Adult & Family Jewish Learning
2019-2020
5780
Table of Contents

Page 2 Credits and Introduction
Page 3 Weekly Learning Opportunities
Page 4 Exploring Jewish Values, Jewish Inner Lives
Page 6 The Annual Rabbi Beryl D. Cohon Lecture
Page 7 Annual Scholar in Residence Event
Page 8 Sunday Morning Classes
Page 12 For Religious School Parents and Families
Page 16 Social Justice: Tzedek@Sinai
Page 17 Rainbow Committee
Page 18 Inclusion and Disability
   Temple Sinai Book Group II
Page 19 Israel Education and Action Committee
Page 20 Jewish Holiday Learning
Page 21 11th Annual Jewish Poetry Festival
   URJ “Taste of Judaism”
Page 22 Cinema at Sinai
Temple Sinai Education Staff
Rabbi Andrew D. Vogel
Director of Education Heidi Smith Hyde
Student Rabbi Talia Stein
Student Rabbi Sam Blumberg
Part-time Cantor Maayan Harel
Family Learning Coordinator Leah Carnow
Youth Advisor Juliadele Male

Adult Jewish Learning Committee
Co-Chairs: Toby Axelrod & Barry Schwartz
Merry Arnold, Doug Bitman, Judith Freedman Caplan, Richard Goldstein,
Paul Jacobson, Amos Lassen, Rose Mandelbaum, Janet Seckel-Cerrotti, Jeremy Wolfe,
Andrea Jones-Berasaluce
For feedback, comments or recommendations, please contact adulteducation@sinaibrookline.org.

As a Community, We Keep Learning and Growing
It has been my pleasure to watch Temple Sinai become a “congregation of learners” over these many years. Our community’s deep commitment to life-long Jewish learning – whether studying Torah, Bible, midrash, history, poetry, philosophy, Hebrew, Israel, contemporary literature, or other fields – continues to transform us as individuals and as a collective. Jewish learning brings us closer as a community, and we can understand each other through understanding our sacred tradition. Through our learning together, we continue to grow as human beings, and we continue to build our community. Jewish learning is the cornerstone of that growth and building. 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!

Rabbi Andy Vogel

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. We are hopeful that many people will want to participate in a number of these theme-generated presentations, but you are also welcome to attend just one or two. We invite you to join us as we continue our learning together.

Toby Axelrod & Barry Schwartz, Co-Chairs

NOTE: Whenever fees are charged for our courses, scholarships are available. Contact Rabbi Vogel.
Weekly Learning Opportunities

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 the month, starting September 8
9:00 – 10:20 am, in Weintraub Community Room with Rabbi Vogel

Thursday Morning Study
Join us each Thursday for a lively and friendly class with Rabbi Vogel. We study a wide variety of topics, rotating to a new field of study about every six weeks or so. Thursday Study includes discussions, museum trips, films and text study. Previous years’ topics included American Jewish history, modern Israeli poetry, Jewish women’s issues, various books of the Bible, the Sephardic experience, and new Jewish thinking about God and spirituality. In 2019-20, 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.

Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:30 am, in Weintraub Community Room
Begins Thursday, October 24, and continues into early June 2020

1st Saturday of each month, starting in November, 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 month as an opportunity for community members of all ages to pray together, read Torah, and discuss the week’s Torah portion with D’var Torah led by a Temple Sinai member. If you would like to read or chant Torah or Haftorah, or facilitate a D’var Torah discussion, contact the rabbis.
Mindfulness and Jewish Values

Mindfulness, an increasingly prominent topic in popular discourse, has deep roots in ancient civilization – and in Judaism. Mindfulness and the practice of meditation can enhance well-being and our ability to meet life’s challenges with clarity, wisdom and equanimity. Building on content from previous years as well as covering new ground, this 4-session program will explore mindfulness and its relationship to Jewish meditation, prayer, and the cultivation of Jewish values and Middot (character traits) on how to live life through truth, kindness, compassion and wise discernment.

