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TEMPLE SINAI

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Merry Arnold, Doug Bitman, Judith Freedman Caplan, Richard Goldstein, Paul Jacobson, Amos Lassen, Rose Mandelbaum, Rose Perrizo, Janet Seckel-Cerrotti, Jeremy Wolfe

For feedback, comments or recommendations, please contact adulteducation@sinaibrookline.org.

Turn It, Turn It, for Everything is in It

Rabbi Andy Vogel

I am continually amazed by the vastness of Jewish tradition, and the variety of ways to connect to it. One can experience Jewish life through ritual, theology, history, food, music, modern Israel, prayer, Talmudic story, mysticism, ethics, personal reflection, holidays, poetry... and more. Our ancient rabbis said of Torah (by which they meant all means of Jewish study): “Turn it, turn it, for everything is in it” (Pirke Avot 5:22). Jewish learning is a life-long endeavor which continually enriches us, helps us find wisdom as we grow old, brings us joy, gives us glimpses of Truth, and connects us to our people. Jewish learning is endless and helps us grow on our search for meaning. Everything is in it.

Once again, our Adult Jewish Learning Committee has created a dazzling array of community Jewish learning opportunities for adults and families this year. I am grateful to the vision, leadership, partnership and hard work of the Committee, who crafted this excellent year-long learning program for us. May our study of Torah allow us all to continue to grow and build together!

- Elul 5778 / August 2018

Toby Axelrod & Barry Schwartz, Co-Chairs
The Adult Jewish Learning Committee is again pleased to present a number of stimulating offerings. Ongoing courses continue, along with many returning teachers and several new congregant lecturers. This year we are launching a new multi-session initiative under the heading “Exploring Our Jewish Values/Our Jewish Inner Lives,” featuring presentations and discussion with Rabbi Vogel and Rabbi Shoshana and several congregant presenters, including Merry Arnold and Neil Motenko. We are hopeful that many people will want to participate in a number of these theme-generated presentations, and you are also welcome to attend just one or two.

We invite you to join us as we continue our learning together and getting to know each other better.

NOTE: Whenever fees are charged for our courses, scholarships are available. Contact Rabbi Vogel.
SHABBAT STUDY

Shabbat Morning Torah Study
Twice a month on Shabbat mornings, Temple Sinai members gather in Rabbi Vogel’s study to discuss the ideas presented by the week’s Torah portion. We begin with a light breakfast, coffee and a bit of singing, and then study the text in English. You need not have any prior study of the Torah or Hebrew knowledge, simply an interest in considering the Torah portion as it relates to our contemporary experiences or those of Jews in previous generations. All are welcome for this friendly exchange of Jewish ideas! Come just once to try it out.

2nd & 4th Saturday mornings of each month, starting Sat., September 8
9:00 – 10:20 am, in Weintraub Community Room, with Rabbi Andy Vogel
From December-February, during Rabbi Vogel’s Sabbatical, a number of Temple Sinai members will lead Shabbat morning Torah Study sessions as guest facilitators.

Shabbat Community Minyan
1st Saturday of each month, starting in October, 9:30 – 11:30 am
in the Sanctuary
Temple Sinai’s Music, Prayer and Ritual Committee has established a regular monthly minyan on the first Saturday of most months as an opportunity for community members of all ages to pray together, read Torah, and discuss the week’s Torah portion with a D’var Torah led by a Temple Sinai member. If you would like to read or chant Torah or Haftarah, or facilitate a D’var Torah discussion, contact the rabbis.

Havurot for Shabbat, Study & Community
A havurah (friendship group, plural havurot) at Temple Sinai is made of 4-8 families or individuals who meet in each other’s homes every month or two to celebrate Shabbat and holidays, socialize and/or study together. Joining a havurah gives you the opportunity to build deeper relationships within your Jewish community. Examples of havurot include young adults, young families based by neighborhood, older adults, and religious school families. If you would like to join a havurah, contact Rabbi Shoshana Friedman.
Temple Sinai’s Adult Jewish Learning Committee is excited to announce its latest initiative: “Exploring Jewish Values / Exploring Jewish Inner Lives.” The Adult Learning Committee has put together a number of talks and classes that will help us more actively understand, explore, and cultivate our inner lives and live our Jewish values.

**Mussar Group: Living Out Our Values with Intention**

Mussar offers a positive and practical Jewish approach to developing important traits in ourselves, traits such as patience, lovingkindness, and gratitude. It can help us live each day with greater intention, and leave us feeling more balanced as we cope with the “slings and arrows” of our lives. Mussar draws on centuries of Jewish texts, ethics, and wisdom. This 6-session group is part of the Open Circle Jewish Learning Group, offered through a joint venture between Hebrew College and CJP.

**Registration is $120** for the 6 sessions, and is done through Hebrew College. Scholarships are available through Hebrew College (and, for members, through Temple Sinai). Please contact Merry Arnold for the link to register.

**6 Thursday evenings, October 4, 11, 18, & 25, November 1 & 8, 7:15 – 8:45 pm with Temple Sinai member Merry Arnold**

Merry Arnold has been a student of Mussar for over 10 years, and has experience leading Mussar and many other kinds of groups. Please contact her with questions, merry@merryarnold.com, 617-640-6278.

**Scholar-in-Residence with Rabbi Nehemia Polen**

“Opening the Heart with Sacred Melody”

**Sunday, November 11, 10:30 am – 2:00 pm, includes light lunch**

See description on page 14

Supported in part by the Thurer Scholar-in-Residence Fund.
Shabbat Candles, Hidden Light
Experience the hidden light within you with the Netivot Shalom. Through text study in *hevruta* pairs, reflection, and open discussion we will explore how the mystical teachings of this Hasidic teacher can deepen and transform our Shabbat experience. Rabbi Shoshana’s father, Rabbi Lev Friedman, was ordained by Hebrew College in 2018, and this course is inspired by his thesis project.

*with Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman*
2 Sundays, March 17 & 24, 9:30 am – 10:50 am
Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman is the Associate Rabbi at Temple Sinai where she engages congregants in meaningfully connecting to each other, the Temple, and their Judaism.

