

Hello Temple Sinai!

We will be having special Shabbats for the next three weeks! We have an excellent **Scholar in Residence Shabbat with Rabbi Michael Cohen**, a special musical Shabbat Shira with members of Social Band, Tu B'Shevat Seder, Tot Havdalah, and a Shabbat lesson of Jewish prayer choreography.

On the next page, are colorful ads for each of them, but to make it easy, here's a list of all the upcoming services:

TEMPLE SINAI EVENTS ON UPCOMING SHABBATOT

Friday	Jan 24	6:30–7:45pm	SHABBAT SERVICE explaining Jewish Prayer Choreography; <i>Oneg to follow</i>
Saturday	Jan 25	9:30-10:30am	SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE
Saturday	Jan 25	10:30am-12	TORAH STUDY with bagels and donuts
Friday	Jan 31	6:30-7:45pm	SHABBAT SERVICE with SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE, RABBI MICHAEL COHEN ON JUDAISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT followed by Community Shabbat Dinner from <i>Pulcinellas</i>.
Saturday	Feb 1	9:30-10:30am	SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE
Saturday	Feb 1	10:30 am-12	JUDAISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT TORAH STUDY With Rabbi Michael Cohen with bagels and donuts.
Saturday	Feb 1	5-7pm	DUAL NARRATIVE APPROACH TO ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT with Rabbi Michael Cohen
Saturday	Feb 1	4-6pm	TOT HAVDALAH with TU BISHVAT NATURE THEME with Saragail Benjamin with nosh and kiddush.
Friday	Feb 7	6:30-7:45pm	SHABBAT SHIRA - A very special musical service in honor of Torah Portion BaShallach (Song of the Sea!) with performances by ensemble from Social Band, Howard Kalfus and others. <i>Oneg to follow.</i>
Saturday	Feb 8	9:30-10:30 am	FULL SCHOOL SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE WITH TORAH READING OF SONG OF THE SEA, <i>oneg to follow</i>
Sunday	Feb 9	6-8pm	TU B'SHEVAT SEDER AND CELEBRATION DINNER to honor the Jewish New Year for Trees and celebrate the final class of the Introduction to Judaism Course

Kabbalat Shabbat Service PRAYER CHOREOGRAPHY

Friday, Jan 24 6:30pm



- ☆ Ever wonder when and why we bow during services?
- ☆ Why some people take steps forward and backward?
- ☆ Why we stand up when we do? What is 'shuckling'?

At Friday services this week, we'll learn about Jewish prayer choreography so you can join the dance! or not.

Informed choice; that's Reform Judaism!



SHABBAT SHIRA

A MUSICAL SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday, February 7
6:30 pm *oneg to follow*



Join us for a very special musical Shabbat service in song celebrating the Israelites' crossing of the sea in this weeks' Torah Portion.

Music will range from Jewish Baroque to modern, with performances by Social Band, Howard Kalfus, an instrumental trio and others!

Open to all, everyone welcome.



SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

Rabbi Michael Cohen

JUDAISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

In anticipation of Tu B'Shvat -
January 31-February 1, 2020



MUSIC & STORY HAVDALAH
TU B'SHVAT
Saturday, February 1, 4-6 PM
For kids ages 1-7 & their families



Saragait Benjamin leads us in our monthly *Young Families Havdalah* celebration focus on a celebration of nature and trees for Tu B'Shvat, the New Year for Trees. We'll sing, dance, do crafts, tell our favorite tales, & say good-bye to Shabbat with a kid-friendly Havdalah and a pot-luck nosh. Bring a dish to share!



Tu B'Shvat Seder
CELEBRATING THE NEW YEAR OF TREES
AND ISRAEL'S SEVEN SPECIES

Sunday, February 9 6-8 pm

Building on our time with Rabbi Michael Cohen, Scholar in Residence, we will celebrate the wonders of our earth and reflect on our responsibilities to it.

The Seder will include a celebratory dinner that is also the culmination of our Introduction to Judaism Class.

After that, Tim and I are heading to Jerusalem for a vacation and some trip planning.

Meanwhile, **VOTING HAS OPENED FOR THE WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTIONS!** I am personally asking you to **please** take the time and effort to vote **ARZA** so that we can continue to make progress on the place of egalitarian, inclusive, progressive Judaism in Israel.



CONTROL + CLICK TO GO VOTE

Here are details of all those things listed above:

- I. [TU BISHVAT SEDER FEB 9; 6-8 pm](#)
- II. [SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE, Rabbi Michael Cohen, January 31- February 1](#)
- III. [WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTIONS: Vote Reform!](#)
- IV. [AIPAC ANNUAL POLICY CONFERENCE - Youth Opportunity](#)
- V. [TOT HAVDALAH February 1](#)
- VI. [RELATIVITY, Vermont Stage Company, Jan 23](#)
- VII. [THIS WEEK'S SERVICES](#)

I. **SAVE THE DATE: TU B'SHEVAT SEDER**

Feb 9, 6-8pm



Sunday, February 9 6-8 pm

Building on our time with Rabbi Michael Cohen, Scholar in Residence, we will celebrate the wonders of our earth and reflect on our responsibilities to it.

