



A NOTE FROM RABBI VALERIE

Jacob had a dream. And when he awoke, he said, "Surely, God is in this place, and I did not know it." And he called the place Beth-El – the house of God, the gate of heaven, the place of holiness.

We, too, meet on holy ground; for that place is holy where God is found, where lives touch, where love moves, where hope stirs, where we realize our need for one another and rejoice in our closeness to one another, where we take on the pride and pain of our companions, each bringing strength to the whole.¹

Like Jacob, we journey through and dwell in many places that can be called Holy Ground. Sometimes we know the Divine is in that place; sometimes we don't. Sometimes – with surprise and awe – we encounter the Divine unexpectedly.

When we enter our temple, and especially our sanctuary, we are gathering on Holy Ground:

- Where we meet the Divine
- Where lives touch
- Where love moves
- Where hope stirs
- Where we realize our need for one another and rejoice in our closeness
- Where we take on the pride and pain of our companions

These encounters happen at temple all the time, formally and informally. At Shabbat Services, we have the added bonus of experiencing the fullness of the above interactions all at one time.

People come to Shabbat Services – communal worship – for many reasons: prayer, reflection, and introspection; for music – singing and listening; for friendship and conversation; for learning, inspiration, and a call to action; for celebrating our joys and holding each other in our grief and sorrow; and so much more.

Over the past two years, the rabbi, staff, board and worship committee have had many conversations with congregants about making Shabbat Services accessible to as many people in our community as possible. Based on those conversations, the worship committee recommended, and the board voted to move, **all Friday Shabbat Services to 6:30pm with a "pre-neg" at 5:45pm beginning March 7.** "Pre-neg" refers to an oneg – community gathering with food - prior to services. All Shabbat Services will continue to be live-streamed.

Our ancient rabbis say that when prayers are offered in a congregation, God will never reject them. Similarly, we are told that when 10 people gather, the Shechina – God's Divine Presence – dwells among us. As we gather for our communal prayer every Shabbat, may we meet the Divine and each other and pray together that our prayers are heard and answered.

¹Rev. Dr. Richard S. Gilbert, quoted from Siddur Sha'ar Zahav, p. 91.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Chanukah, closing out the month of Kislev, is the holiday I believe is best reflected through the child's eye. The sequential lighting of additional candles over the eight nights, the gathering of friends and family, exchanging of gifts, small or large, the memories of chocolate gelt and spinning dreidel are summoned up from the corner of our memories. While we recall the grander celebrations of Rosh Hashanah or Pesach as a large gathering of family at the home of a grandparent or aunt, our Chanukah celebrations are represented in a smaller scale.

Instilled in that memory is the aroma of something fried, representing the legend of the miracle of oil which lasted, miraculously, eight days. Our ancestral origins dictate our traditional fried foods. Our predecessors used what was available, potatoes from Eastern Europe, deep fried breaded meat in Austria, deep fried chicken as part of the Chanukah meal in Morocco (who knew?), Persian eggplant omelets cooked in oil, deep fried artichokes originating from the Roman Jewish ghetto, squash fritters of the Veneto region of Italy, and yeast dessert fritters of middle Eastern origin, filled with jam or jelly as the Israeli sufganiyot (jelly doughnut). The commonality is the oil, and the food is only the vehicle for celebrating the miracle, as it were.

As we left ancestral lands, by choice, or by fear of persecution, we took our traditions with us and adapted to new places adopting local practices. Traditional foods with new spices, new flavors, preserved the essence of our traditions, forming new memories. While we may yearn for our ancestral lands, we have been a culture that has adapted to new found lands, The Sephardim fleeing their Mediterranean homes for South America, the Ashkenazim of Germany fleeing to Shanghai all took what was old and made it new.

With Chanukah just past, we should take this example to heart and look to renew ourselves in these ever-evolving modern times.

Finally, I would be remiss if I were not to give kudos to Bruce and Dan Wahle for their truly heroic effort in the mass production of latkes for our congregational Chanukah celebration.



B'shalom,
Gary Wolf
President, Board of Trustees

NEW TIME FOR SHABBAT SERVICES

BEGINNING MARCH 7, 2025

Fridays, 6:30pm

*Pre-neg 5:45pm

All services will continue to be live-streamed

Services in January & February will remain at their current time

Based on informal conversations with congregants, the worship committee recommended, and the board voted to change Shabbat Service times.

**pre-neg is an oneg - communal gathering with food - that takes place prior to services*

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2025 WORSHIP SERVICES

VAYIGASH

Friday, January 3
Candle Lighting at 4:09pm
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, January 4
10:30am Torah Study

VAYECHI

Friday, January 10
Candle Lighting at 4:17pm
**7:30pm Shabbat Services with
Kol Ha'Lev Singing Group**
Saturday, January 11
10:30am Torah Study

SHEMOT

Friday, January 17
Candle Lighting at 4:25pm
Saturday, January 18
10:30am Torah Study

VAERA

Friday, January 24
Candle Lighting at 4:33pm
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, January 25
10:30am Torah Study

BO

Friday, January 31
Candle Lighting at 4:42pm
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, February 1
10:30am Torah Study

BESHALACH

Friday, February 7
Candle Lighting at 4:51pm
7:30pm Shabbat service
Saturday, February 8
10:30am Torah Study

YITRO

Friday, February 14
Candle Lighting at 5:00pm
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, February 15
10:30am Torah Study

MISHPATIM

Friday, February 21
Candle Lighting at 5:09pm
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, February 22
10:30am Torah Study

SHEKALIM

Friday, February 28
Candle Lighting at 5:18pm
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, March 1
10:30am Torah Study

All **WORSHIP SERVICES** are held in person and livestreamed (emanuelsinai.org).