Mindfulness, Jewish Perspectives and Jewish Values
Mindfulness, an increasingly prominent topic in popular discourse, has deep roots in ancient civilization – and in Judaism. It can play a key role in stress reduction, well-being, and navigating life's challenges, and also helps cultivate "heartfulness," wisdom and ethical behavior, and intersects with concepts of interconnectedness, God, and the traits – including soul-traits ("Middot") – that manifest Jewish values and perspectives on how to live life. In this four-session program, we will explore the foundations of mindfulness practice in Judaism, building on last year’s course on the same topic.

4 Sundays, October 14, 21 & 28, November 4, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm
*with Temple Sinai member Neil Motenko, and Rabbi Vogel*

Neil Motenko is a mindfulness instructor, qualified by the Center for Mindfulness (CFM) at the University of Massachusetts Medical School as an Instructor in Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) and mindfulness-based programs. He graduated from the CFM's intensive teacher training programs and has attended silent retreats at the Insight Meditation Society in Barre, Massachusetts. Now retired from law practice, he offers mindfulness-based programs to interested businesses, individuals and groups.

Finding Your Way with God: Personal Explorations
Many Jews struggle with the concept of God as described in the Bible, a super-human deity with human-like characteristics. But if we shift away from concepts to our own real-life experiences, many of us have profound convictions in the meaning of our lives, the power of love, the possibility of rising above suffering, and the imperatives of ethical behavior. What are our ways of re-framing the God question in our lived experience? Through study and discussion, this class will provide the space for us to describe what we feel and know to be true.

*with Student Rabbi Sam Blumberg*
2 Sundays, January 27 & February 3, 9:30-10:50 am
Sam Blumberg is a 3rd year rabbinic student at Hebrew College, and will be at Temple Sinai part-time this year.
THURSDAY MORNING CLASSES

Thursday Morning Study Group with Rabbi Vogel

This lively and informal class studies a wide variety of topics with lively discussions, museum trips, films and text study. Previous years' topics included American Jewish history, modern Israeli poetry, various books of the Bible, the Sephardic experience, and new Jewish thinking about God and spirituality. In 2018-19, topics may include current events in Israeli politics, literature and culture, further explorations in the Bible, and topics in American Jewish history. Join us each Thursday, or feel free to drop in just once! All are welcome.

with Rabbi Andy Vogel

Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:30 am, in Weintraub Community Room
Thursday, October 4 to November 15, and Thursday, March 7 to June 6

The World of Philip Roth: Goodbye, Columbus

The world lost one of the great Jewish American writers this year with the death of Philip Roth (1933-2018). His 1959 collection of stories, Goodbye Columbus, won him both critical acclaim and charges of Jewish self-hatred. The collection, which also includes his wickedly clever story, “The Conversion of the Jews,” explores with satire the inner contradictions of American Jewish life and ideas, including the temptations and paradoxes of assimilation into wider American society.

with Temple Sinai member Larry Lowenthal

3 Thursdays, November 29, December 6 & 20, 10:00 – 11:30 am

NOTE: Please bring a copy of Goodbye, Columbus to class.

Dr. Lawrence D. Lowenthal received his Ph.D. in Literature from New York University and taught at Washington State University, Gettysburg College, Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv University. For 20 years he served as New England Director of the American Jewish Committee. After his retirement, he taught in the Jewish Studies Department of Northeastern University for 7 years.

The Roots of Christian Anti-Semitism

This study series will focus on the development of anti-Judaism during the first and second Christian centuries. We will engage in the study of three phenomena, including the destruction of the temple and its aftermath, the subsequent proliferation of anti-Jewish writings, and the development of a triumphalist theology that hinges on rejection of the Jews. We will use a variety of sources for group study, including the New Testament, Josephus, and other non-biblical writings.

3 Thursdays: January 24, & 31, February 7, 10:00 – 11:30 am

with Temple Sinai member Dennis Cerrotti

Dr. Dennis Cerrotti is a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School. He was a Protestant minister until he converted to Judaism in 1986.
SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

Broken Threads, Knotted Ends
This course will explore the discontinuity between 1st century Judaism and Christianity, and its implications for interfaith dialogue today. While the New Testament is written to establish an organic connection between the two, new research into James, the brother of Jesus, by Jewish scholar Robert Eisenman demonstrates exactly the opposite. Only the need to appear rooted in a historic faith has perpetuated the false myth through history.

3 Sundays: September 16, 23 & 30, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm
with Temple Sinai member Dennis Cerrotti
Dr. Dennis Cerrotti is a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School. He was a Protestant minister until he converted to Judaism in 1986.

A Different Side of Israel: Social Issues Behind the Scenes
The Jaffa Institute was established in 1982 as a private, non-profit, multi-service social agency to assist the city of Jaffa’s severely disadvantaged children and their families. In this session, we will discuss some of the Israeli social issues that it deals with on a daily basis, including: Cooperation and interaction between observant and non-observant Israelis; adjustment of children of refugees and asylum seekers to Israeli society; Jewish, Muslim and Christian single new mothers building nurturing relationships with their young children; isolated elderly and Holocaust survivors striving for quality of life.

Sunday, November 4, 11:10 am – 12:20 pm
with Yechiel Marcus, The Jaffa Institute, Planned Giving & Resource Development Advisor
Yechiel Marcus has a Masters in Social Work from Yeshiva University, and moved to Israel in 1987 with his young family. After many years in commercial banking in Israel, he joined the Jaffa Institute in 2004. In addition to spending time with his children and grandchildren, Yechiel enjoys swimming and hiking.

The Holocaust, From Generation to Generation
Please join photographer, writer and educator Rachael Cerrotti for a two-part class that examines the history of the Holocaust through a third-generation’s perspective. For nearly a decade, Rachael has been researching her grandmother’s survival story and documenting the lives of those interwoven with her grandmother’s journey. This includes interviews with Jewish and non-Jewish individuals who share a connection to her family history and young people who are fleeing war in the present-day. The course will explore the challenges of teaching this history in the classroom, the importance of family stories, and the practice of bringing relevance to Holocaust narratives.

