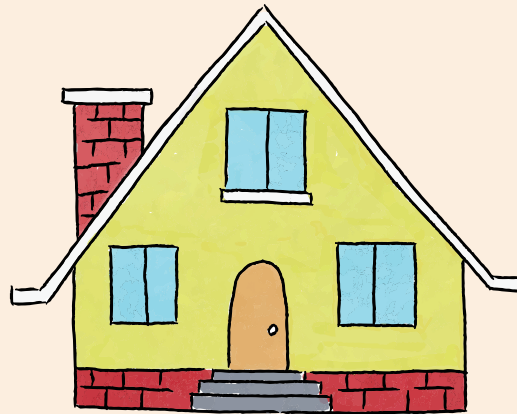


2020-2021/5781  
January - March



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,

We are proud to share with you the next quarter of our Joys of Jewish Learning Programs for 5781, which will provide high quality and diverse programming for our congregants and greater community from **January – March 2021**.

We have loved learning with all of you in the virtual space over the past few months, and although we so wish that we could gather in person, we look forward to our continued connections and learning over the winter months ahead.

Our congregational community is a very special one, and together, we reaffirm our commitment to lifelong learning and Jewish tradition, even during challenging times.

This year's Joys of Jewish Learning program focuses on the theme of Resilience, Comfort, and Connection. We will continue our exploration of these important concepts and take comfort in the wisdom of our Jewish tradition. Whether it be text study, virtual field trips, literature or film discussions, current events and community-interest programming, cooking, theater, or lectures, you are invited to join us for any or all of our JJJL 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.

In partnership,



Sharon Amster Brown, R.J.E.

Educator

# resilience, comfort, and connection

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## TORAH STUDY

**Saturdays at 8:45 am**

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!

## 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.



## MUSSAR STUDY GROUP

**Every Other Wednesday at 9:45 am**

**January 6, 20, February 3, 17, March 3, 17**

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 10:15 am**

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.





## WINE AND TEXT STUDY

Thursdays at 7:00 pm

January 7, February 4, March 4, April 15, May 27, June 17

Facilitator: Cantor Sara Hass

Explore the Book of Psalms with us. Bring your favorite bottle of wine (or other beverage) and your thirst for knowledge, as we discover why these verses of comfort and consolation have aided the Jewish people for generations. We will meet once a month, and all are welcome!

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82106608521>



## SACRED TEXTS OF COMFORT AND RESILIENCE

*Nachamu Nachamu Ami*

*(Comfort, Comfort My People)*

Fridays at 9:30 am

January 15 and 22

Teacher: Rabbi Robin Foonberg

Our prophets provided comfort to the Israelites in their time and still provide comfort for us today. Together, we will take a look at some of their writings and discuss how they speak to us during our time of need.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83457556923>





## INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

**Wednesdays at 6:00 pm**

**January 20 - May 26**

Teachers: Rabbi Scott Fox, Rabbi Michal Loving,  
and Student Rabbi Miriam Hoffman

We invite you to join with learners of all backgrounds in our Introduction to Judaism course. The course will cover a broad cross-section of topics related to Judaism in a discussion-based format with experts in the field. This class is ideal for anyone looking to explore Judaism for the very first time, seeking conversion, or for folks who would like to fill in pockets of knowledge in a tradition that takes a lifetime to learn. Everyone is welcome. We look forward to your joining us.

**Cost: \$180, plus books**

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83112102784>



## COMFORT FOODS: SEVEN SPECIES SALAD

**Thursday, January 21 at 7:00 pm**

Teacher: Kara Liu

Wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olive oil and dates - the taste of Tu B'Shevat. Join Kara Liu in getting ready for Tu B'Shevat with a yummy seven species salad.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86890108043>





## BEYOND THE DOCUMENTS:

### *How Purposeful and Ongoing Estate Planning Can Enhance Life for You and Your Loved Ones*

**Tuesday, February 2 at 7:00 pm**

Facilitator: Curtis Kaiser, JD, MBA

Join us for this important presentation about how we best prepare to leave a legacy for those who will survive us.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85958509553>