TORAH STUDY meets in person and via Zoom.

MINYAN is held every Monday at 5:45pm (except when the office is closed) only via Zoom and livestreamed. Login information can be found in eNews.

CLERGY & STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Rabbi Valerie Cohen
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Talia Mugg, Religious School Director
tmugg@emanuelsinai.org

Christa Benoit, Office Assistant
cbenoit@emanuelsinai.org

Jade Le'Jeune, Temple Administrator
jlejeune@emanuelsinai.org

Steve Contois, Caretaker

Temple Main Phone Line
508-755-1257



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL AND YOUTH NEWS

Shalom from our Religious School!

As we move into the new year, we are excited to share the events in our Religious School community. January and February are filled with meaningful learning, community connections, and the celebration of Jewish traditions.



Family Education Program

Our Family Education Program encourages families to learn together through hands-on activities, discussions, and Jewish learning that helps deepen the connection between home and school. Heather Gelardi, our talented Family Educator, creates interactive, age-appropriate programs where parents and children can engage in meaningful learning and fun!

In December, we had an amazing "Bedtime Shema" program for students and parents in grades K/1/2. Students learned about the meaning of the Shema prayer, made a pillowcase cover and learned how to recite the Shema in Sign Language! The next Family Education program is for grades 3/4/5 on Saturday, 1/11. We are looking forward to learning together with all our parents and students!

Visit from Eisenberg Assisted Living

Last month we had two visits from Eisenberg Assisted Living to our Temple. Our grades 4/5 students continue to connect with the residents through games, crafts, and meaningful conversation. It's a wonderful opportunity for our children to practice gemilut chasadim (acts of loving-kindness) and build connections with seniors in our community.

Coats for Kids

As part of our commitment to tzedakah (charity), Religious School families are invited to participate in our Coats for Kids campaign. Please bring in new coats for students in need in the WPS. Our goal is to help keep children warm this winter while teaching our students the importance of helping others. Donations will be collected through the end of January.

Hebrew Progress

Our students have been making wonderful progress in Hebrew! Whether learning the aleph-bet, improving reading skills, or beginning to understand simple prayers, we are so proud of the hard work and dedication each student has shown.

Tu Bishvat Celebration

In January, we will celebrate Tu Bishvat, the Jewish New Year for trees! This holiday reminds us to care for the environment and appreciate the natural world around us. Our students will participate in a special Tu Bishvat celebration, tasting different fruits and learning about the significance of trees in Jewish tradition. It's a great way to begin thinking about our connection to nature and the world we live in.

We are excited for all that is ahead in the next couple of months! Thank you for your continued support of our Religious School and for being a vital part of our Jewish learning community.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year and a season of learning and growth!

B'shalom,
Talia

Save the Date!!
"Frosted Purim"

A Frozen Purim Spiel
Saturday, March 15, 2025



CARING COMMITTEE

The Caring Committee is hard at work making check-in calls to congregants, sending notes of condolence and notes of mazel tov, and supporting the rabbi in her pastoral work. We appreciate the continued efforts of our volunteers in providing support to our community.

Anne Sadick and Marcy Ostrow
Co-Chairs, TES Caring Committee
caring@emanuelsinai.org





MUSIC NEWS

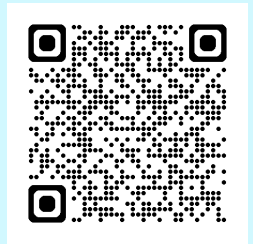
Over the past year, Israeli music has taken on a powerful role as a mirror of our shared experiences and aspirations. Many new songs, along with moving re-makes of classic pieces, express themes of hope, resilience, and the longing for the safe return of the hostages. This music is not only beautiful but deeply connected to the realities we face, resonating with our collective desire for healing and peace.

Throughout history, music has served as a reflection of the times, capturing the struggles and triumphs of humanity. From the depths of war to the celebrations of peace, from hardship to abundance, it has been a unifying force, carrying our stories and dreams.

In this spirit, Temple Emanuel Sinai will host several musical events in the coming year. These events will be inspired by the current moment and infused with a hopeful vision for a brighter future for all of us. We invite you to join us on this journey, where music becomes a bridge to healing and connection.

Let us sing together with hope in our hearts.

