

Temple Sinai News

Nissan-Iyyar 5777
Volume 44, Issue 2

April 2017
templesinaidc.org



Shabbat & Holiday Services

Saturday, April 1

Torah Reading: Vayikra (Leviticus 1:1-5:26)

- 9:15 AM Torah Study
- 10:30 AM Kehillat Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon
- 10:30 AM Shabbat Service – Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Schnure
- 5:30 PM Shabbat Mincha Service – B'not Mitzvah of Alexa & Madeleine Feldman

Friday, April 7

- 5:30 PM Prozdor (appetizers) – Tot Shabbat
- 6:00 PM Tot Shabbat Service
- 6:45 PM Participatory Dinner
- 8:00 PM Shabbat Service followed by an Oneg Shabbat

Saturday, April 8

Torah Reading: Tzav (Leviticus 6:1-8:36)

- 9:15 AM Torah Study
- 10:30 AM Simchat Shabbat Family Service & Kiddush Luncheon
- 10:30 AM Shabbat Service – Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Aurbach
- 5:30 PM Shabbat Mincha Service – Bar Mitzvah of Hank Schwabacher

Monday, April 10 – Erev Passover, 1st Seder

Tuesday, April 11 – Passover Day 1

- 9:00 AM Passover First Morning Clergy Matzoh Brei Cook-Off
- 10:00 AM Passover First Morning Community Festival Service
- 6:00 PM Community Second Seder sponsored by TSWRJ (see page 3)

Friday, April 14

- 6:00 PM Prozdor (appetizers)
- 6:30 PM Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 15

Torah Reading: Chol HaMo'ed Pesach (Exodus 33:12-34:26)

- 9:15 AM Torah Study
- 9:30 AM Praying With Our Feet at a Wider Circle
- 10:30 AM Kehillat Shabbat Service with Percussion & Kiddush Luncheon

Monday, April 17 – Passover Day 7

- 10:00 AM Community Passover Concluding Festival & Yizkor Service (Temple Emanuel)

Friday, April 21

- 6:00 PM Prozdor (appetizers)
- 6:30 PM Shabbat Service: TSWRJ (see page 9)
- 7:30 PM TSWRJ Shabbat Dinner

Saturday, April 22

Torah Reading: Sh'mini (Leviticus 9:1-11:47)

- 9:15 AM Torah Study
- 10:30 AM Shabbat Service – B'not Mitzvah of Felicia Paul & Olivia Wade
- 5:30 PM Shabbat Mincha Service – B'nai Mitzvah of Simon Lassman & Alida Camper

Sunday, April 23 – Erev Yom HaShoah

- 7:30 PM Yom HaShoah Service (see page 3)

Friday, April 28

- 6:00 PM Festive Prozdor (appetizers)
- 6:30 PM Shabbat Service: Israel

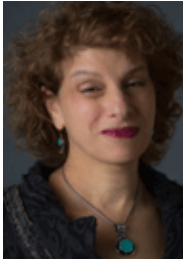
Saturday, April 29

Torah Reading: Tazria/Metzora (Leviticus 12:1-15:33)

- 9:15 AM Torah Study
- 10:30 AM Shabbat Service – B'nai Mitzvah of Hannah Their & Jessie Wiener

From Our Leadership

CANTOR'S MESSAGE



Laura Croen
Senior Cantor

This year we will begin our celebration of Passover with the first Seder on Monday, April 10th. What does this annual tradition mean to you? What are your personal family traditions? Which Haggadah resonates for you?

We each may have certain traditions that are unique to our families or we may gather with special friends to share a Seder or we may come to the temple to celebrate with the Temple Sinai community at the Second Night Seder, hosted by our WRJ (Women of Reform Judaism) group.

At our family Seder, I co-lead with my eldest brother. As you might guess, I take charge of all the musical portions of the Seder and he leads the readings, as well as calls upon all of the participants. We don't have any young children in our immediate family group right now; my kids are the youngest. They are now age 19 and 24!

My favorite foods to eat along with maztoh include matzoh ball soup, gefilteh fish, chopped liver, brisket, matzoh kugel and of course macaroons. But my most favorite special food for Passover Seder is the charoset. Charoset is that fabulous blend of chopped apples, nuts, cinnamon and sweet wine whose texture reminds us of the mortar used for the bricks when we were enslaved. The word charoset comes from the Hebrew word "cheres" (clay). I pride myself in my recipe for charoset which I learned from my Aunt Fritzi when I was in high school. Her secret weapon was Manischewitz blackberry wine; I love the special flavor that it adds to the apple and nut mixture. Of course, when you create the Hillel sandwich, putting together the maror (bitter herb) with the sweet charoset on a piece of matzoh, then you have perfection!

