



TEMPLE SINAI BULLETIN

TEMPLE SINAI ■ OAKLAND, CA

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INSIDE

Passover

Temple Sinai
Leadership Series Review

Hazon Food Festival

Voices and Visions™
Gallery Exhibit

WTS Seder Plates

Yom HaShoah –
Holocaust Memorial
Program

Rebuilding Together
Oakland and more
Social Action

Shiva Minyan
Leader Training

Green Committee

Exploring the World of
Judaism Speaker Series

“Is Peace Possible?”
Speaker Series

Preschool, Youth Programs
and Midrasha

Passover at Temple Sinai



Pesach, or Passover, is a celebration of liberation and birth – our liberation from bondage in Egypt and the birth of the nation of Israel. It's a time for recounting the story of those events and reaffirming our link with the Jewish people and with all who struggle for human rights and liberty in our own time. In the words of the *haggadah* (a book we read from, meaning “telling”), “In every generation, each person should feel as though he or she were redeemed from Egypt . . .”

The ritual observance of this holiday centers around a special service called the *seder* (meaning “order”). We read from the *haggadah*, which contains the order of prayers, rituals, readings and songs for the Pesach seder. The Pesach seder is the only ritual meal in the Jewish calendar year for which such an order is prescribed.

Here is what is going on at Temple Sinai for Passover:

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 5:45pm

WTS Women's Seder & Potluck led by Rabbi Mates-Muchin & Sherri Richards

Join women of all ages as we honor the heroines of Jewish history and rejoice in our personal liberation. See back cover for reservation information.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 12:00pm

Preschool Seders & Parent Nosh

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 5:30pm

**Temple Sinai's Annual Community Seder led by
Rabbi Mates-Muchin, Valerie Sopher and Phil Rubin**

Let all who are hungry – for a meal catered by Z Café and for community – join us this night! See back cover for reservation information.

MONDAY, APRIL 21, 10:30am

Festival Morning Service for 7th Day Passover including Hallel and Yizkor



The First Seder
is
Monday,
April 14th.

For more information on the history of Passover, recipes, etc, please visit our website at www.oaklandsinai.org.



The Jewish Calendar is an intricate and fascinating system. We spoke back in November about the creative ways in which our forebears learned to sync the solar and lunar years so that we would keep our lunar months and yet celebrate our seasonal holidays in the appropriate season. This year, the system put

Thanksgiving and Hanukkah together for a once in a lifetime celebration.

Passover, too, has interesting implications for the rest of the year. The days of the week on which we celebrate each day of Passover determines on which day of the week other holidays will be celebrated. Here's how the system works:

א"ת ב"ש ג"ר ד"ק ה"ץ ו"ף ז"ע *

The right letter on each of the couplets represents a number: Aleph=1, bet=2, and so forth. Thus, aleph is the first day of Passover and bet is the second day. The letter on the left side of the couplet is the first letter of the name of a holiday that falls on the same day of the week as that particular day of Passover. The first day of Passover falls on the same day of the week as Tisha b'Av, the second on Shavuot, the third on Rosh Hashanah, the fourth on Kriat haTorah sh'he Simchat Torah (reading of the Torah, that is Simchat Torah), the fifth on Tzom Kippur (Yom Kippur), the sixth falls on the same day of the week as the previous Purim, and the seventh falls on the same day as Yom Atzmaut, Israeli day of Independence.

Because of this system, the first day of Passover can never fall on a Monday, a Wednesday or a Friday. If the first day was a Monday, then Yom Kippur would be on a Friday which cannot happen because the prohibitions of a holy day inhibit appropriate preparation for Shabbat. Similarly, the first day cannot be a Wednesday because Rosh Hashanah would land on a Friday. And, of course, the first day cannot be a

Friday because the first day of Passover shares the same work restrictions as Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The Jewish calendar is therefore formulated so that this never happens.

There is a significance to this that goes beyond our amazement at the complexity of our calendar. We find that significance in the message of Passover itself: the message of freedom and redemption. Those themes are so essential to who we are as a people that they help to determine what every other day of the year will be for us. Every day we are to remember the difficulties of being oppressed. Every day we are to feel grateful for our freedom. Every day we remember the sacrifices that took place in order for us to have the lives that we do. Everyday we take the leap of faith and head toward the wilderness in the hope that something better lies far off in the distance. We know what it is to suffer, we know what it is to be free, and we know there is a better world to be built if only we keep working to get there. The story of the exodus from Egypt encapsulates who we are. It is our foundational story, and carrying it with us every day gives our lives purpose, and therefore meaning.

As we celebrate Passover this year with our family, friends and community, let us remember to keep the power of the story with us throughout the year. May we be reinvigorated by its themes and symbols. And, may we be inspired to make every day both a celebration of freedom and a step along the path toward a promised land.

- Rabbi Mates Muchin

**from the JPS Passover Anthology by Phillip Rothman under "Passover Curiosities"*



THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THIS MONTH'S ONEG SPONSORSHIP:

- April 4 Bronzo-Munich Family
- April 11 Somers-Satue Family
- April 18 Temple Sinai Hospitality Committee
- April 25 Sawislak-Hindman Family



Andrew Straus, Rabbi
 Jacqueline Mates-Muchin, Rabbi
 Ilene Keys, Cantor
 Samuel Broude, Rabbi Emeritus
 Steven A. Chester, Rabbi Emeritus

◀ Cantor Keys, Rabbi Straus and Rabbi Mates-Muchin

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SHABBAT MINYAN

Second Shabbat morning of each month, at 10:30am in the Albers Chapel

The Shabbat Minyan is an exuberant and joyful lay-led service. This highly participatory celebration combines traditional elements with professionally led modern music. Our strong sense of community is enhanced by the potluck kiddush that follows the service. Volunteers (for chanting, readings, etc.) can contact Dan Fendel (dfendel@sfsu.edu).

TUESDAY MORNING LEARNER'S MINYAN

Every Tuesday morning from 7:30am – 8:00am

Do you wonder why we read the prayers we do, where they come from, what order they come in, or how they are chanted? Do you crave an understanding of the meaning (both literal and mystical) of Jewish prayers? Join us, along with Rabbi Straus and lay leaders, as we explore the prayers and learn the traditional davening (prayer) style.