2 Sundays: December 2 & 9, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm
with Temple Sinai member Rachael Cerrotti
Rachael Cerrotti is an award-winning photographer, writer and educator. Her work focuses on documenting stories of grief and resilience with a unique interest in family history. Her work has been
published by Public Radio International, NPR, the Boston Globe, Images & Voices of Hope, and other publications worldwide. For nearly a decade, Rachael has been working on, “Follow My Footprints,” retracing her grandmother’s route of displacement during and in the wake of World War II. She is now writing a book about this journey and speaks across the country. Rachael grew up in the Temple Sinai community and has been teaching in the religious school, including Sinai U, for a number of years.

**Visions of the Global Future:**

**Pathways Toward a Sustainable Earthland**

Multiple global crises, such as wealth disparities, climate disruption, threat of nuclear conflict, and the refugee crisis, portend a 21st century replete with instability and conflict. In an interdependent world, a thriving future is not a matter of chance but of choice spearheaded by civic movements and new global institutions. Portraits of possible futures point to the urgency of formulating a broadly accepted narrative rooted in justice, solidarity and ecological resilience. Is there a special role for Judaism in achieving and realizing this grand vision?

**Sunday, December 16, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm**

with Temple Sinai member Allen White

**Dr. Allen L. White** is Vice President and Senior Fellow, Tellus Institute, Cambridge. In 1997, he co-founded the Global Reporting Initiative and served as its first chief executive. Dr. White also co-founded and directed Corporation 20/20, an initiative focused on designing future corporations to create and sustain social mission. A former Fulbright Scholar, he is co-author of *Corporate Environmentalism in a Global Economy* and has published and spoken widely on global futures and corporate purpose, design and governance. He is a member of Temple Sinai.

**Penina Moise: The First Jewish-American poet**

*(Whom you’ve probably never heard of!)*

Penina Moise (1797-1880) was the first published Jewish poet in America and played an important role in the 19th-century Reform movement. Her synagogue in Charleston, South Carolina, was the birthplace of the Reform movement in America, and Moise’s family was active in that movement. Moise herself became the hymnodist of the Reform movement, writing hymns to be sung by the entire congregation. (The Reform Union Hymnal included many of her hymns.) Throughout her career, she wrote poems commenting on Jewish affairs worldwide. The first session will focus on the birth of the American Reform movement, looking at Moise’s poems and hymns. In the second class session, we will read her poems about worldwide Jewish events. Copies of the all material will be provided, along with historical background information needed for the discussions.

**2 Sundays, January 6 & 13, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm**

with Temple Sinai member Karen Keely

**Dr. Karen A. Keely** teaches English and history at Dana Hall School in Wellesley. She has a doctorate in English from the University of California, Los Angeles, and specializes in American literature and culture.
Judaism and the LGBT Community: An Exploration

This course will provide a look at the admonitions against LGBT people in the Torah and other Jewish writings. Sessions will include participants from the Boston LGBT community as a whole, the Jewish LGBT community, Am Tikva, and Keshet. We will look at Jewish LGBT literature, featuring special guest Leslea Newman, author of the classic “Heather Has Two Mommies”. Other topics include “The Boys in the Band,” and reviewing LGBT literature. Finally, we will examine how Israel has changed regarding LGBT rights, the founding of the LGBT movement in Israel, Pinkwashing, and Pride in Israel.

3 Sundays, February 3, March 31, & May 5, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm
with Temple Sinai member Amos Lassen

Amos Lassen moved to Brookline in May 2012 after having spent 7 years in Arkansas when Hurricane Katrina changed his plans for a two-year visiting professorship in New Orleans. He lived in Israel for many years. Amos has taught at the Hebrew University, the University of New Orleans and the University of Central Arkansas. He grew up in the Young Judaea movement in New Orleans.

Getting Along in the World: Jewish Views

Join us as we read and discuss the English version of Bayn Adam l’Chaveiro in the Book of Legends, the classic compendium of Rabbinic sayings and teachings. Bayn Adam l’Chaveiro refers to commandments and behaviors involving people’s relationships with each other (as opposed to relationships with God).

3 Sundays, March 17 & 24, 11:10 am-12:30 pm; March 31, 9:30 am-10:50 am
with Rabbi Emeritus Frank Waldorf

Rabbi Frank Waldorf served Temple Sinai for over 30 years as our spiritual leader from 1974, and he became our Rabbi Emeritus in 2004.

Designing for Dark Times: Insights from Hannah Arendt about the Potential of Public Life

Hannah Arendt is one of the most important philosophers of the 20th century. After WWII she gave us the phrase “the banality of evil” to describe the “everydayness” of evil as we turn our back on the world around us. Her insights may be even more relevant in the 21st century. Absent a global catastrophe, the normalization of inhumane policies and the disregard for decency in American public life brings new resonance to the banal. “Nothing in our time is more dubious than our attitude toward the world,” Arendt says, meaning all the stuff between people – connections, encounters with others, and the sense of public or society. Dark times, she teaches, are the direct result of turning our backs on the truth and on each other.

Sunday, April 7, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm
with Temple Sinai member Eric Gordon

Eric Gordon is a member of Temple Sinai and a researcher and designer focusing on technology and the future of civic engagement. He is a professor of Civic Media at Emerson College, and the executive director of the Engagement Lab.
Haftarah: A Brief History
What is Haftarah? When did Jews begin chanting it, and why? How did the pairing of particular Haftarah readings with specific Torah portions come about? What can the Christian New Testament teach us about Haftarah rituals in ancient times? This course will delve into the origins, evolution, and diversity of Haftarah traditions.

2 Sundays, April 28 & May 5, 9:30 -10:50 am
with Temple Sinai member Robin Orwant
Robin Orwant is the chair of Temple Sinai’s Music, Prayer and Ritual Committee. She has co-taught several summer courses at the temple on a variety of biblical texts, and was responsible for teaching Hebrew to the members of Temple Sinai’s most recent Adult B’nei Mitzvah course. Robin also taught a multi-session class on chanting Torah in 2017.

