



Welcome to Temple Israel of Boston

477 Longwood Avenue | Boston, MA 02215 | 617-566-3960 | www.tisrael.org

Living Judaism Together

Shabbat January 14-15, 2022 | 12 Shvat 5782

Torah Portion

Beshalach

Exodus 13:17 - 17:16

Haftarah Portion

Judges 4:4 - 5:31

Rabbi Elaine S. Zecher
Cantor Alicia Stillman
Rabbi Suzie Jacobson
Rabbi Dan Slipakoff
Rabbi Andrew Oberstein

Rabbi Ronne Friedman
Rabbi Emeritus
Rabbi Bernard H. Mehlman
Senior Scholar
Cantor Roy B. Einhorn
Cantor Emeritus

Dan Deutsch
Executive Director
Laurence Bailen, M.D.
Board President
Amy Bolotin
FIECC Preschool Director

If you would like information on becoming a member of Temple Israel, or if you are a current member whose contact information has changed, please contact Emma Savitz at esavitz@tisrael.org.

Please turn off cell phones during services.

Video recording is not permitted. Thank you.

SHABBAT TZEDEK: A SABBATH OF JUSTICE WITH DISTRICT ATTORNEY RACHAEL ROLLINS AND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WEEKEND OF JUSTICE ENCOUNTERS

Friday, January 14

6:00 p.m. Qabbalat Shabbat, onsite and online

We celebrate the values of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with honored guest Rachael Rollins. This service is open to people of all faiths.

7:30 p.m. For those in their 20s and 30s: The Riverway Project will gather after services for an online oneg.

Saturday, January 15

9:00 a.m. Torah Study, online only

We begin with Tefilah led by TI clergy, followed by an engaging Torah Study steeped in the values embodied by our Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion work.

8:00 p.m. Havdalah, online only

We reconnect for Havdalah as we reflect on the themes of this Shabbat.

Sunday, January 16

8:00 a.m. (or 11:00 a.m.) Bethel AME Church Service, online only

Join us and our neighbors at Bethel AME Church for their Sunday worship and Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration, joint sermon by Rabbi Zecher and Reverend Gloria White-Hammond, and breakout discussion groups with members of the Bethel AME community. We encourage you to attend the 8:00 a.m. service where more Bethel congregants will be present.

Monday, January 17

2:00 p.m. For those in their 20s & 30s: A Riverway REDI Conversation (Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) moderated by Riverway Lay Leaders, online only.

3:00 p.m. Tu B'Shvat Seder, online only

All are invited to a Tu B'Shvat Seder as we weave together the teachings and wisdom of Dr. King and our Jewish commitment to environmental justice.

All links to online opportunities can be found on our website: www.tisrael.org



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. marching with Maurice Eisendrath (center), President of the UAHC (now the URJ), and Abraham Joshua Heschel (right).

Shabbat Tzedek Service Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The service will be led by Rabbi Elaine Zecher, Cantor Alicia Stillman, Rabbi Suzie Jacobson, Rabbi Andrew Oberstein, and Rabbi Dan Slipakoff and accompanied by the Temple Israel Band. Our closed captioning and Spanish translating is provided by TotalCaption.

Youth Perspectives

Tionbre Austin and Sheina Registre (Beacon Academy)
Emily Lutzker and Jadon Berkson (Temple Israel)

Introductions

Rabbi Elaine Zecher, Senior Rabbi of Temple Israel of Boston

Speaker

Rachael Rollins, U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts

Announcements

Laurence Bailen, Board President of Temple Israel of Boston

Temple Israel Welcomes Rachael Rollins, U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts



Rachael Rollins is the first woman elected as District Attorney in Suffolk County, and the first woman of color elected District Attorney in Massachusetts. Since taking office in 2019, Rollins has implemented humane and data-supported policies, focusing her limited resources on the most violent and serious crimes, and keeping Suffolk County safe. Over 240 years of wrongful convictions, and counting, have been overturned by her initiatives.

On January 10, 2022, Rollins was sworn in as U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, becoming the first Black woman to serve as the top federal prosecutor in the Commonwealth.

The Life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929. His roots were in the African-American Baptist Church. King studied at Morehouse College, Crozer Theological Seminary, and Boston University, where he deepened his understanding of theological scholarship and explored Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolent strategy for social change.