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

Every Shabbat Morning from 9:00am – 10:15am

We study Torah together. Become part of the group that joins Rabbi Straus or Rabbi Mates-Muchin in a stimulating discussion, as we work our way slowly, about a chapter per week, through Torah. We are now in the book of Exodus. The session closes with a prepared drash by a volunteer congregant on the portion of the week. Bagels and coffee are served and the discussions end in time for the 10:30am Shabbat Morning Service.

Passover Service including Hallel, Reading of the Song of the Sea and Yizkor

MONDAY, APRIL 21, at 10:30am in the ALBERS CHAPEL

“The entire world is but a narrow bridge; the most important thing is not to be afraid.” This passage is from the special service we pray three times a year at the conclusion of Passover, Sukkot and Shavuot. These holidays are the three festivals for which the Jews made pilgrimage to the Temple. While the tradition includes reciting Yizkor (memorial prayers), the service itself is not a memorial service but a celebration of the festival. For Passover, we read the Song of the Sea, the oldest poem in the Torah, which the people sang after crossing the Sea of Reeds and which includes the Mi Chamocha. The chanting weaves this most ancient melody with the usual cantillation. Please join us for an intimate and joyous worship experience in celebration of the Passover festival.

Services

Friday, April 4

6:30pm, Erev Shabbat Family Service; Led by 3rd and 5th grade religious school classes, Music by Junior Choir, Rabbi Mates-Muchin, Cantor Keys, Sanctuary

Saturday, April 5

10:30am, Shabbat Morning Service with the Bat Mitzvah of Olivia Bronzo-Munich; Rabbi Mates-Muchin, Cantor Keys

Thursday, April 10

5:45pm, WTS Seder (see back page), Rabbi Mates-Muchin and Sherri Richards

Friday, April 11

7:30pm, Erev Shabbat and Chain of Tradition Service; Rabbi Mates-Muchin, Cantor Keys, Sanctuary

Saturday, April 12

10:30am, Shabbat Minyan Service, Albers Chapel

10:30am, Shabbat Morning Service with the Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Somers-Satue; Rabbi Mates-Muchin, Cantor Keys

Tuesday, April 15

5:30pm, Congregational Passover Seder, Stern Hall (RSVP Required; Doors open at 5pm)

Friday, April 18

7:30pm, Erev Shabbat Service; Rabbi Mates-Muchin, Phil Rubin, Albers Chapel

Saturday, April 19

10:30am, Shabbat Morning Service; Rabbi Mates-Muchin, Phil Rubin, Albers Chapel

Monday, April 21

10:30am, Festival Morning Service for 7th Day Passover including Hallel and Yizkor; Rabbi Mates-Muchin, Valerie Sopher, Albers Chapel; this service features the recitation of Psalms to celebrate the holiday of Passover and commemorate the passing of our friends and loved ones

Friday, April 25

6:30pm, Tot Shabbat; Rabbi Straus, Cantor Keys, Sanctuary

7:30pm, Erev Shabbat Service; Rabbi Straus, Cantor Keys, Albers Chapel

Saturday, April 26

10:30am, Shabbat Morning Service with the Bat Mitzvah of Sylvia Sawislak; Rabbi Straus, Cantor Keys, Sanctuary

Tuesday, April 29

7:45pm, Yom Hashoah Community Holocaust Memorial Service; Sanctuary



Investing in Our Community

Please consider a gift to this year's Annual Giving Campaign to ensure the future of our congregation.

www.oaklandsinai.org/annualcampaign

Temple Sinai Leadership Series

If you were to peek into the chapel on a selected Sunday afternoon, you may see a group of 25 congregants sitting in small groups bent over case studies, walking around with colored cards in their hands or listening to clergy or senior staff talking about their jobs. This is not a strange new form of Torah study.

This is one of the monthly sessions developing lay leaders at Temple Sinai. Nominated by clergy and senior staff, these 25 individuals include current and future Board members, committee leaders and active volunteers. One session focused on history, in which each person started with his or her own history in coming to Temple Sinai. Then we heard from a rabbi roundtable in which Rabbis Broude, Chester and Mates-Muchin shared their own backgrounds and how their personal beliefs and practices were shaped. Fred Isaac concluded with a history of Temple Sinai and Jews in Oakland. This diversity of learning and sharing forms the basis of this effort—the mix of ages, tenure and opinions ensures a lively discussion in a safe and respectful forum.



Photos from last month's Leadership Training

We are fortunate to have extremely talented and dedicated staff and volunteers who have come as guest speakers. We had a panel of lay leaders sharing lessons learned about leading volunteers (Dan Fendel, Judy Zollman, Lynn Simon and Amy Jo Goldfarb) and Board members (Executive Director Paul Geduldig, and Board Members Mike Baker, Louise Epstein, Arnie Brown and Lucy Harris) reviewing temple operations and then leading case studies on current issues.

A mid-series survey resulted in our lengthening the sessions an extra 30 minutes to allow for more discussion. This is indicative of the level of engagement, which makes us optimistic that there will be interest in organizing another leadership series with a new group of participants in the future. We recognize that we have many dedicated volunteers at Temple Sinai who may be interested in, and benefit from, this series. We hope this model helps develop the connections and capacity for our congregation to thrive. From book drives to environmental action, from fundraising to education, we have so many opportunities to learn and give at Temple Sinai. We look forward to engaging the next generation of lay leaders!

- Rona Bar-Din, Sara Klein, Molly Rosen,
Co-Chairs, Leadership Development

Temple Sinai is Proud to Co-sponsor Hazon Jewish Food Festival – Bay Area

APRIL 27, 10:00am – 5:00pm
OSHMANN FAMILY JCC, PALO ALTO, CA

Spend your day learning, celebrating and hands-on doing at the intersection of food, sustainability and Jewish life.



From reviving traditions of Jewish homesteading, to text study about whether or not eating a locust is kosher, Bay Area foodies, beekeepers, rabbis, nutritionists, chefs, farmers, vegans, and omnivores will come together in celebration of the values of the Jewish Food Movement. The festival will feature local, accessible, healthful food, crafted by people who are treated fairly, and grown or produced in a way that promotes a healthy, sustainable, and diverse environment.

The Festival will showcase Bay Area purveyors of local, sustainable food, art, crafts, and other goods. Choose from a variety of interactive, DIY workshops on beekeeping, cheese-making, kombucha-brewing, and more! Complimentary goodies and give-aways, music, and fun for the whole family!

