Rabbi’s Reflections
By Rabbi Jamie Gibson

It is a year since the “#MeToo” movement exploded on the American scene. In that time dozens of well-known figures have been held accountable for their unacceptable behavior towards women. The creepy touching, leering, groping, and unwanted advances are no longer tolerable in a society that values respect for women and equality between sexes. While I wish this awareness was sufficient, clearly men’s behaviors have not changed for the better.

It has been especially painful to see that many of the accused men are Jewish. They are not only famous men in entertainment and politics but in Jewish religious and academic life as well. Some of these men have expressed contrition, others simply wait for the outrage to die down and hope to emerge merely wounded from the charges against them.

In some ways our rabbinic tradition is helpful, in other ways, not so much. The Sages remarked how important it is to value women, especially as wives and mothers. Yet, for every statement affirming the personhood of women is another expressing concern or fear about contact with them.

Women were perceived as causing lust, inflaming male passions and as a danger to social stability. So instead of teaching men to modify their behavior, Orthodox tradition limits the roles of women and their opportunities to express themselves in Jewish public life.

Even at weddings, which celebrate love, faith, and commitment, Orthodox tradition uses the instrument of a Ketuba, a wedding contract to oversee the passage of a women from one protected domain (her father’s) to another (her husband’s). Although protections exist for her, she is an object, someone who is acted upon, not an independent neshama (soul) who enters into the agreement on her own terms.

Although I believe we do better in liberal Judaism, all one has to do is speak to women rabbis and cantors to know that our attitudes have not all changed for the better. Women cantors and rabbis routinely report fending off unwanted touches, thoughtless comments about their appearance or inappropriate inquiries into their personal lives. I can only imagine how angry I’d be if I had to react to this kind of behavior on a regular basis in a way that avoids offending the person who has just crossed my boundaries.

Even our best attitudes and highest values are sterile if they are not translated into action. We—myself included—must no longer assume that everyone at Oneg Shabbat wants a hug or a peck on the cheek. We must be more intentional in our interactions, being careful not to intrude on space or speak about appearances. The comments, even positive ones, on a woman’s appearance that were normal when I was growing up have increasingly come to be understood as unwanted intrusion. It is up to me, to men in general and everyone here in our Temple Sinai community, to respond accordingly.

Anne Frank famously wrote in her diary: “How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world!” To which we might say, let us begin to do so in how we treat the women in our lives and in our midst.

L’Shalom,
Rabbi Jamie Gibson

In this new year, we are adding several new Shabbat activities that will bring us together in different ways to strengthen our community. The first is Shabbat in the Home or Shabbat BaBayit on Friday, Oct. 26 at 7 PM.

Shabbat BaBayit is a home-based Shabbat experience that is NOT a service, although it does provide the opportunity to say Mourners’ Kaddish. One of our clergy will lead the session with music, poetry, discussion, and sharing. We’ll also have dessert and coffee.

RSVP is required as space is limited. Please contact Nancy Conaway at Nancy@TempleSinaiPGH.org or (412) 421-9715 ext. 115 by Wednesday, October 24 at 5 PM.
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(as of 9/17/18)

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~ Babylonian Talmud (Taanit 23a)

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To create your Jewish legacy contact:
Drew Barkley
Drew@TempleSinaiPGH.org
(412) 421-9715 ext. 111

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BROTHERHOOD BRUNCH WITH GUEST SPEAKER BARI WEISS

A Conversation with Bari Weiss, Sunday, Oct. 21, 9:30 AM–Noon

Pittsburgh native and *The New York Times* op-ed staff editor and writer Bari Weiss will be the guest speaker at the Brotherhood Brunch on Sunday, Oct. 21.

Bari was an op-ed and book review editor at *The Wall Street Journal* before joining *The Times* last year. She has also worked at Tablet, the online magazine of Jewish politics and culture.

