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**Temple Israel Launches Podcast: *Pulpit on the Common***  
*An ongoing conversation on the intersection of faith and public life*

**Boston, MA:** The most significant study of the Jewish community, *A Portrait of American Jews*, by the PEW Research Center in 2013, reinforced a reality that Temple Israel has understood for more than a decade: a mandate for institutional change. Temple Israel has a rich history of developing innovative approaches towards engagement. *Pulpit on the Common* establishes a new setting for the content and conversation that was once situated on the pulpit - making the pulpit accessible anywhere, anytime, to anyone.

Moderated by Rabbi Matt Soffer, each episode of *Pulpit on the Common* focuses our conversation towards the intersection of faith and public life in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The first episode, airing on Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 18, 2016), will be on the topic of criminal justice reform with featured guests Massachusetts State Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz and Reverend Liz Walker of Roxbury Presbyterian Church.

Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz was the first Latina elected to the Massachusetts State Senate. She is serving her fourth term on behalf of the Second Suffolk District and is the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Education. Senator Chang-Díaz recently co-sponsored legislation to reform the pre-trial bail process and eliminate mandatory minimum sentences related to drug offences.

Reverend Liz Walker is the senior pastor of Roxbury Presbyterian Church. A two-time Emmy Award recipient, Reverend Walker was the first African-American weeknight news anchor in Boston.

**About Temple Israel of Boston:** Temple Israel is a diverse, urban, Reform Jewish congregation where all are welcome to live Judaism together through discovery, dynamic spirituality, and righteous impact. We welcome the opportunity to comment further on this story.

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