



Join us for the 2nd Annual MetroWest Boston Tikkun Leil Shavuot Saturday evening, June 11, at Temple Israel of Natick, 145 Hartford St.

Co-sponsored by Congregation Beth Sholom, Framingham; Temple Israel, Natick; Congregation Beth El, Sudbury;
Congregation B'nai Torah, Sudbury; Congregation Or Atid, Wayland; Ma'yan Tikvah, Wayland; Temple Shir Tikva,
Wayland; MetroWest Jewish Day School, Framingham

5:00 Storyteller David Arfa (Sanctuary)

5:45 Delicious Dairy Dinner ([by reservation](#)): (Social Hall)

7:00 Classes (see table). If you are coming after dinner, the evening is free, no reservation needed.

8:00 Rabbi Kushner Keynote: “Who is the Hero of the Book of Ruth” (Sanctuary);

8:30 Classes (see table)

9:20 Ma'ariv (Sanctuary) followed by Cheesecake (Social Hall);

10:15 and 11:15 Classes (see table)

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

12:30-1:30 Final Classes (Chapel)

Location	7:00-7:45 PM	8:30-9:15 PM	10:15-11:00 PM	11:15 PM-Midnight
Sanctuary (Main Floor)	Midrash of Ruth Dr. Alan Avery-Peck	What's in God's Name? Rav-Hazzan Scott Sokol	The Torah of Climate Change Rabbi Katy Allen	Not in God's Name Arnie Zar-Kessler
Chapel (Main Floor, past office)	Niggunim Cantor Jacqueline Breines	Modern Hebrew Literature: Paula Jacobs	Learning from Yourself: <i>Hitlamdut</i> Lisa Goodman	“You Cannot Do It Alone” Gretchen Marks Brandt
Social Hall (Main Floor)	Cheesecake Making (family): with Ganei Beantown	The Oven of Achnai Rabbi David Thomas	Israeli Dance Rabbi Dan Liben (with instruments)	
Courtyard: Outside	Stand with Me at Sinai (family): Rabbi Shira Shazeer	The Night Sky; Lunar Observing Dallas Kennedy		
Rooms 11-12 Upstairs	Will the Real Story of Revelation Please Come Forward? Rabbi Larry Bazer	Will the Real Story of Revelation Please Come Forward? Rabbi Larry Bazer	The Poetry of Yehuda Amichai Bernie Horn	“In Your Face” the 1st Alef of the 10 Commandments Cantor Ken Richmond
Rooms 14-15 Upstairs	What's In a Name? Ruth Between the Lines Janet Buchwald	Authentic Movement Julie Leavitt & Joanie Block	Drumming Circle Josef Kottler	Song & Harmony Cantor Lorel Zar-Kessler
Room 13 Upstairs	Judaism & Democracy Larry Sternberg	Making Our Own 10 Commandments Rabbi Sally Finestone	Making Our Own 10 Commandments Rabbi Sally Finestone	
Room 2 Downstairs	The Torah of Climate Change Rabbi Katy Allen	Artistic Midrash: Zentangles Jennifer Stevens	The Hebrew Calendar Dallas Kennedy	
Room 3 Downstairs	Stand with me at Sinai (rain location)			

Note: Please do not use cell phones or cameras, or writing (except in the drawing class)

7:00 – 7:45 p.m.: - *Kids who complete this session will receive a chocolate Torah treat!*

Midrash of the Book of Ruth (Sanctuary)

Dr. Alan Avery-Peck, Professor of Religion at Holy Cross

On Shavuot we read the biblical book of Ruth, the story of a righteous convert who clings to her mother-in-law and to the Jewish people. Midrash Ruth Rabbah describes the qualities that define Ruth's greatness, details the ethical commitments that come with a life of Torah, and outlines some procedures for conversion. We will read and discuss Ruth Rabbah's most engaging passages, highlighting the lessons that are pertinent for us on Shavuot and throughout the year.

Jewish Religious Expression Through Niggunim (Chapel)

Cantor Jacqueline Breines, Congregation B'nai Torah

What is the origin of the *niggun*, and what purpose does the *niggun* serve in prayer? We will explore various *niggun* melodies, and the proper way to fully experience a *niggun* as taught by Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, founder of the Jewish Renewal Movement in the U.S. How can this method be used to optimize the spiritually enhancing effect of all music during prayer?