Bari is a frequent panelist on *Real Time with Bill Maher* and has written extensively on the #MeToo Movement and on issues related to social justice. She has spoken to the Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh and other philanthropic organizations throughout the country. This past summer, she was a featured speaker at the Chautauqua Institution in Chautauqua, NY.

Bari’s parents, Lou and Amy Weiss, and grandparents, Jack and Andi Weiss, are longtime members of Temple Sinai. She graduated from Columbia University in 2007 after attending Shadyside Academy and Community Day School.

*Nourish your body and mind with what is sure to be a thought-provoking program.*

Cost: $10 per person before 5 PM on Thursday, Oct. 11/$18 per person at the door

Register online in your Temple Sinai account OR mail your check, payable to Temple Sinai Brotherhood, by Thursday, October 11, to: Temple Sinai, 5505 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

Questions? Please contact Todd Miller, at toddprmktg@gmail.com or (412) 848-1082.

HIGH HOLY DAYS CHILDREN’S PROGRAM PHOTOS
WOTS COOKING CLASS, MONDAY, OCT. 8, 6 PM

Want to learn how to serve the perfect vegan Shabbat tea party brunch? Learn all the essentials for hosting an elegant Shabbat afternoon tea. In this special, hands-on class, Steffi Wright will share secrets for making the perfect classic tea sandwiches and desserts that highlight some of the very best tea party goodness to make your next Shabbat a truly memorable one. We hope that this class will inspire both ladies and gents to create their own Shabbat tea party brunch featuring plenty of sweet and savory treats. This class will include recipes cards to take home.

Steffi is a Masters Candidate in Food Studies with an emphasis in Food Politics at Chatham University and the Chair of Temple Sinai’s Young Adult Program.

The cost for this class is $10. RSVP by Friday, October 5 to Carolyn Schwarz at (412) 421-1268 or 4carolynschwarz@gmail.com.

Anyone age 16 and older is welcome!

COOKING FOR CARING, SUNDAY, OCT. 14

The Caring Connection provides a meal for our congregants who are in need of a little help and compassion because of an illness or financial difficulty.

Give a helping hand and join us as we cook and pack meals. No experience or cooking expertise necessary. Shifts are available from 10 AM – 1 PM or 1 – 4 PM. Contact Judy Rulin Mahan at (412) 421-9715 ext. 110 or Judy@TempleSinaiPGH.org to volunteer or for more information.

Come share a fun day with us building community and helping others.

Monetary donations are also welcome. Visit our website donation page to make your contribution.

ADULT B’NEI MITZVAH CLASS STARTS OCT. 10, 7:30 PM

Whether you were born Jewish or you chose Judaism, whether you celebrated becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah as a child or you never had the opportunity, this course is for you!

Experience the joy and awe of leading a service, reading from the Torah scroll, and teaching Torah as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Students will learn to recite the prayers in our service, explore what they mean, and study their Torah portion in depth. This course of study culminates in a service for the congregation on Friday, June 15.

Contact Rabbi Keren Gorban for more information at RabbiGorban@TempleSinaiPGH.org.

Fee: $180 (scholarships available)
What is your favorite holiday? Passover. Friends, family, and festive foods. And it was the time when my little brother looked at me over a glass of wine and slurred, “I love you, Susie!”

What is the one thing you can’t live without? Not counting my kids, I’d say coffee and chocolate, both strong and dark.

What was your first job? Short order cook at a bowling alley. Once I was the only one there and had to cook and wait tables all by myself.

What is your favorite food? Anything spicy and Indian.

What was your most embarrassing moment? I was organizing an event at my high school and the long zipper on the front of my dress suddenly popped open.

What are your hidden talents? I can read music written in 11th century notation.

What would we be surprised to know about you? I have an unhealthy interest in office supplies.

Describe your perfect day. Iced coffee on the back porch listening to NPR, then meet up with a friend at the Mattress Factory Museum of Contemporary Art. Enjoy a casual dinner at a restaurant that serves outside, then off to the theatre to see something completely different. Then home to curl up with my cat, Ira, and my down pillow for a lovely evening’s sleep.

