Courses and Events (see page 8 for ongoing classes)

- **I'Dor v'Dor: Exploring (and preserving) your family's Jewish Story**
  
  **Instructors**: Rob and Pam Cooper
  
  **Description**: What is your family's story? We’ll discuss this question during the first session. What are characters and events you want to make sure will not be lost to history? During the second session, we’ll talk about the wide range of options you have available to preserve those stories. How can you get to know them and use them effectively?
  
  **Dates**: 2 Sundays, January 16 & 23, 9:30 am – 10:50 am
  
  **Zoom link**: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87646401738?pwd=ejgxMHFo50V5STVjYIReyeDJEdk50d09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87646401738?pwd=ejgxMHFo50V5STVjYIReyeDJEdk50d09)
  
  **Bios**: 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.

- **Annual Cohon Lecture**
  
  **Lecturer**: Rabbi Benay Lappe
  
  **Description**: Our Cohon Lecturer this year will be Rabbi Benay Lappe, who will join us on Sunday, January 30th by Zoom. Her topic will be “How Will the Jewish Community Navigate Inevitable Change?”
  
  **Date**: Sunday, January 30, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
  
  **Zoom link**: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83170607846?pwd=TVRjeTZCdEJJMHcydXBwL0xVTHJpd09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83170607846?pwd=TVRjeTZCdEJJMHcydXBwL0xVTHJpd09)
  
  **Bio**: Ordained by The Jewish Theological Seminary in 1997, Rabbi Lappe is an award-winning educator specializing in the application of queer theory to Talmud study. She founded SVARA, a traditionally radical yeshiva dedicated to providing serious Talmud study as a spiritual practice to all who want to learn, in an environment that recognizes as crucial the insights of transgender, intersex, queer, lesbian, bisexual and gay Jews. Rabbi Lappe has served on the faculties of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Temple University, The University of Judaism, The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, The Graduate Theological Union’s Center for Jewish Studies at UC-Berkeley, and The Wexner Institute. She currently serves as Senior Fellow at the Institute for the Next Jewish Future in Chicago.
Building Bridges: Temple Sinai and Israel (sponsored by the Israel Committee).

**Instructor**  
Rabbi Golan Ben-Chorin (program coordinated by Amos Lassen)

**Description**  
This highly successful initiative that began last year will continue with 6 sessions during the 2021 – 2022 year. Sessions will be led live from Israel by Rabbi Golan-Ben Chorin of Haifa. This year’s theme is “When Jews Are the Majority--- A Look at Minorities in Israel”. We will look at the Ethiopian and other African Jewish communities in Israel, Jews from Arab lands, Sephardic Jewry and others.

**Zoom link**  
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84031786322?pwd=VGNuR0Uzd295TXY5T1RTUnA0NS9qQT09  
(the same Zoom link is used for all sessions)

Below is the schedule for spring 2022. All sessions begin at 9:30 am.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 1/9/22</td>
<td>A persecuted Jewish minority in Israel – Reform Jews in Israel stretch not Kvetch! Our guest will be Rabbi Ayala Samuels Ph.D., head of the Reform Rabbinical Council, for an honest conversation about Reform Judaism in Israel; achievements, challenges, future and the connection to Reform congregations abroad. Read about Rabbi Samuels <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84031786322?pwd=VGNuR0Uzd295TXY5T1RTUnA0NS9qQT09">here</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 2/6/22</td>
<td>We will watch the movie Rabbi Golan produced about an afternoon club for children from low income families of various origins. The Director of the club will join us to share her thoughts on poverty and assistance in Israeli society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 3/27/22</td>
<td>tbd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 4/24/22</td>
<td>tbd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bio**  
Rabbi Golan Ben-Chorin Ed.D. is a third-generation Israeli Reform spiritual leader. An entrepreneurial educator, he has served congregations in Europe, the US and Israel, where he is pioneering inclusive, egalitarian Judaism. He recently produced twelve short movies on spiritual renewal in his home town of Haifa as a way to help address the challenges of the coronavirus. He is currently the rabbi of a startup community in Herzliya and has founded "Finding North – 30 days of inspiration and discovery in Haifa."