4 Sundays, November 3, 10, 17 & 24, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm with Temple member Neil Motenko

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. Retired from law practice, he offers mindfulness-based programs, with guided meditations, at our Temple and to seniors, hospice patients, and other interested individuals and groups.

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, wisdom, and ethics. This multi-session group is part of the Open Circle Jewish Learning Group, offered through a joint venture between Hebrew College and CJP. Fee required (scholarships available).

Number of sessions and dates to be announced with Temple member, Merry Arnold

Merry Arnold has been a student of Mussar for over 12 years and has experience leading Mussar and many other kinds of groups. Please contact instructor Merry Arnold with questions at merry@merryarnold.com or 617-640-6278.
Saying Kaddish: Mourning Jewishly
Can you hold a shiva for a non-Jewish parent? Is it true that people with tattoos can’t be buried in Jewish cemeteries? Did you know that there is a Jewish form of confession at the end of life? How can we -- as individuals and as a community -- support those who have lost a loved one? We’ll discuss how Judaism’s practical wisdom can help us comfort, bury, and mourn.

Sunday October 13, 11:10 am - 12:30 pm with Anita Diamant

Anita Diamant is the author of six guides to contemporary Jewish life, including a newly revised and updated edition of Saying Kaddish: How to Comfort the Dying, Bury the Dead, and Mourn as a Jew. The founding president of Mayyim Hayyim Community Mikveh and Education Center, she has written five novels, including The Red Tent.

Cultivating a Personal Shabbat Practice
Shabbat is known as “the day of rest,” but letting go of the hustle and bustle of our daily lives is easier said than done. How might we bring some of Shabbat’s peace and holiness into our busy schedules? Through discussion as well as study of traditional and modern sources, we will work to incorporate practical Shabbat practices into our personal lives.

Date/Time TBD with Student Rabbi Sam Blumberg

Sam Blumberg is a 5th year rabbinic student at Hebrew College and will be at Temple Sinai part-time this year.

Changing the World from the Inside Out: Integrating Jewish Spirituality into Our Social Justice Work
What kind of change work are you called to do in this world? How can you stay grounded for the long haul that change work requires? How can you show up as your best self while doing the work? We will explore the practices of Mussar, an ancient Jewish practice of spiritual and ethical reflection, development, and meditation. Together, we will integrate personal practice with our work for communal and social change. This course is for anyone engaged in social justice work—in the community or professionally—and for those with the desire to engage.

Registration Cost: $120. Financial aid is available
6 Sundays, January 12 & 26; February 2 & 9; March 1 & 8, 11:10 am -12:30 pm
A Jewish Path of the Soul: History, Theory and Practice of The Mussar Movement
with Rabbi David Jaffe
Sunday, October 27, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, co-sponsored by Tzedek@Sinai

This lecture and workshop will offer an overview of Mussar, the ancient Jewish path of spiritual and ethical development. From Biblical origins, Mussar grew into a popular genre of literature spanning the past 1000 years, inspiring a movement of ethical and spiritual renewal in 19th century Lithuania that is experiencing a rebirth of interest in our generation. In this session we will study classic Mussar sources, explore the theory behind Mussar’s program of personal transformation and try out several classic Mussar practices. Participants will come away with an appreciation for this Jewish spiritual technology and a pathway for creating a personal Mussar practice.

David Jaffe is a writer, rabbi and spiritual seeker. His first book, Changing the World from the Inside Out (Trumpeter, 2016), explores how to walk a holy path that integrates deep spiritual wisdom with the daily work of peacemaking and social change. David’s social consciousness was forged by the busing era and legal desegregation of late 60s and early 70s in New York as well as the growing openness about the Holocaust in the Jewish community. He has spent his entire adult life pursuing Jewish wisdom and working for reconciliation and social justice. This journey has taken him to homeless shelters, traditional Yeshivot in Jerusalem, and refugee camps of Central Africa. David has served as the Director of Social Justice Programs at the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston, as a founding board member of Avodah: The Jewish Service Corps, and as the spiritual advisor at Gann Academy in Waltham, MA. He is the founder of the Kirva Institute, where he teaches applied Jewish wisdom including Mussar and Tikkun Mid-dot. David also is a faculty member at The Mussar Institute and the Institute for Jewish Spirituality retreats.

