith. I think that after all the learning, reading, thinking, and discussion I have experienced in confirmation class, I am happy with where my opinions have ended up.

**Mazal tov to the confirmands of 5784! For more information and registration materials for the next Confirmation class and teen programs that will be starting in the fall, please contact me ([rabbiken@templechayaishalom.org](mailto:rabbiken@templechayaishalom.org)) or Jeri Robins ([education@templechayaishalom.org](mailto:education@templechayaishalom.org)).**

## Jewish Summer Camp and Israel (con't.)

When I was a girl growing up in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio, the memories that I have of summer are dominated by the theater program day camp I attended and swimming at the local pool. Some of my friends went to an overnight camp, Camp Wise, but it held no particular draw for me. As a teen, we moved to the Boston area and it seemed like everyone I knew went to sleepaway camp. So, off I went to Camp Tel Noar in New Hampshire. Admittedly, I was homesick at first and it was hard to be a new girl at thirteen. But those feelings quickly dissipated and I was soon begging my parents to let me stay for the second session, as well.

Those three summers were some of the most formative of my life. I still remember melodies that I was exposed to for the first time and the exhilaration of living away from my parents, getting to be with friends twenty-four hours a day for eight weeks. These experiences, both for my husband and for me, were why both of our children went to overnight camp (they attended Camp Yavneh) and, for them, too, camp was absolutely among the defining experiences of their childhoods. The independence of overnight camp prepared us all for college, having had these windows of time away from home.

In her blog, *Nine Things to Love about Jewish Summer Camp*, Leah Jacobson, a counselor and former camper at a Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) camp in Indiana, lists conquering her fears, learning to coexist with others, and finding independence among the reasons that Jewish camp made such an impact on her, in addition to the friendships, the community, Friday night dance sessions, and bonding with Jewish adults in a fun setting. Research has shown that Jewish camp is an investment that helps ensure a strong Jewish future. Youth who attend Jewish camps foster a deep and personal commitment to their Jewish identity, owning their Judaism, and feeling connected to Israel. Alumni of Jewish camps are more likely to prioritize Jewish experiences and incorporate Jewish values into their lives. Jewish camp prepares the next generation of leaders.

As you craft your summer plans, I encourage you to explore camp options for future summers. You can schedule tours and visit camps to get a sense for which one would be the right choice for you and your family. Some even offer “Family Camp” weeks, at the end of the summer, as a fun vacation. In the Massachusetts area, there are many options for Jewish camps, starting with day camp at Camp Grossman in Westwood (<https://www.bostonjcc.org/program/camp-grossman/>) and spreading out in every direction for overnight camps.

Starting in the west, the URJ has several camp options. In the Berkshires, there are Camp Eisner (<https://eisnercamp.org/>) and Crane Lake Camp (<https://cranelakecamp.org/>). For students who are more technically oriented, there is the 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy in Byfield, MA (<https://6pointsscitech.org/>), which is celebrating its tenth summer this year. There is also 6 Points Sports and Creative Arts camp.

South of us, there is Camp Jori in Wakefield, Rhode Island: <https://campjori.com/>. Several Temple Chayai Shalom families over the years have found Jori to be a wonderful place for their children.

Camp Pembroke, part of the Cohen Camps, is a girls' camp in Pembroke, MA and we have several students who are there: <https://www.cohencamps.org/pembroke/>. There are also two boys' camps in the area, Camp Avodah in Middleboro, MA (<https://campavoda.org/>) and Camp Bauercrest in Amesbury, MA (<https://bauercrest.org/>).

Heading north, the other two Cohen camps are Camp Tel Noar in Hampstead, NH and Camp Tevye in Brookline, NH. You can learn more at: <https://www.cohencamps.org/>. Camp Young Judaea is also in Amherst, NH (<https://www.campyoungjudaea.com/>). Further north in Maine, there are Camp Micah in Bridgton (<https://campmicah.com/>) and Camp Modin in Belgrade (<https://campmodin.com/>).

You can learn a lot more about the benefits of Jewish overnight camp on the URJ website at: <https://reformjudaism.org/tags/summer-youth-experiences>. The Foundation for Jewish Camp, through its One Happy Camper initiative, offers grants to first time campers to offset the tuition cost: <https://jewishcamp.org/one-happy-camper/>.