For more information, visit hazon.org/calendar/hazon-food-festival-bay-area/

Navigating Difference, Embracing Inclusion: Opening Your Synagogue Doors Even Wider

APRIL 27 and JUNE 8, 2:00pm – 4:30pm



The Jewish Community is diverse; it's time to be inclusive! Drawing on the combined expertise of Be'chol Lashon, InterfaithFamily, Jewish LearningWorks/INCLUDE and Keshet, this groundbreaking program seeks to enable synagogues to be a more welcoming place for all. The series is designed for clergy, educators, board members, staff and lay people. You needn't attend the whole series. The April session will be held at Peninsula Temple Shalom in Burlingame. *Education: Classroom, Culture & Curriculum*

Each session is \$18 per person

Preregister at www.tinyurl.com/navigatingdifferences

Voices and Visions™ Gallery Exhibit

OPENING FRIDAY, APRIL 4

The Gallery Sinai Fine Arts Committee Announces Our Next Exhibit: VOICES & VISIONS™, which will have an oneg opening in Stern Hall on Friday, April 4th, following Erev Shabbat services. As a collection of eighteen images, the series pairs leading figures of contemporary art and design with powerful quotes from Jewish thinkers across the ages. It brings compelling messages together with striking visuals to spark meaningful conversation.



Voices and Visions is a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and PJ Library. Traveling exhibition and educational guidelines powered by Jewish LearningWorks. Sponsorship for this exhibit at Temple Sinai is provided by Renee and Moss Kardener.

Library Hours

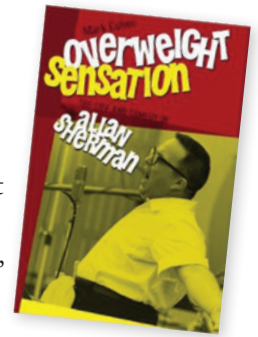
The library is open during Temple Sinai business hours, and has tables and chairs, WiFi and electrical plugs to recharge your laptops or other devices. Come for a book or to work! For any library related questions please email either fredissac@aol.com or kardener632@gmail.com.

Please remember to return the books you borrowed. The check-out time is three weeks. Thank you.

Overweight Sensation: The Life and Comedy of Allan Sherman

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

On Friday, April 18, after Erev Shabbat Services, our congregant Mark Cohen will be here to talk about his new book, *Overweight Sensation: The Life and Comedy of Allan Sherman*.



Overweight Sensation is the first biography of the manic, Bacchanalian, and hugely creative artist who in 1962-63 sold three million albums in just twelve months, but died in obscurity a decade later at the age of 49.

Mark Cohen is a writer and speaker specializing in the Jewish American scene, from the novels of Saul Bellow to the pop culture comedy of Allan Sherman. His new book, *Overweight Sensation: The Life and Comedy of Allan Sherman*, published by Brandeis University Press, has been featured on NPR's "All Things Considered," and reviewed by many publications, including the *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *The Forward*.

Order Tickets Now for Jewish Heritage Night with the Oakland A's

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

We're happy to announce Group Tickets for Jewish Heritage Night are now available!

Our 4th annual Jewish Heritage Night is scheduled for Tuesday, August 19 versus the New York Mets. The event will feature a special giveaway, traditional food items, and FREE parking courtesy of Chevy.



Please contact Barry Dubin at (510) 658-9265 or BDubin@cwclaw.com to reserve your tickets.

Thanks and Go A's!

WTS Gift Shop is Stocked for Passover

Our beautiful selection of Seder Plates and other Passover items can be found in the display case on the second floor across from the Temple Office. Take a look whenever you are at Temple Sinai and if you're interested in seeing them, please ask for assistance in the Temple Office. **We will have tables set up in the second floor hallway on:**

Friday, April 4:
12:00pm – 2:00pm

Sunday, April 6:
10:00am – 1:00pm

Friday, April 11:
12:00pm – 2:00pm

Please Support the Women of Temple Sinai Gift Shop as proceeds are returned to Temple Sinai to help various scholarships and programs.

What is it about Passover?

According to the recent Pew study of the American Jewish community, 78% of American Jews celebrate Passover. More Jews celebrate Passover than any other Jewish observance. More Jews celebrate Passover than attend High Holyday services, than light Chanukah or Shabbat candles. What is it about Passover that makes it so widely observed?

I believe there are at least two reasons for the popularity of Passover. Firstly, it is all about freedom and our core story as a Jewish people. At its most basic core, Judaism is a religion of freedom. The first of the Ten Commandments is: "I am Adonai, your God, who brought you out of Egypt, the house of bondage." God wants us to be free. Judaism, perhaps more than any other religion, insists that we have free will, we are commanded to be a free people. And that commitment and belief in freedom fits exactly with American ideals. America was founded on the idea of liberty – so too was Judaism. Passover speaks to us as Jews and speaks to us as Americans.

The second reason I think Passover is so widely celebrated is less obvious and perhaps even unconscious. It is a home-based holiday. Each of us creates our own Passover Seder. There is no rabbi, no "Jewish community" looking over your shoulder telling you whether you are doing it right or wrong. Each family has the opportunity to create the celebration that is meaningful to them. The haggadah is meant to be a discussion guide. It is meant to help us ask questions and tell that story of our people's liberation from Egypt and the liberation of all peoples. The central command of Passover is to remember that "this is what God did for me when I came out of Egypt." Not my ancestors but me, myself and I. Certainly on one level we remember the Exodus from Egypt of 3,300 years ago, but yet at the same time the tradition urges us to think about slavery today and how we are enslaved and how we are working to break the chains that keep us and others enslaved today.

As you celebrate with your family and friends, do not just mechanically tell the story. Instead make the story come alive. Ask deep questions and enter into conversation about slavery and how you have been brought out of Egypt!

-Rabbi Andrew Straus

Passover Pictures

Photos from 2013 Community Seder by Saul Bromberger



**Join us at this year's Community Seder on April 15.
See back cover for registration information.**

The Benefits of Membership: A Reluctant Congregant Finds a Home

If you knew me when I was younger you would know how weird it is that I am here. Weirder still that I am excited to be here.