In whatever way that you observe Passover, the most important thing is to "Do It". This is the holiday in which we remember our Biblical Exodus from Egypt. It is the time of year when we come together to read the story

of when we fled from violence and persecution, highlighting when we were freed from slavery. As we have our own celebrations, we must remember that there are currently 65 million displaced people around the world fleeing violence and persecution in search of a safe place to call home. When we drink our four cups of wine, we remember the four ways that God helped to deliver us from the Egyptian slavery. The cup for Elijah is a fifth cup. Elijah's cup symbolizes that there is still much work to be done in our world. Although we have been freed, redemption is not complete as long as others are still enslaved and not able to have a safe haven of their own in which to live. We must remember that we were once strangers in the land of Egypt.

I feel grateful and proud that we have become a sanctuary congregation and that we have the ability to now provide a place of safety for someone who might be in need.

May your Passover observance be meaningful for you and your family at this special season.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Andrew Engel
President

Hamilton, the Purim Shpiel, is behind us and Pesach is fast approaching. As the daffodils spring forth, buds growing on trees, my thoughts turn to our Seder. This year, as in most years, we will host my family one night and venture to New Jersey for the other (I was raised conservative). My mother, whose frustration with this arcane tradition of celebrating 2 days of a holiday where one would have sufficed, realized one benefit after Karen and I married—we could have a seder with each family. And so we persist.

My memories of family seders in Cleveland, Manhattan, Washington, Millburn, NJ and the Catskills, are filled with tunes I learned in elementary school and augmented with those picked up over the years. My father leading with aplomb. I have his Haggadah annotated, including who might do which reading or lead which part of the Hallel. It was my father who always remarked that the Seder was the only time when the Hallel was chanted at night. I came to appreciate this only after his death when I was saying Kaddish daily and found myself singing Hallel every Rosh Chodesh.

My memories of Peach include noisy gatherings of 15-25, sometimes with local friends always with family. We would start early, there was still sunlight and carry well into the night. There were years when I attended seders at school because of my academic schedule—once with Chabad others with Hillel. My Zayde and Grandpa presiding, refusing to skip one sentence of the Haggadah while my stomach growled. The introductions of girl/boy friends who became spouses. When our children—the grandchildren!—came along my brother instituted questions whose correct answers were rewarded with Pesadic marshmallows. I must give props to my sister in law, Roz, whose own conversion allowed her to question our traditional practice of Kitniyot (avoiding rice and beans while not expressly forbidden)—we dropped it. A quiet revolution. (*continued on page 4*)

Worship & Holidays

1ST SEDER MATCH

Monday, April 10

Do you have a few extra places at your table? Or are you looking for somewhere to celebrate the seder?

As part of the Kathie Rabinovitz SinaiCares Program, we will be facilitating seder matches for the first night of Passover, Monday, April 10.

Please contact the SinaiCares Program Coordinator, Karen Auerbach, at kauerbach@templesinaidc.org to participate.



Come Celebrate
Second Seder
Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 6:00-9:00 pm

Coordinated by
TSWRJ
Temple Sinai
Women of
Reform Judaism
the heart of the Temple

Rabbi Hannah Goldstein
and
Cantor Laura Croen
will lead us through the reading of the Passover Story and singing of wonderful holiday songs.
Adults and children welcome!
Register at: www.templesinaidc.org/gather/tswrj

YOM HASHOAH - HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE

Sunday, April 23 at 7:30 PM

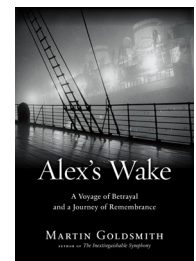


This year, we welcome Martin Goldsmith, author and nationally known radio personality to speak about his book, *Alex's Wake: A Voyage of Betrayal and a Journey of Remembrance*.

In 1939 more than 900 Jewish refugees sought to escape the growing anti-Semitism in Germany by voyaging to Cuba aboard the St. Louis. Though the ship's captain was sympathetic, Cuban officials denied asylum to the Jews. After also being turned away by the United States and Canada, St. Louis—called “the saddest ship afloat” by The New York Times—returned to Europe where Britain, France, Belgium and the Netherlands eventually accepted the refugees.

Among France's group were the Goldsmith's grandfather, Alex Goldschmidt, and uncle, Helmut Goldschmidt. France, however, proved no haven. Alex and Helmut Goldschmidt spent three years in six different camps throughout France before meeting their deaths at the concentration camp in Auschwitz, Poland.

In 2011 Martin Goldsmith and his wife, Amy, recreated his relatives' fateful European journey during a six-week odyssey. *Alex's Wake* is the poignant story of Goldsmith's efforts to fill in vital gaps in his family history, as well as of his struggles to understand his own attitudes toward the Holocaust and the people who denied help to Alex and Helmut.



