## The CONSERVATOR

Newsletter of Temple Shalom - templeshalomrhodeisland.org

November/December 2021 - Heshvan/Kislev/Tevet 5782



#### Presidents Message

These remarks were prepared for a "chapel talk" for the student body at St. George's School on September 30, 2021.

September brought the beginning of the Jewish new year, and was marked by the Jewish High Holidays, a trio of holy days that commemorate concepts like renewal, repentance, and joy. On Rosh Hashanah, the new year, the primal wail of the shofar- a ram's horn that is blown like a trumpet- shocks us out of our cynicism and implores us to wake up to the wonder of the world and be amazed. Rosh Hashanah is followed by the Days of Awe, which culminate with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. This is a time for self-reflection, a time to confront your own failings with honesty and clarity, and to seek to repair your relationships with friends, family, and God. Judaism prioritizes *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, but on Yom Kippur we pause from looking outward and shift to the hard work of looking inward. We are all flawed and in need of improvement, and we all can grow and be better in the coming year. On Yom Kippur, we gently beat on our hearts while reciting a list of ways we fall short - a ritual that can be viewed as a way of waking up your heart and reminding yourself that your heart can always get bigger; you can always do the work of repairing my relationships. A week after Yom Kippur, Jews observe Sukkot. We build and decorate a temporary hut, or sukkah, and share a meal in the sukkah with friends and strangers. In this way, Sukkot reminds us of the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert, when they had to rely only upon God for food and protection, and also celebrates the last harvest festival before the onset of winter rains in Israel.

All of the High Holidays serve as a stunning wakeup call that life is fragile and uncertain. We tend to get comfortable and forget. The High Holidays snap us out of it and remind us to take nothing for granted.

This Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the Jewish year of 5782. This year has special significance because it is a shmita, or sabbatical, year. Just as the Torah calls for Jews to work for six days and rest of the seventh, it calls for them to work the land for six years and let it rest in the seventh. The 7th year is called a shmita year. Shmita means renunciation, or letting go, and in the shmita year, agricultural lands may not be farmed and the fruits & vegetables of the land may not be bought or sold. Rather, the land is to be left alone so that needy people may pick what grows naturally in the fields and orchards.

Shmita is an ancient custom that dates back to the biblical era, and it applies only to the land of Israel, so American Jews don't think about it much, if at all. But, today shmita is part of the

Temple Shalom is an embracing, supportive, vibrant community which is committed to observing Conservative Judaism in a contemporary and progressive tradition and which is devoted to the continuation of Jewish values, education and culture. Temple Shalom honors the diversity of its members and is dedicated to their spiritual, intellectual and religious growth.

religious, agricultural, and economic reality in Israel. Rabbis have developed clever solutions so that the most observant Jews can keep shmita. Jewish farmers may grow and sell produce grown in hydroponic greenhouses, for example, or only purchase produce from non-Jewish farmers. There are systems that allow observant Jews to pay farmers for only their labor, but not for the fruits and vegetables themselves. Right now, Israelis are having a public debate about the year-long ban on planting trees, shrubs, and flowers in their cities and towns. Some activists argue that in an era of climate change a ban on planting trees is harmful. Others argue that there are practical solutions, like planting more trees in the year before and after shmita, or planting trees and shrubs in pots until the year is over and the trees can be transplanted in the ground.

This might sound ridiculous to you...impossibly foreign, archaic, and outdated. But, I believe that shmita can challenge us to think about the space we occupy and how we can make room for others. Like many of you will do, I have spent the decades since graduating from St. Georges striving for professional advancement and influence, which I've achieved. And now I'm beginning to understand that part of growing up is letting go of some of the space that I take up so that other people can step into it and grow and flourish too. This is what shmita means to me, and I think that you can challenge yourselves to make space for others too.

