February 2006 Sh'vat/Adar 5766

Sinai Templ Celebrating 75 Years

For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

We have a dilemma at Sinai. When I use the word dilemma, I am referring to a situation that does not admit of simple solutions. In a dilemma there is no right or wrong. There is rather a challenge which requires ongoing consideration.

Our dilemma relates to the way in which we conduct services. On the one hand, there are congregants who look forward to innovation. When we introduce a new melody or a new style of worship, some congregants are delighted. They characterize innovation as forward looking and positive.

On the other hand, there are congregants who come to services and find themselves at sea. They say that services are no longer the way they used to be. They come to services in order to touch base with what they remember from the past and what is unchanging.

Who is right? Whose opinions ought to hold sway?

Our Project Soul survey of some years ago revealed a fascinating truth. When several hundred congregants were asked if Sinai was becoming too traditional or too liberal in its practices, 18% commented that we were too liberal. 14% commented that we were too traditional. However, 68% said that we were just about right.

What this tells is that although we are probably on target with our worship and our various attitudes towards Jewish practice, we also need to be cautious in whatever we do. Even though the vast majority of the congregation seems satisfied, we should never forget that a little over 30% of the congregation wonders if our direction is the correct one.

For the time being, I don't imagine us modifying what is admittedly a change towards more tradition. On the other hand, I hasten to assure every member that everyone's opinion needs to be heard. Because we are a community, everyone needs to feel that he or she is a part of where we are going. Journeying together is what being a healthy community needs to involve.

Welcome to Sinai Temple

Over the last several months our congregation has been enriched with the arrival of many new households. We are proud to say SHALOM (or sometimes welcome back) to:

Freeman & Audrey Botnick Larry & Judith Brenner Martha & Michael Ceppetelli Alison & Donald Clark with Leland Charyne & Henry Cordeiro with Jonathan, Gabriel, & Nicholas Steven Covici Bari & Anthony DeMichele Joseph & Lada Dow with Aaron & Noah Selma Green James & Laurie Henderson with Samuel, Jack, & Maxwell Debra Kirchner Gail Kushner Gilbert & Charlotte Lefkovich Hal Lewis & Deborah Sirulnik with Samuel Vincent & Sarah Maniaci with Samantha, Zoe, Jacob, & Sydney **Craig Schacher** Daniel Skiest & Suzette Damboise with Hannah & Benjamin Joanna & Eric Sugalski Michael & Gloria Wald with Hannah Jill & Kevin Wright with Julia & Zach Robert Zeller with Benjamin & Madison

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES -NOTE THE NEW TIMES - 76-88

FAMILY SERVICE at 7:00 p.m. February 3 Songs, prayers, and a terrific story.

KABBALAT SHABBAT at 6:00 p.m. February 10 Veggies and snacks at 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE at 8:00 p.m. February 17 Music with a special style.

FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSIC at 8:00 p.m. February 24 Shabbat Shalom with Gates of Prayer

Attention All Kids 2 to 102!

Sinai Temple's Caring Community Presents



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Looking for great family fun? Come be a part of Family Game Night! Don't worry about dinner - we can order a pizza for you while you are having fun* or if you prefer, you can bring your own dinner. Drinks and dessert will be provided. We will wrap up the evening with a short Havdalah Service.

Saturday, February 11th 2006 5:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m. RSVP to Temple Office at 736-3619

*If you want a pizza, you must pay in advance. Cost: \$10.00 for each pizza. Please make check payable to Sinai Temple

An INCREDIBLE Purim: Monday, March 13 An Advance Invitation!

The entire congregation is invited to an **INCREDIBLE** celebration this coming Monday, March 13 at 6:00 p.m.. Elastigirl and Dash will not be there, but Spiderman and Batman will make appearances. Bring your super powers.

Hamantaschen Baking Contest Monday, March 13

The contest returns! Bake your own hamantaschen. Bring them to the Temple as part of our Megillah Reading. There will be prizes for the best tasting, most original, and best overall hamantaschen.

Bake your best. Have fun. Definitely use your sense of humor and bring the goodies to Temple for Purim.

Let my people eat!

