

Hello Temple Sinai!

Safe travels to those of you who are off to visit your far flung families during the winter break. Whether it is Passover or Christmas, we need to savor and value these times when we get together as families of origin, or families of choice. Life goes by quickly, so take the time to stop and appreciate how these gatherings add meaning to our lives.

Shabbat Services

We will be having our usual services this Shabbat, 6:30 Friday Night, 9:30 Saturday morning, and Torah Study at 10:30. This week's Torah portion is *Shemot*, the opening of Exodus, which has the enslavement of the Jewish people, the birth of Moses, the Midwives Shifra and Puah, Moses at the burning bush, and the first encounters with Pharaoh. Here is the link to [Shemot](#). We'll consider what it is like to feel called to do something that you don't want to do, and we'll reflect on the power and duty of civil disobedience in light of those brave midwives, Shifra and Puah.

There is a beautiful Woody Guthrie song popularized by the Klezmatics called "Holy Ground," about the burning bush, so we will be singing it at services. Here is a link to ["Holy Ground."](#)

I hope I see you at services.

Women Preventing Gun-Related Domestic Violence

We are in the process of setting up a meeting of those who expressed interest in helping shape Temple Sinai's work in the larger community by being on the Social Action Committee. If you are interested, please email David, Shiman@uvm.edu. Meanwhile, I wanted to share this upcoming event shared with me by a new resident of the area who is Jewish and has been deeply involved in the fight against gun violence.

Dear Friends,

Please join me on January 9th, 5:30 pm, at Main Street Landing in Burlington:

Women Preventing Gun-Related Domestic Violence, an evening of film and discussion.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gbwf-evening-film-showing-five-awake-and-gun-violence-prevention-panel-discussion-wed-jan-9-registration-53863796064#individual>

In my gun violence prevention work, I've had the privilege of collaborating with and learning from Donna Dees for the past 6 years. I am thrilled to bring her here to Vermont to share her film, *Five Awake*, for this event hosted by the Greater Burlington Women's Forum.

Five Awake chronicles the journey of five Louisiana women who, appalled by the high rate of gun-related domestic violence in their state, sought to change their state for the better by pushing through a historic legislative package to protect the victims of domestic violence and save lives. This powerful film has won numerous awards, including "Best Louisiana Feature" at the New Orleans Film Fest 2016, "Best Documentary Short" at the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival 2016, and "Best Documentary" at the Women's International Film Fest 2018.

We will be joined by filmmaker Donna Dees, organizer of the Million Mom March in 2000, who has been a leader in the gun violence prevention movement for nearly 20 years. "The high rate of domestic violence homicide is a uniquely American tragedy," says Dees, "Like the women of *Five Awake*, we women have the power to save the lives of our mothers, our sisters, our daughters and of our best friends. We really do."

The film screening will be followed by discussion with a panel of women, including Dees, Clai Lasher (ED of GunSense VT), and Kelly Dougherty (ED of Steps to End Domestic Violence) - women who are increasing awareness about gun violence prevention and changing laws here in Vermont to improve safety and outcomes for people in abusive relationships. Attendees should expect to hear compelling stories on a challenging topic about what motivates these women to lead, and plan to leave inspired by their efforts and with information about how to bring about local change.