

Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



Celebrating Israel @ 60

For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

I'm writing in order to "communicate" with you this month. First, I want to "communicate" a reminder about one of my favorite services. It's the Passover Morning Service that takes place on the first morning of Pesach. We always get a good turnout, but I'm also always concerned to be sure the current year is as successful as the previous year. Can you mark your calendar, then? The Seder is Saturday night, April 19 and the community service is Sunday, April 20 at 10:30 a.m.

If you're celebrating a five year anniversary, let me also "communicate" with you. Our Caring Community is planning to honor you on Friday, April 11 at the 6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat service. This is for real! If you are celebrating a 15th or 20th anniversary or any anniversary that is a multiple of five, we would like to share that happiness with you. We would like to do so because we envision Sinai at its best as a community, and your anniversary is certainly something for us to honor and highlight. Don't be shy. You should have received an invitation in the mail and we truly do want to see you on April 11.

There is one other "communication" I'd like to share with you; it relates very significantly to marriage and weddings. Back in December of 2006, I announced that I was adopting a new position on mixed marriages. Although I had previously not officiated at wedding ceremonies between a Jew and a non-Jew, I announced that I was going to begin officiating at some mixed ceremonies. I wrote a fairly long description of my proposal and received some very positive feedback. Since then I have officiated at one such ceremony and two others are on my calendar.

Here's the reason I'm writing again: I think not everyone at Sinai has picked up on this change in my policy. Conversations with some congregants have led me to believe that one "communication" on this matter wasn't sufficient. So, here is a second "communication." As we build our Jewish future and prepare for Passover, please read (or reread) my comments on mixed marriage. You'll find them on our website. Follow the link under rabbi.

My very best wishes for this season of freedom. Chag Sameach!

Childcare for Fridays

Available April 4 & 11
See page 10 for details.

Saturday Mornings

MAZAL TOV TO BNAI MITZVAH
Services at 10:30 a.m.

April 5 – Madalyn Cohen
Daughter of Amy Cohen

April 12 – Rebecca Locke
Daughter of Karen and Paul Locke

Passover

PASSOVER BEGINS SATURDAY
EVENING, APRIL 19.
PASSOVER ENDS AT SUNDOWN
SATURDAY, APRIL 26.

Passover Morning Service
Sunday, April 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Yizkor and Concluding Service
Saturday, April 26 at 10:30 a.m.

Women's Weekend

April 3, 5, & 6
See pages 3 and 11 for details.

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES - NOTE THE TIMES - 76-88

FAMILY SERVICE at 7:00 p.m.

April 4

Sinai OPEN HOUSE. (See page 5) Plus honoring our teachers plus the Rikudiya. An opportunity to see our students in Israeli folk dance.

KABBALAT SHABBAT at 6:00 p.m.

April 11

Sinai OPEN HOUSE #2. Plus wedding anniversaries and L'chaim Shabbat - Wine tasting!

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE at 8:00 p.m.

April 18

Music with a special style.

EREV THE LAST NIGHT OF PASSOVER at 8:00 p.m.

April 25

Tonight begins the last day of Passover. Special service with special melodies.

Message from Dave Roberts, President of Sinai Temple

Dear Friends,

As I write this article at the beginning of March, the search for our new Cantor is not complete. I do, however, want to give you an update on the process and our progress.

First, I want to tell you that we are very fortunate to have dedicated and capable committee members who are willing to commit long hours to this important effort. They have been chosen because they represent the demographics of the congregation and they have tried to keep an open ear to congregation's comments. Led ably by Mel Chafetz, the committee has been meeting practically every week since the middle of January.

Initially, the committee completed an application describing the many positive attributes of Sinai Temple and our needs. This application was then posted on the American Conference of Cantors (ACC) website for potential candidates to see. This extensive document is very detailed and took considerable time to compile. I am very pleased to report that the feedback from the ACC indicates that our application is one of the strongest reviewed by potential candidates. We have also received very positive feedback about our website and the nature of our congregational community.

During January, the committee held two meetings open to the congregation to solicit further input from our members. With that additional information and the updated Cantor's job description, we then identified what specific attributes we would be looking for in our new Cantor.

Currently, we are reviewing applications and conducting phone interviews with candidates. After interviewing several candidates and listening to their CD's, we will invite a few candidates for vocal auditions and in-person interviews with the committee. When appropriate, some members of the Search Committee will visit the applicant's congregation to observe them in their home pulpit.

Regrettably, the ACC rules do not allow prospective Cantors to audition for the entire congregation. Accordingly, it is our intention to select one or two finalists to present to the Board of Directors for approval to hire. Hopefully, this process will be completed later this spring. Assuming that we do find the right candidate, we expect the new Cantor to be in place by September.

The Search Committee and the Board of Directors are committed to hiring only the right person; someone we feel fully meets the needs of our congregation—we will not hire just to fill the position. If an acceptable candidate is not found at this time, we will hire interim staff to lead music at our services and prepare our Bar/Bat Mitzvah students. In that event, we would repeat the search process at the beginning of 2009 when the ACC hiring season again opens. Due to certain ACC restrictions pertaining to confidentiality, the Search Committee members may not be able to answer your questions in more detail. For this reason, I hope to continue to update you in more formal ways through this newsletter and by other means.

