



Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation CONNECTING OUR PATHWAYS



The State of Our Sacred Congregation and the Opportunities of 2022

By Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi, Ph. D.

We're ending 2021 on a very strong note! When we step back and look at all we have

accomplished, there is reason for great pride and optimism. As we begin 2022, I want to point to just **ten impressive achievements of our Congregation confirming that we are becoming who we strive to be:**

- 1. Our Unified Sacred Community:** Our Congregation is becoming more and more unified every day. While it is an ongoing process, we're now a community in which members of all backgrounds are integrated into all activities with equal participation and voice. We are integrating the best of both legacy congregations into everything we do and creating new practices and traditions as we move ahead together.
 - 2. Leadership:** Our Inaugural Board rose to the challenge and achieved 100% participation in our Inaugural Annual Fund, thus securing a significant matching challenge grant. The Board also had its first Retreat at Pearlstone and began a process of ensuring that each member can bring their story, their vision, and their strengths to our community.
 - 3. Holidays and Life Cycle Ceremonies:** Together, we rejoiced and found meaning in a wide variety of hybrid celebrations of the High Holy Days, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, and Hanukkah, and we rejoiced with multiple generations at B'nai Mitzvah services, weddings, baby-naming ceremonies, and study toward conversion finalized by immersions at the Soul Center led by our inaugural clergy.
 - 4. Gimilut Hasadim/Loving Kindness:** We gave honor to those we lost and supported mourners at funerals at Levinson's as well as at graveside services at our four cemeteries.
 - 5. Bikkur Holim/Visiting the sick:** Together, we brought community, prayers, and support to the sick both near and far.
 - 6. Tikkun Olam:** Together, we feed close to 2,000 families in our wider community every month thanks to our partnerships with Weekend Backpacks, Bunches of Lunches and Collaborating for Care as well as the tzedakah funds of our clergy and the donations of precious time, expertise and financial resources toward social action and social justice programs.
 - 7. Learning:** More and more members of our community, their friends and family members participate in adult study and engagement opportunities every single day of the week.
 - 8. Our Religious School** has very strong enrollment and has enjoyed being in person. We are also proud of our unique family engagement in social action projects.
 - 9. Our Learning Ladder** has a wonderful new director, increasing enrolment and greater involvement in the Congregation.
 - 10. Welcoming:** Together, we welcomed new members and welcomed back former members. Together, we engaged with Christians and Muslims in dialogue and learning.
- And all this just in the last six months. But we've only just begun!

Continued on page 2

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Jason Savage

Adrienne Shutt

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Scott Trager

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Barry Yaffe

Opportunities of 2022, Continued from page 1

Cantor Fox and I are so grateful to Amy Mallor, our entire staff, our president David Buchalter, MD., each of the Board members, our donors and all the volunteers who work tirelessly to make all of this happen. Our Congregation is truly blessed because of you.

What will 2022 bring?

While there is some uncertainty because of the global pandemic that is raging once again as I write this in the last days of 2021, we are nonetheless poised to broaden and deepen all of the above features, develop innovative opportunities for every age-group and strive toward even greater engagement in 2022.

I also look forward to many more celebrations in the months ahead including our son **Yedidya becoming a Bar Mitzvah on Shabbat Pikudei, on March 5th, 2022.**

Cantor Fox and I are very excited to celebrate our respective Installations with all of you as your Inaugural Clergy on Friday, May 13th and Friday, June 17th, 2022. And in the month in between we're planning a festival of music, learning, social justice and other programming to celebrate our Congregation having reached such a moment. **Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for further information.**

We can be proud of our wonderful achievements in 2021, and we can look forward to even better things in 2022. I can't wait to experience all of it with all of you.

With many blessings to you and your loved ones,

Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi, Ph.D.
Inaugural Senior Rabbi

Worship

Please register online to join us — a Zoom link will be sent to you in a confirmation email.

FRIDAY EVENINGS

Erev Shabbat Service, 6:15 p.m.

▶ [Please register online to join us](#)

SATURDAY MORNINGS

Torah Study, 8:45 a.m.

