



## Rabbi's Message - Marc Ekstrand

Friends,

Like most of you, I've been spending nearly all of my time at home lately. Polly and I have had to do some rearranging in the house. As you have seen on Fri-

day nights, part of our house has become our Zoom sanctuary. That is a lot of stress on everyone. I am grateful to Polly, Nava, Ilan and Aaron for making it work as well as it has. It hasn't been smooth sailing but we've all done our best. During the reorganizing, I came across some old pictures and papers that came from my mother's house. There was an envelope my father had stuffed in a drawer that had not been touched since he died in 1990. Inside the envelope, there were pictures of my grandparents, my brother, and me. Tucked inside a portfolio with a picture of my father's mother, Alice, was the ketubah of my mother's parents, Anne and Meyer Greenberg. Looking at the ketubah, I noticed that my grandparents were married in 1936.

Many of us have been reading about the Spanish flu epidemic that came in three waves in 1918 and 1919. As I was looking at the Ketubah I realized that my grandparents and their parents struggled then just as we are now with COVID-19. As it happens, I also have a copy of my grandfather's birth certificate. He was born in 1913 and thus would have been the same age as Nava and Ilan during the Spanish flu epidemic. I imagine that Meyer, or Mike as he became known, was probably just like Ilan and Nava. They understand that something is going on. They call it "the sickness". But, they take it in stride. When my mother-in-law, Carole, lovingly made and sent each of us a couple of masks from Minnesota, Nava and Ilan reacted with giddy excitement, like it was an early birthday present. The masks were of all kinds of patterns; flowers, insects, frogs, paisleys, and more. It helps to have a quilter in the family. Nava and Ilan couldn't wait to get out in public and wear their masks.

I wonder if my great grandmother was making masks for her family. Surely she was. Newspapers from 1918 reported that everyone was wearing masks. It was mandated by law. Some were even arrested for not wearing them. Most gov-

ernment, civic leaders, and the public understood what was at stake. This isn't 1918, but we are faced with a similar, extraordinary public health crisis. It is not the Spanish flu but, COVID-19 is highly contagious and deadly. It is not just one of the common flu strains. Most of us get a vaccine for those. Our high rate of vaccination protects even those who choose or can't have the flu vaccine. There is no vaccine yet for COVID-19. Combating this disease will only be successful if we think more about the people around us than we do ourselves.

Just as in 1918, many are making masks. Some are simple, made with spare fabric, elastic string, and staples. Others are more complicated and fashionable. Whatever the style, please make one or get one and wear one. It is really not about you. The mask isn't meant to protect you. Rather it is meant to protect others from you. If you become infected, you likely will not know about it for days. If you are not wearing a mask, you will spread the virus to many people during that time. We are taught in the Talmud, Sanhedrin 37a, that to save one life is as if to save a whole, while to take one life is as if to destroy an entire world. Wearing a mask is an imperative that is for the sake of our world.

Additionally, until there is sufficient immunity, testing, and contact tracing capability, we just simply cannot be face to face. We must physically distance. This is hard for everyone. We are doing our best, transferring some activities to the internet, being creative, and even adding new programs. We are not in person, but we are able to be face to face, celebrating, mourning, learning, and comforting each other. The response has been phenomenal. My estimation is that service attendance is up by about 50%. I see a lot of smiling and engaged young people on Sunday mornings in the programs created by Armi Rowe and Jennifer Zettler. I see many families joining us on Friday nights and for Havdalah on Saturday evenings. I see meaningful shiva gatherings. We have a great new book group that just started. These are good things, pandemic or not. And when this is over, our online presence will remain. I look forward to the day that we can be in the same space, but for now, face to face in cyberspace is not only holding us together it is helping us grow and thrive.

All of that sounds very positive. However, many of us are also struggling. If you are struggling, please know we are still connected. If you need a mask, food, someone to pick

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## **Rabbi's Message -- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

up a prescription, or maybe just a friendly voice, reach out. I am making my way through our phone list with the objective of contacting every family. If you haven't received your call yet, you will. But you also don't have to wait. I'm always here for you. Reach out to me by phone, email, WhatsApp, Zoom, or even paper and pen – any way that is comfortable for you. We are all in this together.

