



Temple Israel's  
**Joys of Jewish Learning**  
adult education opportunities

Spring 2022 / 5782

**HOMECOMING**  
a year of learning together



# HOMECOMING

a year of learning together

## To Our Temple Israel Community and Beyond,

It has been a wonderful year of adult learning at Temple Israel thus far, and we look forward to an exciting spring and summer ahead, filled with unique opportunities to learn and connect with one another.

This year's Joys of Jewish Learning program focuses on the theme of Homecoming. After a year of unprecedented physical separation from one another and our holy synagogue building, we have loved exploring the concept of home within the Jewish tradition, as we continue our return to our house of prayer and gathering. Whether it be text study, field trips, literature or film discussions, current events and community-interest programming, cooking, theater, or lectures, we look forward to reconnecting with learners over the coming months.

Understanding the benefits of both modes of learning, we plan to continue to provide both in-person and virtual opportunities. We look forward to seeing you on the screen or at Third & Loma.

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 or adult Jewish learning, I welcome you and hope that your Jewish journey is filled with meaning and happiness.

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 home.

L'Shalom,



Sharon Amster Brown

Director of Education and Congregational Engagement



Front Cover artwork by Amanda Berman



Photo by Scott Smeltzer

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**PLEASE RSVP FOR ALL PROGRAMS TO  
CHARMAINE CLW@TILB.ORG**

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## TORAH STUDY

**Saturdays at 8:45 am**

**(In person and Zoom)**

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

**Every Other Wednesday at 11:00 am (Zoom Only)**

Facilitator: Jared Goldin

The Social Justice Book Group began in 2020 with a presentation by a local African American minister in response to the Black Lives Matter movement and the explosion of related (including Jewish and Latinx) social/legal justice activities and literature, much of it focused on presenting a more objective and fact-based American history. The Group selects, reads (in increments) and discusses books about these events, with a focus (similar to how many reform Jewish scholars study Torah) on how the issues confronted by these books impact us and what responsibility we might have (and how) to address them in our own lives.

## NEW TESTAMENT STUDY FROM A JEWISH POINT OF VIEW

**Mondays at 9:45 am (Zoom Only)**

Facilitator: Jo Ann Schneider Farris

Jews and Christians read the same stories differently. Explore and discuss the New Testament from a Jewish perspective and learn more about the Jewish roots of Christianity.

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82285979629>

## MUSSAR STUDY GROUP

**Every Other Wednesday at 9:45 am (Zoom Only)**

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!

**Zoom Link:** <https://www.rabbishefagold.com/love-and-truth/>



## TANAKH STUDY GROUP

**Thursdays at 10:15 am (Zoom Only)**

Facilitator: Martine Korach

This dedicated group of learners has studied the Tanakh for many years and is currently focusing on the Book of Isaiah. Anyone is invited to join the group at any time. The only requirement for the class is curiosity and a willingness to learn.

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86029516690>



**HOME COOKING AND CROWD PLEASERS:  
*Soft Pretzels and Cinnamon Rolls***

**Tuesday, April 5 at 7:00 pm (In person)  
at home of Justin Rudd (address upon RSVP)**  
Teacher: Justin Rudd

In this delicious session, Justin will take participants through the steps of soft, gooey cinnamon rolls with a cream cheese frosting (like at Cinnabon!), and soft pretzels (like at Wetzel's!). Don't miss this very tasty and sweet evening in the kitchen! Bring a bottle of wine to share, if you'd like!



**PRAYER 101 MINI-SESSION  
WITH CANTOR COOPER  
*Mi Chamocha (PM and AM Liturgy)***

**Friday, April 8 at 6:15 pm (In person and Zoom)**  
Teacher: Cantor Cooper

Let's dive deeper into the prayers that we recite at services. We'll translate them, look at their origins, and explore why the sages felt it was important that they be included in our liturgy. Looking forward to studying them with you!

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81408298233>



**FREEDOM SONG  
*A Performance by Beit Teshuva,  
followed by Q&A session***

**Sunday, April 10 at 10:00 am (In person)**

Don't miss this incredible performance by current residents and graduates of Los Angeles' Beit T'Shuvah, a Jewish recovery program.

By interweaving a Passover seder with personal stories of addiction, Freedom Song poses one stark question: "What are you a slave to?" The cast of Freedom Song is not a cast of actors; they are actual addicts in recovery that have broken off the shackles of drugs, alcohol, gambling, and other destructive behaviors. Using song and dance, tears and laughter, and an intense post show discussion with our cast, Freedom Song will open your eyes to the real-life struggle against the "bondage of self" that we all fight every day.