Jewish Humor: What it Reveals about Jewish History, Identity and Psychology
What makes a joke Jewish? Why was Freud fascinated by Jewish humor? Why are female Jewish comics so bawdy? Why is it that 80 per cent of American comedians have traditionally been Jewish?
The series will address all these questions and many more, and will explore the history, themes, styles, and psychological motivations of Jewish humor in Europe, Israel and especially the United States.

3 Sundays, April 28, May 12 & 19, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm
with Temple Sinai member Larry Lowenthal
Dr. Lawrence D. Lowenthal received his Ph.D. in Literature from New York University and taught at Washington State University, Gettysburg College, Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv University. For 20 years he served as New England Director of the American Jewish Committee. After his retirement, he taught in the Jewish Studies Department of Northeastern University for 7 years.

Gershom Scholem on Justice
While Marist people view Gershom Scholem through the lens of his later expertise on Jewish mystical traditions such as Kabbalah, his early essays on justice merit close examination in terms of the light they throw both on Scholem as a thinker and on his overall approach to the Jewish intellectual tradition. This year, we will work through his essays “Theses on Justice” and “On Jonah.”

2 Sundays, June 9 & 16, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm
with Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein
Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein is an associate professor of philosophy at the College of the Holy Cross. His areas of research include Spinoza, German Philosophy, and Jewish thought. His book, Leo Strauss on the Borders of Judaism, Philosophy, and History, was published in June, 2015. He grew up at Temple Sinai and is the son of Temple Sinai members Steven and Judy Bernstein.
JEWISH HOLIDAY LEARNING

Yom Kippur: Afternoon Forum Panel
Yom Kippur day, Saturday, September 19, 3:00 PM
Temple Sinai panelists speak from their hearts on topics relevant to the tone of this sacred day.

Sukkot celebration
Sunday, September 23, 7:30 pm – “Open Sukkah” @ Rabbi Vogel’s home
Rabbi Andy Vogel & Martha Hausman invite all Temple Sinai members to celebrate the first night of Sukkot in their backyard home Sukkah in Newton Center. Enjoy friends and food, sing and study together, and shake the Lulav and Etrog.

Tu B’Shevat Seder
Friday evening, January 25 – Erev Shabbat service, 6:00 pm; Seder & Dinner, 7:00 pm
Celebrate the New Year of the Trees with a special Tu B’Shevat Seder for all ages – eating the various fruits of the Land of Israel, followed by a delicious Shabbat dinner. All are welcome.

Purim
Wednesday, March 20
Purim craft-making for young children 5:45 pm
Megillah-Reading for all ages 6:00 – 6:45 pm
Temple Sinai’s Annual Purim Shpiel 7:15 pm
The biggest show to hit the streets of Brookline! A creative celebration of the Esther story as re-told by the Sinai Players through song and dance. To be part of the show, contact director Ellen Bruder-Moore at ebrudmoore2@aol.com. Rehearsals begin in December-January.

Passover Workshop
Sunday, April 7, 9:30-10:50 am – Details to come!

Yom HaSho’ah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)
Sunday, May 5, 10:30 am (date and time tentative), at Faneuil Hall, Boston
Temple Sinai joins with the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Boston for a city-wide commemoration of the destruction of European Jewry. More details to come.

Shavu’ot
Tikkun Leil Shavu’ot all-night study, Saturday, June 8, 8:00 pm – 4:30 am, at Kehillath Israel
Late night group study in preparation for “receiving the Torah” on Shavuot with area synagogues. Study on a wide variety of topics with over 500 Jews of all ages from Brookline and beyond. Sponsored by Brookline community synagogues and organizations, including Temple Sinai.
In Jewish tradition, music is a clear pathway to God. One interpretation of the very name (and, therefore, the mission) of the Jewish people, Yisrael, is that we are those who sing songs to God, “shir El”; our very lives are meant to be a song to the Divine. In this day-long Sunday workshop with Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Nehemia Polen, we will explore Jewish melody that is sung for sacred purpose, called “Niggun.” Join us as Rabbi Polen teaches us the power of this musical approach and leads us in singing our hearts out.

Rabbi Nehemia Polen is Professor of Jewish Thought at Hebrew College. A leading expert in Hasidism and Jewish thought, and a widely published author, his books include *The Holy Fire: The Teachings of Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapira, the Rebbe of the Warsaw Ghetto* (1977), *The Rebbe’s Daughter* (2002), based on Rabbi Polen’s research as a National Endowment for the Humanities fellow and recipient of a National Jewish Book Award, and *Filling Words With Light: Hasidic and Mystical Reflections on Jewish Prayer* (2004), written with Lawrence Kushner. Rabbi Polen holds a doctorate from Boston University, where he studied with and served as a teaching fellow for Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel. Prior to his career in Jewish academia, Rabbi Polen served for 23 years as a congregational rabbi.

This program is supported in part by the Thurer Scholar-in-Residence Fund. It is part of our “Exploring Jewish Values / Exploring Jewish Inner Lives” initiative (see pages 6-7).
RABBi JILL JACoBS
Executive Director, T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

How the Jewish Community Fights for Human Rights & Dignity

Cohon Memorial Lecture: Friday, March 1
at Erev Shabbat services, 7:30 pm

Shabbat Lunch & Learn: Saturday, March 2 (lunch sponsored by Tzedek@Sinai)
at Shabbat morning services, 9:30 am, followed by Shabbat lunch discussion


The Annual Rabbi Beryl D. Cohon Memorial Lecture is held in memory of the late Rabbi Beryl D. Cohon, Temple Sinai’s founding rabbi, who served the congregation until his retirement in 1964. The lecture is supported by the Cohon Memorial Lecture Fund and contributions from the congregation.
FOR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PARENTS & FAMILIES

The study of Judaism isn’t for children or adults alone. At Temple Sinai, whole families are engaged in Jewish learning together! Our goal is to open a door to learning for everyone, enriching our understanding of Judaism and how to live a Jewish life. All Yom Limmud (day of learning) programs begin with either a family breakfast or Havdalah.

