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Winter 2019  Tevet-Adar II 5779

Bridging the Divide
A Shabbat service honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Temple Sinai
Washington, DC

Shabbat Shira 2019
Friday, Jan.18 at 7:30 pm

FEATURING
Daryl Davis
FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE PITTSBURGH TRAGEDY AND TEMPLE SINAI SECURITY

Tragic moments leave an indelible mark on our lives. I have a vivid memory of the moment I learned about the assassination of President Kennedy – who told me, the location and time of day, and what I did next. The senseless murder of eleven Jews at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh joined the indelible list for me. It was a tragedy of profound importance, and one we will struggle to comprehend for a very long time.

Among the many issues surrounding acts of hate is the issue of security—both physical and spiritual. I want to first assure all of you that from the moment of the Pittsburgh massacre, our clergy, administrative staff, and board leadership have been addressing security. That day, Temple Sinai staff were at the ready with policies and protocols in place; security staff onsite; contacts at the DC Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), on the City Council, and in the Mayor’s Office in hand; arranging for additional security and coverage by MPD; and more. The e-mail letter sent that afternoon reflected a team effort both in the writing and actions represented.

In the days following the Tree of Life tragedy, we drew from many national and local resources to learn more about what happened, what risks lay ahead, and what safety and security protocols should be in place. Those resources included the Anti-Defamation League, Secure Community Network, Union for Reform Judaism, Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, FBI, Department of Homeland Security, Pittsburgh police, DC MPD, DC-area synagogues, and more.

Maintaining a safe and secure environment at Temple Sinai has been and remains a high priority. We evaluate our approaches on a continuous basis and make adjustments as needed. Our security measures include staffing, equipment, training, and awareness:

- **Staffing** – Temple employs security personnel and off-duty MPD officers as circumstances warrant

- **Equipment** – Cameras, video recording, door monitoring, locked doors, panic buttons, stationary and portable radio devices

- **Training** – Annual training for staff and teachers along with routine drills

- **Awareness** – Continuous updates from outside experts and information sharing with local faith-based organizations

Ellen Agler completed a detailed review of our protocols and practices with the Officers and Board in November. Our conclusion was that we have had the right measures in place for Temple Sinai and should make some minor enhancements to security staff scheduling, guest screening, and pre-service/program announcements going forward. While nearly all the comments we received from members affirm that conclusion, a very small number of members asked about armed security.

Data from the intelligence and law-enforcement communities do not support adding armed security at Temple Sinai. The tragedy at Tree of Life was the act of a lone individual. While there has been a significant increase in anti-Semitic incidents nationally over the past three years, they have been largely in harassments and vandalism, not assaults. And, looking at the data from the ADL for Washington, DC, the number of incidents declined last year by more than 50% to a total of 7, with the number of assaults for the past three years being 0.

Security will remain an ongoing priority for Temple Sinai and we will continue to review our procedures and update guidance to members as circumstances warrant. On the spiritual side, we also remain vigilant and attentive to the issues that animate hatred, and we will stay strong as a community in worship and social action.

FROM THE RABBI

This Hanukkah I have been thinking of a famous photograph from Kiel, Germany of Rachel and Rabbi Akiva Posner’s menorah on their windowsill with a swastika flag visible across the street. Rachel Posner took the photograph in 1932 and wrote on the back of the print, “Death to Judah” so the flag says, “Judah will live forever,” so the light answers.” In July 1932 the Nazi Party had won 230 seats in parliamentary elections, making it the largest party in the government. Adolph Hitler had reformulated the party with himself as its leader only seven years earlier. The menorah filled with eight candles would have been mounted for the night of December 30, 1932. Exactly one month later, January 30, 1933, Hitler was appointed chancellor of Germany. Three months and a day after the photo, on April 1, 1933, a Jewish boy from out of town visited his parents who owned a store in Kiel. It was the day of a massive boycott against Jews. He found the store surrounded by Nazis, but decided to enter anyhow. The Nazis murdered him on the spot and Rabbi Posner buried him that evening. Rabbi Posner, Rachel and their three children left Germany in June, just six months after the photo, eventually settling in pre-state Palestine. (Photo, dates, and Posner story from USHMM collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/pa1118168).

According to the Talmud, the menorah’s lights are meant to publicize the miracle of Hanukkah every year. The Rabbis deemed that the menorah should be lit in a location and at a time when its flames will be most widely seen: outside your front door or in a window facing the street after sunset. However, the menorah allowed that in times of danger, the menorah may be lit inside the house where its light is only seen by the inhabitants. Why, I wonder, didn’t the Posners keep their menorah inside that year? Did they not realize the danger? Or did they know and choose to offer a sign of defiance? Rachel understood the significance of the imagery she was capturing. Did she also sense what was coming? And how quickly?

Since before the 2016 election, people have been asking if these days in America are like those from Europe. From 2016 to 2017, the ADL recorded the largest increase of antisemitic incidents in its history. FBI statistics on all hate crimes for the same period also show drastic increases. The killing of eleven Shabbat worshippers at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh by an antisemite has significantly stoked those fears. I share those fears and I am not entirely sanguine about the future. I do not, however, believe we are standing in the Posners’ shoes.