I was born Jewish, and have always identified as a Jew, but not this kind of a Jew. Not a synagogue Jew. I am a summer camp Jew and my Jewish identity was formed in the foothills of the Sierra, surrounded by Jews more accustomed to bacon and tattoos than prayer books and kippot. I have never felt like someone that would be wanted or welcomed into a proper synagogue, much less feel comfortable there.

I knew Rabbis Chester and Mates-Muchin for some time, and liked them very much, but we joined Sinai for the preschool.

Then we went to Tot Shabbat. I am a sucker for pizza, but something started to happen during those evenings. The conversations at the tables. The kids racing down the ramp. The way the older kids cared for the young ones who fell. The quiet moments stolen in the sanctuary alone.

This week's Torah portion is Vayakhel. The portion describes the preparations for, and the building of, the Tabernacle, the immediate predecessor to the First Temple. God reiterates the importance of keeping the Sabbath during construction, then tells Moses what the building should be like and what should be inside. As it is described, the Tabernacle sounds like a nice place filled with a lot of pretty things.

As someone who is just getting used to the idea of a synagogue, I was drawn to two specific descriptions in this passage where Moses is enlisting the people to help with this massive project. Moses says, "Whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it," and "And let every wise-hearted man among you come and make all that the Lord hath commanded." The willing-hearted are the people with the capacity to give gifts, the wise-hearted to lend their minds and their labor. This is how you build something that is well made and beautiful, be it a building or a community. Everyone has a role. Everyone's contributions are valued. You, as a community, make a statement that all are welcome and that all are wanted.

I have felt unwanted before. There is no lonelier feeling when you are a very small, twelve year old boy and two captains are picking teams for any sport. Picked last, or not at all. That aimless wander while the other boys start to play. And since then, at times, in certain communities I've been made to feel like I wasn't the type of person that was welcomed, for whatever reason. Not enough money. Didn't go the right kinds of schools. Lived in the wrong places. A little rough around the edges.

I remember the feeling when I was told that Sinai's policy was to not turn anyone away who wanted to be a part of the community. All of the things that for my entire life made me feel like I could never find a home at a synagogue are irrelevant here. The question is not, are you a believer? Are you kosher? Will you regularly attend services? Are you able to give a major gift? How many generations of your family have belonged here?

The qualifying questions are simple: Do you have a willing heart? Do you have a wise heart? Do you want to be a part of this community? For me, the answer started as small whisper on those Friday nights and has continued to grow the more involved I get. The answer for me is "Yes."

The quality and strength of the community created by that policy will sustain Sinai, imbue it with fresh energy and new faces, and keep it moving from strength to strength.

Jordan Gill is Development Director of Hebrew Free Loan, San Francisco

Centennial Spotlight 1985 - 1995

- 1987 Cantor Steven Puzarne arrives
Rabbi/Professor Eugene Borowitz is the Stern Lecturer
- 1988-89 75th Anniversary celebration of the Sanctuary & Stern Hall
- 1989 Rabbi Broude retires after a year-long celebration of his 23 years at Temple Sinai
Rabbi Chester hired as Senior Rabbi
- 1990 Rabbi Jordan Cohen arrives as Rabbi/Educator
- 1991 Rabbi Alexander Schindler is the Stern Lecturer
The Holocaust Memorial in the Sanctuary lobby is dedicated
Cantor Nancy Kassel arrives
Oakland Hills Fire, dozens of congregants are left homeless. Temple provides support and matches families in need of temporary shelter.
- 1992 Preschool opens



TIME Magazine, 1990

The Community-wide Commemoration in Oakland for

YOM HASHOAH V'HAGEVURAH

VOICES OF THE NATIONS



“The Holocaust is a blow that affects Jews and Judaism—indeed, all people and all faiths—deeply...It demonstrates with fearsome clarity that democracy cannot thrive in an atmosphere of callous indifference. The Holocaust...was carried out because too many people allowed it to be carried out...Humankind was diminished and the flame of Judaism flickered. But that flame was not extinguished. It burns today and will continue to burn as long as we remember that the past informs our present, and provides priceless guideposts for our future.”

-- HERMAN SPERTUS, 1999

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2014
7:45 PM at Temple Sinai
28th & Webster Streets, Oakland

Admission is free
For more information: 510.318.6453

*Supported by the Tillie and Rene Molho
Endowment for Holocaust Remembrance of
The Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay.*

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The Jewish Federation
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Today rabah! Thank you very much to the following who provided contributions to Temple Sinai. These donations were recorded between January 31 & March 5, 2014. For corrections or additions to this list, please contact Lisa Hanauer at lisa@oaklandsinai.org or (510) 451-3263 x302.

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*In appreciation of the beautiful
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Women of Temple Sinai

RABBI CHESTER DISCRETIONARY FUND

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*In honor of Rabbi Steven Chester
for his efforts as the last Kabbalist
of Oakland*

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In memory of Dr. Harry Dvorsky

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*In appreciation of
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Sandie Margulies
In memory of Alberta Schenone

Natalie Weinstein
In memory of Thelma Ellenbee

Pearl Wolffs
*In memory of Bessie Sweet
In appreciation of
Rabbi Mates-Muchin*

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In appreciation of Rabbi Straus

Joan Natkin
In appreciation of Rabbi Straus

Pearl Wolffs
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Stanley Cohen*

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In appreciation of Rabbi Straus

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Women of Temple Sinai

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In memory of June Fujita

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Dr. Elaine Rosenthal*

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Harper Cohen*

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Women of Temple Sinai

WHERE THE NEED IS GREATEST

Berni and Esther Alder
*In honor of Elaine Binger's
birthday*

Jacki Annes
*In honor of Rabbi and Judith
Broude's 90th birthdays*

Barry and Kate Augus
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Ann Brandt
In memory of Frank Brandt

Karen Charleston
In memory of Sybil Arnold Bern

Sabina and Andrew Cohen
*In memory of Bertha Alpert and
Rena Cohen*

Erika Wodinsky
In memory of Lorry Schneider

Jeanne Eber
*In memory of Rose Scherman and
Florence Bloom*

Stephanie Eckhaus and
Colleen Sanford
*In appreciation of
Sacha Kopin, Cantor Keys
and Rabbi Mates-Muchin for
assisting Mollie with her
Bat Mitzvah*

Dan and Nina Fendel
In memory of Susan Fendel

Henrietta Garfinkle
*In appreciation of special friends,
Jessica Pers and Robert Stein*

