

Temple Aliyah Social Action Program

תשב"ב 2021-22



TEMPLE ALIYAH SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAMMING

2021-2022

("Think of your fellow man, lend him a helping hand, Put a little love in your heart . . .

And the world will be a better place . . ." Al Green and Annie Lennox)

Be Impactful! Join any one of our programs of learning and doing. Together we can make the world a better place. Read ComingUp for more information on these and other programs in the works.

GET INVOLVED! WE WANT YOUR IDEAS! COME TO SOCIAL ACTION BI-MONTHLY PLANNING MEETINGS! Meetings take place the first Wednesday of these months: **September 1, November 3, January 5, March 2, and May 4, 7:45 pm.** For more information about Temple Aliyah Social Action, contact co-chairs Rachel Weinstock at rachelweinstock@verizon.net or Peter Kussell at peterkussell@me.com.

BE INVOLVED THROUGH LEARNING

1. Social Justice Lecture Series

Keynote Lecture: Dilemmas of Educational Ethics: An Interactive Case Study Discussion

Meira Levinson, PhD, Professor of Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Speaker

Thursday, October 21 from 7:45 pm to 9:15 pm



Many students, teachers, school and district leaders, parents, and policy makers agree about the importance of educational equity and social justice -- but they (we!) often disagree passionately about what those mean in practice. Do we advance educational equity better by funding more school counselors or by expanding access to AP courses? Is it more

just to assess students' learning losses during COVID-related school closures in order to create a remediation plan, or to ban testing and assume that a richly developed curriculum will help all children make progress? If we condemn the Iowa state legislature's interference in K-12 teaching by passing an anti-Critical Race Theory law, how can we celebrate the Massachusetts state legislature for passing a law requiring students to take civic action? As parents, how should we think about our own responsibilities when we decide whether to send our children to public or private school, to hire a math tutor or college prep coach, or to speak to the principal about changing their class assignment to a better teacher?

Come to this keynote kick-off of the Social Justice Lecture Series to explore dilemmas of educational ethics by diving into an interactive case study discussion. This session will conclude by drawing connections to our own lives and to social justice more broadly. *Co-Sponsored with Temple Beth Shalom*

The Death Penalty in the United States

Lucy Kissel, JD, Speaker

Sunday January 30 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.



Did you know that for every nine people executed in the United States, one person on death row has been exonerated and that the death penalty is disproportionately imposed on the most vulnerable in our society? America's use of the death penalty makes us an outlier among our closest allies and other democracies. Capital punishment sits at the intersection of some of

the most urgent issues this country faces, including racism, poverty, and marginalization. This talk will focus on our use of the death penalty, its history, and the prospect of abolition. *Co-Sponsored with Temple Beth Shalom*

A Tutorial On How To Become A Hit At Cocktail Parties: Immigration Fact or Fiction

Gerald C. Rovner, JD, Speaker

Sunday, March 27 from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm



In the past four years, immigration has become an increasingly politicized issue, with many Executive Orders changing long established immigration protocols and regulations. Recently, President

Biden has begun to vacate many of the Executive Orders imposed by the former administration thereby altering the landscape for immigrants and future immigrants almost daily. From addressing the "remain in Mexico" program while asylum cases are pending, to replacing prosecutors and military lawyers bringing

experienced immigration lawyers into the Immigration Court, to studying and alleviating the root causes of why so many are leaving the Northern Triangle to seek asylum in the United States, the recent reversals have yielded tremendous and impactful change in the sphere of immigration law. Where does immigration stand today? How does one qualify for asylum? Are immigrants a benefit or burden to our country? What is required for an employer to hire a foreign national? Should ICE be disbanded? This factual program will leave plenty of time for entertaining questions in a nonjudgmental and apolitical setting.
Co-Sponsored with Temple Beth Shalom

2. Values Over Violence Workshops

Amy Tigue, Cooperative Ministries of Boston, Facilitator

Wednesdays, November 1, 8, 15 from 7:45 to 9:15 pm

Based on the innovative approach pioneered by ESPERE in the gang-ravaged ghettos of Bogota, Colombia, these Values Over Violence (VOV) workshops focus on addressing the emotional issues stemming from violence and felt by victims, perpetrators, and the community. The underlying concept lies in the idea that emotional and spiritual healing is a critical step for victims so that they can go beyond violence and chart a new direction of constructive civil engagement. This Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries program trains its participants to examine their emotions, learn to identify events which trigger anger and revenge, and look at choices about how to handle these events. This abbreviated iteration of the VOV workshop, designed for our community, is a continuation of last year's very successful program, though previous attendance is not necessary.