This moving service will also include participation by our congregational choir, joined by the string duo of temple members Aaron and Sam Panner.

If you would like us to include the names of your family members who perished in the Holocaust on our memorial list for that service, please send those names to Melissa Lauture at mlauture@templesinaidc.org by Monday, April 17.

Member News



Mazel Tov to...

Perri Iger-Silversmith and Gary Silversmith, on the birth of their grandson, Finn Jackson; Tara Sonenshine (Gary) on her new role as Senior Career Coach at the Graduate Student Career Development at The George

Washington University; Celia and Julian Josephs, on the birth of their granddaughter, Seraphina Rose; Simon Diesenhaus, son of Jonathan Diesenhaus and Jill Lesser, on his portrayal of "Younger Brother" in the WNO production of *Dead Man Walking*.; Emily and Aviran Edery on the birth of their daughter, Audrey Leona; Seth and Sophie Ferderer on their second wedding celebration; and Vicki Bor and David DuGoff on the arrival of their grandson Robert Tasashi Behr DuGoff, son of Eva DuGoff and Helen Behr.



We mourn the deaths of...

Dan Snyder (Janet); Vera Rubin, sister of Ruth Burg (Maurice); Judith Frosh, mother of Robin Frosh (David Williams); Densmore "Denny" Henschel; and Deborah Butterworth.

We extend condolences to...

Ellen Villa (John) on the death of her mother, Marjorie Helen Brooks Edwards; Karen Spar (Stuart Kriss) on the death of her mother, Shirley Schwartz; Terry Fry on the death of his grandmother, Catherine Grasley; Karen Walker (Darwin) on the death of her father, Albert Goldstein; Aleta Margolis (Michael Brodsky) on the death of her father, Lawrence Margolis; Linda Popejoy (Seth Speyer) on the death of her father, Don Popejoy; Mark Levine (Sara Imershein) on the death of his father, Leon Levine; Gary Friend (Tara Sonenshine) on the death of his sister-in-law Linda Friend; Joyce Schwartz (Richard) on the death of her father, Dr. Wallace Rubin; Sharon Masling (Mark) on the death of her mother, Marilyn Perley; Eric Bord (Deborah Smolover) on the death of his stepfather, Fred Fiske; and Thomas Plotz (Catherine Klion) on the death of his mother, Lucille Plotz; Steven Honigberg (Jessica) on the death of his father, Joel Honigberg; Lafe Solomon (Cam Crockett) on the death of his father, David Solomon; Lucy Eldridge (Laurence Freedman) on the death of her stepfather, Jimmy Breslin; and Lili Bender (Avi) on the death of her father, Zvi Lewkowicz.

NEW FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VAN SERVICE



Thanks to a partnership with Temple Sinai's neighbor, Ingleside at Rock Creek, we will be able to offer free roundtrip van service from stops in Friendship Heights to Temple Sinai for select services and events. If you are interested in getting rides on the van, please contact Karen Auerbach, SinaiCares Program Coordinator, at kauerbach@templesinai.org for more details.

April Offerings

Monday, April 3: Daytimers

Friday, April 21: TSWRJ Shabbat

(continued from page 2) As the chef, my mother hated Pesach. At my father's insistence, we changed dishes and pots and pans. (Who needs this fuss?) The food was bland. Jarred gefilte fish? Matzah, need I say more. The prolonged seder itself led to dried out entrees. And tzimmes, who knew prunes and carrots counted as a proper vegetable? And lousy desserts for a week. My bubbie, whose skills in the kitchen were modest, made potato kugel—the best—and sponge cake, not so much. So mom made baked gefilte fish. A marked improvement on the store bought kind. Flavorful, visually interesting not shrouded in jelly. It was mom's addition to tradition. Her pride and joy. With mom's gefilte fish I knew I would not starve at the seder. Last year I followed her recipe but used salmon and halibut. This year, I will again bake gefilte fish.