Doris Goldman
*In memory of Robert Fischer
In memory of Martha Stone*

Frances Greenberg
*In honor of Rabbi Samuel and
Judith Broude's 90th birthdays*

Howard-Charles Harpham
In memory of Howard Harpham

Cecelia Hurwich
In memory of Lillian Ashe

Robert Kagan
*In honor of Wil Fountain's
birthday*

Ray Lifchez

Wayne Lippman
*In memory of Gertrude Lippman
In memory of Meyer Lippman*

Ed Manburg
In memory of Sylvia Manburg

Ruth Schneider
In honor of Rose Belzer's birthday

Bruce and Teddy Schwab
In memory of Sara Schwab

Nathan Stein
*In memory of Henrietta
Oberndoerfer*

Jewel Strom
*In memory of Esther Rinaldo and
Sadie Strom*

Ann Winthrop
In memory of Marvin Winthrop

Burt and Karen Yarkin
In memory of Joseph Yarkin

Vera Zatkin
In honor of Rose Belzer's birthday

Rebuild a home – Rebuild a life



APRIL 13th and/or 27th

This April marks the 20th year Temple Sinai will participate with Rebuilding Together Oakland in helping rehab a house in need of repair. As in the past two years, the Temple will join with volunteers from Temple Beth Abraham and Kehilla. The home we are working on this year is located near the intersection of International Blvd and High Street, at 4320 Bond Street, and is owned by a sweet woman named Elsie Williams. Some of our tasks involve painting several of the interior rooms, rebuilding a back stair case, retiling a bathroom floor, replacing a bathroom vanity, repairing a garage door, and replacing the sewer lateral.



We plan on having different crews working for four days over two weekends with approximately 120 people involved. We are requesting that volunteers from Sinai come on the above dates, to put on the finishing touches. So if you are looking for a way to give back to the community, and want to see the results of your labor in the face of a grateful individual, here is your chance. You do not need to have construction skills but must be at least 14 years old. Please contact John Solomon at john31245@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.

Shiva Minyan Leader Training

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 12:00pm in the ALBERS CHAPEL

Help comfort and support our families in mourning by learning to lead a Shiva Minyan. We will discuss the various aspects of planning, interacting with the family and leading the service itself.

For more information, please contact Rabbi Mates-Muchin, RMates-Muchin@oaklandsinai.org or call (510) 451-3263.

Green Committee Walks the Talk

Zero. That’s how much waste was created on December 15th when Deborah Newbrun, the director of Hazon, spoke at Temple Sinai. When we invited her to speak, we challenged ourselves to do a “waste-free” event. It only seemed fitting. After all, Deborah had been a National Park Ranger, Bay Area naturalist, and spent twenty-five years as the Director of Camp Tawonga, where she built its national reputation for environmental ethics. Even more inspiring, her presentation focused on Shmita, the “year of release”, when the land is left to lie fallow and all agricultural activity is forbidden. We discussed how the Torah connects to our environmental roots, agricultural laws, and social justice mandates. As the Green Committee, we decided it was a great opportunity for us to walk the walk, while she talked the talk.

So we did what any self-respecting Jews do. We had bagels. But here’s where we did things differently. Instead of buying multiple plastic tubs of cream cheese, we purchased one large block. We chose foods that caused minimal waste like grapes, apples, and olives. We made conscious choices.

I know what you’re asking, “What did you eat those bagels, grapes, apples, and olives on?” Plates of course. We’re not animals. But we brought our own from home. Crazy right? Coffee cups too. Even cloth napkins. Together we easily covered the entire event. Not one paper plate, plastic utensil, or styrofoam cup entered the room. No waste. Nothing. Nada.

“It was like our own Jewish Burning Man — we just carried out whatever we brought in.”

If you don’t believe us, ask the custodial staff if the bins were a little lighter that Shabbat. Was it a nuisance? Nope. It was like our own Jewish Burning Man -- we just carried out whatever we brought in.

Was it easy? You bet your bottom Shmita.

So here’s our challenge to you. See if you can make your next event waste-free. Give us a call and we’ll help you pick food choices that don’t come in unnecessary plastic wrapping or require wasteful cutlery. We’ll point out ways to minimize your impact on the planet and create a healthier environment.

And if you ask nicely, we may just lend you a mug.

- Jeff Kirschner



School Supplies Drive for Sankofa Academy

HELP TEMPLE SINAI'S PARTNER SCHOOL IN LITERACY PROJECT

Help the kids at Sankofa Academy by providing school supplies for them to use at home.

Each Kit Contains:

Box of Crayons
(needs to fit in 8 x 5" box)

Box of Markers
(needs to fit in 8 x 5" box)

Children's safety scissors

2 Pencils
(fun designs would be nice)
with erasers

2 Pens – blue or black

1 Large eraser or several small ones

1 Gluestick

1 Pencil sharpener (with container for shavings)

Stickers



Please leave items in the designated box in the Temple main lobby sitting area.

Collections for Children's Hospitals



This month we will be collecting for three children's hospitals.

All three are regularly short on NEW crayons, coloring books, small projects found in stores like Michaels that can be done in bed. Most of these children are in the hospital for extended periods and cannot be exposed to used material. A box of crayons can be as little as 99 cents. The collection box can be found in the Temple lobby across from the office. Thanks for giving!

Donate Food to the Greenleaf School Food Drive

HELP FEED SCHOOL CHILDREN OVER SPRING BREAK



Greenleaf Elementary School in Oakland, one of our Literacy Project's adopted schools, provides a large percentage of children free breakfast and lunch every day. However, during the one-week spring break, these children will not receive these meals. Many will go hungry. Temple Sinai has volunteered to help.

You can help these Oakland children and their families by purchasing items from the suggested shopping list below.

Bags of rice

Cans of vegetables (mixed, green beans, corn)

Bags of beans (Portuguese and pinto)

Cans of fruit/fruit cups

Boxes of cereal

Juice boxes or cans (small)

Packages of dried pasta

Baby food (no jars)

Cans of soup and tomato sauce

Packages of dried nuts or trail mix

Tuna

Peanut butter/Jelly (no glass jars)

Packages of tostadas (nothing perishable)

Dried fruit (in packages)

Toothpaste

Bar soap

Dishwashing soap

Shampoo (New and full items only)

Please drop off donations to the food bins at Temple Sinai (March 17 – April 6). Thank you to the Alameda County Food Bank for letting us use the bins!

