

Temple Sinai Adult Jewish Learning Schedule: September - December 2022

Upcoming Courses and Events (see page 5 for ongoing classes)

• Preparing Your Heart for the High Holy Days

Instructor Rabbi Talia Stein

Description In this class, we'll dive more deeply into themes of the High Holy Days and offer the opportunity to learn texts and reflect ourselves. We will look at themes of awe and how the High Holidays can serve as our own journey of transformation. All are welcome!

Date Sunday, September 18, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm (**Zoom and onsite**)

Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89587768427?pwd=M3duNTJubnZTK1FjaWxHNzE2VUgvUT09>

Bio Talia Stein is Temple Sinai's Associate Rabbi. She was ordained at Hebrew College Rabbinical School and has a Master's in Public Policy from the University of Maryland. Rabbi Stein is committed to social justice and Jewish learning.



• Poems of Awe

Instructor Jenny Barber

Description Straddling Yom Kippur, these sessions will focus on six or seven poems that express awe in different ways. Some might have a religious cast, some might draw from the natural world, others might be linked to the holiday itself.

Click [here](#) to read and/or download the poems before class.

Dates 2 Sundays: October 2 and 9, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm (**Zoom only**)

Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86127102250?pwd=amtEYldLWURaY1dGYmNHd0ErS2RjQT09>

Bio Temple Sinai member **Jenny Barber**, who is Brookline's Poet Laureate, taught literature and creative writing at Suffolk University from 2004 to 2018. She has also taught at Wellesley College, Bradford College, the Harvard Extension School, and the Brookline Adult and Community Education Program. She is the founding editor of the literary journal Salamander, and her most recent collection of poems is *Works on Paper* (The Word Works, 2016).



• Ottoman Jews of Iberian Origin

Instructor Aviva Ben-Ur

Description This class will focus on a minority within a minority: Ottoman Jews of Iberian origin who arrived in the U.S.A. during and just after the era of mass immigration (1880-1950). Not readily recognized as Jews by their Ashkenazi coreligionists, many of these newcomers forged alliances with the non-Jewish Hispanic immigrant communities with whom they shared cultural and linguistic ties. The denial of their Jewishness was a defining experience for many, as was their lukewarm reception by the country's first Jews, the so-called "Western Sephardim," whose ancestors first arrived in 1654. We will challenge the traditional narrative of American Jewish immigrant history by considering newspapers of the era written in Ladino, or Judeo-Spanish, the native language of Ottoman Sephardim.

Date Sunday October 16, 9:30 am – 10:50 am

Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86170262589?pwd=UHFtSVZwZDhSQmdkc0FES3Jub0VsUT09>

Bio Aviva Ben-Ur is Professor in the Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. A historian specializing in Atlantic Jewish history, she is the author of *Remnant Stones: The Jewish Cemeteries and Synagogues of Suriname: Essays* (Hebrew Union

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College Press, 2012) and *Remnant Stones: The Jewish Cemeteries of Suriname: Epitaphs* (Hebrew Union College Press, 2009), both co-authored with Rachel Frankel; *Sephardic Jews in America: A Diasporic History* (New York University Press, 2009), and *Jewish Autonomy in a Slave Society: Suriname in the Atlantic World, 1651-1825* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2020).



- **Introduction to the Aleph-Bet**

Instructor Robin Orwant

Description If you don't know the Hebrew alphabet, or need a refresher, this course is for you. Join Temple Sinai member and master teacher Robin Orwant as she guides you through the mysteries of the Aleph-Bet. At the end of this course, you'll be prepared for Robin's follow-up course in the spring on prayerbook Hebrew.

Dates 5 Sundays: October 16, 23 and 30, November 6 and 13, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm (**Zoom and onsite in the Weintraub Community Room**)

Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85449187591?pwd=QzRSWW9kbEhWY0tveUdja1h4TnRPdz09>

Bio

Robin Orwant has taught multiple classes at Temple Sinai, including courses on the Haftarah, chanting Torah, and summer courses, with Jeremy Wolfe, on a variety of biblical texts. She has also been responsible for teaching Hebrew to the members of Temple Sinai's recent Adult B'nai Mitzvah classes.



- **Cinema@Sinai**

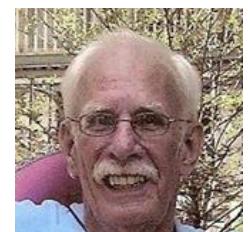
Coordinator Amos Lassen

Description The first film this year will be "Sublet", held on Saturday, October 22nd. It tells the story of Michael, a young columnist working in Tel Aviv, who is drawn into the life of the city and forms a bond with the man from whom he sublets an apartment.