You're Invited to a Wedding Event!

Friday, April 11

At the 6 p.m. Shabbat Service

Sinai Temple's Caring Community

happily invites you

To a ceremony celebrating

Your special wedding anniversary in 2008!

If you were married in 2008, 2003, 1998, 1993,
1988, 1983,

1978, 1973, 1968, 1963,

1958, 1953, 1948, or 1943,

Please join Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Mekler

On Friday, April 11 at 6 p.m.

The Rabbi and Cantor will honor you as a group
with blessings, sweet wine, & chocolates.

RSVP to Stacey Osowski, Community Co-ordinator,
736-3619, ext. 13

You're Invited to a

Gala Evening of

Worship & Song

Honoring

Cantor Emily Sleeper Mekler

Friday, May 16, 2008

7 p.m.

Memories

Stories

Photos

Music

Oneg Shabbat

Your invitation will arrive soon in the mail.

**PASSOVER 2008
PASSOVER BEGINS SATURDAY
EVENING, APRIL 19
PASSOVER ENDS AT SUNDOWN,
SATURDAY, APRIL 26.**

**COME PRAY...COME FILL
THE SANCTUARY PASSOVER MORNING
Sunday, April 20 at 10:30 a.m.**
(Luncheon to follow.)

This grand service will include special holiday music and an extra opportunity to explore the appeal of our great spring festival.

**YIZKOR AND CONCLUDING SERVICE
Saturday, April 26 at 10:30 a.m.**

We dedicate new plaques on our yahrzeit board and bid farewell to Passover.

A luncheon follows the service.

**Hosting a Seder....
Being a Guest at a Seder...**

If you like lots of people around your Passover table, but your kids have moved away....

OR

If you are new to the area OR your relatives don't live close by

OR

If you are looking for a warm, comfortable, welcoming table to share a Passover experience on Saturday night, April 19....

You should join Seder Match and experience Sinai's caring community!!!

Let us know if you are able to be a host or prefer to be a guest. Send your name to Temple or call Stacey Osowski, Community Co-ordinator at the Temple 736-3619, extension 13.

**Announcing the Passover Menu Corner
For those times when you can't face
another piece of MATZA!**

If you're hungry or desperate or curious, Sinai's Ritual Committee has developed a resource for YOU. It's called the PASSOVER MENU CORNER and it will include a variety of easy recipes for Passover meals and snacks. Visit our website to see what's available now - www.sinai-temple.org. Thanks for recipe providers: Lee Grayboff, Cheryl Blonder, and Linda Solomon.

If you have a specific Passover question, call Temple member, Lee Grayboff at 746-3895. Lee loves to cook and will happily be your menu advisor!

Welcome to Sinai!

We're so glad you decided to join Sinai Temple in the past two months:

Chris Quatrone

Melissa Mehlman and Shannon Fitzgerald Mehlman and their two children Jack Henry and Dora Grace.

**A Special Shabbat Morning With
Dr. Judith Plaskow
Saturday, April 5**

9:00 to 10:00 a.m. – Torah Study open to men and women

10:15 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. – For Women Only from Bat Mitzvah age and up

Dr. Judith Plaskow will present the new *The Torah: A Women's Commentary*, recently published by the Union for Reform Judaism, for review.

Dr. Plaskow's extensive writing and research has centered on feminist theology. She co-edited *Womanspirit Rising: A Feminist Reader in Religion and Weaving the Visions: New Patterns in Feminist Spirituality* and also co-founded the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*. Her book *Standing Again at Sinai: Judaism from a Feminist Perspective* (1990) brought twenty years of feminist theological reflection to bear on the transformation of Judaism.

Light refreshments will be served at the women's session. This event has been generously underwritten by Leah and Gerry Gottleib.



**Would You Like To Be Known As
Someone Who Enjoyed A Good Meal,
Or As Someone Who Helped Provide
Others With Something To Eat?**

As the Passover Seder approaches with all of its food, food, food, would you consider sharing some of your good fortune with others? Your Passover contribution to the Temple's Isaiah Hunger Fund will be forwarded to people in Springfield who do not have enough money to eat at all. The Hunger Fund is our way of responding to local hunger. You can feel better over your matzah balls by remembering tzedakah. All funds donated to the Isaiah Hunger Fund go directly to the hungry in our community.

Sinai Temple FUN RAISER 2008

This is your chance to attend spectacular events (choose one or more) and get to know other congregants, while raising funds for the programs we value at Sinai Temple

Excellent Food...Fine Wines...Family Fun...Learn New Things...Lots of Laughs!

Linda Berger 1-860-698-6159

Not Your Typical Wine Tasting!

Learn from Sinai's past president, Jim Aronson, what is considered a fine wine and explore in depth the wine region. Red wines will be highlighted. Enjoy a selection of cheese and crackers that will complement the wine.

- Hosts: Jim and Barbara Sadowsky
- Saturday, April 12 @ 7:30pm
- 7 Pendleton Lane, Longmeadow
- \$50 per person

Cello and Piano with Boris Kogan and Sofya Shainskaya

An intimate evening with Boris Kogan on cello and his wife, Sofya Shainskaya on piano. Boris and Sofya will perform and discuss the intricacies of their music as well as their own art. (Boris is the cellist who plays Kol Nidre at Sinai)

Followed by coffee, dessert and schmoozing!

