

Purim ~ February 26 ~ 14 Adar



SHOFAR

February 2021

Shvat-Adar 5781



Temple Sinai Presents

The War Between Vashti and Esther

With

Rabbi Suzanne Singer

Temple Beth El, Riverside

Thursday, February 18, 7:00 PM

(c) Ann D. Keffsky

Join Ariel Sanford and family as she is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, February 13.

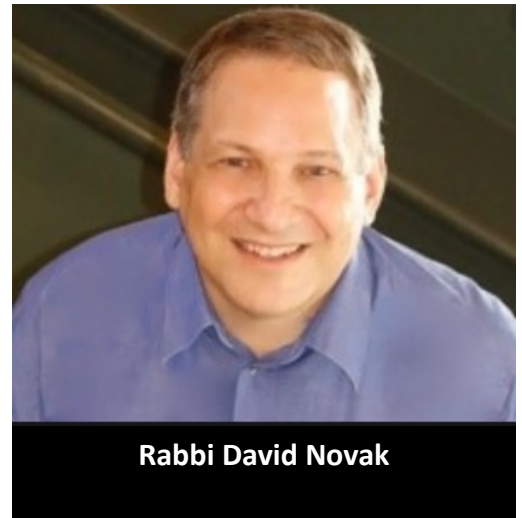
*Please see the front page of our website for the special Zoom link.



Mi sh'nichnas Adar marbim b'simcha. . .

When Adar enters, our joy increases!

Our new Jewish month of Adar is a time of rejoicing. It is the month where we observe Purim, our joyous commemoration of Jewish survival over an evil edict. Purim's story is recounted in Megilat Esther, one of five *megilot* in the Hebrew bible (each attached to a festival or observance during the Jewish year). Esther's story is one of a not-so-bright king overseeing 127 provinces, his first spouse Queen Vashti and his second, Esther, who the king loved supremely. She becomes his wife after a beauty contest—and it is through her surrogate father, Mordecai, that she learns that the evil one (whose name will go unmentioned) wants to destroy her and all of the Jews.



Unrequested, she goes to the king, putting her life on the line. The king is overjoyed to see her and tells her he would grant her half his kingdom. She develops a strategy to reveal to the king that his right hand man would kill all the Jews of his empire in the scheme that he had approved—and that she is a Jewess who would be killed. Through her unraveling the evil plot Esther saved the Jews of Shushan and all 127 provinces.

Megilat Esther is the only book in the Hebrew Bible that does not mention God. That has led rabbinic commentators to create a pun on Esther's name: *hester panim*, or hidden face. Even though God's name is never mentioned throughout the story, our tradition understands God's working in the background through Esther to save the Jewish people.

All these years later we are still an extremely small part of the world's population. Yet we thrive, in part, on our ability to ask questions of ourselves and others, on our ability to be analytical, on our cherished tradition of parsing holy texts to find multiple truths. Because our lives are not lived in black and white, our culture of questioning allows us to navigate worlds of complexity. It is why, in part, our people has produced a disproportionate amount of Jewish leaders for our tiny size.

Since the time of Esther, our people have encountered many more enemies that would seek our destruction, including one that successfully destroyed a third of our people. We reread Megilat Esther each year to remind us both of our survival and the perils that exist, even in our age.

You are invited to join me for an adult reading of Esther on February 25th and for the Ari Levine Religious School Purim Celebration on February 28th as Temple Sinai brings joy to Adar and to Purim.

May we all reflect on the blessing on being present for another Purim.

L'Simcha (to Rejoicing),

Rabbi David Novak

An Adult Reading of the Book of Esther with Rabbi Novak

Thursday, February 25

7:00 PM

Join Rabbi Novak as we read the Book of Esther, recalling how the Jews were saved from an evil edict, a story so important that it is included in the TaNaCh (Hebrew Bible) as a canonical text.

You can find versions of Esther in one of the following sources:

JPS Hebrew Study Bible

JPS TaNaCh

The Writings by Robert Alter

The JPS Bible Commentary: Esther

(Check our website www.templesinaipd.org for more sources)

When Adar enters, our joy increases!

President's Message

Please join the Board of Trustees in recognizing the contribution Arava Talve, Sandy Schacter and Diana McGinity made during the first six months of 2020 when we had no Rabbi. Temple Sinai is so blessed to have staff and lay leadership who have the skills and desire to step in to meet congregants' needs for services.

