

BEIT  
MIDRASH:  
ADULT  
ENGAGEMENT  
AT TEMPLE  
DE HIRSCH  
SINAI

5777  
2016-2017

COME  
AND  
LEARN

## DEAR FRIENDS,

*Pirkei Avot*, the Ethics of Our Ancestors, teaches that "The *Shekinah*, God's Dwelling Presence, is evoked when two people engage in the study of Torah." At Temple De Hirsch Sinai, we are here to help advance the "study of Torah." Whether that means schmoozing with new friends at *Torah* and *T'filah* on Shabbat morning, immersing yourself in our new Kabbalah course, or wrestling with the mandate to repair the world through one of our social action initiatives, the possibilities for lifelong learning abound.

This brochure gives an overview of what we are planning to offer this year and there is room for more. If you are interested in helping to shape Adult Jewish Learning and Engagement at Temple or have any questions, please be in touch.

*B'vracha*, in blessing,



Rabbi Kate Speizer  
Adult Engagement Coordinator  
[kspeizer@tdhs-nw.org](mailto:kspeizer@tdhs-nw.org)  
206.693.3046



Rabbi Daniel Weiner  
Senior Rabbi  
206.323.8486

## TORAH & T'FILAH

Our Shabbat morning begins at 9:30 AM in the Seattle Conference Room with a discussion of the week's Torah portion, facilitated by one of Temple's rabbis. At 10:30 AM, the congregation joins in prayer in the Seattle Chapel, led by one of our rabbis and a song leader or soloist. This service takes place every Saturday morning in Seattle.

## SOCIAL ACTION

With your help, TDHS continues to be active and involved in our Seattle-area community. Our volunteers transform Jewish values into meaningful action through numerous projects each month. Visit <http://templedehirschsinai.org/volunteer/> for current projects!

The background of the poster is a complex Kabbalistic diagram, likely a version of the Tree of Life. It features a central column of spheres (sephiroth) connected by lines (qabalistic paths). The diagram is rendered in a modern, stylized manner with various colors including red, yellow, blue, and purple. Hebrew letters are placed at various points along the paths. The overall aesthetic is geometric and symbolic.

# KABBALAH: THE SEEDS OF REALITY


**Thu • 7-8:30 PM**  
**Sep 22 & 29,**  
**Oct 6 & 27, Nov 3 & 10**  
**Seattle Campus**

Free to TDHS members, \$36 for  
community. Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/tdhsadultedu2016>.

Contact Rabbi Kate Speizer, Adult  
Engagement Coordinator,  
[kspeizer@tdhs-nw.org](mailto:kspeizer@tdhs-nw.org) or  
206.693.3046.

How did this all begin?  
What will happen in the  
end? What's the purpose of  
the journey between? In this  
6-session class, these and many  
other questions will be explored,  
interpreted, discussed and not always  
(or possible to be) answered, as we  
explore the fundamental elements of  
Kabbalah, Jewish mysticism, and  
its seminal text, the Zohar. No  
prior experience necessary  
save for an open heart  
and mind.





Join Temple's rabbis on Sunday mornings at our Seattle Campus for adult Jewish learning. 2, 3, & 4-week mini-courses offer timely and relevant knowledge through a Jewish lens and are open to all adults in the Temple community.

# SUNDAY STUDY IN SEATTLE

**Sun • 10-11:45 AM**  
**Starting Sep 18, 2016**  
**Seattle Campus**

Free. Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/tdhsadultedu2016>.

Contact Rabbi Kate Speizer, Adult Engagement Coordinator,  
[kspeizer@tdhs-nw.org](mailto:kspeizer@tdhs-nw.org) or  
206.693.3046.

Begin your morning with school-wide *t'filah* (prayer service) in the Seattle Sanctuary at 9:30 AM before moving into the chapel for bagels, coffee, and discussion. Childcare provided for those siblings not yet old enough for Religion School (please reserve ahead of time to guarantee a spot).