Here is a song in English by Keren Peles and the children of October 7th, Outside My Home.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=2J9KJ2IOLLE



SHABBAT SHIRA WEEKEND FEBRUARY 7-8

Friday, February 7th, we will host a wonderful young singer, **Yali Irelander**, who will join me on the Bima to sing beautiful music for Shabbat Shira. Yali is a Berklee College of Music student chosen for the lead part at musicals and shows. She comes from a musical family and has been living Jewish music since she was born. Please join us for a special Shabbat Service.

Saturday, February 8th, the amazing band **Ezekiel's Wheels Klezmer Band** will perform at our Temple. They are FANTASTIC! Don't miss it! Stay tuned to the eNews for updates on time.

"Internationally acclaimed Ezekiel's Wheels Klezmer Band brings passion, virtuosity, and contagious energy to every performance. The Wheels improvise with the intimacy of chamber music and the intensity of a rowdy dance band. Their engaging contemporary interpretation of Jewish music is irresistible to audiences ranging from elementary school students to the judges at the International Jewish Music Festival, who heralded them as "a true musical democracy."

News about other exciting music programs will be coming soon - stay tuned!

Always Yours,
Gidit

ADULT BEGINNER'S PATH TO BIBLICAL HEBREW

Led by Rabbi Valerie Cohen

Thursdays, 6:15 - 7:15pm
January 9 until Mar 27, 2025
Zoom only

Want to unlock the ancient language of the Jewish people?
We have the key!

Through this beginner's course, you will learn to understand and translate Biblical Hebrew.



Knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet and vowels including the ability to pronounce/sight-read words required.
We will be using as our textbook: *The First Hebrew Primer, Third Edition, EKS Publishing*

Classes meet weekly and are free of charge.
However, we ask that those who are not members of Temple Emanuel Sinai consider making a regular contribution.

Please contact the Temple office to register OR let us know if you are interested but cannot attend on Thursdays:
office@emanuelsinai.org

BEIT OMANUT - ARTISTS & CRAFTERS AFFINITY GROUP

An In-Person Gathering for Artists and Crafters

Love creating but don't make the time?

Join other creatives monthly on Sunday mornings. Bring your project and materials. Create and schmooze!

Monthly on 3rd/4th Sunday, 9:45am - 12:00pm

Next Meeting: January 19

Future Dates: February 16, March 23, April 27, May 18, June 22, July 20

Contact the Temple office for more information.

THANK YOU!

Temple Emanuel Sinai would like to acknowledge all the hard-working volunteers who helped make such a special Chanukkah Event.

Food: Joe Cuker and Patti Gould

Latkes: Bruce and Danny Wahle

Set-up, serving, and clean-up crews: Gary Wolf, Don and Patty Jacobs, Harvey Gould, Merilee and Alan Freeman, German and Sisa Chiriboga, Barbara Swidler, Judy and Alan Shriber, Karen and Mike Kagan, Margot Barnet and David Coyne, Debbie Bunker, and Yael Savage

Check-In: George and Becky Pins

Greeters: Mish Gerber and Paula Selvitella

Photos: Bruce Wahle

Keshers (volunteer security): Led by Lori-Ann Culter; Mark Shear, Joel Cutler, Jake Cutler, and Mike Finkle



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Ceril Fish in memory of Howard Fish and Sidney Hodes

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TELEPHONE

508-485-6653

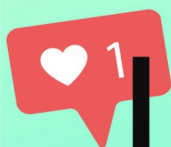
FAX

508-485-1311

JEFFREY D. LEVINE, M.D.

PRACTICE LIMITED TO THE EYE

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Live Your Best Life



SERVICES

- Maintenance service
- Housekeeping service
- Casual & fine dining
- Chauffeured transportation
- Cultural and educational programs

AMENITIES

- 200-seat theater
- Full service health club
- Heated indoor swimming pool
- Arts & crafts / woodworking shop
- 3-acre park with walking paths

Independent Living | Assisted Living

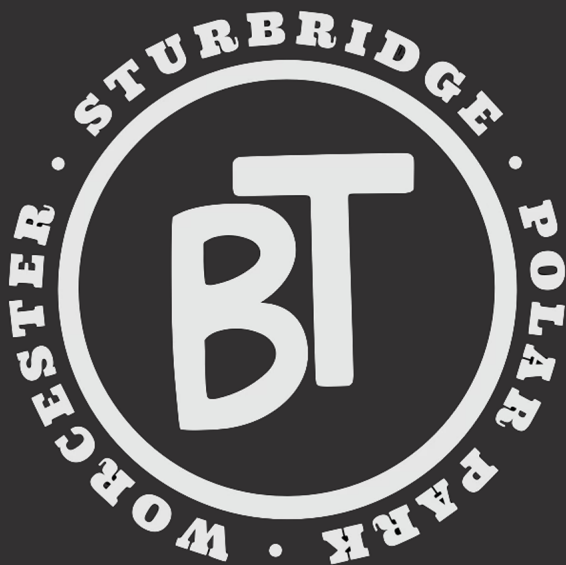


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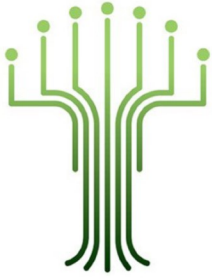


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