January/February 2013 Tevet/Sh'vat/Adar 5773

# Sinai Temple Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat

### For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

Do you remember the Israel Survey? 240 of you responded to the Survey only a few months ago. Back on November 2, I reported the findings to a Friday evening grouping of congregants.

And now I'm wondering: what do we do next?

For my part, I've been in touch with Reform Judaism Magazine and the editors have expressed interest in publishing the survey. They received very positive feedback to the article on our God Survey of last year, and they are open to a return visit by Sinai Temple.

Creating the article will require considerable effort. It will also be nice publicity for our congregation. But I'm still left asking what else should come next here at Sinai.

On the one hand, I don't want to overdo it with Israel. The Jewish agenda is larger than that.

On the other hand, this is Israel's 65th Anniversary and the survey certainly indicates that that matters to us. 93% of us report in the survey that Israel is important in our lives. 81% say that Israel makes them proud. These numbers and others from the survey tell me that a little more talk about Israel makes sense for us this year.

I already know a solid number of Sinai congregants will be part of the community trip to Israel this April. I also have high hopes that many of you will want to attend IF&FF – the Israeli Film and Food Festival on Fridays, January II and February I. Our caterer, Maital, makes fabulous food, but beyond that, the two films we've chosen for the Festival are superb. Each reveals a side of Israel we don't see in the usual "news."

There is one other opportunity coming your way. Starting in February, I am going to be offering a five-part video lecture series. As you'll see on page 5 of this bulletin, this is not the typical "adult education" offering. It's me sharing with you via videos the wisdom and insight of Donniel Hartman, one of Israel's most thoughtful public figures. Hartman is quite brilliant. His presentations come along with a booklet of commentaries. Several of my friends in the rabbinate have offered this same course and given it Golden Globe kind of praise. Sign up. Come learn with me. It's Israel in depth.

So what do we do next when it comes to Israel? Let's celebrate and learn. Especially if Israel worries you or raises questions for you, we've got lots to discuss. As they say in Israel, "L'hitraot –See you soon."

Please note – This bulletin is an eight week bulletin – covering January AND February 2013.

#### Friday Evenings in January

All January services begin at 6 p.m.

#### January 4

Welcome to 2013 with melody and midrash.

#### January II

Israeli Food and Film Festival. Starting at 6 p.m. See page 3. (Kidz Kabbalat will also take place with a special service in the Oneg Shabbat Room. See page 6)

#### January 18

A fabulous congregational service in the sanctuary. (Tot Shabbat will also take place with a service in the Oneg Shabbat Room.)

#### January 27

This 6 p.m. service takes place on Tu B'Shvat AND Shabbat Shira (The Sabbath of Song). A sumptuous Pre and Post Oneg will make you glad Israel is part of our lives.

#### Friday Evenings in February

#### February I at 6:00 p.m.

Israeli Food & Film Festival. See page 3.

#### February 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Kidz Kabbalat – It's a new service for families with children in Kg and Grades I and 2. See page 6.

#### February 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Congregational Shabbat Service

#### February 15 at 6:00 p.m.

For STUFF – Sinai Temple under five families. Bring your littlest kids to Sinai.

#### February 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Charles Darwin was born on February 12. How about a conversation on science and evolution to counter the winter cold?

#### February 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Congregational Shabbat Service featuring warmth in spite of the winter.

#### **Every Saturday Morning**

Torah Study at 9:00 a.m. Service at 10:30 a.m. – except for January 26. See page 6 for details.

#### A Message from President Jeff Cossin

There I was singing with Shir Fun and Sababa! on Shabbat evening November 30. It was a thrill to be with the group that I sang with 50 years ago. It was an honor to perform original music with Sababa! And then Shir Fun returned for our annual Chanukah Shabbat Service and again they were magnificent - all 26 of them- over 25 % of our Religious School population. And what about "Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins"?! Our own Sinai actors and actresses were back for the third time in three years.We have quite a troupe! I challenged our Executive Committee to think about applying for grants to allow more shows to be performed at Sinai Temple. Cantor Levson and Sheri Levson, through their productions, have created community, powerful Jewish connections, and future stars of the stage. Do you know how to write grant proposals? Do you know where to get grants? Can one of you write to Steven Spielberg to see if he would endow our Temple to create young lewish thespians?! Let me know at PHOhead@aol. com.