Lighting the menorah this year, my neighbors’ flags are no worry: Caps banners and holiday cheer only. I cannot, however, quell the distractions that come to mind: who is that passing by as we sing Maoz Tzur in the window and what’s their response to these lights saying, “Judah will live forever”? I wonder if my colleague, the rabbi of my Uncle Kenny’s (z”l) congregation, is lighting her menorah away from the windows. She’s been assigned police protection after national security intercepts identified her continued on page 4
Join the Temple Sinai Delegation to the Consultation on Conscience

Early Registration Ends on January 30

The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism’s biennial social justice leadership conference will take place May 19-21, 2019 in Washington D.C. This conference will provide an unique opportunity to build meaningful connections, learn and expand skills needed to advocate for social change, and to deepen our knowledge on critical issues facing our community, and lobby Congress together. Importantly, we will work to refine Temple Sinai’s social justice strategy in order to strengthen the congregation-and the Reform Movement’s capacity to make meaningful change. As an added benefit, our own Liz Dunst is being honored at this event.

Use the DelegationEarly19 promotion code you will pay only $329 to register and will be eligible for an additional $75 subsidy from the temple. We are also offering to fully subsidize the $99 registration fee for TS member college students, as well as providing other temple members with a $25 subsidy for the one day registration fee. Learn more and register at www.re.org. Feel free to contact our delegation co-chairs, Glenn Engelmann at glenn.engelmann@gmail.com or Barbara Kraft at bkraft1@gmail.com with any questions.

Kudos to Scott Taft for receiving the Outstanding Volunteer Award. Scott, a landscape architect, started volunteering two years ago as a Playtime Supervisor every Thursday evening after work and will be eligible for an additional $75 subsidy from the temple. We are grateful for Scott’s efforts and for all of our dedicated volunteers.

Join the dedicated volunteers on the Sinai House Board!

We are looking for a few more volunteers to write grants, work with our staff to plan activities for our residents or write pieces for newsletters. Contact Amy Schear at aschear@starpower.net if you’d like to sit in on our next bi-monthly board meeting on Friday, November 30, former resident Yensy Cundumi, President Amy Schear, Assistant Director Walde Diabete, Volunteer Scott Taft, Executive Director Sadja Simly, Sinai House Alumna Yensy Cundumi, President Amy Schear, Assistant Director Walde Diabete.

Fifth Annual Tricia Davis 5K Walk/Run for Sinai House

Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 12, 2019 at 8 AM
Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC (Same location as the first 3 races, NOT last year!)
Your participation supports Sinai House and inspires our residents! Visit SinaiHouseDC5K.com or email us to SinaiHouseDC5K@gmail.com.

- Register as a runner or walker
- Join a team (The Temple Sinai Religious School class with the most registrants will have a pizza party!)
- Start your own Personal Fundraising Page (This is an easy way to raise money by inviting your friends and family to support your run, and a great B’nei Mitzvah project!)
- Become a Sponsor (Your company name or logo can be on the Race T-shirt and in the Virtual Race-Day booklet sent to all registrants.)
I came to Temple Sinai as both the Executive Director and a member in 2008. The hardest part of the transition was eased thanks to Cantor Laura Croen and her gracious family as they invited us to share a bar mitzvah date for my 11-year-old son. After leading the service together, our sons were celebrated at a joyous kiddush luncheon supported by the TSWGJ. What a warm, welcoming embrace by my new Jewish community!

The search committee wondered why, after 20 years administering and developing health services for seniors, I was interested in working at Temple Sinai. The answer was simple. First, my skills in providing excellent “homes” for individuals and families and in managing budgets, buildings and people were completely transferable. I was already ready for a change. Most importantly, I was excited that Temple Sinai’s mission and values really resonated for me. The icing on the cake was that my father, a long-time member, raved about Temple Sinai and encouraged me to apply for the position. Not that I don’t always listen to my father, but I’m especially glad that I heeded his counsel this time!

I feel honored by the opportunity to celebrate joyous occasions with our members as well as the chance to lead and support them as they grapple with personal struggles and as they mourn losses. It has also been incredible to be the recipient of clergy and community support in meaningful ways.

It was immediately apparent to me when I joined Temple Sinai that it is a unique community. Not only are the values of our members and our clergy consistent with the values of our Sinai members are well cared for.

When I started here, it was my first job at a religious institution. I am grateful for the opportunity to support and serve the members of Temple Sinai and to work with a Temple that truly values every member, whether they are long-time members, new members, or just visiting. It has been an honor to be a part of this community and to help it grow and thrive.

Thank you, Temple Sinai, for allowing me to beautifully meld my professional and personal lives under one roof.
The Annual Fund

During this season, we think about the gifts in our lives and the gifts we give to others. Through worship, education, Tikvun Olam, music, pastoral care, and so much more, Temple Sinai is our Jewish home. At Temple Sinai, our base membership financial commitments, while generous and thoughtful, are not enough to fully underwrite programs and staff that meet the needs of the Temple Sinai community. The Annual Fund brings our community together to bridge the gap between revenues generously contributed in the form of membership financial commitments, tuition and programmatic fees, and the larger, true cost of providing the services and programs that make this community special. Although the new year has passed, it’s not too late to give to the Annual Fund and help Temple Sinai meet its financial needs!

