

## Hello Temple Sinai!

It was another great week at Temple Sinai, with our campfire singalong, Salsa dancing lessons, the Sisterhood End of Year Dinner, and a really fun Friday night service. Thanks to everyone who helped make those events so much fun.

This Friday night is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the [1969 Stonewall Riots](#), the event that got the modern LGBT rights movement started. See more below and listen to "[Everything Clicked... And The Riot Was On](#)" from Making Gay History in Podcasts.

I will be away from July 1-21, studying at the Shalom Hartmann Rabbinic Seminar in Jerusalem. I have arranged coverage so if there is an emergency, call the synagogue and they will know how to proceed. While I am away, I won't be sending my usual weekly email, so here is what is planned:

July 5:	Friday Night Folk Service with Rabbi Jan Salzman; D'var by Paula Cope
July 6:	Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study with Rabbi Jan Salzman
July 12:	Friday Night Services and D'var with Mark Leopold
July 13:	Shabbat Morning Services and Torah Study with Bruce Chalmer
July 19:	Friday Night Service and D'var with Mark Leopold
July 20:	Shabbat Morning Service; Torah Study with Dr. Rebecca Kneale Gould

The Brotherhood is sponsoring a work day for all on [Sunday, June 30](#). One project will be setting up and filling the raised beds for our new garden project. Come help!



**CALLING**  
**GARDENERS & SCHLEPPERS!**  
We will be putting together our raised beds and filling them with dirt at the Brotherhood-sponsored workday.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 30.** IF YOU CAN HELP MOVE DIRT PLEASE COME REGARDLESS OF GENDER OR GARDENING EXPERTISE. **Bring gloves, a shovel, a hoe, and if you can, a wheelbarrow.** And feel free to bring those leftover annuals to plant. **THANKS!**

At the end of this email, I will share an update on the Peace and Justice Center's decision to sign onto the BDS movement.

## THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

### STONEWALL KABBALAT SHABBAT

Friday, June 28—6:30pm, "PreOneg" begins at 5:30pm

**STONEWALL SHABBAT**

**Celebrate Shabbat and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Stonewall & LGBT Pride**



**TEMPLE SINAI**  
**500 Swift**  
**Friday June 28**  
**6:30 pm**  
**"Preneg" Social**  
**5:30 pm**

We will celebrate Shabbat, but also learn about the Stonewall riots, and consider how the riots relate to this week's Torah Portion, where Moses sends people out to scout the land of Israel, but they have very different reactions to whether or not to fight. We will focus our prayers on freedom and love, and have our standard energetic song-filled Kabbalat Shabbat.

## MORNING SHACHARIT SERVICE

Saturday, June 29—9:30am

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. Weather permitting, we will have services in the back yard. It is a great way to become familiar with and relax into the core spiritual practice of our tradition. All are welcome.

## TORAH STUDY, PARASHAT SH'LACH L'CHA

Saturday, June 29—10:30am

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 Sh'lach L'cha \(Numbers 13:1–15:41\)](#)

(Click for URJ's Page on this Torah Portion, with modern commentary.) Click [here for Parshat B'ha'alotcha](#) at Sefaria with clickable commentary. (Just click on any verse and a list of commentary options opens up on the left) The portion focuses on the scouts/spies that Moses sends in to report back on the land of Israel and its inhabitants. What should be a pretty straightforward mission turns into a crisis of confidence, and a rebellion. It is a fascinating exploration of group dynamics, and the importance of positive thinking.

### Peace and Justice Announces Support for BDS Movement

I am saddened and concerned that the Peace and Justice Center has decided to support the Boycott, Divest, and Sanction Israel Movement. Reasonable people can disagree. Many of us have profound concerns and discomfort with some of the current Israeli government's actions, but as I've shared before, I find that the BDS movement is mostly an attempt to reduce a very complex conflict into a good-vs-evil bumper sticker. From my view, the BDS Movement traffics in anti-Semitic stereotypes projected onto Israel as a nation, and that as a strategy, it works only to strengthen Israel's right-wing. I could say MUCH more, but it is important for you to learn on your own about the BDS movement. The direct source about the movement is the BDS Movement website. To learn why I and most mainstream Jewish leaders believe the BDS Movement demonizes Jews, work against a two-state solution, and traffic in anti-Semitic trope, look at the [ADL Website's page on BDS](#) (click), or the [CCAR's Statement on BDS](#) (click) or the [UJA-Federations page](#) on BDS (click) or [ALMA's page explaining BDS](#) (click).

I appreciate that the Peace and Justice Center's Director, Rachel Seigel came to meet with Doug Marden and me on Tuesday to discuss this face to face. It was an honest and open exchange. Here is a link to the [Peace and Justice's Statement endorsing BDS](#). While I appreciate that their statement is less extreme and more nuanced than many BDS statements, it is still the global movement they are endorsing. For me, it makes it very difficult to see them as a trustworthy partner in fighting anti-Semitism or other shared concerns.

For those interested in supporting organizations that work effectively for human rights, peace and religious freedom in Israel and Palestine, here is one excellent choice for your donations:

**THE ISRAELI RELIGIOUS ACTION CENTER** is the leading civil and human rights organization in Israel, striving for freedom of religion and conscience, human equality, social justice, religious tolerance, and individual rights in Israel

<https://www.irac.org/>

As always, there is room for disagreement, and people can agree about principle but disagree about strategy. All of Jewish history is rooted in argument, and we believe God can be found in the wrestling for truth. It is just that for me, the BDS movement crosses the line from activism into anti-Semitism. Whenever a Jewish entity is held up above all others as the poster-child for what society finds evil while others are held unaccountable, I become alarmed, and feel an obligation to express my concern. I am concerned.