

New Adult Education Program at Temple Sinai
The Hebrew Novella Book Club
Fall 2016 and Spring 2017

The story of modern Israel's creation as an independent Jewish homeland is a miraculous one and has been widely told. But what about the *another* great Jewish miracle of the last century: the rebirth of Hebrew as a living language for everyday use as well as literary and artistic expression? Let's meet and delve into some noteworthy Hebrew novellas (in English translation), all written between 1900 and 1980. Some of the writers are new or native-born Israelis, while others reside in the Diaspora. Their traditional roots encompass Ashkenazi, Mizrahi and other backgrounds. Yet all these writers use the reborn Hebrew language as a means of expressing their identity; Jewish, Israeli, and human. We'll read one short novel per month, and then come together to discuss the writer, the context of the story, and our ideas regarding the messages the author was seeking to convey. Light refreshments will be provided!

As always there is no cost for Temple members. Other members of the community are also welcome without cost; contributions to the Temple Sinai Adult Education Fund would be appreciated. Everyone, just bring ideas and enthusiasm! All participants will need to purchase the text, *8 Great Hebrew Short Novels*, edited by Alan Lechuk and Gershon Shaked. It is currently available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and other providers at a cost of approximately \$15 for a new paperback. Used copies may also be available, and there is a Kindle version for around \$7.

The first meeting of the Hebrew Novella Book Club will take place on **Wednesday, October 26th, at 7:00 pm** at Temple Sinai. The first novella to be discussed will be "Sideways," by Uri Nissan Gnessin (34 pages). Participants are encouraged to purchase the book and read that story before coming to the first class meeting (if that's not possible, please come anyway!). Bruce Hicken will serve as our guide and discussion leader.

To assist in planning ahead, here is a tentative schedule indicating the meeting dates and the short novels to be discussed on those dates:

Wed. October 26, 2016 - Uri Nissan Gnessin, *Sideways*
Wed., November 30, 2016 - Yosef Haim Brenner, *Nerves*
Wed., December 28, 2016 - Y. Shami, *The Vengeance of the Fathers*
Wed., January 25, 2017 - S.Y. Agnon, *In the Prime of Her Life*
Wed., February 22, 2017 - David Vogel, *Facing the Sea*
Wed., March 29, 2017 - Amos Oz, *The Hill of Evil Counsel*
Wed., April 26, 2017 - Yehoshua Kenaz, *Musical Moment*
Wed. May 31, 2017 - A.B. Yehoshua *The Continuing Silence of a Poet*

For further information or questions about the course, please contact Bruce Hicken at hicken@vsac.org.