For more information, contact: Judy Zollman at (510) 653-9112.

Exploring the World of Judaism Speaker Series

Sundays at 9:15am in the Albers Chapel

This program is supported in part by the Newton & Rochelle Becker Charitable Trust in partnership with Jewish Learning Works.

APRIL 6, 2014

“Maimonides: The Rabbi, the Philosopher, the Man” with Nitzhia Shaked, Professor of Jewish Studies

Maimonides has influenced the development of Rabbinic Judaism more than any other figure in our history. Join Nitzhia Shaked as she explores the life of this unique person and discusses the story of his life as woven in his significant contribution as Rabbi, codifier and outstanding thinker. Nitzhia Shaked received her Juris Doctor from Hebrew University in Jerusalem and her Masters in Law from Harvard Law School. She has held teaching positions in Jewish Studies at San Francisco State University, Sonoma State University and at Pardes in Jerusalem.

APRIL 27, 2013

Where Did Judaism Come From? Why Do We Ask That Question?

Thoughts on a Critical Understanding of the Jewish Past with Deena Aranoff, Ph.D

Many of us wonder about the beginnings of Judaism. How did the Torah, the tradition, and the community come into being? Is the Torah divine? How did the Talmud become the defining Jewish text? Join Dr. Aranoff as we discuss these central questions about the Jewish past, present and future. Deena Aranoff is the Assistant professor of medieval Jewish Studies at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

“Is Peace Possible?” Discussion Series

The Beth El Israel Committee will be presenting a discussion series, co-sponsored by Temple Sinai’s Israel Education Committee, entitled “Is Peace Possible?”

The four separate programs will involve a speaker and discussion, each based on one section of the www.ispeacepossible.com video, a special report on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from The Atlantic and The S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace.

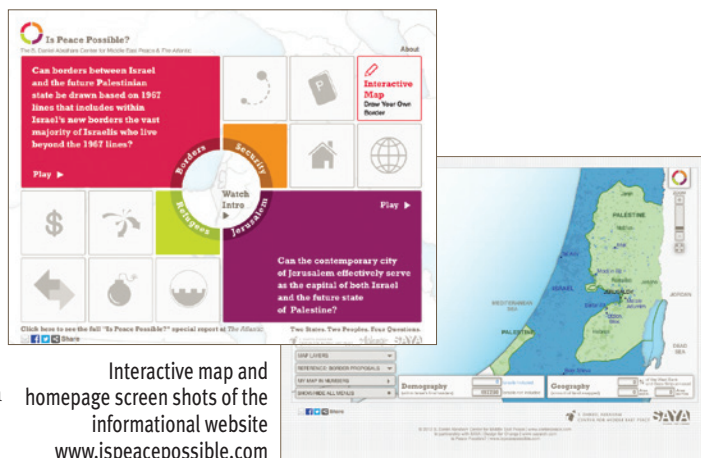
All sessions are from 7:30pm to 9:00pm at Congregation Beth El, 1301 Oxford Street, Berkeley, (510) 848-3988, www.bethelberkeley.org. Light refreshments will follow.

Session 1: Thursday, April 24

“Borders” with Gordon Gladstone, Regional Director of J Street

Session 2: Thursday, May 1

“Refugees” with Peter Bartu, Lecturer, International/ Area Studies at UC Berkeley



Session 3: Thursday, May 8

“Security” with Ze’ev Maoz, UC Davis Professor of Foreign Affairs

Session 4: Thursday, May 22

“Jerusalem” and Current Peace Process with Eran Kaplan, Richard and Rhoda Goldman Professor in Israel Studies, SF State University

Oakland Midrasha

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 6:00pm at TEMPLE SINAI

All current 7th graders and their parents are invited to attend Oakland Midrasha for an introduction to our program! There will be a lounge night, a purely social hangout with dinner included – for teens only – at 6:00pm, followed by an introduction to Oakland Midrasha for parents and teens.

Midrasha is a program of the East Bay's Jewish community for 8th-12th graders. Midrasha is co-sponsored by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, Kehilla Community Synagogue, Temple Beth Abraham, Temple Beth Sholom, Temple Israel, and Temple Sinai. We also serve teens not affiliated with a Jewish organization or congregation. It's a community-based, pluralistic program, with multiple campuses. Teens in the Oakland Midrasha community describe it as 'the one place during the week where I can just slow down for a minute and really get to be myself'. Midrasha is designed to help Jewish teens to connect deeply to a peer community, to find adults in their lives who really support them, and to understand more about who they are: what they believe, what they value, and how they treat themselves and others. Through classes, social programs, retreats, leadership opportunities, tzedaka, tikkun olam programs, and more, our teens find a true sense of personal Jewish understanding, a community of friends that will last a lifetime, and a safe space in the midst of their crazy schedules.

We hope you can join us on April 1st!

Erev Shabbat Family Service Honoring Temple Sinai Teachers

PLUS 3rd & 5th Grade Family Shabbat Service
FRIDAY, APRIL 4 at 6:30pm; Dinner at 5:30pm

Join us for one big night, honoring and celebrating our Temple Sinai teachers as our 3rd and 5th grade students participate in leading services. We'll especially honor Sacha Kopin for 13 years of service to our community as a teacher and tutor. Connect with other families over an easy Shabbat dinner first. To rsvp for dinner go <http://bit.ly/3rd5thPizza>. Got a 3rd or 5th grader who is in day school? They can participate too! Contact Sue Bojdak and we'll give them a part. Don't forget to bring your love and a sweet treat to celebrate.

3rd/4th grade Shabbatathon

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 9:00am – 9:00pm

All 3rd and 4th graders are invited to join us for a very special 12 hour Shabbat experience. We'll meet at Temple at 9:00am for a little nosh and spend the day together playing, relaxing, and enjoying Shabbat. The evening will end with a special Havdallah and a movie! Pick up is at 9:00pm. To RSVP or find out more, e-mail Michele at mquiati@oaklandsinai.org.

7th Grade Family Shabbat Service

FRIDAY, MAY 2 at 6:30pm

Come pray with our 7th graders as they help lead our monthly family services. Our service will include a special blessing for our students & a welcome from Midrasha Director Kendra Lubalin, as they transition from Religious School to Midrasha. Join us any time from 5:30pm for an easy pizza dinner. Got a 7th grader who is in day school? They can participate too! Contact Sue Bojdak and we'll give them a part.



