

# TEMPLE SINAI SERVICES AND CLASSES

Day	Date	Time	Description
Fri	10/30	6:30 pm Service	<b>SHABBAT SERVICE/PITTSBURG SHOOTING MEMORIAL</b> We will celebrate Shabbat with our usual musical prayer service, and we will also remember the shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburg two years ago.
Sat	10/31	9:30 am	<b>SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE</b> Our weekly, one-hour chanted morning service, mostly in Hebrew, with some of the great tunes of our tradition.
Sat	10/31	10:30 am	<b>TORAH STUDY WITH RABBI EDLESON</b> Join us for our study of Abraham's leaving his home, <a href="#"><i>Lech Lecha</i></a> , with both traditional and modern scholarly commentary, and a focus on Mussar commentary.
Sun	11/1	4-6 pm	<b>INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM.</b> The opening of our 15-week introduction to Jewish ideas and tradition. Great for Jews wanting to learn more, or those dating or marrying someone Jewish, or interested in conversion. Registration required.
Mon	11/2	6:30-7pm	<b>A Brief non-partisan, pre-election PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE NATION AND FOR CALM</b> Join with others in the community to ground ourselves, remember our enduring values, work for the greater good regardless of outcomes, give thanks for democracy and pray for a peaceful, successful day at the polls. Our Standing Passcode is required. Call if needed.
Wed	11/4	6:30-7pm	<b>A Brief non-partisan, post-election PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE NATION</b> Join with others in the community to ground ourselves, remember our enduring values, work for the greater good regardless of outcomes, and support one another whatever the emerging outcome. Our Standing Passcode is required. Call if you need.



## HELLO TEMPLE SINAI!

Tim and I had a productive and relaxing time on our vacation. We spent a week cleaning out closets and storage between playing with the new puppy, and then we went to Maine for a lovely time on the ocean. It was nice to get away but it is also always nice to get back to Vermont. I feel such a sense of home and happiness whenever I cross the state line and see the Vermont sign.

I hope to see you at our service this Friday evening. **Roy Feldman** will be joining us on viola, and we will be pausing to remember the **shooting at Tree of Life** with song and prayer. **Attached to this email is a new evening service to print out** and use from home. Please print it out. Much of it is the same as the previous one, but there are some prayers that are different or aren't in the earlier service.

We are approaching an election, one that seems particularly consequential and polarizing. While we can't really separate our personal or Jewish values from our politics, I find it helpful to remember that politics are the strategies and policy ideas by which we hope to bring our values into our national life. We might disagree about those strategies and policies, and still share many core values. Ethics is rarely about absolute right and wrong, but rather about balancing competing rights and competing wrongs. We will disagree about that balance, and which goods are primary, but we need to remember that people we disagree with also believe they are doing what is good and right. I will be having two **short non-partisan prayer services before and after the election**. I know that many of us are quite anxious about the future of the country and the world at this time of pandemic, and I thought it would be nice to come together for 30 minutes, just to breathe, pray that the outcome will bring good to our people, and to connect to something more eternal and enduring than any single election or nation. This will not be a discussion about the election, but an opportunity for meditation and prayer. The services will be from 6:30 – 7 pm on Nov 2 and 4.

When I started at Temple Sinai, I continued my habit of sending out a personal weekly email with information about the services, Torah readings, etc. In looking at our communications, it's become clear that my weekly email overlaps a great deal with the temple's weekly newsletter. Both take a good bit of time to put together, and so Stacie and I are talking about ways to make our communications more effective and efficient. We will be folding in the 'page of events' into the weekly newsletter, and I will send

emails only when there is an issue I feel I need to address more personally and directly with our members. We will be phasing this in, but I wanted you to be aware.

We are already working on Hanukkah events and services, and will be sharing that information soon. We will be having a young families service on Saturday afternoon, Dec 12. There will also be a state-wide virtual Hanukkah party that evening. We will also have outdoor in-person large menorah lighting at the synagogue, and virtual menorah lights as well. As soon as we have the details set, we will send them to you.

Please be safe. Please vote, and God bless us – every one.

David.

## **INTRO TO JUDAISM COURSE**



**November 1st - March 7, 2021  
Sundays, 4pm - 6pm**

I will be offering my “Intro to Judaism” course beginning on Nov 1. It is a 15-week, honest, open, and in depth intro to Judaism in its many forms, but with a focus on Reform and Progressive Judaism. We will consider Jewish custom, culture, religion, philosophy, texts, and world view of

Judaism today. Rabbi Edleson has taught comparative religion on the college level, and this course will combine traditional Jewish sources with modern scholarly insights. It is a great course for Jews wanting to learn more about their tradition (many of us stop after our bar or bat mitzvah), for interfaith couples, and for those interested in conversion. We will start via Zoom, and determine when we feel safe meeting in person given the pandemic. The course is free (other than books) for Sinai members, and costs \$50-100 sliding scale for all others. Scholarships are available.

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