The Circle of Music Lovers

The Circle of Music Lovers is a giving society that helps support musical programming at Temple Sinai throughout the year. One of the yearly events that enriches Temple Sinai’s community is Shabbat Shirah, a Friday night service filled with music, song, and joyous worship. This year’s Shabbat Shirah will take place during Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Weekend and feature Daryl Davis, a blues musician known for his work to combat the intolerance of the Ku Klux Klan. Donations to the Circle of Music Lovers help bring moving and spiritual musicians like Daryl Davis to the temple, and also support the work of the choirs and weekly musical prayer. If you have ever been moved by the music that reaches all corners of Temple Sinai, consider showing your support by donating to the Circle of Music Lovers.

Other Funds

In addition to donating to Temple Sinai’s Annual Fund or the Circle of Music Lovers, throughout the year members make meaningful contributions to specific designated programs and initiatives. Such gifts provide support for everything from minimizing the financial barriers to a child’s religious growth through the Israel Education, Tikkun Olam, music, pastoral care, and so much more, Temple Sinai is our Jewish home. At Temple Sinai, our base membership financial commitments, while generous and thoughtful, are not enough to fully underwrite programs and staff that meet the needs of the Temple Sinai community. The Annual Fund brings our community together to bridge the gap between revenues generously contributed in the form of membership financial commitments, tuition and programmatic fees, and the larger, true cost of providing the services and programs that make this community special. Although the new year has passed, it’s not too late to give to the Annual Fund and help Temple Sinai meet its financial needs!

We invite you to learn about all our funds and to donate by visiting online: templesinaidc.org/donate. With one click you can select the fund you wish to support and can make donations by credit card. Gifts made in tribute or in memoriam will be acknowledged to those you designate. If you prefer to donate via check, please mail or drop off your donation at 3100 Military Road NW, Washington, DC 20015. We also accept online donations by visiting templesinaidc.org or calling (202) 363-6394 ext. 234.

Save the Date! Rimonim Shabbat
Friday, April 12 at 6:30 PM
Temple Sinai will be holding our first Rimonim Shabbat where we will honor and celebrate all of our members who have included Temple Sinai in their estate plans. Join us for a festive service and dinner!

To learn more about strengthening Temple Sinai’s future through a legacy gift, please contact Ellen Agler at eagler@templesinaidc.org or call (202) 363-6394 ext. 210.

ANNUAL FUND

Donated By
Ina & Jerry Adler, Ellen & Jeffrey Agler, Edward Angel & Susan Lai

CONTRIBUTIONS

In Appreciation Of
Donated By
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Laura Cornay & Arthur Btrris
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Temple Sinai gratefully acknowledges your gifts from mid-August to early December 2018; those honored are informed of your thoughtfulness. Your contributions support the work of the temple.
A mong the many treasures of the Temple Library is the Young Adult (YA) section, located in the first aisle of the stacks, next to adult graphic books. One of our recent acquisitions is Refuge by Alan Gratz. Gratz presents three interrelated stories which center on children and their families who are driven from their homes by war, violence, and unrest. “...[T]hese memorable and tightly plotted stories contextualize and give voice to current refugee crises, underscoring that these journeys are born out of a desperate need for security and safety.” — Publishers Weekly. Another popular book is Cristina García’s Dreams of Significant Girls, a National Book Award Finalist, in the spirit of The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants book series by Ann Drashears.

The third weekend in January is packed with events. January 18 is the musical Shabbat Shira in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King. January 21 is Martin Luther King Day. In support of these events, books on music are displayed on the shelves to the left of the entrance next to the Archives’ display on musical events at Temple Sinai. And, a collection of books for adults and children on Jews and the Fight for Civil Rights will be displayed on the Kiosk and the circular table. January 21 is Tu B’Shvat. Purim is March 21. Look for books on these holidays as well as on the kiosk and table.

The Poetry of Genesis, an adult education program to be taught by Lauren Boyle, Ph.D., and Rabbi Hannah Goldstein in March, is co-sponsored by the Library Committee. Watch for this opportunity to delve into the rich poetic images and metaphors of the stories in Genesis and find your own personal meaning. No knowledge of poetry is necessary. The works they will use are just a part of the rich selection of poetry books in the library.

Librarian Ruth Polk, is in the library on Mondays, 9:30 - 2, and Wed., 9:30 - 1. If you have questions or requests, please contact Ruth at rpolk@templesinaidc.org or (202) 363-6394 ext. 218. The library operates on an honor system; you can use it at any time. The catalogue is available on the temple web site: select Learn, then Library.
Shabbat Schedule Guide

1st Friday: Tot Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM, preceded by a Prozdor (appetizers) at 5:30 PM

1st Friday: Shabbat Services at 8:00 PM, followed by an Oneg Shabbat

Other Fridays: Shabbat Services at 6:30 PM, preceded by a Prozdor (appetizers) at 6:00 PM

Service descriptions and other information can be found at templesinaidc.org/worship

Looking to sign up for a Shabbat dinner? Visit templesinaidc.eventbrite.com

Kehillat Shabbat Services

1st & 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:30 AM

These lay-led services offer opportunities to chant a few verses of Torah or Haftarah in a supportive atmosphere. Participants can also sign up to deliver a d’var Torah (analysis of the weekly Torah portion) that leads to a group discussion. The temple provides lunch following services.