It's never too late or too early to think about good cooking and baking. If you were stumped over what to make and how to organize the kitchen side of last year's Seder, the library has got the perfect Passover gift for you. It's called PASSOVER SEDERS MADE SIMPLE. The author is Zell Schulman. The book is published by IDG Books Worldwide, Inc. It not only contains recipes for Passover, but a full listing of sample menus for seders of all sorts from Ashkenazic to vegetarian to "ecumenical potluck!" Other Passover materials are waiting to be consumed in the Temple library.

Passsover University Sunday, March 26, 9 to 11 a.m.

Are you leading your own seder? What do the ritual foods mean? How do you customize the seder for your family and friends?

Come to the Passover University and discover the answers to your questions. Study and eat your way towards the best Passover ever. Workshops to choose from:

☆Haggadah Variations for groups of all ages
 ☆Making charoset, matza balls and kugel (Cook & taste in the Kitchen)

☆How to make a Seder when your guests are 9 or 90, Jewish or not

The Passover University is made possible by a gift from Joel Cohen in memory of Marilyn Cohen who would have loved to enrich Passover for our Sinai community.

Writing a Torah: Please join our Torah Scribe In an Open Studio Sunday, March 5 from 9 a.m. to noon OR

Tuesday, March 7 from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

In honor of our75th anniversary, we are "renovating" three of our Torah scrolls. Artist and calligrapher, Rabbi Kevin Hale, will be our "sofer...Torah scribe" over the next several months. Rabbi Hale will begin his work at Sinai next month. He will be conducting two open studio workshops where adults are invited to watch, learn, question, and dialogue with him. Later in the month, he will also be teaching the students in our Religious School.

Please drop by the Oneg Shabbat Room on March 5 or March 7. You'll be able to see how a Torah is actually created.You'll be able to do some of your own calligraphy.

Many thanks to Jim and Barbara Sadowsky and Ron and Brenna Sadowsky for underwriting this project in memory of the late Bill Sadowsky.

> Saturday Morning Torah Study Every week at 9 a.m.

Mark Your Calendar For The Annual Israel Bonds Dinner Thursday, June 8

Sinai Temple will be joining with all the other synagogues of the Pioneer Valley this coming June for the annual Bonds Dinner. This year's honorees from Sinai will be Jim and Marlene Gordon.

Details will follow.

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, March 5th at 3 p.m. as SINAI TEMPLE HOSTS AN INTERFAITH SACRED SERVICE PLEASE JOIN US FOR PRAYER AND BEAUTIFUL MUSIC In the sanctuary at Sinai Temple

Mmmmm Food!!! A New Opportunity for Purim!!!

Would you like to eat freshly baked hamantaschen? Bake hamantaschen? Deliver hamantaschen to members of the congregation?

If you can say **yes** to any of the above, here's something sweet to anticipate for Purim next month!!

It's called the MITZVAH OF MISHLOACH MANOT — THE SENDING OF FOOD! This year we're going to fulfill the mitzvah of Mishloach Manot* by preparing food baskets for our Alumni (Sinai young adults ages 18 to 30) plus new Temple members of the last two years. We'll also be baking enough hamantaschen for the entire Religious School.

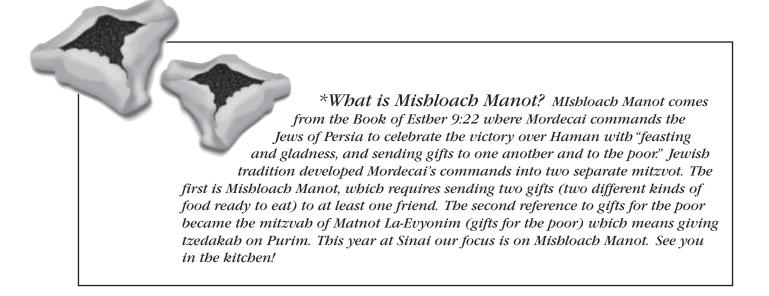
So....here's your chance. You can be part of this great event in several ways....

- Make a recipe of dough and bring it unbaked to the Temple refrigerator.
 We'll give you an easy recipe. See below. OR
- Come help bake in the Temple kitchen on Wednesday, March 1 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. or on Thursday, March 2 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

3. Help prepare Mishloach Manot food baskets for mailing on Monday, March 6 at 9:00 a.m.

For information, recipe, or to volunteer, please call Karen Mernoff at 736-3619 ext 13 P.S. No experience is needed! Just good spirits.

