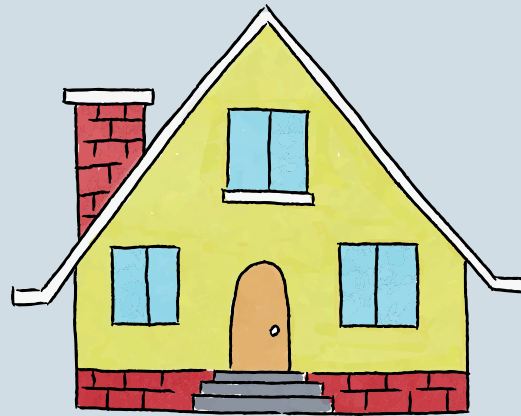
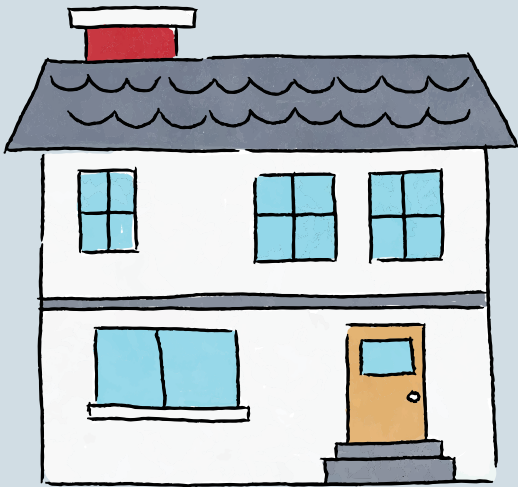


2020-2021/5781
October - December



Temple Israel's
Joy of Jewish Learning
Adult Education Opportunities
resilience, comfort,
and connection

Temple Israel's 2020-2021/5781
Joys of Jewish Learning
Adult Education Opportunities

resilience, comfort, and connection

To Our Congregants and Friends of Temple Israel,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 / 5781 Joys of Jewish Learning Program.

Throughout the past six months, our congregational community has been reminded of the importance of maintaining a connection to those things that we hold dear, no matter what the circumstances may be. Together, we have connected through online programming, worship, discussion, and continued learning. And although we so wish that we were able to resume our in-person gatherings and adult education programs, we reaffirm our commitment to lifelong learning and Jewish tradition by sharing the **Fall 2020 Joys of Jewish Learning** catalog with all of you.

This year's Joys of Jewish Learning program focuses on the theme of **Resilience, Comfort, and Connection**. Together, we will explore these important concepts and take comfort in the wisdom of our Jewish tradition. The year ahead will be filled with unique online and interactive educational opportunities, and I invite you to join us along the way.

I hope that there will be something for everyone this year. Whether it be text study, virtual field trips, literature or film discussions, current events and community-interest programming, cooking, theater, or lectures, please join us for any of our many Joys of Jewish Learning programs.

If you are a long-time supporter of our Joys of Jewish Learning program, I thank you for your ongoing participation and commitment to learning. If you are new to our congregation, I welcome you and look forward to sharing this journey with you. All learners are an important part of our community at Temple Israel. Your presence and participation are truly valued.

May your Jewish learning engage your heart, mind, and soul. May your involvement in this community of learners bring you joy and a sense of comfort and connection during these unusual times.

With a love of learning,



Sharon Amster Brown, R.J.E.
Educator

resilience, comfort, and connection

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TORAH STUDY

Saturdays at 8:45am

Facilitator: Rabbi Scott Fox

Each time we study Torah, we find something new in its verses...and in ourselves. Join Rabbi Fox in our engaging Torah study. Each week, an enthusiastic group examines the *parashat hashavuah* (weekly Torah portion) and discusses its meaning and relevance using traditional commentaries, personal reflection, and lively debate. This Torah study is for everyone - no previous background or knowledge of Hebrew is required! Come one time - or every week! Join us, as we discover and re-discover the timeless teachings in our Torah and see what the "Torah Study buzz" is all about!