It won't be easy. I know how little space you have to give. Your physical space is confined to this campus and a shared dorm room. Your space in time is not in your control; nearly every hour of every day is scheduled by classes, sports, and school requirements. Your mental space is full of the stress and anxieties of high school - Do I fit in? Do people like me? And, seemingly this is all to secure your space in a zero-sum future: space in the college you want to attend, space on the team, and later, space in society and the economy.

The stakes are so high that giving up space might seem impossible, but making space for others isn't about getting small. It is about encouraging others to be big, to live up to their potential. It is about approaching everyone with an open heart and open mind. You can do this right here and now. When you go to King Hall for lunch, make sure there is an open seat at your table and invite someone to join your group. Back in your dorm, leave your door open and invite someone in who might be lonely (which, by the way, is everyone). Ask someone a question and listen with curiosity. Include someone in your study group and ask her to explain how she thinks about the material or problem you're working on.

Releasing the space you occupy isn't easy. Its serious business and most adults never understand this part of growing up. Letting go of what makes us feel secure, letting go of the assumption that we're right. It is, perhaps, the hardest thing we'll ever do. The secret that too many adults never figure out is that there is space for everyone. This shmita year is your chance to get a head start.

Shalom

**Abigail Anthony** 



# Schedule of Services at Temple Shalom November- December 2021

Friday evening, November 5th at 6:00 pm

Family Shabbat with Daniel Berkman

Adult Shabbat at 7:00 pm

The Cantor will lead the worship

Yahrzeits observed

Friday evening, November 12th – 7:00 PM Veterans & Service Member Shabbat with Rabbi Daniel Kripper Yahrzeits observed Oneg Shabbat sponsored by Liz & Ken Sandler

Friday evening, November 19th at 7:00 pm Kabbalat *Shabbat* – The Cantor will lead the worship

Yahrzeits observed

Wednesday evening, November 24<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM 47<sup>th</sup> Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Friday evening, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:00 pm Hanukkah Shabbat Service – The Cantor will lead the worship

The Cantor will lead the worship **Yahrzeits observed** 

Friday evening, December 10th at 7:00 pm Kabbalat *Shabbat* – The Cantor will lead the worship

Yahrzeits observed

Saturday morning, December 11th at 10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Gyimah

Friday evening, December 17th at 7:00 pm Kabbalat *Shabbat* – The Cantor will lead the worship Yahrzeits observed



#### THE CANTOR'S CORNER



We Gather Together. Hinei Ma tov umm naim.

How good it is to give thanks together. We give thanks as our selves. We give thanks as a family. We give thanks as a Congregation. We give thanks as part of a community. We give thanks to those who serve our country as we gather to share a time to honor our Veterans as well as those who are serving actively. As it says in the Psalm for Shabbat It is good to give thanks to the L-rd and to sing his praise. We look forward to renewing the tradition of gathering as a community to celebrate all for which we have to be thankful. Our annual Thanksgiving Eve Interfaith Service is scheduled for Wednesday, November 24th. During the Thanksgiving eve service we hope to give thanks to *HaShem* with word and song. Please join us. It is followed very soon after by our celebration of Chanukah, in which we celebrate the miracle of the oil that burned for eight days and nights as the Temple was re-consecrated. We all have so much to be thankful for. I need to say THANK YOU to my Temple Shalom family for your recognition of the years that I have had the honor of serving you on the bimah. Carrie and I cannot express sufficient gratitude for your ongoing support and for the opportunity to serve. We all really do have so much to be grateful for. And, with G-d's help, when next I write to you all it will be after becoming a grandparent. I look forward to sharing time together to Daven, learn, and of course, to kibbitz. See you in Shul.

B'shalom

Fred

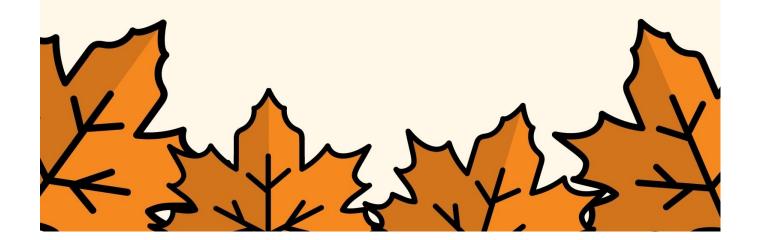


47TH ANNUAL

# INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 7:00 PM TEMPLE SHALOM 223 VALLEY ROAD, MIDDLETOWN

PLEASE WEAR YOUR MASK INSIDE. THANK YOU!