The Board had planned to present these awards in person at a service, but Covid-19 has prevented that, so we are presenting these now and not waiting any longer.

Thanks to these three dedicated ladies.



Bob Glast, President



Temple Leadership

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Abe and Erna Bochner Jewish Community Center

73251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260 760-568-9699

Dear Temple Sinai Member:

YOUR BROTHERHOOD NEEDS YOU AS A MEMBER !

The Brotherhood Board of Directors is planning its programming for 2021 during the pandemic and for when we return to pre-Covid socialization. We need your help.

Brotherhood's mission is to provide service and assistance to the temple and support and social activities for it's members. We want to continue our excellent programs such as the Jeffrey Kahn lecture and the John Bayless concert that we presented with the Women of Sinai and the PTO. By joining us, you are helping to achieve that mission.

If you are not already a member of the Brotherhood please join your fellow temple members in doing so. Send your application and check for \$36 to Brotherhood at Temple Sinai. The application is available on our website, www.temple sinaipd.org/brotherhood.html. You may also call the office and use your credit card. Women are welcome as Brotherhood Members.

In Brotherhood

Temple Sinai Brotherhood Board of Directors

Gary Kreger, President 2kreger@earthlink.net

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Saul Jacobs, Treasurer bubnzad@dc.rr.com

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Torah Portions January 2021

February 6 — 24 Shvat

Yitro (Jethro)

Exodus 18:1 - 20:23

Moses describes the miracle of the exodus to his father-in-law, Jethro, who then proclaims that the Israelite God is greater than all other gods. Jethro advises Moses to delegate leadership roles in order not to tire himself out. The Israelites camp at the bottom of Mount Sinai. After three days, the mountain fills with smoke, and God reveals the Ten Commandments to the people at the foot of the mountain.

February 13 — 1 Adar

Mishpatim (Laws)

Exodus 21:1 - 24:18

Moses details many of God's laws. These include laws about business ethics, the treatment of other people and animals, and how to be a witness. God outlines the details of Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot. We are also reminded to keep Shabbat as well as extend that rest to everyone in our households. The Israelites are warned not to worship other gods. Moses ascends to Mt. Sinai for 40 days and nights, leaving Aaron in charge.

February 20 — 8 Adar

Terumah (Donation)

Exodus 25:1 - 27:19

Moses receives God's commandments on stone tablets. God tells Moses to create a dwelling place for God, where the Israelites can bring God gifts. God details what this Mishkan (Tabernacle) will look like and how it should be made. The Tabernacle includes an ark, two cherubs, curtains and a menorah.

February 27 — 15 Adar

Tetzaveh (You Shall Command)

Exodus 27:20 - 30:10

God appoints Aaron and his sons as priests. God describes the priestly clothing and explains how to properly sanctify the priests. Aaron is commanded to make incense offerings to God every morning on an altar. God explains that once a year Aaron will make an offering on that altar to atone for all of the Israelites' sins.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES

February 5 5:30 PM

February 12 5:30 PM

February 19 5:30 PM

February 26 5:30 PM

To participate in Erev Shabbat services, Torah Study, and Shabbat Morning, please click on the link on the front page of our website:

www.templesinaipd.org

If you are using a mobile device, you may have to go to your app store and download *Zoom*.

SATURDAY MORNINGS

Torah Study at 8:45

February 6 10:00 AM

February 13 10:00 AM

The Bat Mitzvah of Ariel Sanford

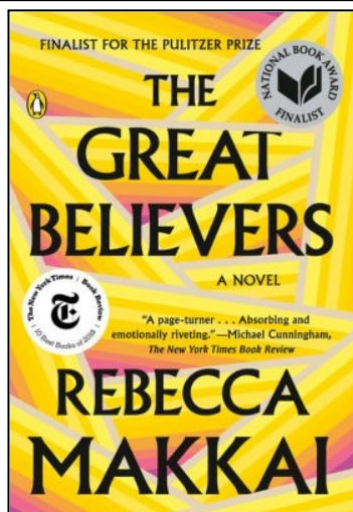
February 20 10:00 AM

February 27 10:00 AM

**A Discussion with Dr. Conrado Bárzaga,
CEO of the Desert Healthcare District
Thursday, February 11 at 5:00 PM**

Dr. Bárzaga will address the impact of Covid-19 on Coachella Valley's medical capacity.

