



TEMPLE  
SINAI

Finding Strength in Community

Hello,

## Annual Appeal 5781: Make Your Year-End Donation Today!

### Temple Sinai 5781 Annual Appeal

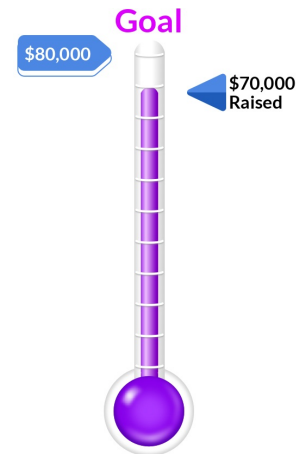
Our **Annual Appeal** is critical to securing our future and is more important than ever during these uncertain times.

DONATE >



We have already raised over \$70,000.

**Help us reach our goal of \$80,000.**



### Service Schedule

Friday, December 25

7:30 PM

Erev Shabbat Service  
(via Facebook Live)

Saturday, December 26

8:30 AM

Torah Study  
(via Zoom Classroom)

9:45 AM

Shabbat Morning Service  
(via Facebook Live)

Friday, January 1

7:30 PM

Erev Shabbat Service  
(via Facebook Live)

Saturday, January 2

8:30 AM

Torah Study  
(via Zoom Classroom)

9:45 AM

The Temple Sinai offices will be  
**CLOSED** for the following dates:

- Thursday, December 24th
- Friday, December 25th
- Thursday, December 31st
- Friday, January 1st



View last week's services:  
**Erev Shabbat Service, 12/18/20**  
**Shabbat Morning Service, 12/19/20**

Beginning in January, join Rabbi Meszler's **Weekly Study, Thursdays at 1:30 PM** and study the **philosophy of Bachya ibn Pakuda.**



## From Rabbi Meszler: So How Will It End?



It's hard to not know how things end. It can feel difficult to be stuck waiting or be in a transitional time. Maybe after some years, at the end of time, or at some point in the future, this word *keitz* can teach us about the difficulty of being "in process." We are an unfinished work. Whenever "right now" is, we are in the middle of an unfolding drama. And when things are tough, we can remind ourselves that the story isn't over and the end is not yet written. There is a line from a movie, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, most likely an old Indian proverb: "It will all be okay in the end, and if it's not okay, it's not the end!" What a hopeful way of seeing the world! So while we are waiting, let's get comfortable. Better yet, let's live as best we can to the fullest.

[Read Rabbi Meszler's Sermon here](#)

## What's Happening "at" the Temple



**Light Beyond the Shadows**  
The Legacy of the Czech Torah Scrolls  
and the Renewal of Jewish Life in Czechia

by Sheila Pallay and Julius Müller

### ***Light Beyond the Shadows*** by Sheila Pallay and Julius Müller

Inspired by the survival of 1,564 Czech Torah scrolls - including scroll 655 from Přeštice, Czechoslovakia restored by Temple Sinai in 2015 - *Light Beyond the Shadows* depicts Czechia's rich history of some of the Jewish life and highlights the resurgence of a new generation of Czech Jews who are beginning to learn about their Jewish identity.

Author and Temple member Sheila Pallay has generously donated 100 copies of this book to Temple Sinai.

**Minimum donation: \$25\***

**Your copy of *Light Beyond the Shadows* supports  
Temple Sinai and The Memorial Scrolls Trust.**

*\*\$10 donated to Temple Sinai and \$15 donated to The Memorial Scrolls Trust.*

[Purchase \*Light Beyond the Shadows\* on PayPal](#) | [Purchase on Chaverweb](#)

Or mail your check to **Temple Sinai, 25 Canton Street, Sharon, MA 02067, Attn: Light Beyond the Shadows.**

*Delivery can be arranged if you cannot pick up your book(s) in person.*

**[Religious School](#)  
[Calendar Raffle](#)  
[Fundraiser](#)**



Join Cantor Becky on **Saturday, January 16 from 4:30-5:15 PM** to sing, schmooze, and make *havdalah* - an opportunity to connect with each other over Zoom - as we say goodbye to Shabbat.