**Suggested donation: \$10**



## HOME COOKING AND CROWD PLEASERS: BLACK AND WHITE COOKIES

Thursday, April 28 at 7:00 pm

Teacher: Eve Lunt

The black & white cookie is a staple at every Jewish deli. Who knew Jerry Seinfeld's favorite cookie is actually pretty easy to make in your own kitchen? Eve Lunt will break it down and show you how to bake and ice these cakey cookies, and even give you tips on how to make variations on the classic.

**Cost: \$10**



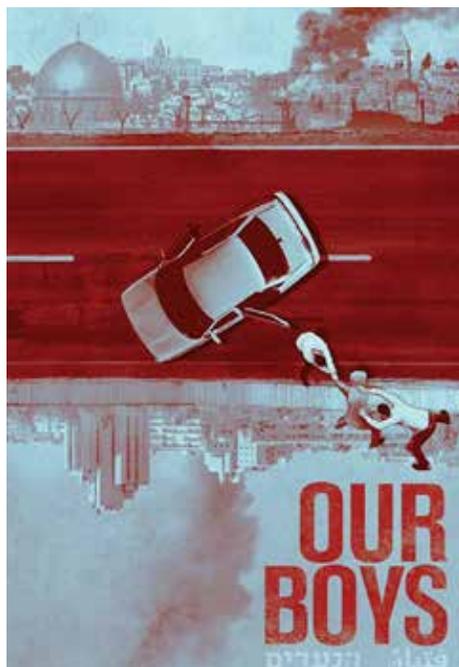
## SHABBAT HIKE AND STUDY

Saturday, April 30 at 11:00 am

Teachers: Rabbi Fox and Craig Parks

Location: The El Dorado Nature Center

Join us for an easy hike and outdoor spiritual experience led by Rabbi Fox and special guest and Musician in Residence Craig Parks. Don't miss this meditative and musical Shabbat morning out in nature where together we will create a beautiful communal prayer experience.



## TV SERIES DISCUSSION

*Our Boys* (TV series with ten episodes)

Tuesday, May 3 at 7:00 pm (Zoom Only)

Facilitator: Barry Mitnick

In the summer of 2014, three Jewish teenagers are kidnapped and murdered by Hamas militants. Israel is shocked, shaken, and furious. Two days later, the burned body of a Palestinian teenager from eastern Jerusalem is found in a forest on the western outskirts of the city. In the ensuing days, an agent from the internal terror division of the Shin Bet investigates the murder, while the parents of the slain teenager begin their long and anguished journey toward justice and consolation.

Filmed in Israel, *Our Boys* is based on the true events which led to the outbreak of war in Gaza. The series follows the investigation of Mohammed Abu Khdeir's murder, and tells the story of all those involved, Jews and Arabs alike, whose lives were forever changed by these events.

**Watch series ahead of time on Amazon Prime or HBO Max.**

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88442822952>

## TI READS ONE BOOK

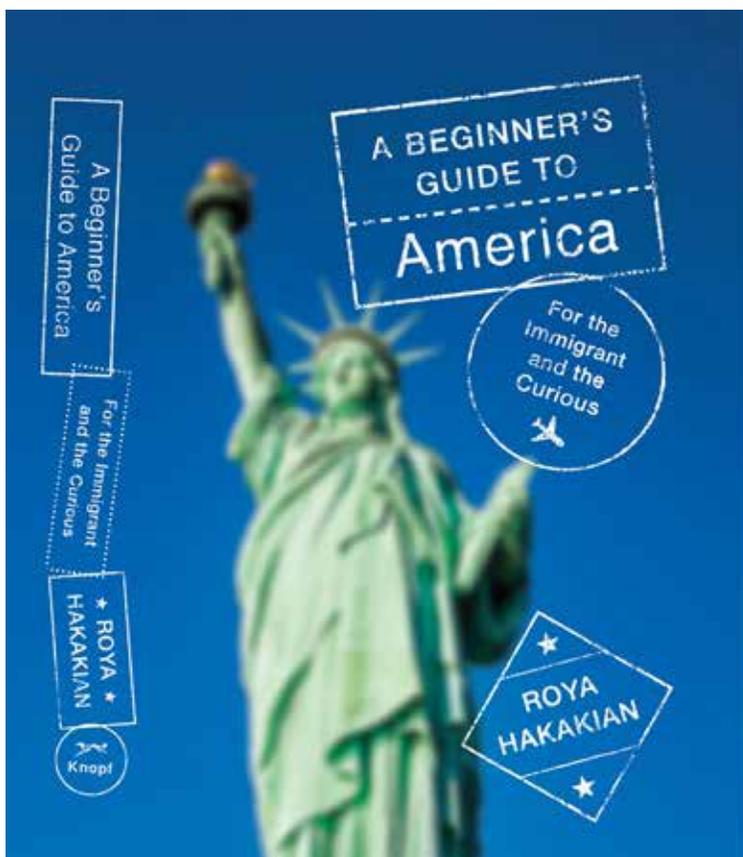
***A Beginner's Guide To America* by Roya Hakakian**