May each of you find your own Pesach traditions, add something new to the tried and true. Please pass the chrain.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Sarah Chatzkel and her children, Lucy & Lauren Steinberg

Jessica & Jonathan Dishell and their children, Robert & Ryan

Tracey Dorfmann & Mitch Polun, and daughter Hannah Slayer

Catherine & Micah Gibson and their daughter, Noa Pearl

Mason Kalfus & Susan Burgess and their children, Jeremy, Ryan & Sadie

Peter Katz & Marla Hollander and their children, Benjamin & Lili

James Kessler & Susan Kidd and their children, Daniel & Jack

Rachel & Ariel Levinson-Waldman and their children, Sarah & Eli

Rachel & Gilead Light and their children, Noah & Maya

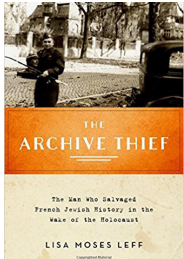
Adam & Jordan Cohen and their children, Juliet & Gabrielle

David Stoopler & Natalie Orpett

In Our Community

LIBRARY NEWS

Passover is April's big event, with the first Seder on the 10th. Haggadot will again be available to borrow; look for the cart in the library. Books about Passover are featured on the carousel. An extensive section of wonderful children's books is also available. Many of our cookbooks feature fascinating sections on Pesach foods, including both traditional recipes and opportunities for creative cookery.



Dr. Lisa Leff, AU Associate Professor of History and Temple Sinai member, has been awarded the prestigious Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature. Her book, *The Archive Thief: The Man Who Salvaged French Jewish History in the Wake of the Holocaust*, is an engrossing true tale which reads like a mystery novel. It chronicles the illegal pillaging of tens of thousands of Jewish documents from European archives

after WWII, the moving of which to U. S. university and other libraries actually rescued irreplaceable documents. Dr. Leff has spoken several times at TS events; her focus on French Jewish history enriches all of us. She is using the \$100,000 award money to complete her newest book, a history of the 1892 Panama Affair, a financial and political scandal involving corruption in the French company that started to build the Panama Canal.

The Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature award recognizes the unique role of contemporary writers in the transmission and examination of the Jewish experience. It is intended to encourage and promote outstanding writing of Jewish interest. Each year, the prize aims to reward an emerging writer whose work has demonstrated a fresh vision and evidence of further growth. Many of the authors on the Temple Library annotated bibliography "Recommended New Israeli Fiction" have received this award. You can access this

and other Bibliographies on the library page of the temple website or pick up a hard copy in the library to find some other good reads.

Other bibliographies being developed by Library Committee members include the current Israeli political situation and Social Action. Dealing With Challenges of Health and Differences and Newer Israeli Fiction are being updated as new books become available.

Talking about good reads, lots of books with Jewish themes have been published recently, both fiction and non-fiction. Two have been featured in the All-Temple Reads, co-sponsored by TSWRJ and the Library Committee, Michael Chabon's *Moonglow* and Jonathan Safran Foer's *Here I Am*. Don't limit yourself to these highly publicized books; a multitude of others are featured in the New Books sections on the carousel and the shelves to the left of the library entrance. Several that we particularly liked will be featured in the next newsletter.

The People of the Book group, sponsored by the Library, will continue on June 13. Watch the newsletter to be issued in May for the next selection. Next year's series is already under consideration since there are so many new good books from which to choose!

This month we celebrate both Earth Day and Holocaust Remembrance Day. Resources on both are in the collection and on the carousel.

Contact Ruth Polk, Librarian, rpolk@templesinaidc.org, Janis Colton, jrcolton@aol.com, or Herb Mintz, mintzh@comcast.net, co-chairs of the Library Committee, for further information or to join our extensive group of volunteers. Next month this column will tell you of new initiatives!

GREEN TEAM NEWS

Resources for Combating Climate Change

On Tu BiSh'vat, the Temple Sinai Green Team and Social Action Committee sponsored a service, dinner, and discussion focused on confronting the climate crisis. Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, the new director of the Religious Action Center and TS member, spoke at the service. The handout distributed at the event, which identifies actions we can take as individuals, locally and regionally, nationally and internationally to confront the climate crisis is available here: <http://tinyurl.com/TSClimateResources>.

Temple Sinai Board Gives Green Light to Comprehensive Landscape Plan

In February, the Temple Sinai Board approved funding to develop a comprehensive, multiyear landscape plan for the Temple grounds. Goals include reducing stormwater runoff and soil erosion, while also beautifying the grounds, improving accessibility, and creating new functional spaces. This is the first environmentally sensitive project focused on the exterior Temple space to be developed in recent years. We will be working on the design with landscape designers and engineers this spring and summer and hope the initial phases of the project (e.g. rain gardens, bayscaping, planting and protecting trees) can begin during the fall of 2017. If you wish to become involved (and are not already on the Green Team landscape subcommittee), contact Robyn Miller-Tarnoff (robymt@comcast.net) or Regina Ziegler (zieglerrg@gmail.com).

Sinai House



Sunday, May 14th at 8 AM
Rock Creek Park, Grove 24
SinaiHouseDC5K.com

Registration is now open for the third annual Tricia Davis 5K Walk/Run for Sinai House on Sunday, May 14 at 8 am at Rock Creek Park. Celebrate Mother's Day by running or walking as a family -- and still have time to take mom out to brunch after the race! Proceeds from this event will directly support Sinai House in its mission to enable families to move from homelessness to independence by providing safe and affordable housing, comprehensive social services and financial support.

