



Wishing you all a good  
and sweet new year!



## Acting on our Values

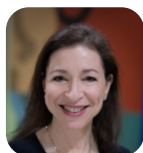
One of the most meaningful and impactful programs I attend is called "*L'Taken*," meaning "To Repair." *L'Taken* (from the same word as "*tikun olam*") is a fabulous weekend focused on Jewish values and social justice, run by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism ("the RAC") in Washington, DC. This program is usually for teenagers, but for the first time ever, the RAC has opened its weekends to adult participants as well! [Read More](#)



## Bible? Old Testament? Torah? Chumash? Tanakh? Haftarah? What's the Difference?

I've recently launched a new course for the TCS community called Brown Bag Bible, and in the first session, we talked about some definitions of terms for holy books in Judaism that can be confusing for many people, so I thought I'd offer that information here to the general community.

Bible is an English word, based on the Greek biblios, which means book. It refers to the foundational holy writings of Judaism and Christianity in book form. It is actually better to consider the bible not as one book, but as a collection of books. The Hebrew Bible and the various forms of Christian bibles have some material in common and some differences. The primary difference is that Christian bibles are split into two main sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament. There are other differences as well, in the ordering of some of the books and translation. [Read More](#)



## The Opportunities We are Given

As someone who uses social media, my feed includes reels from TV shows and movie clips. I get a lot of Friends and inspirational videos, because the humor and motivation appeal to me. One that popped up recently came from the 2007 movie Noah Almighty, starring Steve Carell as Evan Baxter (Noah), Lauren Graham portraying his wife, Joan, and Morgan Freeman as God. [Read More](#)



## As We Begin this New Year

There are many notable advancements and meaningful events taking place at TCS that we are very excited about!

First of all, I want to take a moment to thank all the staff and volunteers at TCS who come together to help make our High Holy Days run so smoothly. We are so fortunate to have a group of individuals who, every year, dedicate their energy in an organized and concerted effort, which allows us all to enjoy the spirituality and community that the High Holy Days bring. [Read More](#)

## "Days in the Life of our Temple" High Holy Day Appeal!

As mentioned on *Yom Kippur*, the Barger and Wiseman families are generously offering a MATCHING gift opportunity: for every dollar you donate by **November 15, 2024**, they will match it—doubling the impact of your contribution! PLEASE consider contributing a Day (\$500), or several Days, or any portion of a Day, whatever is within your means—every little bit counts! We are currently only 30% of the way to meet this match—DO NOT pass up this philanthropic opportunity!!

[Donate here](#) or send a check today!

Thank you!



Come give thanks!

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service  
Sunday, Nov. 24th at 7:00 PM

Holy Cross Church, 225 Purchase Street

We will join together with our non-Jewish neighbors for an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, hosted at the Holy Cross Church. Led by the Easton Interfaith Clergy Association, this wonderful evening of song, prayer, and celebration presents a beautiful opportunity to express our common gratitude for our shared blessings. Please join us!

**Sunday, November 17th 10:00 AM to 11:45 AM**

1179 Central St., Stoughton

RSVP: [OFFICE@ATORAH.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@ATORAH.ORG)

\$10 Entrance fee at the door includes breakfast.

(Free for all high school and college students.)

**Ahavath Torah and StandWithUs invite you to join**

### **Current Events with** **Charlotte Korchak:**

This fast paced presentation covers all the basics about the different conflicts facing Israel, especially since Hamas' terror attack on October 7th

**StandWithUs**  
HIGH SCHOOL



אהבת תורה  
Ahavath Torah  
Congregation



*StandWithUs Senior Educator, Charlotte Korchak, educates more than 50,000 students each year about Israel's history and provides training to combat antisemitism.*

*In this practical presentation, Charlotte will address questions and misconceptions about current events unfolding in Israel and around the world, especially amid a climate of Israel's war against Hamas and the Islamic Republic of Iran's various terror proxies. The audience will leave empowered with the tools needed to explain these topics to those less informed.*

## Tot Shabbat



**Friday, November 15th, 5:45 PM, Dinner Included**

Enjoy *Shabbat* dinner at TCS! Join us in celebration of family and community at our monthly Tot *Shabbat*. Rabbi Ken 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.