David received his rabbinic ordination from the Bat Ayin Yeshiva in Israel and has a B.A. in History from Cornell University, an M.A. in Jewish studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary, and a Masters of Social Work from Columbia University.

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.
“Sacred Envy: What the Rabbis thought about the Virgin Mary and Why it Matters”

March 22nd 10 - 2:30 including lunch at noon with Rabbi Michael Rosenberg

Christianity and Judaism share many ideas and practices, yet the Virgin Mary has traditionally appeared as one of those topics that divides the two religions. In this session, we will consider a variety of Rabbinic and Christian texts to reconsider that notion. We will look at ideas and attitudes common to both traditions and consider the ways in which the rabbis of the classical Talmudic period (c. 200-650 C.E.) rejected, adopted, and even contributed to Christian Mariology. What does the existence of a kind of Rabbinic Mariology teach us, both about the relationship of Judaism to Christianity as well as gender?

Rabbi Micha’el Rosenberg is Assistant Professor of Rabbinics at Hebrew College. He formerly served as rabbi of the Fort Tryon Jewish Center and an adjunct professor of Talmud and codes at the Jewish Theological Seminary, both in New York City. He has taught Bible, Talmud and halakhah in a variety of settings, including the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education, the National Havurah Institute and the Northwoods Kollel and Beit Midrash of Ramah Wisconsin, and has a particular interest in the intersection of Jewish studies and legal theory. An alumnus of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship program and Harvard College, Rosenberg holds a doctorate in Talmud and Rabbinic literature from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

This program is supported in part by the Thurer Scholar-in-Residence Fund.
Sunday Morning Classes

Tales of the Tanna’im – The Guys Who Invented Our Judaism
Together we will read stories from The Book of Legends (Sefer Ha-Aggadah), compiled/annotated by Bialik, Ravnitzky, and Braude, about the teachers who changed Judaism from Biblical and Temple-centered to the text and synagogue-oriented religion we enjoy today.
3 Sundays, March 1, 8 & 15, 11:10 am - 12:30 pm
with Rabbi 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.

Church and State – an American Crisis
This course will explore the topic of separation of church and state in the United States, beginning with a historical overview of Thomas Morton and Roger Williams and their disputes with colonial governments in 17th century Massachusetts, with a focus on the implications for Jews and other religious minorities in the nation today.
3 Sundays, May 3, 10 & 17, 11:10 am - 12:30 pm with Temple member, Dennis Cerrotti
Dr. Dennis Cerrotti is a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School, and was a Protestant minister until he converted to Judaism in 1986. He was also an activist, policy analyst and community organizer, and is author of two recent books, *Hidden Genocide, Hidden People* and *Beyond the Wellspring*, and editor of *A Key Into the Language of America*.

Hebrew for Beginners: The Aleph Bet
Whether you’re a newcomer to Hebrew or have been away from it for a while and would like to start fresh, this course will provide you with a basic understanding of the Hebrew alphabet, grammar, and vocabulary. You’ll be able to follow along during services or Torah study and will be in a good position to further your knowledge going forward.
6 Sundays, March 29, April 5 & 12, May 3, 10 & 17, 2:00 - 3:30 pm
with Temple 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 has also taught classes on chanting Torah and, most recently, an introduction to Haftarah.
May My Mercy Suppress My Anger: Thoughts on Anger and Anger Management in the Bible
Doug has long explored the ways the important emotion anger is so often misdirected or squandered. This appears to happen regularly in the Bible, and often leads to curious conversations between God and various person-ages concerning the extent to which anger is God’s special attribute that we humans would be wise not to claim for our own. This course will explore how God and his people try to work this out.