- Hosts: Gerald and Leah Gottlieb
- Sunday, May 31 at 7:30pm
- 80 Eunice Drive, Longmeadow
- \$36 per person

Questions call:
Diane Friedberg 567-7653
Bonnie Engelman 565-9992

Family Magic

Have a magical afternoon with your family. Children in kindergarten through 2nd grade are invited to share an interactive magic show with magician Joe Bongio.

Drinks and snacks for everyone.

- Hostess: Stacey Osowski
- Sunday, April 13, 3-4:30pm
- 17 Wintergreen Lane, Westfield
- \$18 per family

Thanks to our hosts who have donated the cost of each event so that your contribution goes directly to the Temple.

Special thanks to Robyn Newhouse, Sinai Congregant, for helping underwrite this new program.

Reservations are required.

To make reservations, please call the Temple office 736-3619.

You can mail your check to Sinai Temple, 1100 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA 01108. Your check confirms your reservation. Space is limited. Don't delay!

Sinai Judaica Gift Shop

Passover is just about here! Please check our enclosed flyer for the expanded hours and for some suggestions to make your Seder or gift giving perfect.

Thais Fischel 786-9577
Bobbie Cossin 565-9970

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• THE FIRST 200 CONGREGANTS TO READ
• THIS BOX ARE INVITED TO FILL THE
• SANCTUARY ON PASSOVER MORNING,
• SUNDAY, APRIL 20.
•••••

OPEN HOUSES

APRIL 4 & 11

A chance to let the Pioneer Valley know who we are. A chance to open our doors for Jews who may never have thought about joining a synagogue.

Let their choice be Sinai.

Bring yourself; bring a friend.

Friday, April 4 at 7 p.m.

Friday, April 11 at 6 p.m.

When a Jew and a Non-Jew are Married: Conversations For Mixed Married Couples

Thursday, April 10

7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Have you got questions? Have you learned strategies you might want to share with others? Join Peter Zimmer, (a former Vice President of Sinai and a skilled group facilitator) for the second session of a discussion group for Sinai members. The group will meet at the Temple. Please RSVP to the Temple office so that we know you are coming. For questions, you can contact Peter through the Temple office.

L'Chaim Shabbat

Friday, April 11

At the 6 p.m. Service

Part of this month's Kabbalat Shabbat service will include an opportunity to make Kiddush with several different wines that are KOSHER for Passover. The evening will be a wine tasting! If you wish, you can also purchase the wines at the Bottle Shop in Longmeadow as a fundraiser for the Religious School.

Islam for Peace, Justice, and Non-Violence

Thursday, April 24

5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The Islamic Center of Western Massachusetts is holding an open house evening on the critical issue of peace. The evening is open to everyone. The invitation is for us at Sinai and for the rest of the Springfield community. You can bring yourself or as many friends as you wish.

The conversation will include a light dinner. The Center is at 377 Amostown Road, West Springfield. The program is co-sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Western Massachusetts.

You need to pre-register so the Center can plan for dinner. Please call the Islamic Center at 788-7546. Or e-mail www.masjidma@gmail.com.

Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Are You Interested in Starting a New Class For A New Year? Orientation Session – Saturday, May 3 at 8 a.m.

Four groups of men and women have chosen to become Bar/Bat Mitzvah as adults over the last decade. Now might be your chance! You do not need to know Hebrew to begin this adventure. We are not attempting to become Harvard graduates. If you are at all interested in helping form another Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah class, please contact the Rabbi - markdov@sinai-temple.org

Stephen Berk To Return to Sinai Temple Sunday, June 8

Starting at 7 p.m.

After a wonderful Scholar in Residence weekend last Fall, Professor Stephen Berk will be returning to Sinai Temple. Berk will be featured as part of our Annual Meeting evening. After a brief business session at 7 p.m., we will move to the sanctuary for a creative service marking the beginning of Shavuot. Professor Berk will speak after that. He will base his remarks on the knowledge he has gained from leading over 30 adult groups on tours of Eastern Europe. His topic will be: Warsaw, Vilna, and Prague: Touring the Old World to Understand Ourselves Today.

Torah Study

Every Saturday morning at 9 a.m. in the Oneg Shabbat Room. (Bagels are available!)

Monthly Morning Service

Wednesday, April 2

at 7:30 a.m.

A chance to start your day with a different focus. We meet on the bimah for a service of 20 minutes. Breakfast follows. Those who need to leave for the rest of the day are free no later than 8:15 a.m. Future "morning minyan" services will take place on Wednesdays, May 7 and June 4.

First Thursdays (mostly):

Lunch and Learn

Thursday, April 3

12:00 – 1:15 p.m.

Bring your lunch to the Oneg Shabbat room for a discussion of contemporary Jewish concern with Rabbi Shapiro. Future discussions are May 1 and June 5.