The Seder will include a celebratory dinner that is also the culmination of our Introduction to Judaism Class.

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, reflect on the powerful connections between spirituality and nature.

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE – Rabbi Michael Cohen

JUDAISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

In anticipation of Tu B'Shvat -

January 31-February 1, 2020

Join Sinai and Rabbi Cohen as we celebrate Shabbat together and reflect and learn Judaism's teaching about the environment, and our responsibilities to it.



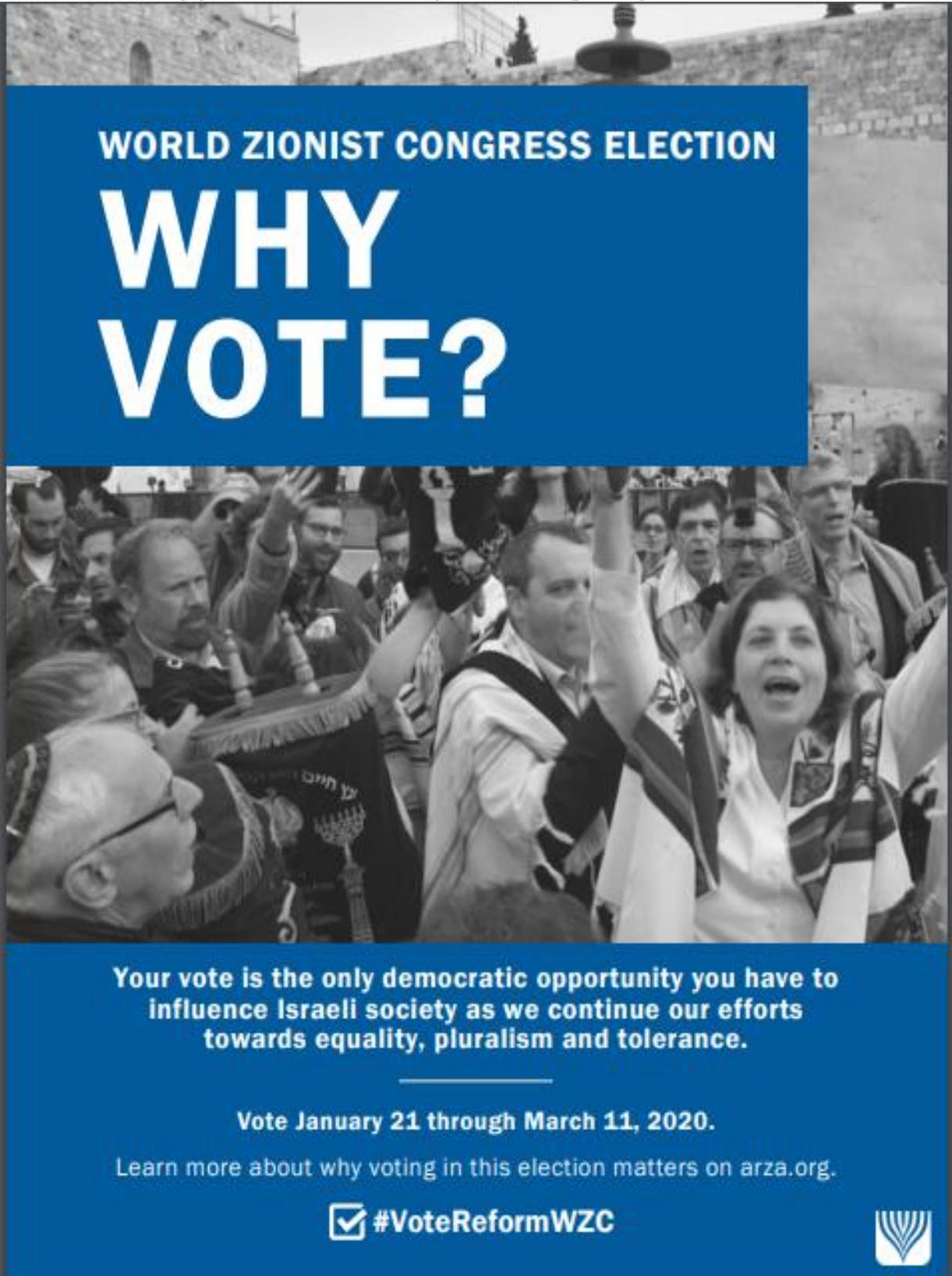
- **KABBALAT SHABBAT, Jan 31, 6:30 pm.** Join us for a song-filled service focused on the environment with Rabbi Cohen giving the d'var (sermon).
- **SHABBAT DINNER, Jan 31, 7:45 pm** After services, join us for Shabbat Dinner with Shabbat table songs, and more teaching from Rabbi Cohen.
- **SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES (Shacharit) Feb 1, 9:30-10:30** A spiritual chanted morning service with all the greatest 'hits' of Shabbat morning.
- **JUDAISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT. Feb 1, 10:30-Noon** Judaism is filled with deep and profound messages about our relationship to the environment; our shared home. In place of our usual Torah Study, we will explore with Rabbi Cohen many of those sources from our tradition, drawing on Rabbi Cohen's extensive work with the Arava Institute in Israel. Bagels and Donuts provided!
- **HAVDALAH AND DUAL NARRATIVE APPROACH TO CONFLICT. Feb 1 5-7 pm**
The Balfour Declaration & Resolution 242: A Dual Narrative Approach.
Resolution 242 and the Balfour Declaration are two seminal documents from the Arab-Israeli Conflict. In a conflict that seems overwhelming to understand these two documents provide a way to understand both sides when viewed through the *Dual Narrative approach*; or as Hillel said (Mishna Avot 2:4), "Do not judge another until you are in his place."

