

## Hello Temple Sinai!

Congratulations to [Diana Larrow](#) on becoming bat mitzvah! She did a beautiful job on chanting her Torah and Haftarah, and she smartly connected the Torah portion to events in her school. **Mazal Tov!**

This week, we return to our “regular” services, though we seem to have them quite irregularly lately. Next weekend, we have a big Rock Shabbat, Barbeque and Open house, and Shavuot events on Saturday night and Sunday morning. Please try to come to one of our Shavuot events and bring a friend.

## THIS WEEK'S SERVICES



### FRIDAY NIGHT, May 31—6:30pm

#### Walt Whitman's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday

This Friday is Walt Whitman's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday. I have long been deeply moved by his poetry, and in so many ways it serves as an “American Scripture.” Its celebration of creation, of nature and the body, his belief in love across boundaries—they were well ahead of their time. While our service will be our usual song-filled Friday night, I will use bits of Whitman's poetry as English readings. Join us.

### SATURDAY MORNING, June 1—9:30am

#### Morning Shacharit Service

Start your day off by stepping into sacred space. Our one-hour morning service is more traditional than our Friday night service, chanted mostly in Hebrew, and includes both traditional tunes and newer music. It is a great way to become familiar with and relax into the core spiritual practice of our tradition. All are welcome.

### SATURDAY MORNING, June 1—10:30am

#### Torah Study

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.

This week we will study [Parashat B'Chukotai, Leviticus 26:3–27:34](#) (*Click for URJ's Page on this Torah Portion, with modern commentary*). It is the final oration in the book of Leviticus, and is in the classic ancient form of a choice of blessing or curse, both conveyed in intense provocative imagery. It also treats the land itself as a character, as a living agent, and revisits the need for the land to lie fallow and to revert to original owners on the Jubilee. How has this imagery of the land being its own character in the divine drama shaped Jewish culture and theology? Come learn with us.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

**Friday, June 7**

### ***BBQ, SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE, & ROCK SHABBAT***

**5:00pm—Barbeque** Join us for dinner from the grill (*hot dogs, chicken veggie burgers*), plus rounds of ga-ga, a bouncy castle, and cotton candy for the kids. Please invite any friends who are looking for a Hebrew school for their kids.

**6:00pm—Learn what our school is doing next year.** Rabbi David and Morah Judy will fill you in on our plans for the school next year.

**6:30pm—ROCK SHABBAT with Dahg.** Rock out, relax and sing along at this fun music-filled Shabbat service.

**Saturday, June 8—7:00pm**

### ***TIKKUN LEIL SHA VUOT with Ohavi Zedek at Ohavi Zedek***

Shavuot celebrates the giving of the 10 Commandments, and it is a tradition to stay up late on the evening of Shavuot studying in community. It is called a Tikkun Leil Shavuot, and we will be doing ours with OZ. There are two learning sessions, with cheesecake and davening in between. I'll be leading a song session first and then teaching with Rabbi Small about the Book of Ruth, intermarriage, and inclusivity.

**Sunday, June 9—10:00am**

### ***SHA VUOT FESTIVAL SERVICE***

Please do your best to join us for Shavu'ot Morning Services. Ritually, we will stand again at Sinai to receive the law. We will chant the 10 commandments, and read some of the Book of Ruth. We will also chant Hallel and have short Yizkor service at noon. I very much want to develop a culture at Temple Sinai of coming to the three Festival Services of Sukkot, Pesach and Shavuot, and if you would like to chant one of the commandments let me know. I'll send you a recording.

### ***Just a friendly reminder:***

***Jews by Choice Spiritual Autobiographies.*** The upcoming festival of Shavu'ot is one that celebrates Jews by Choice. We read Ruth on Shavu'ot, and she is considered the archetypal convert, who became the matriarch of the Davidic line. [This episode of the podcast \*Unorthodox\* called "Conversion Stories"](#) inspired me to ask those who are interested to write a short essay describing your journey to Judaism. They should be honest, focus on the process of deciding and converting, and share any insights or reflections you would like to share. Humor is great, but spiritual reflection is also great. I would like to share these stories during services from time to time, including the High Holy Days. I would be happy to meet with people one on one, or in a writing group to work on the stories if that would be helpful.