Family Shabbat Services

2nd Saturday of the month at 10:30 AM

Using the family-friendly prayer book, Siddur Ma Tov, the service alternates between Hebrew and English, introducing Shabbat morning prayers in a meaningful format for all ages. The temple provides lunch following services.

Shabbat Shira 2019: Bridging the Divide

Friday, January 18 at 7:30 PM

Celebrate Shabbat with the extraordinary story and rollicking sounds of boogie-woogie piano man Daryl Davis and his band. Daryl is a veteran pianist and vocalist, a consummate musician who has played with a long list of blues and early rock n’ roll greats, including Chuck Berry, B.B. King, Jerry Lee Lewis, Bo Diddley, and Muddy Waters. Services will be followed by a festive oneg.

See page 20 for details.

Shabbat January 20, 2019

Monday, January 21 | MLK, Jr. Day; Tu Bishvat
10:00 AM Praying With Our Feet! A Wider Circle
7:30 PM WRJ Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 23
7:30 PM WRJ Mah Jong

Thursday, January 24
10:00 AM Adult Ed: A Good Death
6:30 PM Tu Bishvat Shabbat Service & Participatory Dinner

Saturday, January 26
Torah Reading: 7 Yirmiyah (Exodus 25:1-27:19)
9:15 AM Torah Study
10:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Hannah Hoffman
8:30 PM TSWRJ Intergenerational Social Action Program

Monday, January 28
2:00 PM WRJ Mah Jong

Tuesday, January 29
10:00 AM Sinai Reads: People of the Book Club
7:30 PM WRJ Mah Jong

Thursday, January 31
10:00 AM Adult Ed: A Good Death

February 2019

Friday, February 1
6:00 PM Tot Shabbat Service & Participatory Dinner
8:00 PM Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 2
Torah Reading: Mishpatim (Exodus 21:1-24:18)
9:15 AM Torah Study
10:30 AM Disability Awareness at Kehillat Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon
10:30 AM Enei Mitzvah of Jacob Leman and Nathaniel Seaman
1:00 PM Torah/Haftarah Chanting Class
5:00 PM Synaety Bowling
5:30 PM Bat Mitzvah of Emma Ludgin

Sunday, February 3
9:15 AM Torah Study: Mikraot Gedolot

Monday, February 4
2:00 PM WRJ Mah Jong

Tuesday, February 5
10:00 AM Rabbi’s Class

Wednesday, February 6
7:30 PM Gun Violence Prevention Program: Washington’s Other Monuments
7:30 PM WRJ Mah Jong

Thursday, February 7
10:00 AM Adult Ed: A Good Death
7:30 PM Sinai House Meeting
7:30 PM WRJ Board Meeting

Friday, February 8
6:30 PM Camp Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 9
Torah Reading: 7 Yirmiyah (Exodus 25:1-27:19)
9:15 AM Torah Study
10:30 AM Family Service with 6th Grade Participation & Kiddush Luncheon

This year, we are pleased to host a conversation with Brian Frosh, the Attorney General of Maryland, and Karl Racine, the Attorney General of the District of Columbia, about the important work they are doing to protect the environment in our area and throughout the country.

Learn more at templesinaidc.org/other-holidays

Disability Awareness & Inclusion Kehillat Shabbat Saturday, February 2 at 10:30 AM

February is Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month (JDAIM). Join us for a lay-led Kehillat Shabbat service with special guest Rabbi Fred N. Reiner for “We are All Strangers: Toward an Understanding of Our Human Challenges.” Services will be followed by a kiddush luncheon. All are welcome.

Camp Shabbat
Friday, February 8 at 6:30 PM

Campers past, present and future should join us for this marvelous Shabbat worship in a Camp style. Representatives from URJ camps and camps all around the Mid-Atlantic will be with us for celebration and prayer!
Shabbat Service with 4th Grade Siddur Ceremony & Participatory Dinner

Friday, March 15 at 6:30 PM
Join together to celebrate Shabbat with our 4th grade students as they receive their own siddurim (prayerbooks) for the 1st time! And continue the Shabbat celebration with us after services at a festive dinner in celebration of this milestone in the lives of our 4th graders.

RSVP at templesinaidc.org/eventbrite.com

Purim 2018

Adult Celebration

Wednesday, March 20 at 7 PM
Join us for a rollicking evening of frivolity, merriment, and fun. Yummy food and an open bar will be on hand to help your spirits soar. Purim at Temple Sinai isn’t just for kids! No RSVP needed.

Family Celebration

Sunday, March 24 at 10 AM
Join us for a festive morning of singing, playing and dancing at the Purim Carnival! Tickets required.

Learn more at templesinaidc.org/purim

Sinaïtes & NFTY-MAR

Sinaïtes Night Out: Gusto
Bethesda, Thurs. January 10
An informal dinner where teens are invited to hang out, eat, and meet new friends! No RSVP needed.