# SUNDAY STUDY IN SEATTLE COURSE SCHEDULE

| Date     | Lead                           | Title  |
|----------|--------------------------------|--|
| 9/18/16  | ..... Rabbi Jaclyn Cohen       | Fierce Women of the Bible: Part I                                |
| 9/25/16  | ..... Rabbi Jaclyn Cohen       | Fierce Women of the Bible: Part I                                |
| 10/9/16  | ..... Rabbi Aaron Meyer        | Ethics and Initiatives: Judaism & the November Ballot            |
| 10/16/16 | ..... Rabbi Aaron Meyer        | Ethics and Initiatives: Judaism & the November Ballot            |
| 10/23/16 | ..... Rabbi Aaron Meyer        | Ethics and Initiatives: Judaism & the November Ballot            |
| 10/30/16 | ..... Rabbi Aaron Meyer        | Ethics and Initiatives: Judaism & the November Ballot            |
| 11/6/16  | ..... Rabbi Daniel Weiner      | Mentoring <i>Menschlichkeit</i> : Role Modeling & Responsibility |
| 11/13/16 | ..... Rabbi Daniel Weiner      | Mentoring <i>Menschlichkeit</i> : Role Modeling & Responsibility |
| 11/20/16 | ..... Rabbi Daniel Weiner      | Mentoring <i>Menschlichkeit</i> : Role Modeling & Responsibility |
| 12/4/16  | ..... Rabbi Daniel Weiner      | Navigating Interfaith Realities                                  |
| 12/11/16 | ..... Dean Leavitt & Prof. Kim | JewAsian: Race, Religion, & Identity                             |
| 1/8/17   | ..... Lisa Bridge              | Gems of the Bible  |
| 1/22/17  | ..... Rabbi Kate Speizer       | DIY Judaism  |
| 1/29/17  | ..... Rabbi Kate Speizer       | DIY Judaism  |
| 2/5/16   | ..... Rabbi Kate Speizer       | DIY Judaism  |
| 2/12/17  | ..... Rabbi Kate Speizer       | DIY Judaism  |
| 2/26/17  | ..... Rabbi Jaclyn Cohen       | Fierce Women of the Bible: Part II                               |
| 3/5/17   | ..... Rabbi Jaclyn Cohen       | Fierce Women of the Bible: Part II                               |
| 3/19/17  | ..... Rabbi Micah Ellenson     | Tough Jewish Questions Our Kids Ask & How to Answer Them         |
| 3/26/17  | ..... Rabbi Micah Ellenson     | Tough Jewish Questions Our Kids Ask & How to Answer Them         |
| 4/2/17   | ..... Rabbi Micah Ellenson     | Tough Jewish Questions Our Kids Ask & How to Answer Them         |
| 4/23/17  | ..... Rabbi Kate Speizer       | HUC Commons  |
| 4/30/17  | ..... Rabbi Kate Speizer       | HUC Commons  |
| 5/7/17   | ..... Rabbi Kate Speizer       | HUC Commons  |



With over 10,000 volumes, covering a wide range of Judaic topics, patrons throughout the greater Seattle area make use of our extensive collection by visiting one of our two locations. We serve all ages including our youngest joining us for story time; Temple members looking for the next great Jewish book; and scholars, students, writers and more.

# TEMPLE LIBRARIES

Samuel Rosenberg  
Memorial Library, Seattle  
Spitzer Family Library,  
Bellevue  
Benjamin Zukor Children's Library,  
Seattle & Bellevue

For more information, contact Toby Harris, Librarian, at [tharris@tdhs-nw.org](mailto:tharris@tdhs-nw.org). For catalog, current programs and upcoming events, visit [lib.tdhs-nw.org](http://lib.tdhs-nw.org).

**Monthly Book Group  
Gatherings & Author Visits:**  
**Wed • Nov 2 • 10:30 AM**

**Spitzer Family Library**  
*A Hug from Afar*, by Claire Barkey  
Flash & Cynthia Flash Hemphill;  
Author Q&A

**Thu • Dec 8 • 11:30 AM**

**Sam Rosenberg Memorial Library**  
*The Family: a Journey into the Heart of the Twentieth Century*, by David Laskin, Author Visit and Jewish Book Month Luncheon. RSVP at [library@tdhs-nw.org](mailto:library@tdhs-nw.org).