**Kindergarten and Grade 1**

**Exploring What Is God, October 14, 9:30 am – 11:30 am**

Using the book *God's Paintbrush* by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, children and parents will express their ideas and questions about God. Working in family groups, we will paint our own gorgeous watercolor renditions.

**Mezuzah as a Mindfulness Tool, January 6, 9:30 am – 11:30 am**

How can we bring moments of reflection and mindfulness to our everyday life? Together families will create a *mezuzah* that reflects their own personal values. The morning will include parallel study with one of our rabbis.

**Singing at Shabbat Services, Friday, December 7, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

Come to services and hear your children perform a Chanukah song, led by music teacher, Yoni Battat. You are encouraged to attend the Chanukah Shabbat dinner that follows. Please register for the dinner online.

**Grade 2**

**Our Family’s Shabbat Practice, October 28, 9:30 am – 11:30 am**

Parents and children will reflect upon how their family celebrates Shabbat, and how they might like to change or try new practices. In groups, we will enact these practices – using our own dramatic flair!

**Family Theater, January 27, 9:30 am – 11:30 am**

*Godly Play* is an innovative approach that helps us find meaning, identity and God through storytelling & listening. You will have the unique opportunity to experience *Godly Play*, and delve deeper into the Torah.

**Singing at Shabbat Services, Friday, May 10, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

Come to services and hear your children perform a Shabbat song, led by music teacher, Yoni Battat. You are cordially invited to attend the Shabbat dinner that follows. You may register for the dinner online.

**Grade 3**

**The Modern State of Israel, November 4, 9:30 am – 11:30 am**

Discover the richness of our homeland, and connect with Israel through poetry and art. Children will learn about different populations of Jews and non-Jews in Israel; parents will share their own experiences.

**The Torah as a Tree of Life, February 3, 9:30 am – 11:30 am**

As a group, we will choose a Torah story and discover its relevance to our lives. The morning will culminate in a torn paper midrash project, using only paper, glue sticks, and our own imaginations!

**3rd Grade Siyyum HaSefer Milestone Celebration, Sunday, March 31, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Students celebrate their yearlong study of the Hebrew aleph-bet with a program they wrote themselves.

**Singing at Shabbat Services, Friday, January 25, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

Come to services as children perform a Shabbat song, led by music teacher, Yoni Battat. You are encouraged to attend the Tu B’Shevat Seder that follows. Please register for the Seder online.
Grade 4

Family Theater, Sunday, December 16, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

*Godly Play* is an innovative approach that helps us find meaning, identity and God through storytelling & listening. You will have the unique opportunity to experience *Godly Play*, and delve deeper into the Torah.

My Family’s Jewish Story, March 31, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Hear a variety of personal stories of Jewish identity, while articulating your own family’s Jewish story. Please bring an object or photo that sheds light on your personal identity, as we interview one another.

A Haggadah Happening Sunday, April 7, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

The *Hagaddah* presents the prescribed Seder, or order of our celebration of freedom, family and food. At this celebratory program, students will showcase their six-weeks of deep study of the *Haggadah*.

Class Shabbat, Friday, January 11, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Come to services and hear your children share their thoughts about *Bo*, the Torah portion of the week from the Book of Exodus. A tasty *nosh* will be served before Shabbat services.

Grade 5

Finding Your Prophetic Voice, March 17 & April 7, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Families will have an interactive experience, expressing their vision for a just society. Working in *hevruta* partners, we will learn basic facts about modern social justice issues, such as immigration, climate change and healthcare.

Class Shabbat, Friday, November 30, 7:30 pm

Come to services and hear your children share their thoughts about *Vayeshev*, the Torah portion of the week from the Book of Genesis, as they present a class D’var Torah.

Students lead Friday Night Kiddush, selected Friday nights, 6:00 pm

Fifth graders will lead the congregation in the Kiddush blessing on selected Shabbat@Six! services, including December 14, January 25, February 8, and March 8. *Choose your 2 favorite dates!* This is important preparation for Bar and Bat Mitzvah, and beyond.

Grade 6

Pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah Workshops:

Tuesdays, November 13, January 15, and March 26, 5:30-7:00 pm

These workshops kick-off the Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience for families, with study and discussion led by Rabbi Vogel and Student Rabbi Sam Blumberg. *Students should attend with at least one parent.*

Class Shabbat, Friday, November 9, 6:00 pm

Come to services and hear your children share their thoughts about *Toldot*, the Torah portion of the week. You are encouraged to attend the Shabbat dinner that follows. Please register for the dinner online.

*B’Yachad* Family Havdalah

Families are invited to a monthly Sunday morning Havdalah ceremony, led by our rabbis. Join us in the sanctuary from 9:30 am to 10:00 am on the following dates: *September 30, October 28, November 18, December 16, January 13, February 10, March 17, April 28 & May 19.*

(continued, next page)
Celebrations for the Whole Family
Simchat Torah and Consecration  Sunday, September 30, 6:45 pm
Multi-Generational Chanukah Shabbat Dinner  Friday, December 7, 6:00 pm
Purim Family Megillah Reading  Wednesday, March 20, 5:45 pm
Congregation-Wide Mitzvah Day  Sunday, April 28, 12:00 pm
... And families should join us in the Sanctuary on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month at our 6:00 pm Shabbat@Six service. The 2nd Shabbat of the month features our Shabbat band, and a congregational dinner following the service.

NEW! Shabbat on Wheels Program for K–2 Families
Make delicious challah in your home on a Sunday afternoon, with the help of one of our engaging Temple Sinai teachers. You will learn Shabbat customs, do a crafts project, and play some fun games. Registration information for these 90-minute programs will be available in the fall.