L'Shalom,

*Rabbi Marc*

## **President's Message - Jo-el Fernandez**



The days are getting longer. The calendar says spring is here, although as I sit here in my wool socks, it doesn't feel that way. We made it through a Passover holiday that was unlike any that we have ever experienced. The question, "Why is this night different than all other

nights?" was especially poignant this year, as we looked at friends and family through a computer screen instead of passing the charoset and hiding the afikomen with them. And yet, we are still a community. We have Zoom classes, services, meetings, living room concerts, and sadly, funeral and shiva gatherings. We still find ways to be together in joyous times, and to comfort one another in times of sorrow and loss. This is what Temple Emanu-El is and always will be about to me---community.

With regard to sustainability, the Temple completed an application and gathered supporting documents for the Payroll Protection Program loan from the SBA, to help Temple Emanu-El keep Rabbi Marc, Sherry, Roberta, Don, and our kitchen staff on the payroll during this time. Roberta did an extraordinary amount of work to gather all of the documents needed for the application and get them to me expeditiously, at a time of extraordinary personal heartache for her and her family. Unfortunately, the first batch of funding was depleted while the paperwork was still being processed by the bank. We are hopeful that we will be one of the first in line if and when new funding is made available by Congress. In the meantime, a number of our very generous members stepped up to the plate and contributed to the Temple Reserve Fund, to help us balance our budget through the end of the fiscal year during this time of unprecedented hardship to individuals, businesses, and nonprofits. While I am in the process of thanking each of these donors individually, I wish to take this opportunity to thank them

here publicly as well. Without them, our sustainability would be significantly challenged.

Our in-person operations remain suspended indefinitely at this time. The state of Connecticut has determined that our doors will remain shut at least through May 20. My assumption is that it will be longer than this. When we are able to reopen, it will be with well thought-out plans in place for social distancing. To that end, the executive board has determined that the annual meeting, scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup>, will occur via Zoom. While we will miss the camaraderie, and especially the Brotherhood breakfast, it is unsafe to consider holding an in-person congregation-wide meeting at this time. Rabbi Marc and I are working out the logistics of ensuring the integrity of the voting process via Zoom, and materials will be made available to the congregation prior to the meeting. The Temple board and the relevant committees will also be looking ahead as far as the High Holidays in order to develop contingency plans in the event that it is not safe for our congregants to be together in the sanctuary at the same time by then. While we hope for the best, we also must plan for a new reality. Other Reform congregations around the country are grappling with the same issue. I plan to participate in a Union for Reform Judaism Conference of Presidents webinar in May where this will be a featured topic.

Until we can meet in person again, stay home, stay safe, and stay connected with one another. Rabbi Marc, myself, and the rest of the board are only an e-mail or a phone call away.

B'shalom,

*Jo-el Fernandez*

## **Notes from Sherry Barnes**



*Gam zeh ya'avov...*this too shall pass.

I have been working from home for about a month now. Thank goodness for my schedule that is taped to the wall, or I might forget what day it is. I've stopped watching the constant updates on the Coronavirus, because it was overwhelming. Instead, I've tried to stay focused on my classes, students, work, taking care of my dad, and using common sense, instead of fear, regarding Covid-19. Having to keep social distance in order to stay healthy, I've been grateful to have platforms like Zoom and Facetime to stay connected with you for Shabbat Services, Havdalah, classes, seeing students, being present for funerals, and Shiva services. It's not ideal, but they allow me to see the faces of those I may otherwise not see, or be able to grieve with those I love.

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## May Services & Schedule of Events

Given the ongoing COVID-19 concerns, the Temple remains closed through the end of May. Hopefully, everyone is staying safe and well.

Note Shabbat Services and other classes and events are being held on line. You can, access the Temple website calendar at [www.tewaterford.org](http://www.tewaterford.org)

Click on the calendar tab on the left side of the home page. The calendar will have the links to services and events.

Also watch your e-mail for messages from Rabbi Marc regarding other virtual ways to connect as they arise.

### Mishloach Manot Bag Correction

Thank you to Hali and Gerry Keeler donating Mishloach Manot bags. Sorry for the misprint in the April Bulletin.

