

## FAMILY EDUCATION AT TEMPLE SINAI

Parents and their children are invited to attend Family Education classes sponsored by our Religious School. These classes are designed to deepen one's understanding of Judaism. Parents and children will participate in sessions under the direction of our Family Educator Heather Gelardi, and our Religious School Principal, Wendy Wong. Sessions will be held on Saturday mornings covering the following topics for students and their families.

<i>Families</i>	<i>Oct. 2</i>	<i>Sukkot Celebration</i>
<i>Grades K &amp; 1</i>	<i>Oct. 31</i>	<i>Bedtime Shema</i>
<i>Grades K, 1&amp; 2</i>	<i>Mar. 27</i>	<i>Interactive Seder</i>
<i>Grade 2</i>	<i>Nov. 21</i>	<i>Exploring the Synagogue</i>
<i>Grade 3</i>	<i>Jan. 30</i>	<i>Tu B'Shevat Seder</i>
<i>Grade 4</i>	<i>Dec. 19</i>	<i>Light vs: Darkness</i>
<i>Grade 5</i>	<i>May 1</i>	<i>Jewish Ritual Objects</i>
<i>Grade 6</i>	<i>Mar. 20</i>	<i>Putting The Mitzvah into B'nai Mitzvah</i>
<i>Grades 7 and up</i>	<i>Mar. 13</i>	<i>Teen Issues</i>

### TOT SHABBAT

Here's an opportunity to learn and celebrate Judaism with other families of pre-school age and younger children. Meets once a month. For more information contact *Nancy Berley and Scott Dworkman*. 508.856.9449 or [nancy.berley@verizon.net](mailto:nancy.berley@verizon.net)



### TORATHON – 2009

**November 7<sup>th</sup>– Congregation Beth Israel**  
*An Opportunity to learn with the  
 Worcester Jewish community*  
**Information will be supplied closer to the  
 event date.**

## FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO PURSUE PRAYERBOOK HEBREW

*Beginning Prayerbook Hebrew* will be offered depending on the number of people wishing to take the course. *Modern Hebrew* will continue on Saturdays at 12 noon.

### CONVERSION TO JUDAISM

Rabbi Bernstein offers private lessons for those interested in learning about Judaism and those who wish to convert to Judaism. Hebrew reading, basic Jewish history and literature, holidays and life cycle, liturgy and Jewish thought are some of the basic areas of study. If you are interested in discussing these aspects of Judaism or are considering choosing Judaism as your faith tradition, feel free to contact Rabbi Bernstein directly at 508-755-2519.

### REGISTRATION FOR CLASSES

*Please cut and paste form below and email to:*  
[sinaioffice2003@yahoo.com](mailto:sinaioffice2003@yahoo.com)

*Or send to Temple Sinai at 661 Salisbury Street,  
 Worcester, MA 01609*

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE #:** \_\_\_\_\_

### I AM INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Fundamentalism
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jewish Poetry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Proverbs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Reform Judaism
- \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Choir
- \_\_\_\_\_ Beginning Prayer Book Hebrew
- \_\_\_\_\_ Modern Hebrew



## TEMPLE SINAI ADULT JEWISH STUDIES

**5770- 2009-2010**

*“Its ways are ways of pleasantness and  
 all its paths are peace”*

*(Proverbs 3:17)*

### JOIN THE COMMUNITY OF ADULT LEARNERS AT TEMPLE SINAI

Want to look deeper into the issue of fundamentalism in our world? How does it express itself within Judaism and other religions? Proverbs is a part of our biblical wisdom literature but at first glance it seems like messages from inside a Chinese fortune cookie. What meaning and relevance does this book hold for us today? Interested in the poetry of the Bible as well as the works of Jewish poets? And just what makes Reform Judaism a separate denomination within Judaism? Want to brush up on your Hebrew or begin learning Hebrew using our new prayer book? What can we learn from midrash? The week's Torah portion? Come and find out in the company of fellow members of Temple Sinai!

We will continue our on-going classes of *Torah study*, *Midrash study*, *A Jewish Understanding of the Greek Bible* and *The Book of Legends: Sefer Ha-Aggadah*.

**New classes** for this year are offered in the form of a Unit Study. These units range in lengths of 2 and 3 week sessions. Classes take place on Saturday morning meeting in the Religious School Building-often in the Rabbi's study.

Take some time to look at all the learning opportunities available at Temple Sinai this year. Find what interests you and come join with others eager to learn! Fill out the registration form included in this brochure and either drop off/mail to the Temple Office. You are always welcome to drop in anytime to participate in any class, however, registration allows us to have the correct number of materials and hand-outs prepared. We look forward to the times we can gather together to grow, share, and learn about our Jewish tradition and heritage.