2 Sundays, March 29 & April 5, 11:10 am - 12:30 pm with Temple member, Doug Bitman
Dr. Doug Bitman works as a clinical psychologist at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital in Bedford, MA and has been leading Anger Management Groups there for basically forever.

Holocaust Theology
The Holocaust has presented an enormous and enduring religious challenge to both Judaism and Christianity. Our discussion of this issue will be divided into 3 parts:
- Wrestling with the Holocaust: human free will, God’s suffering, the Holocaust and the covenant, and reconstructing Judaism;
- The Holocaust and human evil;

3 Sundays, September 22, October 6 & 20, 11:10 am - 12:30 pm with Temple member, Lawrence 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.

Jews in the Civil War
In the mid-19th century, Jews were a small minority in the United States, with under 200,000 in the entire country. And yet they played a distinct role in the American Civil War, on both sides of that bloody conflict. In this two-part course, we will examine Jews as abolitionists and as slave-owners, as leaders and as ordinary citizens, as Yankees and as Rebels. In particular, we’ll explore the ways
in which the sectional divide intersected with Jewish cohesiveness as a religious and ethnic minority.

2 Sundays, December 8 & 15, 9:30 - 10:50 am with Temple member, Karen Keely
Dr. Karen A. Keely teaches English 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.

Erwin Schulhoff: The Profiling of an Artist - Target, Prisoner, and Ultimately a Victim of the Holocaust
Erwin Schulhoff was one of the most versatile, dynamic and gifted of European composers and performers, and a virtuoso pianist; his repertoire included classical, jazz and even the extraordinarily difficult works for quarter-tone piano. His music, politics and ethnicity made him one of the great artistic targets of Nazi tyranny. Schulhoff is a study in the grave consequences of “political profiling” in support of a regime’s agenda of cleansing and genocide.

Sunday April 12, 11:10 - 12:30 pm with Temple member, Mark Ludwig
Mark Ludwig is a performance artist, activist and Holocaust scholar. He blends his musical and scholarly career with social causes, with particular emphasis on issues of intolerance in the United States and Europe. He performs and lectures worldwide on Holocaust music and its history. A Fulbright scholar of the Terezín composers, Mark is the founding director of the Terezín Music Foundation (TMF), dedicated to documenting, preserving and advancing the resilience of the human spirit (www.terezinmusic.org).

Holocaust Music
Sunday April 19, 9:30 am – 10:50 am with Cantor Harel
Cantor Maayan Harel is a graduate of Hebrew College’s program Cantorial Ordination for Spiritual and Educational Leadership. She holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in Vocal Performance from the Hartt School at the University of Hartford and an MA in Jewish Education. Maayan joins Rabbi Vogel and our new student rabbi in the Sanctuary, leading us in prayer with her beautiful voice and graceful presence.

Taking the Torah into the Firmament
Sunday, April 26, 9:30 – 10:50 am with Temple members Rob and Pam Cooper
Dr. Jeffery Hoffman, the first male American Jewish Astronaut was on five Space Shuttle flights including the space walk that fixed the Hubble telescope. On his final mission, he read from Bereshit while sailing through the Firmament. We’ll screen clips that document this event and reveal the
thoughts of Dr. Hoffman and the Rabbi who acquired the Torah for him, and
discuss what it means when something as ancient and sacred as the Torah
reaches the upper limits of humankind’s exploration of our world.

Rob Cooper has been a writer, producer, videographer and editor for major market television, historical documentaries, educational and corporate communications for over three decades. He has developed the technical and aesthetic capabilities to deliver stories with
elegance and integrity.

Pam Pacelli Cooper knows the power stories have to inform and sustain,
and the research and interviewing skills to treat stories with the nuance
and context that will make them come to life. Pam is an experienced family
therapist, oral historian, and a Guided Autobiography instructor.