Register for the 5K race as a runner or walker, for the Fun Run, or as a virtual runner (if you can't attend) at SinaiHouseDC5K.com. You can create your own Personal Fundraising Page, join or start a team, and enlist family and friends to support your fundraising goal. An award ceremony will take place at Rock Creek Park immediately following the race. Strollers and dogs on non-extendible, 3' leashes are welcome. Last year's



event was a great success with over 350 registered participants. Send an e-mail to development@templesinai.org or visit SinaiHouseDC5K.com to find about sponsorship opportunities and include your company's logo on the event T-shirt and your material in the race registration packet.



We run, walk and celebrate to honor the memory of Tricia Davis, a founder and early supporter of Sinai House. Tricia brought energy, excitement and passion to everything that she did, and Sinai House was no exception.

Kudos and Thank You to:



Ben Freedman, Temple Sinai member and volunteer for leading the Art and Craft Group with the Sinai House children in creating decorations for Valentine's Day Preparation.

Benjamin Schnure, Temple Sinai member and volunteer tutor. You can see him with his tutee Femi, in front of the great Valentine's Day Dinner for the families that he helped plan. Thank you, Benjamin for being a great tutor and event volunteer!

Temple Sinai Social Action Committee for awarding a \$9,600 grant to fund a Career Pathways Program for our Sinai House alumni.

Temple Sinai Men of Reform Judaism, on identifying and repairing items in the resident apartments and around the building, including finding and installing appropriate kitchen cabinet replacements. The Brotherhood also supports and supervises B'nai Mitzvot projects.



Learn more about Sinai House at www.sinaihouse.org and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sinai.house.7!

Social Action

The Social Action Committee works to meet the temple's commitment to social action in ways that link Jewish spirituality and ethics through strategic and transformative social justice programming. The committee aims to strengthen the temple's commitment to Sinai House; focus on justice issues that were identified in congregation-wide discussions in 2011-2012; establish new areas of focus as appropriate, including youth homelessness, gun violence and immigration; and strengthen Temple Sinai as a progressive faith voice in DC.

The committee awarded grants from the Eugene Lipman Social Action and Tzedakah Fund to the following grantees:

- **Community Purchasing Alliance**, a co-op that supports vendors organized on a worker-owned cooperative model that coordinates purchasing by DC area nonprofits, including Temple Sinai, of services from vendors vetted for environmental sustainability and fair labor practices (\$5,000).
- **Friendship Place**, a nonprofit that empowers veterans, families and others experiencing homelessness to rebuild their lives (\$2,500)
- **Project Mensch**, a temple program that enlists volunteers to provide direct support to students, teachers and families at Highland Elementary School in Silver Spring and Roosevelt Senior H. S. in DC (\$2,000)
- **Sinai Assisted Living Housing Foundation**, a non-profit created by temple members that supports families transitioning from homelessness (\$9,600)
- **SMYAL (Supporting & Mentoring Youth Advocates and Leaders)**, an organization that supports and empowers LGBTQ youth in DC (\$2,000)
- **Tzedek DC**, a newly formed nonprofit whose mission is to safeguard the legal rights of low-income DC residents dealing with unjust debt collection practices (\$5,000)

In addition to administering grants from the Lipman Fund, the committee co-sponsored and supported the work of Temple Sinai's Green Team and the Gun Violence Prevention Group (GVPG), and has fielded a temple "Core Team" to participate in the work of the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN). Members of the Committee have taken the lead in organizing projects to provide eyeglasses to Wheatley Elementary School students in DC, develop tutoring and summer reading programs for Wheatley students, and support Roosevelt H.S. teachers and staff. The committee also supports the temple's work on immigration and refugee assistance. In February 2017, the committee signed on to a letter from a DC Fiscal Policy Institute coalition to the Mayor and Council of the District of Columbia advocating reforms to the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program.

For more information or to join the Social Action Committee, visit www.templestinaidc.org/act or email Barbara Kraft, bjkraft1@gmail.com.



MARCH WITH THE GREEN TEAM TO SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENT

Saturday, April 29

The People's Climate Movement will march and rally in DC and elsewhere on Saturday, April 29. See www.peoplesclimate.org for more information. Several groups are coordinating Jewish participation in the People's Climate March, along with a Shabbat event. If you are interested in helping to organize a Temple Sinai contingent for either event, please contact Regina Ziegler (zieglerrg@gmail.com). To sign up for the bus from Temple Sinai to the mall, visit www.april29climatemarch.eventbrite.com.