**Saturday, May 7 at 7:00 pm (Zoom Only)**

This perfectly timed book gives us a portrait of what the new immigrant experience in America is really like. Written as a “guide” for the newly arrived, and providing “practical information and advice,” Roya Hakakian, an immigrant herself, reveals what those who settle here love about the country, what they miss about their homes, the cruelty of some Americans, and the unceasing generosity of others. She captures the texture of life in a new place in all its complexity, laying bare both its beauty and its darkness as she discusses race, sex, love, death, consumerism, and her experience of being from a country far from friends with the United States. Her tenderly perceptive and surprisingly humorous account invites native-born Americans to see themselves as they appear to others, making it possible for them to rediscover their many American gifts through the perspective of the outsider. In shattering myths and embracing painful contradictions that are unique to this place, *A Beginner's Guide to America* is Hakakian's candid love letter to America.

*Copies of book for sale at the Temple.*

**Zoom Link** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84666409163>





## PRAYER 101 MINI-SESSION WITH CANTOR COOPER

*Shalom Rav / Sim Shalom*

**Friday, May 13 at 6:15 pm (In person and Zoom)**

Teacher: Cantor Cooper

Let's dive deeper into the prayers that we recite at services. We'll translate them, look at their origins, and explore why the sages felt it was important that they be included in our liturgy. Looking forward to studying them with you!

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84298470191>



## HOME: A STORYBOOK ENDING?

**Wednesdays at 7:00 pm (Zoom Only)**

**May 25, June 1 and June 8**

Teacher: Rabbi Fox

Few things have captured the Jewish imagination more than the concept of home. Where we find it and how. Join Rabbi Fox, as we look the concept of discovering, returning, and creating home through modern Fiction. We will learn and study Jewish stories and tell our own.

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85944676560>



## SPIRITUAL REVELATIONS - REUNITING WITH OUR COMMUNITY; TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

**Saturday, June 4 at 8:00 pm**

An original theatrical event created and performed by members of Temple Israel.

How did the pandemic impact our relationships and connections with friends and family? What does it mean to be back together in our spiritual and personal communities? What did we learn? How have we changed? A program of poems, monologues, scenes, and song/music to express the emotional/human experience of what we missed and longed for during the pandemic. Created and performed by members of Temple Israel. Coordinated and directed by Jerry Prell.



## LEAVING HOME AND FINDING HOME

### *A Panel Discussion*

*(in celebration of Jewish American History month)*

**Tuesday, June 7 at 7:00 pm (In Person and Livestream)**

Moderator: Adolfo Guzman-Lopez

We are currently witnessing in real time people’s pain of leaving and escaping the only home they know.

Come to this event to hear members of our Temple Israel community engage in conversation about their own migration stories. How do current events resonate with people whose migration took place in the recent past or long ago? What can we do as a community to listen to these stories and hold them with compassion?



## ISRAELI CURRENT EVENTS WITH DANNY EHRLICH

**Wednesday, June 15 at 9:30 am (Zoom Only)**

Israel as the Nation State of the Jewish People. While most Israelis are Jewish, you don’t have to be Jewish to be Israeli. Who are the non-Jewish minorities in Israel? What opportunities and challenges do they face as non-Jews in a Jewish Nation State?