Jews and Civil Rights in Memphis
With one notable exception, Jews were a force for justice and equality in
Memphis. We will discuss their roles and show excerpts from 2 films in
recognition of Martin Luther King Day.

Sunday, January 19, 11:10 am – 12:30 with Temple members Rob
and Pam Cooper

Reimagining Ruth: The Book of Ruth in English and
American Culture From 1800 - Today
2 Sundays, April 19, 26, 11:10 am - 12:30 pm with Professor
Sarah Gracombe

Since earning her Ph.D. from Columbia University, Sarah
Gracombe has been teaching classes on Victorian literature at Stonehill College, where she is now Prof. of English
and Faculty Director of the IDEAS program. Her research
explores Victorian representations of nationality, race, gen-
der, and religion, with a particular focus on constructions
of Jews and Jewishness. This research has been supported
by grants and fellowships from organizations including the Whiting Foun-
dation, the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, and the University of
Pennsylvania’s Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (where she was
a fellow in 2010-2011). Her work has appeared in journals such as Nine-
teenth-Century Literature, Philological Quarterly, Prooftexts, Literature
Compass, and the Blackwell Encyclopedia of Victorian Literature.
For Religious School Parents and 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
Torah Godly Play, November 3, 9:30 – 11:30 am
Torah Godly Play is an innovative approach that helps us find meaning, identity and God through storytelling and listening. You will have the unique opportunity to experience Godly Play and to delve deeper into the Torah.

Goodnight with the Sh’ma, January 5, 9:30 – 11:30 am
We will explore the bedtime Sh’mah and how it can become a special way to say goodnight, every night. We will conclude with a meaningful art project and a surprise book for everyone!

Singing at Services, Friday, March 13, 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Come to Shabbat services and hear your children perform a holiday song, led by music teacher, Yoni Battat. A congregational Shabbat dinner follows. Please register for the dinner online (kids eat for free!)

Grade 2
Our Family’s Shabbat Practice, October 20, 9:30 – 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. Breaking into groups, we will enact these practices - using our own dramatic flair!

Torah Godly Play, December 8, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Torah Godly Play is an innovative approach that helps us find meaning, identity and God through storytelling and listening. You will have the unique opportunity to experience Godly Play, and to delve deeper into the Torah.

Singing at Services, Friday, November 8, 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Come to Shabbat services and hear your children perform a holiday song, led by music teacher, Yoni Battat. A congregational Shabbat dinner follows. Please register for the dinner online (kids eat for free!)

Grade 3
Jerusalem of Gold, November 24, 9:30 – 11:30 am
Jerusalem is one of the most ancient cities in the world, and home to three of the world’s main religions; Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Come explore the wondrous Old City through art, storytelling, and more!

The Torah as a Tree of Life, January 26, 9:30 – 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.

**Siyyum HaSefer Milestone Celebration, Sunday, March 22, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm**
Our students celebrate their yearlong study of the Hebrew aleph-bet with a program they wrote themselves.

**Singing at Services, Friday, December 13, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**
Come to Shabbat services and hear your children perform a holiday song, led by music teacher, Yoni Battat. A pre-Chanukah dinner follows. Please register for the dinner online (kids eat for free!)

---

**Grade 4**

**Torah Godly Play, Sunday, December 15, 9:30 – 11:30 am**
Torah 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 to delve deeper into our tradition.

**My Family’s Jewish Story, February 2, 9:30 – 11:30 am**
Hear a variety of personal stories of Jewish identity, while articulating your own family’s Jewish story. Our program will include a study of artist Marc Chagall, who used elements of his family, culture and religion to create art.

**A Haggadah Happening Sunday, April 5, 11:00 – 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 24, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**
Come to services and hear your children share their thoughts about Va’era, the Torah portion of the week. A tasty nosh will be served before the service.

