

The 5th Annual MetroWest Boston Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Saturday evening, June 8, at Temple Israel of Natick, 145 Hartford St.

Sponsored by: Congregation Beth El, Sudbury • Congregation B'nai Torah, Sudbury • Congregation Ma'yan Tikvah, Wayland • Congregation Or Atid, Wayland • Hineni Havurah, Weston • Metrowest Jewish Day School, Framingham • Temple Beth Sholom, Framingham • Temple Etz Chayim, Franklin • Temple Beth Torah, Holliston • Temple Emanuel, Marlborough • Temple Shir Tikva, Wayland • Temple Israel, Natick • Temple Beth

Am, Framingham • Jewish Teen Initiative, Metrowest • Beantown Jewish Gardens • This program is generously funded by a Combined Jewish Philanthropies Metrowest Community Grant.



5:00 Shavuot Shababa-- Songs & Stories (Sanctuary)

5:30 Delicious Dairy Dinner ([by reservation](#)): (Social Hall)

6:45 Workshop I (see table). If you are coming after dinner, the evening is free.

7:45 Workshop II (see table)

8:45 Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lori Lefkowitz:

“Oy, Was That a Close Call! The Book of Ruth and the Fundamental Jewish Story” Dr. Lefkowitz holds the Ruderman Chair in Jewish Studies at Northeastern University. Her book *In Scripture: The First Stories of Jewish Sexual Identities* was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award

9:30 Ma'ariv (Sanctuary) followed by Cheesecake (Social Hall);

10:30 Workshop III (see table)

11:15 Workshop IV (see table)

Midnight: Reading of the Ten Commandments in the Courtyard (meet in lobby)



The next page includes a table of workshops at 6:45, 7:45, 10:30, and 11:15, and a listing of youth activities:

Location	6:45-7:30 PM	7:45-8:30 PM	10:30-11:10 PM	11:15 PM-11:55 PM
Sanctuary (Main Floor)	Jonathan Klawans: "Biblical Deceits and Forgeries: Sins, Strategies, and Pseudonyms"	Cantorial Soloist Jodi Blankstein and Adam Dehner MUSICAL service of Healing and Renewal	Rabbi Dan Liben: So What did we really hear at Mt. Sinai? Perspectives on Revelation from the Talmud through the 20th century	Rabbi Louis Polisson, Singing <i>Niggunim</i> (Melodies) in the "most Jewish" mode: the <i>Ahavah Rabbah</i> (Great Love) Scale
Chapel (Main Floor, past office)	Rabbi Breindel - Standing at Sinai: Shavuot Stories for All Ages	Paula Jacobs, "The Many Facets of Moses in Hebrew Literature: From Ancient to Modern Times."	Rabbi Breindel - Sex and Magic: the Legends of Lilith, the Demoness	Torah & Math: Seeking God on Shavuot through numerical texts & commentary Cantor Ken Richmond
Social Hall (Main Floor)	Grade 2-5: Game and Skills of the Israeli Scouts (Nitzan Zaharia) RSVP please: Robin.Kahn.TIN@gmail.com		Rabbi Leonard Gordon and Samara Gordon, <i>Jewish Business Ethics and the New Economy</i>	
Courtyard: Outside	Rav Shira Shazeer: Stand with Me at Sinai: A Participatory Reenactment of Receiving the Torah - Family Friendly	Moon observation by telescope with Dallas Kennedy (weather permitting) (*8:30-9:15, optimal viewing time)		
Rooms 11-12 Upstairs	Rabbi Jordi Schuster Battis, Offering the Corners of Our Fields	Norman H. Finkelstein. <i>Other Peoples' Mail: A Look at Three Letters That Exemplify the American Jewish Experience</i>	Rabbi Tom Alpert: Happy 200th birthday, Isaac Mayer Wise: Some Insights Into the "Father of American Reform Judaism."	Arnold Zar-Kessler: Birth of Hope. Following commentary of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks and searching historical connections to Judaism's teachings of Hope.
Rooms 14-15 Upstairs	Rav Shira Shazeer: Stand with Me at Sinai (Rain Location)	Linda Klein "What did you see at Sinai?" Creating a visual artistic expression from our memories.	Bernard Horn :The Life and Times of a Jewish Family Man." Poetry reading with commentary about how Judaism has entered the poems.	Cantor Lorel Zar-Kessler: A Quietening Practice; Meditation, Reflection, & Chant
Room 13 Upstairs	Grades 5-7: Cupcake Wars: Shavuot Style (Laura Hyman) RSVP please: Robin.Kahn.TIN@gmail.com		Rabbi Sharon Sobel: Ruth and Esther: Feminist Icons or Conformists? A Comparison of Two Biblical Heroines.	
Gross Motor Room Downstairs	Grade 8-12: Pop-Up Giving Circle The Metrowest community has received a grant to launch a Teen Philanthropy Project in the Fall of 2019. Come get a taste of what it means to allocate grant money. We will really be allocating \$100 during this program. (No money will be used on Yom Tov.)		Gretchen Marks Brandt: Torah Godly Play for Adults: exploring themes of family relationships, aging, death, and psychological and physical transitions in the book of Ruth	
Room 3 Downstairs	Makepeace Music Medicine Drum Circle-Family Friendly	Lorel Zar-Kessler: The Fable of the Goat, by Shai Agnon. Always searching for the Garden of Eden		
Room 4 Downstairs		Rabbi Katy Allen: Climate Justice and Climate Equity, a text exploration and discussion		

