

TEMPLE ISRAEL 2024-2025

# Joys of Jewish Learning

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

**Standing Proud:  
A Celebration of Resilience**



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**ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**

## **Standing Proud: A Celebration of Resilience**



### **To Our Temple Israel Community and Beyond,**

There is no doubt. Being Jewish is an incredible blessing. To be part of a supportive community. To observe our beautiful holidays. To study our ancient and modern teachings. To tell the stories of our People from generation to generation. To meaningfully fulfill the mitzvot. And yet, at times, being Jewish can present challenges, as we navigate the ever-changing landscapes of our community, country, and world. We are sometimes forced to make difficult decisions or stand by unpopular opinions. We often choose to respond to current events, times of loss, or ethical choices through a Jewish lens, leaning upon the wisdom of our tradition. Nonetheless, time and time again, the Jewish People demonstrate tenacity, determination, and resilience.

During the coming year, the Joys of Jewish Learning program will explore the theme **Standing Proud: A Celebration of Resilience**. Together, we recognize what it means to be part of a strong, vibrant community - remembering the accomplishments of the past, acknowledging what's wonderful in the world right now, and ready to celebrate what is yet to come.

I invite you to find at least one program from this year's offerings and come learn with us. Through text study, literature, current events, field trips, small group discussions, scholars-in-residence and beloved teachers from our own community, cooking, panel presentations, lectures, educational holiday celebrations, we look to connect with our adult learners in various ways.

We are blessed to have a congregational community that supports Temple Israel's adult education program each year. Through these donations, we are able to provide our classes and programs at little or no cost to TI members and beyond. If you are a long-time Joys of Jewish Learning donor, I thank you for your ongoing participation, commitment to learning, and financial support. If you are new to our congregation or adult Jewish learning, we welcome you and hope that your Jewish journey is filled with meaning, personal growth, and joy. If you are moved by one of our adult learning programs, we invite you to join us as a Joys of Jewish Learning Patron.

May 5785 provide you with the opportunity to engage your heart, mind, and soul. May your involvement in this community of learners bring you contentment and a reminder we have much to celebrate.

Sharon Amster Brown

Director of Education and Congregational Engagement

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**PLEASE RSVP FOR ALL PROGRAMS  
TO CHARMAINE  
AT CLW@TILB.ORG**



## THE JEWISH VOTE AND THE 2024 ELECTION with Dr. Steven Windmueller

**Tuesday, September 24 at 5:30 pm**

Trained as a political scientist, Dr. Steven Windmueller has studied Jewish political behavior over a forty-year career as an academic and communal professional. His presentation will focus on the history of the Jewish vote, specific indicators likely to impact the Jewish vote in connection with this election, and some national trends regarding ethnic and religious voting patterns. Professor Windmueller will examine some of the key political ideologies critical to the 2024 campaign here and across the globe.

His 2021 edited volume on *The Impact of Donald Trump's Presidency on American Jewry and Israel*, published by USC's Casden Institute has drawn significant interest within academic and Jewish communal circles.



**Dr. Steven Windmueller** is an Emeritus Professor of Jewish Communal Studies at the Jack H. Skirball Campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles. Prior to coming to HUC, Dr. Windmueller had served on the staff of the American Jewish Committee (1969-1972), directed the Albany (NY) Jewish Federation (1973-1985), and the JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Committee) of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation (1985-1995).

During his tenure at the College, Dr. Windmueller served for ten years as the Director of its School of Jewish Nonprofit Management and in 2005 was named to the deanship of the LA campus (2006-2010).

The author of four books and numerous articles, Professor Windmueller holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania. His research has been primarily focused on Jewish communal trends, anti-Semitism, and Jewish political behavior. His articles have appeared in a number of secular and Jewish publications.

## DEFINING THE FESTIVALS THROUGH CHILDREN'S SONGS

**Friday, September 27 at 6:00 pm**

Teacher: Ron Artstein, Temple Israel Congregant

We take a tour of the Jewish festivals through the lens of songs for Israeli preschool children. Many of the most common songs in Israel today were written in the 1920s and 1930s, and reflect the ideology that shaped modern Israeli secular society. As we welcome a new year we will sing a song for each festival and explore the history and themes behind it. No Hebrew or singing background required.

Ron Artstein is a proud graduate of Gan Tikva preschool in the Rassco neighborhood of Jerusalem, where he was indoctrinated with preschool festival songs before he even knew about the festivals themselves.





## ISRAELI RESILIENCE IN TIMES OF WAR: PERSPECTIVES FROM EVERYDAY PEOPLE

*An Interview with Avishag Gordin*

**Wednesday, October 9 at 10:00 am, via Zoom**

Our brothers and sisters in Israel no doubt have been through a very challenging year. Join us for a meaningful Zoom conversation and an opportunity to connect with an everyday Israeli who is facing the blessings and challenges of living in Israel today. Bring your questions and a compassionate heart.

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82107164530>



**Avishag Gordin** has two degrees from London Metropolitan University and is a chartered architect in Israel. While in London, Avishag worked for multi-disciplinary practices, where she managed large scale projects such as the International Departure Lounge in Heathrow Airport and the duty free shopping in Hamburg Airport, Germany. Prior to studying Architecture in London, Avishag studied Interior Design and received a diploma both in Israel and in the USA from The State University of New York- F.I.T. While in New York, she worked for both interior and lighting design firms on residential and large scale retail projects. Upon her return to Israel, Avishag worked for major architectural practices in Tel Aviv, until establishing her own practice – Gordin Architects, in 2010. The practice engages in all aspects of architecture, from planning permission, interior design, through the construction phase to full completion.



## BEGINNING HEBREW

**Tuesdays at 7:00 pm**

**October 15 - December 16**

Teacher: Janet Liss, Temple Israel Congregant

Have you ever wanted to learn the Alef Bet but thought that you just could not do it? It was too hard. You are not good at languages. You do not want to embarrass yourself. Well, now's the time to put all those false beliefs to bed. This 10-week Beginning Hebrew class is painless and fun and by the 10th week of study, you will be reading Hebrew! We guarantee it. Come join other adults who, just like you, want to read Hebrew too. This is not your father's or mother's Hebrew class!

**Cost: \$100, plus the cost of textbook**



## SUKKOT HAVDALAH, VEGETARIAN POTLUCK, AND STUDY

*In partnership with Temple Israel's Religious Practices Committee*

**Saturday, October 19 at 5:00 pm**

**Location: Various Congregants' Sukkot (addresses given upon RSVP)**

Sukkot is one of three major festivals and a beautiful way to celebrate our connection to history and the natural world around us. We look forward to sharing an evening of good food, wonderful company, and learning together.



## PIONEER JEWS: RESILIENCE AND REINVENTION IN THE OLD WEST

*Part I: Civic & Business Leaders  
with Cantor Jonathan Friedmann*

**Saturday, October 26 at 11:30 am**

**Shabbat Lunch & Learn**

Learn what happened when European Jews escaped economic despair and social immobility to start new lives in the American Wild West. Free from systemic antisemitism, Jewish immigrants peddled their wares, traded with Native Americans, established multi-generational businesses, founded hospitals and civic institutions, held public office, founded cities, and gave us a woman cantor and “lady rabbi”—all during the nineteenth century!

**Cost: \$15**



**Cantor Jonathan L. Friedmann, Ph.D.**, is director of the Jewish Museum of the American West, president of the Western States Jewish History Association, and co-host of *Amusing Jews*, a podcast/YouTube interview show celebrating Jewish contributors and contributions to American popular culture. He serves as admissions director and associate professor at the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism and vice president, academic dean, and director of programs at Ezzree Institute, a graduate school specializing in integrative counseling and cultural studies. Jonathan is also community leader and education director of Adat Chaverim—Congregation for Humanistic Judaism, Los Angeles, and the author or editor of over 30 books, including *Jewish Los Angeles*, *Jewish Gold Country*, and *Centennial by the Sea: 100 Years of Temple Israel, Long Beach*.



## SUNDAY MORNING DISCUSSION WITH RABBI FOX

**Sunday, October 27 at 10:00 am**

Come join Rabbi Fox for coffee and conversation and enjoy this opportunity to connect with the clergy and meet other parents. We'll discuss current events, explore big Jewish questions, and have a little fun along the way.

