

# Hello Temple Sinai!

This Friday Night we have **TWO special services**: **Tot Shabbat** for our younger folks, and **Social Action Shabbat** with a presentation about the new South Burlington food pantry Temple Sinai is involved with. Please come!

A poster for Temple Sinai's Social Action Shabbat. The top half has a yellow background with the text 'TEMPLE SINAI' in blue. Below this is a graphic of several hands of different colors (green, yellow, blue, orange, purple, pink, red) raised in a gesture of support. The central orange hand has a white heart with a blue Star of David inside. At the bottom, the text 'SOCIAL ACTION SHABBAT' is written in blue. To the right of the graphic, there is text: 'Join us for a **Social Action Shabbat Service**, with a presentation about the new **FOOD PANTRY** in South Burlington that Temple Sinai is involved in.' Below this, it says '6:30 pm, Sept 20' and 'Temple Sinai'. At the bottom right, it says 'Oneg to follow (sponsored by Social Action Committee)'.

Join us for a **Social Action Shabbat Service**, with a presentation about the new **FOOD PANTRY** in South Burlington that Temple Sinai is involved in.

**6:30 pm, Sept 20**

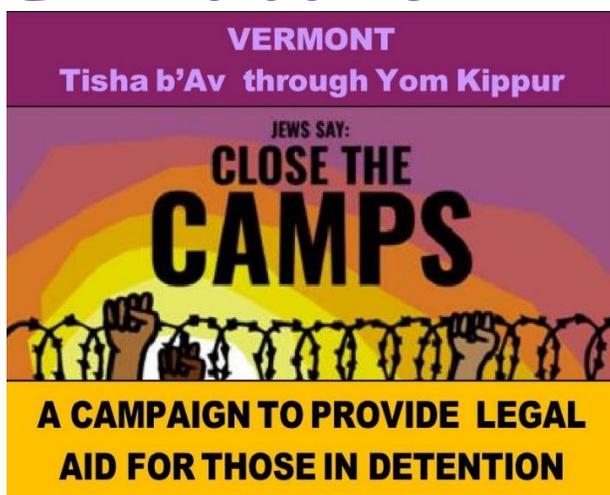
**Temple Sinai**

Oneg to follow (sponsored by Social Action Committee)

## IN THIS EMAIL:

1. [SOME COMMENTS ON THE ISRAELI ELECTION \(at the end of email\)](#)
2. [FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR LEGAL AID FOR THOSE IN DETENTION.](#)
3. [ADULT B'NEI MITZVAH CLASSES](#) are starting soon.
4. [SHABBAT SERVICES](#)
5. [SELICHOT SERVICE SATURDAY EVENING](#)
6. [INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM COURSE BEGINS NOVEMBER 3](#)

## ***GIVE TO OUR CAMPAIGN FOR REFUGEES***

A poster for a campaign to provide legal aid for those in detention. The top part is purple with the text 'VERMONT Tisha b'Av through Yom Kippur'. Below this is a graphic with a sunset background and the text 'JEW'S SAY: CLOSE THE CAMPS'. The bottom part is yellow with the text 'A CAMPAIGN TO PROVIDE LEGAL AID FOR THOSE IN DETENTION'.

VERMONT  
Tisha b'Av through Yom Kippur

JEW'S SAY:  
**CLOSE THE CAMPS**

A CAMPAIGN TO PROVIDE LEGAL AID FOR THOSE IN DETENTION

WE NEED TO DO BETTER! Let's show that the Vermont Jewish Community, and Temple Sinai will offer not just 'thoughts and prayers' but much needed funding to help those in need of legal aid. *(control/click on image to go to campaign!)*

<https://fundly.com/raising-funds-for-legal-aid-to-help-those-in-detention-a-ca>

## ***ADULT B'NEI MITZVAH CLASSES***

**GENERAL CLASSES:** Sept 18 and 25, Nov 6 and 20, Dec 18.

The General Classes will consider the meaning of a bat or bar mitzvah, and explore the concept of 'hiyuv' or duty to the Jewish people and the mitzvot in the context of Reform Judaism. We will learn about tallit, tefillin, and we will also



explore the Sabbath Service in more depth and discuss issues of Jewish theology. *You will be able to make up classes with me, and through on line links.*

Since a good part of the bat or bar mitzvah is reading Torah, Judy Alexander will be offering courses for you to learn that.