Passover 2013 at Temple Sinai
Preschool



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, April 13 through Monday, April 21

No Religious School/Hebrew Classes:
Spring/Passover Break

Wednesday, April 30 & Sunday, May 4

Family Day Celebration: Final Day of Religious School
at Temple Sinai

2014 – 2015 Religious School Registration Time is COMING!

It's nearly time to register for Religious School for the fall. Look for registration materials coming your way in April. Got questions about our Religious School program, contact Sue Bojdak today at sue@oaklandsinai.org or 510-451-3263 x 342!

BIRTHDAYS

- 4/1 Marty Glick
- 4/1 Stanley Osher
- 4/2 Ilene Keys
- 4/4 Steven A. Chester
- 4/4 Judy Grunwald
- 4/6 Lorin Blum
- 4/6 Beth Eiselman
- 4/6 Lai-Ming Meyer
- 4/7 Pamela Majteles
- 4/7 Leslie Meyer
- 4/8 Carol Cohen
- 4/8 Murray Gordon
- 4/8 David Schlessinger
- 4/9 Edie Kaplan
- 4/10 Rachelle Blecher
- 4/10 Marilyn Haase
- 4/11 Steven Solomon
- 4/12 Anne Herskowitz
- 4/13 Robert Godes
- 4/13 Judy Swimmer
- 4/14 Arlene Garfinkle
- 4/16 Paul Dresnick
- 4/17 Jason Alderman
- 4/17 Patricia Golde
- 4/18 Robert Greenberg
- 4/18 Alexandra Hart
- 4/19 Harvey Freedman
- 4/19 Anton Mcgready
- 4/20 Jamie Miller
- 4/21 James Allison
- 4/21 Jeanette Fineman
- 4/23 Ronald Bachman
- 4/23 Peter Laub
- 4/24 Michelle McGilloway
- 4/24 Arlene Saidman
- 4/26 Betty Anne Lipow
- 4/26 Victor Sonenberg
- 4/27 Lawrence Saidman
- 4/28 Wendy Cochran
- 4/28 Arthur Stanten
- 4/30 Mark Goldsmith
- 4/30 Hilda J. Hendel
- 4/30 Helene Schwartz

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 4/9 Edward Zusman & Kathleen Ewins **20**
- 4/11 Steven Chen & Rachel Saidman **15**
- 4/16 Arnie Gutlaizer & Lisa Norris **20**
- 4/23 Ed Rosenthal & Jane Klein **25**
- 4/28 Bob & Kathy Knoll **35**

MAZEL TOV!

They're engaged!

Dr. Mark Isaacs is engaged to Irena Negelev

It's a boy

Avi Jenzeh was born February 28, 2014.

Proud Parents:

Stefanie & Michael Jenzeh

It's a girl!

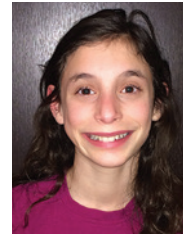
Amanda Harper Cohen was born January 11, 2014.

Proud Grandparents:

George & Janet Epstein

Proud Parents: Alison & Eitan Cohen

B'NEI MITZVAH



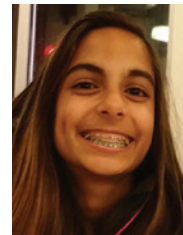
**Olivia
Bronzo-Munich**

Daughter of
Edwin Munich &
Andrea Bronzo
Saturday, 4/5/2014



**Aaron David
Somers-Satue**

Son of
Todd Somers &
Teresa Satue-Gracia
Saturday, 4/12/2014



**Sylvia Deforest
Sawislak**

Daughter of
Dan Sawislak &
Sally Hindman
Saturday, 4/26/2014

REMEMBRANCES (through 2/27/14)

