

Hello Temple Sinai!

How are we supposed to feel after another synagogue shooting, this time at the Chabad Center in Poway, CA? Heartbroken or numb? Angry or afraid? All of the above? Last Saturday, we had a particularly lovely Passover morning service, and then a moving service for **Adam Weinstein's** becoming bar mitzvah, so it was particularly wrenching to learn at the end of that day about the shooting. California is far away, and it is comforting to tell ourselves that Vermont is different – and it is – but I think we all know such an event could happen anywhere in America today. It could happen in a church, a mosque, a synagogue, or a school. At the same time, anti-Semitism is a particularly stubborn and deadly form of bigotry, and a particular focus of white supremacists, so this shooting is far away but very close to home. *The shooter didn't care if the synagogue was Chabad, Conservative, Renewal or Reform.* They didn't ask if they had a Jewish mother or father, or none of the above. It is sad that it takes violence to remind us over and over that **WE ARE ONE PEOPLE.**

Love your neighbor as yourself. That which is hateful to you, don't do to others. To kill a single person is to kill an entire world. These are basic expressions of core Jewish values, but they are also universal values, shared by the vast majority of people in the world. We need to remember that, and to commit to these values in the face of such hate. As the Torah and Prophets teach us, it is by these values that we shall live and find meaning. It is in these values that we find our home and hold it. We must not let hate define us. Our ancestors didn't, and we stand on their shoulders. We have not let fear destroy us, hate define us, or history rob us of faith. When I spoke with Rabbi Junik at our Chabad in Burlington, we agreed that the way to respond to hate is by showing up, by refusing to give in, and by practicing acts of love and kindness in the world.

To this point, I want to share the inspiring words of **Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein**, the rabbi of the Chabad of Poway in his essay of April 29 in the New York Times, [*A Terrorist Tried to Kill Me Because I Am a Jew. I Will Never Back Down.*](#)

...From here on in I am going to be more brazen. I am going to be even more proud about walking down the street wearing my tzitzit and kippah, acknowledging God's presence. And I'm going to use my voice until I am hoarse to urge my fellow Jews to do Jewish. To light candles before Shabbat. To put up mezuzas on their doorposts. To do acts of kindness. And to show up in synagogue — especially this coming Shabbat.

And he concludes:

In his vile manifesto, the terrorist who shot up my synagogue called my people, the Jewish people, a "squalid and parasitic race." No. We are a people divinely commanded to bring God's light into the world.

So it is with this country. America is unique in world history. Never before was a country founded on the ideals that all people are created in God's image and that all people deserve freedom and liberty. We fought a war to make that promise real.

And I believe we can make it real again. That is what I pledge to do with my borrowed time.

Ken Y'hi Ratzon – for each of us and our communities.

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

YOM HASHOAH – HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Wednesday, May 1—7:00pm, at Temple Sinai



Temple Sinai and Ohavi Zedek are coming together for a service of remembrance for Yom HaShoah, *and for us to reflect on the recent synagogue shootings*. We will gather to pray and remember the six million Jews and others that died in the Holocaust. We will also reflect on how we, as a community, are dealing personally with the current rise in anti-Semitism worldwide and its resonances. Our service will include songs, poetry, readings, personal sharing and discussion.

I particularly want to ask Temple Sinai members to do their best to attend, since we are hosting this event and want to make sure we “represent.” Please come and know that additional Security will be present.

FRIDAY NIGHT, MAY 3: POTLUCK DINNER, FOLK SERVICE SHABBAT

In honor of our religious school teachers

- 5:30pm Pot-Luck COMMUNITY SHABBAT DINNER
- 6:30pm FOLK KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE & TEACHER APPRECIATION



“Teach them diligently to your children” the *v’ahavta* teaches us, and this is why our religious school is so central to our mission. This Friday night, we will celebrate Shabbat with our *festive, music-filled informal Folk Service*, and we will express our appreciation for our beloved teachers. A special oneg to follow.

SATURDAY MORNING, May 4: SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE & TORAH STUDY

- 9:30am - SHABBAT MORNING PRAYER SERVICE
With Passover behind us, we return to our familiar Shabbat Shacharit service. Honor Shabbat by joining us for our uplifting, calming, chanted traditional morning service that has lots of greatest hits of Jewish music we only hear on Shabbat mornings. It lasts one hour.
- 10:30am - TORAH STUDY - PARASHAT ACHAREI MOT II
After a hiatus for Passover, we return to our weekly Torah Study with [The Second part of Parashat Acharei Mot](#) (click for a link to the URJ’s webpage on this, with commentary, etc), which contains a list of sexual prohibitions.
We will use these as an opportunity to consider ancient views on sex, and to consider how Judaism approaches sexuality, and how we can create a modern sexual ethic rooted in Jewish values

Our Torah Study is inclusive and discussion-centered, where we endeavor to understand the Torah portion of the week, and relate it to the issues of the day and the issues in our lives as modern people. Join our vibrant group of people for a intellectual and spiritual reflection and exchange of ideas.

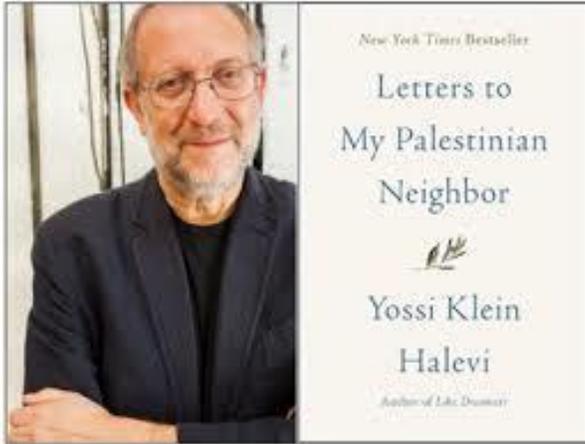
SATURDAY AFTERNOON: **POSTPONED!**

TEMPLE SINAI RABBI'S BOOK CLUB

Not enough people have picked up their books in time for a meaningful discussion this Saturday, so we will start next week. More information to follow.

LETTERS TO MY PALESTINIAN NEIGHBOR Yossi Klein Halevi

BOOK CLUB SEFER V'SEFEL (Book and a Mug (of coffee), the name of a beloved old Jerusalem used book store and café.) ~~Saturday, May 4 at 5 pm.~~



Yossi Klein Halevi's *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor* has garnered praise and criticism for its attempt to find common ground between Israeli Jews and Palestinians. It is a great opportunity for our ongoing conversations about balancing Israeli and Palestinian needs and rights, and we will deepen our discussions by considering a range of reviews about the book.

We will have ~~10 FREE~~ **5 FREE** copies of the book for the first who let us know you are interested in joining our series of discussions of the book. If you are interested, please let Michael Levine know!

SHABBAT GOES TO BROADWAY

Showtunes.
Singalong.
Shabbat.

Friday, May 17—6:30pm at Temple Sinai

An entire service in showtunes! We will sing in the Sabbath in Hebrew and English to familiar Broadway show tunes by Jewish Composers! Sound of Music! Fiddler on the Roof! West Side Story! Chorus Line! Camelot! And more!!!!