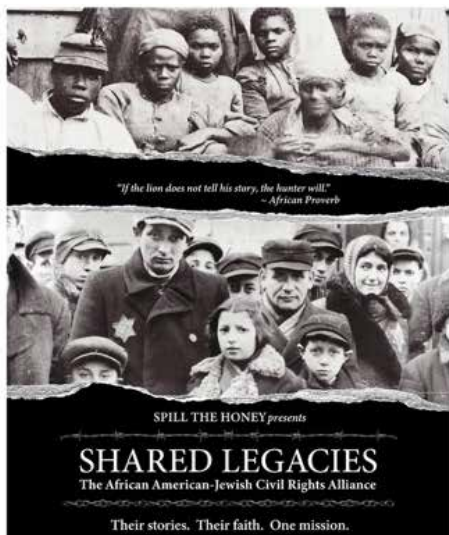
## COMFORT FOODS: BABKA

**Thursday, February 11 at 7:00 pm**

Teacher: Eve Lunt

Join Eve Lunt for a delicious evening, as we make bubbe's chocolate babka. Butter, cinnamon, sugar, and lots of love - a recipe you're gonna love!

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85451525005>



## MOVIE DISCUSSION

### SHARED LEGACIES: THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN JEWISH CIVIL RIGHTS ALLIANCE

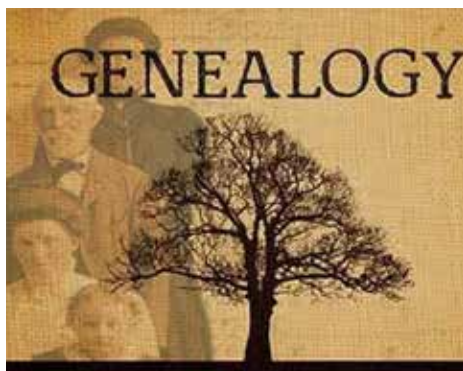
**Thursday, February 18 at 7:00 pm**

Facilitator: Kate Sachnoff

The crucial historical lessons of Black-Jewish cooperation are revisited and revived in this utterly fascinating, urgent call to action. The modern alliance between African-Americans and Jewish Americans dates to the NAACP founding in 1909. Since then, both groups have endured segregation and racism, from the codified bigotry of southern Jim Crow laws, to blatant bias in real estate, employment, higher education and politics. Common cause was found in the turbulent '60s Civil Rights era, as Jewish leaders backed Dr. King's efforts at racial equality and harmony. Yet, the relationship has frayed in recent years, as a once mighty bond of support and respect has seemingly faded, been forgotten, or ignored. Pivotal events come alive through a treasure trove of archival materials, narrated by eyewitnesses, activists, Holocaust survivors, and leaders of the movement. With divisive seeds of hate taking root anew in the American landscape, a new generation also affirms their pledge to actively promote the values of social justice. This potent, inspiring story of unity, empathy and partnership validates the ubiquity of the human experience, and how freedom and equality for all can be achieved only when people come together.

Watch on YouTube beforehand and then join us for the live discussion.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85299197568>



## **FAMILY GENEALOGY**

**Mondays at 7:00 pm**

**February 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22**

Teacher: Sheryl Stahl

Have you been meaning to get around to doing your family history but haven't found the perfect moment? Here it is! In this class, we will go over the basics of finding and organizing records about life in the United States, immigration to the United States, and life in the "old country" (wherever that may be). Participants of any age are welcome - you just need an active curiosity and a little patience with diving into databases.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89873249413>



## **STRIVING FOR RESILIENCY PART TWO**

**Sunday, February 28 at 7:00 pm**

Facilitators: Lisa Endelman and Greg Endelman

Licensed Educational Psychologists Greg and Lisa Endelman will continue to explore resiliency through the development of competency-based personal growth, offering strategies to help with the development of grit, growth mindset, scout mindset, and other related skills.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86343556437>



## **1960'S JEWISH IDENTITY AND AMERICAN FILM**

**Wednesdays at 7:00 pm**

**March 3 and 10**

Facilitator: Rabbi Scott Fox

Take a trip back to the '60's in this film class with Rabbi Fox. Have fun watching and discussing film clips that share about Jewish life in the 1960's, and how that informs how we live Jewishly today. Examine the questions of what makes something or someone Jewish, and review our own sense of who we are. A fun, informative, and reflective series of evenings.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89928662923>