Sinai U – Teen Engagement at Temple Sinai
Teens, come engage in Jewish learning, explore your Jewish identity, and enjoy life at Temple Sinai. Sinai U offers flexible scheduling and multiple programs, so that you can choose what works for you. Whether you are interested in social justice or Jewish texts, solving design problems or developing your leadership skills, forming strong friendships or teaching younger children, Sinai U is your community. Sinai U includes these opportunities for Jewish life for teens:

- Sinai U7 (study for 7th graders, Sunday afternoons)
- The Tent (study for 8th-12th graders, held at Temple Israel, Monday nights)
- Café (operated on Sunday mornings by teens)
- Madrich Corps (student teaching by teens, Sundays and/or Tuesdays)
- HiBuR (Boston-Haifa exchange program for 10th graders)
- TSIPPY Youth Group (events for 9th-12th graders throughout the year)
- Shevet Achim & Rosh Chodesh groups (held monthly)
- 12th Grade Senior Seminar (study with Rabbi Vogel for 12th graders)
- Facing History & Ourselves Seminar (interact with Holocaust survivors, for 10th-12th graders)
- Tikkun Olam Sundays & Sheirut Sundays (monthly social justice and direct service work)
- Jewish summer camp experiences (for all ages)
- ... and more!

Contact Student Rabbi Sam Blumberg at SamBlumberg@SinaiBrookline.org, for more info about Sinai U!

12th Grade Aliyah & Teen Recognition Ceremony – Friday May 17, 7:30 pm
At this special annual Shabbat evening service, we will honor and bless our graduating seniors and recognize all 8th-12th graders who have been involved in Sinai U. Save the date for the whole family!
SOCIAL JUSTICE: TZEDEK@SINAI

Mission Statement:
Tzedek@Sinai acts as a community to have an impact on timely social justice issues. Our strength comes from relationships across the congregation, and relationships with other congregations, advocacy groups, and legislators in greater Boston. This year’s priority areas are Criminal Justice Reform, Immigration Justice, and Economic Justice. We are forming a Medical Care advocacy group. To bring your skills and interests to Tzedek@Sinai, please email tzedek@sinaibrookline.org.

“One Community, Pursuing Justice Together”
Rev. Alvan Johnson, Pastor, Grant AME Church, Boston
Friday, October 5, 7:30 pm, at Erev Shabbat Services

Something powerful occurs when people of different neighborhoods, backgrounds and faiths come together for a common cause. Not only do we help build a more fair and equitable society, we also build relationships, mutual understanding, compassion and love. Temple Sinai welcomes Rev. Johnson, one of the passionate voices in the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO), as we celebrate the GBIO alliance and continue to strengthen one another in our quest for justice.

The Heart of the Stranger:
Jewish Teachings on Welcoming the Immigrant and Refugee

Exodus teaches us, “You shall not oppress the stranger, for you know the heart of the stranger, since you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” It feels like the moral center of our nation has dropped away, and we are in a free-fall of cruelty towards the most vulnerable among us - the poor, children, refugees, and new immigrants. Come delve beneath the surface of the familiar Torah text, and study more about the Jewish imperative to welcome the vulnerable stranger.

with Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman
2 Sundays, October 21 & 28, 9:30 – 10:50 am

How the Jewish Community Fights for Human Rights & Dignity

Shabbat Morning Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Jill Jacobs
Saturday, March 2, 9:30 am  [see description on page 15]

Tzedek Sundaes

Tzedek@Sinai sponsors Tzedek Sundae gatherings on Sunday afternoons throughout the year. They are a standing forum where members can learn about and engage in the important social justice work at Temple Sinai while building deeper relationships with each other. Watch the Sinai Update and the Sinai Lu’ach Calendar for the dates of this year’s Tzedek Sundaes.
JEWISH FILM SERIES 2018-19

Cinema@Sinai

The Israel Committee and the Adult Learning Committee together sponsor our Saturday movie nights, coordinated by Temple member, Amos Lassen. Please join us!

“Call Me By Your Name” October 6, 7:00 pm
The beautiful prize winning love story is a look at what love is. This film will be followed by a discussion of Jewish themes in the film. *(Note: The start time of this film only is 7:00 pm, rather than 7:30 pm.)*

“In The Land of the Pomegranates” (Israel) November 10, 7:30 pm
A look at the Palestinian/Israeli conflict through immersion and with keen observation as seen through the lives of young people born in and on the conflict zone. The pomegranate tree is a symbol of both rejuvenation and rebirth. It is also the Hebrew word for a hand grenade. We meet a group of young people who were into war and not just war but an ongoing battle that has no end in sight.

“The Bubble” (Israel) December 8, 7:30 pm
The movie follows a group of young friends in the city of Tel Aviv and is as much a love song to the city as it is an exploration of the claim that people in Tel Aviv are isolated from the rest of the country and the turmoil it's going through. We see Tel Aviv through the POVs of gays and straights, Jews and Arabs, men and women. It all begins when Noam, a young Israeli soldier, meets a Palestinian young man named Ashraf.

“Disobedience” January 12, 7:30 pm
“Disobedience” is set in London’s Orthodox Jewish community and depicts the complicated relationship between two women born into this world, whose paths in life have deviated after an earlier affair. The film looks at sexuality and religious prejudice in order to examine the very nature of free will and the challenges of accepting a love frowned upon by a belief system. Equally romantic and philosophical, it is predicted to be a front runner for this year’s Oscars.

“For Your Consideration” (Purim) March 16, 7:30 pm
Three actors learn that their respective performances in the film "Home for Purim," a drama set in the mid-1940s American South based on the Purim story, are generating award-season buzz. Here is a film that will keep you laughing.

“Shelter” (Israel) April 13, 7:30 pm
Under a new identity, Naomi goes to Germany to protect Mona, a beautiful Lebanese informant, whom special agents have taken from her country and hidden in a Hamburg safe house while she recovers from plastic surgery. We see the shared dangers of the women, deception and the realization that questions of fate may be out of their control.

“Bye Bye Germany” May 4, 7:30 pm
A comedy about David Berman and his friends who are all Holocaust survivors and want to go to America as soon as possible but need money to do so. This is the story of Jewish survival after World War II and the struggles to make a new life.
ISRAEL EDUCATION & ACTION COMMITTEE

Israel Committee Mission Statement (excerpt):
“Temple Sinai’s Israel Education & Action Committee provides Jewish learning opportunities to our community that broaden our understanding of the State of Israel’s history, politics, and culture. We are committed to ensuring tolerance and respect for the multiplicity of opinions within our congregation regarding the State of Israel.” Co-Chairs of the Israel Education/Action Committee: Amos Lassen at alassenamos@yahoo.com, and Rich Goldstein, rgoldstein@uchicago.edu.

