

Hello Temple Sinai!

I am excited to celebrate Diana Larrow becoming bat mitzvah this Shabbat. Diana has the same Torah Portion I did, *Behar*, so it has been particularly a pleasure for me to work with her. Please join us on Saturday morning at 10:00am, or on Friday evening at 6:30pm to be part of this important community milestone.

Thanks to everyone who helped out with and showed up for *Shabbat Goes to Broadway*. I hope it is the first of an annual event, one we can change and build on from year to year, so start thinking now. (and please someone learn how to make “follow the bouncing ball” or karaoke style lyrics. We need you.)

And on a more serious note, after all the extremist anti-abortion bills passed in the past weeks, it is particularly nice to be a Vermonter, where the legislature passed a strong pro-choice bill and the Governor has indicated he will let it become law. This issue is also a matter of religious freedom for Jews, since Jewish law requires the termination of a pregnancy if it threatens the life of the mother. If you would like to do more to support reproductive rights, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England is having a fundraising event on May 29. It would be great to have a contingent from Sinai there. Here is the link: <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-northern-new-england/about-us/events>

I have two “asks” for those who are willing and able:

- I. ***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.

- II. ***Answer the Phones at Sinai.*** There are times when neither Michael nor I are at the temple, and it would be great if we had a few people who were willing to answer the phones and the door for a few hours from time to time. For example, this July, I will be in Jerusalem, and Michael will be on vacation for two days. We also need someone during Hebrew School. I honestly think it makes a good impression when members of a synagogue answer phones from times to time and bring their sense of community. Michael will be setting up a couple of trainings, so if you think you could help us out from time to time, [click here let us know](#)—it would be a great service to us.

Thank you. And now for this week’s services:

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

FRIDAY NIGHT, May 24—6:30pm

DIANA LARROW BAT MITZVAH KABBALAT SHABBAT

We will be celebrating the beginning of Diana's Bat Mitzvah with our usual song-filled joyous service, and an Oneg to follow.

SATURDAY MORNING, May 25—10:00am

DIANA LARROW BAT MITZVAH SERVICE AND TORAH READING.

Join us to celebrate Shabbat and to celebrate Grace becoming bat mitzvah. She will be reading from Torah portion [BEHAR](#), in Leviticus. A Kiddush follows in the social hall.

NOTE: WE WILL NOT HAVE TORAH STUDY THIS SATURDAY MORNING AS WE WILL BE HAVE A FULL TORAH SERVICE.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Friday, June 7

ROCK SHABBAT AND SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

- **Barbeque—5:00pm** 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.
- **Religious School Open House—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.
- **Rock Shabbat with Dahg—6:30pm** Rock out, relax and sing along at this fun music-filled Shabbat service.

Saturday, June 8—7:00 pm

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT 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

SHAVUOT FESTIVAL SERVICE & Yizkor

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. This holiday is especially meaningful to Temple Sinai—we were founded on Shavuot in 1966—so please mark your calendars and plan to come.