



## Temple Beth Hillel Sunday Morning Bagel Brunch

May 21, 2017  
10:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

### *An Enemy of the People*

By Henrik Ibsen, Adapted by Arthur Miller (1950)  
*A staged dramatic reading directed by Michael Cohen*

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley\* and Temple Beth Hillel present a staged reading of Arthur Miller's 1950 adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's **An Enemy of the People**, a modern day parable about the cost of truth. When Dr. Stockmann, the resident physician in a small Norwegian town, discovers that the waters in the baths have been contaminated, the idealistic doctor reports the problem to the authorities. However, what Stockmann does not realize is that his good deed has the potential to ruin the town's livelihood and reputation as a popular spa destination. Instead of being hailed as a hero, Stockmann is labeled an enemy of the people. Miller's adaptation of Ibsen's classic drama is a penetrating exploration of what can happen when the truth comes up against the will of the majority. This theatrical work conveys a universal theme with historical significance that applies even today. Most recently, unfavorable news coverage was dismissed as the "fake news media" and described as "the enemy of the American people."

*\*Actors Ensemble of Berkeley is a non-profit corporation, which has produced plays for over fifty years, currently in John Hinkel Park Amphitheater and Live Oak Theater.*



**Michael Cohen**, Temple Beth Hillel's President and Director of An Enemy of the People, has been active in the world of theater for over 45 years. His extensive theatrical career has included Director of Performing Arts at Rosemead High School near Los Angeles for more than 25 years, assistant stage manager for the Barn Theatre in Augusta, Michigan, and stage manager for Ensemble Studio Theater and the Bilingual Foundation for the Arts in Los Angeles. He has also directed more than sixty dramatic productions. Even though Michael is an inactive member of Actors' Equity, he has continued his work in the profession as the president of the board of Actors Ensemble of Berkeley and co-chair of the Ross Alternative Works committee for the Ross Valley Players. Michael and his wife Mercedes live in Richmond, where they are both active members of Temple Beth Hillel.



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