Rabbi Seth Bernstein  
 Sandy Sotak- chair of Adult Education Committee

**TUESDAY MORNING STUDY**  
**THE BOOK OF LEGENDS SEFER HA-AGADDAH**

The **Tuesday** morning adult education class has been the longest continuously running class held at Temple Sinai-meeting for over twenty years! Each week from **9:15-10:30** this class studies different Jewish texts in depth. This class has just begun to study *The Book of Legends Sefer Ha-Aggadah: Legends from the Talmud and Midrash* edited by Hayim Nahman Bialik and Yehoshua Hana Ravnitzky; translated by William G. Braude. The class is held in the Rabbi's study and meets weekly throughout the year but not on snowy or icy days.

*Newcomers are always welcome and all should feel free to join at any time!*

**WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON MIDRASH STUDY**

Rabbi Bernstein teaches a class on the third floor of the Jewish Healthcare Center from **1:45-2:30** on **Wednesday** afternoons throughout the year. The weekly discussion primarily focuses on a different Midrash, or Jewish legend text, from classical Jewish literature. In addition to the texts themselves, the class also discusses ideas and concepts of the holidays as we approach them during the year.

**FRIDAY - TOWARD A DEEPER JEWISH UNDERSTANDING OF THE GREEK BIBLE**

For a number of years, from September through June, a group of learners have deepened our understanding and appreciation of the Greek Bible (New Testament) and how it compares to the Hebrew Bible. The class meets on a **biweekly** basis in the Temple library on **Friday mornings from 10:30-11:30 a.m.** The class is following closely the course of study of Professor Michael J. Cook, of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, as outlined in his upper level graduate course outline and handouts from "Christian Scriptures and the Jews."

**SATURDAY MORNING TORAH STUDY**

This year's Shabbat morning Torah study will meet in the Rabbi's Study from **9-10 a.m.** To guide our discussions we will use several commentaries this year. For the study of each week's parasha (portion) we will use Nehama Leibowitz' *Studies on Deuteronomy, Studies on Genesis and Studies on Exodus*. For the study of Leviticus we will use the newly published *Commentator's Bible: The JPS Miqra'ot Gedolot Leviticus* edited by Michael Carasik.

**NEW ADULT EDUCATION**  
**STUDY UNIT - 2009/2010**

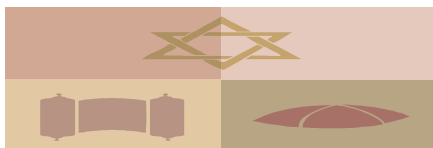
All classes meet in the Religious School Building in either the Rabbi's Study or the Library- both are located on the first floor. Classes meet from **10-11 a.m. on Saturday mornings** unless otherwise noted.

Please take the time to fill out a registration form. You do not need to commit to attending all sessions of a unit study but please register if you believe you may take part in any portion of the unit. Registration will help us better prepare for materials/handouts and meeting space requirements. Thank you!

**FUNDAMENTALISM**

3 sessions: October 17, 24, and 31

This course is an outgrowth from last year's course on world religions. What fundamentalist beliefs do I hold? How does fundamentalism express itself in Judaism and other religions? What is the relationship between such concepts as fundamentalism, evangelism and authoritarianism in religion? What is the "tipping point" in a fundamentalist position- or any other- that leads a person to act with violence?



**JEWISH POETRY**

3 sessions: November 7, 14, and 21

In the first session we will look at biblical poetry, especially from the work of Robert Alter. What are the literary contributions of biblical poetry that add to our appreciation of the Bible in ways that go beyond the biblical narrative? What are the differences of biblical poetry in some books, e.g. the poetry of Psalms vs. the poetry of Job? Our second session will look at the poetry of Yehuda Amichai. The third session will look at the contemporary poetry of women, especially the work of Zelda.

**PROVERBS**

2 sessions: January 23 and 30

The biblical book of Proverbs is one of the least studied books of our Bible. Why is there a reluctance to delve into biblical wisdom literature beyond Ecclesiastes or Job? What ethical lessons can be drawn from wisdom literature, especially the literature of Proverbs? What meaning and relevance do Proverbs have for the contemporary reader?



**REFORM JUDAISM**

3 sessions: March 13, 20, and 27

What are the fundamental concepts of Reform Judaism? What is the relationship of Reform today with other movements within Judaism? Why would a Jew identify with Reform Judaism today when there is the option of choosing post-denominational or even trans-denominational Judaism? After a brief look at the various platforms and statements of Reform Judaism, what would you add today to Reform Jewish belief? What are some of the delightful contributions of Reform Judaism to the major streams of Judaism? What is the relationship of Reform Judaism to secular or non-secular religious Judaism?



**MELODIES AND MEANING**

Explore Jewish holidays through the lens of music. Learn the "old standards" and the new music our children are learning in religious school. Holiday basics, quirky customs, deeper meanings--something for everyone on this "three-hour tour."

Come to one session or all three.

*December 12, Hanukkah*

*February 6, Purim*

*March 27, Pesach*

---

**ADULT CHOIR**

If you are interested in joining the Evelyn Zarrow Adult Choir, please contact Cantor Kim Singer at cantorKim@gmail.com