▶ [Please register online to join us](#)

Shabbat Morning Service

10:15 a.m.

▶ [Please register online to join us](#)

MAZER MORNING MINYAN

8:00 a.m., Monday–Friday

9:00 a.m., Sunday

▶ [Please register online to join us](#)

Special Shabbatot

MUSICAL SHABBAT SHIRAH SERVICE

Friday, January 14

6:15 p.m.

In-Person, on Zoom, and via ▶ [Facebook Live](#)

Join Cantor Fox and the new HSOSC band for a beautiful and musical Shabbat Shirah service.

A Zoom link will be sent in your confirmation email.

▶ [Learn more & register](#)

Adult Education & Programming

TORAH TUESDAYS WITH RABBI SABATH

Every Tuesday, 10:15 a.m.

In-person after 1/9/22, and on Zoom

Sponsored by the Women's Cub — all are welcome!

▶ [Learn more & register](#)

SPICE—FINDING YOUR ROOTS: GENEALOGY RESEARCH (PART ONE)

Mondays, January 3, 10, 24 and 31

10:30 a.m.–noon on Zoom

Have you ever wanted to learn more about your grandparents or great-grandparents? Are your ancestors from Europe, South America, Asia, or somewhere else? Here's an opportunity to learn about the fascinating field of genealogy and discover where you came from. Learn about your family's roots and ethnicity, and how to use DNA in your research. This course teaches the basics of genealogy. Learn the types of methods and techniques available in libraries and on the Internet. Examples of the

stories and types of information you will discover will be presented from the instructor's own research.

Facilitator: David A. Powell

▶ [Learn more & register](#)

SPICE—THE KOREAN WAR

Thursdays, January 6, 13, 20 and 27

10:30 a.m.–noon on Zoom

This course covers the background to the war and the creation of two Koreas as well as the conduct of the war, including: the initial defeat of the U. S. Forces, the defeat of North Korea, the intervention by forces of the People's Republic of China, the U. S. intelligence failure, the Chosin Reservoir, the Bugout, the turn-around under General Matthew B. Ridgway, the defeat of the Chinese, the relief of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, the peace talks, and what has happened to the two Koreas since the war ended. *Facilitator: Rex Rehfeld*

▶ [Learn more & register](#)

BAGELS AND BOOKS

THE FOUR WINDS BY KRISTIN HANNAH

Sunday, January 9

11:00 a.m. on Zoom

Grab a cup of coffee and a nosh while joining us as Janice Babitt presents this month's book.

▶ [Learn more & register](#)

HONORING DR. KING: THE ENDURING RELEVANCE OF "LETTER FROM A BIRMINGHAM JAIL"

Sunday, January 16

1:00–3:30 p.m. on Zoom

Honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday at a dynamic, interactive exploration of the "Letter From a Birmingham Jail." Students from the Baltimore School for the Arts will deliver portions of the letter as dramatic readings. Then Pulitzer-prize winning author and King scholar Taylor Branch, grant maker and pastor Tara Huffman, and community organizer Tre' Murphy will discuss the relevance of the letter today, including its religious and organizing implications. You'll be invited to share thoughts and feelings in break-out sessions with other attendees.

There will be two break-out group experiences during the program. These groups will be randomly assigned, with the exception of optional affinity groups for Jews of Color or non-Jewish People of Color. If you are a J/POC and would like to take advantage of an affinity group option, please check the box under "additional information" when you sign up for the event.

▶ [Learn more & register](#)



GORDON TRUST CONCERT SERIES CLAIRE HEBEISEN

Sunday, January 23, 3:00 p.m.

Concerts are free, and will be held in-person and live-streamed. Registration is required.

► [Learn more & register](#)

Claire Hebeisen is a graduate of the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland. Claire is an artist who cares deeply about musical storytelling. She wants to share what she loves about music and give audiences an “in” to the musical experience. She hopes to help open people’s ears so they can discover what it is that they love about music.

RED CROSS COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, January 24, 2:00–7:00 p.m.