Cinema@Sinai

**Coordinator**  
Amos Lassen

**Description**  
Below is the list of films tentatively planned for spring 2022. Because of scheduling issues, the final determination on which films might be shown, and when, has yet to be made. Stay tuned for information in the weekly Sinai Update email.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Film</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, 1/15, 7:30 pm</td>
<td>“Au Revoir Les Enfants” (French, subtitled) An established student in a Catholic boarding school learns that a new boy is a Jew whom the priests are hiding from the Nazis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, 2/12, 7:30 pm</td>
<td>“A Serious Man” (English) Larry Gropnik, who lives with his frighteningly dysfunctional family, is met with a series of catastrophes involving his wife's lover, his useless brother, a land dispute with a neighbor, and a possible bribery scheme, all threatening to disrupt his life even further.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, 3/12, 7:30 pm</td>
<td>“Three Mothers” (Hebrew, subtitled) Triplets Rose, Flora and Yasmin, born in Egypt but living in Israel, recount memories, confront their past, and attempt to come to terms with family secrets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, 4/9, 7:30 pm</td>
<td>“Off and Running” (English) Brooklyn teen Avery’s loving family is unique: white Jewish lesbian parents and adopted brothers (one mixed-race, one Korean). But her curiosity about her African-American roots prompts her to contact her birth mother, propelling Avery into a complicated exploration of race, identity, and family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, 5/14, 7:30 pm</td>
<td>“Torch Song Trilogy” (English) In this film adaptation of the Broadway play, Harvey Fierstein re-creates his role as Arnold Beckoff, a New Yorker searching for love, respect and tradition in a world that doesn’t seem to be made for him.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Temple Sinai Adult Jewish Learning Schedule: January – June 2022**

- **13th Annual Jewish Poetry Festival**
  
  **Coordinator** Deborah Leipziger
  
  **Description** Join us for an afternoon of poetry and community featuring a Jewish poet. This will be our 13th year and we are delighted to announce that our guest will be poet Ellen Bass. We are looking forward to a wonderful afternoon. This event has become an important gathering for Jewish poets from throughout Massachusetts and New England.
  
  **Date** Sunday February 6, 2:00 pm
  
  **Zoom link** https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89819723721?pwd=TGlh1VMe3dXdlNjRGVUF3ZC9PYW5adz09
  
  **Bio** Ellen Bass’s most recent collection, *Indigo*, was published by Copper Canyon Press in 2020. Her other poetry books include *Like a Beggar*, *The Human Line*, and *Mules of Love*. Her poems appear frequently in *The New Yorker*, *American Poetry Review*, and many other journals. Among her awards are Fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the NEA, and the California Arts Council, the Lambda Literary Award, and three Pushcart Prizes. She co-edited the first major anthology of women’s poetry, *No More Masks!*, and her nonfiction books include the groundbreaking *The Courage to Heal: A Guide for Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse* and *Free Your Mind: The Book for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Youth*. A Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, Bass founded poetry workshops at Salinas Valley State Prison and the Santa Cruz, California jails, and teaches in the MFA writing program at Pacific University.

- **Love Letters: Poetry of the Aleph Bet**
  
  **Speaker** Sharon Salinger
  
  **Description** In this presentation, poet Sharon Salinger will share how she became a poet and will describe her experiences as a member of the famous literary Singer family. She will talk about the letters of the Hebrew alphabet, their mystical significance, and how they inspired her poems. Ms. Salinger will read several of her poems and share with us her illustrations for them.
  
  **Date** Sunday February 13, 2:00 pm
  
  **Zoom link** https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88420284044?pwd=UjFrWFUqFKcGdlDhNYTlyNORiQT09
  
  **Bio** Sharon Singer Salinger is a member of a distinguished literary family that includes her grandfather, IJ Singer, and her uncle, Nobel laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer. Her poems have been published in, among other places, *The Harbor Review*, edited by Philip Levine and *The Jewish Chronicle*, edited by Clive Sinclair, and she is an Academy of American Poets prize recipient. Her novel *Reckless Abandon* was published by Simon & Schuster. Sharon worked for many years as an editor -- for the last 20 at the Massachusetts Medical Society, publisher of the New England Journal of Medicine. She and her husband Seth Salinger live in Newton, Massachusetts, where they raised their daughters. Sharon has always loved alphabets. The poems and pen and ink illustrations in her collection *Love Letters – Poetry of the Aleph Bet* are inspired by the power and mystery of the Hebrew letters.
Virtual Tours of Israel (sponsored by the Israel Committee)

Instructor: Uri Feinberg (program coordinated by Amos Lassen)

Description: Tour guide Uri Feinberg will take us on 3 fascinating journeys around the State of Israel. As we did last year, we'll depart from Temple Sinai and fly together to Israel to visit a variety of sites, focusing on topics, history, individuals, and locations of particular interest. We don’t have all the details yet but we know you'll enjoy the trips. This is virtual reality at its best!