What is your favorite thing to do at Temple Sinai? I like hearing the Rabbis’s D’vrei Torah. In other words, I like it when the rabbis tell us stories that link back to the Torah portion of the week.

FALK LIBRARY

Many thanks to the many people who have donated books to the Falk Library recently — Mimi Botkin, Ruth Reidbord, and several anonymous donors who left books for us. Thanks also to those folks who have made monetary donations. We have been able to purchase all of the books that will be discussed in the Temple Sinai Book Club, as well as a few others.

We’d like to suggest:

After the Apple: Women in the Bible — Timeless Stories of Love, Lust, and Longing by Naomi Harris Rosenblatt
How can you resist a book with a title like that? Scholar Naomi Rosenblatt injects new life into these women, viewing their stories with a new understanding of the very modern dilemmas and problems they confront and explore. (220.922 ROS)

The Book Smugglers: Partisans, Poets, and the Race to Save Jewish Treasures from the Nazis by David E. Fishman
Using Jewish, German, and Soviet documents, and interviews with actual participants, Fishman tells the story of the poets and scholars of Vilna who rescued thousands of rare books and manuscript, first from the Nazis and then from the Soviets. A fascinating account. (940.53 FIS)

We are seeking a donation of the book Letters from my Palestinian Neighbor by Yossi Klein Halevi. If you have a copy you are willing to donate, please bring it to the Falk Library. Thank you.
### OCTOBER AT TEMPLE SINAI

**SUNDAY** | **MONDAY** | **TUESDAY** | **WEDNESDAY**
---|---|---|---
1 Simchat Torah | 2 | 3 | 10 AM Trip to Rauh Jewish History Program & Archives (offsite)
Offices closed | 10 AM Simchat Torah Yizkor Service at Rodef Shalom (offsite) | Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class | 6 PM Evening Meditation
7 PM Teen School | | 4:30 PM Hebrew School | 6:15 PM Rabbi Gibson’s Shiur (Class)
7 PM Teen School | | 6 PM Evening Meditation | 7 PM Band Rehearsal
7:30 PM Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal

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9:15 AM Hartman Learning | 6 PM WoTS Cooking Class | 7:30 PM Rosh Chodesh Group (Cheshvan) | Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class
9:30 AM Next DOR | 7 PM 11th-12th Grade Seminar | | 4:30 PM Hebrew School
11 AM Bereisheet | 7 PM Teen School | Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class | 6 PM Evening Meditation
7 PM Teen School | | 6:15 PM Rabbi Gibson’s Shiur (Class) |
7:30 PM Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal

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9:15 AM Hartman Learning | 9 AM The Rational Bible: A Course with Rabbi Danny Schiff | Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class | 4:30 PM Hebrew School
9:30 AM Next DOR | 7 PM Teen School | 6 PM Evening Meditation | 6:15 PM Rabbi Gibson’s Shiur (Class)
10 AM–4 PM Cooking for Caring Connection Freezer | Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class | 7:30 PM Adult B’nei Mitzvah Class | 7:30 PM Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal
10 AM WoTS Steering Committee Meeting | 7 PM Teen School | | |
11 AM Bereisheet | | | |
2 PM Pittsburgh East CROP Hunger Walk (offsite) | | | |

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9:15 AM Hartman Learning | 9 AM The Rational Bible: A Course with Rabbi Danny Schiff | Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class | 4:30 PM Hebrew School
9:30 AM Next DOR | 7 PM 11th-12th Grade Seminar | 6 PM Evening Meditation | 6:15 PM Rabbi Gibson’s Shiur (Class)
9:30 AM Men’s Discussion Group (offsite) | 7 PM Teen School | 7:30 PM Adult B’nei Mitzvah Class | 7:30 PM Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal
10 AM–Noon Brotherhood Brunch with guest speaker Bari Weiss | | | |
11 AM Bereisheet | | | |