NFTY-MAR Winter Kallah, January 18-21
Join other reform teens in the Mid-Atlantic region for a weekend of fun including teen led programs, hot topics, a talent show, and more. Register at nftynyc.com.

Join Temple Sinai teens for an afternoon of food justice experiential education, eating, and fun!

Groundhog Day Bowling, Sun. February 3
A chance for Temple Sinai teens to kick back and bowl while wishing for an early spring.

To see our complete calendar including Religious School and Adul Hebrew classes along with committee meetings, please visit our website, templesinaidc.org.

Jewish Heritage Tour to Morocco!

October 27-November 6, 2019

Register by February 8 to receive a $200 early bird reduction in the land costs. Space is limited. Learn more at helzner.com or e-mail rhelzner@templesinaidc.org.
SINAICARES

Over the past few years, the Kathie Rabinovitz SinaiCares Program has become an integral part of the day-to-day fabric of life at Temple Sinai. Each week, our team of ten volunteers delivers challahs and yahrzeit candles to members who have experienced a loss, and we celebrate our youngest new members by delivering baby baskets to families. We have five volunteers who have been visiting the same members for over two years, and several other volunteers who make shorter term visits to members in need of extra companionship.

While member to member support activities are the heart of SinaiCares’ work, Temple Sinai also offers members free and confidential 30-minute consultations with a licensed social worker through the Jewish Social Services Agency’s (JSSA) Synagogue Liaison program. Temple Sinai’s liaison, Leslie Kessler, LCSW-C, has extensive experience working with individuals, couples and families. Her expertise includes depression, mood issues, illness, aging and bereavement. Ms. Kessler can talk to members on a wide range of issues, such as concerns about elderly relatives who are living alone, support following a death of a loved one, or caring for a spouse with memory loss. As part of her consultation, Ms. Kessler can connect members to JSSA colleagues for a range of mental health services and to other community resources, depending on the need. If you would like to schedule a consultation with Ms. Kessler, you can either speak with a Temple Sinai clergy member or contact her directly at (301) 816-2653.

Providing rides for members to take advantage of Temple Sinai’s services and activities is also a key part of the SinaiCares program. With several days’ advance notice, rides can be provided free of charge to members through a local taxi company or a private ride service. Also, in partnership with our neighbors, Ingleside at Rock Creek, we can offer rides from Friendship Heights for weekday programs.

For other transportation needs for members living in Maryland, we recommend contacting the Jewish Council on Aging’s Connect-A-Ride service at (301) 738-3252. Another option for Maryland and DC residents is GoGo Grandparent, a ridesharing service like Uber that does not require a smartphone. Ms. Kessler can talk to members on a wide range of issues, such as concerns about elderly relatives who are living alone, support following a death of a loved one, or caring for a spouse with memory loss. As part of her consultation, Ms. Kessler can connect members to JSSA colleagues for a range of mental health services and to other community resources, depending on the need. If you would like to schedule a consultation with Ms. Kessler, you can either speak with a Temple Sinai clergy member or contact her directly at (301) 816-2653.

A Good Death

Thursdays, 10:00-11:30AM | January 17, 24, 31 and February 7

Since we all have to die, let’s discuss how to do it well. The course will include practical and emotional aspects of preparing to have a dignified death. Topics include: unfinished business; how to talk to loved ones; forgiveness; writing an ethical will; decisions about when to stop treatment; suicide and assisted dying; and the impact of a good death on those we leave behind. There will be some short readings and some writing in and out of class.

This class will be taught by Dr. Carol Hausman, a clinical psychologist and gerontologist. She has been on the faculties of the Georgetown University School of Medicine, the Washington School of Psychiatry and others.

The Poetry of Genesis

Thursdays, 10:00-11:30AM | March 14, 21, April 4, and 11

The stories of Genesis are rich with evocative images and metaphors, the beauty of which is captured in poetry. Come join us as we delve into the poetry of these ancient stories and explore their connections to our own lives. No experience or expertise of poetry necessary! We’ll focus less on what the poet may have intended and more on what the works evoke in each of us, helping us find our own personal meaning in the sacred texts. Groups will include space for our own writing and reflection.

This class will be taught by Lauren Mazow Boyle, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist, with special interests in psychoanalytic theory and poetry therapy and Rabbi Hannah Goldstein.

Studying with the Rabbi

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

Every Saturday at 9:15 AM

A wonderful educational opportunity awaits all who attend weekly Torah Study on Saturday mornings. Led by our clergy, this group focuses on the Torah reading for the week. All are welcome.

Torah Study: Mikraot Gedolot

Sundays, January 6, February 3 and March 3 at 9:15 AM

Led by Rabbi Rosenwasser, this group focuses on “Mikraot Gedolot” (medieval commentaries). We approach the weekly parashah by studying it through the lens of our great sages to discover how they made meaning from the text. All are welcome.

The Rabbi’s Class: Maimonides

1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 10 AM

Maimonides is considered one of the greatest Jewish teachers, philosophers and legal minds ever. This ongoing course explores his clear enumeration and description of the mitzvot and his deeper philosophical writings. All are welcome to join at any point in the year.

Learn more and register for Adult Education classes and programs at templesinaidc.org/learn/adult-education
On Friday, January 18, at 7:30 PM the annual Shabbat Shira service will feature musician and social activist Daryl Davis. Read how Davis has used his music and dialogue to lead many to renounce violence and hate.