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86969174626?pwd=b2hlcVhZOXVtQ3JyYTN1ZFH3cVRTQT09

Dates: 2 Sundays: February 20 and April 3, 2:00 pm.

Bio: Uri Feinberg has worked in Jewish education since 1995 and has been a licensed Tour Educator since 2000. Emigrating from the US with his family when he was 10, Uri grew up in Jerusalem, served in the IDF and traveled the world. He graduated from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2004 with an MA in Contemporary Jewry. He also holds a BA in History and English Literature. Uri has guided teen trips in Israel, taught Jewish history at semester programs in Israel, and led tours for synagogue, adult, and family groups. He also served as the Director of Education at Temple Israel in Boston from 2007 – 2010. Currently he works for Da’at Educational Expeditions in Israel. Uri is driven by a desire to share the power of the Land of Israel with others by uncovering layers of history and finding inspiration in the sites and people he visits.

Scholar-in-Residence Program

Speaker: Judith Rosenbaum

Description: Judith Rosenbaum, the CEO of the Jewish Women’s Archive, is Temple Sinai’s 2022 Scholar in Residence. She will join us at Shabbat services on Friday, March 4 and will present one or more programs (details to be announced) on Saturday, March 5. This program is funded in part by the Thurer Scholar-in-Residence Fund

Dates: Friday, March 4 and Saturday March 5

Zoom links: 3/4: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84275642507?pwd=R2NNaGhlK0VEMjdvQ0VxZGN2Y1Z0dz09
3/5: TBD

Bio: Judith Rosenbaum (she/her) is CEO of the Jewish Women’s Archive, a pioneering national organization that documents Jewish women’s stories, elevates their voices, and inspires them to be agents of change. An educator, historian, and writer, Judith served for nearly a decade as JWA’s Director of Public History and Director of Education, developing its major programs and educational initiatives. Judith earned a BA in History from Yale University and a PhD in American Studies from Brown University. She won a Fulbright Fellowship to study women’s collective communities in Israel, and received a dissertation grant from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study to pursue research on the women’s health movement. Judith has taught and lectured on Jewish studies and women’s studies at Brown University, Boston University, Hebrew College, Gann Academy, and others. She is on the faculty of the Bronfman Fellowship and was awarded a Schusterman Fellowship for Jewish leaders. Judith regularly publishes in academic and popular journals and blogs including Tablet, The Forward, HuffPost, Sh’mo Magazine, Hadassah magazine, and Kveller, as well as in several anthologies, including Gender and Jewish History, Women of Katrina, The New Jewish Canon, and The Women’s Passover Companion: Women’s Reflections on the Festival of Freedom.
**Passover Poetry Workshop**

**Instructor** Jessica Greenbaum

**Description** Join poet Jessica Greenbaum, who curated the Poetry Haggadah, and enjoy a chance to consider adding poems to your seder, Passover preparation, reflections, and meditations.

**Date** Sunday, March 13, 3:00 pm

**Zoom link** [Link](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84140388036?pwd=VENXV2V2OGl3QW9FS29KSDJXNDJQZz09)