BE INVOLVED THROUGH DOING

“Don’t Throw That Out!”

Read on for year round opportunities to donate your gently used items to ease the burden of hundreds of others in our community.

“Roll Up Your Sleeves and Work to Make an Impact!”

Read on for the many diverse opportunities to make an impact by showing up and doing.

CLAH* Projects Fall and Spring

Initiatives

***Clergy and Laity for Affordable Housing**

CLAH is a service program of Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries working to build wealth for homeowners in Boston, particularly in neighborhoods scarred by racial inequity. CLAH works with many congregations to provide volunteers and resources to renovate homes in Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan and beyond. Past projects have included creating new bedrooms in basements or attics to allow a family to reunite, re-shingling a home to protect from water damage, and installing wheelchair ramps. This past summer, volunteers from Temple Aliyah helped paint the exterior of a house in Mattapan that had gone unpainted for decades, directly adding thousands of dollars to the value of the property with little cost to the homeowner, a minister from Quincy.



Sign up for the CLAH Volunteer Database [here](#) and learn about their Fall initiative, with dates to be announced. Due to Covid regulations and agency preferences, exact plans for many of these programs have not been finalized. Look for more information in ComingUp or go to the Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries CLAH [website](https://coopmet.org/clah/). at <https://coopmet.org/clah/>

Year-Round Opportunities



Family Table. Family Table is a Jewish food bank whose mission is to end hunger in the Boston Jewish community while serving all who need assistance regardless of religious affiliation. The need is greater than ever this year due to the pandemic. For Covid safety reasons, Family Table now accepts grocery items via an Amazon Wish List. Look for the link in ComingUp, or go to Jewish Family and Children's Services for more information.

September and October



Kol Nidre Food Drive. A large proportion of Family Table's annual food stocks come from the annual Kol Nidre Food Drive. Bring your bag of kosher, non-perishable food to the synagogue to help restock the shelves. To accommodate those who may not come in person to services, this year the *Kol Nidre Food Drive will be held between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, from Monday, September 6 up through Friday, September 17.* Bring your bag when you pick up your High Holiday Survival Kit or stop by anytime and drop off your donation in the school lobby.

Sukkot Coat Drive. Help keep others warm in the cold New England winters by donating new and gently used, clean coats, along with heavy, hooded sweatshirts, which we will donate to the Generic Ministry, a non-denominational organization serving Boston's homeless population. A collection bin will be in the School Lobby from Sunday, September 19 through Sunday, October 3.



November and December



Jewish Family and Childrens Services Annual Hanukkah Gift Card Drive. Make Hanukkah joyous for children in our communities. JF&CS provides Hanukkah gift cards to the parents of 300 children, allowing parents the dignity of choosing their childrens' gifts themselves.

Look for more information in Coming UP and announcements by Sheryl Dubin.

Walker School Holiday Toy Drive.

Help make the Holidays special for children ages of 3 through 14 who are served by Walker's residential, education, and community-based programs. Look for more information in ComingUP and announcements by Sheryl Dubin.



Project Ezra. Prepare and deliver Christmas meals for those in our area. This program has changed due to Covid19, so look for 2021 details in Coming Up in early November or contact Judy Lee if interested.



NEW! Temple Aliyah Mitten and Hat Drive

Co-sponsored with Gan Aliyah, this year marks the inaugural Temple Aliyah Hat and Mitten Drive. Bring your new or gently used children's mittens or hats to the synagogue, which we will donate to Circle of Hope. This non-profit organization, based in Needham, provides homeless children, women, and men

in the Boston and MetroWest area with clothing and necessities in order to preserve and enhance their overall health and personal dignity. Look for a clothesline in the preschool area to hang your donations!

January and February



Lions Club Eyeglass Recycling.

Donate gently used eyeglasses and high quality sunglasses during the designated “Low Vision Month” of February. The Lions Club sorts and cleans the eyeglasses, and distributes them to needy people around the world. Bring donations to the School Lobby during the month of February. Look in ComingUp for more details.



NEW! Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith Day of Service: Monday, January 17 Spend Martin Luther King Day helping others. Join with our partner Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries (CMM) and its co-sponsor Brandeis University to pack between ten and twenty thousand meals for those who are food insecure in the Greater Boston area. Look for information in ComingUp.