**This opportunity is for current Torah Center parents only.**



## ISRAELI RESILIENCE IN TIMES OF WAR: PERSPECTIVES FROM EVERYDAY PEOPLE

*An Interview with Cantor Evan Cohen*

**Wednesday, November 6 at 10:00 am, via Zoom**

Our brothers and sisters in Israel no doubt have been through a very challenging year. Join us for a meaningful Zoom conversation and an opportunity to connect with an everyday Israeli who is facing the blessings and challenges of living in Israel today. Bring your questions and a compassionate heart.

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83193290427>



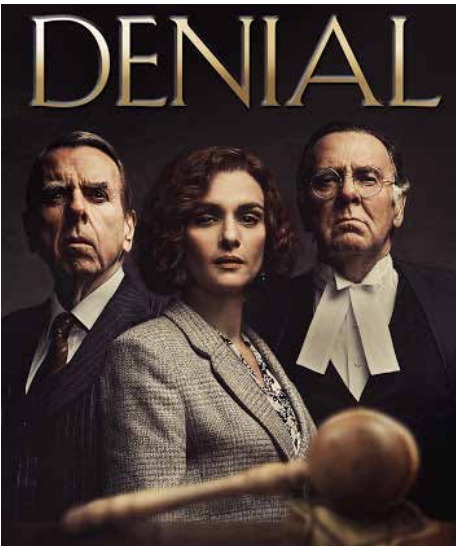
Cantor Evan Cohen grew up in Monroe, New York and graduated from George Washington University in 1996. He then enrolled as a rabbinical student at the Hebrew Union College but only completed one year, having fallen in love with Israel and then making aliyah in 1998. Through the influence of Cantor Eliyahu Schleifer at HUC and Cantor Naftali Herstik at Jerusalem's Great Synagogue, he fell in love again, this time with chazzanut (cantorial arts). Cantor Evan is the first Reform graduate of the Tel Aviv Cantorial Institute (an Orthodox institution) and has served as the cantor of Kehilat Har-El since 2001. Representing his congregation and his alma mater, he has performed and taught in Israel, the United States, Holland, Germany, China, Russia, and Indonesia. Cantor Evan also serves on the cantorial faculty of the HUC in Jerusalem and has released two albums, "Shabbat Shebalev (The Shabbat of the Heart)", a recording of the music of Kabbalat Shabbat at Kehilat Har-El and "V'samachta B'chagecha (You Shall Rejoice in Your Festival)," a joint recording with Cantor Schleifer of the music of the Three Festivals. Since making aliyah, Cantor Evan resides in Jerusalem with his wife Miri and his two daughters, Rina and Hila.



## WOMEN AND CHAZZANUT WITH CANTOR COOPER

**Thursday, November 7 at 7:00 pm**

An encore presentation! From Miriam to Barbara Ostfeld, we will trace the path that Jewish women took to get to the bimah in this course. We will explore the environment that allowed women to finally have their voices heard including the influence of Yiddish theater and vaudeville. Finally, we will learn about the chazantes, women who sang chazzanut, forbidden cantorial music, further opening the door for women to enter the cantorate.



## MOVIE SCREENING AND DISCUSSION: DENIAL

**Thursday, November 14 at 7:00 pm**

Discussion Facilitator: Steve Gordon, Temple Israel Congregant

In 1993, Deborah Lipstadt and Penguin Books published *Denying the Holocaust*. Two years later, the English author David Irving sued her for libel on the grounds that her book had ruined his once well-regarded career as an historian by accusing him of deliberately distorting historical facts. The resulting court case puts the onus on her legal team to prove that the Holocaust did indeed take place. Based on a true story.



## A TASTE OF JUDAISM WITH RABBI FOX

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm  
November 6, 13, 20

This class is especially designed for unaffiliated Jews, intermarried couples, those seeking an initial orientation into an adult approach to the study of Judaism, and all those searching for an entry into Jewish life.



## PIONEER JEWS: RESILIENCE AND REINVENTION IN THE OLD WEST

*Part II: Jewish Communal Leaders with Cantor Jonathan Friedmann*

Saturday, November 9 at 11:30 am  
Shabbat Lunch & Learn

Learn what happened when European Jews escaped economic despair and social immobility to start new lives in the American Wild West. Free from systemic antisemitism, Jewish immigrants peddled their wares, traded with Native Americans, established multi-generational businesses, founded hospitals and civic institutions, held public office, founded cities, and gave us a woman cantor and “lady rabbi”—all during the nineteenth century!

**Cost: \$15**



## SUNDAY MORNING DISCUSSION WITH CANTOR COOPER

Sunday, November 17 at 10:00 am

Come join Cantor Cooper for coffee and conversation and enjoy this opportunity to connect with the clergy and meet other parents. We’ll discuss current events, explore big Jewish questions, and have a little fun along the way.

**This opportunity is for current Torah Center parents only.**



**Ilana Jaffe-Lewis** is a Teaching Artist and mother based in Los Angeles, California. She is the Assistant Director of Social Medium Makerspace, a facilitator for the Jewish Studio Project, and the Founder of The Mothers' Studio - a creative community for mothers. Ilana spends her summer teaching Process Art at the Brandeis Camp Institute. Ilana's hobbies include creating, reading, observing, listening, and bringing people together. She loves animals, flowers, book stores, and honest conversation.

## JEWISH STUDIO PROJECT WORKSHOP

**Sunday, November 24 at 10:00 am**

Facilitator: Ilana Jaffe-Lewis

Creativity is inherent in each and every one of us. Accessing and activating that creativity is a skill we can practice. Through a mix of discussion and brief, facilitated hands-on experiences with basic art materials, we'll explore ways in which we might reclaim our creativity - and the reasons we might want to. Together, we will draw on the Jewish Studio Process - a unique methodology combining practices from the field of art therapy with a reimagined approach to Jewish learning and spirituality - to process, ground, connect, and tap into the joy and possibility that creativity offers.

You'll leave with a new outlook on your own creativity and a set of tools to help you embody creative resilience. Temple Israel is proud to partner with Jewish Studio Project, as we offer two workshops – come for one or both! The sessions will use different source texts to dive more deeply into creativity and resilience.



## NAVIGATING THE WILDERNESS OF LOSS: REFRAMING THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OF GRIEF

*In partnership with Temple Israel's Caring Community*

**Tuesdays at 7:00 pm**

**December 3 and 17, via Zoom**

Teacher: Anne Brenner

Grief is not an illness. It is a journey through a wilderness, where we must make peace with difficult truths about being human. This powerful workshop uses holy Hebrew words to map grief as a spiritual path. As we traverse this landscape, yearning for what has been lost, we find safe places to express grief's emotions and discover a new spirituality. Using text study, mediation and journal writing, we visit the places in which mourners must dwell, but only temporarily. Participants become fluent in what it means to be human, as we do the holy work prescribed by Psalms: to turn mourning into dancing.

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83407060803>

**Anne Brenner** gently takes the hand of people who face loss of all kinds to guide them through the mourning process. A powerful speaker and writer, she offers people of all backgrounds tools for healing the trauma of change. She distills universal psychological and spiritual wisdom from the ancient Jewish mourning rituals and integrates personal experience and insight to create a template for growth. While still in her early twenties, she lost her mother to suicide. Three months later, her 19-year-old sister died in a car accident. What began as her personal journal became her bestselling book, *Mourning & Mitzvah*, now in its expanded 25th Anniversary Third Edition. A Los Angeles-based psychotherapist, spiritual director and teacher of meditation, she weaves her journey and those of the many she has nurtured into the template provided by ancient Jewish wisdom. Through her practice with individuals and groups, national workshops, and her acclaimed book, she has helped thousands to heal.





## ISRAELI RESILIENCE IN TIMES OF WAR: PERSPECTIVES FROM EVERYDAY PEOPLE

*An Interview with Matar Maizel*

**Thursday, December 12 at 10:00 am, via Zoom**

Our brothers and sisters in Israel have no doubt been through a very challenging year. Join us for a meaningful Zoom conversation and an opportunity to connect with an everyday Israeli who is facing the blessings and challenges of living in Israel today. Bring your questions and a compassionate heart.

