



## Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom Congregation CONNECTING OUR PATHWAYS

### BEHIND THE SCENES

By Mina Wender and Ken Bell, HSOSC Co-presidents

There is something so calming about a snowstorm. Somehow, even in the pandemic, life gets hectic. Looking out my window, I see the white stillness and can take time to reflect.

Even though our building remains closed, HSOSC has been very active. Of course, we have services both Friday evening and Saturday morning, Torah Study on Saturday morning, Mazer Morning Minyan, the Discussion Group, and Bible Study on Tuesday. A few other highlights include three SPICE classes, Rabbi Herman's Jewish History in Eight Slices which started February 1st, Aviva Janus's Women in the Bible, a four part series beginning on February 4, and Rex Rehfeld returns on February 17 to speak about Racism.

February also brings us two Havdalah programs: Portland-based singer Beth Hamon on February 6 and Robyn Helzner presents *Kreplach and Dim Sum: Yes, There Are Jews in China* on February 13. And don't miss cellist Amit Peled Concert on Sunday, February 28. Dates and times for all our programs and events can be found on pages 4-5 and [our website](#) has complete information.

You still have time to buy your tickets to a virtual concert given by our very own Wally Ford and Paul Binko. (See page 8 for details).



See all our Purim activities  
on page 6

We can now also announce that a second search committee has been formed to identify the ideal clergy partner to join Rabbi Sabath in leading our congregation. Our posting was very well received and generated almost thirty resumés from prospective rabbis and cantors. From that impressive group, we selected sixteen candidates for first round interviews, which will be complete by February 4.

The committee's goal, and the direction from the Board of Trustees, is to find the best clergy partner for Rabbi Sabath. Therefore, we submitted job postings for associate rabbis and for cantors. We are only in a position to have one clergy partner and wanted to be sure that the choice is right for HSOSC. Because this congregation has such a strong interest in music, we have interviewed some very promising cantors and our rabbi search application provides that the second clergy would be responsible for the musical program and to lead the musical portions of shabbat services. Either candidate will have primary responsibility for our b'nei mitzvah program.

The committee has been impressed by the candidates that have been interviewed. Being both a new and historic congregation, candidates have expressed excitement about the tremendous ground-floor opportunity to join with us to build on our storied past and help us define a bright future. Rabbi Sabath's selection has lent prestige to this posting and the opportunity to work with Rabbi Sabath

Continues on page 2

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## Behind the Scenes, continued from page 1

has been mentioned by several candidates as a motivating factor for choosing HSOSC.

Second interviews will be held in the next two weeks and upon Board approval, the committee expects to have a second clergy accepting the position in early March. The selection process is understandably confidential but the committee will work to keep the congregation informed. I wish to thank the members of our current search committee, several of whom had already served on the prior search, for their long hours of work researching, interviewing and analyzing the candidate pool. They are: Ed Wender, Chair; Jessica Krasnick, Laya Fridman, Micah Damareck, Katie Applefeld, Michael Greenebaum, Barbara Schlaff, Glenn Ulick, Abby Hoffman, Lois Fekete, and Becky Kent, as well as Rabbi Rachel Sabath.

Our recent announcement of our inaugural Senior Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi, PhD, has generated much excitement and positive press coverage. As you know, we are extremely blessed to hire Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi, a highly regarded rabbi and scholar who will assume the pulpit on July 1, 2021. She has been recently interviewed by a number of publications, and we would like to share those links (that can also be found on our website under "News"):

[New senior rabbi to begin at Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom this summer](#)  
by Jesse Berman, Baltimore Jewish Times

[Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi Shares Her Vision for Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom](#)  
by Simone Ellin, Associate Editor, Baltimore Jewish Living

If you have any questions regarding any of the above, or anything else please always feel free to reach out to either one us; Mina Wender, [mwender@mcdonogh.org](mailto:mwender@mcdonogh.org), and Ken Bell, [krbell6mhc@gmail.com](mailto:krbell6mhc@gmail.com).



## A MODERN TAKE OF PURIM

By Rabbi Jennifer Weiner, Interim Senior Rabbi

Last year, we celebrated Purim in person and then went into lock-down. A year later, we are still in lock-down. When the pandemic hit, no one expected that we would still be living a quarantined life a year later. Unfortunately, we will probably be living this way a bit longer before we can venture out in large groups and celebrate Purim like we used to in person.