## CREATIVE JOURNALING

**Saturdays, March 6 and 20 at 7:00 pm**

Facilitators: Linda Sunshine Keiles and Eve Lunt

A creative journal is the same as a written journal, except that it incorporates colors, images, patterns, and other materials. The hardest part is getting started! Instructors Linda Sunshine Keiles and Eve Lunt will share writing prompts, easy art hacks, and the encouragement to release your creativity using a visual journal with art supplies and your imagination. Material list provided upon registration.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86506662959>



## JEWISH LONG BEACH TREASURE HUNT

**Sunday, March 14 at 3:00 pm**

Discover some new locales, reconnect with much-loved favorites, and learn more about Judaism in Long Beach during Temple Israel's first Treasure Hunt! You'll be using clues to search for Jewish religious, secular, historical, cultural, and culinary spots throughout Long Beach and the surrounding areas. You'll be able to take your search on the road or investigate from the comforts of home (and your search engine). Bring your family and your camera!

Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/TempleIsraelLB/>



## PASSOVER UNIVERSITY

**Tuesday and Thursday**

**March 16 and 18 at 7:00 pm**

Looking for new ideas, new recipes, or new inspiration for Passover this year? Join us for this unique opportunity to get ready for the Festival of Freedom. Each evening will offer multiple workshops that will be taught concurrently with a time to socialize in between the sessions.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81677633443>





## MOVIE DISCUSSION: LIVE AND BECOME

**Thursday, March 25 at 7:00 pm**

Facilitator: Deborah Lewis

The magnificent, epic story of an Ethiopian boy who is airlifted from a Sudanese refugee camp to Israel in 1984 during Operation Moses. Shlomo is plagued by two big secrets: He is neither a Jew nor an orphan, just an African boy who survived and wants, somehow, to fulfill his Ethiopian mother's parting request that he "go, live, and become." Buoyed by a profound and unfaltering motherly love – both in his memory and in the arms of his adoptive mother – he ultimately finds an identity and a happiness all his own.

Watch on Amazon Prime and then join us for the live movie discussion.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84058540265>



## JEWISH SONGS OF COMFORT AND CONNECTION: AN EDUCATIONAL CONCERT

*with Cantorial Soloist Kelly Cooper Perler*

**Tuesday, March 30 at 7:00 pm**

Please join Kelly Cooper Perler, as we explore Jewish songs that offer healing through comfort and connection. Learn about the background and correlation that each song has to our sacred texts. Let's come together through the uplifting power of music.

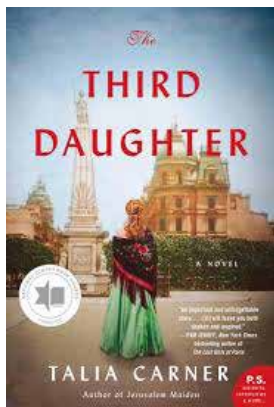
Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84383414171>



## WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

**Wednesdays at 7:00 pm**

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](mailto:donna.mitnick@gmail.com).

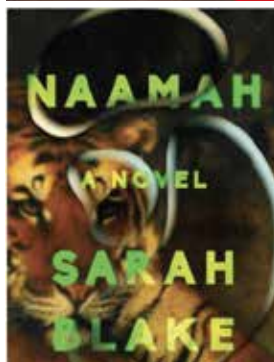


### ***The Third Daughter***

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.

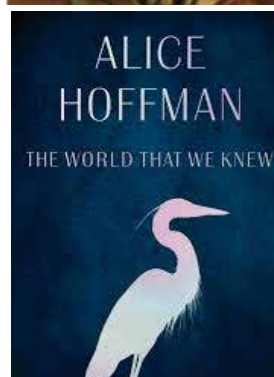


### ***Naamah***

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.

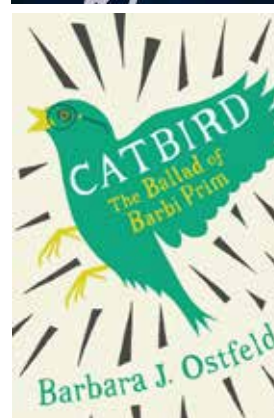


### ***The World That We Knew***

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](http://www.alpertjcc.org/event) to register  
ALL PROGRAMS WILL TAKE PLACE ON ZOOM







## 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*

**Martine Korach**  
Chairperson

**Bobbi Horowitz**  
VP of Education

**Sharon Amster Brown**  
Educator, R.J.E.

Jay Alhadeff

Tila Carrol

Kim DeCelles

Karen Fried

Carol Greenberg

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.