Friday, November 5, 6:00 pm Pizza & Treats

Please be prepared to wear your mask inside.





FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 7PM

## SHABBAT CEREMONY IN HONOR OF OUR VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS

Join us in expressing our deepest gratitude through song, prayer, reflection, and sharing.

Oneg graciously sponsored by the Sandler Family

Please be prepared to wear your mask inside.







**Temple Shalom Presents** 

# Shabbat Services with Rabbi Daniel Kripper

Join us for a special Kabbalat Shabbat Kiddush to follow

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2021 7:00PM

223 VALLEY ROAD, MIDDLETOWN

#### 60th Anniversary Gear 🧢



Please join us for a special service with Rabbi Daniel Kripper. Rabbi Kripper was ordained at the Latin American Rabbinical Seminary Marshall T. Meyer, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Former Dean and Professor of the Seminario RabinicoLatinamericano in Buenos Arires and served as rabbi at Jewish congregations both in Latin America and the United States.



# Chanukah

Chanukah, "festival of lights," celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, special prayers begins on *Sunday, November 28th*.

The most famous story about that rededication comes from our Talmud, where we read that, when the Maccabees walked into the Temple, they found only enough oil to light the *menorah* (lamp) for one day – but miraculously, that small amount of oil lasted for eight days, which is exactly how long it took to get new oil.

Today, our celebration of <u>Hanukkah</u> lasts eight days, in honor of the miracles that occurred so many years ago. We light eight candles on the *hanukkiah* (one candle the first night, two the second night, and so on) and we eat *latkes* (potato pancakes) and other foods fried in oil. We spin the dreidel, whose letters remind us "*Nes Gadol Haya Sham*," "A great miracle happened there." We give and receive chocolate gelt (coins) and often exchange gifts, too.

With every Hanukkah candle we light, we illumine the most important messages of all: that we must always work to find light in the darkness, and we must always work to keep the light of religious freedom burning for all people, for all time.

Mark your calendars and join us for a Chanukah celebration





### Temple Happenings













Sukkah Building















**Sukkah Community Dinner** 







**Godena Farm Bee and Hive Tour** 





Wedding of Michael Kach and Katie Murphy
October 8, 2021



Thank you to our members, community, and friends who joined us and supported our kick-off 60th celebration. The event was made extra sweet by your presence. Please stay tuned for additional celebratory events throughout the year as we honor our past, present, and future.

Special thanks to the Temple Shalom 60th Anniversary Committee for their beautiful work, thoughtful touches, and heartfelt care. It was a perfect evening.

With gratitude, Abigail



















































#### SHALOM FUND

Mazel Tov to Chris Reidy on the birth of his grandson, Jacob.

By Nina & Marty Cohen

Ruth Ziegler

Lois & Steve Schneller

Liz & Ken Sandler

Mazel Toy to Carol & David Bazarsky on the marriage of their son, Zach to Kelsey Napolione

By Dale Blumen

Liz & Ken Sandler

Mazel Tov to Lois & Stephen Schneller on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Riley

By Karen Dannin

Ruth Ziegler

Renee Kaminitz

Fran & Michael Mendell

Mazel Tov to Amy & Jeffrey Schneller on the Bar Mitzvah of their, son, Riley

By Karen Dannin

Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday to **Hope Rubin** 

By Sharon Margolis Ruth Ziegler

Get Well to Karen Dannin

By Ruth Ziegler

Lois & Stephen Schneller

In memory of Karen Selig

By Ruth Ziegler

In memory of Bernie Lieberman

By Leslie & Steve Saunders

**Ruth Ziegler** 

Karen Dannin

Lois & Steve Schneller

Renee Kamintz

**Emily Anthony** 

Fran & Michael Mendell

Dale Blumen

Liz & Ken Sandler

Whatever the occasion, birthday, anniversary, get well, condolences; a Shalom Card says it perfectly. Cards are \$5 and all donations help support the Temple.