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation

The Red Cross is experiencing the worst blood shortage in over a decade. The dangerously low blood supply levels have forced some hospitals to defer patients from major surgery, including organ transplants. Your donation is desperately needed.

Every day, blood donors help patients of all ages: accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those battling Cancer. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.

► [Learn more & register](#)

MONTHLY MIDRASH MONDAYS

Monday, January 31

7:00 p.m. In-person and on Zoom

Join Rabbi Sabbath at this monthly meaningful learning opportunity! Judaism like you've never seen it before!

► [Learn more & register](#)

Learning Ladder

MONDAY–FRIDAY

7:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Closed for Winter Break through January 3

Learning Ladder is a licensed childcare center and preschool for children ranging in ages from 10 weeks through five years old.

Contact Meredith Zuckerman

(410) 358-9192 or ► meredith@hsosc-baltimore.org.

Posner JEM Religious School

IN SESSION

Sundays, January 9, 23 & 30

9:30 a.m.–noon

Contact Nina Pachino

(410) 358-0105 or ► nina@hsosc-baltimore.org

Programming for Family, Youth, and Teens

HSOSC, JVC, and PJ Library Present A MITZVAH MORNING!

Sunday, January 16, 10:30 a.m. on Zoom

This project is being held in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, for parents and children in grades Pre-K through 7. Join Youth and Teen Engagement Specialist Lindsay Gaister Montague and PJ Library Director Julie Wohl, along with your HSOSC friends while we make a difference in people's lives. Decorate picture frames to donate to individuals who need some sunshine! (Make one to donate and one to keep!) *Masks are required to be worn throughout the entirety of this event.*

► [Learn more & register](#)

WEEKEND BACKPACKS FOR TEENS!

Monday, January 10, 7:00–8:00 p.m.

1505 Bedford Avenue (Located behind the Walgreens on Old Court and Reisterstown Road)

Teens in Grades 8–12

Join your friends and Lindsay Gaister Montague to help assemble bags to be given to children who are food-insecure in Baltimore City. Questions? Please email Lindsay Gaister Montague lindsay@hsosc-baltimore.org

► [Learn more & register](#)

ROCK CLIMBING AT MOVEMENT!

(Formerly Earth Treks!)

Saturday, January 22, 3:00–5:00 p.m.

Movement in Timonium, 1930 Greenspring Drive

Students in grades 5-12 are invited to participate in a fun afternoon of rock climbing at Movement in Timonium (formerly Earth Treks!) Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes. All necessary equipment and individually packaged snacks/bottled water will be provided.

Questions? Please email Lindsay Gaister Montague

► lindsay@hsosc-baltimore.org

► [Learn more & register](#)

Registration must be completed by Monday, January 3 in order to participate due to the rock-climbing facility needing to secure staff for our group.

Community Events

JEWISH VOLUNTEER CONNECTION'S MLK DAY OF SERVICE

January 16 & 17, various times and locations

► [Learn more & register](#)

Tikkun Olam

Are you volunteering in the community with an organization that would be open to other volunteers from HSOSC? ► [Submit a volunteer opportunity here](#)

Please email ► [Sheryl Jacobs](#) or ► [Mina Wender](#) if you do volunteer — we want to be able to thank you and hear about your experience.

BUNCHES OF LUNCHES

Tuesday, January 4

Flexible times

HSOSC is a proud partner of [JVC](#) and their Bunches of Lunches Program — A NEW PROGRAM at HSOSC where families make bagged meals to be donated to local shelters.

Two ways to get involved:

1. HSOSC is looking for 5–7 volunteers on each of the following mornings: January 4, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2

- Volunteers are needed to help collect lunches from people's cars during drop-off hours
- Volunteers are also needed to deliver the lunches to JVC's partner

If you are interested in volunteering, please email ► [Terry Willner](#) to sign up.

2. Make lunches in the comfort of your own home and bring them to HSOSC between 9:30a.m.–11:00a.m. on the following mornings: January 4, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2

- Lunches should include: a sandwich, piece of fruit, snack, and a bottle of water
- Anyone interested in dropping off lunches should register for the number of lunches they plan to make so JVC can identify the proper number of recipients.