Date Saturday, October 22, 7:30 pm, in the Weintraub Community Room. The film schedule for the remainder of the year is still being developed. Watch for updates in the weekly Sinai email and on the temple website.

Bio

Temple member Amos Lassen moved to Brookline in May 2012 after having spent 7 years in Arkansas when Hurricane Katrina changed his plans for a two-year visiting professorship in New Orleans. He lived in Israel for many years. Amos has taught at the Hebrew University, the University of New Orleans and the University of Central Arkansas. He grew up in the Young Judaea movement in New Orleans.



- **Building Bridges: Temple Sinai and Israel (sponsored by the Israel Committee).**

Instructor Rabbi Golan Ben-Chorin

Description This highly successful initiative that began in 2020 will continue with 6 sessions during the 2022 – 2023 year. Sessions will be led live from Israel by Rabbi Golan-Ben Chorin of Haifa. This year's theme is "God From an Israeli Perspective." Topics might include Messianism in Israel, Hebrew as holy language or daily communication, the God that divides Israeli Jews from their counterparts around the world, God in the Israeli ethos, etc.

Dates 6 Sundays: October 30, December 11, January 8, February 12, March 5, and May 21, 9:30 am – 10:50 am. (**Zoom only**)

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Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89710448257?pwd=RitzR1ZYN2U2K3Z5R0RMM0dTWkMxUT09>
(The same Zoom link is used for all sessions).

Bio

Rabbi Golan Ben-Chorin Ed.D. is a third-generation Israeli Reform spiritual leader. An entrepreneurial educator, he has served congregations in Europe, the US and Israel, where he is pioneering inclusive, egalitarian Judaism. He recently produced twelve short movies on spiritual renewal in his home town of Haifa as a way to help address the challenges of the coronavirus. He is currently the rabbi of a startup community in Herzliya and has founded "Finding North – 30 days of inspiration and discovery in Haifa."



• Queer Torah Study (sponsored by the Rainbow Committee)

Instructor Ben Gerson

Description Our study will affirm our journey as LGBTQ Jewish individuals and allies in the context of our sacred text. As we gather together, we will be provided with texts that celebrate identity as well as those that can challenge our current sensibilities. There are a variety of Torah passages that have been used to emphasize the dignity and worth of LGBTQ Jews while others have been used to denigrate them. In light of modern biblical scholarship, it is important for us to recognize how these texts have been used in their historical context and how we can make sense of them through the nuance of language. All are welcome to join us in Ehrenfried Hall on 4 Shabbatot, followed by Havdalah. Light refreshments will be provided.

Dates 4 Saturdays: November 5, January 7, March 4, and May 6, 5:00 pm (**in-person only**).

Bio

Ben Gerson is originally from Marblehead and lives in Cambridge, MA with his husband Kevin. He received his education from Goucher College and completed his Masters of Teaching at Salem State University. He is a middle and high school teacher at a local private school where he teaches Spanish and American History. He also teaches 6th grade pre-B'nai Mitzvah students at Temple Sinai. In his spare time Josh enjoys music, specifically playing classical piano and klezmer accordion.



• Our Will to Live (Part 1)

Instructors Mark Ludwig, Dr. Anna Ornstein

Description Drawing from their books *Our Will To Live* and *My Mother's Eyes*, Terezin Music Foundation director Mark Ludwig and Holocaust survivor and distinguished psychoanalyst Dr. Anna Ornstein will explore the role of the arts as a vehicle of hope and survival during the Shoah and how that applies in our world today. Dr. Ornstein will share readings and insights from *My Mother's Eyes*, her published memoir.

Part 2 of this course will take place in the spring.

Dates Sunday, November 13, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm (**Zoom only**)

Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83801117588?pwd=cTNZQUhocnU1YWhTUW9Nb0hoS2pCQT09>

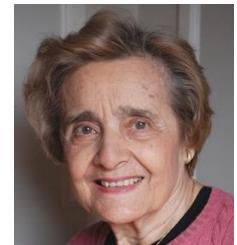
Bio

Temple member **Mark Ludwig** is a performance artist, activist and Holocaust scholar. He blends his musical and scholarly career with social causes, emphasizing issues of intolerance in the United States and Europe. He performs and lectures worldwide on Holocaust music and its history. A Fulbright scholar of the Terezín composers, Mark is the founding director of the Terezín Music Foundation (TMF), dedicated to documenting, preserving and advancing the resilience of the human spirit (www.terezinmusic.org).