For information about participating in the Shalom Fund call Ruth Ziegler – 846-5858 or email – <a href="mailto:ruthziegler@cox.net">ruthziegler@cox.net</a>.





#### President's Kol Nidre Remarks

We took a vacation in August and I had the audacity to bring a book. I downloaded a random title from a best sellers list, and was surprised when it was a retelling of the story of Esther and Vashti, where the narrative connected women from across the ages in a thoughtful braid of women's unceasing struggles for liberty and identity. In this telling of the story, Esther has magical powers passed down from her grandmother and her mother. But this ancestral magic has waned with each generation and Esther must find her power- and she does. With tremendous exertion, Esther- herself a prisoner in a gilded cage - breathes life into a small bird skeleton, and sends the bird away with a warning for her imperiled tribe. But ultimately, it is only with Vashti's help that the women, working together, save the Jews.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Temple Shalom congregation. In the spring and summer of 1961, the Jewish community united around the idea of forming a conservative congregation on Aquidneck Island, and by the High Holidays seventy-five families made up the list of charter members. In those six decades, Temple Shalom grew into an active and influential beacon of spirituality, education, and community.

Today we stand at a moment of transition. A new era of families is ready to take Temple Shalom into its next phase. We are ready for our part of the story to begin, but we'd be mistaken to ignore the stories from the past. We are capable and devoted, but, like Esther, we draw our power from those that came before us. This congregation and this building are filled with the magic and strength of the Temple's founders and all of the men, women, and children who found covenant and community here. In this moment, the spirit of the past- the chutzpah and self-determination of the Temple's founders- will merge with the spirit of the future- a spirit of radical inclusivity and free inquiry- to breathe life into this congregation and ensure its future.

This year we will honor the spirit of our founders by documenting the experiences of the congregation. The day-to-day worship and service projects that brought people closer to each other and closer to G-d. The weddings, bat mitzvahs, and funerals that reconnected us to Judaism. The stories behind the artifacts that adorn our sanctuary.

Second, Temple Shalom will be one of the first congregations to record the stories of our elder members. This project, called Lasting Voice, will be launched by our member Marc Braunstein. Lasting Voice will record and professionally produce interviews with the senior members of our congregation so that we can preserve their most personal memories and wisdom for the benefit of generations to come.

Third, we will celebrate. Join us on Saturday, October 16 for a cocktail reception here at the Temple. The food will be unique, the drinks will be cheery, and the memories will be heartwarming. Reserve your ticket today.

Finally, we will also honor our founders by securing the Temple's future. This year we will take steps to provide regular spiritual leadership, and raise the funds necessary to hire a part-time Rabbi. This congregation is powered by decades of history and driven by thousands of years of belief. This year, join me in honoring the Temple's past and rejoicing in its potential. When you do, this spirit will outlive us and shine brighter than we can ever hope to expect.



This fall we begin celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Temple Shalom. After nearly two years of managing joy and sorrow during a global pandemic, the celebration of this milestone is extra sweet.

It is customary on significant anniversaries, or birthdays, to thoughtfully reflect on the past. Throughout the year we will have plenty of opportunities to look back, raise a glass and hear stories from, and celebrate our earliest members. But now, we want to ask you instead, to look forward to our synagogue's future.

For the Yom Kippur appeal this year we asked our members, donors and friends to give their greatest consideration to supporting spiritual leadership at temple Shalom.

For 25 years, Cantor Scheff has stood on our Bima, his voice echoing through the walls with the song of prayer. This year he is joined by Daniel Berkman who has so beautifully led us through Shabbat services and holy days. The response from our community to the direction we are moving has been overwhelming. We know that more consistent spiritual leadership is what our growing membership wants and needs, and we need your support.