VOLUNTEER AT SOME

Sunday, April 23 (and every 4th Sunday of the month), 6:45-9:30 AM

For the past decade, a cohort of Temple Sinai members has been religiously serving a hearty breakfast to 400 hungry and appreciative Washington, DC residents at So Others May Eat (SOME), located at 71 O Street, NW. On January 22, 2016, following the Inauguration and Women's March on Washington, Temple Sinai members also donated 400 sandwiches, trays of chicken, rice, beans, and plantains and hats and socks.

If you are an adult or teen (must be accompanied by an adult) and wish to join this group of volunteers, contact Howard Oppenheim (Howard.I.Oppenheim@gmail.com or 301-587-5017).

April Happenings

DAYTIMERS

A New Administration Confronts the Old Middle East

Monday, April 3 at 12:45 PM



Guest Speaker: Kenneth M. Pollack

Last year Kenneth Pollack talked to the DayTimers concerning the situation in the Middle East as it existed a year ago. He outlined a framework for understanding what was going on in the Middle East, how to think about this issues and options faced by the United States. How has the situation changed with the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States? Will Middle East policies change? These are just two of many questions confronting the American public as we begin a new Administration.

Kenneth M. Pollack is an expert on Middle Eastern political-military affairs, with particular emphasis on Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the other nations of the Persian Gulf region. He currently is a senior fellow in the Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution. He and his wife Andrea Koppel-Pollack are long term members of Temple Sinai.

Everyone is welcome. Bring a brown bag lunch and visit with your friends before the program. Cookies, fruit, coffee and tea are provided. A contribution of \$3 per person is requested to cover basic costs. Please let us know if you will attend, and bring friends. If you need a ride, call the temple office at (202) 363-6394. For reservations, please contact Libby and Ron Merrill at (301) 365-0894 or e-mail rlmerrill@msn.com with your name and the names of persons attending with you by Friday, March 31.

BROTHERHOOD HOEDOWN & CHILI COOKOFF

Saturday, April 29 at 7 PM



Y'all come, y'hear, to the rescheduled Hoedown and Chili Cookoff!

This year we are aiming to make it even more family friendly, since everybody – parents and kids alike – gets into Texas-style line dancing. And we have the same super dance teacher everybody loved at our hoedown a couple of years ago.

Round up some friends. Let's make it a big and happy party.

Family friendly prices: Adults \$20. Kids \$5. And family friendly food: chili, tacos, brownies, ice cream, soda (and beer for the grownups).

Sign up now at www.tinyurl.com/ts-mrj-hoedown2017. For more information, contact the Brotherhood at brotherhood-mrj@templesinaidc.org.

See you at the Hoedown.

YOUTH EVENTS



NFTY Spring Kallah

April 20-23

Teens in 8th-12th Grade are invited for a weekend with other Reform Jewish teens in our region. Whether it's your first event or your last, we welcome you to join us at Spring Kallah and participate in the Regional Board elections process, meaningful services, amazing programs, and have a chance to say goodbye to your NFTY-MAR senior class. Voting. Laughing. Social Action. Praying. Speaking up. Come to Spring Kallah, and say what YOU need to say. Sign up online at www.midatlantic.nfty.org or contact Kelly Whitehead at kwhitehead@templesinaidc.org for more information.

Sinaites Election and Matzah Ball

Saturday, April 29

After electing our 5778 Sinaites Board, 8th-12th graders are invited for a night of food, dancing, Passover education, and fun! This semi-formal night will be your chance to have a ball before the school year ends! Contact Kelly Whitehead at kwhitehead@templesinaidc.org for more information.

April Happenings



Temple Sinai Women of Reform Judaism Invite All to Celebrate
TSWRJ (Sisterhood) Shabbat at Temple Sinai
Friday, April 21st, 2017 (immediately followed by dinner)
6 pm – Prozdor (appetizers) 6:30 pm – Shabbat Service
No reservation is required for the Shabbat Service, which begins at 6:30 pm.
Register at: www.templestinaidc.org/gather/tswrj

Resist, Persist, Insist: Fight for Women's Rights Guest Speaker: Marcia Greenberger

Founder and Co-President of National Women's Law Center & Temple Sinai member

The creation of the Center forty-five years ago established her as the first full-time women's rights legal advocate in Washington, D.C. A recognized expert on women and the law, particularly in the areas of education and employment, health and reproductive rights, and family economic security, Ms. Greenberger has been a leader in securing the passage of major legislation, counsel in landmark litigation establishing new legal protections for women, and the author of numerous published articles.



Please participate in our tzedakah project by contributing to the National Women's Law Center in honor of our speaker, Marcia Greenberger. A tzedakah box will be available before the service.