Veteran blues and boogie woogie pianist and vocalist Daryl Davis learned his craft in part by taking advantage of the northern migration of bluesmen and other musicians from the Mississippi Delta and other parts of the South. As a teen and young man, he studied the greats of the genre, including two prominent pianists — Muddy Waters’ Pinetop Perkins and Chuck Berry’s Johnnie Johnson. He also pursued a music degree at Howard University, where he was a member of its accomplished Jazz Vocal Ensemble.

All the homework paid off: Davis has had a long and successful career in music, including a 30-year stint playing with Berry’s band. Just a partial list of those he has collaborated with is impressive: Jerry Lee Lewis, the Platters, the Drifters, the Coasters, Bo Diddley and Percy Sledge.

But Davis wanted more out of life than just a career in music.

It started with a simple question, but one for which Daryl Davis had been seeking an answer from the time he was a 10-year-old boy: “Why do you hate me when you know nothing about me?”

Davis, who is African-American, had been asking that ever since he was growing up in Massachusetts. When he was a young boy marching in a statewide Boy Scout parade, holding the American flag, a number of onlookers began tossing bottles and rocks at him. His father later explained to him that he was assaulted not because they hated the Scouts, as young Davis had guessed, but because they didn’t like the color of his skin.

A few years ago, after hearing him perform his captivating boogie woogie piano at a gig in Frederick, Md., a white patron approached Davis and confessed that he had never seen a black man play the keyboard as well as Jerry Lee Lewis did. Davis, surprised, explained that he himself had played with Lewis, but that Jerry Lee and many others learned to play this way from African-American blues musicians who originated the style. They fell into conversation. Davis soon learned from his newest fan that the man was a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

Davis recognized an opportunity with this card-carrying white supremacist. He thought he might finally learn the answer to that nagging question about hate.

He sought to hear out the man’s story and they kept up the discussion. Eventually the Klan member realized the wrongness of his beliefs. From that first dialogue, a new chapter began to unfold for Davis. Ultimately, through that first encounter, Davis was able to meet with the grand wizard of the Maryland Klan, and he too came around.

As a pianist and vocalist, Davis is familiar with the bridges that connect parts of a musical piece.

Now he builds bridges with those who start out their conversations still harboring a belief in white supremacy. Over and over, he has kept the dialogue going. As a result, he now has a bounty of unwanted and unneeded Klan robes and Nazi paraphernalia, tokens of their former owners’ conversions to a belief in brotherhood for all.

Davis has written a book about his conversations, “Klan-Destine Relationships: A Black Man’s Odyssey in the Ku Klux Klan,” detailing dozens of interviews with his former enemies, many of whom have been transformed into his friends. He also appears in a variety of venues around the country and the world, including many schools and houses of worship, where he talks about his personal crusade to end hate.

In the wake of the recent tragedies in Charlottesville and Pittsburgh, as well as other nonfatal but violent confrontations, Davis reminds his audiences that dialogue is key. “When two enemies are talking, they are not fighting,” Davis has said to thousands of listeners. “They may be shouting and pounding their fists on the table, but at least they are talking. It’s when the talking ceases that the ground becomes fertile for violence. Keep the conversation going.”

Mark your calendars for this year’s Shabbat Shira service honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as Daryl Davis keeps the conversation — and the music — going!
Upcoming 2019 Programs

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5 - 3 TO 5 PM
Social Action Shabbat
Join us at our first family-oriented Social Action Shabbat program, meticulously planned by bat mitzvah student Maya Tarnoff. We will make sandwiches for Martha’s Table, an organization that provides food to vulnerable children and families in DC. Please sign up to volunteer your time and/or provide supplies needed to make a variety of sandwiches. This event is not suitable for those with peanut or tree nut allergies.
Questions? Contact Kathy Simonetti (simonettik@msn.com)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27
Dinner for NIH Children’s Inn
Each year TSWRJ provides a meal to families staying at the NIH Children’s Inn. It is easy to participate! Just sign up to donate a food item or volunteer.
If you would like to contribute a grocery card for the families or make a monetary donation, send your check payable to TSWRJ with “NIH Children’s Inn” on the memo line, to Judly Polk, 4012 Thornapple Street, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.
Questions? Contact Emily Waldman (waldmanemily@gmail.com) or Roberta Binder (robertabinder@comcast.net)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10 - 2 TO 4:30 PM
TSWRJ Fashion Show at Lord & Taylor, White Flint
Delicious food and a great opportunity for everyone to shop for the season’s exciting new fashions. Register to attend ($30) by February 1.
Models of all sizes and generations (this means you) are invited to show off the latest fashion trends to our members and friends as we help raise funds to support TSWRJ programming.
To volunteer to model, contact Sally Kranz at 202-363-1904 (sallyjkrzan@aol.com) by January 5, 2019.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21 - 4 TO 6 PM
Sisterhood Shabbat
Join us for an informal and intimate Shabbat dinner to enjoy food, fun, and conversations.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3 - 3 TO 5 PM
TSWRJ UNIVERSITY: Helping Aging Family Members Plan for Care
Join Temple member Nathan Billig, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Georgetown University and President of Chevy Chase At Home, and others for an informative panel discussion.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 - 9 AM TO 1:30 PM
Authors’ Roundtable
After registration and coffee, join us for a 9:30 a.m. (optional) Shabbat service in the Bet Am led by Rabbi Goldstein. Promptly at 10:30 a.m., Tara Sonenshein will moderate a stimulating panel discussion with four leading women authors. After the panel, join one of the four for conversation over a boxed lunch in a smaller setting. Participants may buy the authors’ books and have them autographed. Register ($20) by March 19.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Do you... want to make friends while doing good? Want to be part of a smaller and active community within TSY? Join TSWRJ’s board: Contact Nancy Liebermann, chair of the Nominations Committee, at nancyliebermann@gmail.com