Marilyn Church, *mother of Sarah Liebman*

Harry Dvorsky, *congregant and husband of Isobel Dvorsky*

Randy Feldman, *brother of Adam Feldman*

Carl Foorman, *congregant and husband of Lindy Foorman*

Mary Gross, *aunt of Barry Gross*

Murray Levine, *brother of Carol Levine*

Sheba Levine, *mother of Carol Levine*

Marcelyn Raffelson, *mother of Cheryl Berger*

Birthdays and Anniversaries are listed in multiples of 5. Any birthday or anniversary that ends in a 0 or a 5 will be listed. Mazel Tov!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
March 30 8:15am Hebrew School 9:30am Adult Education: Robin Reiner on Death 9:30am Religious School/ Prospective Family Day 11:30am Junior Choir 11:45am Hebrew School 1:00pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah Hebrew 1:00pm Leadership Development Program 1:00pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah Hebrew 3:00pm 7th Grade Class	March 31 4:00pm Hebrew School 5:00pm Hebrew School	7:30am Tuesday Morning Minyan 1 11:30am Shalom Hartman Institute Beit Midrash 4:00pm Hebrew School 6:00pm Ritual Committee Meeting 6:00pm Youth Lounge Night 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:15pm Midrasha	12:00pm WTS Lunch Connection (offsite) 2 12:15pm Al-Anon Meeting 2:30pm Hebrew School 4:00pm Religious School 7:30pm Executive Committee Meeting (offsite) 7:30pm Introduction to the Jewish Experience – Traditions of Judaism with Rabbi Ruth Adar	5:00pm Hebrew School 3 7:00pm WTS Film Series 7:30pm Preschool Parents Committee Meeting	5:30pm Shabbat Pizza Dinner 4 6:30pm Erev Shabbat Family Service – 3rd/5th Grade (and Teacher Appreciation) 7:30pm Gallery Sinai – Voices and Visions Exhibit Opening	9:00am Torah Study 5 10:30am Shabbat Morning Service – Bat Mitzvah of Olivia Bronzo-Munich
8:15am Hebrew School 6 9:30am EWJ Speaker Series: Nitzhia Shaked on Maimonides 9:30am Religious School 11:30am Junior Choir 11:45am Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class 11:45am Hebrew School 12:00pm Shiva Minyan Leader Training 1:00pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah Hebrew 2:00pm Family School 3:00pm 7th Grade class	4:00pm Hebrew School 7 5:00pm Hebrew School	7:30am Tuesday Morning Minyan 8 4:00pm Hebrew School 5:30pm Madrichim Meeting 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:15pm Midrasha	12:15pm Al-Anon Meeting 9 2:30pm Hebrew School 4:00pm Religious School 7:15pm WTS Board Meeting 7:30pm Education Committee Meeting (offsite) 7:30pm Introduction to the Jewish Experience – Traditions of Judaism with Rabbi Ruth Adar	5:00pm Hebrew School 10 5:45pm WTS Women's Seder 7:30pm Brotherhood Meeting	12:00pm Preschool Passover Seders 11 6:00pm Chain of Tradition Dinner 7:30pm Erev Shabbat Service with Chain of Tradition	9:00am Torah Study 12 10:30am Shabbat Morning Service – Bar Mitzvah of Aaron David Somers-Satue 10:30am Shabbat Minyan Service
<i>No Junior Choir</i> 13 <i>No Religious School</i>	First night of Passover 14 <i>No Hebrew School</i> <i>No Preschool</i>	Passover 15 <i>Temple Offices Closed</i> <i>No Adult Choir</i> <i>No Preschool</i> 7:30am Tuesday Morning Minyan 5:30pm Congregational Seder 7:30pm Green Committee Meeting	Passover 16 <i>No Religious School</i> <i>No Preschool</i> 12:15pm Al-Anon Meeting 1:15pm WTS Book Group	Passover 17 <i>No Preschool</i>	Passover 18 <i>No Preschool</i> 7:30pm Erev Shabbat Service followed by <i>Overweight Sensation</i> book discussion	Passover 19 9:00am Torah Study 10:30am Shabbat Morning Service
Passover Easter 20 <i>No Junior Choir</i> <i>No Religious School</i>	Passover 21 <i>No Hebrew School</i> <i>No Preschool</i> 10:30am Passover Festival and Yizkor 7:30pm Finance Committee Meeting	Preschool Resumes 22 7:30am Tuesday Morning Minyan 11:30am Seniors' Lunch 4:00pm Hebrew School 5:30pm Madrichim Meeting 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:15pm Midrasha	12:15pm Al-Anon Meeting 23 2:30pm Hebrew School 4:00pm Religious School 7:30pm Introduction to the Jewish Experience – Traditions of Judaism with Rabbi Ruth Adar 7:30pm Israel Education Committee Meeting 7:30pm Temple Board Meeting	5:00pm Hebrew School 24 7:30pm Kevah Text Study Group: Parenting Through a Jewish Lens	5:30pm Tot Shabbat Dinner 25 6:30pm Tot Shabbat Service 7:00pm Tot Shabbat Oneg 7:30pm Erev Shabbat Service	9:00am 3rd/4th Grade 12-Hour Shabbat 26 9:00am Torah Study 10:30am Shabbat Morning Service – Bat Mitzvah of Sylvia Deforest Sawislak
8:15am Hebrew School 27 9:30am Religious School 9:30am EWJ: Deena Aranoff on Where Did Judaism Come From? 11:30am Junior Choir – Last Session 11:45am Hebrew School 1:00pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah Hebrew 3:00pm 7th Grade class 5:15pm Rosh Hodesh Group for 7th Grade Girls	Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day 28 4:00pm Hebrew School 5:00pm Hebrew School	7:30am Tuesday Morning Minyan 29 4:00pm Hebrew School 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:15pm Midrasha 7:30pm Yom HaShoah Community Service	Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences – School Closed 30 12:15pm Al-Anon Meeting 2:30pm Hebrew School 4:00pm Religious School 7:30pm Introduction to the Jewish Experience – Traditions of Judaism with Rabbi Ruth Adar	5:00pm Hebrew School May 1 7:30pm Preschool Parent Committee Meeting	5:30pm Shabbat Pizza Dinner May 2 6:30pm Erev Shabbat Family Service 7th Grade	9:00am Torah Study May 3 10:30am Shabbat Morning Service – Bat Mitzvah of Laine Hodgkinson

**First Hebrew
Congregation
of Oakland**

Temple Sinai
2808 Summit Street
Oakland, CA 94609

(510) 451-3263

www.oaklandsinai.org



THE WOMEN OF TEMPLE SINAI

**Women's Seder and Passover
Potluck Dinner**

Thursday, April 10, 5:45pm – 9:00pm,

Join women of all ages as we honor the heroines of Jewish history and rejoice in our own personal liberation. Rabbi Mates-Muchin and Sherri Richards officiate at this joyous Passover event. Share in an inspiring service using our own WTS Haggadah.

For further information, contact Estelle Baum at (510) 541-5195 or **dominodog@aol.com**

Name(s) (List all) _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

I will bring the following Pesach dish for 10 people: _____

Please reserve _____ spaces at \$15 each for members \$ _____

Please reserve _____ spaces at \$20 each for non-members \$ _____

Please reserve _____ spaces for girl(s) 7-12 years at no charge

I would love to join WTS for \$40 and/or
donate to the Seder \$ _____

WTS Haggadot for purchase. Reserve _____ at \$4 each \$ _____

Enclosed is a check payable to Women of Temple Sinai totaling
\$ _____

Mail this form and check by April 3 to:
Estelle Baum, 3343 Crane Way, Oakland CA 94602



**Temple Sinai's
Annual Community
Passover Seder**

**Tuesday, April 15, 5:30pm
(doors open at 5:00)**

Let all who are hungry – for food and community – join us!

Join Rabbi Jacqueline Mates-Muchin, with music by Valerie Sopher and Phil Rubin, as we retell the story of Passover, enjoy delicious foods catered by Z Cafe, meet new friends, and sing!

Dinner will be served buffet style. All seder related foods provided.

Please purchase tickets early. Seats are limited and we sell out every year.

No reservations taken after Tuesday, April 8 at 12:00pm.

www.Oaklandsinaiseder2014.eventbrite.com

For general information, call the main office at (510) 451-3263. Limited financial assistance is available.

To learn more about Passover customs, visit our website, www.oaklandsinai.org/passover and type "Passover" in the Search Bar.

Please **contact lisa@oaklandsinai.org** for more information.



TEMPLE SINAI HAS BEEN CERTIFIED AS A BAY AREA GREEN BUSINESS

Our Bulletin is printed on recycled paper at a printer registered as a Green Business and certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. We print with earth-friendly soy-based ink.