For more information, please email [Rabbi Ken](mailto:Rabbi Ken)



### **New Mi Sheh-beirach List** **Starts December 1st**

We hope that in the three months between renewal dates, those on the list will be feeling well enough to come off the list! That would be a wonderful answer to all of our prayers. If people on the list need more prayers or if you would like to add a new name [please email the Temple](mailto:please_email_the_temple).

**Sunday, November 17th**  
**at 1:00 PM**

**Please RSVP by November 10th**

Send Checks (\$10/pp  
to Rona Slotnick)

TCS 239 Depot Street  
Easton, MA 02375

**Magic SHOW**

ADULTS OF ALL AGES COME AND ENJOY  
WINE, APPETIZERS AND A MAGICAL AFTERNOON

GREAT ENTERTAINMENT PERFORMED BY  
MAGICIAN LARRY PARKER

1 HOUR OF MYSTIFYING AND BAFFLING  
VISUAL EFFECTS TO BRING YOU LOTS OF  
FUN AND ENJOYMENT

HE PERFORMS MAGIC TRICKS FROM  
CHINA AND ALL AROUND THE WORLD



## Calling all TCS Members & their Friends...

### TCS Pre-Pats Game Borderland Hike

Sunday, Nov. 24th at 9:45 AM

Depart from the Borderland Visitor's Center in Easton  
Burn up calories, then we'll watch the game together!  
(game watching details TBA depending on interest)

#### Two trip options:

- 3 miles, gentle walk around the lake, 1 ½ to 2 hours (leader to TBA)
- 4-5 miles, more challenging hike through the woods, 2 ½ to 3 hours (leaders are Gary Fradin & Josh Parker)

Hiking boots required! The path includes uneven surfaces - rocks, roots and branches.

Download the [Trailforks app](#) in advance so you don't get lost. Bring water and a

snack. Weather dependent! **Please register** with [Gary Fradin](#), in case we need

to cancel due to weather and so we don't leave anyone behind, and specify which walk.

Questions? 508-878-3785



Geared to children ages 3-5, Young Explorers will meet on Sunday mornings from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM. **(Please Note New Start Time)**

Each session will include an exploration of a Jewish topic through arts and crafts, stories, music, and snack time. Join us for one or all of the dates:

**November 24th** - Gratitude

**December 15th** - Chanukah

**January 26th** - Tu bi-Sh'vat

**March 23rd** - Passover

**May 18th** - Shavuot

Join us on the following Sundays for an exploration of Jewish topics through music, games, movement, and crafts.  
Young children make friends and have fun while exploring Jewish holidays and Bible stories!

Parents are welcome to stay or drop off their children.

#### Register Here:

<https://forms.gle/oL5WEwoMLZwDN3Rr6>

There is no fee for Young Explorers for TCS members.

Non-members pay \$20/session.

# Support a Wily Scholar

The **Wily Network** partners with college students in the greater Boston area who are working towards their degrees without emotional or financial support from family. **Wily** provides a critical safety net for Scholars as they navigate college independently.

**Donate care package items in the drop box at TCS** for these scholars by **Nov. 22nd**, and Sisterhood members will package and ship out to them in time for Final Exam week!

#### Items Needed:

**SNACKS:** Cheez-its, pretzels, crackers, trail mix

**CANDY:** Twizzlers, chocolate, Smarties, gummy candy, gum

**SMALL TOILETRIES:** lotion, hand sanitizer, deodorant, toothpaste, body wash

**ESSENTIALS:** detergent, toothbrushes, mini first aid kits, extension cords,

USB power cords

**GIFT CARDS:** \$15-\$25 Target, grocery stores, Instacart, Uber, Amazon, Starbucks, Dunkin, Visa



**the wily network**

Rely on the strength of your pack

Those interested in helping Sisterhood members package the items can stay after the Oneg on Nov 22nd and help with the packing--more the merrier!