**Thu • Jan 12 • 11:00 AM**

**Sam Rosenberg Memorial Library**  
*And After the Fire*, by Lauren Belfer; Author Live Chat



# KELLER FAMILY LECTURE SERIES

Originally established through the vision and generosity of the late Frances and the late Howard Keller, the Keller Family Lecture Series continues to draw the best and the brightest national luminaries from the fields of art, culture, literature and Jewish life to the Greater Seattle Community for this annual speakers' series.

Previous speakers have included New York Times columnist and writer Frank Rich, Harvard Professor and author Michael Sandel, Holocaust historian and author Deborah Lipstadt, and most recently, New York Times columnist and best-selling author David Brooks.

2008



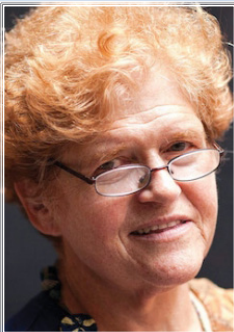
Frank Rich  
Photo Damon Winter  
Courtesy of New York  
Times

2011



Michael Sandel  
Courtesy of Harvard  
University

2012




Deborah Lipstadt  
Courtesy of Jewish Journal

2016



David Brooks  
Photo Josh Haner  
Courtesy of New York  
Times

**WATCH OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION ON OUR 2017 KELLER SPEAKER!**



The entire congregation is invited to celebrate Shabbat together on Saturday, February 18th, as our adults in the Bnai Mitzvah Class are called to the Torah and help lead the prayer service. A festive, light luncheon will follow.

# ADULT B'NAI MITZVAH

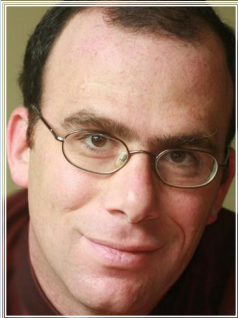
A year-long course on prayer, Torah, and Shabbat rituals culminating in being called to the Torah as a group.

If you are interested in joining the next cohort to become an adult Bar or Bat Mitzvah, please be in touch with Rabbi Kate Speizer at [kspeizer@tdhs-nw.org](mailto:kspeizer@tdhs-nw.org), as an interest list is now forming.

**Celebration**  
**Sat•Feb 18, 2017**  
**10:30 AM**  
**Seattle Campus**



# CLERGY INSTITUTE



Dr. Joel M. Hoffman  
Courtesy of Bible Gateway

Entering our 37th year in interfaith dialogue, and with the generous support of The Alfred and Tillie Shemanski Trust, the Family of Mila and Henry Eisenhardt, and Seattle University, we invite you to join us to continue a unique and enduring opportunity for interfaith study and discourse. This year we are honored to present Dr. Joel M. Hoffman.

**Thu • May 11, 2017 • Temple De Hirsch Sinai • Seattle Campus  
9:30 AM–1:00 PM**

Dr. Hoffman will be speaking on “Four Exiles and Four Spiritual Revolutions” – a whirlwind tour of 3,000 years of Judaism, focusing on three spiritual revolutions and the exiles that led to each.

# SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE WEEKEND

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Hoffman will also be our featured Scholar-In-Residence following his appearance at the Clergy Institute. The following schedule highlights his presentations to our community:

**Fri • May 12, 2017 • Temple De Hirsch Sinai • Seattle Campus  
6:00 PM Shabbat Service • 7:00 PM Dinner & Discussion**

“The Bible Doesn’t Say That” – What does the Bible really say about violence, marriage, men and women? The Bible has been reinterpreted and misinterpreted almost from the day it was written, so we will peel back 2,000 years of revisionism and take a look at the Bible as it was originally written.

**Sat • May 13, 2017 • Temple De Hirsch • Seattle Campus  
9:30 AM Torah Study • 10:30 AM Shacharit Service**

“How Translations Conceal the Bible’s Original Meaning” – The original Hebrew of the Ten Commandments has been misinterpreted throughout time. Come learn how modern translation techniques expose what the words of the Bible originally meant.