MUSSAR STUDY GROUP

Every Other Wednesday at 9:45am

Facilitator: Trish Goldin

Mussar is a system of introspective practices that can help you identify and break through the obstacles to your inherent holiness, using methods that are easy to integrate into daily life. The program laid out in the book *Everyday Holiness: The Jewish Spiritual Path of Mussar* by Alan Morinis focuses on 26 traits (middot) - such as loving-kindness, strength, generosity, compassion, honor, and equanimity - each of which takes center stage for a week of contemplation and exercises, in order to develop and refine that quality in yourself. Our study group meets every other Wednesday morning to work on one or more Mussar soul traits. Come join us!



TANAKH STUDY GROUP

Thursdays at 10:15am

Facilitator: Joan Leb

After spending many years studying Torah, Prophets, and Writings, our Tanakh study group has decided to explore the Christian Bible through a Jewish lens. Using the book, *The Jewish Annotated New Testament* by Marc Brettler and Amy-Jill Levine, we are expanding our horizons and gaining an interesting perspective on this central Christian text. Author Levine writes, "Jews need to know more about Christianity," and we agree. The only requirement for the class is curiosity and a willingness to learn. Participants are encouraged to purchase the book.



SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK GROUP

Wednesdays at 11:00 am

Facilitator: Cantor Sara Hass

Join with Cantor Hass for this discussion group, inspired by the conversation with Bishop Kenneth Ulmer of Faithful Central Bible Church.

Chapters and themes of the book will be discussed each week.

BEGINNING HEBREW

Tuesdays at 7:00pm

October 13, 20, 27, November 3, 10, 17, 24, and December 1

Teacher: Deborah Lewis

Have you ever wanted to learn the Alef Bet but thought that you just could not do it? It was too hard. You are not good at languages. You do not want to embarrass yourself. Well, now's the time to put all those false beliefs to bed. This 10-week Beginning Hebrew class is painless and fun and by the 10th week of study, you will be reading Hebrew! We guarantee it. Come join other adults who, just like you, want to read Hebrew too. This is not your father's or mother's Hebrew class!

Cost: \$100, plus the cost of textbook



DR. JILL BAKER, LBUSD SUPERINTENDENT

An LBUSD Update and Vision for Excellence & Equity

Wednesday, October 14 at 7:00pm

Join us for a special evening with LBUSD Superintendent Dr. Jill Baker.

Dr. Baker's presentation will provide participants with information on how the district is continuing to respond to the global pandemic and preparing for the future.

Dr. Jill Baker was unanimously selected by the Board of Education as superintendent of the Long Beach Unified School District effective August 1, 2020. The school district is California's fourth largest, with about 70,000 students. Prior to her appointment as superintendent, Dr. Baker worked for 28 years at LBUSD as a successful teacher, principal, and central office administrator. Her leadership contributed to increased student achievement, the development of multiple districtwide initiatives and systems, and a culture of continuous improvement. A Long Beach resident, Dr. Baker has been recognized by several community-based organizations for her encouraging leadership and her advocacy for high expectations and support for students in need. She has worked closely with community groups such as Californians for Justice and the California Conference for Equality and Justice to include student voices in the development of programs and policies that focus on excellence, equity and inclusion. Dr. Baker served as deputy superintendent of schools for six years prior to becoming superintendent. During that time, she provided leadership, supervision, and support to multiple departments in LBUSD, ensuring that students graduate ready for college and careers.



MOVIE DISCUSSION: UNSTRUNG HEROES

Thursday, October 22 at 7:00pm

Facilitator: Lindsey Preuss, PhD, Licensed Clinical Psychologist

Steven Lidz is 12 years old and his world is fracturing. Overwhelmed by his life with an ailing mother and an emotionally distant father, Steven runs off to live with his two wildly eccentric uncles, Danny and Arthur. Baffled by the tragedies surrounding him, Steven finds solace in the idiosyncrasies of his Uncles' strange and wonderful world. It is there that he begins the journey from boyhood innocence to a young man's understanding of life.

Participants should watch the movie in advance of our discussion.

Available on Amazon Prime Video.