For more information and to register to drop-off lunches, please visit ► www.jvcbaltimore.org/lunches

WEEKEND BACKPACKS

Sunday, January 23, 11:00 a.m. at HSOSC

Join us as we make a difference in children's lives, because hunger doesn't take the weekend off.

Please RSVP to Ken Bell ► krbell6mhc@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

► [Make a donation to Weekend Backpacks](#)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY WITH THREAD

Ongoing

Volunteers (Ages 18+) commit to being in Thread for a minimum of 1 year and are welcome to stay as long as they would like after that initial year. Within the first year, volunteers are required to complete one touchpoint each week with the young person in their volunteer family. These touchpoints can be anything from doing homework together and/or grabbing a meal to playing a game or giving youth a ride to school.

► [Learn more & register](#)

Get excited for February!

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

SPICE: WINSTON CHURCHILL'S LIFELONG ASSOCIATION WITH THE JEWS

Thursdays, February 3, 10, 17 and 24
10:30 a.m.–noon

POSNER JEM FAMILY ED RELIGIOUS SCHOOL GIVES BACK

Sunday, February 13, 9:30 a.m.–noon

SPICE: FINDING YOUR ROOTS: GENEALOGY RESEARCH (PART TWO)

Mondays, February 7, 14, 21 & 28
10:30 a.m.–noon

What Does Temple Offer a Baby Boomer?

By Martha G. Kolodkin

For many people, the primary reason to join a synagogue is to educate our children, attend High Holiday services, and celebrate other holidays and significant lifecycle moments. I see the value in all of that, but to me Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom Congregation offers so much more. I like going to services on a regular basis. The music and words of the service are a calming and uplifting refuge when so much in our world is hectic and worrisome. The rabbi's sermons are so much more than a retelling of Torah portions; they provide insight into our lives today. Our biblical ancestors aren't really that different than we are.

Human nature has not changed even though we see the world differently than they do. Torah study and

Spice classes give me so much to ponder. I enjoy participating in Tikkun Olam projects, such as Weekend Backpacks—packing bags for the hungry. Even more important are the friends that I have made here. I have a group of friends in the Mazer Morning Minyan where we talk, laugh, and pray. We have gotten to know each other in a wonderful, personal way and even when we are apart physically, we are joined via Zoom. We are there for each other through life's ups and downs and I am so grateful. Joys are more profound when shared and burdens are lighter.

I encourage everyone to find something at temple that speaks to you and hope that you are as fulfilled by shared experiences as I have been.

Get to know the staff!

Question of the Month: What's your favorite Jewish Food?

Cantor Fox: Matzo ball soup (even though I can't eat it anymore!).

Amy Mallor: Matzo ball soup.

Aviva Janus: My favorite Israeli food is shawarma. It is traditionally lamb or turkey meat in a pita with salads and french fries. In Israel, french fries are called chips.

Nina Pachino: Homemade blintzes because they are time consuming to make, so I know they are always made with love, and of course, Challah!

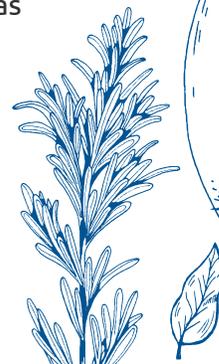
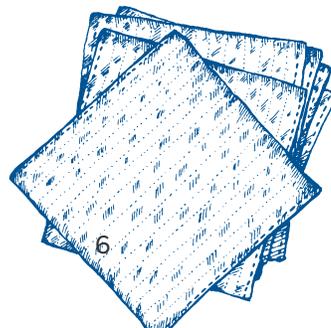
Lindsay Gaister Montague: My mom's kugel and my dad's matzah brei! Both are super delicious!

Stacy Smith: Matzo ball soup.

Estelle Sandiford: Too many to decide... among my favorites are falafel, bagels with lox & cream cheese, Kugel, and of course chicken soup with matzo balls!