Social Action Shabbats
TSWRJ is offering two more opportunities for new program leadership and tikkun olam. We would love to hear your ideas or have your support for ours. Programs tentatively planned for Sat. February 2 or March 2, 2019, 3 pm.
Email Kathy Simonetti with your interest at simonettik@msn.com. All temple members are welcome.

MANY THANKS TO...
All congregants who brought food donations for the Capital Area Food Bank at Yom Kippur. This year, we collected enough food to provide a total of 5,135 meals for our food insecure neighbors.
Our TSWRJ VOTE2018 team, which concluded its work shortly after election day on November 6. We contacted 18 young adults to encourage them to vote and staffed an information table the first day of Religious School. Join us to plan our VOTE2020 campaign!
E-mail: templesinawrj@gmail.com
The 500+ people who came to enjoy the Chanukah Market on November 18, who cooked, baked, ate, shopped, took a shift or two at the mart, and schlepped! Proceeds go to TSWRJ to support youth and programs at TS as well as local, national, and international nonprofits.

TSWRJ JUDAICA SHOP
Come to shop, stay for the company! Hours during religious school.
Sun 10:00am - 1:30pm // Tues 6:00pm - 8:00pm
By appt., please contact Meg Seldin, call 301-332-9490 or e-mail meg.seldin@gmail.com

MOST WEDNESDAYS — 7:30 to 9:30 PM
SCHEDULED MONDAYS — 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Mah Jong
Check the schedule on Temple Sinai’s website. Novices and mavericks welcome! E-mail: greenway.anita@gmail.com (Wednesday) and susanshiffer@hotmail.com (Monday)

Save the Dates

SATURDAY, APRIL 20
TSWRJ Community Second Seder
THURSDAY, MAY 16
TSWRJ Annual Meeting

TSWRJ Board Meetings 2019

TSWRJ 2018 Chanukah Market
Special thanks to:
- Baked by Yael
- Bechesda Bagels
- Bradley Food and Beverage
- Breads Unlimited
- Castico
- Giant
- Harris Teeter
- Parkway Deli and Restaurant
- Word Wizards, Inc.
- Temple Sinai Staff

Sign up or register for all programs at: templesinaiadc.org/gather/TSWRJ. Questions? Email: templesinawrj@gmail.com
As its first project for 2019, the Gun Violence Prevention Group of Temple Sinai is pleased to mount an exhibit and present a panel discussion entitled “Washington’s Other Monuments.”

These are pictures and videos shot over the past 16 years by local photographer Lloyd Wolf and videographer Curtis Mozie. They depict “the many sad memorials erected by friends and family to honor” the memory of gun violence victims in the Washington, DC metro area. As noted by Lloyd Wolf, “these spontaneous, homemade, and heartfelt creations are found on streets throughout the region. They are often the only physical tribute to the many slaying victims.”

The exhibit will open on Wednesday, February 6, 2019, immediately followed in the Bet Am by a presentation and panel discussion. Panelists will include Lloyd Wolf, Curtis Mozie, David Bowers, and Ryane Nickens. Bowers is a policy advocate with No Murders DC and Enterprise Community Partners. Ryane Nickens is founder and president of the TraRon Center in DC named after her sister and brother killed by gun violence. The center seeks to help those impacted by gun violence through the arts and political activism.

The exhibit will run at the Temple through Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019.

The purpose of this exhibit is to remind the community of the human price paid by so many families and friends of the hundreds of gun violence victims senselessly slain every year in our Nation’s Capitol region. Preview the photos at dcshrines.blogspot.com.

Other plans for the GVP Group in 2019 include:

- Advocating for enactment in the new 116th Congress of long overdue, national gun sense reform legislation, e.g., universal background checks and funding on gun violence research by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.
- Supporting the growing student GVP movement in the DMV area and nationwide in response to the mass shooting in Feb. 2018 at the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL.
- Organizing a dialogue entitled “Finding Common Ground on the Gun Policy Battleground,” between moderate, responsible gun owners, gun violence victims, GVP activists, public officials, etc.
- Supporting the new DC NEAR Act (Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results Act) and its violence interruption program.
- Helping to organize a gun by back program in DC with DC police and medical center participation as part of an annual nationwide gun buy back initiative.

The ongoing onslaught of gun violence in our community and nation spurred members of Temple Sinai in July 2016 to organize the Temple Sinai Gun Violence Prevention Group. Its mission is to educate and engage our community on gun violence and what we can all do to reduce or prevent it.

