

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a blue mug with an orange interior and an open book. The person is wearing a grey and black patterned sweater. The background is blurred.

Limud Sinai 5782

Fall Quad 2021
October/November



Learning and Wisdom to Enrich our Lives

Introducing our new Adult Learning Initiative for 5782 (2021/2022)! We have chosen the name Limud Sinai to emphasize the inventive and exciting elements of this new program. *Limud* means “Learning” in Hebrew, the guiding principle that will accompany us as we mine our Jewish tradition for wisdom to elevate and enrich our lives. At Temple Sinai, we believe that learning does not merely represent the acquisition of knowledge, but also the internalizing of wisdom to better our lives and align ourselves with the highest standards of our tradition. The centerpiece of Limud Sinai is an exciting curriculum based around collaborative, Sunday morning conversation, a curriculum that roughly follows the rich tapestry of Jewish life over the millennia.



Additional Limud opportunities include lunch & learns, Melton content, book & film discussions, and provocative guest speakers to illuminate various aspects of Jewish life. Finally, we will be introducing on-demand content via podcasts that will punctuate our Limud program throughout the 4 quads.

As of the publishing date, we are planning to offer concurrent learning (in-person at Temple Sinai as well as virtual via zoom). If this needs to change, we will let you know via our normal weekly emails as well as online calendar at templesinaiatlanta.org/calendar. If you have any questions about any program, please contact Rabbi Natan Trief, Director of Adult Learning and PNK Learning Center Librarian at ntrief@templesinaiatlanta.org. We look forward to learning with you this year!



<p>Quad 1 (October/November) In the Beginning: Jewish Origins</p>	<p>Quad 2 (December/January) Elevating the Moments: Jewish Time</p>
<p>Quad 3 (February/March) Creating Meaning: Jewish Life</p>	<p>Quad 4 (April/May) A Shared Fate: the Jewish Story</p>



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Books & Film



Rona Balsler Book Club

Tuesday, November 16 (7 pm)

Our long-running Rona Balsler Book Club offers provocative and stimulating discussion around themes that affect all of us. As always, the conversation will be led by highly skilled and seasoned facilitator, Greg Changnon. Book selections--typically a notable work of fiction with a Jewish theme--are determined by participants.



Screening: *The New Jew*

Date and Time TBD

Join us in partnership with Congregation Or Chadash as we screen one of the hottest new Israeli TV series, *The New Jew*, along with its producer Moshe Samuels. The series has won critical acclaim in Israel and abroad for tackling a very complex and loaded subject-- Relations between Israel and Diaspora Jewry with a unique spin, sensitivity, and humor.



Film Series: *Crip Camp*

Tuesday, November 30 (7 pm)
3rd night of Chanukah

Our Hineini Committee is excited to bring this film event to Sinai. A trailblazing summer camp galvanizes a group of teens with disabilities to help build a movement, forging a new path toward greater equality. Barack and Michelle Obama served as executive producers of this 2020 American documentary film, winner of an Audience Award at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival.



Lunch & Learns



Holiday Brunch & Learn: Sukkot **Tuesday, September 21 (11:15 am)**

We will be kicking off our holiday lunch & learn series during this festive holiday of Sukkot. Join one of the clergy immediately following the 10:00 am Sukkot Service for a conversation about the Festival and all of its profound implications. Sukkot is *zman simchateynu*, the holiday of happiness par excellence. How do we celebrate the bounty of our lives while also recognizing the fleeting nature of life? Join us in the sukkah as we ponder the meaning of it all!



Biblical Hebrew Lunch & Learns **October 14 and 21 (12 pm)**

Join Rabbi Natan as we unpack some of the complexities and curiosities of Biblical Hebrew, the eternal language of the Hebrew Scriptures. These two lunch & learns will kick-off our year of studying Hebrew, ranging from biblical to liturgical to modern Hebrew. An ability to read the letters of the aleph-bet will be very helpful, though anyone is welcome. If you have any questions about learning Hebrew, please contact Rabbi Natan.



Lunch & Learn Discussion **Tuesday, November 2 (12 pm)**

Join a member of Sinai's clergy for a stimulating discussion on a book or article that has captivated their imagination during this season, one which relates to themes relevant to this New Year 5782. No prior reading necessary. Snacks and drinks provided, though attendees are welcome to bring a lunch.



Sunday Morning Learning

In the Beginning: Jewish Origins

Quad 1: Fall 5782/2021

The Sunday Morning Learning curriculum is for the novice student in Judaism, the advanced, and everyone in between. The topics focus on the most profound building blocks of Judaism, and the conversation will reflect the scope of Jewish learning throughout the centuries. Jewish life has never been dull, and these Limud Sunday Morning conversations will showcase it in all its intensity... from independence to slavery, trauma to redemption. This first quad focuses on questions of Jewish origin and identity, as well as the foundations of Jewish prayer and theology.

Please consider registering for the entire quad (5 Sunday Morning Sessions) online or by contacting Rabbi Natan. See you there!



Who are the Jewish People?

Sunday, October 3 (10 am)

Throughout the ages, many scholars and experts have disagreed on the most fundamental of questions: Who are the Jews and what is Judaism? Why has Hebrew accompanied us for so many thousands of years, and why is it still relevant today? Together, we will explore these basic, yet complex questions, weaving in personal stories as we delve into some of Judaism's most profound texts. We will discuss the fundamental pillars of God, Torah, and Israel, as well as dive into the complexities involving Jewish identity and peoplehood.