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83243500992>



**Matar Maizel** is 21 years old and lives in Pardess-Hanna Karkur, Israel (in between Haifa and Tel Aviv). She has three siblings and has been a dancer for as long as she can remember. After high school, Matar joined the IDF and served for two years in the Military Police. She was a commander in the training of the military police and a commander of a war room. In the last year, Matar turned her love of movement into a profession and became a Pilates teacher. She spent this past summer as a counselor at URJ Camp Newman in Santa Rosa, California.



## A JEWISH PERSPECTIVE ON MENTORING

**Friday, December 6 at 10:15 am**

Teacher: Ellen Fox, Congregant and Rabbi Fox's mother

Parenting, teaching, and mentoring a child or adult of any age is a rewarding yet challenging journey that involves making decisions that shape their future. It requires balancing discipline with freedom, setting boundaries while fostering independence, and navigating modern challenges like technology and societal pressures. In this class, we will explore the wisdom of Jewish scholars who have written about this subject and discuss our thoughts about their writings.



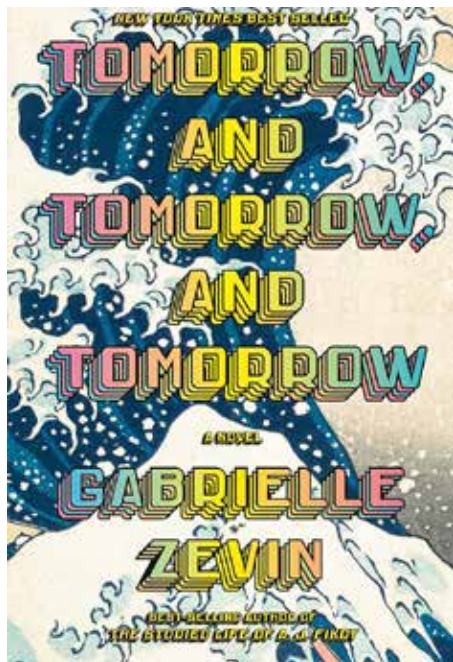
## HOLLYWOODLAND: JEWISH FOUNDERS AND THE MAKING OF A MOVIE CAPITAL

*Field Trip to Academy of Motion Pictures and Dinner at Dupar's at the Original Farmers Market*

**Saturday, December 7, departing Long Beach at 12:45 pm**

The museum's main exhibit traces the history of filmmaking in Los Angeles back to its roots at the beginning of the 20th century, illustrating how and why the city became a global epicenter of cinema and the Jewish story therein. Don't miss this fun afternoon and evening in Los Angeles!

**Cost: \$22/person plus the cost of dinner**



## TI READS ONE BOOK

*Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*  
Discussion Session Part 1 led by Rabbi Fox

**Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 pm, via Zoom**

We are very excited for the return of the Temple Israel Reads One Book program! Join Rabbi Fox, other members of our staff, and lots of congregants, as we read the book *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*. Throughout the year, we will have opportunities to discuss the book together. This is the first of three facilitated sessions.

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89599131260>

In this exhilarating novel, two friends—often in love, but never lovers—come together as creative partners in the world of video game design, where success brings them fame, joy, tragedy, duplicity, and, ultimately, a kind of immortality.

On a bitter-cold day, in the December of his junior year at Harvard, Sam Masur exits a subway car and sees, amid the hordes of people waiting on the platform, Sadie Green. He calls her name. For a moment, she pretends she hasn't heard him, but then, she turns, and a game begins: a legendary collaboration that will launch them to stardom. These friends, intimates since childhood, borrow money, beg favors, and, before even graduating college, they have created their first blockbuster, Ichigo. Overnight, the world is theirs. Not even twenty-five years old, Sam and Sadie are brilliant, successful, and rich, but these qualities won't protect them from their own creative ambitions or the betrayals of their hearts.

Spanning thirty years, from Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Venice Beach, California, and lands in between and far beyond, Gabrielle Zevin's *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* is a dazzling and intricately imagined novel that examines the multifarious nature of identity, disability, failure, the redemptive possibilities in play, and above all, our need to connect: to be loved and to love. Yes, it is a love story, but it is not one you have read before.



Bruce Thompson has been teaching courses in History, Literature, and Jewish Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, since 1991. He has been the recipient of five awards for excellence in teaching. His most popular course offerings include courses on the history of espionage and intelligence and a new course on the role of the horse in world history.

## PILGER SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE DR. BRUCE THOMPSON JEWISH CULTURE IN AMERICA

Friday, December 13 - Sunday, December 15

### Friday

#### Shabbat Services at 7:00 pm

*The American Presidents And The Jews*

Never more than 3 percent of the population, American Jews have nevertheless played an outsized role in American politics, and in the thoughts of some of our greatest presidents. The two greatest, Washington and Lincoln, offered eloquent defenses of religious liberty, with Jews as their touchstones. And during the twentieth century, two of the giants, FDR and Harry Truman, reacted in very different ways to the Zionist movement's campaign for American recognition of the State of Israel during the crucial decade of the 1940s. To understand how these four great presidents related to the American Jewish community in moments of crisis is to go a long way toward understanding the larger arc of American Jewish history.

### Saturday

#### Torah Study at 8:30 am

*A Mystery In Genesis*

Two of the most fascinating chapters in Genesis occur consecutively, but at first seem to have little to do with each other. In Genesis 37, Joseph's brothers, by debating whether they should kill him, nearly repeat the crime of Cain: fratricide. In Genesis 38, Joseph's brother Judah orders the execution of his daughter-in-law, Tamar, for the crime of prostitution. What is the hidden connection between these two bone-chilling chapters? The answer will take us deep into the heart of the book of Genesis.

#### Study Session and Havdallah at 7:00pm, location TBA

*A Fine Romance: Jews and The Broadway Musical*

For more than a hundred years, Jewish composers, lyricists, choreographers and performers have been among the dominant creative forces on Broadway. How can we explain this extraordinary domination of a major branch of American popular culture and entertainment by artists of a particular ethnicity over such a long period of time? Perhaps this phenomenon should not surprise us. Ever since Emma Lazarus wrote that famous poem affixed to the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, American Jews have been among the most eloquent and insightful commentators on what it means to be an American and to belong to American society, a question which has been at the core of many great musicals. This talk will examine half a dozen of the greatest Broadway musicals, showing how the energy, talent, and wit that went into their creation came from the heart of the Jewish experience in twentieth-century America.

### Sunday

#### Afternoon Lunch and Learn at 1:00 pm

*American Jews and The Problem Of Espionage*

During the golden age of Soviet espionage in the United States, the 1940s, roughly half of the men and women identified as spies working on behalf of the Soviet Union were Jewish, with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg at the top of the list. Why so many? During this lunchtime conversation, we'll attempt to solve that mystery by examining the biographies of some of the most important spies of that era.

Cost: \$15

### Sunday

#### Teen Program at 10:10 am

*Jewish Comedy*

A Jewish man goes to a rabbi and asks, "Rabbi, what should I do? I raised my boy to be a good Jewish boy and he became a Christian. What should I do?" The rabbi says, "Funny you should ask. I'm a rabbi, and I too raised my boy Jewish. My son went to yeshiva and yet he too became a Christian." The man asks the rabbi, "What did you do?" "I asked God." "What did He say?" "God said, 'Funny you should ask...'"

*Jewish humor*, a great critic has observed, rolls cheerfully off the tongue, like French cuisine and Turkish baths. Why is Judaism the only religion to have a type of humor named after it? This morning, we'll look at some classic examples of Jewish jokes and cartoons, and ask why Jewish comedians and humorists have been at the forefront of comedy in America, from the early twentieth century to the era of Woody Allen, Joan Rivers, Jerry Seinfeld and Larry David.



## **FIELD TRIP TO BEIT T'SHUVAH** *Shabbat Services and Community Shabbat Dinner*

**Friday, December 20, departing Long Beach at 5:15 pm**

Join us for an unforgettable evening of prayer and connection, as we head up to Beit T'Shuvah for a unique, musical Shabbat celebration.