WRJ Mid-Atlantic District Area 4 Day: Panel Discussion: Building Coalitions

Saturday, April 29, 2017

Organized by Gabrielle Grunau, Area Director

American University, Letts Hall
(details on exact location upon registration)
4400 Mass. Avenue, Washington DC
1:00–3:00 pm

Keynote Speaker: Leslie Brier

Member of North American Advisory Board of the World Union for Progressive Judaism and United Nations team.

Gabrielle Grunau and Leslie Brier will lead a panel discussion about building coalitions. Bobbe Mintz and Fran Rothstein will represent Temple Sinai. Other panelists will include representatives from Area 4 Synagogues such as Beth El Hebrew Congregation, Temple Beth Ami, and Washington Hebrew Congregation.

Parking is free and available in garages under the Katzen Arts Center or the School of International Service.

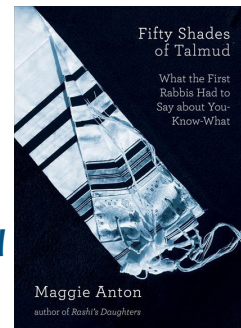
Space is limited. For more information or to RSVP please contact Gabrielle Grunau by April 1 at: gabrielle.grunau@gmail.com or call her at 301-229-7630.

Join us for a lively discussion with celebrated author, **Maggie Anton** about her latest book **50 Shades of Talmud** April 30, 2017

Sunday, 3:00–5:00 pm
3100 Military Road • Washington, DC

Amusing. Seductive. Stimulating. We're talking about the Talmud? That's right. Take fifty actual Talmudic discussions, mix in pithy sayings (appropriate and inappropriate) by luminaries from Mae West and Amy Schumer to George Washington and Gandhi, add a few cartoons, and voila, delighted and enlightened readers will come away with a new perspective on what the ancient Jewish sages say about our most intimate relationships. (amazon.com)

Please RSVP to Sally Kranz: sallykranz@aol.com.



Sinai Stories

Story telling is a part of our Jewish tradition—it connects us with each other and our shared history, and binds us together for the future. Sinai Stories is a series about our own connections to one another, Temple Sinai, and the larger Jewish community. If you are interested in sharing your story, please email coordinator Marcie Solomon at marcie.solomon@gmail.com.

MOMENTS AND ENCOUNTERS

Anthony Murphy



On hearing that I had converted to Judaism many African-Americans -- family members, friends and even recent acquaintances, have all basically asked the same question “How are you being treated...?” Typically I give recent acquaintances the succinct response of “Well.” With family and friends I offer a more nuanced response. I tell them of my experience meeting Rabbi Oleon or, better stated, of how she spotted me, the stranger approaching the tent, and came out to greet me. I tell them of the people I have met and of those who have left an impression upon me. I speak of moments and encounters, of my “adopted Jewish parents” who invited to my first Break Fast long before I became a Jew-by-choice, of my “auntie and uncle” whom I do not see regularly but who are always glad to see me and I them, and of my “big sister” who helped direct me to the entrance of Temple Sinai on that faithful day, Friday, March 23, 2012. Yet, while these experiences were seminal moments on my path to Judaism, it has not always been easy being in this space.

It takes *chutzpah* to enter a religious space that historically does not have a significant African-American population, this despite the joining together of the two seemingly dissimilar communities during the civil rights movement. In this space I have been stared at, not with a glaring look but with a look that lasted one second longer than it should have. And sometimes there is the experience of being in Temple and no one says hello. I am reminded of a quote by the Noble Laureate Elie Wiesel, “*The opposite of love is not hate, it’s indifference. The opposite of beauty is not ugliness, it’s indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it’s indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, but indifference between life and death.*” I have felt pangs of aloneness caused by this indifference while sitting among those who value, or so it is taught, the importance of community. Yet, in spite of these all too frequent moments, I have found a community that I value.

A community of people who are not only welcoming but inviting, offering not merely the perfunctory “Shabbat Shalom” but an invitation to become a part of the fabric of their lives. In my short time at Temple Sinai I have been fortunate/ blessed to have not only attended multiple Shabbat dinners, Break Fasts & Passover Seders, but just regular lunch outings, talking in the Temple’s parking lot long after Friday night services have concluded, and taking a road trip to Baltimore to visit the Lloyd Street Synagogue.

Becoming a part of a community where one has no innate attachment can be a daunting endeavor. It is an experience that has, thus far, been filled with the highest of highs and unfortunately, the lowest of lows. However, the journey into and within Judaism is still being written.