He will be introduced by Arthur Shorr, a Temple Sinai congregant, and a member of the District's board.



**Book Club's Next Meeting—Wednesday, February 17
10:00 AM**

The Great Believers by Rebecca Makkai

The Great Believers is a Pulitzer Prize finalist novel about the multi-generational effects of the AIDS epidemic of the 1980's on a Chicago family, taking us forward in time to a daughter lost into a cult in 2015.

GENEROUS DONATIONS

GENERAL FUND

Yahrzeit

Adele Benach

Samuel Benach

By: Jean Carrus

Dr. Herman Lubens

Dr. Jonathan Lubens

By: Fran Lubens

Carole O. Sunduck

By: Michael Sunduck

Norman Ross

By: Dr. Paul & Stephanie Ross

Jean Solomon

By: Jerry Solomon

IN MEMORY OF

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By: Gary Levin

Ann & Glynne Miller

Shelly Rosenberg

By: Leslie Seiden & Hal Rosenblum

Daughter of Marion Guotnik

By: Mitzie & Jack Olshansky

IN HONOR OF

Sip & Schmooze

By: Fred Fabricant

The John Bayless Concert

By: Sandie Eichberg

Elaine Kravitz

Lynn Hannan

Dolly Levy

TZEDAKAH

By: Kevin Giser

Brian & Lisa Gottlieb

SAMSON ZIMRA FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Shelly Rosenberg

By: Alissa Marshall

RABBI AVI LEVINE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Yahrzeit

Brent Monetathchi

By: Judy Monetathchi

Celiah Stahl Gellman

Saul Gellman

By: Picce & Bob Glast

Joseph Kramer

By: Gordon & Eve Kramer

IN HONOR OF

Everyone's Good Health

By: Dr. & Mrs. Adrian Graff-Radford

The John Bayless concert

By: Fred Fabricant

The John Bayless concert and Nancy Singer

By: Dr. Paul & Stephanie Ross

TZEDAKAH

By: Kevin Giser

MITZVAH FOOD BANK FUND

Yahrzeit

Ruby Malawsky

By: Renée & Ron Partelow

Leonard Kibrick

By: Nancy Kibrick

Colleen Beth Weiss

By: Joe Weiss

Ralph Frank

By: Sally Frank

Samuel Sandor

Leonard Sandor

By: Veronica & Beryl Sandor

IN MEMORY OF

Lenore Chazin

By: Dr. Paul & Stephanie Ross

TZEDAKAH

By: Kevin Giser

IN THANKS TO

Gail & Saul Jacobs for their Aliyah

By: Stephanie & Dr. Paul Ross

Fred Fabricant for inviting them to the John Bayless concert

By: Debbie & Steve Perron

JOINT BROTHERHOOD-WOS-PTO PROGRAMS

By: Gladys Layne

IN HONOR OF

The John Bayless concert

By: Mitzie & Jack Olshansky

DOROSHOW EDUCATION FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Mark Kaufman

By: Renée & Ron Partelow

Elaine & Ken Eldred

Bobbi Rosenberg

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Yahrzeit

Edith Sandor

By: Veronica & Beryl Sandor

Bernie Gusto

By: Lynn Hannan

IN MEMORY OF

Marvin Helfgott

By: Eve & Gordon Kramer

Lois Marshall Light

By: Nancy & Arthur Shorr

Zvi Landau

By: Alissa Marshall

Tani Kaimi

Gordon & Eve Kramer

New Adult Education Course This Month



The Historical and Spiritual Significance of Scrolls Saved from the Holocaust

Instructor: Gary M. Levin, Ed.D

This course will recognize the significance of the 1,500 Czech scrolls saved from destruction, their importance in learning about the history before, during, and after the war.

Thursday, February 11, from 1-2 PM, plus time for questions.

For additional information, please contact Gary at
Levin232@gmail.com



WOMEN OF SINAI, BROTHERHOOD, PARENT TEACHERS ORGANIZATION

by Nancy Singer

We had a busy January on Zoom and hope many of you joined us. We had two guest speakers with presentations on Bioethics and "Anti-Vaxxers and Anti-Semitism". The crown jewel of the month was a fabulous piano concert by our own John Bayless. And John will likely grace us with another concert when we are back in our Temple building. Watch for news later this year or next year. You won't want to miss it!

