

Thank You

Jewish Federation of Northeastern NY for their generous grant.

Volunteers: Cheryl Hoffmann, Susan Kipp, Terry Lowenthal, Robin Solomon, and Phyllis Wang.

Desserts provided by **Slice of Heaven Bakery**, established by Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein and operated with community volunteers.

Graphic design and production of the program: Patricia Cornute, Temple Sinai Administrator.

Upcoming Programs:

Saratoga Jewish Cultural Festival:

- Aug. 7 *Havana Curveball* (film) – Temple Sinai
- Aug. 21 *Strange Haven: A Jewish Childhood in Wartime Shanghai* (discussion w/ author) - Congregation Shaara Tfillie
- Aug. 28 *Annual Shalom Festival* - Chabad (Saratoga Springs)

For further info, please visit: www.saratogajewishculturalfestival.org
or www.facebook.com/TheSaratogaJewishCulturalFestival

Saratoga Jewish Community Arts:

- Sep. 11 *Nicky's Family* (film) – Temple Sinai
- Oct. 30 *A Tickle in the Heart* (film) – Temple Sinai
- Dec. 8 *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* (film) – Temple Sinai

Underwritten by a grant from Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York and coordinated through Skidmore Office of Jewish Student Life and Temple Sinai.



HALF-TORAH: A CELEBRATION OF REACHING THE HALF-WAY MARK IN THE COMMUNITY TORAH PROJECT



WITH RABBI LINDA MOTZKIN

SUNDAY, JULY 24TH AT 7PM

Temple Sinai

509 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY

Welcome

Did you ever imagine you could participate in the creating of a Torah? This is an opportunity that very few individuals, adults or children, will ever have.

Saratoga Jewish Cultural Festival presents the very unique program Half-Torah: A celebration of reaching the half-way mark in writing a Torah scroll with Rabbi and soferet (Torah scribe) Linda Motzkin. This event is sponsored through a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York and presented through Temple Sinai.

This celebration will include a presentation about the making of a Torah scroll and, in particular, teachings about the midpoint of the Torah scroll. There will also be an opportunity to view some completed panels and participate in the Community Torah Project by assisting in parchment preparation.

This is a long-term educational endeavor which Rabbi Linda Motzkin began in 2007. Through this project, she has involved, to date, over 2500 participants of all ages and abilities in various hands-on steps in the making of a Torah scroll – from the processing of deerskins into parchment to the proofreading of completed panels.

Rabbi Motzkin is one of a handful of women in the world trained as a soferet (a Hebrew scribe), and is the only one making her own parchment for the Torah scroll she is writing. After finding a traditional scribe, Rabbi Dr. Eric Ray, who would take her on as a student, Rabbi Motzkin was faced with the challenge of obtaining the materials for making a Torah scroll. Since traditional venders of scribal supplies were unwilling to supply a female scribe, and since she didn't want to engage in any deception (such as asking male friends to make purchases on her behalf), Rabbi Motzkin learned how to make her own parchment, using deerskins donated by local hunters.

Rabbi Linda Motzkin is co-Rabbi of Temple Sinai with her husband Jonathan Rubenstein; this summer they celebrate their 30 years with the congregation. For almost 30 years Rabbi Motzkin also served as the

Jewish Chaplain at Skidmore College, and continues to serve as High Holy Day Chaplain. She is the author of the Union of Reform Judaism's four-volume Adult Hebrew-language curriculum: *Aleph Isn't Tough*, *Aleph Isn't Enough*, *Bet is for B'reishit*, and *Tav is for Torah*, as well as co-authoring *The First Hebrew Primer* and *Prayerbook Hebrew the Easy Way* from EKS Publishing Co. She is the mother of three adult children: Rabbi Ruhi Sophia Motzkin Rubenstein, Ari Shalom Motzkin Rubenstein, and Shira Bracha Motzkin Rubenstein.



Photos by Irving
Lehman

