

# Hello Temple Sinai!

We have a lot happening in the next few weeks, so here are the main announcements. Just click on any one of them to jump to that information in the email.

- I. [SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE, Rabbi Michael Cohen, January 31- February 1](#)
  - II. [AIPAC ANNUAL POLICY CONFERENCE - Youth Opportunity](#)
  - III. [WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTIONS: Vote Reform!](#)
  - IV. [TU BISHVAT SEDER FEB 9; 6-8 pm](#)
  - V. [THIS WEEK'S SERVICES & TOT SHABBAT](#)
- I. Please make plans to come on the Shabbat of Jan 31/Feb 1 for our **SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE, Rabbi Michael Cohen, from the ARAVA INSTITUTE** in Israel to teach us about Judaism and the Environment. *Details at the end of this email!*

**SCHOLAR IN  
RESIDENCE**

**Rabbi Michael Cohen**  
JUDAISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

*In anticipation of Tu B'Shvat -*

**January 31-February 1, 2020**



- II. Through a generous donor, we have funds to take a group of up to 10 young people from Temple Sinai to this years **AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE**. I will be going with them



together with another adult. ***If you have a child or close family member who is 15 years to 21 years***, and they might be interested in learning more about Israel on topics ranging from technology to treatment of minorities, hearing directly from the

Congressional leaders, and getting the experience of lobbying Vermont's Congressional delegation, please encourage them to sign up by emailing Stacie at [administrator@templesinaivt.org](mailto:administrator@templesinaivt.org).

I will be in touch about a meeting before we go, and to get information needed to buy plane tickets. ***I can't buy plane tickets without names, so please sign up as soon as possible.*** Let me know if you have questions.

### III. WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTIONS: WE NEED YOUR VOTE !

THE WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS (WZC) IS ONE OF THE FEW REPRESENTATIVE GLOBAL DEMOCRATIC BODIES OF THE WORLD'S JEWISH PEOPLE. The Reform Movement has become one of the key parties that make up this voting body.

The WZC, which traces back to the first World Zionist Congresses called by Theodore Herzl, comprises 500 delegates and meets in Jerusalem every five years. *It enables delegates to exert ideological influence on both Israeli society and the global Jewish agenda, as well as allocate financial and other resources to various organizations – including the Reform Movement – in Israel.*

The 38<sup>th</sup> World Zionist Congress is scheduled to meet in Jerusalem from October 20-23, 2020; the elections will determine the size of the various delegations to the Congress and are scheduled to be held from **January 21 to March 11, 2020** (MLK Day to Purim). ***PARTICIPATING IN THE WZC ELECTIONS IS THE ONLY WAY NORTH AMERICAN JEWS CAN DEMOCRATICALLY INFLUENCE ISSUES AND FUNDING IN ISRAEL.*** A leadership role in KKL-JNF will enable us to ensure that decisions about government and public *spending over the Green Line, including land purchases, reflect the Reform Movement's values and positions.* Only in this way can we continue to build a democratic society in Israel that truly reflects the Jewish values we hold dear: pluralism, equality, economic justice, and peace.

WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTION

# WHY VOTE?

Your vote is the only democratic opportunity you have to influence Israeli society as we continue our efforts towards equality, pluralism and tolerance.

Vote January 21 through March 11, 2020.

Learn more about why voting in this election matters on [arza.org](http://arza.org).

#VoteReformWZC



Thanks to a robust turnout in the 2015 elections, *the REFORM MOVEMENT (ARZA) won more delegates than any other group - 56 of the 145 delegates (39 percent)*. Because of this success, our delegates have been able to ensure that more than \$4 million a year (\$20 million over five years) is being directed to the Israeli Reform Movement, regardless of the opinions of the Israeli State Rabbinate.

*A strong election turnout among North America's Reform Jews and our supporters and allies will ensure that financial resources will continue to flow to our Israeli movement – including Reform congregations and institutions. It also will allow us to fill leadership positions in some of Israel's national institutions, including the World Zionist Organization (WZO), the Jewish Agency for Israel, and Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael – Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF).*

#### IV. **SAVE THE DATE: TU B'SHEVAT SEDER Feb 9, 6-8pm**



Together with participants from our Introduction to Judaism class, we will celebrate the holiday of Tu B'Shevat, Judaism's original "Earth Day", the new year for trees. We will build on a ritual created in Tzfat, Israel in the 1500's by Jews escaping the Spanish Expulsion, and carrying their mystical and kabbalistic insights with them. We will reflect on the connections between spirituality, mysticism, and nature.

#### V. **THIS WEEK'S SHABBAT SERVICES –**

##### **TOT SHABBAT for YOUNG FAMILIES with Saragail Benjamin Friday, Jan 17, 5:30 pm**

Join Saragail Benjamin and Allyson Tazbin for a celebration of Shabbat geared to children 1-7 years of age and their families. Sing, play, and dance while learning about Shabbat and Torah.

##### **A SHABBAT SERVICE HONORING MLK, Jr. DAY Friday, Jan 17, 6:30 pm**

*with the Social Action Committee*

Join Mark Leopold, Eric Friedman, and representatives of the Social Action Committee in a service to inspire us with songs of struggle and justice, and readings by and about

Dr. King and with verses from this week's Torah Portion, *Sh'mot*, which tells of the enslavement and suffering of the Israelites under a new Pharaoh in Egypt.

*Oneg to follow.*

## SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

**Saturday, 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. This week the service is led by Dr. Bruce Chalmer. All are welcome.

## TORAH STUDY – *PARASHAT SH'MOT* Saturday 10:30 am

This week, our we begin the book of Exodus (Sh'mot). Dr. Bruce Chalmer will lead an exploration of **PARASHAT SH'MOT** that begins with a new Pharaoh that enslaves the Israelites, then tells the story of the birth of Moses, Moses' fleeing Egypt, the burning bush, and Moses and Aaron first asking Pharaoh to let the Israelites go to worship in the desert. [Parashat SH'MOT Exodus 1:1-6:1](#) (Click for URJ's Page on this Torah Portion, with modern commentary.) Click here for [Parashat SH'MOT at Sefaria](#) with clickable commentary. (Just click on any verse and a list of commentary options opens up on the left).

## p.s. **RELATIVITY, Vermont Stage Company, Jan 23**

**ON JANUARY 23**, Rabbi Jan Salzman and I will be leading a "Talk Back" discussion after performance of Michael **St.Germain's RELATIVITY**, a production of **Vermont Stage Company**. The play centers on Albert Einstein, his daughter, and his relationship to the women in his life, and explores the tension between public persona and his personal actions.

**THE STORY:** In 1902, Albert and Mileva Einstein had a daughter. After 1904, the child was never seen or spoken of again. It is now 1942, and a reporter has come to interview Einstein about his mysterious family history, only to discover far more secrets under the surface. As the reporter questions Einstein about his theory of relativity and personal past, she develops a new, more pressing query: To be a great man, does one first need to be a good man?

For more information and to tickets to a performance and the discussion on Jan 23, click here: <https://www.vermontstage.org/relativity.html>