*Dr. Joel M. Hoffman is author of multiple books about Hebrew and the Bible, and the chief translator for the series My People’s Prayer Book (National Jewish Book Award winner). Dr. Hoffman has held faculty appointments at Brandeis University and Hebrew Union College.*



Temple De Hirsch  
Sinai and the Union for  
Reform Judaism sponsor  
the Introduction to Judaism  
course in the Fall and Spring of  
each year. This course offers a basic  
foundation in Judaism in 18 sessions,  
covering topics from history to theology,  
holidays to prayer. Designed  
for individuals considering  
conversion to Judaism,  
interfaith couples and Jews-  
by-birth who want a  
refresher course.

# INTRO TO JUDAISM

Held on our Seattle  
campus Thursdays from  
7-9 PM, tuition for the 18-week  
course is \$280 community/\$200  
URJ congregation members. You will  
also be asked to purchase a number  
of books for the class (appr. \$110). This  
tuition fee allows for either one or  
two people to attend, and we  
encourage couples to attend  
together or singles to invite  
an interested friend.

Please contact Rabbi Sabine  
Meyer, [smeyer@urj.org](mailto:smeyer@urj.org), at the  
Union for Reform Judaism if you  
have any questions about course  
registration or requirements. Temple's  
Adult Engagement Coordinator,  
Rabbi Kate Speizer is also  
available to help.



# ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

Endless Opportunities is a community-based program hosting educational and social programming tailored for Jewish adults ages 60+. It is a partnership between TDHS, Jewish Family Service, Temple B'nai Torah, Congregation Beth Shalom, and Herzl-Ner Tamid. Annual events include the Chanukkah Party at TBT (on Dec 1, 2016) and a visit to the symphony. Bi-weekly lectures take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 AM-noon; light kosher brunch is provided.

Not only is Endless Opportunities a place for lifelong learning, it is a warm and welcoming space to socialize and connect with longtime friends while making new ones. Programming is open to all and no membership is required.

A full schedule can be found on the JFS & TDHS website calendars. You can also receive monthly emails from our EO Director, Rabbi Kate Speizer. RSVPs for programming are encouraged and can be sent to [rsvpEO@tdhs-nw.org](mailto:rsvpEO@tdhs-nw.org).

## TORATHON

An evening of thought-provoking courses taught by an esteemed faculty of clergy, professors and experts. Torahthon 10 is a joint venture of Herzl-Ner Tamid & Temple De Hirsch Sinai. Topics this year will focus on Jewish History & Culture, Sacred Texts & Jewish Thought, Political & Ethical Issues, and Personal Spirituality & Practice.