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9:30 AM Next DOR | 7 PM 11th-12th Grade Seminar | 6:15 PM Rabbi Gibson’s Shiur (Class) | 7:30 PM Adult B’nei Mitzvah Class
10 AM–2 PM URJ Day of Leadership Learning | 7 PM Teen School | 7:30 PM Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal | |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Noon Christian-Jewish Dialogue (offsite)</td>
<td>7 PM Mostly Musical Shabbat: A Sensory Friendly Experience, followed by an oneg, sponsored by WoTS</td>
<td>8:30 AM Torah Study 9:15 AM Informal Shabbat Morning Service</td>
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<td>6:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting with Minyan</td>
<td>7 PM Shabbat Evening Service, followed by an oneg, sponsored by WoTS</td>
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<td>7 PM Introduction to Judaism</td>
<td>8:30 AM Torah Study 9:15 AM Informal Shabbat Morning Service</td>
<td>10 AM Bar Mitzvah of Alex Polito and Shabbat Morning Service</td>
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<td>6:15 PM Dinner at East End Cooperative Ministry (offsite)</td>
<td>Noon Downtown Lunch with the Rabbi</td>
<td>8:30 AM Torah Study 9:15 AM Informal Shabbat Morning Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 PM Introduction to Judaism</td>
<td>7 PM Shabbat Evening Service, followed by an oneg, sponsored by WoTS</td>
<td>10 AM Bar Mitzvah of Rachel Petro and Shabbat Morning Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 PM Board of Trustees Meeting with Minyan</td>
<td>5 PM Tot Shabbat Snacks &amp; Schmooze</td>
<td>8:30 AM Torah Study 9:15 AM Informal Shabbat Morning Service</td>
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<td>5:30 PM Tot Shabbat Service</td>
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The Temple Sinai Book Club meets on Wednesday, Nov. 14 and the selection is *The Seven Good Years* by Etgar Keret. Contact Anne Faigen at (412) 422-9580 for more information.

Worship Service Schedule

**Fridays**

October 5
7 PM Mostly Musical Shabbat: A Sensory Friendly Experience

October 12
7 PM Shabbat Evening Service

October 19
5:30 PM Tot Shabbat
7 PM Shabbat Evening Service with Birthday Blessing

October 26
7 PM Shabbat Evening Service

**Saturdays**

8:30 AM Torah Study 9:15 AM Informal Shabbat Morning Service

October 13
10 AM Bar Mitzvah of Rachel Petro and Shabbat Morning Service

October 20
10 AM Bar Mitzvah of Alex Polito and Shabbat Morning Service

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For more information, contact Tami Prine, Marketing and Communications, tami@templesinaipgh.org for event details and a full calendar listing.

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Ronnie Cook Zuhlke
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Harry Davidson
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Beverly & Howard Filtz
In Memory of Mt. Allen Berman
Suzan & David Hauptman
Yahrzeit of Aaron Mitchell Zytnick
Jay & Kimberly Zytnick
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  Edris Weis
Yahrzeit of Mollie Cohen
  Florence Sherman
Yahrzeit of Norbert J. Schwendinger
  Gary Nelson & Jo Anne Schwendinger
Yahrzeit of Norman Rich
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Yahrzeit of Norman Wedner
  Irwin & Gail Wedner
Yahrzeit of Otto Dubovy
  Hana Kovanic
Yahrzeit of Pauline Joseph
  Jay & Annabelle Joseph
Yahrzeit of Pauline Magdovitz
  McSwiggan Family
Yahrzeit of Pinya Gluzman
  Roman Gluzman & Simoen Fusiger
Yahrzeit of Rachel Latterman
  Bernard Latterman
Yahrzeit of Ralph Margolis
  Lila Margolis & Harold Weiss
Yahrzeit of Rev. David Beryl Ryave
  Selma P. Ryave & Rosalyn Richman
Yahrzeit of Richard Sambol
  Ronald & Linda Charapp
Yahrzeit of Richard Shribman
  Cynthia Skrzycki & David Shribman
Yahrzeit of Robert Lasky
  KursLasky Family
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Yahrzeit of Steffi Rulin
  Marvin Rulin