DOMIM-Alike Partnership with Kehillat HaLev, Tel Aviv
Temple Sinai is beginning a new partnership with an Israel Reform congregation in Tel Aviv, Kehillat HaLev, an opportunity for us to build common understanding between ourselves as liberal Jews in Brookline with our Israeli counterparts, to create real friendships and relationships over time, and to learn from and support one another’s communities. Israel Committee member Rose Perrizo will be chairing the sub-committee overseeing this work. One event is currently scheduled, with more to come:

Friday, October 12, 6:00 pm
Rabbi Naomi Efrat, Rabbi of Kehillat HaLev, Tel Aviv

Rabbi Naomi Efrat is beginning her second year as the rabbi of Kehillat HaLev, a flourishing Reform synagogue-community located in the heart (“lev”) of Tel Aviv. She is rising dynamic leader in the Israeli Movement for Progressive Judaism (IMPJ), and a former community organizer for an urban Kibbutz in Beer Sheva.

Israeli Speaker Series, with Harvard’s Wexner Israel Fellows
Temple Sinai again welcomes visiting scholars in Harvard University’s Wexner Israel Fellowship, which brings leading Israeli government and public service professionals for study in the Center for Public Leadership each year. These guest Wexner Israel Fellow speakers will join us:

The State of Israeli Democracy
Friday, September 21, 7:30 pm, at Erev Shabbat services
Ronit Heyd, Executive Director of Shatil

Ronit Heyd serves as the Executive Director of Shatil: Leading Social Change, an initiative of the New Israel Fund. Shatil is at the forefront of advancing democracy, shared society, religious freedom and social justice in Israel by building the capacity of organizations and activists, networking and coordinating coalitions, and advocating for policy change. Ronit has consulted to and trained dozens of organizations, organized coalitions and led advocacy campaigns. Ronit holds an M.A. Magna Cum Laude in Social Psychology and a B.A Summa Cum Laude from the Hebrew University.

(continued)
Hi-Tech & Defense in Israel: Two Perspectives
Sunday, January 27, 11:10 am- 12:30 pm
Yonatan Guilman, Office of the Prime Minister, State of Israel
& Gidon Rubinstein, Office of the Prime Minster, State of Israel

Yonatan Guilman has been serving in Israel’s Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) for more than fifteen years leading internal innovative and strategic "startups". He now manages a research and development branch. He has mentored PMO employees as technological managers and has also led several training programs focused on assimilation of new employees and inter-unit collaboration.

Gidon Rubinstein currently serves as a Unit commander (Lieutenant Colonel equivalent) in the PMO, in charge of highly challenging aspects of Israel’s national security. Previously he served for six years in the Israel Defense Forces in various staff, training and field command positions. His last position in the IDF was a Company Commander (Captain) leading 120 soldiers in defense missions incorporating field work and cutting-edge technology. He has received these major awards: The Director’s Prize for a Unique Groundbreaking Achievement and two Prime Minister’s Prizes for an Outstanding Achievement.

Land of Innovation: How Israel Became a Technology Hub
What fueled the development of Israel's high-tech industry during the last 30 years? This course will examine some of the drivers, such as human talent brought in by immigration. The Israeli military also played a major role, encouraging innovation and keenly aware that in order for the country to survive, she had to remain one step ahead of her adversaries. So much technology we use today (think thumb drives) is at least in part Israeli-developed, making Israel second only to the United States in number of companies that trade on the NASDAQ.

2 Sundays, March 3 & 10, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
with Temple Sinai members Meir and Tami Petler

Tami Petler is an Israeli photographer and graphic designer. She worked for several Israeli start-up companies in the 90’s. Meir Petler is a high-tech executive who began his career in Israel after 7 years in the Israeli army. They met working for a company that revolutionized the sign-making industry.

A Different Side of Israel: Social Issues Behind the Scenes
with Yechiel Marcus, The Jaffa Institute, Planned Giving & Resource Development Advisor
Sunday, November 4, 11:10 am – 12:20 pm [See description on page 8]

Israeli Book Discussions
As in the past, the Israeli Education/Action Committee will co-sponsor, with the Temple Sinai book clubs, a discussion of selected Israeli books. Watch for an announcement regarding the books and the discussion dates. We welcome you to join us.
IN THE BOSTON JEWISH COMMUNITY

Me’ah, sponsored by Hebrew College
Me’ah is an excellent intensive learning two-year journey, comprised of 100 hours (Me’ah is Hebrew for “one hundred”), through the narrative of the Jewish people from ancient times to present. Participants study with leading academics in the field of Jewish Studies, examining Bible, Rabbinic texts, the Medieval period, and the Modern era. For more information, contact Sara Brown at Hebrew College at (617) 559-8708, or go to http://www.hebrewcollege.edu/meah.

LimmudBoston 2018: City-Wide Day of Jewish Study
Sunday, December 2, at Temple Reyim, 1860 Washington St, Newton, all day
LimmudBoston is an innovative, volunteer-driven celebration of Jewish lifelong learning for the entire community, beginner to scholar and young to young-at-heart. Now an annual event, hundreds of Boston Jews attend each year for the best in Jewish scholarship, arts, music and community opportunities in dozens of sessions. For more information, click to www.LimmudBoston.org. Early Bird adult registration $45 / $54 after September 10.

Jewish Arts Collaborative
The Jewish Arts Collaborative explores and presents the rich, diverse, and creative world of Jewish arts and culture—past, present, and future—to the widest possible audience, in venues across Greater Boston. Through a broad range of programming spanning the traditional to the innovative, JArts presents the finest local, national, and international talent creating artistic work with a distinctive Jewish voice. Temple Sinai is proud of our ongoing relationship with JArts. Stay tuned for events.

