

Happy Thanksgiving Temple Sinai!



Giving thanks is central to Judaism. Most of our prayers each day and each week are focused on thanksgiving. For those of us that pray in the mornings, the first series of blessings gives thanks for each step of waking up: hearing the alarm, opening our eyes, putting our feet on the floor, getting dress, getting to the bathroom, etc. This sort of mindfulness about the little things is one thing I deeply value about Jewish practice. As Reform Jews, we should embrace those practices that help us be mindful about the myriad daily miracles we take for granted while we are young (being able to button a shirt or tie our shoes, etc). For Americans, Thanksgiving is the yearly reminder of how much we have to be thankful for,

even as we also experience loss, heartbreak, and political anxiety. I hope you all have a great time and lots of delicious comfort food.

I want you all to know how grateful I am to be the rabbi at a community like Temple Sinai, and for all the support you have given me.

FAREWELL, L'HITRA'OT to MICHAEL

I also want to say how thankful I am for all the support **MICHAEL LEVINE** has given me and this synagogue over the past four-plus years. Coming here as the first new rabbi in decades, I was nervous and there was a steep learning curve. Every step of the way, Michael was there, helping me, doing for me, and anticipating my needs even when I didn't know what they were. As you may know, Michael has decided to move back to North Carolina to be nearer his family and parents, and we wish him all the best. He has done a lot to help get Sinai's house in order, and to support all the changes I've tried to make since I arrived, and he will be missed.

THANK YOU, Michael.



BLESSED SIGD, Holiday of Ethiopian Jewry

Today is *SIGD*, the great holiday unique to the Beta Israel, or Ethiopian Jewry. Occuring 50 days after Yom Kippur, it commemorates times when this community had to flee to special enclaves to avoid attacks by anti-Semites, and is meant to inspire the community to maintain their Jewish identity and practices in the face of oppression and violence. The name, Sigd, is from the Semitic root to “bow down, prostrate”. It is now an official Jewish state holiday in Israel. A blessed Sigd to all who celebrate it.



We will be having services this Shabbat; here are the details:

KABBALAT SHABBAT – Friday, November 29—6:30pm

GIVING THANKS FOR SHABBAT! 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 30—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 TOLDOT* Saturday 10:30 am

In Torah, we continue Abraham’s journey in the book of GENESIS with [Parashat TOLDOT 25:19–28:9](#) (Click for URJ’s Page on this Torah Portion, with modern commentary.) Click here for [Parashat TOLDOT at Sefaria](#) with clickable commentary. (Just click on any verse and a list of commentary options opens up on the left). This portion is centered on the family drama of Isaac and Rebecca and the struggle between them and their sons, Jacob and Esau, over who gets the birthright. We will build on last Shabbat’s Torah Study to consider the family systems at play in this complex and dysfunctional drama, worthy of a Eugene O’Neil play.

We will finish THE BOOK OF JOSHUA, CHAPTER 23-24 [Click here for a link to the text at Sefaria.](#) In it Joshua gives his final advice and binds the covenant with the Israelites before he died. It says he was buried on his property, which given they had taken over the land, raises the very relevant question: when does property you have conquered become yours. In the

context of the Israeli settlements, it is a very 'now' question. These chapters also raise the issue of intermarriage, so if we have time, we will touch on this.

RABBI ANGELA BUCHDAHL' s SERMON ON WHETHER LEGALITY OF THE SETTLEMENT IS THE RIGHT QUESTION?



And as a follow up to the articles I shared last week on the Trump administration's announcement that the US now considers the Jewish settlements in the West Bank to be legal, reversing decades of policy. As another approach, here is Rabbi Angela Buchdahl's sermon last Shabbat on the whether the question of legality is really the right question.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DByBxF32J3Q>