**Thursday, December 5th**

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**  
BRICK OVEN PIZZA & PASTA  
Mansfield Crossing

**Friday, December 13th 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!

**Introducing...**

**First session is Thursday, Dec. 12th  
Then the 3rd Thursday of the Month  
TCS from 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM**

**BROWN BAG BIBLE**

An ongoing  
"lunch and learn"  
about the Prophets  
and the Writings

**Taught by Cantorial Soloist David Rothberg**

You are probably much more familiar with the Torah than with rest of the *Tanakh* (Hebrew bible) – the Prophets and the Writings. Yet there is so much to learn about these fascinating and thought-provoking parts of the *Tanakh*!

After spending some time with Joshua, we meet some of the Judges, such as Deborah and Samson. Then we'll learn about the development of the first Kings of Israel, Saul, David and Solomon, one of the truly great stories of the *Tanakh*. And on from there!

Let's enter the promised land together!



## Celebrate the Magic of *Chanukah* Sunday, December 8th

A magic show for all ages will take place at 4:00 PM with Magician Peter Vuono. For families with young children, the fun begins at 3:30 with activities, music, and games. The magic show will be followed

by our Annual Latke Fry-Off; come enjoy and vote on all the latkes present.

Use this sign up genius link to sign up as a chef.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E45ABAD29A46-52774812-thegreat>

Who will take home the Golden *Latke* award this year? Up to 10 chefs can compete so sign up early! Our *Chanukah* party is open to the greater community so bring your friends, join in the magic, and fill up on *latkes*.

## Sisterhood *Chanukah* Celebration



**Monday, December 16th**  
**7:00 PM to 8:30 PM**

Join us for holiday treats, a *Chanukah* craft, and a *Chanukah* Harriet gift exchange!

**RSVP by Wednesday, December 11th to:**  
[tcssisterhood@gmail.com](mailto:tcssisterhood@gmail.com).

We will provide more details on the gift exchange when you RSVP.  
Feel free to let us know if you need a ride!



## TeCSY *Chanukah*

TeCSY is hosting a *Chanukah* party!

**Sunday, December 22nd at 3:00 PM**

RSVP to [Jacob Dancey](#) or [Roman Spivak](#)

Bring a gift to participate in the Yankee Swap.

Bring a dessert or snack to share.

(no meat or nuts please)



## American Red Cross Blood Drive Tuesday, December 24th 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at TCS



To schedule an appointment  
please visit

[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

and enter sponsor code:

TempleChayaiShalom

or [click here](#).

All presenting donors will  
receive a limited edition long  
sleeve Red Cross  
winter T-shirt!



**Save the Date...Friday  
January 10th  
Rockin' Shabbat Eve**

### Family Table donations are badly needed!!!

TCS has committed, every month, to donate 30 cans of tuna and 30 cans of vegetarian soup. Some people who cannot give the food may want to donate money to Family Table monthly instead. Click below if you would like to donate. Thank you so very much. <https://www.jfcsboston.org/give/donate-online>



### Acting on our Values (continued from page 1)

On a usual *L'Taken* weekend, 400 Jewish teenagers from around the country learn a lot, socialize with their peers, do some sightseeing, and then the event culminates on Monday as they put their education into action by meeting and lobbying their congressional representatives on an issue of personal passion for the teens. In the past, TCS students have advocated for Israel, reproductive rights, gun violence prevention, combatting antisemitism, and mental health, among many other topics. The programs are so powerful and popular that they have to run them 5 times each year, to make room for everyone who wants to participate! This year, three more of our teens are traveling for a weekend in the middle of December.

Whenever I describe the program to adults, they wish that they had the opportunity to participate as well. So I am delighted to announce that now, you can! Learning in parallel with and alongside the teens, adults will have the same experience of developing our understanding of how Judaism can inform our perspective on public policy issues, and then meeting with our congresspeople to advocate for issues about which we are concerned.

I have reserved some spots for adults on the weekend of January 31-February 3, 2025. (Please note that we will arrive in DC Friday early afternoon and return Monday evening.) The cost will vary depending on how many people go and on airfares, but my best guess is that it would be around \$900 per person, plus maybe another \$75 for the few meals that are not included. As always, scholarships are available if needed; you can talk to me in confidence for more information.

It is time for us to register, so I need to know as soon as possible but no later than November 20 who will be able to come. Please tell me if you are interested as soon as possible, so that I can hold your space! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. I hope to be able to share this program together!