In February, we hope you will join us for two presentations, both of which promise to be very, very interesting. On Thursday, February 11, join us at 5:00 pm to hear the CEO of the Desert Healthcare District address us on the impact of COVID-19 on our valley's medical capacity. There are bound to be some question on vaccines too.

Then on Thursday, February 18, we hope you'll join us at 7:00 pm for a revealing discussion on who was the Queen.....was it really Esther or was it Vashti? Our special guest that evening will be Rabbi Suzanne Singer from Temple Beth El in Riverside who will shed some insight on the issue.

A couple of months ago, we started a Sunday "Sip and Schmooze" gathering at 5:00, to which all temple members are welcome to join. Sips are whatever you want, and the schmoozing is fun as we get to know each other better. Come and check it out. We gather on the third Sunday of the month, so on the 21st of February.

Thanks for your support of our auxiliaries.



Arava Talve, Principal

From the Melamedet:

Becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah during covid has involved some alternative planning and creative thinking. We were all a bit saddened that Norah Feldbaum was unable to travel to the desert from Switzerland for her scheduled Bat Mitzvah on January 2nd. However, when it is safe, the Feldbaums will travel to Sinai to celebrate their daughter becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Asher Stone's family has postponed his Bar Mitzvah for a year and will celebrate it with his brother Levi in January of 2022. Tommy Clark has decided to celebrate the ritual outside on Temple grounds on January

30th, while Ari Sanford will have her bat mitzvah at her home on February 13th. I know I speak for the Sinai community in celebrating our youth for their flexibility and continued study. They are the blessing!

At this writing, we are excited about our Tu B'Shevat seder, our Jewish Earth Day and birthday of trees. All of our students created art that will be showcased in our Sunday morning t'fillah. In addition, we will have a creative seder where we ask students to answer the following questions relating to the 4 seasons, symbolizing different aspects of the trees and our own lives:

Winter. When have you judged "a book by its cover" only to realize you were mistaken?

Spring. What is something you have done or created that started out very small and became bigger or more important to you over time?

Summer. When do you feel truly whole and happy?

Fall. What helps you remember and appreciate what you cannot see?

May this new year of trees bring growth and renewal for all of us!

As we look ahead to Purim, we will be having a wonderful celebration during our Religious school T'fillah on February 21st ... Our students will be encouraged to dress up as they participate in the Megillah reading. Our PTO will be delivering the groggers and Hamentashen to our families so we may all provide the yays and boos for the heroes and villains in the story! Many of our students will be making shalach manot (a Purim gift consisting of cakes, fruits and other assorted treats) to be distributed to members in our community.

Many thanks to our wonderful students and families who continue to strengthen their commitment to their Jewish education. May we continue to go from strength to strength until we are all together again at Sinai!

Arava

Tu B'Shvat Art

By the students of the Rabbi Avi Levine Religious School



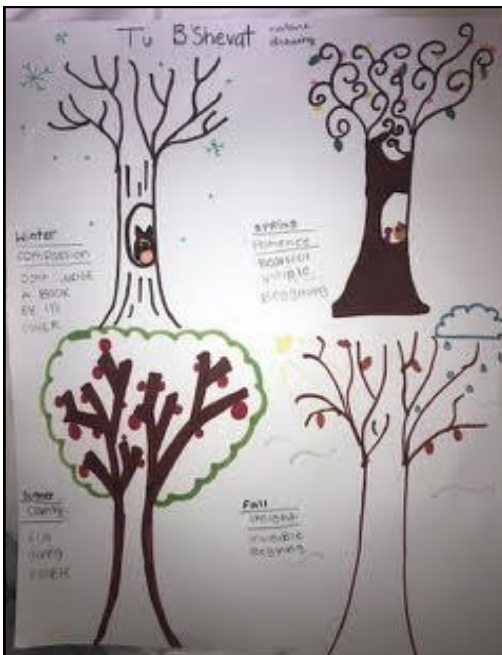
Enrique & Esteban Agron, grades 5&7



Rachel Sanford, 9th grade



Leo Cohn, 4th grade



Sabrina Mazet, 8th grade



Jacob Cohn, 7th grade



Jessica Totten, 7th grade



Nora Feldbaum, 7th grade



Shane & Harrison Levy,
grades 1 & 3



Ryan Holman, 3rd grade



Isaac Goetting, 1st grade

A Purim Word Hunt

Find the words listed below hidden in the grid of letters.
(One example is done for you). Words appear horizontally, vertically
and diagonally.