When we examine the text of the Book of Esther, the book read on Purim, we can see that there are actually quite a few similarities between how King Ahasuerus lived and how we are living within the confines of walls today. Ignoring the debauchery, King Ahasuerus lived in a walled city called Shushan. This story has everything in it to make it a spell binding tale. There is a woman (Vashti) who says no to the king, a town person (Mordechai) who tries to insert his relative into a position of power, an individual (Esther) who disregards her well-being for the sake of her people, and a villain (Haman) who wishes to destroy the new queen's people. The outcome of the story is that Esther saves the Jews, Haman is hanged on the gallows that he and his sons built to hang all the Jews, and Mordechai becomes a trusted advisor to the king.

In other words, they wanted to kill us, we survived, let's eat!

Yet, that attitude, although it is funny, is a means of excusing the anti-Semitism that has been an undercurrent throughout history. We cannot stand by

idly and dismiss hate speech. What is happening in today's world is scary! We must stand up and shout that we have had enough of the hate mongering. Not just for ourselves and our community but for all those who feel other in our country and the world. It is at the heart of Reform Judaism and is our stance of taking action for social justice causes. Enough is enough!

What the story of Purim teaches is that one must stand up for justice. Yes, freedom of speech is permitted in the Constitution of the United States, though when that free speech hurts or incites an individual or group to cause harm, it must be stopped. If Mordechai had not warned Esther and prodded her to act, where would we be today? Esther used her power as queen to save our community. Haman's plan was thwarted, and his reign of terror ceased. Once again, the Jewish community was saved. Though, the scales could have tipped either way. It only takes one...

During Purim this year, may we remember the gaiety that we felt last year. May we celebrate our survival. May we also remember that we must raise our voices together to remind the world that in the end our society and community needs to live justly.

I hope that next year for Purim we will once again be wearing masks to cover our faces out of joy and not to cover our mouths and noses out of a concern for health and safety.



See all our Purim activities on page 6

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY

Complete information for each program is available on our website.

[CLICK HERE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE.](#)

*All events are presented via Zoom.*

## Worship

### FRIDAY EVENINGS

**6:15 pm**

Zoom ID: 890 4181 9852

Passcode: shabbat

### SATURDAY MORNINGS

**Torah Study, 8:45 am**

Zoom ID: 829 7806 5295

Passcode: 367046

**Service, 10 am**

Zoom ID: 829 7806 5295

Passcode: 367046

### MAZER MORNING MINYAN

**8 am, Monday–Friday**

**9 am, Sunday, 9 am**

Zoom ID: 702 627 5137

### MAZER MORNING LECTURE

**SERIES: Mystical Tradition:**

**Judaism, Christianity, and Islam**

**Sundays, 9:45 am**

Zoom ID: 702 627 5137

This course focuses on mystical literature through the ages, and the great spiritual teachers within each tradition who composed such writings. All are welcome.

### BIBLE STUDY CLASS

**Tuesdays, 10:15 am**

Zoom ID: 836 9295 5732

Passcode: BIBLE

## Special Shabbats

### FAMILY SHABBAT

**Friday, February 12, 5:30–6:15 pm**

Welcome Shabbat with Rabbi Weiner, song leader Rachel Wolman and the Posner JEM 5th Grade class for our monthly service filled with music, prayer and spirituality.

### GOLD-SZOLD AWARD

**Friday, February 19, 6:15 pm**

We will honor two recipients of the emerging leadership award, Beth Steiner and Mark Jensen. Please join us to highlight their contributions to our congregation.

### TOT SHABBAT SERVICE

**Friday, February 19**

**YouTube video available all day**

This pre-recorded musical Shabbat experience designed for our youngest members and their families includes a special story each month!

## Social Action

### WEEKEND BACKPACKS

**Sunday, February 14, 10 & 11:15 am.**

Space is limited to 10 people. RSVP to Stu Dettelbach, [stu@sdkitchens.com](mailto:stu@sdkitchens.com). And if you wish to play a significant role in this program, please contact Ken Bell, [krbell6mhc@gmail.com](mailto:krbell6mhc@gmail.com). Save the dates for 2021: Sundays, April 11, May 16, June 13. Can't volunteer, but wish to make a donation to Weekend Backpacks, please visit our website.