<https://www.amazon.com/Unstrung-Heroes-Andie-MacDowell/dp/B004KCQOE0>



IT'S A FAMILY ISSUE: HEREDITARY CANCER AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

In Partnership with Sharsheret

Sunday, October 25 at 4:00pm

Panelists:

Karen Lappen, MS, CGC, Genetic Counselor, MemorialCare LB OBGYN

Briana Schwarz, Florida Regional Director, Sharsheret

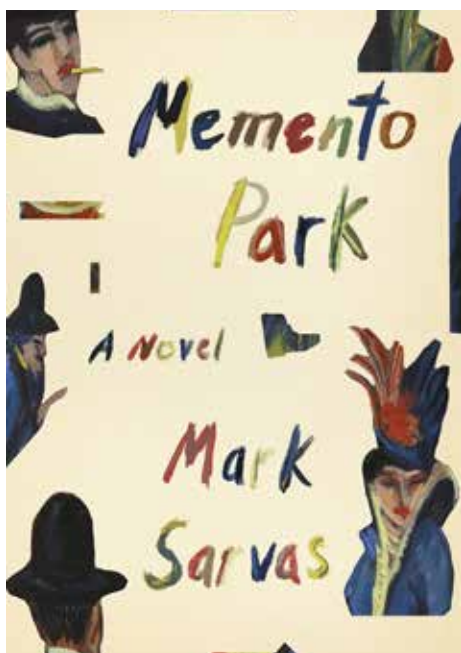
Seth Kogan, OBGYN and TI Congregant

BRCA is commonly known as the breast and ovarian cancer gene. One in forty Ashkenazi Jews - men and women - are carriers of the BRCA mutations.

Expanded testing for numerous other mutations are allowing more families to take proactive measures than ever before.

Learn the latest in genetic testing, cancer prevention, and how it impacts men and women in your family.





TEMPLE ISRAEL READS ONE BOOK AUTHOR, MARK SARVAS

Wednesday, October 28 at 7:00pm

We are very excited to welcome Author Mark Sarvas, author of *Memento Park* - the Temple Israel Reads One Book selection from this past year.

Winner of the 2019 Association of Jewish Libraries Jewish Fiction Award, *Memento Park* is the story of a son who learns more about his father than he ever could have imagined when a mysterious piece of art is unexpectedly restored to him. After receiving an unexpected call from the Australian consulate, Matt Santos becomes aware of a painting that he believes was looted from his family in Hungary during the Second World War. To recover the painting, he must repair his strained relationship with his harshly judgmental father, uncover his family history, and restore his connection to his own Judaism.

Of all the questions asked by Mark Sarvas' *Memento Park* about family and identity, about art and history a central, unanswerable predicament lingers: How do we move forward when the past looms unreasonably large?

Copies of the book may be purchased at Temple Israel, local bookstores, or online. Also available on Kindle.

COMFORT FOODS: Winter Squash Soup

**Thursday, November 5
at 7:00pm**

Teacher: Kara Liu

Join Kara Liu in creating a fall favorite, winter squash soup. This delicious soup brings to mind cooler days, colorful foliage, and fragrant autumn smells. Something for the whole family to enjoy together.



FROM ISAIAH TO JEREMIAH:

How Jerusalem Became so Important to the Jewish People

Sunday, November 8 at 12:30pm

Facilitator: Danny Ehrlich

Join Danny Ehrlich for a guided virtual tour in the Old City of Jerusalem. We'll step back 2,700 years to the days of the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah who walked and taught there and unravel some of the layers of the Jewish "love affair" with Jerusalem, as we gain insight into how Jerusalem became so important to the Jewish people.

Danny Ehrlich is the Educational Director of Keshet Educational Journeys and has been a frequent guest speaker at Temple Israel Long Beach and has guided many members of TILB in Israel and in Europe.





SEEKING COMFORT IN TROUBLED TIMES

Wednesdays at 7:00pm

November 18, December 2, December 19

Teacher: Rabbi Scott Fox

The pandemic has been a difficult time for so many of us. We don't have the support networks and tools we usually have to care for ourselves and loved ones. In this class, we will reflect on our experiences during COVID, review other times in Jewish history when similar challenges have been faced, and learn about what our tradition has to offer for support and making meaning during such troubled times.