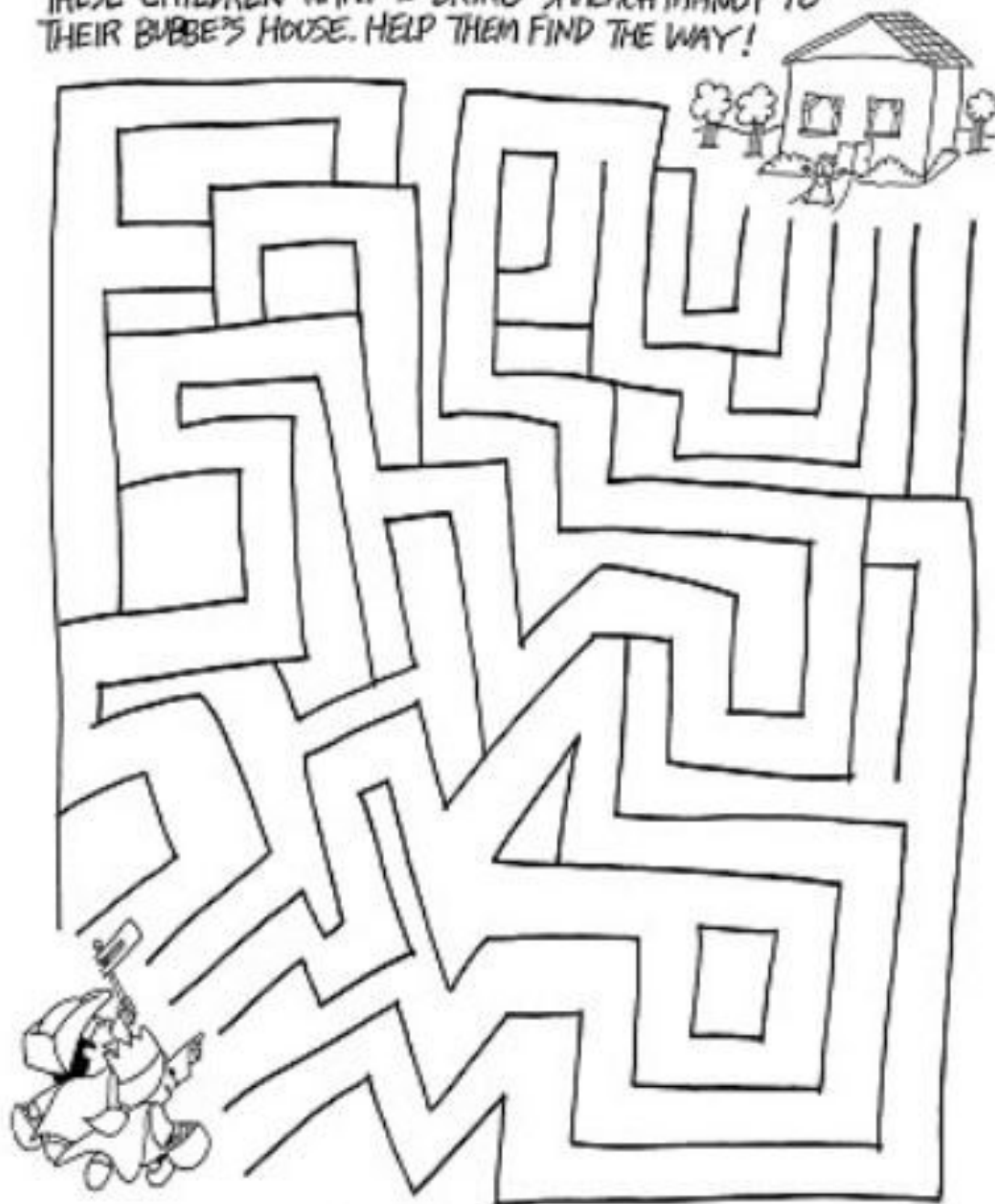
Adar	festival	mishloach
Ahasuerus	gallows	manot
banquet	gragger	Mordecai
bow	Haman	Persia
charity	Hamantaschen	plot
costume	Jew	Purim
decree	king	queen
drinking	lots	Shushan
Esther	mask	spiel
feast	Megillah	Vashti