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Anna Ornstein, M.D., is Professor Emerita of Child Psychiatry, University of Cincinnati, Co-Director, International Center for the Study of Psychoanalytic Self-Psychology, and Lecturer in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Anna says “As a Holocaust survivor, I am deeply concerned with the survival of the memory of this catastrophic event. It is my conviction that survival of any historical event can be assured only when such events become transformed into various forms of art. There are indications that such a transformation is currently in process in all forms of art: in poetry, fiction, films, the visual arts, dance and music.”



- **Annual Cohon Lecture**

Lecturer Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Description Our Cohon Lecturer this year will be Rabbi Toba Spitzer, who will join us on at Shabbat services on Friday evening, December 2. Her topic will be “Jewish Metaphors to Re-Imagine the Divine,” based on her book *God Is Here: Re-Imagining the Divine*.

Date Friday, December 2, during Shabbat services (7:30 pm)

Bio Rabbi Toba Spitzer is the rabbi at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek in West Newton, MA. She is a popular teacher of courses on Judaism and economic justice, Reconstructionist Judaism, new approaches to thinking about God, and the practice of integrating Jewish spiritual and ethical teachings into daily life. Her new book re-casts the Jewish discussion of God and explores the metaphors that Judaism has used through history for discussing God. Going back to the earliest sources for Judaism as well as Christianity, she discovers in the Hebrew Bible a rich and varied palette of metaphors for the divine - including Water, Voice, Fire, Rock, Cloud, and even the process of Becoming. She addresses how we can access these ancient metaphors, as well as those drawn from rabbinic tradition and modern science, to experience holiness in our daily lives and to guide us in challenging times.



- **Creation, Revelation, and Redemption - Reflecting on Your Jewish Journey**

Instructor Josh Conescu

Description Using the methodology of the Jewish Studio Project, www.jewishstudioproject.org, participants will explore their relationship to ancient, sacred texts by creating art. These workshops are not about the artistic product, rather, about the process of, and reflections on, interacting with Jewish sacred text non-verbally. While it is recommended that participants attend all three workshops, each workshop can stand alone. Art supplies will be provided.

Session 1. Creation: Beginning to Make Order Out of the Chaos (Tohu V'Vohu)

Session 2. Revelation: What is Given and What is Received?

Session 3. Redemption: With an Outstretched Arm and A Mighty Hand

Dates 3 Sundays: December 4, 11, and 18, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm. *Course format – Zoom, onsite, or hybrid - tbd.*

Bio

Josh Conescu has been a Jewish educator for the past 25 years. He was a lead fourth grade teacher at The Rashi School. Josh has taught at Temple Shalom of Newton, Beth-El Temple Center (Belmont), Temple Beth David (Westwood), Eitz Chayim, Shalom Emeth (Burlington) and Prozdor. He served this past year at Temple Sinai as the Family Educator. In the summer, Josh is The Director of Jewish Life and Learning at Pembroke - an all-girls Jewish sleepaway camp in Pembroke, MA.



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Ongoing Classes

- **Shabbat Morning Torah Study**

with Rabbi Andy Vogel

Twice a month on Shabbat mornings, Temple Sinai members gather to discuss the ideas presented by the week's Torah portion. We begin with a bit of singing and then study the text in English. You need not have any prior study of the Torah or Hebrew knowledge, simply an interest in considering the Torah portion as it relates to our contemporary experiences or those of Jews in previous generations. All are welcome for this friendly exchange of Jewish ideas! Come just once to try it out.

2nd & 4th Saturday mornings of each month at 9:00 am, starting September 10. Zoom and on-site. The Zoom link is publicized a few days in advance.

- **Thursday Morning Study**

with Rabbi Andy Vogel

Join us each Thursday for a lively and friendly class with Rabbi Vogel. We study a wide variety of topics, rotating to a new field of study about every six weeks or so. Thursday Study includes discussions, films, text study, and an occasional guest speaker. Join us each Thursday or feel free to drop in just once! All are welcome.

Every Thursday, 10:15-11:45 a.m., starting October 27. Zoom and on-site. Call or email the temple office to be added to the distribution list for information about the session and each week's Zoom link.

- **Daf Shevui - Talmud Study Group**

This group gathers for an hour on Sunday mornings to discuss a page of Talmud each week. **Zoom only.** Contact karen.keely@gmail.com if you would like to be added to the email list to receive weekly details about the next meeting.