Temple Shalom is thriving! Despite the inability to be together in person for much of the past year our membership continues to grow. We gather for programs and activities and zoom in for talks and lectures. This year's Congregation picnic and celebration for Cantor Scheff was full of the joyful sounds of children running through our halls and around our building. Our 60 years of history has laid the foundation for a bright a beautiful future before us.

Please join us in supporting Temple Shalom by making a gift today. It is once again our goal to have **100% member participation**. Let this be a way to honor our past, plan for our future, and to know that we have done our part to give our community 60 more years to celebrate.

With Gratitude, Karen Dannin & Sara Meirowitz

#### With gratitude to those who have already made their gift

Emily Anthony
Abigail Anthony & Ethan Brown

Daniel & Sarah Berkman

Anne Berman

Nina & Martin Cohen

Phyllis & Herb Cohen Karen Dannin

Phyllis Dannin

Shawn Green & Michael Way
Arlene & Leonard Gross in memory of

Rae & Allan Nierman, Molly & Meyer Gross

Helaine Hartman
Rosa & Charles Herckis

Barbara Hirschler Renee Kaminitz

Lindsay Lieberman & Isaac Kardon Natalie & Zachary Leibowitz *in honor* 

of the Leibowitz family

Dale & Paul Martellino
Barbara & Jeffrey Martin
Fran & Michael Mendell
Linda & David Nathanson

Jill, Heather & Sarah Romanelli

Joyce Rosenthal in memory of Dr. William Desotnek &

Marion Desotnek

**Beverly Rudman** 

Elizabeth & Kenneth Sandler in honor of Abigail Anthony

Anthony Sandodato in honor of Cantor Fred Scheff

Leslie & Steve Saunders

Suzette & Gerald Seigel in memory of Rabbi Jagolinzer

Jill & John Spohn Martha Ullman

Margot & Michael Vale in memory of Nancy Vale

Maude Weisser & Eyal Almog

Melanie & Peter Wolf

Ruth Ziegler in memory of Manny Ziegler

#### **CONSERVATOR NEWS**

#### **MISHABEIRACH LIST**

At weekly services a prayer is offered for those who are ill and fighting disease. During this prayer for recovery the names of those in need are mentioned. We request that names to be included on the list be submitted to the Temple prior to *Shabbat*, email Cantor Scheff at <a href="mailto:fredsilio@cox.net">fredsilio@cox.net</a>, and, that the names, which we already have be updated on a regular basis.

#### HELP OUR SYNAGOGUE MEMBERSHIP GROW

The temple would like every member to assist them in their goal of increasing the membership of our congregation. In order to accomplish our goal, we ask that you inform the Temple office of all families who have moved into your neighborhood, as we would like to welcome them to our community

#### Contributions of many meaningful items can be dedicated at the Temple.

#### TO REMEMBER IS TO KEEP ALIVE

According to Jewish tradition, we honor our loved one's memory by reciting *Kaddish* and by lighting a *Yahrzeit* candle on the anniversary of their death. Temple Shalom offers opportunities to fulfill this *Mitzvah* by arranging contributions and dedicating Memorial Plaques to perpetuate the memory of a loved one.

A **Memorial Plaque** is a constant reminder and a timely symbol of a cherished devotion to those we wish to remember. On the anniversary date of the *Yahrzeit* a light is kindled next to the nameplate. In accordance with Jewish tradition, whenever *Yizkor* is observed, a light should be kindled and *Kaddish* recited. The next time you are at Temple, look at our Yahrzeit Plaques, each with its own light, on the walls within the Sanctuary. All lights on the walls will be lit for the four annual Yizkor Services.

The present contribution for a *Memorial Plaque is \$550.00*. For additional information please contact the Temple

Located in the Temple Social Hall, the **Tree of Life** provides an opportunity to share life's special occasions with your Temple family. Loved ones, friends and members of the congregation are able to create permanent remembrances of their joyous events so that future generations can look upon our yesterday as having been filled with hopes, dreams and accomplishments. **Leafs** can be ordered with a donation of **\$125.00** per leaf. You will enjoy visiting the Temple and finding your leaf on the tree.

