

Hello Temple Sinai!

As has been in previous emails, the Social Action Committee and I are asking people in the Temple Sinai community to consider taking the **3Squares Vermont Challenge**, organized by Hunger Free Vermont. It asks us to take a day or a week to try and feed ourselves on the amount of money that people receiving food assistance do. For one person, that is **\$37 a week (or \$5.29/day)**. It is a powerful way to learn first-hand the challenges people in our community face when trying to feed their families on this benefit. If you are up to try this, register at : <https://www.hungerfreevt.org/3squaresvt-challenge> and be sure to mention that you are from Temple Sinai.

This Saturday afternoon at 5:00pm, we will be holding our first **“Se’udah Sh’lishit”**, which is a fancy Hebrew term for coffee/tea with the rabbi. See the “blurb” below for more information.

I am also including the Union for Reform Judaism’s statement about the Trump administration’s decision to reverse the US’s longstanding position on the Israeli settlements in the West Bank, saying that the US now considers them legal. We may agree or disagree about this, but I wanted to share the URJ’s statement, and I will share a link to the longer statement by T’ruah, the rabbinic organization for human rights.

Here are the services this Shabbat:

SHABBAT SERVICES

KABBALAT SHABBAT – Transgender Day of Remembrance **Friday, November 22—6:30pm**

Join us for our service in English and Hebrew, to welcome Shabbat and to honor the Transgender Day of Remembrance by pausing to remember those who have died from violence and hatred against people who are transgendered. Oneg to follow.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

Saturday, November 23—9:30am

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 Hayyei Sarah

Saturday, November 23—10:30am

In Torah, we continue Abraham’s journey in the book of GENESIS with [Parashat Hayyei Sarah Genesis 23:1–25:18](#) (Click for URJ’s Page on this Torah Portion, with modern commentary.)

Click here for [Parashat Hayyei Sarah at Sefaria](#) with clickable commentary. (Just click on any verse and a list of commentary options opens up on the left). This portion contains the romance of Isaac and Rebecca, which some scholars have called a novella within the larger story. Was it really such a romantic relationship?

In **THE BOOK OF JOSHUA**, we will discuss **CHAPTER 22** [Click here for a link to the text at Sefaria](#). We will consider how much jealousy and distrust can infect a community and if not handled well, destroy it.



Se'udah Sh'lishit

Saturday 5 pm

Tea and Conversation with our Rabbi

Se'udah Sh'lishit means “third meal,” and is an extra meal on Shabbat that often included conversation and learning. This is the first of a monthly experiment, to have tea and cookies and snacks while we informally talk about whatever is on our minds, as long as it has to do with Judaism and the Jewish community. This **Saturday at 5pm** will be the first one, so everyone is invited to drop in for tea, coffee and conversation. Havdalah, the special ceremony to end Shabbat will be part of the evening. Feel free to bring any tea-time snacks to share, and a question.



URJ Urges U.S. Administration to Reverse Today's Announcement on Israeli Settlements

New York, NY; November 18, 2019 –

Union for Reform Judaism President Rabbi Rick Jacobs issued this statement:

"The URJ is greatly concerned about today's statement by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo which, while focusing on international law, will be widely read as a broader change to the U.S. position on Israeli settlements - a policy which has been long held by both Republican and Democratic U.S. administrations.

Any unilateral move to this effect would place serious and critical obstacles to a viable two-state solution, damaging the prospect of renewing the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority and causing a long-term threat to Israel's status as a Jewish and democratic state. We urge the Trump Administration to reverse its position."



<https://www.truah.org/press/truah-condemns-trump-administrations-legitimization-of-israeli-settlements/>