**Bio** Jessica Greenbaum is the co-editor, with Rabbi Hara Person, of CCAR Press' *Mishkan HaSeder: A Passover Haggadah* (2021). A poet, teacher, and social worker, her first book of poems, *Inventing Difficulty* (2000), won the Gerald Cable Prize; her second book, *The Two Yvonnes* (2012), was called a "Best Book of Poetry for 2012" by *Library Journal*, and of her third book, *Spilled and Gone* (2019), the poet Tony Hoagland said, "When I read it, I feel myself open and relax into the world." Her poems have appeared in *The New Yorker, Poetry Magazine, Yale Review, Paris Review* and elsewhere. A recipient of a National Endowment of the Arts fellowship and the Agnes di Castagnola award from the Poetry Society of America, she teaches inside and outside academia, and at Manhattan's Central Synagogue and Brooklyn's Congregation Beth Elohim. Since 2015, she has been creating poetry reading and writing classes around Jewish text. Some classes investigate the relationship between basic Jewish values, such as *tikkun olam*, with those same values found in poetry. Others pair themes found in traditional Jewish texts with ones reflected in contemporary poems. As a social worker, Ms. Greenbaum has taught poetry reading and writing to communities who have experienced trauma, including Footsteps, the nation's only agency for people who have left ultra-Orthodoxy, and for cancer survivors in the Children's Brain Tumor Foundation.

**Reclaimed: A Birthright Stolen by the Nazis**

**Instructor** Sam Gronner

**Description** During this presentation, Sam Gronner, brother of Temple Sinai member Tammy Kallman, will discuss his book *Loss & Legacy*. In the 1930's, Helene and Samuel Gronner sent their 16-year-old son Jochen from their small German town to Palestine so that he could continue his studies and avoid anti-Jewish harassment. Not until the Allied victory in 1945 does Jochen learn that his parents were killed after being rounded up and deported. In *Loss and Legacy*, Sam Gronner probes unresolved questions about his father's post-war metamorphosis. The story culminates in the 2010 death of John H. Gronner, the American name he assumed upon naturalization.

You can read more about the book and purchase a copy at [Link](https://lossandlegacy.com/)

**Dates** Sunday, March 20, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm

**Zoom link** [Link](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84459628388?pwd=MkxUR25nL08yNUtITm0zRmtRRzZ1dz09)

**Bio** Sam A. Gronner began his professional writing career as a journalist when he was awarded a summer reporting internship while still attending the City College of New York. After working as a reporter for various New Jersey newspapers, Sam spent a decade as a writer and editor in the national office of the Anti-Defamation League. In 1984 he joined the public relations department of AT&T. He followed the spinoff of its equipment business into Lucent Technologies in 1996, eventually capping his corporate career as lead spokesperson for its wireless communications business. In July 2001 he accepted an incentive to leave Lucent, and immediately formed an independent public relations consultancy, primarily serving technology clients.
continues to offer writing services on a freelance basis. A New Jersey resident, Gronner is married to the former Karen Widder. They have 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

- **Sons and Mothers**
  
  **Instructor** Doug Bitman  
  
  **Description** In this class, we will explore family interactions in Genesis and Exodus and try to understand the repetition and variations in the relationship between "second" sons and their mothers. We will also begin to understand the position and power of the Matriarchs in the family drama.  
  
  **Dates** 2 Sundays: March 27 and April 3, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm  
  
  **Zoom link** https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88649188962?pwd=cVdYcjViQWNtM1N5bXFSSDFVSms85UT09  
  
  **Bio** Temple Member Dr. Doug Bitman worked as a clinical psychologist at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital in Bedford, MA until his retirement in 2020.

- **Our Will To Live: The Gray Zone - Music In Terezin**
  
  **Instructors** Mark Ludwig, Dr. Anna Ornstein  
  
  **Description** In his final and perhaps most provocative book *The Drowned and the Saved*, the great Italian writer and Holocaust survivor Primo Levi explores the “grey zone.” In examining the relationships between the Nazis and his fellow prisoners in Auschwitz, Levi writes: “the network of human relationships inside the lagers was not simple, it could not be reduced to the two blocs of victims and persecutors.” In Levi’s “gray zone” the oppressors coerce their victims into accomplices.  
  
  Drawing from his recently released book *Our Will To Live*, Holocaust scholar and Terezin Music Foundation director Mark Ludwig will share stories of how music and the arts in the Terezín concentration camp were co-opted for Nazi propaganda efforts. This “gray zone” was employed at the service of a propaganda film and staged Red Cross inspection. Mark and distinguished psychoanalyst and Auschwitz survivor Dr. Anna Ornstein will explore the “gray zone” both in historical and contemporary contexts from psychoanalytic, artistic, and spiritual perspectives.  
  
