

Building Relationships to Stop Hate “Repairing the World — Stories from the Tree of Life” Film Screening with Director Patrice O’Neill

The call to be “Stronger than Hate” inspired an audience of around a hundred people who attended the film screening of “Repairing the World — Stories from the Tree of Life,” produced and directed by Patrice O’Neill of the non-profit organization Not In Our Town (NIOT). The film documents how the greater Pittsburgh community came together to support the victims of the horrific 2018 shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill and mobilize to fight antisemitism and all forms of hate. It delves deep into issues of gun control and the right to free speech, while showcasing the fabric and solidarity of Pittsburgh’s interfaith organizations and public and not-for-profit leaders to combat racism. Ms. O’Neill was present to provide background and context for how and why the film was produced, and she and Rabbi Mates-Muchin led a thought-provoking discussion on how we, at Temple Sinai, can forge stronger relationships with our Oakland community neighbors and develop strategies for coming together to stop hate.

This event could not have been more timely as the day after the screening on Monday, April 24, 2023, more than four years later, the trial of the man accused of the massacre began with jury selection. The film is also slated to air on PBS in the fall, which will provide an excellent viewing opportunity if you were unable to make the screening and discussion at Temple Sinai. We hope that the upcoming broadcast will be a catalyst for Temple Sinai to engage with an even larger group of Oakland individuals and organizations to develop powerful, effective, and positive action in our hometown.

We greatly appreciated the attendance of congregants, friends, and family, as well as civic leaders including Kenneth Maxey, President of the Urban League of the Greater San Francisco Bay Area; Zach Goldman, Chief of Policy and Legislative Affairs for Oakland Mayor Thao’s office; and Dan Kalb, Oakland City Councilperson.

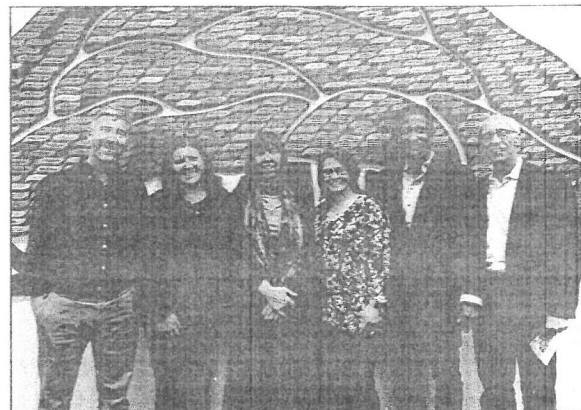
The screening was organized by Temple Sinai’s Working Group Against Antisemitism (part of ADL’s Kulanu network) and Not In Our Town. We offer special thanks to Temple Sinai’s Social Action Committee, Brotherhood, and Women of Temple Sinai for their co-sponsorship and support, as well as to Semifreddi’s, Wise Sons, and Trader Joe’s for the very generous donations of delicious snacks and beverages.

From Bimah to Broadway: How Synagogue and Yiddish Melodies Made their Way to Broadway

Saturday, June 24, 7:00pm, Albers Chapel

Temple Sinai’s Tin Pan Alley Singers present sing-along concerts at retirement homes around the Bay Area. This year they’ve already visited the Jewish Home of San Francisco, Reutlinger Home for Jewish Living in Danville, Piedmont Gardens in Oakland and later this month, Rhoda Goldman Plaza in the city. To underwrite the cost of these productions, the committee conducts one fundraiser per year.

The title of this year’s production is “From Bimah to Broadway: How Synagogue and Yiddish Melodies Made their Way to Broadway.” Since most of the successful composers and lyricists during the Golden Age of musical comedy were Jews, it should be no surprise then that many of the tunes that make up the Great American Songbook blossomed from the melodies these Jewish composers grew up with. George Gershwin’s “Swanee,” and “It Ain’t Necessarily So,” are just two examples of once wildly popular tunes that borrowed synagogue melodies. Come sing along to some of your favorite songs and learn where they came from. All the song lyrics will be projected on a screen so you can join in. Bring your glasses. Donation: \$18



Community Leaders attend film screening.



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