King married Coretta Scott in 1953. Following on the success of bus boycotts in Montgomery, King and other Southern black ministers founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1957. In 1959, he became co-pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church with his father.

In the early 1960's King and SCLC began to lead non-violent demonstrations. After these demonstrations, President Kennedy responded to the Birmingham protests by submitting broad civil rights legislation to Congress, which led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Subsequent mass demonstrations culminated in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963, in which more than 250,000 protesters gathered. It was on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial that King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

King's renown continued to grow as he became Time Magazine's Man of the Year in 1963 and the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Dr. King preached at a Passover service here at Temple Israel in April 1965. However, along with the fame and accolades came increasing resistance on several fronts. On April 4, 1968, Rev. King was assassinated. Rev. King's life and legacy continue to inspire our community's pursuit of justice.



TIKKUN CENTRAL: The Heart of

"Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?"

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Thanks to Covid 19, we've suffered mightily from chaos, the effects of which will ripple throughout the world for years to come. Elevating the role of community in our lives has helped us persevere. GBIO is the organized manifestation of the commitment to put community — especially the least powerful groups in our society — first."

— Jen Grella

"Volunteering with the resettlement effort for the family of five from Afghanistan has been rewarding on many levels. Perhaps the most crucial lesson for me has been the recognition of the positive impact a local community can have on circumstances beyond their control."

— Rebecca White



"People in conditions of poverty or who are incarcerated, live in a country that has stripped them of their identities. They need our help to lessen the chaos. The TI community can provide concrete assistance securing valid state identification so people can exercise their right and freedom to vote."

— Martha Starr

"Chaos or community: two diverse directions; chaos is dark, splintering, a downward spiral. In the building of community we have light, love, connection, and an upward spiral embracing all that is possible."

"Engaging in economic justice embraces that possibility by sharing our resources. In community we keep 'the hand that feeds' in constant motion creating sustainable success for all."

— Elaine Abrams

Righteous Impact at Temple Israel

“Working with Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN), we’ve learned to create community with those who bear the brunt of a deliberately chaotic and unjust system. We help people to navigate an ever-changing immigration process, offering practical assistance with logistics, providing access to legal information, sharing resources to bond people out of jail, and working in community to challenge the injustices of our immigration system.”

— Sarah Kianovsky and Susanna Stern

“Where we go is towards where we have always been: towards community, towards compassion, towards collaboration. In times of chaos, the only way out is through — and in the company of others who care. And TI Cares!”

— Remi Dansinger and Dana Elisofon



“At the environmental rally at the statehouse, in the wind, and the rain, with microphones feeding back, cars splashing, people shuffling to and fro, and sentences muffled by masks, it was chaos. Nevertheless, we focused on the matter at hand, spoke the truth, sounded the shofar, and demonstrated that an act of community can overcome chaos, and might even inspire some hope.”

— Sam Crawford

Upcoming Events

Moving Stories: Immigration and Our Past, Present, and Future

Taught by Adam Strom, Executive Director of Re-Imagining Migration

Meets weekly on Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

4 sessions, February 1 – 22, 2022

Online and Onsite

The national results of the last census reaffirm what we have seen in Greater Boston over the previous 30 years: rapid demographic change spurred by immigration is impacting communities worldwide. More and more, people are finding themselves working with and living with people whose ideas, experiences, cultures, and accents are increasingly likely to be different from their own. Despite the ubiquity of migration in our civic lives, most of us don't know much about immigration.

In this 4-session class led by Adam Strom of Re-Imagining Migration, we will explore and reflect on stories of immigration, and expand our understanding about the impact of movement in our own lives and our communities.

Visit www.tisrael.org or contact Brigid Goggin at bgoggin@tisrael.org to learn more and join us.

Radio Play(s) Ep. 2: Rail | | Road — Premiere Performance!

Written and directed by Regie Gibson and Guy Mendilow

Coming This Spring!

Online

We are excited to announce the upcoming live screening of the online premier performance of Episode 2 of Radio Play(s), followed by a community conversation to explore the themes addressed and questions raised.

Co-hosted by literary performer Regie Gibson and composer Guy Mendilow, each “episode” of Radio Play(s) unpacks a timely theme through a collection of stories told through the spoken word, musical segments, and theatrically projected sand animation. Episode 2 asks, “What if we could see into the stories and histories of those we encounter in our daily journeys? What assumptions would we suspend? What decisions might we change?” Set on a train journey, “Rail | | Road” brings to life stories of that against which we rail, of being railroaded, and of the roads to better futures.