H	A	H	A	M	A	N	F	E	S	T	I	V	A	L
M	B	F	E	A	S	T	A	N	H	T	A	S	E	C
H	A	M	A	N	T	A	S	C	H	E	N	Q	S	H
C	N	H	M	H	B	E	A	N	S	M	A	U	T	A
G	Q	R	A	E	K	O	D	E	H	O	V	E	H	R
R	U	L	S	S	L	I	W	I	U	R	A	E	E	I
A	E	S	K	H	U	W	N	I	S	D	S	N	R	T
G	T	P	S	D	E	E	P	G	H	E	H	I	L	Y
G	O	I	P	J	E	E	R	E	A	C	T	G	O	U
E	M	E	U	M	R	C	M	U	N	A	I	A	T	S
R	F	L	R	S	A	U	R	R	S	I	E	L	S	S
P	A	H	I	B	T	N	M	E	G	I	L	L	A	H
L	D	A	M	S	A	K	O	E	E	D	W	O	I	T
O	A	H	O	L	O	V	E	T	F	O	R	W	P	U
T	R	C	R	D	R	I	N	K	I	N	G	S	I	M



THESE CHILDREN WANT TO BRING SHALACH MANDOT TO
THEIR BUBBE'S HOUSE. HELP THEM FIND THE WAY!



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[torahumesorah.org](https://www.torahumesorah.org/)

<https://www.torahumesorah.org/>

Birthdays

2/2

Neil Colt
Lily Mazet
Michael Miller

2/5

Paul Ross

2/6

Brian Morgen
Diane Novack

2/8

Estee Gottesman

2/11

Linda Pearson
Fred Fabricant

2/14

Glynne Miller

2/17

Robin Marguleas
Jeffrey Schiffris

2/21

Mike Cheley

2/22

Frank Monaco

2/23

Marlene Caudill

2/26

David Marguleas

2/27

Laura Sklut

2/28

Michael Sonduck

Anniversary

2/14

Lisa & Brian Gottlieb



February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed	2 Beit Sefer 4:00 Reading the Torah in Translation 7:00	3 Adult B'nai Mitzvah 12:00 Lunch With the Rabbi 12:00	4	5 Erev Shabbat on Zoom 5:30	6 Zoom Torah Study 8:45 AM Shabbat Morning Service on Zoom 10:00
7 9:30 Beit Sefer Confirmation/ Midrasha 12:00	8 Office Closed	9 Beit Sefer 4:00 Reading the Torah in Translation 7:00	10 Adult B'nai Mitzvah 12:00 Lunch With the Rabbi 12:00	11 Holocaust Scrolls 1:00 Speaker: Dr. Conrado Bárzaga 5:00	12 Erev Shabbat on Zoom 5:30	13 Zoom Torah Study 8:45 AM Bat Mitzvah of Ariel Sanford 10:00 AM*
14 President's Day No Religious School	15 President's Day Office Closed	16 Beit Sefer 4:00 Reading the Torah in Translation 7:00	17 Book Club 10:00 AM Adult B'nai Mitzvah 12:00 Lunch With the Rabbi 12:00	18 Speaker: Rabbi Suzanne Singer 7:00 PM	19 Erev Shabbat on Zoom 5:30	20 Zoom Torah Study 8:45 AM Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 AM
21 9:30 Purim Celebration Confirmation/ Midrasha 12:00 Sip and Schmooze 5:00	22 Office Closed	23 Beit Sefer 4:00 Reading the Torah in Translation 7:00	24 Adult B'nai Mitzvah 12:00 Lunch With the Rabbi 12:00	25 Adult Reading of the Book of Esther 7:00 PM	26 Erev Shabbat on Zoom 5:30	27 Zoom Torah Study 8:45 AM Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 AM
28 9:30 Beit Sefer Confirmation/ Midrasha 12:00					*See special Zoom link on website for Ariel's bat mitzvah	



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