### Notes from Sherry Barnes

*Continued from page 2*

I don't know about you, but I've noticed time slowing down. I don't feel rushed and other than taking my son to work, or the occasional grocery store visit, I'm rarely in my car. I do miss going to the gym, hearing your voices singing with me at Shabbat services, popping into Rabbi Marc's office to discuss new projects or services. Saying good morning to Roberta when I come in and catching up on what's new with her. I miss hugging people. I'm a huggy kind of person and social distancing has been hard. I've missed hugging those who have lost loved ones. I've missed hugging people that I see coming into services.

So, my mantra has become, *Gam zeh ya'avur...*...this too shall pass. Life will eventually make its way back to some kind of normalcy. Life will go on despite Covid-19. I've watched the birds and nature thriving from my new office window and I realized this quarantine won't be forever, even though at the moment it feels like it. My hope for all of us is that when it is over, really over, we never take for granted the freedom of being in the company of family and friends, hugging someone you truly are happy to see, going to concerts, movies, restaurants, walking on a crowded beach, and my goodness, getting a haircut! Maybe for some of you, it's finally having the time to read to your kids, play games together, or have dinner together. It isn't until something is taken from you, that you realize how blessed you were. *Gam zeh ya'avur...*...this too shall pass and I know when it does, I want to be ready to enjoy life's simplest pleasures.

With much love,

*Sherry*

### Condolences to . .



**Roberta Reisner-Winograd,  
Sam, Hannah and  
Yitzchak Winograd**  
on the passing of  
**Janice Reisner**

**Edward, Mimi, Matthew Perl and  
Jennifer and Wes Thompson**  
on the passing of **Ethel Perl**

**The Bauer family and John Little**  
on the passing of **Alicia Bauer**

### Mazel Tov to . .



**Gail and Steve Weber**  
on the engagement of  
their daughter  
**Dara Weber to Jeff Ritterband**

**Harriet Lesko**  
on the birth of  
her granddaughter  
**Nadine Penny Robarge**

**Lois and Stephen Panikoff,**  
on the birth of their granddaughter,  
**Maya Sadie Panikoff**



## ***We are eternally thankful for the support of those below. . .***

### **Cantor's Fund**

Elsa Freeman

---in memory of Ruth Dunkerley

---in memory of my brother-in-law. Art Wasserman

Harvey and Ellen Schiller

---in memory of our friend Barry Steinberg

Patricia and Jay Hans

---in loving memory of Ruth Dunkerley

### **Dr. Sanford Blank Computer Fund**

Harvey and Ellen Schiller

---in memory of Janice Reisner

### **Essential Services Fund**

Caren and Bob Linden

---in memory of Alicia Bauer

---in memory of Janice Reisner

---congratulations on Dara Weber's engagement to  
Jeff Ritterband

Donald and Lois Steinman

---in memory of Janice Reisner

Elsa Freeman

---in memory of Janice Reisner

---in memory of Ethel Perl

Elwin and Cheryl Schwartz

---in memory of Ruth Dunkerley

Gail and Steve Weber

---in memory of Janice Reisner

Henry Dunkerley

---in loving memory of John Shiers on his yahrzeit

---in loving memory of Bennet Werner on his yahrzeit

James S. Goodman

---in loving memory of Nathan Goodman on his yahrzeit

Jane and Marvin Schnur

---in memory of Janice Reisner

Judi Glickstein

---in memory of Janice Reisner

Judy and Stephen Mann

---in memory of Ruth Dunkerley

Karen Dinsfriend

---in memory of Janice Reisner

Martin and Joanna Lazarus

---in loving memory of Mary Temple on her yahrzeit

Panikoff and Kaplan Family

---in loving memory of Rebecca Goodman on her yahrzeit

Patricia and Jay Hans

---mazel tov to Dara Weber on her engagement to Jeff

Ritterband; proud parents Gail and Steve Weber

Sean Bendick

---to enhance Temple Emanu-El's technology

Stephanie and Barry Thorp

---in memory of Ruth Dunkerley

Stephen and Lois Panikoff

---in honor of the birth of our granddaughter Maya Sadie  
Panikoff

---in memory of Janice Reisner

The Kil Family

---in loving memory of Mira Kil on her yahrzeit

### **Isaaca Siegel Landscaping Fund**

Elsa Freeman

---in memory of my sister. Sheila Wasserman on her  
yahrzeit

---in loving memory of my brother. Paul Wharton on his  
yahrzeit

---in loving memory of my mother, Deeda Wharton on her  
yahrzeit

### **Mitzvah Fund**

Ethel Chatkin

---in memory of Janice Reisner

Flossie and Michael Betten

---heartfelt condolences to the Reisner-Winograd family,  
in memory of Janice Reisner