Reform Movement Sponsors Adult Study Retreat Focused on Israel

The Union for Reform Judaism's Adult Study Retreat will be held in July 2008 at Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, New Hampshire. As a part of the Israel at 60 Movement-wide initiative, the theme for this event will be Israel and the event will be co-sponsored by ARZA. The limud faculty includes ARZA Associate Director, Rabbi David Nelson and Anat Hoffman, Director of the Israel Religious Action Center, along with Mira Angrist, Sue Levi Elwell, Lisa Grant, Jan Katzew, Michael Morgan, Marc Rosenstein and Mark Washofsky. Registration is currently open for what is certain to be a wonderful opportunity for intellectual exploration and community spirit. For information and scholarships, please contact Rabbi Shapiro.

Sunday Morning Running: Stretch your legs in the great outdoors!

During Religious School come get a little exercise while the kids exercise their minds. We will meet at the back of the building at 9:15 every week there is Religious School. We will start with about 15 minutes of stretching and then jog/run. Everyone is welcome. No experience is necessary. All you need is desire and a pair of running shoes. We will start very slow and go only a short distance (0.5 to 1 mile) at first. Anyone who would like to go faster or further can pick it up from there. If you have a question, please contact Andy Moskovitz, 533-9209, agm@massmed.org.

Harold Grinspoon Foundation announces Jewish Experience Fund for Adults

This is an amazing new grant opportunity designed to encourage adults in Western Massachusetts to participate in Jewish life. Recipients may choose to attend Jewish retreats, shabbatons and conferences. Adults over twenty-one are eligible to apply for 50% of the cost of the program up to \$500.00. Please view the guidelines at www.hgf.org; Incentive Grants; Jewish Experience Fund for Adults. If you have any questions contact Rachel Jackowitz, Program Director, Rachel@hgf.org or 413-439-1942.

WHERE WILL YOU BE ON SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 20? HOW ABOUT TRYING THE PASSOVER MORNING SERVICE AT SINAI?

Community Yom HaShoah Commemoration in Springfield Monday evening, May 5, 2008 7:30 P.M. Congregation Kodimoh Theme: Remembering the Shoah and the Birth of the State of Israel

The 2008 Community Yom HaShoah Commemoration will commemorate Israel's 60th Anniversary with a traditional memorial service and program for those who died during the Holocaust and also remember the Birth of the State of Israel in 1948, which served as the permanent home for so many of the survivors of the Shoah.

Special recognition will be given to the Honorable Sidney M. Cooley, who served as military commander of a Displaced Persons' Camp in Bayreuth, Germany. Judge Cooley rehabilitated and trained over 300 Holocaust survivors who were resettled in Israel.

The Community Yom HaShoah Program is sponsored by Hatikvah Holocaust Education Center, under the auspices of Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, with support from the William and Lynn Foggole Holocaust Foundation.

Get Your Name in the Sinai Temple Engagement Calendar

You may not get your name in lights, but you can get it in print. Just get yourself listed as a "Friend of Sinai" and you'll be famous in the engagement calendar we publish every summer. While you're at it, you can also list your family's special dates...anniversaries, birthdays, yahrzeits, and anything else that you want to share. One year a good "friend" listed his dog's birthday! It was June 24.

For \$18 you can be a Friend; for \$36 you are a Super Friend; and for more, you can be a Benefactor for \$50 - and I'll come sing "Hey, Big Spender" to you! Fill out a form today or call the Temple office to get your name in print.

Belle Rita Novak, Calendar Committee

Prospective New Members for Sinai Temple: You Can Help Build the Congregation

Every year people relocate to the greater Springfield area, or people who have lived in the area consider joining a Temple. Often these people, friends, colleagues, neighbors or relatives ask current members about Sinai Temple. You can help the Temple recruit these interested people by referring them to Mike Bader, Chairman of the Membership Committee. Mike has been helping new members for over thirty years. He has the information they need and can answer their questions. He can be reached weekday mornings at 737-3139 OR nights and weekends at 786-0319.

Announcing The First Annual Sinai Temple Dog Show!!! Saturday, October 18, 2008

Dear Friends of Canines - If you love dogs, if you own a dog, if you want to own a dog, mark your calendar for the Shabbat during Sukkot. Just as it is customary during Sukkot to open the sukkah to guests, Sinai will open its parking lot to your dogs! There will be dog tricks, dog games, and refreshments for all. If you are interested in helping plan this first-ever Sinai Dog Show, please contact the Temple office today. Speak to Robin at 736-3619, extension 10.

Dog Show Planning Meeting

Sunday, April 27 at 9 a.m.

Temple member, Gary Gootzit, has agreed to chair our upcoming dog show. If you are interested in joining the planning committee, please come to the first open meeting on Sunday, April 27. We will begin to shape the afternoon for our beloved and obedient dogs! All human beings are welcome. Questions - Call Gary at 562-1123.

Volunteers Needed at Mercy Medical Center

Mercy Medical Center is looking for caring people to volunteer throughout the hospital. Many positions are available including Patient Advocates, Hospital Guides, Gift Shop Assistants, Clerical Assistants and many others. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old and able to give 4 hours a week of their time.

Additionally, we are also looking for volunteers to make small pillows, prayer shawls and blankets for patients as well as donations of used and new children's books. If you are interested, please contact the Mercy Medical Center Volunteer Department at 413-748-9074 or patty.milne@sphs.com

www.sinai-temple.org

Fun, Laughter, and Camaraderie: Majestic Theater Event Great Success

Those who came to see "Guys on Ice, The Ice Fishing Musical" at the Majestic Theater on February 10th know just how much fun this event turned out to be. I would like to thank the 100 Sinai congregants who purchased tickets and participated in this fundraiser-something NEW and well attended for a first time.