### Bible? Old Testament? *Torah*? *Chumash*? *Tanakh*? *Haftarah*? What's the Difference? What's the Difference? (continued from page 1)

Old Testament is a Christian term for the entire Hebrew Bible. Knowledgeable Jews typically do not use this term for our own scriptures, as it's loaded with the Christian assumption that it exists primarily to lead up to, and be superseded by, the New Testament, the books about Jesus, which are not in our scriptures. Instead, we use the terms Hebrew Bible or *Tanakh*.

*Tanakh*, the Hebrew word for the Hebrew Bible, is an acronym of three letters that name the primary sections of scripture. The T sound is the letter *tav*, for *Torah*, which meanings "teaching" or "instruction." For our purposes, it refers to the first five books of the bible, also known as the Five Books of Moses, or the *Chumash*, from the Hebrew word for the number five, *chameish*. The *Torah* largely tells the story of creation, early humanity, the ancestral development of the tribes to become the Jewish people, enslavement in Egypt and exodus, revelation of God's laws at Mount Sinai, and wandering in the desert on the way to promised land. Just as important as the stories, it includes a large quantity of laws that evolved into Jewish law as we know it. People use the term *Torah* to refer to the scroll that it is written on. In Jewish learning, *Torah* has also taken on a more general meaning of holy learning, so you may see books or lectures with titles like "The *Torah* of Music" or "The *Torah* of Leadership."

The N sound is the letter nun, for *Nevi'im*, which means Prophets (its name in English), the second section of the Hebrew scriptures. Our tradition breaks this into two sub-sections. The early prophets are largely the story of the Israelite nation from the crossing of the Jordan to conquer the promised land under the new leader Joshua, through the development of the monarchy under Kings Saul, David and Solomon and their successors until the Israelite kingdom of Judah was conquered by the Babylonians. The latter prophets are collections of the oracles, prophecies, sermons, stories and adventures of prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Amos, who operated as a religious force during the time of the Israelite monarchy. Contrary to the popular belief, while the prophets did sometime predict the future, this was not their primary function. Their main role was to be God's messengers to the people, to try to convey God's point of view on what was happening in the world and inspire people to change their ways to better do God's will.

The K sound is the letter kaf, for *Ketuvim*, which means Writings (its name in English), the third section of the Hebrew bible. As its name implies, it's a diverse, miscellaneous collection of religious poetry (Psalms), proverbs, historical chronicles, narrative books that take place after the Babylonian conquest of Israel, and more. It includes the five *megillot* (scrolls), each attached to a holy day, such as Esther and Purim.

Fun fact: in Judaism we put by far the greatest emphasis on *Torah*, yet it is the shortest of the three sections. In my Jewish Publication Society Hebrew-English *Tanakh*, *Torah* is 454 pages; Prophets are 953 pages; and Writings are 611 pages.

Yet, while the *Torah* is the center of our scriptural universe, the Rabbis saw the importance of the rest of the *Tanakh*, and so included it in our holiday and liturgical calendar. When the Rabbis created a system of weekly *Torah* portions, so we'd spend time with the entire *Torah* in an annual cycle, they later attached a section of prophets, known as the *Haftarah*, to each weekly portion. (Bad Cantorial anecdote that I tell *b'nai mitzvah* students – when I was starting to study for my *bar mitzvah*, I thought *haftarah* was half of the *Torah*. It's not; it means additional portion.) They attached each of the five *megillot* to a holy day. And packed the liturgy with poetry from the book of Psalms.

In our Brown Bag *Torah* class, we are studying highlights of the prophets and the writings in order to get a better understanding of them as a whole. It will be a journey filled with great stories, interesting moral and philosophical questions, lively discussions, and the joy of learning together. We're starting with the conquest of the land under Joshua. Pack a brown bag lunch and join us Thursday, December 12th, 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM. For more information, [contact Cantorial Soloist David Rothberg](#).