Beit T'Shuvah's philosophy: Addiction is a symptom of a divided self; an unhealthy dependence on substances or compulsive activities to provide a temporary sense of wholeness and well-being. Through a community rooted in the spiritual principles of Judaism, authenticity, and transparency, Beit T'Shuvah members are taught to live in concert with their own inner value, dignity, and Kedusha: holiness. We believe everyone has the right to redemption, which is why we never turn a single soul away due to their inability to pay... allowing all who wish, to make T'Shuvah.

**Cost: \$36/person for Shabbat Dinner**



## **JEWISH STUDIO PROJECT WORKSHOP**

**Sunday, January 5 at 10:00 am**

Facilitator: Ilana Jaffe-Lewis

Creativity is inherent in each and every one of us. Accessing and activating that creativity is a skill we can practice. Through a mix of discussion and brief, facilitated hands-on experiences with basic art materials, we'll explore ways in which we might reclaim our creativity - and the reasons we might want to. Together, we will draw on the Jewish Studio Process - a unique methodology combining practices from the field of art therapy with a reimagined approach to Jewish learning and spirituality - to process, ground, connect, and tap into the joy and possibility that creativity offers.

You'll leave with a new outlook on your own creativity and a set of tools to help you embody creative resilience. Temple Israel is proud to partner with Jewish Studio Project, as we offer two workshops – come for one or both! The sessions will use different source texts to dive more deeply into creativity and resilience.



## INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

**Wednesdays at 6:00 pm**

**Beginning January 8 (18 sessions)**

Teachers: Rabbi Scott Fox and Student Rabbi Leah Julian

We invite you to join with learners of all backgrounds in our Introduction to Judaism course. The course will cover a broad cross-section of topics related to Judaism in a discussion-based format with experts in the field. This class is ideal for anyone looking to explore Judaism for the very first time, seeking conversion, or for folks who would like to fill in pockets of knowledge in a tradition that takes a lifetime to learn. Everyone is welcome. We look forward to your joining us.

**Cost: \$200**



## OVERVIEW OF MODERN ISRAELI HISTORY

**Thursdays, January 9 and 16 at 7:00 pm**

Teacher: Jeffrey Bluting, Jewish Studies Professor, CSULB

Understanding Israeli history is a critical tool in helping to follow current events in Israel. Join us for this important, two-part class to learn about the history all the way from from the forerunners of Zionism up to Netanyahu.



## MOVIE SCREENING AND DISCUSSION: GOLDA

**Thursday, January 30 at 7:00 pm**

Discussion Facilitator: Mark Dressner, Temple Israel Congregant

Faced with the potential of Israel's complete destruction, Prime Minister Golda Meir must navigate overwhelming odds, a skeptical cabinet and a complex relationship with U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger as millions of lives hang in the balance during the tense 19 days of the Yom Kippur War in 1973.



**Naomi Ackerman** is an experienced actress, consultant, and facilitator creating curriculums that use drama techniques to deal with social, gender, and educational issues as well as exploring identity and promoting tolerance and dialogue between diverse participants. Naomi is a recipient of the KCET – Link Local Hero 2014 Award, the 2016 International Woman Achievers Community leadership award, and the 2018 Covenant Award.

## FLOWERS AREN'T ENOUGH

*In partnership with The Alpert JCC  
and the Long Beach Jewish Community*

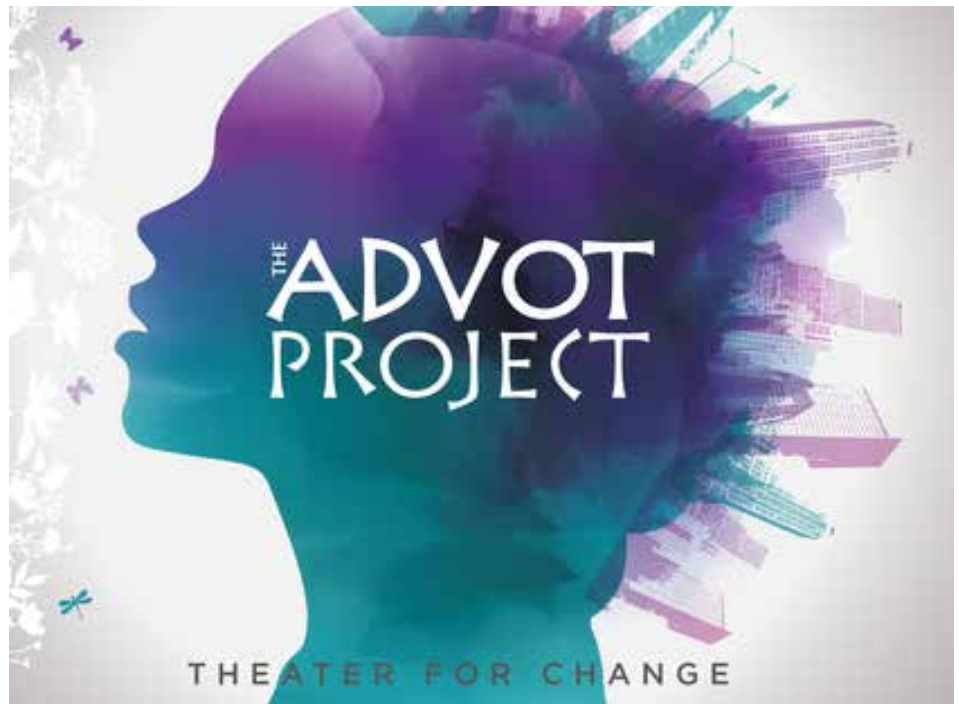
**Written and performed by Naomi Ackerman,  
Founder/Executive Director of The Advot Project**

**Sunday, February 2 at 2:00 pm**

**Location: Alpert Jewish Community Center**

Flowers Aren't Enough tells the story of Michal, a young woman who falls into an abusive relationship. The show's power is that it breaks the often-held myth that only uneducated, poor women from bad families are victims. Based on true stories, Ms. Ackerman has woven the voices of women from different cultures and backgrounds into a performance that encourages social change. Flowers Aren't Enough has been performed internationally over 2,000 times, across 7 continents. The show has been translated into and performed in Arabic, English, Hebrew, and Spanish.

*Home Shalom strives to raise awareness about domestic violence in the Jewish community by presenting teen workshops on healthy relationships in synagogues, schools and Jewish youth organizations.*



*The Advot Project is a nonprofit organization that uses theater for transformation by empowering youth particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds to take control of their destiny by teaching them communication skills and healthy relationships through the arts.*





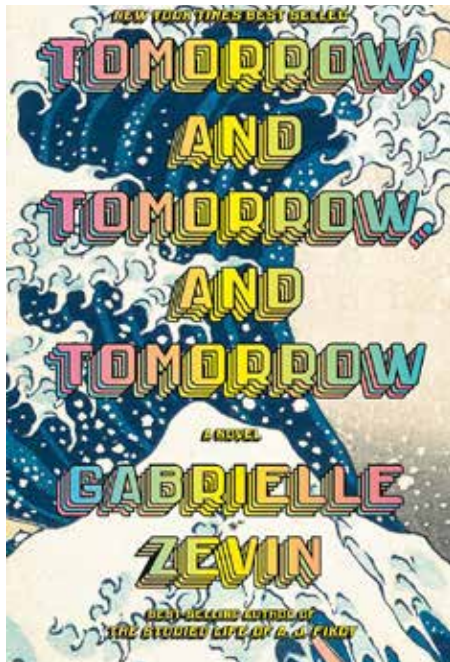
## COOKING CLASS: EASY SHABBAT DINNER AND TRADITIONS THAT HAVE HELD US TOGETHER

**Tuesday, February 4 at 7:00 pm**

Teacher: Amy Lipeles, Temple Israel Congregant

Fridays are busy days! Join us in the kitchen with longtime congregant, teacher, and cook Amy Lipeles to pick up some tips on how to make celebrating Shabbat easier and more accessible to all.

**Cost: \$15**



## TI READS ONE BOOK

*Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*  
Discussion Session Part 2 led by Rabbi Fox

**Tuesday, February 18 at 6:30 pm, via Zoom**

We are very excited for the return of the Temple Israel Reads One Book program! Join Rabbi Fox, other members of our staff, and lots of congregants, as we read the book *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*. Throughout the year, we have opportunities to discuss the book together. This is the second of three facilitated sessions.