Our mission is inspired by Jewish tradition which urges us to eschew weapons and protect life. For example, Isaiah (2:4) states that people of all nations should “beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks...” Exodus (20:13) commands us not to kill. And Leviticus (19:16) tells us that we should “not stand idly by while [our] neighbor’s blood is shed.”

Within this moral framework, the GVP Group helped Temple Sinai become the first area synagogue to twice mount the T-shirt “Memorial to the Lost” with the names, ages and dates of death of gun violence victims in the DMV area (pictured at left), organized several educational programs on universal background checks, the connections between gun violence and domestic violence, and preventing suicides and mass shootings through enactment and enforcement of “red flag” laws to disarm people found by a court to be a danger to themselves or others. In addition, the GVP Group has advocated for enactment of gun sense reform laws in Maryland, Virginia and in Congress, and against “gun nonsense” bills supported by the National Rifle Association such as deregulating gun silencers and armor-piercing bullets, authorizing guns in houses of worship, and preempting state regulation of concealed gun carry in public places.

For more information and to join or support the GVP Group, please contact its chair Steve Klitzman at steve.klitzman@gmail.com or its vice chair, Robin Gerber, at gerbern@hotmail.com.
GET INVOLVED

Temple Sinai is a community that values the active engagement of members in leadership and community-building. Committees, Task Forces, and Program Groups work in partnership with staff to help shape the direction of temple life and to engage members with particular interests and skills. Contact a liaison below to learn about how you can get involved:

LIAISON

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COMMITTEE

Administration
We provide guidance regarding office functions and general management of the congregation working in close coordination with the Executive Director.

Archives
We preserve the history of Temple Sinai by collecting and organizing its documents and photographs. We respond to requests for information and arrange displays and plan programs to share that history with the congregation. We welcome new volunteers and are especially interested in finding people to research and write about the history of Temple Sinai.

Building & Grounds
We oversee the repair and maintenance of the physical plant and grounds, and ensure adherence to environmental “green” principles.

Cemetery
We coordinate the sale and marketing of Temple Sinai section at Garden of Remembrance Cemetery.

Daytimers
We plan monthly lunch-time programs and speakers, giving congregants opportunities for socializing and providing them with new insights on a variety of topics.

Development
We work closely with the Director of Development, the Clergy and the Executive Director to create and oversee a plan for raising needed funds for temple operations and designated strategic priorities through philanthropic contributions and support.

Finance, Audit & Investment
We act on behalf of the Board of Trustees to oversee management of temple finances, including the annual audit and investment decisions, making regular reports to the board to support the Board’s fiduciary responsibilities.

Green Team
We develop environmentally conscious improvements at Temple Sinai and encourage, through education and action, similar commitments at the individual and community level. We have also established a communications network for interested temple members to inform about environmental programs, challenges, and opportunities at the local, regional, national, and global level as well as facilitate and coordinate action.

Israel Affairs
We help Temple Sinai engage in dialogue about Israel-related issues in ways that reflect and respect the diverse perspectives within the congregation while also advocating Reform Judaism’s position of support for the ideals upon which Israel was founded.

Library
We work to maintain and expand our collection of Jewish materials for congregants of all ages, assisting in strengthening and enhancing our Jewish knowledge and identity.

Membership
We celebrate new members and honor long-time members at our Member Celebration Shabbat each year. We personally deliver new members a Shabbat welcome bag, plan and organize small group gatherings throughout the year, and provide outreach to prospective members.

Music
We work with Senior Cantor Laura Croen to bring a wide range of vibrant musical programs, along with related festive dinners and Onegs, to our community.

Nursery School
We work with the Nursery School Director to review and establish policy, support the Nursery School and the Nursery School Parent Association.

Religious School
We work with the Director of the Religious School to review and establish school policies and support the educational program, teaching staff, and Director.

Ritual
We work with clergy to review ritual policies and practices for Shabbat, High Holy Day and festival services, and life cycle events.

SinaiCares
We facilitate visits by trained volunteers in the home, at a senior residence, or at a care facility at times of illness, loss, hardship, or convalescence.

Sinai House
We oversee the work of Sinai House, which provides housing at Sinai House for four homeless families, including children. Located in NW Washington, DC, Sinai House was purchased by the Temple Sinai Assisted Housing Foundation.

Social Action
We coordinate temple-wide multi-year community based social action programming based on collaboration with clergy, and Board leadership and reflecting priorities identified by the membership. We also serve as a clearinghouse and resource for other shorter -term social action initiatives. We formulate positions on critical social justice issues for Temple Sinai and develop and implement local strategies to work toward achieving them.

SinaiCares
We facilitate visits by trained volunteers in the home, at a senior residence, or at a care facility at times of illness, loss, hardship, or convalescence.

Strategic Planning
We oversee development and implementation of the Strategic Plan and report progress to the Board and the Congregation.

TSWRJ
We sponsor educational, social action and study programs on topics of interest to Temple Sinai families, and support T5’s youth through scholarships and gifts to students. We also operate the congregation’s Judaica Shop and the yearly Chanukah Market and organize the community’s Second Seder.
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