

Hello Temple Sinai!

It was so nice to see many of our new members at the new members' brunch this past Sunday. I want you to know that if you would like to get together for coffee or a chat, just let me know. I don't want to impose on people's busy lives, but I very much want to get to know you better, so be in touch.

One of the ways I think Temple Sinai shows itself to be a welcoming and friendly community is at our **Friday night Onegs**. That is why I'm concerned that we are having trouble getting people to sign up for Onegs. They need not be fancy, and it is great to team up with others to do one. At our Religious School, last month's "value of the month" was *Hachnasat Orchim*, or being welcoming to guests. Let's live up to that value. Just visit our website by clicking [HERE](#) or call Michael at the Temple Office to help out—Please.

I also am looking forward to seeing you at the **annual meeting this Sunday morning**. Participating in the meeting is a great way to get to know the synagogue better, and to gain a sense of involvement and ownership of our shared community.

I am also very pleased to report that in our **CLOSE THE CAMPS High Holy Day Campaign** to raise money for legal aid for those illegally detained or separated from their families at our borders, we raised **\$8,000**. That was above my goal of \$7500. My thanks to all the synagogues in Vermont that joined with us, and to the Social Action Committee at Temple Sinai for their leadership. Those monies will be divided between a local organization, **Vermont Free Bail**, an organization at the border, **Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center**, and a National Jewish Organization, the **Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, HIAS**.

I also want to let people know that I am back to working on planning our congregational trip to Israel. I will be sending out more details and questions in the next two weeks.

Here are the services this Shabbat:

SHABBAT SERVICES

TOT SHABBAT

Friday, November 15—5:30pm

We're so happy to let you know that educator and popular children's entertainer, Temple Sinai member, Saragail Benjamin, will be leading Tot Shabbat this Shabbat! Create joyful first Jewish experiences. We'll play, sing, dance, hear stories - a fun, wonderful way for young families to connect with each other and Shabbat. For families with kids ages 1-7

KABBALAT SHABBAT

Friday, November 15—6:30pm

Join us for a song-filled service in English and Hebrew. Oneg to follow.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

Saturday, November 16—9:30 am

A one-hour, peaceful chanted service, mostly in Hebrew, with a focus on the "greatest hits" of Shabbat Shacharit services, a great way to get to know the service and start your day. All are welcome.

TORAH STUDY – *PARASHAT Vayera*

Saturday 10:30 am

In Torah, we continue Abraham's journey in the book of GENESIS with [Parashat Vayera Genesis 18:1–22:24](#) (Click for URJ's Page on this Torah Portion, with modern commentary.) Click here for [Parashat Vayera at Sefaria](#) with clickable commentary. (Just click on any verse and a list of commentary options opens up on the left). We will consider the tests of Abraham with Ishmael and Isaac. How do we know when we pass or fail a test if we are not sure what we are being tested for?

In **THE BOOK OF JOSHUA**, we will discuss **CHAPTER 20** [Click here for a link to the text at Sefaria.](#) After not getting to it for several weeks, we will consider the CITIES OF REFUGE for criminals fleeing from families out for revenge

UPCOMING

- **SPIRITUAL COMMITTEE MEETING: High Holy Day Review**
Wednesday, Nov. 13; 6:30 pm

Join the Spiritual Committee on Wednesday night to help us review the High Holy Days while they are fresh in our minds. The Spiritual Committee is the congregation's workgroup on services and religious rituals, so if you want to be part of shaping those, come be a part of this. We will also consider our plans for Hanukkah.

- **3SQUARES VERMONT CHALLENGE –**
SPEAKER FROM THREE SQUARES CHALLENGE WILL
INTRODUCE PROGRAM.
November 15—22

Temple Sinai and our Social Action Committee is challenging our members to take the 3Squares Vermont Challenge—to eat for a week (or a day) on the average benefit received by Vermonters who receive food assistance. For one person, that is **\$37 a week (or \$5.29/day)**. We are doing this as we near Thanksgiving, to help us better understand what our neighbors and members on this program face in regard to food insecurity. We will also have a journals and a “Simple Meal” to conclude and reflect before Shabbat services on November 22. Click the following link for more information and to register (be sure to say you are from Temple Sinai!) : <https://www.hungerfreevt.org/3squaresvt-challenge>