Before I conclude, I also want to make sure that you know about the Passport to Israel program. The Combined Jewish Philanthropies Passport to Israel Program is a special savings plan that helps fund a peer Israel experience during the later high school or early college years. Visiting Israel is a wonderful opportunity to connect Jewish learning and develop lifelong ties with the land and the people of Israel. The Passport to Israel Program offers families the opportunity to partner with TCS and Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) to help make an Israel experience affordable. This program begins when a child enters the 3rd or 7th grades with both Temple Chayai Shalom and CJP adding to your contributions. It is risk-free and, should your child decide not to go on one of these trips, the money that you put in will be returned to you. To learn more visit our website: <https://chayaishalom.org/passport-to-israel-new/>

Please reach out if you would like more information or help in narrowing down these many wonderful options. I look forward to hearing if you visit any camps and decide to sign up for next summer!

### President's Installation Speech (con't.)

My personal level of observance has changed over time, and I wanted our children to have the same freedom to decide for themselves how to incorporate Judaism into their lives. It was always a priority for them to have a strong base to fall back on when they wanted, or needed it. We are proud to say that both our kids have a strong connection to Jewish family traditions, a true Jewish identity, and a deep love for Israel. I truly believe this is largely a product of growing up within the TCS community, in addition to our strong family traditions. The best way I feel I can substantially give thanks for this gift, is to pass it forward, with my time and devotion to this congregation.

Maya Angelou said, "I appear as one, but I stand here as thousands—all those who came before me and built this foundation."

This presidency is not only a personal goal, but one that is a culmination of what has been instilled in me throughout my life. I am proud to say both of my parents have held multiple leadership positions in their personal lives, as well as their professional lives, and have lived a lifetime of devotion to their synagogues. Through their influence and guidance, I have truly had the best role models one can ask for. And, I aspire to be a strong, leadership role model for our children as well.

I am fully aware that this job will be all-consuming for the next two years. And I also know there is no way I can pull it off without the support of my family and friends. To my husband, Paul, thank you for always indulging me in my many endeavors. You are an amazing support. I am deeply appreciative of all you do to hold down the fort—and, I know that Ollie is incredibly grateful for you as well. To all my "sisters" by choice—being a mom is the hardest job in the world (except maybe the job of temple president—I'll let you know). You have always been there, supporting me with a shoulder, an ear, and valuable sage advice. That friendship is the greatest gift I could ask for. And to my children—I am in awe of you, and all you have managed to accomplish in your relatively short lives. You constantly inspire me to do better, and to be better.

I have served on the TCS temple board for over twelve years and have served on, or been chair of, various committees. Over the years, I was approached multiple times to take on the presidency, and I always said not until our kids were out of the house and off to college. So, here I am.

And I am honored to be chosen to lead this remarkable board of directors—made up of honorable, righteous, dedicated individuals, who all bring their own talents and skills to our organization, as well as our amazing staff, and everyone who works so hard to keep this community moving forward. It seems that every presidential term is faced with its own unique challenges. It is all too evident, with the current geo-political climate and war in Israel, the extreme increases in antisemitism globally, and the drastic reduction in our population affiliating with religious organizations, that my term will certainly have its challenges as well. However, I am ready to face all of these challenges head-on, knowing I have a strong team standing beside me. And, on a much lighter note, I am super-excited to lead our TCS family through its 50th year in 2026, which is a spectacular milestone for us all to celebrate together!

I would be remiss if I did not mention by name, one of the finest people I have ever had the honor to serve with, and that is Craig Barger. Craig has gone above and beyond in his role as president, including staying on for an extra year to help me transition. He, with the support of his amazing wife Elaine, are the pinnacle of generosity and dedication, and this temple has been incredibly fortunate to have them at the helm. Those are definitely going to be big shoes to fill!

One of my favorite quotes is "if you want to go somewhere fast, go alone. But, if you want to go somewhere far, go together." Throughout my tenure on this board, I have been consistently impressed by the level of professionalism, respect and lack of ego that exists within our leadership. I feel so fortunate to be part of a group that truly comes together as one to accomplish great work, and that leads this community with virtue, always staying true to our core values. As your president, I am excited to bring all my energy and enthusiasm to this role, and to begin paying back the enormous debt of appreciation I have to my TCS family.

### Please Remember to Bring in Donations for Family Table Whenever you Come to TCS

We are responsible for collecting 30 cans each of tuna fish and vegetarian soup every month. 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. Donations have been running a little short lately so please remember to bring these when you come to temple. Thank you to Amy Glaser who has been coordinating this for the TCS community.