**Read through page 280.**

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81337878804>



## **JEWISH STUDENT RESILIENCE AT CAL STATE LONG BEACH**

*Panel discussion with ChayaLeah Sufrin, Beth Lesen, and Adam Fagin*

**Moderated by Adolfo Guzman-Lopez**

**Thursday, February 6 at 7:00 pm**

Join us for an interesting evening of discussion about resilience on the college campus. We look forward to welcoming ChayaLeah Sufrin (Executive Director of CSULB Hillel), Beth Lesen (Temple Israel congregant and Vice President of CSULB), and Adam Fagin (Temple Israel Torah Center alumnus and graduate student at CSULB), as they share their perspectives on Jewish life at Cal State Long Beach.



## **MODERN JEWISH HEROES**

**Sunday, February 9 at 10:00 am**

Teacher: Rabbi Michal Loving, Temple Israel Congregant

What makes a modern superhero? What makes a modern JEWISH superhero? Explore the nuances of crazy superpowers and moral determination as we discuss the qualities of those Jewish heroes we've loved throughout the years, both fictional and real. Costumes are optional, but willingness to have fun is required!



## INTERMEDIATE HEBREW

**Tuesdays at 7:00 pm**

**February 11 - March 11**

Teacher: Janet Liss, Temple Israel Congregant

This six-week class is for people who want to learn in a fun and encouraging environment some basic blessings that we use often, as well as a standard prayer recited at every service. Prayers will depend on who enrolls in the class and interest level for specific prayers. We will look at the meaning of the prayers, as well as learn the Hebrew.

**Cost: \$80, including learning materials**



## MOVIE SCREENING AND DISCUSSION: THIS IS WHERE I LEAVE YOU

**Sunday, February 23 at 9:45 am**

Discussion Facilitator: Beth Sterling, Temple Israel Congregant

THIS IS WHERE  
I LEAVE YOU



When their father passes away, four grown, world-weary siblings return to their childhood home and are requested -- with an admonition -- to stay there together for a week, along with their free-speaking mother (Jane Fonda) and a collection of spouses, exes and might-have-beens. As the brothers and sisters re-examine their shared history and the status of each tattered relationship among those who know and love them best, they reconnect in hysterically funny and emotionally significant ways.



## **RADICAL JEWISH WOMEN**

*In Celebration of Women's History Month*

**Tuesdays at 5:30 pm**

**March 4, 18, April 1**

Teacher: Rabbi Fox

This year, as we lift up the voices of Jews we can look up to, who we are proud of, and that we have the privilege to learn from, join us for a class learning about the histories of some of the most influential women changemakers in our Jewish community and how not only is our community and country a greater place because of them and their work, but also how our world has been changed by them radically, sometimes revolutionarily, and all for the better.



## **SONGS OF RESILIENCE**

*A Concert with Cantor Cooper*

**Sunday, March 9 at 4:00 pm**

Join us for an inspiring evening of music that celebrates the enduring spirit of resilience in Judaism. This concert weaves together traditional melodies and contemporary songs highlighting the strength, hope, and perseverance that have sustained the Jewish people through generations. Come experience the resilience of a community that has turned adversity into a song of survival and triumph.



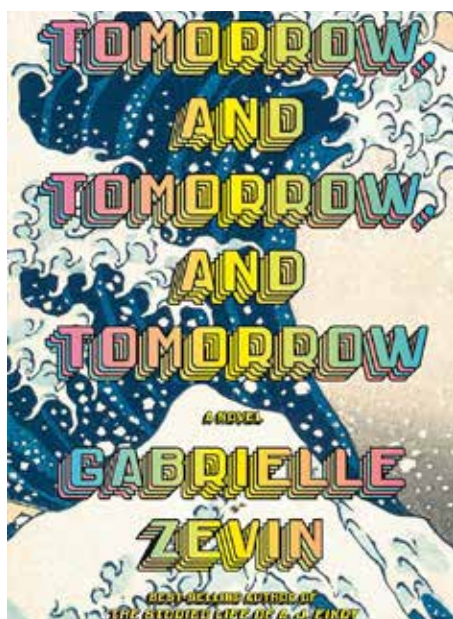
## COOKING CLASS: PASSOVER CLASSICS THAT HAVE HELD US TOGETHER

**Sunday, March 23 at 9:45 am**

Teacher: Amy Lipeles, Temple Israel Congregant

Who doesn't want to add a new recipe to their Passover Celebration? Our morning together is sure to be educational and delicious!

**Cost: \$15**



## TI READS ONE BOOK

*Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*

**Sunday, March 30 at 12:30 pm**

**Part 3**

**In person discussion and celebration of the completion of the book**

We are very excited for the return of the Temple Israel Reads One Book program! Join Rabbi Fox, other members of our staff, and lots of congregants, as we read the book *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*. Throughout the year, we have had opportunities to discuss the book together. This is the final of three facilitated sessions.



## BEGINNING HEBREW

**Tuesdays at 7:00 pm**

**April 1 - June 3**

Teacher: Janet Liss, Temple Israel Congregant

Have you ever wanted to learn the Alef Bet but thought that you just could not do it? It was too hard. You are not good at languages. You do not want to embarrass yourself. Well, now's the time to put all those false beliefs to bed. This 10-week Beginning Hebrew class is painless and fun and by the 10th week of study, you will be reading Hebrew! We guarantee it. Come join other adults who, just like you, want to read Hebrew too. This is not your father's or mother's Hebrew class!

**Cost: \$100, plus the cost of textbook**



## THE RABBIS AND OUR EMOTIONS

Thursdays at 7:00 pm

**CANCELLED**

Teacher: Student Rabbi Leah Julian

In this two-week mini course, we will explore what ancient rabbinic texts might teach us (or challenge us) about experiencing joy and shame. In each class, we will study rabbinic texts related to each of these emotions and reflect on how they might inform our individual and collective pursuits to living fuller, more resilient lives.



## SUNDAY MORNING DISCUSSION WITH CANTOR COOPER

Sunday, April 6 at 10:00 am

Come join Cantor Cooper for coffee and conversation and enjoy this opportunity to connect with the clergy and meet other parents. We'll discuss current events, explore big Jewish questions, and have a little fun along the way.

**This opportunity is for current Torah Center parents only.**



## CAROLYN SIEGEL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IF YOU HEARD WHAT I HEARD

*In Observance of Yom HaShoah*

Tuesday, April 22 at 5:30 pm

The nonprofit If You Heard What I Heard seeks to share the stories heard by third generation Holocaust survivors, the grandchildren of Holocaust survivors. Executive Director Carolyn Siegel shares, "We are the last generation to ever hear our grandparents' stories firsthand, over the course of decades of our lives. We are the witnesses to our grandparents' loss, physical and emotional scars, and the lucky beneficiaries of their resilience. We are the ones who will make sure the world will #NeverForget about the Holocaust."



Carolyn Siegel is the Founder & Executive Director of If You Heard What I Heard, a nonprofit that documents the stories of grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, the last generation to ever hear survivor stories firsthand. Carolyn is the granddaughter of two Holocaust survivors, a graduate of Milken Community High School in Los Angeles, and Syracuse University, where she received her Bachelor of Science and MBA. After an antisemitic incident in L.A. in May, 2020, Carolyn thought if more people today heard the stories she heard her whole life, about what grandparents like hers lived through during the Holocaust, we wouldn't see such high levels of hate. She started working on If You Heard What I Heard that same year, and launched the organization's website with 15 interviews of grandchildren of Holocaust survivors in April, 2021.



Rabbi Korngold is an ordained Reform Rabbi and the founder of Adventure Judaism. She is nationally recognized for her innovative work combining religion and nature.

Rabbi Jamie Korngold is the author of 11 books including *God in the Wilderness* (Doubleday 2008), *The God Upgrade: Finding Your 21st-Century Spirituality in Judaism's 5,000-Year-Old Tradition* (Jewish Lights, April 2011), which was named one of the ten best religious books of the year by Publisher's Weekly, and the *Sadie* series (Kar-Ben.)