Boston Jewish Food Conference 2019
Sponsored by Ganei Beantown, Boston Jewish Gardens
Spring 2019, date and location TBA
The annual Boston Jewish Food Conference brings together community members from all over New England to foster new connections in the Jewish community by utilizing food and agriculture to discuss the intersections of justice, sustainability, and culture against a background of Jewish traditions and contemporary life. Temple Sinai is a proud sponsor.

For more events in the Boston Jewish community, click to www.JewishBoston.com.
URJ OUTREACH / INTERFAITH CLASSES 2018-19

The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)’s Reform Jewish Outreach Boston (RJOB) staff sponsors a number of programs and classes for interfaith couples or individuals exploring Judaism. Temple Sinai joins Reform Jewish Outreach Boston in welcoming those who wish to explore Judaism and embark upon a Jewish path. To learn more or to register, call Rabbi Julie Zupan at the RJOB office, 617-928-0012.

URJ Introduction to Judaism – 16-week class
Offered multiple times during the year at Reform congregations in the Greater Boston area. Begins at Temple Sinai on Tuesday, March 5, 2019, 7:15 pm, with Rabbi Andy Vogel
Sponsored by URJ Reform Jewish Outreach Boston.
“Introduction to Judaism” provides an opportunity to learn about Jewish history, traditions, holidays and life-cycle ceremonies. “Introduction to Judaism” is perfect if you want to explore Judaism, or if you are considering conversion to Judaism. Partners in interfaith relationships are encouraged to enroll together. PRE-REGISTRATION through the URJ is REQUIRED. “Introduction to Judaism” costs $275/individual and $360/couple (scholarships and various payment options are available upon request). For additional information, please contact RJOB office at 617-928-0012.

URJ Taste of Judaism – 3-week class (free)
Free and open to the community, registration required.
Offered multiple times during the year at Reform congregations in the Greater Boston area.
Sponsored by the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ).
This free, engaging class on Jewish spirituality, ethics and community is designed for beginners – Jewish or not. Questions are encouraged and lively discussions are an important part of this class. There is no cost, but REGISTRATION through the RJOB office is REQUIRED. To register or get more information, call the RJOB office at 617-928-0012.

For more information about these excellent classes and all the programs sponsored by URJ Reform Jewish Outreach Boston (RJOB), click to www.reformjewishoutreachboston.org.
10TH ANNUAL JEWISH POETRY FESTIVAL

Sunday afternoon, February 3, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Join us for this annual event, following up on the nine previous highly successful Temple Sinai poetry festivals, this year's event for adults will include a reading by Brookline Poet Laureate Zvi A. Sesling and an open mic. Join us for an afternoon of poetry, music, and refreshments, with readings by accomplished Jewish poets on Jewish themes. Larry Lowenthal will be the moderator.
coordinated by Deborah Leipziger, Judith Steinbergh, and Jennifer Barber

INCLUSION & DISABILITY

Inclusion Matters at Temple Sinai
Sponsored by Temple Sinai’s Inclusion Committee
Friday, February 22, 7:30 pm at Erev Shabbat services
The Inclusion Committee will host a speaker at Erev Shabbat services to help us mark Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month and will sponsor another exciting event in the spring.

The Temple Sinai Committee for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities supports accessibility and universal inclusion and is dedicated to developing a culture where the needs of people with disabilities are understood and addressed. It will help the community meet those needs in order to create an environment without barriers to inclusion where everyone is welcomed, respected, and valued. Our congregation is proud to be a Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project partner.

Temple Sinai’s Inclusion & Disability Committee is co-chaired by Elaine Ober & Lisa Stephani.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Temple Sinai Book Group II
Temple Sinai’s second book group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in members’ homes. Each book club meeting is a potluck dinner. September’s book discussion will be on The Women in the Castle by Jessica Shattuck. To attend or learn more, please contact Malcolm Russell-Einhorn if you would like more information: M.Russell-Einhorn@umb.edu.
Mission Statement: “The mission of the Temple Sinai Rainbow Committee is to ensure the temple’s hearty welcome for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals. The committee will develop Temple Sinai’s warm and supportive gay-friendly culture.”

Rainbow Shabbat: Friday, October 19, 7:30 PM
Mimi Micner, Advocacy and Campaign Specialist, Keshet

“Vote YES on 3 to Protect Transgender Rights”

Mimi Micner is Keshet’s Advocacy and Campaign Specialist and Rabbinic Intern, and is in her 5th year at Hebrew College. She has also served as an organizer with the labor movement and with JStreetU. Mimi will be speaking on the November 2018 Massachusetts ballot question #3, which is a referendum on our state law that protects transgender people from discrimination in public places. The Rainbow Committee urges Temple Sinai members to vote YES on 3.

Rainbow Shabbat: Friday, March 29, 7:30 pm
Lesléa Newman, author

Lesléa Newman is the author of 70 books for readers of all ages, including A Letter to Harvey Milk, October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard, I Carry My Mother, The Boy Who Cried Fabulous, Ketzel, the Cat Who Composed, and Heather Has Two Mommies, the first children’s book to portray lesbian families in a positive way. A Letter to Harvey Milk has been made into a film and adapted for the stage. Ms. Newman is also the author of many books for adults that deal with lesbian identity, Jewish identity and the intersection and collision between the two. Ms. Newman has received many literary awards, including creative writing fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Massachusetts Artists Foundation.

Judaism and the LGBTQ Community: An Exploration
3 Sundays, February 3, March 31, & May 5, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm
with Temple Sinai member Amos Lassen [see page 11 for description]

Please join us for these programs, and for more LGBTQ advocacy, justice and awareness-raising work. The Rainbow Committee is chaired by Marvin Kabakoff.
Our Four Pillars

**Torah**
Engaging in life-long Jewish learning in community

**Avodah**
Seeking holiness in community through Jewish ritual and prayer.

**G’milut Chasadim/Tikkun Olam**
Working in community to bring justice, caring and healing to our world.

**K’hillah shel Hesed**
Being a caring community that is inclusive and welcomes all who seek Jewish life.

To learn more about Temple Sinai, or to obtain membership information, we invite you to contact us:

Temple Sinai
50 Sewall Avenue
Brookline MA 02446
(617) 277-5888
www.SinaiBrookline.org