  Artwork and music samples will be part of this presentation. Copies of *Our Will To Live* at a special Temple Sinai member discount will be available for advance purchase.  
  
  **Date** Sunday April 10, 9:30 am – 10:50 am  
  
  **Zoom link** https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85049139794?pwd=elRWT2NvMzdGeUxWRXF0dnYybDNGQT09  
  
  **Bio** Temple member Mark Ludwig is a performance artist, activist and Holocaust scholar. He blends his musical and scholarly career with social causes, emphasizing 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)
Looking at Good and Evil in Judaism

Instructor: Amos Lassen

Description: The themes of good and evil are ubiquitous in the Hebrew Bible, Jewish philosophy and commentary, and in everyday life. In this class we will examine the Jewish concepts of good and evil and their many representations. What is the Evil Inclination? Do we all have it, and can we overcome it? What is the relationship between good/evil and reward/punishment? We will consider these and other questions.

Dates: 3 Tuesdays: April 12, 19, & 26, 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85806787694?pwd=dS96MG40clVrdTR4L2p2R3haaTJTdz09

Bio: Temple member 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.

Amos was the recipient of the 2021 Temple Sinai Harry Wheeler Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his many contributions to the synagogue and the Jewish community.

More Great Short Stories of Bernard Malamud

Instructor: Larry Lowenthal

Description: After last year’s highly successful course featuring 3 of Malamud’s greatest stories, we’ll continue delving into his work by focusing on 3 additional stories: The First Seven Years, The German Refugee and The Last Mohican.

Dates: 3 Sundays: May 1, 8, and 15, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88182815983?pwd=WUorcndjMEh1TitjdXEvV3F4Y0ZYZz09

Bio: 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.

Spinoza’s Theological-Political Treatise - Thoughts for our time

Instructor: Jeff Bernstein

Description: In this two-session course, we will read selections from Spinoza’s path-breaking text in order to see the light that it shines on current politics in the United States concerning tyranny, democracy, and the critique of theocracy.

Dates: 2 Sundays: May 15 and 22, 9:30 am – 10:50 am

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82733309033?pwd=UFY5M0RFZTc4aU84T2JJaDVOQ1RDdz09

Bio: 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.
Ongoing Classes

● Shabbat Morning Torah Study
   with Rabbi Andy Vogel
   Twice a month on Shabbat mornings, Temple Sinai members gather to discuss the ideas presented by the week’s Torah portion. We begin with 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, at 9:00 am. Zoom link is publicized a few days in advance.

● Thursday Morning Study
   with Rabbi Andy Vogel
   Join us each Thursday for a lively and friendly class with Rabbi Vogel and Rabbi Talia Stein. We study a wide variety of topics, rotating to a new field of study about every six weeks or so. Thursday Study includes discussions, films, text study, and an occasional guest speaker. Join us each Thursday or feel free to drop in just once! All are welcome.
   Every Thursday, 10:15-11:45 am. Call or email the temple office to be added to the distribution list for information about the session and each week’s Zoom link.

● Daf Shevui Study Group
   Discuss a page of Talmud each week. No Hebrew knowledge required.
   Every Sunday, 9:30 am
   Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86880014386?pwd=L2IrMFVqcFFJVTdsRTZQNHVFMktVUT09

● Mindfulness and Jewish Values
   Instructor: Neil Motenko
   Description: This class will explore mindfulness and its relationship to Jewish meditation, prayer, and the cultivation of Jewish values. Mindfulness practice can enhance well-being, our ability to meet life’s challenges, and enable us to live through truth, kindness, wise discernment.
   Dates: 2 Sundays: February 6 and April 3 at 11:10 am
   Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88622857871?pwd=Y2dPMXc2VkhBTjFFOUFZc1FZQzVmZz09
   Bio: Neil Motenko is a mindfulness instructor with many years of experience. 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.

● Supporting Mindful Practice
   Facilitator: Various
   Description: This group focuses on developing mindfulness practice, sharing experiences, exploring questions, and discussing how mindfulness practices can help us live our Jewish values and develop as human beings. Each session includes time to meditate together.
   Dates: 3 Saturdays: January 15, March 19, and May 21 at 9:30 am
   Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84855637141?pwd=dGE3UGJIZW5Zbncc1eVFMMFpaYVFiUT09