Think Hamantaschen. Think baking. Think Purim 2006.



Adult Opportunities

Sinai's Trip to Israel July 16 - 28, 2006 To reserve a place at the right price, Please register by March 1

Our tour will include: Roundtrip airfare from New York to Tel Aviv, 2 nights at the Dan Panorama Hotel in Tel Aviv, 2 nights at the Kibbutz Nof Ginnosar Guest House in the Galilee, 6 nights at the Inbal Hotel in Jerusalem, breakfast daily & five dinners, transfers, entrance fees, and porterage, and roundtrip bus transportation from Springfield to airport

Adult participants on the trip are eligible for a \$1,000 travel grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. (This will reduce the adult cost of the trip from \$3,249 to \$2,249.) Teenagers (starting at age 13) can receive a grant of 50% of the cost of our trip.

The daily itinerary with details on registration is available on the Sinai Website (www.sinai-temple.org). You can register with Ayelet Tours, 19 Aviation Rd.Albany, NY 12205 or call (800) 237-1517 * (518) 783-6001 * FAX (518) 783-6003 * E-mail: ayelet@ayelet.com

For Chanukah 2006 Why Not Give Yourself the Gift of Hebrew?

As part of Sinai's 75th Anniversary Celebration, the Adult Education Committee is hoping to launch a unique project for Hebrew learning. In our 75th year, we want to involve at least 75 adults learning Hebrew. Classes will be offered at six different levels over a tenweek period this Fall 2006.

AND – best of all – classes will be available at many different times so that anyone who wants to learn can find a time and class level that's just right.

Right now, we just want to know about your possible interest in the "Gift of Hebrew." If we can get some information now, we'll be ready to shape our program when September rolls around. (P.S. Responding to this survey does not commit you to participate. It just lets us move ahead with our preliminary planning!) Send your thoughts and replies to: Reva Kleppel, Adult Education Chair, Sinai Temple 1100 Dickinson St. Springfield, MA 01108 rkleppel@hotmail.com

Choose the Hebrew class that might most interest you -

Beginning at the Beginning:

For those starting out. Students will learn to identify Hebrew letters and vowels and begin to put words together.

Advanced Beginner:

For those starting over: A refresher course to review the Hebrew alphabet, vowels and improve basic reading skills. Then on to reading and understanding basic prayers.

Prayerbook Hebrew:

For those who can read. This class will focus on the history and meaning of our traditional prayers.

Conversational:

For those who would like to learn Hebrew as it is spoken in Israel today. Students will learn basic conversational skills, vocabulary and some Hebrew grammar.

Biblical Hebrew:

For those who can read Hebrew and want to apply their skills towards understanding Torah in the original language.

Chanting the Torah:

For those who want to be able to translate those little notations in the Torah text into chanting.

Number in order of preference (1 = best choice) your top three times for learning:

_____Sun. morning _____Tues. morning _____Tues. evening _____Wed. evening

____Thurs. morning ____Fri. morning ____Sat. morning

Would you actually be interested in learning Hebrew?

____yes ___no ___maybe ____call me when the committee has more details

Your Name ____

Phone ____

E-mail

President's Message Steve Weiss

As some of you may know, the Union for Reform Judaism has a program entitled "10 Minutes of Torah". Subscribers receive an email message each weekday on different topics, such as the weekly Torah portion, Israel, Jewish ethics, and so on. When I was at the Biennial, I learned that when the program was started a few years ago, the target was to have 1,000 people signed up. By the time of the Biennial, over 16,000 people were receiving "10 Minutes"!

Upon returning from Houston, one of my resolutions was to sign up for this service. It takes only a few minutes on the URJ website. Now a brief article awaits me on my office computer each morning. The pieces are relatively short, but well written, thought provoking, and informative. I look forward to reading them, and they're a great way to take a few brief minutes from the pressures of the day.

If you're already receiving these articles, I'm sure you know what I mean. If you haven't signed up yet, I encourage you to do so. It's one of the many services that the URJ provides, and it's easily accessible.

Chicken Soup for the Jewish Mind: Torah Study Saturdays at 9 a.m.

We are studying the Torah Portion of the week, proceeding through the Torah in order. Everyone at any level of knowledge is welcome. The group meets in the Oneg Shabbat Room from 9 to 10 a.m. Bagels and coffee are part of the deal. During the Rabbi's sabbatical, guest teachers as well our own Sinai congregants are leading each weekly session.