WINTER WITH SINAI

From the Women’s March to Purim to bowling and havdallah, Temple Sinai members and clergy have been having a blast!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<h1>April 2017</h1>					<p>1</p> 9:15AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Schnure 10:30 AM Kehillat Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon 5:30PM B'not Mitzvah of Alexa & Madeleine Feldman
<p>2</p> Religious School with 5 th Grade Family Learning, Confirmation, Junior Choir, Limmudei Sinai & Adult Hebrew Classes	<p>3</p> Nursery School Librarian Available Religious School Teacher Training 12:45 PM Daytimers	<p>4</p> Nursery School Chug Ivrit & Noar 10:00 AM Rabbi's Class	<p>5</p> Nursery School Librarian Available Chug Ivrit 1:00 PM Archives Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Nursery School Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Officers' Meeting 7:30 PM Religious School Committee Meeting 7:30 PM WRJ Mah Jong	<p>6</p> Nursery School Chug Ivrit 6:45 PM Aerobics 7:15 PM Adult Hebrew Kitah Dalet	<p>7</p> Nursery School with Model Seder 5:30 PM Prozdor (appetizers) 6:00 PM Tot Shabbat Service 6:45 PM Participatory Dinner 8:00 PM Shabbat Service followed by an Oneg Shabbat	<p>8</p> 9:15 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Aurbach 10:30 AM Simchat Shabbat Family Service & Kiddush Luncheon 5:30 PM Bar Mitzvah of Hank Schwabacher
<p>9</p> Temple Closed	<p>10</p> Erev Passover Temple Closed	<p>11</p> Passover Day 1 9:00 AM Clergy Matzoh Brei Cook-Off 10:00 AM Community Festival Service 6:00 PM Community 2 nd Seder sponsored by TSWRJ	<p>12</p> Librarian Available 1:00 PM Archives Committee Meeting 7:30 PM WRJ Mah Jong	<p>13</p> 6:45 PM Aerobics 7:30 PM Inner Ladder Mussar Course 7:30 PM Sinai House Meeting	<p>14</p> 6:00 PM Prozdor (appetizers) 6:30 PM Shabbat Service	<p>15</p> 9:15 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Praying with Our Feet at A Wider Circle 10:30 AM Kehillat Shabbat Service with Percussion & Kiddush Luncheon 8:00 PM Theater J Night Out: <i>Brighton Beach Memoirs</i>
<p>16</p> Temple Closed Adult Hebrew Classes (offsite)	<p>17</p> Passover Day 7 Temple Closed 10:00 AM Community Passover Concluding Festival & Yizkor Service (Temple Emanuel)	<p>18</p> Passover Day 8 Nursery School 10:00 AM Rabbi's Class	<p>19</p> Nursery School Librarian Available 1:00 PM Archives Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30 PM WRJ Mah Jong	<p>20</p> Spring Kallah Nursery School 6:45 PM Aerobics 7:15 PM Adult Hebrew Kitah Dalet 7:15 PM YAWS Meeting	<p>21</p> NFTY Spring Kallah Nursery School with Shabbat Sing 6:00 PM Prozdor (appetizers) 6:30 PM Shabbat Service: TSWRJ 7:30 PM TSWRJ Shabbat Dinner	<p>22</p> NFTY Spring Kallah 9:15 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM B'not Mitzvah of Felicia Paul & Olivia Wade 5:30 PM B'nai Mitzvah of Simon Lassman & Alida Camper
<p>23</p> Erev Yom HaShoah NFTY Spring Kallah Religious School, Confirmation, Junior Choir, Limmudei Sinai & Adult Hebrew Classes 9:30 AM WRJ Board Meeting 7:30 PM Yom HaShoah Service	<p>24</p> Yom HaShoah Nursery School Librarian Available	<p>25</p> Nursery School Chug Ivrit & Noar 7:30 PM Bar/Bat Mitzvah Task Force Meeting	<p>26</p> Nursery School Librarian Available Chug Ivrit 1:00 PM Archives Committee Meeting 7:30 PM WRJ Mah Jong	<p>27</p> Adult South Trip Nursery School Chug Ivrit 6:45 PM Aerobics 7:15 PM Adult Hebrew Kitah Dalet 7:30 PM Inner Ladder Mussar Course	<p>28</p> Adult South Trip Nursery School with Shabbat Sing 6:00 PM Festive Prozdor (appetizers) 6:30 PM Shabbat Service: Israel	<p>29</p> Adult South Trip 9:00 AM Bus to People's Climate March 9:15 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM B'nai Mitzvah Hannah Thier & Jessie Wiener
<p>30</p> Erev Yom HaZikaron Adult South Trip Religious School, Confirmation, Junior Choir, Limmudei Sinai & Adult Hebrew Classes 3:00PM WRJ Presents: 50 Shades of Talmud						

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