

I hope everyone had a wonderful Pesach celebration with family and friends, and that you enjoyed some rest and relaxation during Spring Break. Before taking this well-deserved down time, April was an exciting month for our students. On April 3rd we had a special First Friday Share Shabbat where we welcomed back onegs to family service. **Thank you to all the TERS families who donated some delicious treats to wrap up the service with.**

On April 10th TERS held their 3rd Sunday Family Funday. We had a great turnout at The Coast Guard Academy Bowling Center. **A huge THANK YOU to Elyse Hicks for helping make this happen.** Over 25 students joined in on an afternoon of bowling and ice cream Sundae's. These whole school outings have been very successful bringing together both students and the community.

On April 20th TERS also participated in a special Passover program. The morning was filled with educational hands-on activities. Students made their own Seder plates, learned about the Israelites exodus from Egypt (followed by a scavenger hunt for the 10 plagues) and practiced the Four Questions. **Thank you to all our teachers for their help in making learning about Passover fun and engaging.**

Our Passover program wrapped up with a small Seder and an amazing music program featuring Moses himself! **A special thanks to Sherry Barnes for organizing, leading, and providing for this year's TERS Seder.** Each student had their own Seder plate, and I was amazed at how many students tried Morar (bitter herb) or wanted seconds of the Charoset (a mixture of apples, grape juice, and walnut). **I would also like to thank Sam Winograd who played the part of Moses during our music program.** To see the look of surprise on the students' faces was priceless.

Our 8th grade class had a very special treat of their own during our Passover programming. **Thanks to Rabbi Ekstrand we had a very special speaker come to TERS.** A 92-year-old resident of Mystic agreed to visit TERS and speak about her experience in Poland during the Nazi occupation. She was so warm, friendly, and open about her experiences during the war. It really made an impression on our teens, and it was a great way to wrap up the 8th grades study of the Holocaust.

I can't believe that religious school is moving to the homestretch. Please note, **our last mid-week Hebrew instruction is on May 4th and our last Sunday session is May 22nd.** Our last day of religious school will conclude with a whole school celebration - details to come. Meanwhile, please mark your calendars, as our next **First Friday Share Shabbat will be on May 6th.** Please join us in person or virtually. If you have not yet signed up for a "piece" of the service, please contact me or Rabbi Marc.

Please note that over the next couple of weeks our 8th graders will be sponsoring a Mitzvah Project facilitated by Barbara Senges and Karen Rosenberg. **Kitah Chet will be collecting items to help support Camp Hope, a summer camp sponsored by Safe Futures (see flyer for items needed).** We are hoping that all our students can donate at least one item from the list. There will be a box in the atrium of TERS for

donated items. Please confirm with Roberta Reisner-Winograd if you will be dropping off outside of school hours as she is not always in the office. The temple number is (860) 443-3005.

Very important...as the school year ends, I need to plan for the next school year. So, teachers, faculty assistants, and school families, please be on the lookout for a survey that will ask you to confirm whether you will be returning to religious school next year. I appreciate your prompt response so I can plan accordingly.

We have had such a productive school year, one filled with new experiences, opportunities to learn and to make new connections, and of course, dealing with a few speed bumps along the way. We couldn't have done it without the consistent support of Rabbi Ekstrand, Sherry Barnes, and all our dedicated teachers, faculty assistants.

Wishing you all a great summer!