---

**Grade 5**

**Beit Midrash, March 15 & April 12, 9:30 – 11:30 am**
Parents and children will study Torah with Rabbi Vogel, developing a familiarity with the text, themes and narratives of the Book of Exodus. We begin with a family breakfast or Havdalah.

**Class Shabbat, Friday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.**
Come to Shabbat services and hear your children share their thoughts about Vayera, the Torah portion of the week.

**Friday Night Kiddush**
Fifth graders will recite the Kiddush blessing on selected Shabbat@Six services, including 1/10, 1/24 and 3/13. Choose 1 date! This is preparation for B’nai Mitzvah, and beyond. The 1/10 & 3/13 services are followed by dinner.

---

**Grade 6**

**Moving Traditions B’nai Mitzvah Sessions, Sundays, November 17 & April 5, 9:30 – 11:30 am**
These Sunday morning family sessions are designed for pre-teens and their
parents to learn together; to listen to one another’s perspectives, and to enrich the meaning of the b’nai Mitzvah as a lifecycle ritual.

**Pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah Workshops Tuesdays, February 4, 11, and 25; April 28, 5:30-7:00 pm**

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

**Class Shabbat, Friday, December 6, 7:30 p.m.** Come to Shabbat services and hear your children share their thoughts about Vayetze, the Torah portion of the week.

**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: 9/22, 10/27, 11/17, 12/8, 1/26, 2/9, 3/29, 4/12 & 5/17.

**Celebrations for the Whole Family**

**Simchat Torah Family Dinner, Service & Consecration**

Sunday, October 20, 5:45 pm

**Multi-Generational pre-Chanukah Shabbat Dinner**

Friday, December 13, 6:00 pm

**Purim Family Dinner & Megillah Reading**

Monday, March 9, 5:15 pm

**Congregation-Wide Mitzvah Day**

Sunday, March 29, 12:00 pm

Please join us on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at our early Shabbat@Six service. The 2nd Shabbat of the month will feature a Shabbat band, and a congregational dinner following the service.

**Congregational Shabbaton at Camp Eisner**

**Friday, May 1 – Sunday, May 3**

We will celebrate Shabbat in this beautiful wooded setting in the Berkshires. Activities will include hiking, singing, joyous learning, sports and family Shabbat activities led by Rabbi Vogel and a team of Temple Sinai educators.

**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 young children, Sinai U is your community. Here are the many opportunities open for you:

- 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)
• TSIPPY Youth Group (events for 9th – 12th graders throughout the year)
• Rosh Hodesh & Shevet groups (held monthly)
• 12th Grade Senior Seminar (study with Rabbi Vogel for 12th graders)
• Facing History and Ourselves Seminar (interact with Holocaust survivors)
• Tikkun Olam Sundays (monthly social justice and direct service work)
• Caring Network (prepare and deliver meals to congregants)
• Jewish summer camp experiences (for all ages)
...and more!

Contact Student Rabbi Sam Blumberg at SamBlumberg@sinaibrookline.org for more information about Sinai U!

12th Grade Aliyah & Teen Recognition Ceremony
Friday, May 15, 7:30 pm
At this 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!
Mission Statement:
Tzedek@Sinai is a catalyst for organizing people at Temple Sinai for social justice, to work towards sustainable social change.

Please join us for a special Shabbat Service on January 17, 2020 at 7:30 pm to commemorate the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. With members of the Brookline Clergy Association, this interfaith Shabbat Service will bring together our neighborhood houses of worship in song, prayer and readings to honor a peacemaker and visionary of our time. Look for more details on the Temple’s website and weekly updates.

Changing the World from the Inside Out – Integrating Jewish Spirituality into Our Social Justice Work
What kind of change work are you called to do in this world? How can you stay grounded for the long haul that change work requires? How can you show up as your best self while doing the work? We will explore these questions and more, grounded in the practices of Mussar, an ancient Jewish practice of spiritual and ethical reflection, development, and meditation. Together, we will integrate personal practice with our work for communal and social change. This course is for anyone engaged in social justice work—in the community or professionally—and for those with the desire to engage.