Monthly Morning Service Wednesday, February 1 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. Break-fast follows. The feeling of togetherness is wonderful. The spirit is unique. 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, March 1, April 5, May 3, and June 7.

Message from Brotherhood

Please join me on March 24th as we honor George Dickstein, this years Rabbi Snyder award recipient. Our committee had a very difficult decision to make. We had a great many nominations; all of them were quite worthy. This should be a very popular and well-attended event, so please RSVP to the temple office no later than March 10th.

How about this for an interesting idea: On March 19th we will be holding a Men's Only Breakfast. Admission will be free to all Sinai men; the only thing that we ask is that you join us in discussion. We want to find out what you think Brotherhood is about, and perhaps let you know what we think as well, so make this the Sunday that you drive the kids to Sunday school and then park the car and joins us for lox and bagels.

The Brotherhood Raffle will be taking place (finally) May 20th. Tickets will be available for purchase at the Synagogue office or from any Brotherhood officer or Sinai Board member. This year the number of prizes is larger than past years, and your odds of winning have increased proportionately.

Dan Cohn dcohn@sinaibrotherhood.org

For High School and College students A Summer Program Making Money; The Susan M. Broh Tikkun Olam Award

This summer Sinai Temple invites students to get involved with tikkun olam – repairing the world. We would like to underwrite students who choose to spend their summer in a project that enriches the world. Interested students can get involved by thinking of a project or an area of interest. (For suggestions, please see below.) An application should be in the mail soon. Those who are selected will be paid a salary of approximately \$7.50 an hour. (College students living outside the Pioneer Valley are welcome to find a project wherever they'll be spending the summer.)

Why is the Temple offering this program? We began this program several years ago to honor the memory of Susan M. Broh, a Temple member who died in September 2001. Susan began her career of "tikkun olam" by dedicating two years of her life to the Peace Corps. After that, Susan devoted her professional and volunteer life to making this world a better place. She believed passionately in the Jewish obligation of pursuing justice. Susan's friends and family have created this program to honor her memory and to encourage other Jews to strive for holiness as Jews must always do.

A full application is available by calling the Temple office.

THE CANTOR'S CORNER Cantor Emily Sleeper Mekler

I just want to call your attention to a few interesting events to look for and add to your calendar in this edition of the bulletin.

First, on Sunday, March 5th at 3 p.m. Sinai Temple will host an Interfaith Sacred Service. This is an annual event that is traditionally hosted by various religious establishments in the community. This year, Sinai Temple is honored to have been asked to host the event. I hope that you will attend, worship with us and show your support.

Secondly, on Friday evening, March 24th at 8 p.m., you can treat yourself to the beautiful Jewish music of the Baroque era. The music doesn't sound "Jewish", but Salamone Rossi, was a Jewish composer who was one of the greatest figures in the music of Italy. His music bridged the end of the Renaissance and the beginning of the Baroque eras. We will include other music in the Baroque style written by the contemporary composer, Charles Davidson. The Sinai Temple Adult Choir will sing accompanied on flute, by Sue Kurian, Boris Kogan on cello and John Gerry-Karanjanes on harpsichord.

It's not too late!!! Don't be shy and call me immediately to join the Adult Choir for 7-8 weeks of rehearsals in preparation to sing this beautiful Baroque music!!

Don't forget the Sinai Temple Band. Check in this bulletin edition for further details about joining the Sinai Temple Adult Choir or the Sinai Temple Band.

JOIN US TO MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC AT SINAI or, if you'd prefer, COME AND LISTEN!!

SAVE THE DATE!!

Friday evening, March 24, 2006

JEWISH MUSIC OF THE BAROQUE ERA Highlighting the music of Salamone Rossi (circa 1570 -1630)

Featuring The Sinai Temple Adult Choir Sue Kurian, flute Boris Kogan, cello John Gerry-Karanjanes, harpsichord

The Sinai Temple Adult Choir Wants You!! For 7 To 8 Short Weeks

Welcome to our new soprano, Charyne Codeiro and our rehearsal accompanist, Robyn Newhouse!

