



# Limud Sinai 5783

Trimester 1



temple  
sinai   
*Your Journey. Your Home.*

*Ideas that Matter:  
Wisdom to Enrich Our Lives*



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Welcome to our second year of Limud Sinai! Limud means “Learning” and expresses our Jewish commitment to always keep wisdom and knowledge top-of-mind. We hope and expect that this coming year of 5783 will be another rich and stimulating one. Based on your feedback, we have made significant changes to the list of offerings as we strive to remain relevant and engage the diverse needs and desires of our congregants.



Your clergy and faculty are very excited to dive into some deep learning, and have conversations of meaning and wisdom. Moreover, as this year marks Israel’s 75th birthday, we look forward to many ways of elevating the Jewish State and learning about her incredible story.

A few things to keep in mind as we commence this new year of growth and learning:

- Though some events will remain hybrid learning, many others will prioritize in-person or virtual learning experiences
- Wednesday evenings will become the new destination for many of the programs
- NEW interfaith series co-taught by Rabbi Segal and the Rev. Dr. Bill Murray, *Shared Narratives, Diverse Interpretations*
- NEW *Living Room* Limud series where we will meet in various homes for small-group discussions over wine and hor d’oeuvres
- NEW Intro to Judaism class for those exploring Judaism and for those who want to brush up their knowledge
- NEW *Wednesday Night Limud*, where we will study from a new, groundbreaking curriculum from the Hartman Center in Jerusalem
- NEW Lounging in the Library, as we elevate and increase usage of the PNK Library/Learning Center

All zoom-available classes will meet at [tinyurl.com/sinaiprogramming](https://tinyurl.com/sinaiprogramming) (password:5645). As always, please contact Rabbi Natan ([ntrief@templesinaiatlanta.org](mailto:ntrief@templesinaiatlanta.org)) with any questions.

Ideas that Matter: Wisdom to Enrich our Lives		
<b>Trimester 1</b> (September-November)	<b>Trimester 2</b> (December-February)	<b>Trimester 3</b> (March-May)



IDEAS THAT MATTER: WISDOM TO ENRICH OUR LIVES

## Special Events



### Shared Narratives, Diverse Interpretations

- Wednesday, August 31 (7:00 - 8:15 PM, Temple Sinai)  
*The Garden of Eden*
- Wednesday, September 7 (7:00 - 8:15 PM, Holy Innocents')  
*The Binding of Isaac*
- Wednesday, September 14 (7:00 - 8:15 PM, Temple Sinai)  
*The Exodus & Passover*
- Wednesday, September 21 (7:00 - 8:15 PM, Holy Innocents')  
*Isaiah & The Suffering Servant*

### In-Person Learning at Temple Sinai & Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church

We begin our Limud trimester with some fascinating interfaith dialogue. Join Rabbi Segal and our neighbor, the Rev. Dr. Bill Murray of Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church for this series exploring biblical narratives through both a Jewish and Christian lens. Though the words may be the same, the interpretations have diverged greatly throughout the centuries. This four-part, Wednesday evening class will take us through the whole month of Elul as we prepare for Rosh Hashana and the High Holy Days.

Registration is limited. Please contact Rabbi Natan ([ntrief@templesinaiatlanta.org](mailto:ntrief@templesinaiatlanta.org)) if you have not yet registered and are interested.



IDEAS THAT MATTER: WISDOM TO ENRICH OUR LIVES

## Israel at 75: What's your Israel Story?

**Kick-Off Celebration**  
**Friday, September 9 (6:30 PM, Sanctuary):** Kabbalat Shabbat Services and Israeli-style Oneg



In just 75 years, Israel has accomplished so much, and we are all witness to this great miracle of Jewish independence and Jewish revival on the world stage and in our lifetimes. With the dawning of a new era of Arab Israeli peace, we hope and pray that other, more elusive peace treaties are yet-to-be forged. We will come together throughout the year to mark this incredible milestone and celebrate 75 years of Israel's extraordinary existence.

In addition to other events, we will have a four-part series of celebrations to highlight different aspects of Israel's culture, history, and fascinating story. Together with dynamic and engaging scholars, speakers, and artists, we will share unique and unforgettable stories of Israel.

Join us for our kick-off event for this year's celebrations around Israel's 75th birthday. **WHAT IS YOUR ISRAEL STORY?** As we can all answer this question in a thousand different ways, we will also hear from Rabbi Yael Dadoun who will share her fascinating Israel story. Born into a Moroccan-Tunisian-Israeli family, her Jewish identity is inextricably linked to her love for Israel. After sharing her remarks from the bima during Shabbat Services, join us for a festive Israeli-style Oneg. Rabbi Dadoun will also be leading Torah study on Shabbat morning at 9am as she continues to share her unique voice of Torah and Jewish wisdom.

## Books & Film

### Rona Balser Book Club

Our long-running Rona Balser 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 during the previous club's meeting. Reading the book prior to meeting is recommended, but definitely not a prerequisite!