**Saturday, December 10, 2016**

**Temple Herzl Ner Tamid**

**3700 East Mercer Way, Mercer Island, WA 98040**

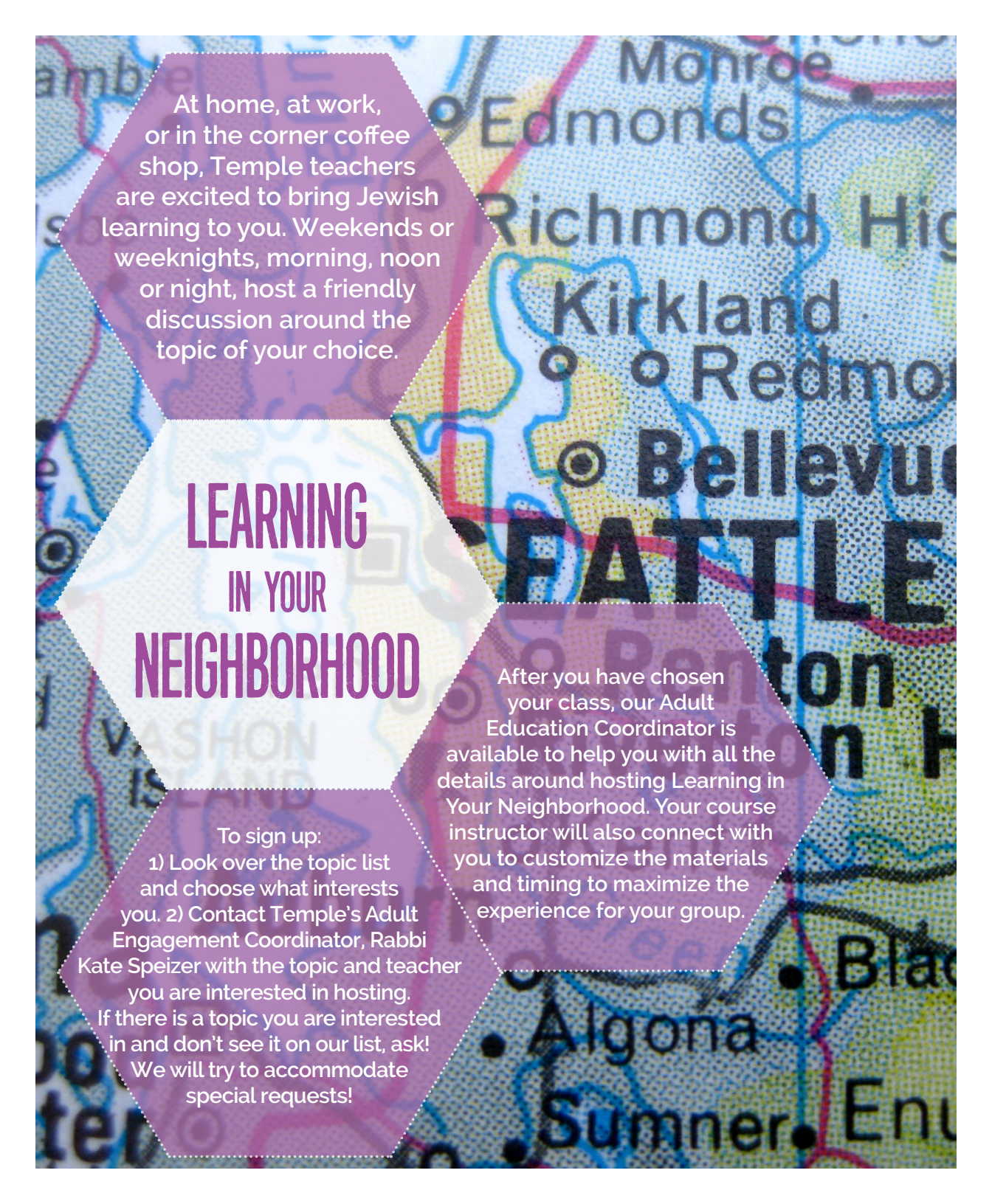
In addition to intriguing courses, the evening includes:

- Catered Dinner
- Shuk with Judaica, books, jewelry, crafts and sweets for sale
- Warm, community Havdalah

Registration is available at <http://h-nt.org/torathon-signup/>.

Funding for Torahthon 10 is made possible by a grant from the Alfred & Tillie Shemanski Foundation.





At home, at work,  
or in the corner coffee  
shop, Temple teachers  
are excited to bring Jewish  
learning to you. Weekends or  
weeknights, morning, noon  
or night, host a friendly  
discussion around the  
topic of your choice.

## LEARNING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

After you have chosen  
your class, our Adult  
Education Coordinator is  
available to help you with all the  
details around hosting Learning in  
Your Neighborhood. Your course  
instructor will also connect with  
you to customize the materials  
and timing to maximize the  
experience for your group.

To sign up:

1) Look over the topic list  
and choose what interests  
you. 2) Contact Temple's Adult  
Engagement Coordinator, Rabbi  
Kate Speizer with the topic and teacher  
you are interested in hosting.  
If there is a topic you are interested  
in and don't see it on our list, ask!  
We will try to accommodate  
special requests!



# LEARNING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



**RABBI DANIEL WEINER**

**"...DO WE NOT BLEED:" SHAKESPEARE, SHYLOCK AND THE ANATOMY OF A DRAMATIC PORTRAIT.** Is the Bard's *The Merchant of Venice* a portrayal of a single Jew or a more pernicious generalization? Is there really a distinction?

**LIBERAL ZIONISM: NUANCED IDENTITY OR OXYMORON?** The recent Gaza conflict has taxed the cognitive dissonance of many American Jews who both love and support Israel while cherishing the progressive values from which Israel seems increasingly distant. In an era of black and white oversimplification and stereotype, are we witnessing the emergence of a new and nuanced Liberal Zionist ethic?