### DRIVE BY COAT + CLOTHING DRIVE

**Now through Purim**

As you may be aware, HSOSC has held a drive-by coat drive for the homeless population in Baltimore. So far we donated over 100 coats! We are now asking that you look deeper into your closets and drawers, for long sleeved shirts, t-shirts, men's and women's long pants, and socks. **Drop off:** A box marked Coat Drive will be outside the Gordon Chapel from 9:30 am – 4 pm everyday through Purim.

## Adult

### JOHNS HOPKINS PRESENTS

**COVID, 1 YEAR LATER**

**Wednesday, February 3, 7:30-9 pm**

Learn about the three COVID-19 issues that are of greatest concern and interest to consumers.

### LIVING ARTFULLY WITH

**SANDRA MAGSAMEN**

**Wednesday, February 3, 10–11 am**

**Sponsored by The Women's Club**

Spend a creative morning with Baltimore native Sandra Magsamen

who is an accomplished author, artist and designer. Sandra will share her journey to creativity as it flows into all aspects of our lives.

### SPICE: WOMEN IN THE BIBLE

**Thursdays, February 4, 11, 18, 25**

**10:30 am–Noon**

**Facilitator: Aviva Janus**

This course delves deeply into the lives and challenges of seven women in the Bible: Eve, Sarah, Rebecca, Leah, Miriam, Tamar, and Esther. What were their gifts and how were they able to use them? *Fee. Registration required by Feb. 3.*

### PIRKEI AVOT

**Wednesday, February 10**

**9:30–10:30 am**

Join Aviva Janus to delve deeply into the Oral Law (*mishna*) of Ethics of our sages. Come explore ancient Jewish wisdom and see how it applies to our lives today. New students are always welcome!

### KREPLACH & DIM SUM

**YES, THERE ARE JEWS IN CHINA!**

**Saturday, February 13, 7:30–9:30 pm**

Robyn Helzner shares the fascinating story of Jewish in China. Through photos, videos and music, Robyn brings us enthusiasm for both ancient and modern Jewish communities. Our co-president Ken Bell with his wife, Sherri, will join us. Ken will also reflect on his years of Jewish life in Hong Kong.

### SPICE: A TALK ON RACISM

**Wednesday, February 17**

**10:30 am–Noon**

**Facilitator: Rex Rehfeld**

Racism has been a part of this country's culture since its inception. Rex Rehfeld will lead a discussion on racism—its definition, history in the United States, and current issues. *Fee. Registration required by Feb. 17.*

What's Happening  
continues on page 5

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY

Complete information for each program is available on our website.  
[CLICK HERE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE.](#)

All events are presented via Zoom.

## CONCERT WITH CELLIST AMIT PELED

**Sunday, February 28, 4–6 pm**

Please join us for a special afternoon with internationally renowned cellist, Amit Peled, acclaimed as one of the most virtuosic instrumentalists on the concert stage today. See page 7 for more information.

## Posner JEM Religious School

**Sundays, February 7, 21, 28  
9:30–11 am**

## TEEN ELECTIVE: THE EVOLUTION OF JEWS IN AMERICAN SITCOMS with Nina Pachino

**Wednesdays, February 10, 17, 24  
5–6 pm**

## CONFIRMATION CLASS Thursday, February 4, 7–8 pm

**GRADE 8 & 9 CLASS  
Tuesdays, February 9, 23  
5–6 pm**

## NEW SUMMER 2021 CAMPSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 15

HSOSC is proud to partner with our members to enable children in our congregation to attend an overnight Jewish Camp. In order to qualify for a campership, children must be enrolled in the HSOSC religious school, and families must be in good financial standing. [Click here to apply.](#)

## Family, Youth & Teens

### MINDFULNESS ART FOR TEENS! Saturday, February 6, 7:30–8:30 pm

Spend the evening with local artist Julie Wohl and learn the art of Zentangling and how to de-stress through art! For students in grades 8-12.

## LUNCH BUNCH

**Sunday, February 7**

**Grades 1&2: 11:15–11:45 am**

**Grades 3&4: 11:50 am–12:20 pm**

Following religious school, grab lunch (or your favorite snacks!) and come spend some quality time together with your friends and Youth and Teen Engagement Specialist, Lindsay Gaister Montague!