A favorite of the media, she has been featured by Good Morning America, USA Today, CBS, CNN, NPR, the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Ski, as well as many other outlets.

Rabbi Korngold is an athlete and a scholar. She completed the Leadville Trail 100, a hundred-mile running race, in less than thirty hours and was ranked fourth in the nation for telemark mogul skiing. She is a graduate of Cornell University's Natural Resources program and received her Doctor of Divinity and ordination from Hebrew Union College.

Her eclectic path includes such adventures as working as a street musician in Japan, a taxi driver in Alaska and a cook on board a boat in Alaska helping with the Exxon Valdez oil spill cleanup.

Rabbi Korngold is best known for her ability to make Judaism relevant, meaningful, and accessible and therefore opening the doors back to Judaism for thousands of disenfranchised Jews. Through her nature-based approach to religion, she is able to bridge the gap between scientific thought and religion, healing a fissure that often disrupts spiritual paths.

She lives in Boulder, Colorado.

## LAPID-SHAPIRO SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

**Rabbi Jamie Korngold - The Adventure Rabbi**

**Friday, April 25 - Sunday, April 27**

### Friday night:

#### Tot Shabbat at 6:00 pm

Rabbi Korngold is the author of 11 books, included the PJ Library favorites in the *Sadie* series (*Sadie and the Big Mountain*, *Sadie's Sukkah Breakfast*, *Sadie, Ori, and Nuggles Go to Camp*, and more) Rabbi Korngold will join our clergy at tonight's service and share with us one of her books. We will project the book on the big screen, so all the kids can follow along. After the service, join us for pizza and crafts. Rabbi Jamie will be bringing some of the stuffies from the book series; please bring your stuffed animal, so we can welcome "Nuggles" and friends.

#### Shabbat Services at 7:00 pm

Rabbi Korngold is the author of *God In The Wilderness*, (Doubleday Religion). In tonight's sermon, she will talk about the connections between Judaism and nature and share some lessons gleaned from 24 years of leading Jewish outdoor trips.

### Saturday:

#### Torah Study at 8:30 am

Join us, as we study Parashat Shmini, Leviticus 9:1-11:47. The parasha begins with the animal and meal sacrifices made to God. For centuries, this is how our people communicated with God, but today we no longer believe sacrifices are necessary or efficacious. The Jewish concept of God has changed over time. Join author Rabbi Jamie Korngold, as we discuss her book *The God Upgrade* (Jewish Lights). We will explore different Jewish God concepts, how and why they have changed through time and which is most compelling to each of us.

#### Late Afternoon Hike at the Dominguez Gap Wetlands and Havdallah at 4:00 pm

Join the Adventure Rabbi for a 2-mile hike in the Dominguez Gap Wetlands, along the LA River. We will explore how to use the outdoors as a spiritual springboard to enhance our Jewish experience and build community. We will stop frequently to explore questions such as "What is your most spiritual place," "How does being outside feel differently than being inside," "Why do so many people say nature is 'their temple' and What do they mean?" We will close our time together with havdallah.

**Bring a water bottle, snack, and appropriate shoes and clothing. Please check the weather before you pack!**

### Sunday:

#### God at the Beach

#### Walk from Temple Israel at 9:30 am or meet under the Belmont Pier at 9:45 am

In the Torah, God generally appears next to water, by tall trees, or on mountains. This is not because there weren't cities; there were. Join Adventure Rabbi, Rabbi Jamie Korngold, at the beach! We will read Torah texts in which God appears and discuss why we think these locations were chosen.

**Bring a blanket or chair to sit on, water bottle, and dress comfortably.**



## COOKING CLASS: SHAVUOT CLASSICS THAT HAVE HELD US TOGETHER

**Tuesday, April 29 at 7:00 pm**

Teacher: Eve Lunt, Temple Israel Congregant

Come and learn some easy hacks on cheesecakes and blintzes. See how easy it is to take traditional Shavuot dairy dishes like blintz souffle and turn them into bite size apps and desserts, with this demo class with Chef Eve.

**Cost: \$10**

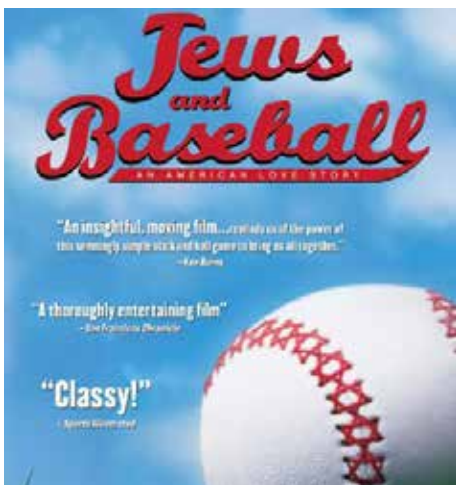


## SUNDAY MORNING DISCUSSION WITH RABBI FOX

**Sunday, May 4 at 10:00 am**

Come join Rabbi Fox for coffee and conversation and enjoy this opportunity to connect with the clergy and meet other parents. We'll discuss current events, explore big Jewish questions, and have a little fun along the way.

**This opportunity is for current Torah Center parents only.**



## MOVIE SCREENING AND DISCUSSION: JEWS AND BASEBALL: AN AMERICAN LOVE STORY

**Thursday, May 29 at 7:00 pm**

Discussion Facilitator: Joanne Levy, Temple Israel Congregant

Join us for hotdogs, peanuts, and Cracker Jacks! This film traces the Jewish involvement in the history of the sport from the game's earliest days, through the tumultuous war years to today's All-Star games. By bringing to life dramatic moments in this history, including how the legendary Sandy Koufax pioneered rights for players and Hank Greenberg's support of Jackie Robinson, the film demonstrates how Jews shaped baseball, and baseball shaped them.





## TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

***Emigration Stories of Resilience: A Panel Discussion featuring congregants Adolfo Guzman-Lopez, Maggie Kosmin, and Alain Silverston***

**Sunday, June 1 at 8:00 pm**

The moment of receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai was a moment so powerful that its echo reverberated down the generations to the present day. To ritualize this moment the 16th century Kabbalists of Safed created an evening of all-night study (Tikkun Leil Shavuot), which concluded with a service at the break of dawn. Tikkun Leil Shavuot celebrates a moment of truth and wonder which remains eternally alluring. Join us, as we embrace this tradition of study, celebration, and wonder.

This year's Shavuot learning will focus on a conversation about emigration and other stories of resilience.



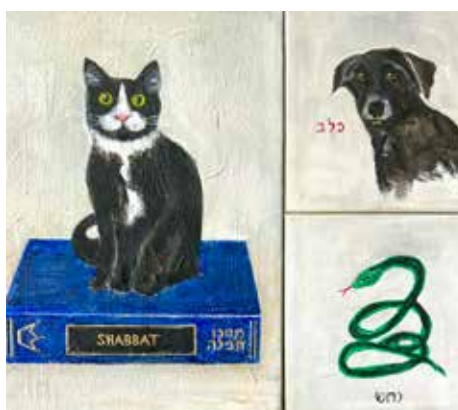
## COOKING CLASS: BABKA CLASSICS THAT HAVE HELD US TOGETHER

**Friday, June 6 at 5:00 pm**

Teacher: Eve Lunt, Temple Israel Congregant

Learn how to create beautiful babkas, both savory and sweet. Come for the demo on how to braid both round and rectangular babkas and how to use your imagination and what's in your fridge to make creative and modern new versions.

**Cost: \$10**



## FOR THE LOVE OF ANIMALS

***Field Trip to The Braid Theater (formerly Jewish Women's Theater) in Santa Monica***

**Tuesday, June 10, departing Long Beach at 5:30pm**

Funny and thrilling Jewish tales about brief encounters or long relationships with animals, domestic or wild, and how they change us.

**What is The Braid?** At the intersection of storytelling and theater, professional actors bring to life a collection of true Jewish stories that - with humor and heart - share the diverse stories of a diverse Jewish people.