This is a special invitation! If you are a Sinai Temple adult member who has a pleasant voice and can blend your voice with other singers we'd like you to join us to rehearse for and sing Jewish Baroque Music on Friday evening, March 24th.

WE ESPECIALLY NEED TENORS, but altos and basses would be GREAT, too!!

One does not have to read music or Hebrew. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9:00 p.m. Music is primarily in 4-parts, 3-parts, or 2-parts. Please contact Cantor Mekler (413-736-3619 ext. 14) IMMEDIATELY to begin rehearsals!!

March 24th is only about 7-8 weeks of rehearsals from the time you receive this!

Don't Forget!! Our Sinai Temple Band Seeks Additional Members

Welcome to our new band member, Spencer Locke, baritone horn.

Our members are:

Flute: Bonnie Gibson, Erin Mernoff, Carolyn Clini

Clarinet: David Mernoff, Dave Tivoli

Saxophone: Matt Berg, Steve Kessler, Joel Solomon

Baritone horn: Spencer Locke

Mandolin/Guitar: Seth Roberts

Bass: Jason Schwartz

If you are a Sinai Temple member and are a musician of any age with AT LEAST 3 years current playing experience, with good music reading and/or improvisational skills please contact Cantor Mekler (736-3619 ext. 14) to inquire about joining our Sinai Temple Band. She will be delighted to fill you in.

Don't forget:

Sinai Temple Cookbooks are on sale at the Temple Office and at the Gift Shop. They make great gifts!

NEWS from the Membership and Retention Committee

We are responding to the changing demographics of our Sinai Family and the greater Western Massachusetts community. We need your help!

The new Membership Committee will analyze and respond to changes in the community. We will develop strategies to encourage new growth in our Temple and to maximize retention of our new members by integrating them into our Sinai Family. We also want to assure that the Temple is sensitive to the changing needs of our existing members. The Shalom Committee will be reinvigorated to be the keystone in our Retention strategy. All aspects of membership will be analyzed from the informational handouts given to prospective members, to the Temple Bulletin and Web site, and programming in general. The Membership and Retention Committee will embrace the Temple's new Mission Statement as soon as it is finalized.

Steven Weiss and Rabbi Shapiro asked me to chair this vital Temple committee. I offer Kudos to Michael Bader who has volunteered for many years as a one person Membership committee. He will continue as an active member of the new committee along with George Dickstein, David Roberts, Steven Weiss, Gary Weiner, Maggy Cohn, Tricia Freedman, Bonnie Mikesh, Peter Greenberg and Betsy Bertuzzi. The Financial Secretary and the Chairperson of the Shalom Committee will also be on the committee.

In an important way all of us at Sinai are members of this committee. Here's how you can participate:

• Say "HELLO" to people whom you do not know when you are at the Temple.

• Bring member as well as nonmember friends to Sinai to participate in the activities celebrating Sinai's 75th Anniversary.

• Plan on bringing lots of friends and children to the fun of Purim in March and to the beautiful Passover service in April.

• Promote our Religious School with its new Director, Sheila Shear, and all of the Youth activities from Bagels and Blocks to SPFTY.

• Participate in Torah Study and bring a friend.

• Celebrate Shabbat! at Sinai with prospective new members.

If you have any comments or suggestions concerning any of the functions of the Membership and Retention Committee please email me at PHOhead@aol.com, jot a note and give it to the Office staff, or just call me at 567-7320.

Shalom,

Jeffrey Cossin

Wanted:

Estate quality furniture and accessories

Sinai Temple is embarking on an exciting new fundraising event and we need your help to make it a success. If you or anyone you know has something great that they just can't use anymore, please let us know.

We will even pick up your tax deductible donation!!

Some suggested items include:

Furniture in good condition*Area rugs*Framed Art Collectibles* Silver*China*Antique/Vintage toys

> Patio furniture*Clocks*Lamps*small appliances*Jewelry

Judaic items*Dinnerware*Newer televisions Electronics*Exercise Equipment

*sorry but we are unable to take mattresses,VCRs, computers, typewriters (except antiques), baby items and clothing. Large appliances may be listed via a photo ad on a sell board only, not on site

To donate items or for more information please contact

Sue Chanin 567-9185 or Mark Stone 567-0392

Judaica Shop Corner

Your shop is all set for spring B'nai Mitzvah with a beautiful tallis selection for girls and boys. There are many appropriate gifts for these occasions.