**Melaveh Malkah & Havdalah Zoom Info**

Meeting ID: 953 011 3877  
Passcode: Sinai



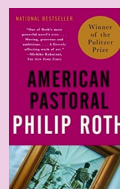
Support our Temple Sinai Religious School and **buy your February 2021 Raffle Calendar online today here.** It's a win - win! You will have 28 chances to win prizes and all **proceeds will benefit the religious school.**

**Calendars are \$10 each | 6 for \$50**

**Questions?** E-mail **Beth Nelson** or visit our **fundraiser webpage**



**Did you donate in lieu of gifts during Hanukkah?** Email **Diane Rosen** with your name and the **charity/charities to which you have donated** (please don't include amounts).



Join us for our next **Sinai Reads on Sunday, January 24th at 9:30 AM** via Zoom, where we will be discussing Philip Roth's Pulitzer Prize winning novel, **American Pastoral.**

**Meeting ID: 860 4476 5893**

Passcode: 741836

Contact **Diane Rosen** with questions.

## In the Community



**The Rabbi Samuel Chiel (zt"l) Genesis Forum 2020-21**

Our teachers include rabbis, professionals, and academics, who all will draw strength and meaning from Jewish perspectives. Our conversations will be infused with lively debate, as we explore ancient and modern Jewish wisdom.

**[Click here to learn more or to register](#)**

**Keshet:** Upcoming Programming for LGBTQ Families - **2020 is Over! Virtual Party for LGBTQ Jewish Teens on 12/30 at 8 PM**

**Creating & Connecting with Jewish Boston Teens:** Virtual Program creating winter activity packets for Hebrew SeniorLife on **12/30 at 8 PM**

**CCAR Press:** Next Program is ***This Precious Life* Book Launch on 1/10 at 1 PM**

**[Learn more about all of these community programs here.](#)**

## Resources for Challenging Times

**From the URJ:** resources and programs from the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), including **RJ on the Go**

**From CJP and their community partners:** helping you through this time with Emergency Fund Childcare Subsidies, Employment Resources and a Warmline to help access assistance

**Environmental & Racial Justice Webinar:** Co-presented by our Social Justice Committee, Sustainable Sharon Coalition & Sharon Racial Equity Alliance

**Resources from Institute for Jewish Spirituality:** designed to relieve stress as we increase awareness and navigate this time of uncertainty and isolation

**Coping with COVID-19:** Temple Sinai's summer Q&A webinar series

**Parenting in a Pandemic:** insights & practical advice to help parents support their teens

**"When We Turned Within, Volume 2":** Rabbi Meszler is included in this collection of writings in response to Covid-19

**The Moving Traditions Teen Groups: Helping Jewish Teens Grow:** New programs added for LGBTQ+ teens

**Though we have shared this innumerable times already, it bears repeating.**

Massachusetts residents are advised to **limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19** by following these steps to **1.) stop the spread of COVID-19** and **2.) prevent deaths.**

- Limit in-person gatherings to household members only
- Postpone or cancel travel. If you do choose to travel, be aware of and comply with Massachusetts travel order **requirements.**
- Follow the current state **gathering size limits.**

**PLEASE: We want everyone to stay safe and healthy.**

- Wear a mask
- Practice social distancing: stay at least six feet away from other people
- Wash hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer
- Get the flu vaccine
- Monitor for symptoms – fever, cough, shortness of breath
- If you may be around those at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, take extra precautions to keep them safe
- Monitor recommendations from **Sharon Health Department, MA Department of Public Health,** and the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.**

*L'shalom*  
Amy

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**Did you know? Provisions within the CARES Act may be beneficial to those who make charitable contributions to organizations such as Temple Sinai of Sharon.**

A new above-the-line charitable deduction of up to \$300 is available to taxpayers who do not itemize deductions.

- See also: **Ann Carrns, "It's Easier to Get a Tax Deduction for Donations This Year,"** *New York Times*, 20 November 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/20/your-money/charity-deductions-taxes-coronavirus.html>, accessed November 30, 2020.

**[Click here to learn more about how CARES Act may affect your year-end gift planning.](#)**

Don't hesitate to contact Rabbi Amy Goodman, Executive Director, with questions (781-784-6081 or [agoodman@temple-sinai.com](mailto:agoodman@temple-sinai.com)).



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Shop from the special Amazon Smile website at  
<https://smile.amazon.com/>