Apart from this being a very funny show, everyone enjoyed socializing in the Café before the show and at intermission. It was fun to see new and old faces and to reconnect in a very pleasant and relaxing environment. I'd say this was definitely the highlight of the evening.

A very special Thank You to Todd and Karen Kadis, and Todd's dad Robert Kadis for their very generous contribution to underwrite this program as a memorial to Robert's wife Betty, who had a great love for the theater. This performance was arranged specially for Sinai Temple by Todd who went to great lengths to make this work for Sinai. Thanks also goes to the Majestic Theater for their generous contribution enabling Sinai Temple to benefit financially from this show. What was so generous of the Majestic was that not only did we get back 60% of the tickets sold to Sinai members, but 60% of all tickets sold that night. As a result we made \$3,025. This was the most fun I have had raising that much money!

In addition, the Majestic Theater covered the cost of copying flyers, mailing a card describing the show, made special tickets with Sinai's name on for the show, provided ushers, set up the raffle and raffle posters all over the theater.

Our 50/50 raffle to all members of the audience was well received. We sold \$300 worth of tickets, of which we got \$150. Congratulations to Matthew Katz and Barbara Fitzgerald for winning the other half of the pot! The Majestic Theater also generously donated two sets of tickets each to the 2nd and 3rd names drawn from the pot.

Much appreciation and thanks also to Robin Blanchette-Gage and Karen Sprenkle in the Temple office for all their help and assistance with this event. Their help is invaluable.

I would also like to thank my fund raising committee for all their hard work and time brainstorming and developing this program-Betsy Bertuzzi, Carlin Trietsch, Carol Tivoli, Joe Berger, Robin Dunn and Stacy Osowski. And a big thank you to Ilene Conklin for helping me bring this program to fruition.

We are hoping to do this again next year-so if you missed it this year, you can come next time!

Diane Friedberg, Chair Fundraising Committee

P.S.

From Rabbi Shapiro - It was a terrific evening. My thanks to the Kadis family and the Majestic Theater. Plus thank you to all the Sinai people who worked to give us such a "majestic" evening.



THE SINAI TEMPLE COOKBOOK
Is a great gift idea for Passover
Includes recipes for the holiday.
Buy one at Temple today.

Israel @
60

Get connected! Get excited! Get ready...

Celebrate Israel's 60th Birthday at



HOOP IT UP FOR ISRAEL!

Celebrate Israel's 60th Birthday
at the Basketball Hall of Fame

May 18, 2008

Noon - 4:00 pm

**Naismith Memorial
Basketball Hall of Fame**

Play with the players!
Tal Brody & Micki Berkovitch
(the two most famous Maccabi Tel Aviv players)

**Special Exhibit on
Basketball in Israel**

Israeli Dance

Face Painting

Bounce House

Arts and Crafts

Israeli Food

**Special addresses by
U.S. Congressman Richard Neal &
Nadav Tamir, Consul General
of Israel to New England**

Sponsored By:



In Partnership With:

HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION



Go to www.jewishwesternmass.org for details



Happy Birthday, Israel! You're 60 Years Old

Friday, May 9 • 7:00 PM

FEATURING
A Gala Birthday Service
An Intergenerational Chorus & Band

JOIN US FOR...

The awarding of prizes to the winners of our Israel Writing Contest,
The presentation of gift books on Israel to local libraries,
Balloons and music

PLUS...

SIXTY CAKES FOR SIXTY YEARS OF ISRAEL

IT'S A CONTEST!

Sign up to bake a cake with the theme of Israel.
There will be categories for the tastiest, most
attractive, most humorous, and most historic cakes.
You can't lose! Call the office to sign up today!



Last Call for A Creative Writing Contest To Celebrate Israel's 60th Anniversary For Students of Sinai Temple Grades 4 – 12

Create an essay...a story...poetry...even the lyrics to a song (You can use a melody of your choice or write your own!)

Age Categories and Prizes

Grades 4 - 5

Prizes to include \$36 gift certificates to Bertucci's as well as gift certificates to Friendly's.

Grades 6 - 8

Prizes to include \$50 iTunes Gift Cards as well as gift certificates to Friendly's.

Grades 9 - 12

Prizes to include an iPod nano with 4 GB (1000 songs), \$50 iTunes Gift Cards plus plus gift certificates to Starbucks.

Extended Deadline -

Your completed writing should be in the Temple office by April 1.

Sinai Temple's 2008 Israel Writing contest is made possible by a gift from the Berman-Snieder Family Fund in Honor of Our Parents.

Two new programs at Sinai Temple help families with young children

Wiggle Room – For kids who need to wiggle during the Family Service.

On April 4, Sinai will be offering parents the chance to accompany their little ones to the Wiggle Room during Family Services (every 1st Friday of the month at 7 p.m.). This space (in the Kindergarten classroom) will be available to bring your child should you find it necessary to take them out of the sanctuary for part of the service. Age appropriate toys will be available.