Our Leadership Development initiative for 2012-2013 is well on its way. We will be starting on January 9 with at least NINE congregants getting their toes wet. I am proud of them and I thank Michael Freedman and Ronnie Leavitt who, along with Rabbi Shapiro, have created a robust training program for Sinai Temple. Thanks to Susanne Simon who helped with many calls.

Our Nominating Committee under the chairmanship of Bruce Leshine our First Vice President will begin meeting in January to choose seven congregants to join our Board of Directors and seven more to serve on the Executive Committee. The next three years will be extremely important in the history of Sinai Temple. Your participation will be crucial. If you want to be a candidate or know someone who would be a good candidate, please let me know.

Our Raise the Roof Campaign has raised nearly \$41, 000 from ONE HUNDRED and FORTY ONE families as of December 12.1 am thrilled with your response. Thank you very much for your generosity and interest in this project. As all of you know, I also encourage and value your volunteer time. There are multiple ways to help your Sinai community and they are all appreciated.

As a religious community we need to respond to the heart breaking events in Newtown,CT.We can be a powerful force for social justice and I believe our Social Action Committee under the guidance of our new chair Dr. Richard Segool (segool@aol.com ) should be the center of this activity. If you are moved to be part of this discussion please contact him.

You can help our community by recruiting new members to Sinai Temple. Call our office at 736-3619 with names of prospective members and we will take over from there!

#### Notes from Cantor Martin Levson

"I will sing to Adonai, for God has triumphed gloriously...!" (Exodus 15:1)

Shabbat B'shalach, the Shabbat when we read the dramatic account of the crossing of the Sea of Reeds is known as "Shabbat Shirah," the "Sabbath of Song." This Shabbat gets its name from the song/poem the Israelites sang after crossing the sea. The opening and closing lines of the daily Mi Chamocha prayer are quotes from this Torah portion. In many congregations this Shabbat is celebrated with special programming, and that is what we will be doing this year here at Sinai Temple! Friday evening, January 25, will feature the participation of the Adult Volunteer Choir (following our new rehearsal paradigm:"Two QUICK practices and then we sing!"), a variety of instrumentalists, and of course, "Shir Fun!" If you are musically inclined in any way and would like to be part of the festivities that evening, please let me know! Saturday morning, January 26, we will celebrate Shabbat Shirah with a special combination of morning Torah Study and a service that will feature the "graduation" of the four members of my Torah chanting class: Jodi Maniscalco, Robyn Newhouse, Sarah Shtrax, and Laurie Weinberg will all publicly chant Torah on this morning as a wonderful culmination of the hard work and practicing they have done over the past few months! Please join us on this morning as we celebrate their accomplishment!

Ivdu et Hashem B'simcha! Serve the Holy One with Joy!

Welcome to our New Member: Annette Winter

### INTOXICATING SMASHING OUTRAGEOUS SINAI TEMPLE'S ADULT ADVENTURE Saturday night, February 23

The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published every other month by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 4 for the year 2012-2013.

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Mark Dov Shapiro	Rabbi
Martin Levson	Cantor
Heather Sullivan	Director of Education
Lisa Gittleman Udi	JOY and SPFTY Advisor
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Bruce Leshine	First Vice President
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Ron Weiss	Cemetery Chair
Karen Mendelsohn	Membership Committee Chair
Visit our website: www.sinai	i-temple.org

## Israelí Food & Film Festival - Part One

Israeli Cuisine (catered by Meital)

followed by

"Laughing at Ourselves: Jews & Palestinians on TV!"