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  Anonymous

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  Carole Neiberg

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  Joop & Joyce Offerman
  Special Birthday Rita Selman
  Rosalyn Escovitz
  Speedy Recovery Esther Greenwald
  Rosalyn Escovitz

Speedy Recovery Ram Kossowsky
  Rosalyn Escovitz

Schwarz Fund for the Future
In Honor of Birth Rose Butterworth Schiller
  Frank & Carolyn Schwarz
In Honor of Birth of Aiden Anderson Lazar
  Frank & Carolyn Schwarz
Special Birthday Shirley Goldstein
  Frank & Carolyn Schwarz

Tikkun Olam Center Fund
In Memory of Ruth Weinberger
  Ronnie Cook Zuhlke & Fred Zuhlke

Women of Temple Sinai
In Appreciation Of WoTS
  Sally Schweitzer

We apologize in advance for any omissions that may occur.

Correction: Mollie Cohen was misidentified in the September issue of ChaiLights. We apologize for the error.

Yahrzeit of Mollie Cohen
  Florence Sherman

COOKING FOR CARING, SUNDAY, OCT. 14

The Caring Connection provides a meal for our congregants who are in need of a little help and compassion because of an illness or financial difficulty.

Give a helping hand and join us as we cook and pack meals. No experience or cooking expertise necessary. Shifts are available from 10 AM–1 PM or 1–4 PM. Contact Judy Rulin Mahan at (412) 421-9715 ext. 110 or Judy@TempleSinaiPGH.org to volunteer.

Come share a fun day with us building community and helping others.

Monetary donations are also welcome. Visit our website donation page to make your contribution.

SENIORS: BE A HELPING HAND

Do you like talking on the phone? Have you been looking for a volunteer opportunity you can do from the comfort of your home? Do you want to connect with other members who are homebound or who may need to hear a friendly voice?

Seniors Calling Seniors
Arlene Smith
(412) 829-9744
sweetn5163@aol.com
WANTED: YOUR GOOD NEWS!

Please send your good news (awards, graduations, engagements, marriages, births) to Tami Prine at Tami@TempleSinaiPGH.org.

Thank you!

OF BLESSED MEMORY (AUGUST)

Elise Solomon, aunt of Lauren Coblenz
Jane Brandeis, sister-in-law of Bill (Arlene) Brandeis
Ruth Fisher
Ruth Winer, mother of Joan (Robert) Linsenmeier, Mark (Bette Landish) Winer, and Kenneth (Emily Hofmann) Winer

B’NEI MITZVAH ~ MAZAL TOV!

Saturday, October 13
Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Petro
Daughter of Shelley & Thomas Petro

Saturday, October 20
Bar Mitzvah of Alex Polito
Son of Sherri & Tom Polito

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Francine & Ivan Caplan
Sandra Fox
Jeffrey Izenson & Joanna Patterson
Marvin & Judy Levick

Mazal Tov to grandmother Esther Zawitz, parents Mallory and Mike Beatty, and brother Roland on the birth of Sloane Beatrice Beatty on May 16.

Mazal Tov to Dale Lazar for being selected as “Artist of the Month” at Blick Art Material Stores in Pittsburgh. Proceeds from the sale of the 39 photos will benefit the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, University of Pittsburgh.

Mazal Tov to John and Denise Schiller on the birth of their granddaughter, Rose Butterworth Schiller, on Aug. 2. Parents are Zak Schiller and Edith Butterworth. Uncle and (soon-to-be) aunt are Jake Schiller and Diana Goodman.