Course Dates: Jan 12 & 26, Feb 2 & 9, Mar 1 & 8 at 11:10 am-12:30 pm
Registration Cost: $120
Financial aid is available

Tzedek Sundaes
Tzedek@Sinai sponsors Sunday afternoon gatherings throughout the year to learn about and engage in important social justice issues while building deeper relationships with each other. Watch for the Sinai Update and Sinai Lu’ach Calendar for these events.
Rainbow Committee

Mission Statement:
The mission of the Temple Sinai Rainbow Committee is to ensure the temple’s welcome for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender individuals. The committee will develop Temple Sinai’s warm and supportive gay-friendly culture.

Rainbow Shabbat, Friday, December 20, 2019
Robin Reardon is a novelist whose characters are often young, LGBTQ, and dealing with finding themselves and with bullying. She has published nine novels. A Secret Edge was a finalist in the annual Lambda Literary competition; The Evolution of Ethan Poe was on the 2012 ALA Rainbow List and won first place in several Rainbow Awards categories. Robin has contributed work for LGBTQ+ charitable causes, including a novella benefitting The Trevor Project and a short story supporting author Brent Hartinger’s Real Story Safe Sex Project.

Rainbow Shabbat, Friday, April 17, 2020
Russ Lopez will read from his most recent book, The Hub of the Gay Universe: An LGBTQ History of Boston, Provincetown, and Beyond. He has also written histories of Boston and the South End, and on public health and the environment. Russ has a Bachelor’s from Stanford, a Master’s from the Kennedy School, and his doctorate from BU. He currently is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in Environmental Health at the Boston University School of Public Health.

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

Inclusion Matters at Temple Sinai
Sponsored by Temple Sinai’s Inclusion Committee
Friday, March 6, 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.

Temple Sinai Book Group II

Temple Sinai’s Book Group II welcomes new and returning members to read and discuss both fiction and non-fiction books with Jewish themes or some other interesting connections to Jews and Jewish life—both in America and elsewhere in the world. On occasion, we will also watch films of this nature (documentary or otherwise). Typically we read a book a month, which creates a lot of variety, with a break in summer and a two-month period to read longer books during the winter holiday period. We meet in members’ homes for dinner before our discussions, offering a good opportunity for socializing and building community. For further information, please contact Judith White (judithklinewhite@gmail.com) or Lilly Platt (lillyphatt@gmail.com).
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, rg@goldsteinlaw.com.

**Israeli Speaker Series, with Harvard’s Wexner Israel Fellows**
Temple Sinai again welcomes visiting scholars from 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. Please watch for an announcement regarding speakers and dates.

**Why Zionism**
A three session course on how major Jewish philosophers view Zionism both in action and in theory. We will look at Hannah Arendt, Walter Benjamin, Gershom Scholem, Noam Chomsky and Martin Buber and examine how they saw Zionism as it was at the time. We will bring the course up to date to see if what they believed has been borne out. (No preparation or extra reading; just come and join the conversation).

*3 Tuesdays, November 5, 12 & 19 at 7:30 – 9:00 pm with Temple members Amos Lassen and Eric Gordon*

**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.

**Eric Gordon** is 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.

**Israeli Book Discussions**
*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.*
Jewish Holiday Learning

Yom Kippur: Afternoon Forum Panel
Yom Kippur day, Wednesday, October 9, 3:00 pm
Temple Sinai panelists speak from their hearts on topics relevant to the tone of this sacred day.

Sukkot celebration
Sunday, October 13, 7:00 pm – “Open Sukkah” at Rabbi Vogel’s home
Rabbi Andy Vogel and 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.