Free Babysitting - Geared to families with young children during the Kabbalat Shabbat Service (every 2nd Friday of the month at 6 p.m.).

On April 11, we will be offering babysitting at the Kabbalat Shabbat Service. Come to temple as a family and mingle with other congregants over snacks at 5:30 PM. Then enjoy Kabbalat Shabbat Services while your young children (toddler - 7 years), are cared for by members of Sinai's own teen youth program SPFTY, down the hall in the Kindergarten Room. Teens will also be performing a valuable service to these youngest congregants.

Contact Sinai members Jackie Neiman at mjam4@comcast.net or Joe Dow at jbdow@comcast.net if you have any questions.

B'nai Tzedek Celebrates Ten Years With Tzedakah Fair – Tuesday, May 20

On May 20, young people from the Pioneer Valley will celebrate their commitment to philanthropy at the annual B'nai Tzedek banquet, to be held at Sinai Temple.

Members of B'nai Tzedek, including teens and young people in college and beyond, have been invited to the party, which is hosted each year by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Membership in B'nai Tzedek starts with a bar or bat mitzvah teen investing \$125, which both the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Jewish Endowment Foundation match. This creates a personal endowment fund, allowing the teen to become engaged in the lifelong habit of giving by annually allocating 5% of the fund balance to a Jewish non-profit organization. The young fund holders come together at the annual meeting to make their allocations.

This year, in celebration of the tenth year anniversary of B'nai Tzedek, the Foundation is injecting some new excitement into the program in the form of a Tzedakah Fair. Local Jewish non-profit organizations will make their case to the teens one-on-one in a casual market atmosphere, allowing members much more immediate information on which to base their decisions. The 5:30 p.m. fair will be followed by dinner, awards, and performance by Joel Chasoff, a cutting-edge Jewish comedian.

This event is by invitation only, and space is limited. B'nai Tzedek members and Jewish nonprofits will receive invitations and RSVP cards in the mail; RSVP is due this spring. Please save the date of May 20!

Coffee, Schmooze & News Religious School Parents Please Visit Sunday, April 6 at 9 a.m.

Join us for a cup of Joe after dropping off your religious school students. We will be gathering on March 9th in the main lobby near the Judaic Shop. What a great opportunity for parents to meet and chat with one another. Big Y gift cards will be available for purchase while the supplies last.

THE FIRST 200 CONGREGANTS TO READ
THIS BOX ARE INVITED TO FILL THE
SANCTUARY ON PASSOVER MORNING,
SUNDAY, APRIL 20.

Message from the Cantor Emily Sleeper Mekler

The First-Ever Sinai Temple Women's Weekend is finally here!! Join us Shabbat morning, April 5th special Torah Study session to hear Professor Judith Plaskow. As you probably already know, she'll be introducing "The Torah: A Women's Commentary". You will NOT want to miss her engaging presentation of this new book published by the "Women of Reform Judaism". There is a full-page reminder of this event in this issue of the Bulletin. We are grateful to Leah and Gerry Gottlieb for sponsoring this event. Join us!

The creative, dynamic and enthusiastic women on the First-Ever Sinai Temple Women's Weekend Committee are: Denise Choquette, Roberta Gang, Susan Goldman, Leah Gottlieb, Elaine Nathan, Robyn Newhouse, Laurie Weinberg and Cantor Mekler. The women who created the Sinai Temple Women's Haggadah are: Susan Goldman, Robyn Newhouse, Laurie Weinberg and Cantor Mekler.

Circle your calendar for Friday evening, May 9th when Sinai's multi-generational band and chorus will be performing in honor of Israel's 60th birthday. Come listen to your Sinai friends, neighbors, children and grandchildren play Jewish music together!!

During the past couple of months, Cantor Liz Berke and I have been piloting a very exciting program on Jewish music at Ruth's House which we hope will become a national program under the auspices of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. The program idea was presented to us by Sue Polansky, who along with Cantor Liz Berke and myself, are Life Members of Hadassah. We have presented 5 sessions of various themes of Jewish music for the purpose of trying to encourage, evoke and elicit personal Jewish memories from the residents. We facilitate this through singing and sharing audio examples along with discussion. It has already been very successful! At this writing, we have shared Jewish music examples from the following genre: Yiddish; Jewish/American; International: Liturgical including Jewish holidays and the Bible. The culmination of the series will occur next month, in May, and the topic will be the music of Israel in honor of Israel's 60th birthday.

We heard some wonderful stories and memories which the residents shared. Cantor Berke and I presented some of the programs together and others individually. It has been delightful and insightful and we have been happy to be a part of this exciting endeavor for Hadassah!

"A person should have an ear not just to hear the songs of others, but also to hear the songs that sing from within their own heart." ~ Rabbi Yisroel of Moditz



Rosh Hodesh: A Fun and Creative Program for Young Girls

This fall, I had the amazing opportunity to initiate the Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing program at Sinai with some of our sixth and seventh grade girls. This national program is based on the Jewish tradition of women's New Moon celebrations. The program is a way for girls to



gather each month to connect with each other and their heritage. At our monthly meetings, the ten of us get together to talk about issues that middle-school-aged girls care about, such as peer pressure, body image, and relationships. We explore these social and cultural issues, in part, by looking at Jewish values and tradition. This program is meant to help foster self-confidence, independence, the ability to make wise choices, and to create a supportive group of friends among the girls.