**Monday, September 19 (7:00-8:00 PM, Zoom):** We will be discussing the book *The Latecomer* by Jean Hanff Korelitz; a layered and immersive literary novel about three siblings, desperate to escape one another, and the upending of their family by the late arrival of a fourth.

**Tuesday, November 8 (7:00-8:00 PM, PNK Learning Center & Zoom)**



### Sinai Film Series

Join us for viewing and discussing various films in the long-running Temple Sinai Film Series. Topics and facilitators will vary throughout the year. As part of the celebration around Israel's 75th birthday, we will focus several of the films on Israeli culture and society.

NAVON (Sinai's initiative aimed at reaching those over 65 years of age) is sponsoring the first film series entitled "The American Jewish Experience in Film" with the first showing of *The Frisco Kid* on October 27th.

Stay tuned for other film series later in the year. Each film will take place in the Philip Kranz Learning Center or the Social Hall, and will be followed by a discussion focusing on the themes of the film. Refreshments will be served!

**Thursday, October 27 (2:00-4:00 PM, PNK Learning Center):** *The Frisco Kid*



### Torah Study

Prayer is how we speak to God. Torah Study is how God speaks to us. Torah study has accompanied and defined the Jewish people throughout the millennia. In fulfilling the commandment of Torah study, we wrestle with God's word and, in so doing, we sanctify and perpetuate our relationship with the divine. Conversations often extend well beyond the text and touch upon ideas that help us all lead lives of meaning and substance.

We invite you to join the clergy in fulfilling this sacred obligation and privilege. Join us rain or shine, in-person or virtual, at 9:00 AM, to glean wisdom from our foundational text over a bagel and coffee.

**Every Saturday morning (9:00-10:00 AM, PNK Learning Center and Zoom)**



## URJ Intro to Judaism

### In-Person and Virtual

18 Tuesday evening sessions (7:30 PM, PNK Learning Center & Zoom)

- October 18, 25, November 1, 8, 15, 22 (Zoom Only), 29
- Classes continue in the second and third trimesters
- Cost: \$180 per person or \$300 for a couple (Financial assistance available)

Engage with Jewish values, celebrations and spirituality. Ask questions and discover multiple perspectives. Introduction to Judaism is an engaging multi-session course for adults interested in exploring Jewish life through a Reform lens. Open to all, this course is designed for interfaith couples, spiritual seekers, individuals considering conversion, and Jews of all stripes who want a meaningful adult Jewish learning experience.

Wherever you are on your journey with Judaism, this class is designed to be a safe and welcoming place for you to explore. Topics include holidays, life cycle celebrations, core beliefs, prayer, the Bible and other sacred texts, antisemitism and the Holocaust, Israel, the North American Jewish experience, and the diversity of the Jewish people today. Join Rabbi Natan on a fascinating journey through Jewish space and time throughout the centuries.

For those enrolling within the context of a relationship, we invite both partners to participate. While not a conversion class, and open to Jews and non-Jews alike, the ARA (Atlanta Rabbinic Association) has fully endorsed this class as a prerequisite for those planning or considering conversion. Please register online or contact Rabbi Natan to attend.



## Unique Experiences



### Living Room Limud

#### *In-Person (In Person at Various Homes)*

Though we love meeting and learning in Temple Sinai, we recognize that enriching Jewish learning could and should happen anywhere. Welcome to Living Room Limud, one of our signature events of the year. Interested in hosting your friends and acquaintances for learning in your living room? Have you ever wanted to discuss a certain idea with your clergy and fellow congregants? Let us know!

We look forward to curating small groups of learners throughout the congregation to learn and laugh together. Please reach out to Rabbi Natan if you would like to host. We will also be reaching out to several people as potential hosts as we try to engage diverse learners from across the congregation. Together with your clergy partner or Sinai staff member, you will decide the specific format, menu, and content for each session.

After the High Holy Days, we will plan two of these per month on Wednesday afternoons or evenings. Some of these events will have a random guest-list. Others will be targeted at various demographics within Sinai. Stay tuned for more details as we experiment with this exciting and engaging new program.



### Wednesday Night Limud

- Wednesday, October 19 (7:00 - 8:00 PM, Zoom)
- Wednesday, November 2 (7:00 - 8:00 PM, Zoom)
- Wednesday, November 16 (7:00 - 8:00 PM, Zoom)

Join your clergy and Sinai faculty for enriching discussion around the most foundational texts and ideas in Judaism. We will be using the brand new, highly innovative curriculum of the Shalom Hartman Institute, a leading Jewish think tank located in both Jerusalem and North America. Foundations for a Thoughtful Judaism is a curricular project which offers a sophisticated yet accessible introduction to philosophical ideas in Jewish peoplehood, practice, faith, and ethics. Its content is based on Hartman teaching from the last four decades and will surely lead to provocative discussions.

Please register online or with Rabbi Natan so that we can procure enough books.