Cheesecake Making (Social Hall)

Molly Bajgot from Ganei Beantown

Family Friendly! Help make non-bake cheesecake! [Ganei Beantown](#) facilitates a connection between Judaism, food, and agriculture, and engages in the question of how to feed ourselves in a just and sustainable manner.

Stand with Me at Sinai: A Participatory Reenactment of Receiving the Torah (Courtyard, rain location: room 2)

Rabbi Shira Shazeer, MWJDS

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!

“Will the Real Story of the Revelation of Torah Please Come Forward!” – The Different Narratives of *Matan Torah*

(Room 11-12 upstairs)

Rabbi, Dr. Larry Bazer, Temple Beth Shalom

We will first tear apart the various stories of *Matan Torah* from the different Biblical authorships, J, E, P & D. At the end of the session, we will attempt to put them back together in a new revitalized story that strengthens one belief in the giving and importance of Torah today.

“What's In A Name: Reading Ruth Between the Lines” (Room 14-15 upstairs)

Janet Buchwald, Congregation Beth El of Sudbury

The story of Ruth unfolds on many levels, and we can find a deeper level of meaning by examining the names of the characters. We'll explore what extra facts are embedded in the text through the simple use of names. Participants should be able to read Hebrew.

Judaism and Democracy (Room 13 upstairs)

Dr. Larry Sternberg, Or Atid

Democracy traces its origins to the Greeks. How do underlying values of democracy align with Jewish values and Jewish historical experience and what are the points of tension between our texts and values and democracy as we understand it today?

Receiving the Torah of Climate Change (Room 2, Downstairs)

Rabbi Katy Allen, Ma'yan Tikvah - A Wellspring of Hope, Wayland

What does it mean to accept and embrace the reality of climate change? To what extent are we able to understand what is happening to the planet and its implications for the future? How does climate change impact us physically, psychologically, and spirituality? What do we do in our lives and our communities in response? This interactive workshop will address these questions and explore some possible responses.

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

What's in God's Name? Unpacking the 13 Divine Attributes (Sanctuary)

Rav-Hazzan Scott Sokol, MetroWest Jewish Day School & Beth Sholom

The revelation of God's name to Moses on Sinai is one of the most charged theological moments in the Torah. This class will explore the context and content of the Thirteen Divine Attributes of God, their resonance with the Divine name and what they tell us about God's unique relationship with Moses and Bnei Yisrael.

Modern Hebrew Literature: From Exile to Redemption (Chapel)

Paula Jacobs

This session will study modern Hebrew literature from a literary and historical perspective. We will read selections from the great Hebrew writers of the late 19th and early 20th century, analyze key themes, and try to understand what defines the Jewish consciousness, as well as personal and national identity.

The Oven of Achnai Revisited: If Torah is a Gift, Does that Mean We Can Do What We Want With It? Why God Still Cares (Social Hall)

Rabbi David Thomas, Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley

Together, we will do a close reading of this famous Talmudic story which seems to suggest that humans have the ultimate control over what Torah says and means. In this text, God submits to our will with rejoicing: "My children have defeated me!" But the story doesn't end there. God still cares about what we do and say.

Lunar observing (outside in courtyard, weather permitting)

Dallas Kennedy

The first evening of Shavuot is the 6th-7th day of the lunar month, and the waxing Moon will be almost half-full. Good lighting to see lunar mountains. Will have mounted binoculars. Bring your own good binoculars or small telescope, if available!

"Will the Real Story of the Revelation of Torah Please Come Forward!" – The Different Narratives of *Matan Torah* (Room 11-12 upstairs)

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Authentic Movement as we climb to Sinai (Room 14-15 upstairs)

Julie Leavitt, Joanie Block, congregation Beth El

The teaching is that we were all at Sinai together. We all experienced Revelation in our own way, based on how we most directly perceive moments of great spiritual Presence, of Awe. How do we open to a sense of Presence now? Through embodied exercises we will explore these questions.

Creating Our Own Ten Commandments (Room 13 upstairs)

Rabbi Sally Finestone, Congregation Or Atid, Wayland

We are all familiar with the Ten Commandments given at Sinai. But what Commandments would we create for ourselves today? What are the most essential principles that guide our lives? After a brief study of the Ten Commandments of the Torah, we'll create and share our own set of commandments for 2016.