March through May



Temple Aliyah Annual American Red Cross Blood Drive: Sunday, March 27.

“To save a life is to save the world”, Sanhedrin 37a. Each pint of blood has the potential to save three lives, so please sign up to donate blood this year. New and veteran donors welcome. *Co-sponsored with Temple Aliyah Sisterhood.*

Furniture Drive: Sunday, May 1, 2021. Back by popular demand! A team of Temple Aliyah “furniture movers” will collect gently used furniture from your home to donate to needy Boston Families. Please check ComingUp in April and announcements by Peter Krupp for opportunities to both donate and assist.



Project Bread's The Walk for Hunger: Team Temple Aliyah.



Project Bread connects people and communities experiencing food insecurity to reliable sources of food, and also advocates for policies that make food more accessible.

Join Team Temple Aliyah in Project Bread's 23d annual fundraising walk, which annually collects well over \$1 million. Temple Aliyah is

proud to rank among the top yielding collection groups for this walk. Look for more information in ComingUp and for information from Janet Besser.

Biographies of our Social Justice Lecture Series

Presenters

Meira Levinson *PhD, Professor of Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education*

Dilemmas of Educational Ethics: October 21: 7:45PM is a normative political philosopher who works at the intersection of civic education, youth empowerment, racial justice, and educational ethics. In doing so, she draws upon scholarship from multiple disciplines as well as her eight years of experience teaching in the Atlanta and Boston Public Schools. She is currently working to start a global field of educational ethics, modeled in some ways after bioethics, that is philosophically rigorous, disciplinarily and experientially inclusive, and both relevant to and informed by educational policy and practice. Levinson's work in this area has been supported by a Guggenheim Fellowship, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard's Edmond J. Safra Center of Ethics, and the Spencer Foundation.

Since the onslaught of the global novel coronavirus pandemic, Levinson has been focused on expanding educational ethics to address the multitude of ethical challenges posed by school closures, remote schooling, and uncertain reopenings. In collaboration with colleagues, she has co-authored *The Path to Zero and Schools: Achieving Pandemic-Resilient Teaching and Learning Spaces* policy guidance, a *New England Journal of Medicine* article on *Reopening Primary Schools in a Pandemic*, and two additional white papers. She has also been leading global teacher discussion groups on the ethical challenges they face. She earned a B.A. in philosophy from Yale and a D.Phil. in politics from Nuffield College, Oxford University.

Lucy Elena Kissel is an assistant public defender in Rhode Island and was previously an attorney at the Louisiana Capital Assistance Center, a non-profit law office that provides representation to people facing the death penalty. Lucy earned a J.D. from New York University School of Law and a B.A. from Brown University. During her time at NYU Law, Lucy participated in clinics with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the ACLU, and interned with the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, the Southern Center for Human Rights, and Texas Defender Service. On campus, she served as a director of the Prisoner Rights and Education Project and as a research assistant with the Center for Research in Crime and Justice.

Lucy is the daughter-in-law of members Stu and Sara Altman.

Gerald C. Rovner After graduation from Clark Univ., Worcester, MA, he received his J.D. from Rutgers Univ. School of Law (Newark, N.J.), and has been an active member of the legal community ever since. Mr. Rovner has extensive and wide-ranging expertise in the practice of immigration and nationality law. As a private practitioner, before retiring, he spent his career providing representation, guidance and advice to a wide range of clients concerning immigrant and non-immigrant visas in business, student and family related matters as well as citizenship and consular issues. He is a Past Chair of the New England Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), has served as the Chair of AILA's National Liaison Committee with the Vermont Service Center, and is a former member of AILA's National Benefit's Center Liaison Committee. From 1990 – 2015 he served as a member of the Massachusetts Governor's Advisory Council on Immigrants and Refugees. He is a Past Chair of the Immigration Section Council, a Past Chair of the Legal Fee Arbitration Board of the Mass Bar Assoc. and is a Life Fellow of the Mass Bar Foundation. He has frequently lectured on immigration law for the Mass Bar Association and local organizations as well as AILA. In 2000, he was awarded the President's Citation by AILA. In August, 2017 he delivered the keynote address at the Naturalization Ceremony held in Faneuil Hall, Boston.

He is the current Chair of the Needham Area Immigration Justice Task Force and the past Chair of the Temple Aliyah Immigration Committee. Residing in Needham, MA with his wife, Miriam, he is active in local community affairs.