Friday, January 11 6 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7 p.m. – Catered Dinner and Film Fall 2012...Missiles are flying... But there is more to Israel than conflict. Watch an episode of the Israeli television series ARAB LABOR. Imagine a touch of "Seinfeld" - except the "hero" is an Arab Israeli journalist trying to succeed in Israelí televísion.

It's funny and full of heart. A side of Israel you can't see anywhere else. Come see and taste Israel.

Advance reservations required. Your check is your reservation via snail mail \$5 per person. to Sinai or through the website. www.sinai-temple.org

## Israelí Food & Film Festival - Part Two

Israeli Cuisine (catered by Meital) followed by

"Kipur: When Secular Israel Meets the Day of Atonement" Friday, February 1 6 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7 p.m. – Catered Dinner and Film Another look at Israel. It's Yom Kippur. The streets are empty except for a secular woman on her bicycle who collides with a religious Jew preparing for Yom Kippur. She's carries her own memories and guilt. Their collision leads to an unexpected relationship. Advance reservations required. Your check is your reservation via snail mail to Sinai or through the website. www.sinai-temple.org \$5 per person. \*\*\*\*\*

**Childcare at the Food & Film Festival** What about children? We've got you covered. Childcare will be available during the showing of the films, from approximately 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. When you RSVP, please let us know if you want childcare. We will have childcare only if parents let us know to prepare.

#### Message from Philip Lesser President, Men of Sinai

Many thanks to all who helped during the Chanukah dinner and all the breakfasts. We couldn't have done it without you!

Great food, great friends, great speakers. If you haven't been to our Sunday morning breakfasts, that's what you have missed. From agriculture to the Time Capsules of the Warsaw Ghetto, to how our culture is changing with regard to gender and same sex relationship issues, we have explored a variety of interesting topics for open and interesting discussions. Come join us for our next speaker, Adam Metsch, who will be speaking on college issues, from strategies on reducing costs, scholarships, and how to choose the right school. Each breakfast has been full, so please make your reservation with the temple office early, and don't be left out!

Israel, Purim, and the Snyder dinner awards are just around the corner.We need your nominations for Snyder Awards soon so we can update you in the next bulletin. Get ready, more events like hockey night in January, movie nights, all coming soon! Come join us for all of these with more to come!

Philip Lesser, President Men of Sinai

#### Hockey and Havdalah

The Men of Sinai will be raising the Stanley Kiddush Cup again this year on Saturday January 26th. Together with the men of Emek Shalom in Simsbury, CT we will be traveling to Hartford to watch the Springfield Indians play the Connecticut Whale. Havdalah will start at 5:00pm with candles, spices and pizza. Tickets for the game are \$15 each. Contact Buff Maniscalco at jodiman@comcast.net tickets and reservation before Friday January 17th.

#### Judaica Gift Shop Corner

Many thanks to all who supported Sinai's Gift Shop for the Chanukah season. We're very pleased with the success we've had!!

In January we'll start showing appropriate gifts for B'nai Mitzvah, weddings, engagements and all occasions.

Our hours return to Tuesdays and Thusdays from 2 to 4:30 and Sundays from 9 to 12 noon.

Thais Fischel 786-9577

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Make Your Reservation to Hear
Adam Metsch on Sunday January 13 at 9:30 am
It's not just four years, it's a future
Don't let your teenager drive a \$200,000
decision based on emotion, rumor or a pretty catalog.
Adam Metsch is the founder and President of
The College Advisor of New England, Inc. which
has offices in East Longmeadow and Albany, NY.
Adam started his business in 1994 and has helped
thousands of families through the college selection,
admissions, financial, and decision-making processes. He is a Certified Educational Planner which
is the highest designation in the field of educational
consulting, and he is a past Board member of the
Independent Education Consultants Association, an
international association comprising the top professionals in the field. To date, Adam and his team
have personally visited over 500 college campuses
nationwide. Their approach is to help students discover and understand what they want from their
college experience - to develop their voice, broaden
their perspective, and find the right schools where
they can succeed, and their parents can support.