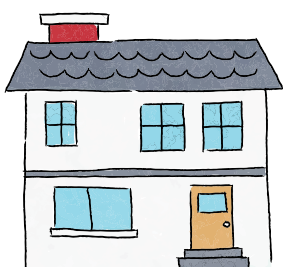
PINK CHALLAH BAKE

In Partnership with Sharsheret

Friday, November 20 at 4:00 pm

Presenters: Lynne Kass and Amy Lipeles

Join us as we bake pink challah together, in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness. In partnership with Sharsheret, a Jewish Breast Cancer Organization, we support survivors and family and friends of those who have fought this courageous battle. Our program will feature Lynne Kass, TI congregant and breast cancer survivor, as well as Amy Lipeles, TI congregant and challah baker extraordinaire.



COMFORT FOODS:

Latkes Galore

Thursday, December 3
at 7:00pm

Teacher: Amy Lipeles

This year why not try a different latke as well? We will be making sweet potato/ parsnip latkes that are delicious and (slightly more) nutritious!

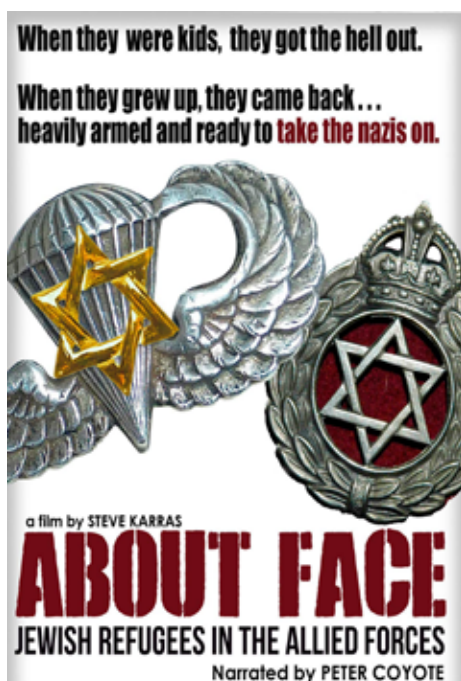


STRIVING FOR RESILIENCY, PART ONE

Sunday, December 6 at 7:00pm

Facilitators: Lisa Endelman and Greg Endelman

Licensed Educational Psychologists Greg and Lisa Endelman will explore resiliency through the development of competency based personal growth. After defining the concept of resiliency, they will offer strategies to help with the development of grit, growth mindset, scout mindset, and other related skills.



MOVIE DISCUSSION: JEWISH REFUGEE SOLDIERS IN THE ALLIED FORCES

Tuesday, December 8
at 7:00pm

Facilitator: Barry Mitnick

This movie documents the as-yet-untold World War II story of young Jewish men who escaped certain danger at the hands of the Nazis and returned to fight them in Europe and North Africa. Told through the eyes of these men, the film chronicles the journey from Nazi victim to refugee and, finally, to Allied soldier.

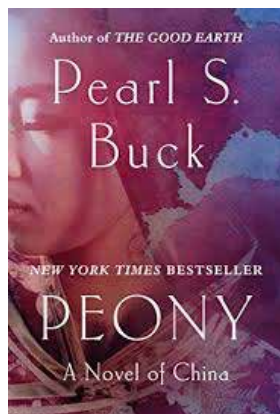
Participants should watch the movie in advance of the discussion.