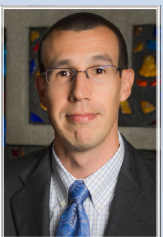


**RABBI JACLYN COHEN**

**KEEPING THE COVENANT: UNDERSTANDING JEWISH LIFE-CYCLE RITUALS.** A Jewish life-cycle event, whether it be a bris, Bar Mitzvah, wedding, or funeral, roots us in our identity and places us within a greater community. In addition to exploring the nuts and bolts of the Jewish Life Cycle, this course will address how and why life cycles possess such power in our Jewish lives. We will ask: from where do our most beloved and best-known Jewish life-cycle rituals emerge? How do we understand the language and movements of these rituals? And how can we innovate what we

know as "tradition" to fit our modern and evolving Jewish practices today? Required texts: *Inventing Jewish Ritual*, by Carol Ochs.

**MIDDOT AND MUSSAR.** Middot are the Jewish values that guide our lives. Mussar is a spiritual practice that helps us learn to be the best versions of ourselves by finding a balance between extremes. This course will be a study of individual middot – such as humility (anavah) and compassion (rachamim) – and it will help us cultivate a spiritual mussar practice. We will study themes and cite examples within our sacred text and explore different methods of achieving balance in our hectic and fast-paced lives. Required text: *Everyday Holiness: The Jewish Spiritual Path of Mussar*, by Alan Morinis.



**RABBI AARON MEYER**

**ASK A RABBI: THE RESPONSA LITERATURE.** Should we take money from Messianic "Jews"? Is organ donation permissible in Jewish law? What should we do about Halloween? Learn more about responsa literature, the historical question and answer texts of Jewish tradition through case study and examples.

**DO JEWS HAVE A CREED AND A CATECHISM?** While the saying is true — 2 Jews, 415 opinions — throughout Jewish history many have attempted to summarize and simplify Jewish beliefs. In the form of creeds, formal statements of religious belief, and catechisms, summaries of the principles of religion in the form of questions and answers, we have tried to pass on the essence of Judaism to future generations. Get hands on with these historic texts and attempt to summarize a creed for the 21st century.

# SISTERHOOD (WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM)

Sisterhood's mission is to bring together the women of TDHS to serve our Temple, support our community and enrich our lives through Judaism, personal growth and friendship. We accomplish this mission through social and educational programs, fundraising, mitzvah projects, and involvement with Women of Reform Judaism. Our activities further our commitment to Jewish ideals, education, spirituality, social action and leadership development. To learn more, visit our [website](#) or email [sisterhood@tdhs-nw.org](mailto:sisterhood@tdhs-nw.org).



# BROTHERHOOD (MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM)

Are you a Temple De Hirsch Sinai man interested in having fun, making friends, and living a more connected Jewish life? Brotherhood's Mission is to build a spirit of friendship, fellowship, and community among its members. To strengthen the Jewish knowledge and commitment of our members. To espouse and embody the Jewish values of Gemilut Chasadim (acts of kindness), Tzedakah (charity), and Tikkun Olam (healing the world). To help plan, participate in, and support events, activities, and programs of and for the benefit of TDHS and of the Greater Seattle Jewish community. To learn more, visit our [website](#) or email [brotherhood@tdhs-nw.org](mailto:brotherhood@tdhs-nw.org).





# THE TRIBE

The Tribe at Temple De Hirsch Sinai is our hub of Jewish life for those in their 20s and 30s in greater Seattle. We join together through meaningful social, educational and spiritual events for individuals and couples, Seattle natives and transplants, LGBT Jews, allies and everyone in between. We offer monthly events like Bagels & Banter (discussions on current events at Elтана Bagels in Capitol Hill) and Fourth Shabbat (a musical, soulful Shabbat service and dinner on the fourth Friday of every month in Seattle).

Our leadership is comprised of those who have grown up at Temple De Hirsch Sinai, those who relocated to Seattle only recently for professional or personal pursuits, recent college grads and graduate school students, young professionals, those who are single and those who are married, too. We invite you to join us at an upcoming Tribe event and find your place in the greater Seattle Jewish community!

To learn more, visit our [website](#) or email Rabbi Jaclyn Cohen at [jcohen@tdhs-nw.org](mailto:jcohen@tdhs-nw.org).



206.323.8486  
[www.TempleDeHirschSinai.org](http://www.TempleDeHirschSinai.org)

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