### The Opportunities We are Given (continued from page 1)

As the story goes, Evan is a newly elected congressman who moves to Washington and prays to change the world, while Joan prays that her family will be closer together. Meanwhile, God calls to Evan (Noah) to build an ark. As Joan then sees how the world responds to Evan doing as God asked, she has her own encounter with God in a restaurant. In this scene, Morgan Freeman as God (with the name tag “Al Mighty”) tells Joan that he is there to “serve.” He asks her if she is alright and she replies that it is a long story. With a knowing twinkle in his eye, God says that he is known as quite a storyteller himself.

As the dialog continues, God tells Joan that when people pray, they are given the opportunity for the things that they are praying for to come to fruition. He asks, “if someone prays for patience, do you think that God gives them patience or does God give them the opportunity to be patient?” (remember that the next time that you’re stuck in traffic) “or, if you prayed for courage, does God give you courage or the opportunity to be courageous?” He continues, addressing Joan’s prayer, “If someone prayed for family to be closer, do you think God zaps them with warm, fuzzy feelings? Or, does He give them opportunities to love each other?”

This last piece is one of the important things that we try to create as a community here at Chayai Shalom. What opportunities do we have to care for each other? Drawing from *Mussar* (a Jewish spiritual practice focused on personal awareness, growth, and transformation), what can we do to learn and grow, to improve ourselves and, as Rabbi Elya Lopian said, “teach the heart what the mind already understands”?

As our programming year really moves into full swing after the High Holy Days, there are many opportunities to connect. Maybe now is the time to plan that *Shabbat* dinner, meet at Rabbi Ken’s Torah Study on *Shabbat* mornings at 9:00am, or go out for Sunday brunch after SULAM. Can you make plans to go for a walk or do something while your students are in class? Are there classmates who your children might want to play with outside of religious school? Who could you invite to join you to get to know them a little better?

Planning ahead, please put December 8th on your calendar and join us for the TCS Community *Chanukah* Party and *Latke* Bake-Off, including a magician, starting at 4:00pm (it will be preceded by a program for Families with Young Children at 3:30pm). No matter which of these options appeals to you, or something else entirely, I hope that you will take advantage of the opportunities you are given to feel invested and connected with the warmth, community, and learning available at TCS.

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### As We Begin this New Year (continued from page 1)

Secondly, by now you all should have received an email introducing you to our new membership database, Rakefet. This is a huge advancement in our ability to control our own information as members, and to easily make direct payments without having to go through the temple office. If you have not already, please be sure to click the link in the introductory email you received, to access your online portal. And, please be sure to review all your family’s information once you are in the portal, just to make sure it is all current and accurate. A big thank you to David and Rhonda Jellenik for heading up this effort and making it a reality.

Another major effort that has recently been put forth is our new event planning process. Our staff and committee chairs have come together to build our calendar for the 2024-2025 year, which includes all holidays, services, social events, SULAM classes, and committee-run events. This means that any time you access our calendar, either via the website or directly through your Rakefet portal, you can see all the current plans for the upcoming year. Of course, as the year progresses, items will get added and some events may have some changes, so please continually check back to see what is upcoming. We hope this effort helps us all to be more engaged with the community, and also will show prospective members all of the exciting activities we have going on.

Speaking of prospective members, a big shout out to our welcoming committee who have put forth huge efforts over the last couple years to increase our marketing, and attract new members. This year, the board approved a new initiative, in an effort to think outside the box, by offering free tuition to SULAM with a paid TCS membership. With funds being tight as always, it may seem counterintuitive to risk reducing our income with this plan. However, we all feel confident that this will be a short term loss which will ultimately be successful, leading to an increase in membership, and thus to our bottom line. It is always our greatest joy to have new members find us, and join our amazing community. In addition to our welcoming committee, the entire congregation is an integral part of the membership recruitment team. So, if you know of anyone who might want to be part of the TCS family, please put them in touch with me, or provide us with their information so we can reach out.

*Shana Tova* to you all—hoping to see you at many of our upcoming events, and wishing you a happy, healthy 5785!  
Jennifer Delaney, President

### 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](#)



# 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.

**To learn more about how you can become a tutor, please reach out to Joe Emerson at [jemer414@gmail.com](mailto:jemer414@gmail.com)**

## 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.

**Learn more about GBJCL here:**

**<https://www.jcrcboston.org/volunteer/>**