Commemorate a special occasion, show your appreciation or remember a loved one by purchasing a chair plaque to be installed on one of our sanctuary chairs. Our chair plaques make a perfect gift, too! **Chair plaques** can be ordered with a donation of **\$250.00** per plaque.

#### **Community News**

Please inform the Temple of any community news you wish to share

#### Welcome New Members:

Michelle & George Fischler Beverly Rudman Susan & Saul Woythaler

#### Mazel Tov to:

Carol& David Bazarsky on the marriage of their son, Zach to Kelsey Napolione Chris Reidy on the birth of his grandson, Jacob Lois & Stephen Schneller on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Riley

#### Get Well to:

Norman Zucker David Nathanson Arlene Zatz

#### Condolences to:

The Lieberman–Kardon Family on the passing of their father, Bernie Lieberman

#### The Temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations received from:

#### **General Donations**

Beverly Caplan Charles & Rosa Herckis Roberta Schiff Paula & Peter Soloway Loel & Patty Weiss William Zeidenberg

#### Yahrziet Remembrances

Martin & Nina Cohen Linda & David Nathanson

#### Cantor Fred Scheff's 25th Anniversary

Emily Anthony M.C. Stewart

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Help us to keep you informed on Temple Events and happenings. Please fill out the form below and return it to the Temple. We don't want you to miss out on any events. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

Return to Temple Shalom – 223 Valley Road – Middletown, RI 02842				
Name				
Address				
Phone – (home)	(cell)			
Email				



#### **YAHRZEITS**

Within the Jewish world there is an annual opportunity specially made for remembrance of those who are no longer with us in life. On the anniversary of their departure, family and friends recite the *Kaddish*.

The following Yahrzeits will be observed at Temple Shalom on the Friday closest to this date.

According to the Hebrew calendar the following Yahrzeits will begin at Sunset and continue thru the following day.

May the observance of this day and the memories of your loved one be a source of comfort, strength, and inspiration

#### November 2021

#### December 2021

Nov 4	Virginia Werner	Dec 1	Edward Friedberg
	Barnett Fisher	Dec 4	Sadie Spector
Nov 10	Mildred Goldberg		George Zucker
Nov 14	Gussie Zatz	Dec 5	Irving Nemtzow
Nov 19	Morris Mines	Dec 6	Hyman Lipet
	Gladys Kaplan	Dec 11	Edith Siletchnik
Nov 20	Herbert Kaplan	Dec 13	Saul Scheff
Nov 21	Ruth Ostrow		Jean Friedman
Nov 23	Pia Lipet	Dec 14	Pearl Wilfand
Nov 27	Ida Wolf		Annie Gold
Nov 28	Maurice Nathanson		Sylvia Brown Gross
		Dec 23	Samuel Kaplan
		Dec 24	Sadie Adelman
		Dec 25	Bonnie Nichols
			Dr. Lewis Abramson
		Dec 26	Fred Jurmann
		Dec 29	Sam Cadesky
Nov 21 Nov 23 Nov 27	Herbert Kaplan Ruth Ostrow Pia Lipet Ida Wolf	Dec 13  Dec 14  Dec 23  Dec 24  Dec 25  Dec 26	Saul Scheff Jean Friedman Pearl Wilfand Annie Gold Sylvia Brown Gross Samuel Kaplan Sadie Adelman Bonnie Nichols Dr. Lewis Abramson Fred Jurmann

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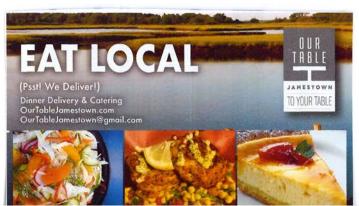




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Nov/Dec



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Lectures & discussions
Tikkun Olam and service projects
Women's group
Children's programs

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