RABBI MICHAEL COHEN graduated, with a B.A. in History, from the University of Vermont, and in 1990, he was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and became the first full-time rabbi of the Israel Congregation in Manchester Center, Vermont. Since 2000, he has divided his time between Vermont and Kibbutz Ketura, Israel, and has written extensively about the environment and the Middle East peace process in North American and Middle Eastern publications and is the author of *Einstein's Rabbi: A Tale of Science and the Soul*. Rabbi Michael is a faculty member at Bennington's Center for the Advancement of Public Action..

THE ARAVA INSTITUTE is an environmental and academic institution in the Middle East, dedicated to preparing future leaders from Israel, Palestine, Jordan, and around the world to cooperatively solve the regional and global challenges of our time. The Institute advances cross-border environmental cooperation and cross-border environmental discourse, regardless of political conflict, in the Middle East.

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.



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.

#VoteReformWZC



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 38th 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.

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 LeIsrael – Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF).

IV. Through a generous donor, we have funds to take a group of up to 10 young people from Temple Sinai to this year's **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.

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.

V. TOT HAVDALAH FOR YOUNG FAMILIES- TU B'SHEVAT
Saturday, Feb 1, 4-6 pm.



MUSIC & STORY HAVDALAH

TU B'SHVAT

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For kids ages 1-7 & their families



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THIS WEEK'S SHABBAT SERVICES –

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE and PRAYER CHOREOGRAPHY
Friday, Jan 24 6:30pm *Oneg to Follow*

Kabbalat Shabbat Service **PRAYER CHOREOGRAPHY**

Friday, Jan 24 6:30pm



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SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

Saturday, 9:30 am

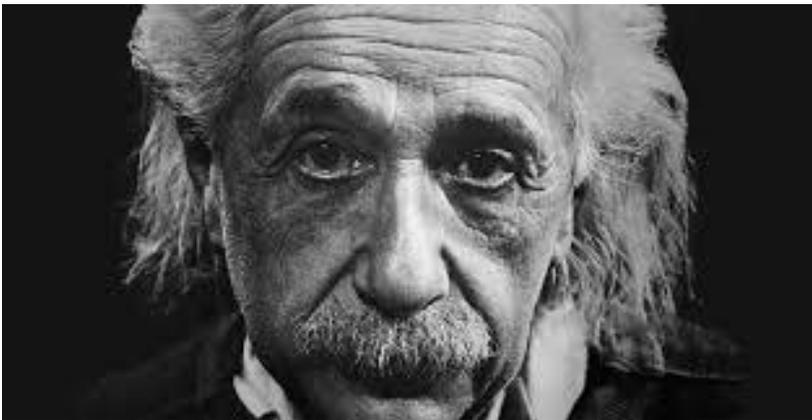
A one-hour, peaceful chanted service, mostly in Hebrew, with a focus on the “greatest hits” of Shabbat Shacharit services- a great way to get to know the service and start your day. This week the service is led by Rabbi Edleson. All are welcome.

TORAH STUDY – *PARASHAT VA'EIRA* Saturday 10:30 am

This week, our we read about the struggle between Moses and Pharaoh in the book of Exodus. Rabbi Edleson will lead an exploration of **PARASHAT VA'EIRA** and consider it both in terms of our inner conflicts and of our struggles against oppressive regimes in today's world. [Parashat VA'EIRA Exodus 6:2-9:35](#) (Click for URJ's Page on this Torah Portion, with modern commentary.) Click here for [Parashat VA'EIRA 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>