## VIRTUAL MOVIE NIGHT FOR GRADES 5–7

**Saturday, February 13  
7:30–9:30 pm**

Get in your pjs, grab your snacks, and spend the night hanging out with your friends, while watching a TBD movie and chatting over Zoom!

## VIRTUAL MOVIE NIGHT FOR TEENS

**Saturday February 20, 8–10 pm**

Get in your pjs, grab your snacks, and spend the night hanging out with your friends, while watching a TBD movie and chatting over Zoom!

## Learning Ladder

**Monday–Friday  
9 am–5 pm**

We are offering priority enrollment for current Learning Ladder families and members of HSOSC. If you are looking for child care for the 2021-22 school year please respond as soon as possible as spaces are limited. Some spaces are still available for the current 2020-21 school year as well.

We are a licensed child care center and preschool for children ranging in ages from 10 weeks through five years old.

Contact Aileen Friedman, (410) 358-9192 or [aileen@hsosc-baltimore.org](mailto:aileen@hsosc-baltimore.org).

## Get Excited!

Mark your calendar for a few of our special programs coming your way in March.

### March 3, 7 pm

Author Michael Palmer guides us in learning the fascinating history of synagogue architect Eric Mendelsohn.

### March 5, 6:15 pm

Spend Shabbat evening with beloved and inspirational musician Dan Nichols.

### March 6, 10 am

B'nei Mitzvah for Nolan Klaitman-Small.

### March 7, 4 pm

Stars of Fauda.

### March 13, 7:30 pm

Virtual Havdalah and Your Pic-on-a-Stick Concert Fundraiser. See page 8 for information.

### March 22, 7:30 pm

Yom Ha'atzmaut class with Rabbi Weiner.

## SPICE COURSES

**March 3, 10, 17, 24, 10:30 am**

Eugenics & Anti-Semitism: What Do They Have in Common with the Supreme Court?

**March 1, 8, 15, 22, 10:30 am**

Jewish History in 8 Slices, Part 2.



## PURIM HAPPENINGS AT HSOSC

### **PURIM CLASS WITH RABBI JENNIFER WEINER — THE WHOLE MEGILLAH!**

**Monday, February 22, 7:30–9:30 pm**

Say Hello to the Purim characters: Queen Esther, Mordechai, Haman, and Queen Vashti.

### **PURIM DRIVE-BY**

**Tuesday, February 23, 11 am–1 pm**

**Wednesday, February 24, 11 am–1 pm**

Drive-by to collect your Purim bag with a mask, hamentashen, and other holiday treats!

Pick-ups are also available in Pikesville and Reisterstown at select times, contact Nina Pachino, [nina@hsosc-baltimore.org](mailto:nina@hsosc-baltimore.org).

### **VIRTUAL PURIM CARNIVAL**

**Sunday, February 28, 10:30 am–Noon**

This year's Purim carnival is going to be EPIC! Hosted on a brand new platform... there will be games, music, magic, and lots of ways to win prizes!

The carnival will also feature your favorite Madrichim, DJ Michael Pachino, and up-close magic with Adam Stone!

### **FRIDAY & SATURDAY SHABBATS**

**Friday, February 26, 6:15 pm**

Join us for Friday night services and then a show at 7:15 featuring Michael Rosman's Circus and Magic performance which will entertain and delight the whole family. Michael's unique and original comedy, juggling, magic, and circus tricks will delight audiences of all ages. We can't wait to see all of you there to celebrate Purim with unique and original comedy, juggling, magic, and circus tricks!

**Saturday, February 27, 8 pm**

Our talented HSOSC staff will present a sneak peek at how we do our jobs. This year's theme is "Who are the people in the neighborhood"? Join us to find out what we do all day with humor, song, and pajamas.



# FEBRUARY ARTIST SERIES



Adults & Families



Adults & Families

## MUSICIAN BETH HAMON

**Saturday, February 6**

**7:30–8:30 pm**

Musical guest Beth Hamon will delight us with her shameless Jewish and Jewish-influenced acoustic folk with touches of roots, pop and Americana string-band.

Beth Hamon is an autodidactic singer-songwriter in Portland, Oregon whose contemporary folk songs straddle the line between Jewish and secular themes of justice, hope, renewal and love.