**Cost: \$40/person**  
**Limited to 20 people.**





**Assembly Member Josh Lowenthal and Former US Representative Alan Lowenthal:  
A CONVERSATION ABOUT POLITICAL RESILIENCE, JEWISH VALUES, AND FAMILY STORIES**

**Friday, June 13 at 6:00 pm**

Join us for a meaningful evening with California State Assembly Member Josh Lowenthal and former United States Representative Alan Lowenthal. This dynamic father son duo will share stories of their experiences as Jewish leaders within the State and US government settings.



Assembly Member Josh Lowenthal was elected to the California State Assembly in November of 2022 to represent the 69th Assembly District. Assembly member Lowenthal worked as an entrepreneur and business owner with a long, successful record of accomplishment in tech and telecom startups. Growing up and working in Long Beach, Josh committed himself to improve the community we live in by working to alleviate homelessness, help at-risk children, and create good, 21st-century jobs. Josh Lowenthal grew up in Long Beach, where he attended public schools. He worked as a local teacher, is a local business owner, and has three daughters in public schools.

During his two-decade tenure as a city council member and California legislator, Alan Lowenthal's dedication to common-sense bipartisan solutions earned him a reputation among his colleagues and constituents as one of the most respected and effective legislators in both Long Beach and Sacramento. Alan was raised in the Queens Borough of New York City. After earning his Bachelor's Degree from Hobart and William Smith Colleges and his Ph.D. from Ohio State University, he moved to Long Beach in 1969 where he taught Community Psychology at Cal State Long Beach until 1998. Alan successfully ran for Long Beach City Council in 1992, where he served for six years. He then continued his leadership in Sacramento, first serving three terms as a State Assembly member, then two terms as a State Senator. As a city council member, and then as a state legislator, Alan fought against the then-commonplace private and public sector belief that environmental protections and economic success at the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles were mutually exclusive. His landmark environmental legislative efforts helped lead the two adjacent ports becoming the cleanest and greenest ports in the world, while remaining the busiest and most successful container ports in the Western Hemisphere. While a State Assembly member, and as a founding member of the Assembly's Bipartisan Caucus, he paved the way for creation of California's first ever independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. In addition, Alan led legislative efforts to revamp the state's K-12 and higher education systems. He championed the College Promise Partnership Act to help K-12 students better transition to college. The passage of his Student Success Act also helped higher education students by introducing significant reforms to the state community college system that focused on increasing graduation and transfer rates. Alan served as the U.S. House Representative of California's 47th Congressional District from 2013-2023. He is now enjoying a well-deserved retirement here in Long Beach with his wife, two adult sons, and grandchildren.



## TORAH STUDY

**Saturdays at 8:45 am**  
**(In person and via Zoom)**

Facilitator: Rabbi Scott Fox

Each time we study Torah, we find something new in its verse and in ourselves. Join Rabbi Fox in our engaging Torah study. Each week, an enthusiastic group examines the parashat hashavuah (weekly Torah portion) and discusses its meaning and relevance using traditional commentaries, personal reflection, and lively debate. This Torah study is for everyone - no previous background or knowledge of Hebrew is required! Come one time - or every week! Join us, as we discover and re-discover the timeless teachings in our Torah and see what the "Torah study buzz" is all about!

**Zoom Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/163280737>

**Wise Aging**  
 Living with JOY, RESILIENCE, & SPIRIT



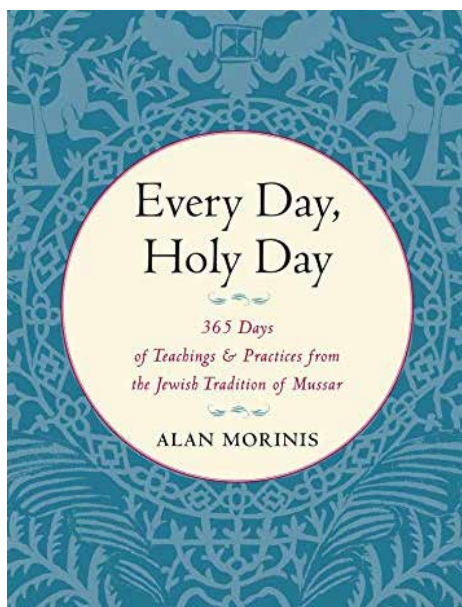
Rabbi Rachel Cowan  
 &  
 Dr. Linda Thal

## SACRED AGING DISCUSSION GROUP: AN EXPLORATION OF THE SPIRITUAL AND PRACTICAL

**Third Monday of the Month at 11:30 am**

Facilitator: Student Rabbi Leah Julian and Members of the Discussion Group

Every step of life brings with it unique experiences and opportunities. Join us, as we explore the new frontier of roles and opportunities that come with sacred aging. Utilizing the book *Wise Aging* by Rabbi Rachel Cowan and Dr. Linda Thal, we examine the wisdom that comes with experience and discuss the questions that make our lives meaningful, as we enter our golden years.



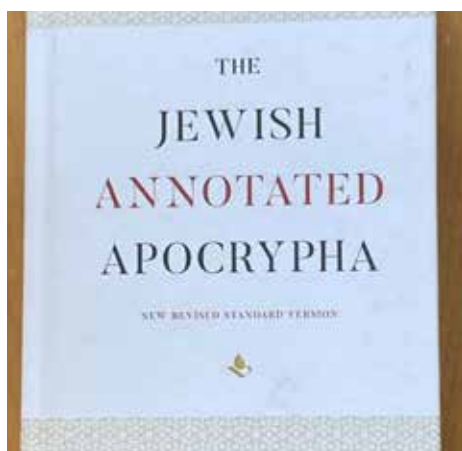
## MUSSAR STUDY GROUP

**Every Other Wednesday at 9:45 am (Zoom only)**

Facilitator: Trish Goldin, Temple Israel congregant

Mussar is a system of introspective practices that can help you identify and break through the obstacles to your inherent holiness, using methods that are easy to integrate into daily life. The program laid out in the book *Everyday Holiness: The Jewish Spiritual Path of Mussar* focuses on 26 traits (middot) - such as loving-kindness, strength, generosity, compassion, honor, and equanimity - each of which takes center stage for a week of contemplation and exercises, in order to develop and refine that quality in yourself. Our study group meets every other Wednesday morning to work on one or more Mussar soul traits. Come join us, as we explore the wisdom of the books *Every Day, Holy Day and Everyday Holiness*, both by Alan Morinis, *Soul Construction* by Ruchi Koval, and *Directing the Heart* by Rabbi Yael Levy.

**Zoom Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/988492918>



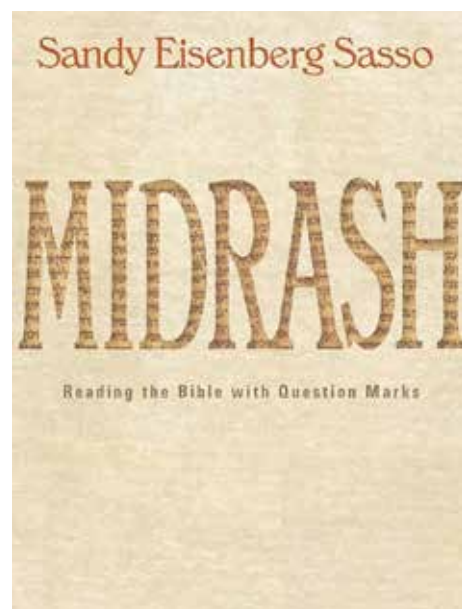
## TANAKH STUDY GROUP

**Thursdays at 10:15 am (In Person and via Zoom)**

Facilitator: Martine Korach, Temple Israel congregant

Have you ever wondered about the biblical-era writings that didn't "make the cut" into Biblical Canon? Well, wonder no more! The Thursday Tanakh group will be diving in and studying these fascinating materials, known as the Apocrypha, that were not included in the Tanakh.

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86029516690>



## MIDRASH STUDY GROUP

**Mondays at 9:45–10:45 am (Zoom Only)**

Facilitators: Jo Ann Schneider Farris and Dan Farris

The Torah has gaps. The role of The Midrash is to fill in those gaps with imaginative explanations. Many of the interpretations are helpful and entertaining! Utilizing the book *Midrash: Reading the Bible with Question Marks*, this group discusses what the Midrash adds to learning Torah. Come and join us for this new group. Fun and learning guaranteed!