Visual Artistic Midrash of Shavuot: Zentangle (Room 2, downstairs)

Jennifer Stevens

This Class, with a certified [Zentangle](#) instructor, will explore Shavuot through drawing and is limited to 10.

10:15 – 11:00 p.m.:

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Learning from Yourself: *Hitlamdut* (Chapel)

Lisa Goodman, Congregation Beth El

Hitlamdut is the concept of being open to absorbing lessons from ourselves and our life experiences (as well as from others). One way to describe a person's wisdom is to call it their 'Torah.' What happens when we pay close attention to our own inner Torah? We'll be exploring *Hitlamdut* through a brief text study and an experiential practice.

Israeli Folk Dancing (Social Hall)

Rabbi Dan Liben, Temple Israel

We'll dance to new and old favorites, including songs with festival and harvest themes in honor of Shavuot. Singing and live music with Rabbi Shira Shazeer on accordion and Cantor Ken Richmond on violin.

Yehuda Amichai as Secular Midrashist. (Room 11-12, upstairs)

Bernie Horn

Many of Yehuda Amichai's poems are midrash on the Tanach, on liturgy, and on Jewish history. One section of his last book is called "The Bible, the Bible, and You, and You and Other Midrashim." This study session presents some examples of such poems in both Hebrew and English, deals with some issues that come up in translation, examines what happens when poems encounter audiences who are unfamiliar with the Biblical text, and adds a personal dimension which explores an example of Amichai's influence on one American poet.

Drumming Circle (Room 14-15, Upstairs)

Josef Kottler

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What is the Hebrew Calendar? (Room 2, downstairs)

Dallas Kennedy

The Hebrew calendar, its history and quirks, its relatives and rivals

11:15 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.

Not in God's Name (Sanctuary)

Arnie Zar-Kessler

In 'Not in God's Name', Rabbi Jonathan Sacks explores of the roots of violence and its relationship to religion, and employing groundbreaking biblical analysis and interpretation and posits that religiously inspired violence has as its source misreadings of biblical texts at the heart of all three Abrahamic faiths. Our session course will attempt to read important sections of the Rabbi Sacks's book closely, to dig into Sacks's text together to uncover its special message to moderns who see themselves as inheritors of a great religious tradition, yet worry that religion itself is often seen as the problem in a world wracked with violence.

"You Cannot Do It Alone"; an Interactive Study of Each of the Ten Commandments (Chapel)

Gretchen Marks Brandt, Temple Israel of Natick

Shortly before we receive the Ten Commandments, Yitro tells Moshe, "*for the thing is too heavy for you, you cannot do it alone.*" In this interactive session, we will explore together the relationship between this text and each of the Ten Commandments.

You Shall Go Out in Joy (Rooms 14-15 upstairs)

Cantor Lorel Zar-Kessler

What better way to create joy than by singing together? We will raise our voices in melody, create easy harmonies, and celebrate in joy!

"In Your Face"-- a Radical Hasidic Midrash on the first Alef of the Ten Commandments (Rooms 11-12 upstairs)

Cantor Ken Richmond, Temple Israel

As learned from Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, a midrash by the Hasidic Rebbe Menachem Mendl of Rymanov that posits that only the first alef of the Ten Commandments was actually given by God at Sinai.

12:30 a.m.

The Life of Abraham (Chapel)

Shimon Blacker

A look at key moments in Abraham's life to uncover its structure and pivotal event.

Extra Snacks at this point!

1:00 a.m. – 1:30 a.m.

Hearing God's Voice; Tapping into Revelation Every Day (Chapel)

Rabbi Shira Shazeer

Explore a Hasidic teaching on Shavuot, Revelation, and the Human soul.

Extra Snacks continue!

Thanks to **Yael Katzman** for chairing the dinner, to **Rachel Plofsky** for assisting, to **Phyllis Rotberg** for catering, to **Elaine Marmer & friends** on behalf of the TI Sisterhood for providing refreshments, to **Jen Novick** for making chocolate Torahs, to **Margie Matross** for late-night refreshments, to the **office & maintenance staff** at Temple Israel, to all of our **teachers**, to the team of **clergy and volunteers** for planning, and to **all of you** for coming! See you again at Sinai on Tuesday evening, May 30, 2017, location TBA! The participating synagogues may be holding Shavuot services on Sunday 6/12 and/or Monday 6/13. Wishing everyone *chag sameach* and *git yontev*-- a joyous holiday!