For weddings, showers, and engagements, there are many choices sure to delight you.

ALSO FEBRUARY IS CLEARANCE MONTH!

Hours: Thursdays 2 – 4:30 pm Sundays 10 am to 1 pm and always available by appointment

Thais Fischel 786-9577Bobbie Cossin565-9970

FOR ALL TEENAGERS IN GRADES 9 THRU 12:

Come join SPFTY and have a great time! Hang out with other teens and enjoy being Jewish! Membership dues for SPFTY are only \$36. For more information about SPFTY, including a schedule of upcoming events and membership forms, you can check out the SPFTY web site at http://www.spfty.com or send an e-mail to info@ spfty.com If you haven't signed up for this year's SPFTY Ski Trip yet, be sure to do so soon as space is limited.

From Sheila Shear, Director of Education

Shalom Chaverim!

It has been an exciting month for the religious school children. In January, the children began celebrating Sinai's 75th birthday by raising putting their tzedakah, toward the purchase of a playscape for the children at Washington Street School in Springfield. The students in the fifth grade have begun a cultural and educational exchange with fifth grade children in Israel. Each month, from January through May, the fifth graders will be exchanging information about themselves, their families, their communities, and their schools. In May, the students will hold a video conference to mark the culmination of the project. The Yachdav (School to School) program is affiliated with the Leo Baek School in Israel.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Jayne Berman for her generous donation to support this program for our Sinai students, and to the Harold Grinspoon Foundation for its community support of the program. Keep watching for exciting updates.

I would like to thank Joanne Brunnell for all her hard work organizing our first Lucky Ticket Extravaganza. She did an outstanding job and I hope is enjoying a well deserved rest.



On December 28th, Sinai Temple youngsters in grades 5-8 enjoyed a Chanukah party at Sinai Temple. Music and Games were provided by Marx Rolling Revue.

This event was made possible through funding from the Sinai Temple Religious School Special Projects Fund.



Bonnie Gibson taught youngsters a Chanukah song during the Dec. 18th Bagels and Blocks session

Club Hey Vav News

In November, Club Hey-Vav, our newest social-recreational program for 5th and 6th graders participated in a wonderful evening activity during which pasta meals were made for Prospect House residents. The following letter was received in response to their efforts.

Dear Sinai Temple:

Thank you for the donations for our family and children.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued commitment to our shelter residents. It is an affirmation that there are individuals in the community that still care about those less fortunate. Thank you for your donation.

Erika Matos Case Manager Prospect House

Sinai Temple's social/recreational program for 5th and 6th Graders

CLUB HEY-VAV Friday, February 10, 2006 7:00 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Pizza Party!

Inflatable Fun and Games too!

This event takes place right after the 6:00 p.m. Kabbalat Service

Club Hey-Vav is made possible due to a gift from Irving and William Horowitz in memory of Marcelle Horowitz

Please register by calling Karen Mernoff at 736-3619 ext. 13

Donations



Do you know about the Sinai Temple Caring Community?

In the fall of 2000, the Caring Community was established as a way to reach out to congregants of all ages at times of need. The committee not only assists in times of sorrow, but in times of joy.

Now, in 2006, the Caring Community continues to thrive under the leadership of Pam Kalman. Dedicated members devote their time to helping fellow members of Sinai Temple.

What are some of the things that Caring Community does?

Organize Senior Luncheons

Organize Family Game Nights

Bake hamantaschen and send Shaloch Manot baskets

Send pizza coupons to new parents

Send gift certificates to new drivers.

Deliver "surprise" challah.

Cook and/or deliver meals for those members who are ill or who have suffered a loss.

Make friendly phone calls to members.

The list goes on and on.

Our Caring Community continues to thrive due to temple members who go out their way to assist others in need ... We are always looking for new members of the committee. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Pam Kalman at 565-2278.



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February 1965 - from left to right:

Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Bell, Dr. & Mrs. Calvert Stein, Judge & Mrs. Sidney Cooley

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Celebrating good times at Sinai. Those were the days when so much of people's social lives resolved around the Temple. Look how beautiful everyone looked! And when you look at Dr. Calvert Stein, do you remember how he would be beckoned to the bimah, riaise the Kiddush cup, and intone the prayer blessing us with his sonorous voice? How beautiful he sounded.