Rachel Moses: I love my mom's brisket, blintzes, kreplach soup, and of course matzo balls, but my favorite Jewish foods are desserts: rugelach, keichel, babka, and rainbow cake!

Meredith Zuckerman: Potato knishes! I could eat them as a side dish or as the main course.



Why I Volunteer

By Shelley B. Fowler

I grew up in a philanthropic family and learned from my parents the importance of giving back. While my husband, Newt, and I have always donated money to many nonprofits, I have found that I especially enjoy hands-on volunteering. There is nothing like the feeling you get when you spend time helping others.

When our kids were young, Newt learned about [Santa's Helpers Anonymous](#) from a work colleague. The organization provides food, toiletries, and Christmas gifts to families in need who are identified through schools and community organizations. Newt and I have been wrapping gifts and helping out with Christmas Eve deliveries for almost 30 years. As our children got older, it became a family affair, and our kids wrapped and delivered along with us.

Once our children left for college and I had more free time, I found new ways to get involved in the community. As a squash player, I learned about [SquashWise](#), an organization founded to improve the extracurricular opportunities available to city youth. I have been a weekly academic tutor for the past seven years (and an extra person to cheer the students on during the winter squash season in their matches against Baltimore middle and high school teams). Spending time with SquashWise students is always one of the highlights of my week.

When I joined Chapter Two, a program to introduce women to The Associated and help them find their passion within the Jewish community, we learned the importance of volunteerism. After our 10-month program ended, we decided we wanted

to continue to engage in volunteer opportunities as a group. We approached Jewish Volunteer Connection, an agency of The Associated, which connected us with [Bedtime in a Box](#), a nonprofit that supports the development of young children by providing families with the materials, tools, and training they need to establish a comprehensive bedtime routine. The organization partners with childcare centers, home visiting programs, schools and school systems, family support organizations, healthcare providers, and governmental agencies to distribute its boxes to low-income families. Our Chapter Two cohort has been packing boxes with an amazing array of age-appropriate materials for children for the past three years.

Even though I work and it would be easy to say that I don't have time to volunteer, I have learned that volunteering is part of who I am. Whether it's helping out once a year at Santa's Helpers Anonymous, once a month at Bedtime in a Box, or once a week at SquashWise or making lunches to bring to HSOSC's monthly Bunches of Lunches drop-offs or handing out food at the temple's Collaborating for Care distributions, hands-on volunteering has become a part of my life. No matter how much or how little time you have, there is a volunteer opportunity for you. HSOSC's TOPAZ has a variety of programs, and JVC is always happy to find an opportunity that fits your interests and schedule. I hope that you—by yourself or with family or friends—will find a volunteer opportunity (or several) for which you can use your energy and talents to make a difference.



THE GORDON TRUST FUND
Concert Series

Sunday, January 23 | 3 pm
CLAIRE HEBEISEN *violinist*

Sunday, February 27 | 3 pm
DANIEL SCHWAIT *singer*

Sunday, March 27 | 3 pm
CATHERINE REID *harpist*

Sunday, May 15 | 3 pm
JACQUES-PIERRE MALAN *cellist*



Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom
Congregation

This series of free concerts will be in-person and live-streamed from the Greenebaum Sanctuary. Registration is required.

The Gordon Trust Fund's primary purpose is to foster and promote the advancement and performance of classical music in the Metropolitan Baltimore area.

REMINDER:

All programming and services will remain virtual through January 9, 2022.

You can stay up-to-date by visiting our website: ► www.hsosc-baltimore.org

Our clergy and staff will continue to be available to you, as always, via phone and email.

If you have a pastoral emergency, please call or text Rabbi Sabath: 513-802-3494.

For any other concerns, feel free to reach out to our Interim Executive Director, Amy Mallor:
 ► Amy.Mallor@hsosc-baltimore.org.

While we look forward to seeing everyone on Zoom over the next couple weeks, we also pray for safety and good health so that we can all be in-person again soon!

We are in this together.

Stay safe and healthy!



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.