Simchat Torah celebration
Sunday, October 20, 6:45 pm
Come sing and dance with the Torah in the streets as we complete the reading of the Torah and begin it anew from the Beginning! We also honor our new Religious School students, and conclude with a Chocolate Oneg.

Tu B’Shevat Seder
Friday evening, February 14 – 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
Monday night, March 9
Community Purim Dinner *NEW* this year 5:15 pm
Includes Purim craft-making for young children
Purim service & Megillah-Reading for all ages 6:00 pm
Come in costume and party as we re-tell the story of Esther and Mordechai!

Yom HaSho’ah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)
Sunday, April 26, 10:30 am (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, Thursday, May 28, 9:00 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.

Passover Workshop
Watch for details in the Sinai Update and the monthly Lu’ach

11th Annual Jewish Poetry Festival
Sunday afternoon, February 2, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Join us for an afternoon of poetry and community. Each year, we feature a Jewish poet and an open mic. This will be our 11th year and we are planning an empowering afternoon of poetry. This event has become an important gathering for Jewish poets from throughout Massachusetts and New England. Larry Lowenthal will be the moderator. Refreshments will be served.
*Coordinated by Deborah Leipziger, Judith Steinbergh, and Jennifer Barber*

URJ “Taste of Judaism”
Free and open to the community, registration required.
Tuesdays, March 17, 24 & 31, 7:00 – 9:00 pm with Rabbi Andy Vogel & Student Rabbi Talia Stein
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 – who want to get a introductory “taste” of what it means to be Jewish. Questions are encouraged and lively discussions are an important part of this class. There is no cost, but REGISTRATION through the URJ is required. Register at https://reformjudaism.org/taste/brookline, or by calling (646) 793-3196. Also offered multiple times during the year at other Reform congregations in the Greater Boston area.
Join us for our opening film of the season with a pizza meal, Havdalah, good company and the movie. This first evening will begin at 6:30 pm (please call the office to let us know you are coming). All other films will begin at 7:30 pm.

**September 21, 2019: “Operation Finale” (English)**
This historical thriller is based on the story of how a group of Israeli secret agents arrested notorious SS officer Adolf Eichmann - the man who masterminded the “Final Solution” - in Argentina. (2018)

**November 16, 2019: “Hannah Arendt” (English) By Popular Demand**
A look at the life of philosopher and political theorist Hannah Arendt, who reported for The New Yorker on the war crimes trial of the Nazi Adolf Eichmann. (2012)

**December 14, 2019: “The Cakemaker” (Hebrew with English Subtitles)**
Israel Entry into the 2018 Academy Awards
Thomas, a young and talented German baker, is having an affair with Oren, an Israeli married man who dies in a car crash. Thomas travels to Jerusalem seeking answers. Keeping his secret for himself, he starts working for Anat, his lover’s widow, who owns a small café. (2017)

**January 11, 2020: “Scaffolding” (Hebrew with English Subtitles)**
17-year-old ASHER has always been the impulsive troublemaker, from primary school all through junior high and high school. It’s hard for him to concentrate in class. His strict father sees him as a natural successor to the family’s scaffolding business but Asher finds a different masculine role model in his gentle literature teacher Rami and forges a special connection with him. (2017)

**March 12, 2020: “In Between” (Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles)**
Three Palestinian women living in an apartment in Tel Aviv try to find a balance between traditional and modern culture. (2016)

**April 18, 2020: “Bent” (British English with American English Subtitles)**
Max is gay and as such is sent to Dachau concentration camp under the Nazi regime. He tries to deny he is gay, and gets a yellow label (the one for Jews) instead of pink (the one for gays). In camp, he falls in love with fellow prisoner Horst, who wears his pink label with pride. (1997) Digitally remastered and completely restored in a new beautiful print.

**May 13, 2020: “Longing” (Hebrew with English Subtitles)**
A middle-aged Israeli bachelor is forced to evaluate his life choices when he discovers an ex-girlfriend had given birth to his son 20 years before, in this affecting drama (2017)