Available on Amazon Prime Video. <https://www.amazon.com/About-Face-Jewish-Refugee-Soldiers/dp/B089VCPVTF#:~:text=Documents%20the%20as%2Dyet%2Duntold,in%20Europe%20and%20North%20Africa>

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Wednesdays at 7:00pm

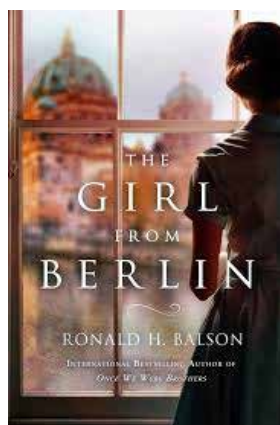
We have selected an exciting array of books for the 2020-2021 season. Read with us for a taste of many forms of Jewish literature whether you can attend one or all of our meetings. Temple Israel women and their guests are encouraged to join our spirited discussions, led by member facilitators. For more information, contact Donna Mitnick at (714) 287-4069 or donna.mitnick@gmail.com.



Peony

by Pearl Buck
September 30

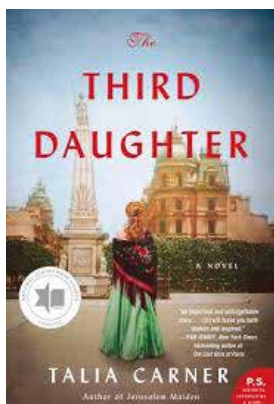
This historical novel tells the story of a culture within a culture. The conflict between the two cultures comes out as a love affair develops between two young people. *Peony* is classic Pearl Buck showing not only the conflict of the new and old ways but also the difficulty in a society where there was no discrimination against the Jews.



The Girl from Berlin

by Ronald H. Balson
November 11

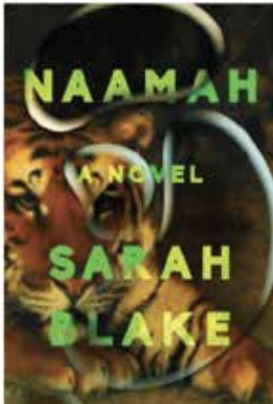
An old friend calls Catherine Lockhart and Liam Taggart to his famous Italian restaurant to enlist their help. His aunt is being evicted from her home in the Tuscan hills by a powerful corporation claiming they own the deed, even though she can produce her own set of deeds to her land. Catherine and Liam's only clue is a bound handwritten manuscript, entirely in German, and hidden in its pages is a story long-forgotten...



The Third Daughter

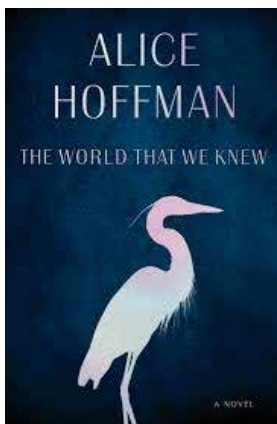
by Talia Carner
January 13

From the author of *Jerusalem Maiden* comes a remarkable story, inspired by little known true events, about the thousands of young Jewish women who were trafficked into prostitution at the turn of the 20th century, and whose subjugation helped build Buenos Aires.



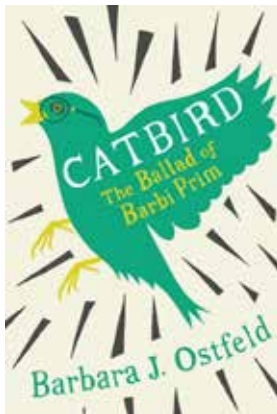
Naamah
by Sarah Blake
March 17

A dreamy and transgressive feminist retelling of the Great Flood from the perspective of Noah's wife as she wrestles with the mysterious metaphysics of womanhood at the end of the world.



The World That We Knew
by Alice Hoffman
May 13

What does it mean to lose your mother? How much can one person sacrifice for love? In a world where evil can be found at every turn, we meet remarkable characters that take us on a stunning journey of loss and resistance, the fantastical and the mortal, in a place where all roads lead past the Angel of Death and love is never ending.



Catbird: The Ballad of Barbi Prim
by Barbara J. Ostfeld
July 8

In this autobiography, we meet an insightful, opinionated eight-year-old who's already taken a few steps toward becoming a pioneer—but also a shadow of her quirky self. Although she's corroded--sometimes literally--by a toxic but familiar social atmosphere, her love of singing propels her to become the first ordained woman cantor in 3,000 years of Jewish history.