#### Nominations for the Men of Sinai Rabbi Herman Elliot Snyder Service Award

The nomination form is an insert in this Bulletin. Nominations are welcomed from all Sinai Temple congregants. Please complete the form by giving it to any Men of Sinai Board member, by mailing it to Sinai Temple, or by emailing it to Phil Lesser at lesserpl@ verizon.net. If you need another copy of the form, you can print it from the Sinai Temple website at http:// www.sinai-temple.org/Men of Sinai/snyder nomination.pdf. Nominations will be accepted until January 31, 2013.

Final selection of the honoree will be made by the men of sinai board of directors. All nominations will be held in strict confidence, as will all discussions relating to each nominee and our selection.

### Adult Opportunities

#### Sinai Temple Book Club

We will meet Wednesday January 9 to discuss In The Image, a novel by the amazing young author Dara Horn and Wednesday February 13 to discuss When Grant Expelled the Jews by Jonathan Sarna. Both meetings will take place at 7 p.m.

#### 1946 - 1962...Last Call for the Boomers

If you're a Boomer, please join Rabbi Shapiro for coffee, reminiscence, and conversation about our life journeys.

Wednesday, January 10 – 7:30 PM

Please RSVP to the Temple at 413-736-3619 or on the temple website www.sinai-temple.org OR

If you can't make this final coffee, please call the Rabbi to chat. Rabbi Shapiro has said he is very, very interested in conversation with as many boomers as possible.

"If I'm Jewish and You're Christian, What are the Kids?" A Discussion for Interfaith Families Sunday, January 13 from 9 to 10 a.m. With Rabbi Shapiro at the Temple

(Childcare available)

Children begin to ask identity questions at an early age: Who am I? Where do I belong? Why does my family celebrate some holidays and not others? Am I half-Jewish and half-Christian?

Sinai's Interfaith Matters Committee welcomes you to an open conversation on raising our kids (and ourselves). All questions are welcome!

RSVP to Erica Brunette...ericalbrunette@gmail. com...413-754-3139

#### iEngage

It's Video.. It's Conversation It's an Invitation to Reimagine our Relationship with Israel Five Opportunities to Learn with Rabbis Amy Katz and Mark Shapiro Sunday afternoons & Wednesday evenings February/March 2013\*

What happens when previously powerless Jews become Jews with power and a country of their own? What happens when Jews with power have to make war or establish a democracy? Who defines what Judaism means when Jews run their own country? Why should American Jews care about Israel?

These are some of the questions to be addressed when iEngage comes to our Jewish community this winter. Each session will begin with a 20-minute video featuring scholars from the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. The film will be followed by an opportunity to read texts (both ancient and modern) that shed light on the session's challenges. Lively discussion will fill out the program.

Pre-registration and a \$20 fee are necessary so that we can order your sourcebook.

\* Sunday afternoons (February 10, 24; March 3, 17, 31) at Temple Beth El from 4:15 to 5:45 p.m. with Rabbi Amy Katz.

The same course Wednesday evenings (February 13, 27; March 6, 20; April 3) from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Sinai Temple with Rabbi Shapiro.

Pre-registration is required through either Temple office.

#### Esther Goes Mexican!!!!

Please Join us for an Evening of Winter Merriment Come Enjoy Margaritas, Mexican Fare, Music, Megillah And More! Saturday, February 23 7:00-9:30 pm at Sinai Temple \$36.00 per person/Non Members Welcome Checks made payable to Sinai Temple or register online Proceeds to benefit Sinai Temple Religious School *Catered by Meital* 

### Adult Opportunities



Israel: After the Elections Where Do We Go Now? A Special Torah Study with Guest Speaker: Yossi Klein Halevi Saturday, February 2 From 9 to 10:15 a.m.

Yossi Klein Halevi is a Fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute, a Jerusalem-based research institute and educational center. Halevi is Israel correspondent and contributing editor of The New Republic. He worked as a senior editor for the bi-weekly magazine The Jerusalem Report from its founding until 2002. Halevi has also written for The Jerusalem Post, the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times and Washington Post. Halevi has a BA in Jewish studies from Brooklyn College and an MA in journalism from Northwestern. In 1982, he moved to Israel with his wife Sarah.