The girls who are in the program have this to say:

"This group is totally awesome and it's like a close family of girls. I love coming here and hanging out with my friends and learning about myself also."

"This is a fun group. I met great friends and I learned a lot!"

"It's the most fun activity that the temple does."

I am happy to be a part of what I feel is an important program for young girls. Facing the challenges of adolescence can be difficult, and groups like Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing can provide support and education to help girls navigate through their teenage years.

Erica Brunette, Facilitator
Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing

Girls in the program: Madalyn Cohen, Rebecca Cohen-Lindfors, Jenna Friedberg, Hannah Gordon, Shaina Gootzit, Meghan Hurley, Eliana Moskovitz, Rachel Sherman, and April Solon.

This wonderful program is made possible by generous donation from Lynn and Daryl Schwarz.

Message from Brotherhood

As I write this we do not know for sure, but I am confident that we had a fine turnout for the food we served at Purim and the Snyder Award dinner and service, and that all who participated had a great time.

April brings us Passover and a reminder that we need to get our 5769 program to revitalize Brotherhood finished. We are calling all of our current members to say thank you for joining and seeing what they might like in a new Brotherhood. We are also calling men (congregants) who are not yet members to find out what kinds of projects, programs, and events they would like to see us provide. When we call, I hope you will be responsive to our request for programming ideas.

Now, I do not want to give anyone the impression that I think good ideas only can come from men. In fact, I have had great conversations with several woman congregants who have given me lots to think about.

We know our younger men are busier than ever, that families are busier than ever, but we believe strongly in our mission and hope to make Brotherhood relevant to all of our Sinai men. So please respond when we call and remember: Brotherhood will provide a place for the men of Sinai Temple to have joint experiences as men, and, as an organization, look to be of service to the congregational community.

Shalom,
Scott Sherman
Sinai Temple Brotherhood President
president@sinaibrotherhood.org

Message from SPFTY Advisor Andy Chaet

So as I sit here composing this article, I look out my window and see the last bit of snow on the fields behind our house and think "Spring is inching around the corner, I think we are going to make it this year."

March was a busy month as we initiated a new program, (baby sitting at services), continued our twice monthly meetings and had a great time at the Purim Schpiel.

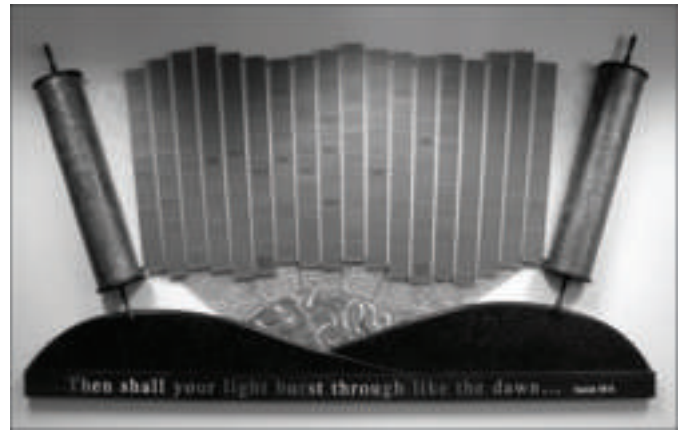
I am excited for April as we will be able to do more outside. We will continue our meetings along with honoring our rich tradition of Passover.

If you are in 8th grade, I invite you to join us at a meeting (TBA soon) for a meet and greet with the SPFTY members. We would like for you to become an active member as you enter 9th grade. Please join us.

The Youth Committee is looking for adults to be part of SPFTY's mission and help coordinate activities. Please call Bonnie Thomas or myself if interested.

Shalom
Andy Chaet
achaet@sinaitemple.org

Scroll of Life



The Scroll of Life is a work of art in the Oneg Shabbat Room. It was created by Presentations Gallery of New York. The Isaiah quote at the bottom of the Scroll was taken from the Yom Kippur Haftarah as an expression of hope.

The Scroll has space on it so that Sinai members can commemorate either joyous events or memorialize loved ones. Each contribution of a plaque on the Scroll will be used to enrich the life and strength of Sinai. The cost of each plaque is \$200. The inscription may be 3-4 lines with a maximum of 27 spaces per line.

Christian Clergy Study at Sinai

At the end of January, Rabbi Shapiro convened a one-day learning opportunity for Christian clergy and educators. The Clergy Institute was created by Rabbi Snyder over 50 years ago. Rabbi Shapiro has continued the tradition of holding an annual opportunity for Christian leaders to study about Judaism. This year's Institute focused on Jewish poetry and its various themes. Two of the thank you notes received by Rabbi Shapiro are printed below:

Thank you again for your excellent presentation and our thoughtful discussion yesterday. What a blessing it was to share time with you and to receive your generosity. And what a gift it is to share ministry together!
Reverend Barbara Thrall

Thank you so much for inviting us to the program that you gave on the 23rd Psalm and other poetry and prayers. The poetry that you shared with us was moving and thought-provoking. We are looking forward to further reflection and sharing some of the pieces with others. We also thank you for the lunch meal that you provided and your hospitality and graciousness in hosting such an event.