### HEBREW FOR BEGINNERS

Thursdays, 7-8:30pm.

Oct 17-Dec 19, Jan 9, 16 (final class)

If you struggle to read Hebrew or never learned, come to this class to kickstart your learning!

### TORAH CANTILLATION FOR ADULTS with 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE:

Thursdays 6:15-6:35pm

Oct 17,24, Nov 7, 14,21, Dec 5,12, 19.

As our young b'nei mitzvah learn to chant Torah, you can learn with them, a great opportunity for inter-generational learning.

### TORAH CANTILLATION BOOT CAMP TBD

We will also set up a couple of longer 'bootcamp' workshops for those who want to learn Torah cantillation in a more concentrated way.

## SERVICES THIS SHABBAT

### TOT SHABBAT

Friday, 5:30pm with Allyson Tazbin



### TOT SHABBAT

Brought to you this time  
by the letter:

**SHIN ש**

A shabbat  
experience hand-  
crafted for little  
ones, with song,  
story, dance and  
coloring!

Kiddush to follow in the  
playroom.

### SOCIAL ACTION KABBALAT SHABBAT

Friday, 6:30pm

Our usual song filled celebratory Friday service, but with a presentation about the new Food Pantry in South Burlington.

### MORNING SHACHARIT SERVICE

Saturday, 9:30am

Our more traditional service, chanted mostly in Hebrew, and including some of the 'greatest hits' of Jewish song. 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 KI TAVO*

Saturday, 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 an intellectual and spiritual reflection and exchange of ideas.

In Torah, we begin the book of Deuteronomy with [Parashat KI TAVO \(Deuteronomy 26:1 – 29:8\)](#) (Click for URJ's Page on this Torah Portion, with modern commentary.) Click here for [Parashat KI TAVO at Sefaria](#) with clickable commentary. (Just click on any verse and a list of commentary options opens up on the left) This portion is a collection of laws focused on going to war, and with a collection of laws including rape, rebellious children, and loans.

In **THE BOOK OF JOSHUA**, we will read **CHAPTERS 13-14**. [Click here for a link to the text at Sefaria.](#) We will consider the ancient city of HAZOR, and what has been learned about it through archeology. Please join us.

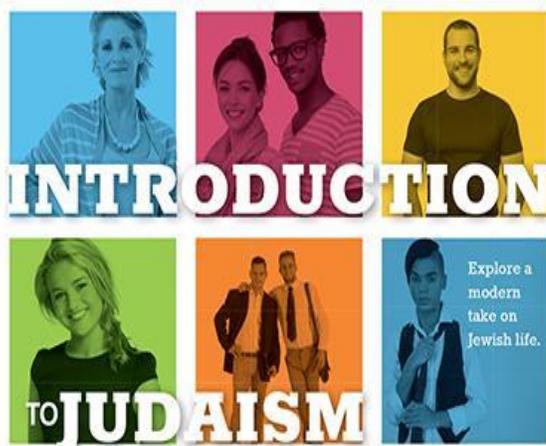
## S'LICHT SERVICES

Saturday, Sept 21, 7:00pm

Make plans to join us for the special service of S'lichot (songs of forgiveness) that mark the opening of the Yomim Nora'im, the Days of Awe that culminate in Yom Kippur. This service includes haunting melodies and prayers for forgiveness, and we will consider where we have missed the mark in our lives during the past year.

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## INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM COURSE with Rabbi Edleson KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS INTERESTED???