Thank you to our sweet volunteers who represented Temple Sinai at the Apples & Honey Fall Festival on Sunday, Aug. 19: Carol Rosenthal, Lynn Rubenson, Laura Fehl, Steve Jurman, and Harton Wolf.

Mazal Tov to John Schiller. Two of his photographs will be included in “Abandoned America: States of Disrepair,” a juried group exhibition at Mulberry Arts Studio.

Mazal Tov to Elizabeth and Jerry Gordon on their granddaughter, Abigail Dahlia Gordon, being called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, Sept. 1 at Temple Beth Shalom in Hamden, CT. Proud parents are Ram and Rachel Gordon of Woodbridge, CT.

A big “THANK YOU” to Lynn Rubenson, Paul Wossidlo, and our wonderful models - Emma & Angie Bedford-Jack & family; Gina Faiola; Laura Fehl; Darcy & Mike Gordon & family; Christopher Hart & Lorien Benet Hart & family; Marcia & Jim Kaplan, Judy Kaplan & Mark Epstein & family; Kate Passarelli & family; and Emily & Rob Richman & family—for their time, energy, and talents with the new posters that you’ll see around the building.

Mazal Tov to Marilee Glick, Temple Sinai Education Director, for being presented the Presidential Citation at the JCC 123rd Annual Meeting.

Mazal Tov to parents Abby and Matthew Bolton, brother Bear Young Bolton, and grandparents Judith and Stewart Sadowsky on the birth of Viva Sea Bolton, on Sept. 13. She weighed 7 lbs. 5 oz. and was born with a head full of dark hair just like her brother, mother, and grandmother!!
Simchat Torah Yizkor Service at Rodef Shalom, Monday, Oct. 1, 10 AM
Location: 4905 Fifth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Mostly Musical Shabbat: A Sensory Friendly Experience, Friday, Oct. 5, 7 PM
The music is informal and lively. Come prepared to sing along, and maybe even dance a bit.

Dinner at East End Cooperative Ministry, Thursday, Oct. 11, 6:15 PM
We prepare and serve dinner once a month at EECM and would love to have you join us. Contact Sharon Dilworth at sd20@andrew.cmu.edu for details.

Downtown Lunch with the Rabbi, Friday, Oct. 12, Noon
Would you like to learn with friends over lunch? Join Rabbi Jamie Gibson for an uplifting discussion over lunch at an office downtown. Contact Nancy Conaway at Nancy@TempleSinaiPGH.org or (412) 421-9715 ext. 115.

Tot Shabbat, Friday, Oct. 19, 5 PM Snacks & Schmooze - 5:30 PM Service
Do your little ones like to sing and dance? Are you looking for an informal, inviting way to teach them about Shabbat and connect with other families? Join Rabbi Keren Gorban for this exciting service for young children.

Shabbat After Hours, Friday, Oct. 19, 8:30 PM
Join other young adults for lively conversation, wine, and cheese.

Men’s Discussion Group (offsite), Sunday, Oct. 21, 9:30 AM
Brotherhood invites you to become better-informed about the weekly Torah portion and current social/political concerns. Questions? Contact Dave Hirsh at dhirsch@porterwright.com. Location: Panera Bread, 3401 Boulevard of the Allies, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Rabbi Gibson’s Shiur (class), Wednesdays in October, 6:15 PM
Classes will include topics such as racism and sexism, integrity in the home and workplace, the place of Israel in liberal Jewish concerns, Judaism and human sexuality, as well as the ongoing search for God. Cost: $54; Contact Nancy Conaway at Nancy@TempleSinaiPGH.org or (412) 421-9715 ext. 115.

Bereisheet, Sundays in October, 11 AM
An adult learning series that starts “from the beginning” to increase your comfort with Jewish prayer, rituals, music, and tradition. This year, we’ll focus on Torah reading from cantillation to exultation! Contact Cantor Berman for more information at CantorBerman@TempleSinaiPGH.org.