Visit www.tisrael.org or contact Brigid Goggin at bgoggin@tisrael.org for more information.

See the full list of upcoming programs at www.tisrael.org/calendar

“Into the Still Swirling Sea”



*by Rabbi Dan Slipakoff
Temple Israel of Boston*

At a critical point in the Exodus from Egypt, the fleeing Israelites find themselves in existential peril. They are trapped between the charging charioteers of Pharaoh's army

and a wall of water at the shores of the Red Sea. Terrified and traumatized, the Israelites cry out to God and call out to Moses, pleading for answers and questioning if they had escaped Egypt only to die in the desert.

The medieval commentator Ibn Ezra raises the question, “Why should such a large encampment of 600,000 Israelites fear the mere 600 chariots pursuing them? Why did they not fight to save their lives and the lives of their children?” Ibn Ezra answers his own question, “The Egyptians were their lords, and the Jews who came out of Egypt had a slave mentality. They could not fight against their masters.” They were incapacitated — convinced that they could not break the bonds of their known reality by confronting the source of their oppression.

Far too often, we share similar feelings to those Israelites. A sinking sensation that following every breath of hope or freedom, could be yet another demoralizing challenge. A fear that incremental changes will never fix our broken world. Each of us in one way or another knows the crushing weight of the world as it exists, inhibiting us from acting towards the more perfect world we envision. It is natural to feel moments of doubt and questioning.

But as Dr. King wrote in his Letter from a Birmingham Jail, “Human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of men willing to be co-workers with God.” He reminds us that positive change is never a guarantee; it is worked for, fought for, and prayed for.

We can partner with God through a persistent combination of faith and action, made ever more impactful when we work together as a part of a

community. To be co-workers with God, we must first prove our willingness to work with one another. To Ibn Ezra's point, the Israelites at the Red Sea did not first rally as a nation, because in their moment of crisis they failed to think of themselves as a large collective instead of as an assortment of individuals. They did not recognize the power they had as a larger community.

We know that we are stronger together, but that power is not inevitable. Can we put in the work to build coalitions for change? Are we able to create and sustain new partnerships? What individual changes do we need to make in order to serve the greater good?

Every action taken by the Israelites is based on faith and determination in the face of uncertainty. When Moses tries to assure the Israelites that God will fight on their behalf, God responds, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to move forward!” A midrashic retelling teaches us that the sea did not split until the Israelites waded into the waters up to their nose. The message is clear: take the brave step forward, even though the path through to the other side is not yet clear.

In this new and promising year of 2022, we will find ways to march forward together into the still swirling sea, and we must do so with urgency. As Dr. King continues, “Without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation.” This challenge calls to mind the words of Hillel, “If not now, when?”

We face mounting opposition and our own inertia across all our pursuits of justice. Each of us carries the sacred responsibility to find ways to take decisive action and to advance the causes we care about. We do so with the understanding that our liberation is bound up with one another, and that all of us must cross the sea together.

May the words and passions shared tonight across this sacred community of change-makers inspire us all to heal our world through community, peace, and love.

Shabbat Shalom!

Song Sheet: Shabbat Tzedek 2022

Hinei Ma Tov

Hinei ma tov u'ma-naim shevet achim
gam yachad.

How good it is to be together with our
brothers and sisters.

Let Us Sing Unto God

L'chu neranena l'Adonai, naria l'tzur
yisheinu.

Let us sing unto God, sing unto God a
new song.

Let There Be Love

Let there be love and understanding
among us,

let peace and friendship be our
shelter in life's storms.

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine

I'm going to let it shine.

Oh, this little light of mine

I'm going to let it shine.

This little light of mine

I'm going to let it shine.

Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

Shema

Shema (Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu
Adonai Echad).

Listen Israel, Adonai, our God is One.

And You Shall Love

And you shall love Adonai your God
with all your heart,

With all your soul, and with all your
might.

And all these words which I command
you on this day,

Shall be in your heart, shall be in your
heart.

And you shall teach them diligently
unto your children,

And you shall speak of them when
you sit in your house;

When you walk by the way and when
you lie down,

And when you rise up, and when you
rise up.

That you may remember and do all of
my commandments,

And be holy unto your God, unto your
God, unto your God.