### Temple Sinai, South Burlington, VT

An 15-session course for anyone who wants to gain a deeper understanding of Jewish life.

Sundays at 4:00PM • Beginning November 3rd

For more information, please contact: [Intro@URJ.org](mailto:Intro@URJ.org) or 646.793.3196

[ReformJudaism.org](http://ReformJudaism.org)  
Jewish Life in Your Life

Support for Introduction to Judaism is provided by the National Center to Encourage Judaism.

This course given in 15 sessions, mostly on Sunday afternoons (still time for a good ski!) is perfect for those interested in learning more about Judaism from a Reform perspective. Dating someone Jewish? Thinking of converting? Jewish but not raised with much information? This is the class for you! [Click here to register!](#)

## THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS – Some Comments

For the second time this year, Israel held national elections and for the second time this year, the results were pretty close to a tie. No side got a mandate, and who will form the government will take time to resolve. At the moment of writing this, it seems that Benny Gantz' Blue and White party (centrist coalition) will either tie with Netanyahu's Likud, or have one seat more. Netanyahu had hoped this election would bring him a clear mandate, but that did not occur. In that way, this is bad for Netanyahu, as any coalition he builds - if he can build one- will be weak.

One clear change is *the increase in Arab voter turn out*, so that the third largest party in the Knesset will be the Arab Joint List with 13 seats.

The key is for any party to form a coalition with 61 seats. Likud will not join with the Arab parties, and is already calling them 'dangerous.' Lieberman's Yisrael Beyteinu party has been clear it will only go into coalition with a National Unity Government. This means that neither side can form a majority coalition outside of a unity government.



I am very concerned about Netanyahu's increasingly extremist comments about Arabs, annexation, and his use of fear-mongering to polarize Israelis, something we are also familiar with here in the US. This election is a set-back for that approach as it clearly did not 'move the needle' and did not get a mandate from the people.

Still, let us remember that Benny Gantz is no peacenik

liberal, and that Labor received only six seats. Israelis vote primarily based on security, and it is clear that both Netanyahu and Gantz have the trust of much of the Israeli public on this front. Netanyahu has campaigned as a right-wing candidate who will give the most extreme segments of the right what they have been wanting. Gantz campaigned as a unifier, one who believes Israel's unity matters as much as these other concerns. Yisrael Beyteinu's Lieberman is focused on reducing the power of the Chief Rabbinate and the ultra-Orthodox, and so he is at great odds with the religious parties who together earned about 17 seats. In short, it is not at all clear who and how a coalition will be formed outside of a national unity government with Netanyahu and Gantz in coalition.

What does all this show us? That Israel is a vibrant democracy that is engaged in political debate, that Israelis of all sorts show up to vote, and that within Israeli society, there are great divisions in terms of how the country should move forward and what the country should be. That the third largest election winners are the Arab Joint List is clear testament that Israel is NOT an apartheid state, and that Arabs in Israel have more rights than most citizens have neighboring nations. **Remember that since Hamas took over Gaza in 2006, election have not been held or allowed. Election have not been held in the West Bank since 2005.**

This why I am utterly baffled and annoyed when people, including those in the BDS movement, suggest that instead of a two-state solution, there should be a single multi-cultural and multi-religious democratic state in Israel and Palestine. There is zero evidence of such tolerant attitudes there, and zero evidence that there would ever be elections or that the results would be respected. There is no evidence that the Jewish minority in such a state would be protected, and much evidence and verbiage to the contrary. Indeed, such proposals seem to me to invite bloodshed and violence at a level that is far greater than the current conflict has ever witnessed. I don't understand why people who say they want peace and tolerance would propose something that would lead to war, chaos, and possibly genocide.

So even with the disagreements many of us have with Israel's leadership, let's not lose sight of the fact that in an area not known for democracy, free speech, or peaceful debate, Israel – made up of people, Arab, Jewish, Druze, and other who have experienced great collective trauma and have great distrust of others – manages to be a vibrant, raucous democracy of all her citizens.