Beth began her songleading in Girl Scouts. Her transition to Jewish songleading was simply a matter of learning as many new songs as possible. She has written dozens of Jewish-themed folk songs for adults and for kids of all ages, deeply informed by her experiences of growing up as the “other” — and often as the only Jew in her community.

Beth’s music and art are also informed by her experiences living in the beautiful Pacific Northwest, and especially in the “D-I-Y/maker” culture that defines Portland, the place she has called home since her early teens. Her music has a raw quality that exhibits equal parts vulnerability and strength.

## HSOSC'S WOMEN'S CLUB PRESENTS A CONCERT FEATURING CELLIST AMIT PELED

**Sunday, February 28**

**4–6 pm**

Please join us for a special afternoon with internationally renowned cellist, Amit Peled, acclaimed as one of the most virtuosic instrumentalists on the concert stage today. This promises to be a marvelous experience!

Israeli-American cellist, conductor, and pedagogue Amit Peled, a musician of profound artistry and charismatic stage presence, is acclaimed worldwide as one of the most exciting and virtuosic instrumentalists on the concert stage today.

Peled strives to break down the barriers of the concert hall, about which *The Baltimore Sun* wrote, “His amiable and inviting personality is exactly the type everyone says we’ll need more of if classical music is to survive.” From 2012 through 2018, Peled performed on the Pablo Casals 1733 Goffriller cello, which was loaned to him personally by Casals’s widow, Marta Casals Istomin. He also has been named Music Director for CityMusic Cleveland for the 2019-2020 season.

**DON'T DELAY....BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY!**

This fundraiser concert benefits HSOSC and is **ONLY** open to our generous sponsors and ticket holders.

You (really) don't want to miss an evening where you can hear and watch two talented musicians who have served our Congregation many years.

**CLICK  
HERE**

TO PURCHASE  
TICKETS

The ARZA Committee presents  
**A Virtual Havdalah and  
YOUR PIC-ON-A-STICK CONCERT FUNDRAISER**  
March 13, 2021 at 7:30 pm



**with Wally Ford & Paul Binko**



**TICKETS:**

*For those who have already agreed to be sponsors, two tickets are included with your sponsorship.*

**Orchestra Seat \$36**

**Grand Tier Seat \$18**

Purchase online, or if you wish, please send a check made payable to HSOSC, and note it is for the Pic-On-A-Stick Concert. Mail to: David Carp c/o HSOSC, 7310 Park Heights Ave., Baltimore, MD, 21208

Or contact Christina Parsons, Executive Assistant [cparsons@hsosc-baltimore.org](mailto:cparsons@hsosc-baltimore.org)

Just buy a ticket and send in a picture. **NO** dress code. **NO** commute time. **NO** parking fee. Just have your picture on a stick in a seat in the Greenebaum Sanctuary, sit back in your home, and enjoy the beautiful sounds of classical, Jewish and contemporary arrangements on the harp and piano as played by Wally and Paul.



The Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation ARZA Committee: Connecting Reform Jews and Israel, Connecting HSOSC and Israel, Connecting You and Israel.



## Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation

### WHO WE ARE

We are the combination of two historic Reform synagogues working together to create one joyful, warm, inclusive, and socially conscious congregation. Because we are striving to live our Jewish values through the lens of a dynamic modern-world, we are constantly growing and evolving in pursuit of that goal.

### WHAT WE VALUE

#### We are a Congregation that...

... Fosters profound connections to one another. We work together in sacred partnership, building a community where all are included, respected, and valued. We celebrate with each other in our happiest moments and lift each other up in our most difficult ones.

... Advances our foundational value of repairing the world at home, in the Baltimore community, and far beyond our walls. We are committed to performing acts of loving kindness, providing service to others, and advocating for justice and peace.

... Appreciates the rich diversity of the Jewish community and invites all who desire a connection to Jewish life to join us. Our doors and hearts are open to interfaith couples and families, as well as people of all backgrounds, ages, races, financial means, sexual orientations, and gender identities. We welcome children and adults with disabilities and their families. We strive to ensure that our programs and facilities are accessible to all, and to accommodate special needs.

... Engages in vibrant, innovative, and transformational experiences that stimulate a lifelong love of Judaism in all generations. Through learning, music, prayer, lifecycle events, and social gatherings, we are creating a spiritual home for all of us.