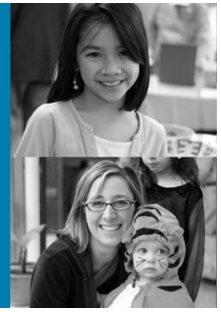




SINAI DIALOGUE



Finding Shabbat Peace



In eleventh grade, when I came home from a four-month stay in Israel as a Shomer Shabbat (Shabbat observant) Jew my friend down the block said, “You mean you cannot turn on lights, watch television, talk on the phone, play video games? I know what that’s called. It’s called punishment!”

In many ways, the laws of Shabbat do feel like punishment, especially for a teenager. But, at that time in my life, they were very comforting. Knowing that I had a day when I would not have to worry about work and could spend time with my family and community was actually very freeing.

Fast forward a few decades and I still love celebrating Shabbat. I love getting ready beforehand, cleaning the house, shopping and preparing the meal. Ashirah, Jarah, Boaz, and I really use Shabbat as family time.

While we eat together almost every night, on Friday night we do things differently. Normally we eat on the kitchen table, on Shabbat we move into the dining room. We put out candles, challah, and grape juice, and then begin to sing songs. Before lighting the candles, we put money in Tzedukah boxes announcing what we are thankful for in the past week; a custom that came from Ashirah’s family. Then we cover our eyes and light the Shabbat candles, say Kiddush (Jarah always holds her special Noah’s Ark Kiddush cup), wash our hands, and say Hamotzi - even giving our dog Mezzuzah a little piece of Challah.

One of my favorite Friday night customs is blessing our children. We bless Jarah with the names of the foremothers, Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel and Leah, and Boaz with Efrayim and Menasheh, evoking the blessing Jacob gave to his grandchildren in the Torah. And, then we say “Tihi Ca’asher Tihi” “May you be who you are going to be” before ending with the priestly blessing.

After our meal, we tell Jarah that I am going to work. But, really leading services on Shabbat never feels like work. It is just part of the Shabbat routine I have been observing since I was a teenager.

Writer Judith Shulevitz had a similar struggle explaining Shabbat to her future husband as I had in explaining it to my neighbor. As a historian he was trying to intellectualize it.

“The Sabbath...” she told him, “...is not only an idea. It is also something you keep. With other people. You can’t just extract lessons from it. Me, I want to keep it and teach my children to keep it.”

To better explain, she wrote a book. *The Sabbath World: Glimpses of a Different Order of Time* (Random House, 2010) is her answer to her future husband and to all of those who struggle to find meaning with the concept of Sabbath. In the book, she looks at the history and development of the Sabbath in Judaism and Christianity and the meaning that it can have in our world today.

And, we at Temple Sinai, have an opportunity to hear from Shulevitz first hand. On Sunday, December 19th at 7:30 she will be coming to our building as part of the 44th Annual Jewish Book Fair. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about her book and explore your own conception of Shabbat.

I look forward to seeing you there.
B’Shalom,
Rabbi Alex

Leavin' on a jet plane...



President
Jill Hamilton

I write this as I am getting ready to leave for the JRF (Jewish Reconstructionist Federation) Convention in Newport Beach, California.

I have never been west of Chicago, and am looking forward to the opportunity to see another part of the country.

The JRF meets every two years, to vote on issues affecting the organization as a whole, and to share ideas, learn, and worship (The Friday night services, with 500 people together in a room singing and dancing, are truly inspiring). Temple Sinai has been an important part of the Reconstructionist movement since its beginning, and has long had a strong presence at Convention. This year, due to a number of factors, not least of which is the fact that it's over 2500 miles away,

my daughter Mady and I are the only ones attending.

The big issue at Convention this year is the vote regarding a proposal to merge the JRF with the Reconstructionist Rabbinic College. This is largely a money-saving move, and one which is anticipated to establish a more efficient overall organization. While this doesn't have an immediate, direct effect on our temple, the efficient functioning of the Federation means that the Reconstructionist movement will continue to be there for us.

In addition to voting at the meeting, I get to meet rabbis, congregational leaders, and congregants from all over the country. I will hear about how other temples are dealing with issues similar to ours. I will have opportunities to learn from our national leaders. Some of the workshops at Convention include marketing Reconstructionist Judaism, ethics, improving Hebrew school, encouraging adult learners, making prayer real, and many other Reconstructionist and Jewish topics. I hope to bring back information that I can share, to enhance our temple life. I look forward to presenting this information to the board, and possibly one night at services. Convention is rejuvenating and inspiring – and fun! I encourage you all to experience it at some point.