Note: Please avoid cell phones, cameras, and writing in the building

Shavuot Class Descriptions:

6:45 - 7:30 p.m.:

Biblical Deceits and Forgeries: Sins, Strategies, and Pseudonyms (Main Sanctuary)

Jonathan Klawans, Boston University

Did you catch the news about fake Dead Sea Scrolls in the Museum of the Bible? We will explore some stories of biblical forgeries, in relation to what the Hebrew Bible has to say about lies, strategic deceit, and secret identities.

Standing at Sinai: Shavuot Stories for All Ages (Chapel)

Rabbi Josh Breindel, Congregation Beth El - Sudbury

From generation to generation, the stories of Judaism have engaged, enthused and inspired our people of every age. As we celebrate receiving the Torah at Shavuot, we can also celebrate our most engaging and inspiring stories. From our youngest students to our most seasoned learners, there will be something for everyone to enjoy!

Stand with Me at Sinai: A Participatory Reenactment of Receiving the Torah (Courtyard / Rain Location Room 14-15)

Rav Shira Shazeer, School Rabbi, MetroWest Jewish Day School

The midrash teaches that every Jewish soul that would ever live was at Mt. Sinai when God gave the Torah. We'll use paper-bag drama and other participatory approaches to imagine and experience this powerful moment for ourselves, bringing together Torah, a little midrash, and our own observations and insights. Family Friendly!

Offering the Corners of Our Fields (Rooms 11-12)

Rabbi Jordi Schuster Battis, Temple Shir Tikva

Makepeace Music Medicine Circle (Room 3, Downstairs)

Joan Makepeace

A drum/percussion circle with an emphasis on peace and healing (can accommodate up to 24 participants)

Youth and Teen Programs: 6:45-8:30, RSVP please to Robin.Kahn.TIN@gmail.com

- Grade 2-5: Game and Skills of the Israeli Scouts (Nitzan Zaharia, Social Hall)
- Grades 5-7: Cupcake Wars: Shavuot Style (Laura Hyman, Room 13)
- Grade 8-12: Pop-Up Giving Circle (Gross Motor Room) The Metrowest community has received a grant to launch a Teen Philanthropy Project in the Fall of 2019. Come get a taste of what it means to allocate grant money. We will really be allocating \$100 during this program. (No money will be used on Yom Tov.)

7:45 - 8:30 p.m.:

Musical Service of Healing and Renewal (Sanctuary)

Cantorial Soloist Jodi Blankstein and Adam Dehner

The Many Facets of Moses in Hebrew Literature: From Ancient to Modern Times. (Chapel)

Paula Jacobs

For centuries, writers have been fascinated by the character of Moses in his many roles as leader, warrior, lawgiver, and more. We will examine texts from the biblical period to modern times to understand why he remains an inspiring figure to this day.

Other People's Mail: Three Letters That Exemplify the American Jewish Experience (Room 11-12)

Norman H. Finkelstein, Hebrew College Prozdor, author of *The JPS Guide to American Jewish History*

Of course, it's not polite to read another person's mail. But don't worry. The writers of these letters will not mind. Their words will give us a personal contemporary look into three events over three centuries which shaped the American Jewish community.

“What did you see at Sinai?” (Room 14-15)

Linda Klein

We will work individually and collectively to recreate a visual experience with your memories. Bring any water based or dry art media to work with. (Note: we're generally not having writing and art-making in the building in accordance with shabbat practice at Temple Israel, but are making an exception for this class)

The Fable of the Goat, by Shai Agnon. Always Searching for the Garden of Eden. (Room 3)

Cantor Lorel Zar-Kessler, Congregation Beth El Sudbury

Agnon frames his stories in a way that begs the reader to struggle with the fine line between fact and fiction. We will read, struggle, and immerse ourselves in the language and philosophy of our relationship to community, Israel, and to God.