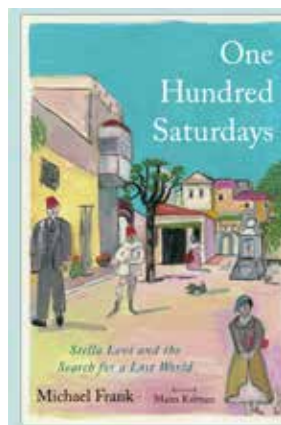
**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82285979629>

## WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

### Wednesdays at 7:00 pm (Zoom Only)

We have selected an exciting array of books for the 2024-2025 season. Read with us for a taste of many forms of Jewish literature whether you can attend one or all of our meetings. Temple Israel women and their guests are encouraged to join our spirited discussions, led by member facilitators. For more information, contact Donna Mitnick at (714) 287-4069 or [donna.mitnick@gmail.com](mailto:donna.mitnick@gmail.com).

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87285748108>



### **One Hundred Saturdays**

by Micahel Frank

**September 11**

Probing and courageous, candid and sly, Stella is a magical modern-day Scheherazade whose stories reveal what it was like to grow up in an extraordinary place in an extraordinary time—and to construct a life after that place has vanished. *One Hundred Saturdays* is a portrait of one of the last survivors of Jewish Rhodes drawn at nearly the last possible moment, as well as an account of a tender and transformative friendship between storyteller and listener, offering a powerful “reminder that the ability to listen thoughtfully is a rare and significant gift” (The Wall Street Journal).

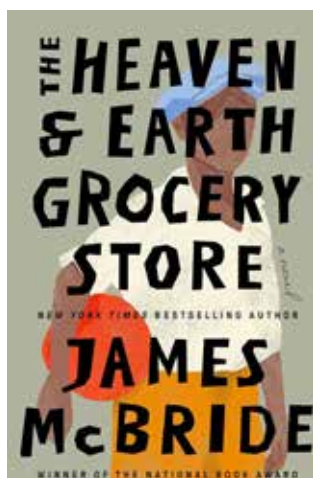


### **How To Find Your Way In The Dark**

by Derek B. Miller

**November 13**

Twelve-year old Sheldon Horowitz is still recovering from the tragic loss of his mother only a year ago when a suspicious traffic accident steals the life of his father near their home in rural Massachusetts. It is 1938, and Sheldon, who was in the truck, emerges from the crash an orphan hell-bent on revenge. He takes that fire with him to Hartford, where he embarks on a new life under the roof of his buttoned-up Uncle Nate. Sheldon, his teenage cousins Abe and Mirabelle, and his best friend, Lenny, will contend with tradition and orthodoxy, appeasement and patriotism, mafia hitmen and angry accordion players, all while World War II takes center stage alongside a hurricane in New England and comedians in the Catskills. With his eye always on vengeance for his father's murder, Sheldon stakes out his place in a world he now understands is comprised largely of crimes: right and wrong, big and small.



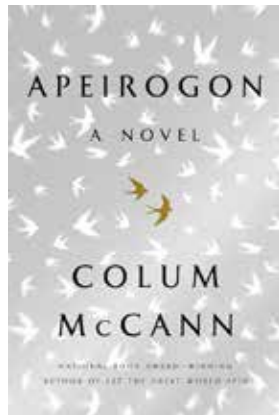
### **The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store**

by James McBride

**January 8**

As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town's white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community—heaven and earth—that sustain us.

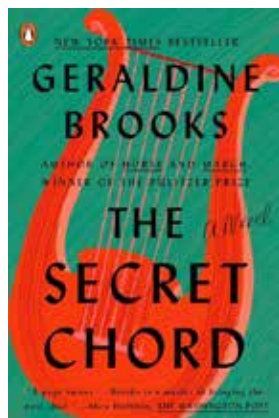
Bringing his masterly storytelling skills and his deep faith in humanity to *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, James McBride has written a novel as compassionate as *Deacon King Kong* and as inventive as *The Good Lord Bird*.



***Apeirogon: A Novel***  
by Colum McCann  
**March 12**

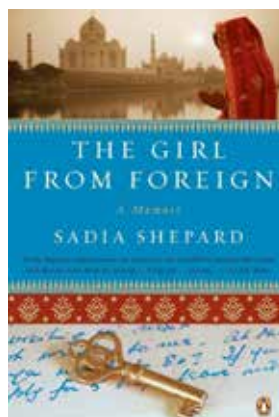
This extraordinary novel is the fruit of a seed planted when the novelist Colum McCann met the real Bassam and Rami on a trip with the non-profit organization Narrative 4. McCann was moved by their willingness to share their stories with the world, by their hope that if they could see themselves in one another, perhaps others could too.

With their blessing, and unprecedented access to their families, lives, and personal recollections, McCann began to craft *Apeirogon*, which uses their real-life stories to begin another—one that crosses centuries and continents, stitching together time, art, history, nature, and politics in a tale both heartbreaking and hopeful. The result is an ambitious novel, crafted out of a universe of fictional and nonfictional material, with these fathers' moving story at its heart.



***The Secret Chord: A Novel***  
by Geraldine Brooks  
**May 14**

With more than two million copies of her novels sold, New York Times bestselling author Geraldine Brooks has achieved both popular and critical acclaim. Now, Brooks takes on one of literature's richest and most enigmatic figures: a man who shimmers between history and legend. Peeling away the myth to bring David to life in Second Iron Age Israel, Brooks traces the arc of his journey from obscurity to fame, from shepherd to soldier, from hero to traitor, from beloved king to murderous despot and into his remorseful and diminished dotage.



***The Girls From Foreign***  
by Sadia Shepard  
**July 9**

Fascinating and intimate, *The Girl from Foreign* is one woman's search for ancient family secrets that leads to an adventure in far-off lands. Sadia Shepard, the daughter of a white Protestant from Colorado and a Muslim from Pakistan, was shocked to discover that her grandmother was a descendant of the Bene Israel, a tiny Jewish community shipwrecked in India two thousand years ago. After traveling to India to put the pieces of her family's past together, her quest for identity unlocks a myriad of profound religious and cultural revelations that Shepard gracefully weaves into this touching, eye-opening memoir.

# Thank You

## TO OUR JOYS OF JEWISH LEARNING PATRONS 2023/2024

*Bruce & Susie Amster*

*Laurie Arroyo*

*Ron Artstein & Nancy Hall*

*Beverly August*

*Jack & Binnie Berro*

*Denis & Judy Blumenthal*

*Evan Braude & Bonnie Lowenthal*

*Alan & Rosecarrie Brooks*

*Tila Carrol\**

*Danny & Cecelia Danziger*

*Kim DeCelles*

*Mark Dressner & Matthew Davis*

*John & Joy Fisher*

*Linda C Fox*

*Harvey & Roberta Friedman*

*Robert & Nadia Geller*

*Dennis & Lea Gerber*

*William Giser & Margaret Locke*

*Carol Greenberg*

*Adolfo Guzman-Lopez &*

*Lysa Saltzman*

*Jeanne Halliday*

*Alain & Tari Hirsch*

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*Mark & Margo Hoffer*

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*Joan Leb\**

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\*of blessed memory



## BECOME A PATRON OF OUR JOYS OF JEWISH LEARNING PROGRAM

Temple Israel's Joys of Jewish Learning Program is self-sustaining, seeking to bring top quality teachers, speakers, and programs to Temple Israel. We therefore invite you to please consider becoming a Joys of Jewish Learning Patron of our ongoing tradition. With your generous support, we will be able to continue to offer our many unique programs and grow our adult education program for many years to come.

After reading through this Joys of Jewish Learning catalog, we hope you will see the value in supporting adult education at Temple Israel. Gifts and sponsorships for any particular event are also gladly accepted, as are contributions to our various adult education special funds.

For more information, please contact our Director of Education and Congregational Engagement, Sharon Amster Brown.



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## *With special thanks to our Joys of Jewish Learning Committee*

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We are always looking for new ideas and creative perspectives on our Joys of Jewish Learning program at Temple Israel. If you're interested in getting involved, please feel free to contact us at any point during the year.