Finally, the T.O.R.C.H. committee would like to remind everyone that T.O.R.C.H. can be specifically identified when making donations to the temple. We are looking forward to being able to increase our ability to put on social justice programming for the community this upcoming year, so any assistance from the congregation would be appreciated.

### **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**

Ruth Albert, in memory of Joseph Slavet

Ruth Albert, in memory of Jane Dunlap

Ruth Albert, in memory of her mother, Florence (Frances) Albert

Ruth Albert, in memory of her grandmother, Rose Handel

Ruth Albert, in appreciation of Rabbi Carr's caring and thoughtfulness

Ruth Albert, in appreciation of Cantorial Soloist David Rothberg's hard work, creativity and caring way.

Craig & Elaine Barger, in memory of Joseph Slavet, father of Amy Glaser

Craig & Elaine Barger, in memory of Harvey Malin, father of Glenn Malin

DeLano Family, in memory of Jane Dunlap

Rhonda Fleming, in memory of Jane Dunlap

Rhonda Fleming, in memory of Amy Glaser's father, Papa Joe

Rhonda Fleming, in memory of Glenn's dad, Harvey Malin

Barry & Suzi Grunin, in memory of Amy Glaser's father, Joseph Slavet

Barry & Suzi Grunin, in memory of Jane Dunlap

Amy Glaser, in memory of Joseph Slavet

Ben & Denise Kravitz, in memory of Glenn Malin's father. May his memory be a blessing.

Lily, Bob & Brian Krentzman, in memory of your husband and father, Joe Gorsd. We are so sorry for this unexpected loss; may his memory be a blessing.

Lily and Bob Krentzman, in memory of Harvey Malin, father of Glenn Malin

Louis R. Lipman, in memory of Jane Dunlap

Jon Mayer, in memory of beloved mother & grandmother, Bea Wilensky

Arnold & Debbie Most, honor of our daughter, Jennifer Delaney, becoming President of Temple Chayai Shalom

Sylvia Most and Alan Cardinal, in honor of the installation of Jennifer Delaney as President

Sue & Steve Paris, in memory of Jane Dunlap

Tracey & Tony Pavao and Jacob Pinnetti, in memory of our beloved mother and nana, Thelma Sirkin. You will always be our sunshine. You are missed greatly and forever loved.

Diane & Michael Seigal, Rhonda & David Jellenik, Caren & Lew Levine, Nancy & Thomas Peel,

Jennifer & Andrew Faber, and Deborah & Tal Shechter in memory of your beloved mother, Mildred Foreman.

Robert Shumer, in memory of Jane Dunlap

David & Roberta Singer, in memory of Jane Dunlap

Fran & Arthur Slate, in honor of Norm Azer's very special, milestone birthday

Paul & Janet Sturman, in memory of Jane Dunlap

TCS Sisterhood, in memory of Jane Dunlap

#### **Malie Baier Education Fund**

Cindy and John Thomas, in memory of Amy Glaser's father, Joseph Slavet

#### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Ben & Denise Kravitz, in memory of Amy Glaser's father, Joseph Slavet

Ben & Denise Kravitz, in memory a unique and wonderful woman, Jane Dunlap

Ben & Denise Kravitz, in memory Eli Kravitz, Helen Kravitz and Edward LeVangie

Myra Lapidés, in memory of Joseph Slavet

Jeri & Glenn Malin, in memory of Joseph Slavet

Jeri & Glenn Malin, in memory of Jane Dunlap

Nancy Methelis, in loving memory of Jeanne Methelis

Nancy Methelis, in loving memory of my dear father, Louis Shindler

Suzanne & Saul Payne, in memory of Glenn Malin's father

Tracey & Tony Pavao and Jake Pinnetti, in memory of Joe "papa" Slavet, Amy Slavet Glazer's dad, may his memory be a blessing.

Tracey Pavao, in memory of Noah Nathan "papa" Sirkin

Suzanne & Saul Payne, in memory of Joseph Slavet

Suzanne & Saul Payne, in memory of Jane Dunlap

Mel and Joyce Westerman, in memory of Amy Glaser's father, Joseph Slavet

Mel and Joyce Westerman, in memory of Jane Dunlap

#### **Rabbi Levenson/Sol Krumins Youth Scholarship Fund**

Laurel & Stuart Silverman, in memory of Joseph Slavet

Laurel and Stuart Silverman, in memory of Jane Dunlap

#### **T.O.R.C.H. (Tikkun Olam – Respect, Caring and Healing)**

David & Linda Rabinowitz, congratulations to Jen Delaney on becoming temple President