Climate Justice and Climate Equity (Room 4, Downstairs)

Rabbi Katy Allen, Ma'yan Tikvah and Jewish Climate Action Network

With the climate crisis more and more in the news and in our experiences, what are issues arise around equity and justice? We will explore what climate justice and equity are, why they are needed, and dip into some Jewish texts that speak to our response.

8:30 - 9:15 p.m.:

Telescope Goes to Shul (meet in the courtyard)

Dallas Kennedy

Observing the Moon for Shavuot, weather permitting. Meet in back courtyard; we may try out several locations to view.

10:30 - 11:10 p.m.:

So What did we really hear at Mt. Sinai? (Sanctuary)

Rabbi Dan Liben, Temple Israel of Natick

Perspectives on Revelation from the Talmud through the 20th century

Sex and Magic: The Legends of Lilith the Demoneess (Chapel)

Rabbi Josh Breindel, Congregation Beth El - Sudbury

Wife of Adam, mother of demons, and woman of power...stories of Lilith have inspired and captivated the Jewish people for millennia. From Mesopotamia to Hollywood, from the Talmud to '60s feminism, join in an exploration of one of Judaism's most captivating and alluring characters!

Jewish Ethics and the New Economy (Social Hall)

Rabbi Leonard Gordon, Temple Beth Sholom, Framingham; Samara Gordon, Senior Associate, Hyperplane

The new economy (from tech startups and social media giants to venture capital firms and financial services) raises often unsettling ethical challenges. How can we apply Jewish teachings about speech, priority setting, multi-tasking, human dignity, and privacy to the situations people encounter today?

Happy 200th birthday, Isaac Mayer Wise: Insights Into the “Father of American Reform Judaism.” (Room 11-12)

Rabbi Tom Alpert, Temple Etz Chaim, Franklin

We will look at a major figure in American Judaism on the occasion of the bicentennial of his birth and see what relevance he still has to Judaism in America today.

“The Life and Times of a Jewish Family Man.” (Room 14-15)

Bernard Horn

A poetry reading with commentary about how Judaism has entered the poems in various ways.

Ruth and Esther: Feminist Icons or Conformists? (Room 13)

Rabbi Sharon Sobel, Temple Beth Am, Framingham

Ruth and Esther: Feminist Icons or Conformists? A Comparison of Two Biblical Heroines.” An overview of the characteristics of the biblical characters Ruth and Esther, comparing and contrasting their behaviors, actions and language. What can we learn the role of women as leaders?

Torah Godly Play: Shavuot Edition (Gross Motor Room, Downstairs)

Gretchen Marks Brandt

Torah Godly Play is a storytelling methodology that encourages participants to see themselves in the story through the telling of the story and wondering questions that follow it. While Torah Godly Play was developed for young children, it has evolved as a practice appropriate for all ages. In this methodology, the story substance, wondering questions and inner life of the participants come together to provide participants with opportunities for a spiritually enriching experience. The first chapter of *Megillat Rut* addresses profound themes of family relationships, aging, death, and psychological and physical transitions. Join me to see, hear and wonder together about this amazing story

11:15 - 11:55 p.m.:

Singing *Niggunim* (Wordless Melodies) in the “most Jewish” mode: the *Ahavah Rabbah* (Great Love) Scale

(Sanctuary)

Rabbi Louis Polisson, Congregation Or Atid of Wayland

What makes Jewish music so emotive and powerful? Come learn one answer to that question by learning about a specific Jewish musical scale. We'll learn and sing melodies in this scale, the *Ahavah Rabbah* mode, including an original melody composed by Rabbi Polisson. Through our singing, we'll cultivate open hearts, preparing to receive the revelation of the Torah.

Torah & Math: Seeking God on Shavuot Through Numerical Texts & Commentaries (Chapel)

Cantor Ken Richmond, Temple Israel of Natick

What is the intersection of Torah and Math, of Math and spiritual seeking? We'll explore mathematical texts and commentary in the Torah, Talmud, and midrash, including an epic mathematically-based commentary by Ibn Ezra about God appearing to Moses in the cleft of the rock.

Birth of Hope. (Room 11-12)

Arnold Zar-Kessler

Following commentary of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks and searching historical connections to Judaism's teachings of Hope.

Quieting Practice. (Room 14-15)

Cantor Lorel Zar-Kessler

A meditation, reflection, and chant opportunity to bring us quietly to Sinai, from the teachings of Rabbi Kalonymus Shapira. We practice a simple meditation practice to quiet our minds, focus our attention on God's Presence, and surrender to the Oneness of all Being (at least for a short time!)