Sunday Morning Learning

People of the Book

Sunday, October 17 (10 am)

What does it mean to call ourselves *Am HaSefer*, the People of the Book? How has this affinity for the written word accompanied us throughout the centuries and solidified our existence and continuity on the global stage? In addressing these questions, we'll conduct a survey of the major books of the Jewish tradition: the Tanach (Hebrew Bible), Talmud, Midrash, Codes and Commentary, as well as Responsa. Far from historical relics, these books continue to inform and influence Jewish thought and contemporary religious practice.



Jewish Prayer and Synagogue

Sunday, October 24 (10 am)

Prayer is, undoubtedly, one of the most recognizable practices of Judaism, but what defines it at its core? Must prayer follow a defined path? Is there a difference between a prayer and a blessing? Can I pray individually or must it be in a group of 10? Join us as we delve into some of the defining features of Jewish prayer. As well, we will discuss the key features of a sanctuary and synagogue. Even those who consider themselves regulars at Sinai services will have much to learn (and share) in this stimulating discussion.



Sunday Morning Learning

Biblical Matriarchs and Heroines

Sunday, November 7 (10 am)

Even though the crucible through which the Bible came into existence was a strictly patriarchal society, female voices are strong and abundant throughout the intense drama of the Bible. Join us as we discuss some of the female protagonists and prophetesses, and gauge the major impact they had on society. Without their ingenuity, drive, courage, and humor, the Bible would not have attained its deserved status as a monumental work of faith and literature. In examining the legacies of these heroines, we will come to better understand the true strength of the eternal Jewish People.



Jewish Theology: (What do we Believe?)

Sunday, November 14 (10 am)

There is likely no topic which fosters as much uncertainty and consternation as Jewish theology. Is it possible to explain Jewish theology in clear, easy to understand terms? We'll discuss the fundamentals of Jewish theology including God, *Brit* (covenant), Chosenness, Holiness, *Mitzvah*, and *Halacha* (Jewish law). Although theological perspectives vary amongst Jews, looking at it together we can demystify and elucidate some of the key ideas. No question is too big (Heaven? Afterlife? Original sin?) or small (actually...they're all kind of big!) Join us and we'll figure it out together.



Melton School for Temple Sinai

Jewish Answers to Life's Most Challenging Questions Tuesdays in October: 5, 12, 19, 26 (10 am)

This year's new four-part course of study, ***Jewish Answers to Life's Most Challenging Questions***, offers thought-provoking approaches to the eternal mystery of the Divine's involvement in our lives. Source texts include teachings preserved in Jewish tradition as well as lessons learned from lived experiences. The course explores answers to timeless questions through the eyes of the rabbinic sages as well as modern thinkers and presents multiple Jewish approaches in our quest for understanding.

Taught by Rabbi Natan, this course focuses on the enigmatic questions that trouble most people at one time or another: Why do good people suffer? Why is there so much evil in the world? How can a benevolent and omnipotent God allow for this? (Conveniently, many of these discussions align with the themes of the Sunday Morning Learning curriculum as well.)

This course is open to all Sinai members and requires pre-registration (\$40 cost). Though the class will take place at Temple Sinai, as with all Limud sessions this year, a virtual option (via zoom) will be available as well. If you have any questions about registration, please contact Rabbi Natan.



On Demand

Seeking Sinai

Temple Sinai's New Monthly Podcast

Join your Temple Sinai clergy as we expand our offerings to include on-demand content. Each month, we will release a podcast featuring the clergy in conversation around the question "Why?" Unlike traditional class offerings, these ~20-minute podcasts may be accessed on your phone whenever convenient for you. Whether dropping the kids at school, running errands, heading to work, or meeting a friend, why not add some spiritual enrichment and meaning to your day. Be on the lookout for our podcast trailer wherever you listen: Spotify, Apple, or Google.

October: Why God?

Join Rabbi Segal in discussion with Rabbi Natan as we kick off this series and talk about the BIG three letter word, a word many Jews will not even write out in full! Why has God captivated the Jewish spirit for millennia, and what role can God play in our lives today? Can you be Jewish and *not* believe in God? Join us for our inaugural and casual conversation!



November: Why Pray?

Prayer is not magical thinking and yet it is often treated this way. Why have the Jewish people prayed with such perseverance and passion for so many years? How can prayer enhance our own lives and what are some prayer practices that can facilitate this? Join your Sinai clergy as they demystify the art, meaning, and potential of prayer.



Take Out Judaism

Whenever, Wherever

In the intimate and comfortable setting of someone's home, you and your friends can gather to schmooze, eat and learn with one of our amazing clergy and educators. Want to learn and discuss Israel in a casual setting? What about biblical humor or the secrets of life? Or why not jam to some Jewish tunes with Cantor Beth? Choose one of the available courses offered on our Take Out Judaism menu, coordinate a date to host with the appropriate instructor, and gather at least ten guests. You provide the takeout, we'll provide a thought-provoking discussion, and together we'll enjoy a memorable and fun evening! Contact Rabbi Natan or instructor directly if you are interested in hosting an event. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/sinaitakeoutjudaism> to view the menu of classes.