As we light Hanukkah candles, we can think about many ways of bringing light into the world. Gathering with others for learning and worship, as we do at the JRF Convention, is one way of bringing light. As you light your Hanukkah candles, I encourage you to think about other ways to bring light, inspiration, and rejuvenation into your Jewish and temple life.



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Tikkun Olam

by Amy O'Donnell

On Sunday December 5 at 12:15 PM everyone is invited to join The Tikkun Olam committee at Temple Sinai to bake and decorate Chanukah cookies for local shelters and nursing homes (with plenty to eat ourselves). We will also make Chanukah decorations and cards for nursing home residents. A pizza lunch will be provided so families can come right from Geshur school This event is for young and old alike! Please RSVP to Amy O'Donnell at odn825@aol.com or 308-9554 so there will be enough pizza for everyone.

Chai Club Drawing Winners!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Congratulations to the winners of the Chai-Club Drawing for the first three weeks.

Week	\$18	\$36	\$54
1	Bennet Myers	Dr. Derkatz	Geist Family
2	Carol Weic	Alva Finklestein	Nick Kurec
3	Amy O'Donnell	Carol Kwiatkowski	

LIBRARY CORNER

By Leslie Jaszczak

To translate is to betray, goes the old saying, and this is never more true than when translating ancient, yet emotionally-charged texts such as the Bible. And God Said: How Translations Conceal the Bible's Original Meaning by Joel M. Hoffman attempts to chart the perils translators must navigate, and extracts new meaning from several familiar and beloved biblical passages.

In Part One, Hoffman looks at translation in general. While some readers may find this section a little dry, he does a good job of explaining the challenges involved, as well as the weaknesses of many of the most popular translations, such as the King James Version, on which the original JPS translation was based. In Part Two, he puts the principles previously outlined into action, in chapters examining the Ve'ahavta (the second paragraph of the Shema), the 23rd Psalm, the Ten Commandments, and the passage in Isaiah translated by Christians as "And a virgin shall conceive and give birth." Along the way he provides fascinating insights into biblical culture in his quest to make the meaning of the familiar texts clearer to the modern reader.

And God Said is not for everybody, but lovers of language and those who wish to deepen their understanding of the Tanakh will find it well worth the read.

ANDREW W. GREEN, M.D.

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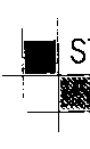
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MAZAL TOV

Jack and Jane Freer on the marriage of their son Benjamin
Paula Madrigal granddaughter of Stephanie & Elliot Shapiro on receiving the Buffalo Federation
of Women's Clubs Foundation Scholarship
Kim Goldhirsch & Sue Frawley on the birth of their new daughter Ayla


CONDOLENCES

The family of Henry Nemirov
Robert Geist on the loss of his father Ike Geist



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Belated thank you from Ruach

Thanks to Adrienne Crandall, Alva Finkelstein, Marina Finkelstein, Marianne Goldstein, Kathy Gordon, Lois Heller, Marlene Katzel, Elaine Kellick, Melania Puius, Nancy Robinson, Irv Sugar and many others that made the Sukkah joint luncheon a great success. Temple Sinai has received many compliments about that day.

HAPPY HANNUKAH FROM THE TEMPLE SINAI BOARD TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Upcoming Events (Check out the online calendar for all events)

Hannukah Seder *Friday December 3, 2010 @ 6PM reservations required*

Movie night Hannukah cookie baking *Sunday Dec 5 12:15 @ Temple*

Family Fun Morning Temple Beth Tzedek, Fridays thru Dec 10 at 10 am

Learner's Minyan Friday Dec 17 at 6:30 pm

Choir rehearsal Wednesdays @ 7:30 PM

Author Judith Shulevitz, part of the Jewish Book Fair Sunday Dec 19 at 7:30 PM at Temple Sinai

Weekly Schedule of Services

Shabbat Service, Fridays 7:30 pm (Family Services on first Friday of month at 7:00 pm;

Tot Shabbats on first Friday of month at 6:00 pm)

Shacharit Service, Saturdays 10:00 am (unless noted above)

Beit Midrash Torah Study, Saturdays 11:00 am (at 9:30 am on day of Bar/Bat Mitzvot)

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