Hali and Gerry Keeler

---in loving memory of Frank Kelco on his yahrzeit

---in memory of Janice Reisner

---in loving memory of Barbara Kelco on her yahrzeit

Len and Helen Golstein

---in loving memory of Louise Goldstein on her yahrzeit

Martin Zeldis

---in loving memory of Sylvia Zeldis on her yahrzeit

Sandra and Abe Fisher

---in loving memory of Evelyn Driessen on her yahrzeit

### **Rabbi Aaron Rosenberg Tikkun Olam Scholarship Fund**

Edith Ziegler

---in loving memory of Helen Rosenholtz on her yahrzeit

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

Elwin Schwartz

---in loving memory of Jerome Schwartz on his yahrzeit

Judi Glickstein

---in honor of Rabbi Mark Ekstrand providing Friday  
services via computer

Ruthann Mandelbaum

---in loving memory of William "Bill" Mandelbaum on  
his yahrzeit

### **Ruth Joan Broday Religious School Fund**

Jane and Chic Weinberg

---in loving memory of Freda Weinberg on her yahrzeit



***Please make checks payable to Temple Emanu-El and remit to PO Box 288, Waterford, CT 06385***



## Project Face Mask

Matthew Shulman and Marty Zeldis have been organizing mask makers, pick-up and delivery. If you are interested in helping to make masks, please call Matthew Shulman to **learn about the pattern/materials** that are being used for this project. These masks will be distributed to Temple Emanu-El congregants, the Homeless Hospitality Center and other local organizations.

If you or your family are in need of a mask(s), please contact Matthew Shulman or Marty Zeldis.

**Matthew Shulman**

(252) 217-5865, 2020jewishthought@gmail.org

**Marty Zeldis**

(860) 442-4580, ztr8n@aol.com



## Sisterhood — Merrill Mazzella & Gail Weber, Co-Presidents

Hi Ladies,

I never thought that when I sat down to write the May bulletin article, we would still be in our self-isolation mode. These are very strange times indeed and yet we are all finding a way to get through each day. We look forward to the future and whatever the “new normal” is going to look like. We look forward to being together and sharing each other’s company. We look forward to planning engaging programs and get-togethers. Many things that we all took for granted have now moved to our wish list for the future. Each day brings us one day closer to the end of this pandemic. We hope each and every one of you stays safe and stays healthy.

Besides all of the wonderful programs that we have available through our temple via Zoom, let me suggest that you check out the websites of both Reform Judaism ([reformjudaism.org](http://reformjudaism.org)) and Women of Reform Judaism, our umbrella organization ([wrj.org](http://wrj.org)). Both websites include moving, inspirational and timely articles, as well as study sections. Let us continue to pray that when we leave these dark days behind us, we will be living in a kinder world.

**Merrill Mazzella & Gail Weber**

Co-Presidents

### Temple Emanu-El Mah Jongg Tournament?

Like so many events these days, we will be foregoing a late spring Mah Jongg Tournament this year. Watch for fall plans as we see how things evolve.

In the meantime, I hope you have received your 2020 cards you ordered through me. If not, let me know. You can keep up your Mahj skills and connect with your mahjongg friends through online Mahj.

There are a couple of good websites/apps. You can schedule a time and play with your friends online or play anytime day or night with computer bots or strangers. I like Realmah-jongg.com (free for 14 days, then there is a monthly or annual fee), but there are other options as well.

Feel free to contact me if you want more info.

Stay safe,

**Iris**

[ifreegang@aol.com](mailto:ifreegang@aol.com)

860-460-3081 (text or call)



## Social Action

It is late April and extraordinarily difficult times affect us all. The Temple is virtually closed, except virtually. Those who are working are, if possible, working at home and everybody else is discovering that the once a week highlight of the day is going to the supermarket. Formal Social Action at the Temple gives way to individual Social Action--making sure that our loved ones are safe and well. The irony is that when helping those most in need is most urgent, our ability to provide that help is extremely limited. Providing Social Action must recognize the difficulties pushed upon us by the virus, and we need to all do whatever is required to live through this pandemic and get to its end as healthy and as fit as we possibly can be. Finally, we must all recognize and fully appreciate the heroic work that is being done by our first responders.