This is our third time coming and we always come away impressed!

We wish you many blessing in your ministry.
Rev. Dee Ledger & Rev. Frank Goggett



Sinai is getting a new prayer-book!

On February 28, the Board of Trustees voted to adopt the Reform movement's new siddur, *Mishkan T'filah*, as one of our prayerbook options. Pictured here are our Religious School teachers studying the new book. From left to right:

Jill Baker, Heather Sullivan, Gloria Wald, Stacey Osowski, Andy Chaet, Matt Bertuzzi, Scott Sherman, Harlene Kleiman, Phyllis Katz, Bonnie Gibson, Dawn Tamarkin.

Mazal Tov to:

Steve and Patti Sussman on the engagement of their daughter, Libby, to Josh Dolman.

Jill and Kevin Wright on the birth of their baby boy, Evan Scott, born on February 15, 2008.

Teri and Sumner Gilman on the birth of their granddaughter. Their daughter Marla and her husband Harris have named their baby Rivi Hannah Jay.

Erin Mernoff, Alex Pascal, Eliana Lakritz, Emma Klein, and Shelby Leshine, Longmeadow High School students who were accepted into the Western Massachusetts Senior District Music Ensembles.

Abby Foster for winning a first place award in the Fire Prevention Poster contest of Somers CT.

Rachel Nuger on her engagement to Toby Messenger.

Bobby and Marilyn Rappaport on the birth of their grandson, Alexander James Landon. The happy parents are Lisa and Matt Landon.

Ricky Sobey, senior at Minnechaug Regional High School, on reaching and competing very successfully in the Massachusetts indoor track state finals. Rick ran the two-mile race. He was seeded 28th, but finished 18th!

Bonnie Gorfin on becoming a grandmother. Bonnie's children, Michael and Brianna, have recently become parents of Chase Alan Gorfin.

Melanie Pascal on receiving three first places in state swimming competitions. She won the 100 butterfly, the 200 freestyle plus the 400 free relay. She won a second place in the 200 medley relay.

Alex Pascal (as a freshman) also competed at states and received a fourth place in the 100 butterfly in 54 seconds plus a tenth place finish in the 100 yard breast stroke. He also participated in the first place winning 200 yard relay.

Adam Krevolin and Robin Fein-Krevolin on the birth of their daughter Eva Rose.

Open House Preparations



Open House preparations are happening at Sinai. The public will be invited to visit services Friday evenings, April 4 and April 11. If you know someone who might be interested in Sinai, why not bring them to the open house? The planning committee pictured here (from left to right) consists of Rina Miller, Dave Roberts, Sandy Suib Dutcher, and Linda Kay.

Music Has No Boundaries
A joint concert presented by
Mak'hela: The Jewish Chorus of Western Massachusetts
and
The Freedom Choir of Springfield
Featuring the World Premiere of
"Go Down, Moses"
a new arrangement by Clifton J. Noble, Jr.
Commissioned by Mak'hela
in honor of our friendship with The Freedom Choir
Sunday afternoon, April 13, 2008
Third Baptist Church
149 Walnut Street
Springfield, Massachusetts
More Details at: <www.makhela.org>

The Memory of the Righteous is a Blessing

All of us at Sinai Temple extend condolences as we remember the following. Their memories are precious to their relatives, their friends and to each of us who form the community of Sinai Temple.

We remember those who have passed away since February 5, 2008 until March 7, 2008:

Paul Weinberg, father of Adam Weinberg.

Dale Desharone, son-in-law of Bruce Gordon.

Carl Dianas, father of Joanne Dianas-Brunell.

Paul Rosenberg, uncle of Lauren Harvey.

Alfreda Robertson, grandmother of Morgan Terres.

Benjamin Vinal, cousin of Peggy Grodd.

Serge Maynard, brother-in-law of Bobi Steingart.

Mission Statement

Sinai Temple is a welcoming and inclusive Reform Congregation where our members pursue a continuing journey of Jewish growth. We are guided by the history and traditions of the Jewish people as we encounter the challenges of the modern world. We encourage participation in prayer, life-long Jewish learning, and social justice within a joyful, creative, and compassionate community.

The Earl and Shirley Stahl Family Fund

The Earl and Shirley Stahl Family Fund was initiated at the time of their 50th wedding anniversary in 1992. Shirley was a longtime teacher in the religious school at Sinai. In addition, she was a devoted Hebrew tutor who privately coached generations of students for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah in her own home.

The Stahls wanted income from the fund to enhance education at Sinai. It is used to fund supplementary programming at the religious school.

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Mark Dov Shapiro Rabbi
Emily Sleeper Mekler Cantor, Music Director
Sheila Shear Director of Education
Stacey Osowski Community Coordinator
Andy Chaet SPFTY Advisor

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Visit our website: www.sinai-temple.org

Sinai Temple

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Congratulations to some of our 2008 Hall of Famers who have achieved recognition by high Family Service and school attendance plus a family tzedakah project.

In Back: Benjamin Sherman. Front Row, left to right
Sumner Mendelsohn, Kayla Mernoff, Abby Solomon, Lauren Stone