The Joys of Jewish Learning Committee encourages you to take advantage of Jewish educational programs throughout our community.



AMPLIFYING VOICES

A Series on the Intersection of Black and Jewish Identities

**Black Power, Jewish Politics:
Reinventing the Alliance of the 1960s**
Professors Marc Dollinger and Gil Ribak
Sun, Oct 18, 4 pm PST

**They Ain't Ready For Me:
Black and Jewish on Chicago's South Side**
Tamar Manasseh
Sun, Nov 8, 3 pm PST

**Lunch + Learn: Jews of Color
and Jewish Community Diversity**
Ilana Kauffman
Wed, Nov 18, 11 am PST

Stories of Exclusion, Stories of Change
April Baskin, Gamal Palmer,
Evan Traylor, and Candace Manriquez Wrenn
Sun, Dec 6, 9:30 am PST

Alabama Civil Rights Tour
T. Marie King and Samantha Dubrinsky
Sun, Jan 31, 3 pm PST

**Musical Freedom Seder
Afro-Semitic Experience**
Sun, Feb 21, 3 pm PST

Price on sliding scale | go to www.alpertjcc.org/event to register
ALL PROGRAMS WILL TAKE PLACE ON ZOOM

LEVITE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER BIRMINGHAM **Arizona Center for Judaic Studies** **HiMEL** **The Dunbar Pavilion** **Jewish Federation** **TEMPLE ISRAEL** **Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona** **JEWISH LONG BEACH**

TUCSON J



LONG BEACH JEWISH FILM 2020 FESTIVAL

**SAVE THE DATE!
NOVEMBER 7-23**

NEW VIRTUAL FORMAT FEATURING 5 OF THE BEST IN JEWISH-THEMED FILMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD. REGISTER ONLINE FOR LINKS TO WATCH!

Aulcie | Starts NOV 7 @ 7PM | link available for 48hrs
Zoom Film Talk Back with Director of Aulcie | NOV 12 | 7:15 pm
Saul & Ruby's Holocaust Survivor Band | Starts NOV 10 @ 7PM | link available 48hrs
Zoom Film Talk Back with Saul and Rudy | NOV 15 | 4:00 pm
The Spy Behind Home Plate | Starts NOV 14 @ 7PM | link available for 48hrs
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit | Starts NOV 17 @ 7PM | link available for 48hrs
Crescendo | Starts NOV 21 @ 7PM | link available for 48hrs
Zoom Film Talk Back with the Writer of Crescendo | NOV 22 | 5:00 pm

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR FILM INFO, HOW TO REGISTER, SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES & MORE!
ALPERTJCC.COM/JEWISHFILMFESTIVAL



BECOME A PATRON OF OUR JOYS OF JEWISH LEARNING PROGRAM

Temple Israel's Joys of Jewish Learning Program is self-sustaining, seeking to bring top quality teachers, speakers, and programs to Temple Israel. We therefore invite you to please consider becoming a Joys of Jewish Learning Patron of our ongoing tradition. With your generous support, we will be able to continue to offer our many unique programs and grow our adult education program for many years to come.

After reading through this Joys of Jewish Learning catalog, we hope you will see the value in supporting adult education at Temple Israel. Gifts and sponsorships for any particular event are also gladly accepted, as are contributions to our various adult education special funds.

Patrons will be recognized throughout the year.

We thank you, in advance, for your generosity and support. Please contact Temple Educator, Sharon Amster Brown for more information. In order to become a Joys of Jewish Learning Patron, please contact the Temple Israel Office (562) 434-0996 and/or watch your mail for information.



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*Thank you to Temple Israel's graphic designer, Michelle Techau,
for her beautiful work on this catalog.*

With special thanks to our Joys of Jewish Learning Committee

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Judith Hardaker

David Leib

Barry Mitnick

Susan Philips

Heather Raphael

Natalie Swit

We are always looking for new ideas and creative perspectives on our Joys of Jewish Learning Program at Temple Israel. If you're interested in getting involved, please feel free to contact us at any point during the year.