### **Turning to a few specifics:**

Habitat for Humanity has rescheduled our April-Sunday-Build to Sunday, May 17. As things stand now it is likely that this Build date will also be rescheduled.

The New London Soup Kitchen is not open in the normal sense, but as of now the Temple participates, in a limited way, by preparing food which is boxed and then given out at the door. Let's hope that by the third Tuesday in May things

will be more normal.

The Homeless Hospitality Center is open. They are in need of masks, and we are on occasion providing meals when they are otherwise not available.

The Social Action Committee is putting together a project to make masks that will be available to congregants and then, where needed, to the community at large where the need is great. If you have the ability to sew and if you are interested in being part of this mask making project, please contact, Matt Shulman at [2020jewishthought@gmail.com](mailto:2020jewishthought@gmail.com).

Everyone, please stay safe.

**Marty Zeldis**



## May Birthdays

Emma Gail Arruda  
Florence Betten  
Karen S. Bloustine  
Eric Blum  
Emmett Brengman  
Dianne Wilkomer Brody  
Rhonda Daniels  
Harris Daniels  
Henry Dunkerley  
Haley Flax  
Trevor Fornara  
Paula Garnica  
Alice Gilbert-King  
Richard Gipstein  
Lori Goldstein

Barry E. Greenhalgh  
Sanford Greenhouse  
Alan Gruber  
Patricia Gruber  
Peter Gruber  
David Hausmann  
Mike Haynes  
Robert Hoffman  
Lance Holwitt  
Merrill Katz  
Adam Kaufman  
Isaac David Kaufman  
Gladys Kimmel  
Elyse Kirschblum  
Joshua Krasney

Anne Kronisch  
Emily Lerner  
Caren Linden  
Camrynn Marcus  
Justin Mazza  
Sierra McCaffrey  
Sybil Nassau  
Mikayla O'Brien  
Edward Perl  
David Sayet  
Cheryl Susan  
Schwartz  
Joseph Segal  
Ben Shiling  
Perry Anne Smizer

Brendan Suroviak  
Susan Turner  
Nathan Weiss  
Gabrielle Emily Zettler



## May Yahrzeits

### May 1

Craig Blumsack  
Eileen Cohen  
Helen Dzurainin  
Anthony Freeman  
Louis Friedman  
Martin Greenbaum

Reginold Krasney  
Abraham Allie Lamchick  
Betty K. Lavender  
Philip Luner  
David Schulman  
Stanley Sheikowitz  
Isaac Wessel  
Martin Yavener

Toby Deckler  
Milton Finkelstien  
Beatrice Fishbone  
Benjamin Fox  
Kathleen Greenhalgh  
Beverly Keeler  
Julian Krieger  
Anne Ressler  
David Rifkin  
Ernest Jacob Shoor  
Sam Sitko  
Carl Stoner  
Marion Vail  
Nathaniel Wharton  
Mark Wildstein

Yetta Solomon  
George Trehub  
Hilda Ursinus  
Alice Werner

### May 29

Ann Brown  
Rose Cantor  
Ruth Cantor  
Samson Engel  
Irving Gordon  
Michael Green  
Jacob Hartman  
David Kornstein  
George Orenstein  
Samuel Perlowitz  
Bernard Rosefeldt  
Elizabeth Love Ryan  
Howard Smith  
Alfred Sunshine

## May Anniversaries

*I found the one  
my heart loves...*

*Song of Songs 3:4*

Stanley A. and  
Karen S. Bloustine  
Erik and Sapir Brengman  
Scott and Rhonda Daniels  
Bruce and Lisa Darling  
Leonard and Helen Goldstein  
Rick and Tammy Kaye  
Martin and Joanna Lazarus  
Richard and Sheri Pascal  
Mike and Marcia Reinhard  
Elwin Garth and  
Cheryl Susan Schwartz  
Alvin and Patricia Sher  
Nathan and Shelley Weiss

