

Hello Temple Sinai!

Congratulations to our 6 and 7th grade class for the excellent job they did leading services last Friday Night. So proud of them, and I really enjoyed our b'nei mitzvah family brunch on Sunday. I look forward to continuing to build our b'nei mitzvah program for both our students and our adults!

This week we are painting the entry way and lounge at the synagogue, and soon we'll put in some new flooring there also. Big thanks to Michael Levine, Art Greenblott and Len Rubin for their work on this, and to Susan Bloom and Pammy Mittel for their generous help in choosing colors and flooring.

We have some VERY special services this weekend so I hope you will come!

TU B'SHEVAT SEDER

Friday Night—Jan 18, 5:30pm

In Vermont, it is the depth of winter, but in Israel, the almond trees will soon have tiny buds as the land looks toward the beginning of spring. In Jewish tradition, Tu B'Shevat is the special new years for trees. Originally, this had to do with the ancient tax year, since trees were one of the ways a person's wealth was counted, but in the middle ages, mystical Jews fleeing the Spanish Inquisition transformed Tu B'Shevat into a celebration of God's gift of nature, and the divine flow of energy in nature and in us. **We will have a very special Friday night service, that combines some of our normal prayers with a Tu B'Shevat Seder, a meal where wine, fruits and nuts native to Israel are eaten ceremonially, and with readings that celebrate nature and the power of trees. Please join us!**

WHAT TO BRING: Please bring a **SIDE DISH** to share. We are providing chicken and vegetarian entrees and wine.

SONGS: Tu B'Shevat has some beautiful and fun tunes that celebrate trees and nature. Here are some we'll be singing at the service. Several are particularly fun for smaller children. (click on the title to watch the video and learn the song.)

- [**Adama v'Shamayim**](#) (Earth and Sky)
- [**El Ginat Egoz**](#) (To the Hazelnut Garden)

- [**Eili Eili**](#) (video also tells you about the author, Hannah Szenesh)
- [**Eretz Zavot Chalav**](#) (A Land flowing with milk and honey)
- [**Erev Shel Shoshanim**](#) –(not really a Tu B'Shevat song, but a gorgeous Israel song celebrating nature and romance)

These are the songs that are particularly fun for smaller children:

- [**Atzei Zeitim Omdim**](#) (the Olive trees stand)
- [**Zum Gali Gali**](#) (a famous chalutz, or pioneer, song from Israel)
- [**HaSh'kediah Porachat**](#) (a famous children's song for this holiday: The Almond trees are blooming- Tu B'Shevat is here!)

A MARTIN LUTHER KING SHABBAT SERVICE WITH TORAH READING OF THE SONG OF THE SEA

Saturday Morning—Jan 19, 9:30am

Please come and help us celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on a very auspicious Shabbat when we read the Song of the Sea, the song of celebration at freedom led by the Miriam and the Israelite women once they were safely out of Egypt. **Instead of our usual Torah Study, we will have a Torah reading, (so please come and help make sure we have a minyan!)** If you have favorite short readings from Dr. King, please email me. The Sermon will look at Dr. King's views on Israel and anti-Semitism.

APRES SKI TORAH STUDY/HAVDALAH

Saturday Afternoon—Jan 19, 4:00pm

Bashalach: Exodus 13:17–17:16

We will have our usual engaged and participatory Torah study, followed by a short Havdalah service. Everyone is welcome. We will be considering the Torah portion in light of modern notions about freedom and liberation, particularly those of Dr. King and the Women's March. Click on "Bashalach" above for the URJ's links to text and commentary.

OTHER WEEKEND EVENTS:

ADULT B'NEI MITZVAH MEETING

Sunday, January 20 at 11:00am at Temple Sinai.

First, I need to apologize that it has taken me so long to make this happen. My intentions were much better than my execution.

We have a group of members who have expressed interested in working toward an adult bat or bar mitzvah. We will be having an informational meeting and check-in on **Sunday, January 20 at 11:00am at Temple Sinai.**

We will talk about what we will study, check in about the range of Hebrew levels, and make a plan to move forward. If you are interested but can't come, please let the rabbi know. If you already have basic Hebrew skills, **please strongly consider signing up for Judy's Hebrew II class starting Jan 17.** (see newsletter for details)

AND please check out the newsletter for:

- 1. Social Action Organizing Meeting**
- 2. Judy Alexander's Hebrew Reading II class**