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82373467389>

**Danny Ehrlich** was the Founding Director of the Tehilla Aliyah movement and Director of Yeshiva University’s Communal Services and of the Bnei Akiva Zionist Youth Movement. Since making aliyah, Danny has been the editor of the Amiel Publications Project and worked for the Chief Rabbinate of Israel and the Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers, while serving the Jewish community of Curacaoa, Netherlands Antilles as Cantor. As a noted Holocaust Educator, Danny leads Keshet groups in Poland and other parts of Europe. He has Master’s Degrees in Community Social Work and Jewish History. As a licensed Tour Guide and pioneer in Jewish-Christian relations, Danny has served as Israel Tour Educator for a wide variety of Jewish and Christian groups, and he appears as guest speaker and scholar in residence at churches and synagogues all over the world.



## MOVIE AND DISCUSSION:

### *A Secret Love*

Thursday, June 23 at 7:00 pm  
(Zoom Only)

Terry Donahue and Pat Henschel came together in a different world. The women fell in love in 1947, when norms around living openly as a gay person in the United States were far from what they are today. Though essentially inseparable from the moment they met, Donahue and Henschel kept their true relationship a secret for more than six decades. When the pair met, Donahue was around 22 and playing as a catcher for the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League—the women’s pro organization that inspired the 1992 Penny Marshall film *A League of Their Own*. To family and coworkers, they were simply good friends and roommates; others knew them as cousins who lived together. The couple’s remarkable journey and their eventual decision to come out late in life is movingly captured in the documentary *A Secret Love*.

Watch movie ahead of time on Netflix.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82767437517>



## COMING HOME: AN EDUCATIONAL CONCERT AND HAVDALAH WITH CANTOR COOPER

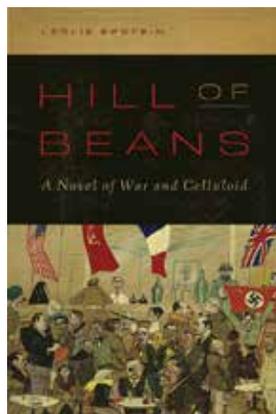
Saturday, July 23 at 7:00 pm  
(In person and Livestream)

In this educational concert, we will explore songs about coming home, coming together, and ways in which we can make the world, our home, a better place. It will feature songs based on our sacred texts. Join me as we explore melodies, both old and new, together.

**WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB****Wednesdays at 7:00 pm via Zoom**

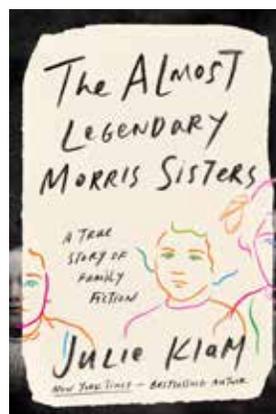
We have selected an exciting array of books for the 2021-2022 season. Read with us for a taste of many forms of Jewish literature whether you can attend one or all of our meetings. Temple Israel women and their guests are encouraged to join our spirited discussions, led by member facilitators. For more information, contact Donna Mitnick at (714) 287-4069 or [donna.mitnick@gmail.com](mailto:donna.mitnick@gmail.com).

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87285748108>



***Hill of Beans***  
by Leslie Epstein  
**May 11**

Leslie Epstein's *Hill of Beans* is the story of how one nation, one industry, and in particular one man responded to that desperate hope. That man is Jack Warner. His impossible goal is to make world events--most importantly, the invasion of North Africa by British and American forces in 1942--coincide with the release of his new film about a group of refugees marooned in Morocco. Arrayed against him are Stalin and Hitler, as well as Josef Goebbels, Franklin Roosevelt, a powerful gossip columnist, and above all a beautiful young woman with a terrible secret. His only weapons are his chutzpah and his heroism as he struggles to bring cinema and city, conflict and conference together in an epic command performance.



***The Almost Legendary Morris Sisters:***  
***A True Story of Family Fiction***  
by Julie Klam  
**July 13**

*The Almost Legendary Morris Sisters* is the revealing account of what Klam discovered about her family - and herself - as she dug into the past. The deeper she went into the lives of the Morris sisters, the slipperier their stories became. And the more questions she had about what actually happened to them, the more her opinion of them evolved. Part memoir and part confessional, and told with the wit and honesty that are hallmarks of Klam's books, *The Almost Legendary Morris Sisters* is the fascinating and funny true story of one writer's journey into her family's past, the truths she brings to light, and what she learns about herself along the way.



## 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 our Director of Education and Congregational Engagement, 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.



*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**  
*Director of Education and Congregational Engagement*

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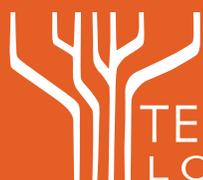
Barry Mitnick

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.



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LONG BEACH

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