## Unique Experiences

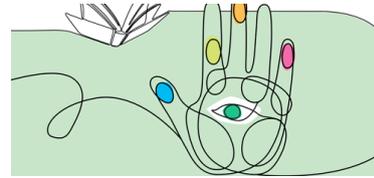


### Lounging in the Library

- Tuesday, October 25 (1:00-2:00 PM, PNK Learning Center):  
Book Discussion with Rabbi Kranz
- Thursday, November 17 (7:00-8:00 PM, PNK Learning Center):  
Lounging in the Library

Did you know that Temple Sinai houses the largest synagogue library in the Southeast? Did you know that it has an endless collection of books sure to satisfy the most discerning of learners: from philosophy to Israel studies, theology to biographies, fiction to nonfiction. Named after our beloved rabbi emeritus, Philip N. Kranz, the beautiful PNK Learning Center is one of the jewels of Temple Sinai.

Join us IN-PERSON as Rabbi Kranz or Rabbi Natan introduce us to some of their picks and we learn how the new and improved Learning Center can become a bigger part of our lives. In addition, in future events, we will introduce the books of the growing list of Temple Sinai authors. Join us over wine and cheese as we sip and schmooze over incredible books and profound ideas.



### Melton Offering: *OMG, Can you Believe*

- Tuesday, October 25(10:00 - 11:30 AM, PNK Learning Center & Zoom)
- Tuesday, November 1(10:00 - 11:30 AM, PNK Learning Center & Zoom)
- Tuesday, November 8 (10:00 - 11:30 AM, PNK Learning Center & Zoom)
- Tuesday, November 15 (10:00 - 11:30 AM, PNK Learning Center & Zoom)
- Tuesday, November 22(10:00 - 11:30 AM, Zoom ONLY)
- Tuesday, November 29 (10:00 - 11:30 AM, PNK Learning Center & Zoom)

In this six-week exploratory course, we'll dive into the BIG questions around God and God's relationship to Humankind. We'll examine the many different understandings of God, free will, and mitzvot expressed by Jewish philosophers, rabbis, leaders past and present — and you. We'll explore the divine, the prophetic, and even the supernatural, as we amplify and dissect your deepest God-questions. Join Rabbi Natan as we unpack some of these fascinating ideas and discussions--Just do not expect to leave with any final answers.

Please register online or with Rabbi Natan to attend. There is a cost of \$65 for this Melton class.



## Endowment Events

Throughout the year, various scholars and guests will visit Temple Sinai, whether in-person or virtual, and will address important Jewish themes in various formats. Often, these will take place during Friday evening services and will be followed by brief Q&A sessions. We are able to offer these diverse opportunities through the generosity of several Endowment Funds.

The endowments cover areas as diverse and varied as the Jewish experience and human condition. They range from spirituality to parenting, addiction awareness to Jewish law, ethics to leadership, and many things in between.

**Our kick-off endowment event** is generously sponsored by the Brian Waronker Memorial Fund for Addiction & Recovery and will take place at the end of November after the Thanksgiving Holiday. Rabbi Or Zohar will be visiting us from Israel to lead a two-day workshop on Kabbalah, focusing on meditation, music, and engaging discussions through a spiritual lens. Coffee, tea, and healthy snacks will be provided. Please register online or by contacting Rabbi Natan.

- **Monday, November 28 (7:00-9:00 PM, PNK Learning Center)**
- **Tuesday, November 29 (7:00-9:00 PM, PNK Learning Center)**

Our next Endowment event will be happening soon afterwards on December 9th and 10th. The Mark Silverman Maimonides Award Endowment Fund will sponsor this Shabbat experience and will focus on various areas within Jewish medical ethics and wellness. Stay tuned for more information in the 2nd Trimester brochure.



## *Seeking Sinai*

We will build on the momentum of our podcast's inaugural year and expand to a greater selection of guests and ideas. With well over 1,000 downloads across digital platforms, this podcast has already reached so many discerning listeners, folks who want to listen exactly where and when they want.

Rabbi Natan will continue to moderate the podcast as we focus on the theme of Amazing Jewish Stories. You should expect to hear some familiar voices from your clergy, as well as some of the other amazing staff that helps keep Temple Sinai so vibrant and relevant. Whether from clergy, staff, or congregants, there are some incredible stories of Jewish perseverance, faith and adventure. With this in mind, we will also experiment with new types of format within the podcast including group interviews and live events. You won't want to miss our first one:

**LIVE Selichot Podcast (September 17, 7:30 PM):** Join us for our traditional Selichot observance with a twist. We will kick off the 5783 Seeking Sinai Podcast with a live recording prior to Selichot Services. Rabbi Natan will interview the clergy team and address topics relevant to Elul and the approaching Days of Awe. Whether issues of teshuvah, forgiveness, mistakes we have made, dreams we have, the conversation will be engaging and thought-provoking. Though you can listen to it afterwards on Spotify, you won't want to miss this live event along with nourishment for the soul (songs and Services) and body (wine and refreshments).

In addition, as we prepare for the High Holy Days throughout the month of Elul, you can expect a few mini podcast episodes to offer some thoughts and kavannot (spiritual intentions).