### May 8

Marcia Bentley  
Sidney Chivian  
Belle Galvin  
Paul Hans  
Kurt Hopfer  
Lillian Katz  
Barbara Kelco  
Lothar Knobel  
Jerry Lavender  
William Miller  
Mary Louise Murphy  
Bernard L. Ryack  
Anna Schlesinger  
Phillip Schlesinger  
Raphael Shafner  
Leah Sher  
James Solomon Smith  
Samuel Steckler  
Esther Sutel  
Rose Winter

### May 15

Ruth Cotton

### May 22

Jerry Arenson  
Mary Ann Connell  
Lena Epstein  
Judy Flax  
Irene Fox  
Helen Friedman  
Michael Goodman  
Mason Marcus  
Mildred Orenstein  
Dr. Jeanne C. Prokesch  
Ida Resnick  
Wendy Senges Ryder  
Eleanor Samuels Schnur  
Irving Shafner  
James Shleffar  
Bernard Shulman





Unprecedented. Uncharted territory. We have embraced this reality, adapting to the changing CDC social distancing guidelines, as we navigate Temple Emanu-El Religious School through the rest of the school year. The most recent Temple Board update requires that we not be back in our building until at least May 20. Our anticipated last day of school is June 21st. We are determined to keep our school community connected and to help our students continue to learn their prayer, Hebrew, and Judaics, despite new challenges. Throughout the month of April, we reconnected face-to-face with our students and their families through weekly Zoom calls on Sunday mornings. We enjoyed sharing updates like show-and-tell craft projects; celebrating Passover virtually through a fun sing-along with Hazzan Sherry (hazzan is the Hebrew term for cantor); and catching up with emissaries Tal and Roi who had to leave CT abruptly. Each week, we sent our students links to Passover story videos, songs and craft projects. On the Zoom calls, we offered virtual story time and discussions about Earth Day/Bal Tashchit and Yom HaShoah. Students enjoyed a fun way to review and learn by playing interactive games together like Pesach JewParody, Hebrew Hangman and a Religious School Kahoot! trivia game that reviewed a variety of Judaic, Hebrew, Israel and Jewish mitzvot concepts and facts. We have been consulting with staff and members of the Religious School Committee to determine the best way for us to reconfigure the school curriculum for distance learning by grade. The reality is that the learning environment at school cannot be exactly replicated at home as learning dynamics vary at home, which are being impacted by many factors: parental input/time, technology resources/access and anxiety levels given secular school distance learning workload. We



will do our best to determine what is most important for the students to work on and what is most realistic given our new environment.

As we move forward in May, we will strive to provide our students with more structure, and more importantly, keep the learning fun. We just rolled out a new prayer Hebrew app for computers, tablets and smartphones called PrayerTech which students can log on to individually as our staff follows their progress remotely. The students have ways to follow along and record themselves reading Hebrew prayers according to their grade's curriculum. There are matching and completion games that test Hebrew word recognition ability. These apps offer appealing visual and audio features. For Judaics, we will continue to teach about the Torah people and their stories, Jewish holidays, basic Jewish concepts and history as appropriate. The good news is that even without the building and with limited physical resources, we are managing to stay connected as a community with our students and their families through technology. We ask families for their patience and trust as we enter the unknown together. We promise to keep lessons informative, fun and realistic in terms of time commitment. Please stay tuned for more updates.

We pray for everyone's continued strong health and safety.

Warmest regards,

Armi Rowe and Jennifer Zettler  
TERS Co-Administrators  
[religiousschool@tewaterford.org](mailto:religiousschool@tewaterford.org)

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## Gift Cards

The need to help those in crisis due to unexpected emergencies knows no season. Please consider donating Stop and Shop, Shop Rite, Big Y, Walmart or other gift cards for people in need. The Temple office receives calls for help purchasing food and other basic necessities throughout the year.



TEMPLE EMANU-EL  
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**Deadline for June 2020 Bulletin is Friday, May 15**

Email your articles to Roberta at [office@tewaterford.org](mailto:office@tewaterford.org)

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## Our Leadership

**Rabbi** / Marc Ekstrand / [rabbi@tewaterford.org](mailto:rabbi@tewaterford.org)  
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