#### Monthly Morning Service Wednesdays, January 2 and February 6 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.

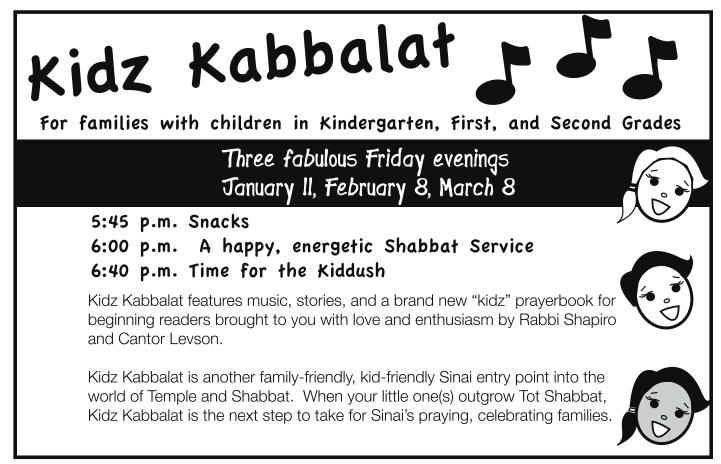
Future "morning minyan" services will take place on Wednesdays, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5.

#### Saturday Morning Services Learning, Song, and Torah Chanting: A Shabbat Morning with a Difference Saturday, January 26

Starting at 10 a.m. (Right after Torah Study)

January 26 offers a double opportunity. It is Tu b'Shvat Day and also the day on which we remember the crossing of the Red Sea. Our ancestors sang a grand song of freedom after that event. It is called the SHIRA.

On January 26, we will expand our Saturday morning service with the unique chant for the SHIRA presented by the graduates of our TORAH CHANTING CLASS: Jodii Maniscalco, Robyn Newhouse, Sarah Shtrax, and Laurie Weinberg. A small luncheon will follow the festivities!



### Message from Heather Sullivan Director of Education

Shalom!

In the last Sinai Bulletin I wrote about how we all belong and how much or little you choose to do is really up to you. I want to mention how much being involved can really make a difference.

Over the past two months or so we have had a few adult volunteers coming in for about an hour during our Tuesday Hebrew program. For the most part, these volunteers have worked with a number of students in very small groups. For some of these students this was the added boost that they needed to catch up with their peers. For others, this time in small groups, gave them a little added focus, which they greatly benefitted from. And for one student, a little one on one time, helped her to feel excited about the Hebrew program, which had become a little "boring" from her perspective. Her father told me one afternoon after a Hebrew session, in which this little girl work with a volunteer, that his daughter said him, ""My Hebrew tutor was awesome today," and she hadn't been that excited in a long time." When I shared this news with the volunteer, she was thrilled and was able to see how truly valuable a little volunteerism can be.

Thank you to Diane Friedberg, Susanne Simon, Rachel Sampson and Karen Mendelsohn for their time and energy during our Tuesday afternoon Hebrew program.

So I open our Tuesday afternoon doors to you. If you would like to help out with our Hebrew program, please do not hesitate to contact me. Our students will thank you for it and I'm sure you will get something out of it as well!

Mardi Gras – Jewish Style Purim Arrives at the End of February Sunday, February 24 at 11 a.m. (No Religious School – Just plain fun) Laughs, History, and Lunch Included

#### Jewish Summer Camping Can Make All the Difference in Preparing a Jewish Child for the Future

Our Reform movement runs two remarkable summer camps in the Berkshires. One is called Eisner; the other is called Crane Lake. Last year several Sinai students attended each of the camps. Your child would love either camp. Scholarships are available for sessions in July or August. Please direct your requests to the Rabbi's assistant. rblanchettegage@sinai-temple.org

#### Scholarships for Free

If your son or daughter is planning to attend any kind of Jewish program this summer, please take advantage of the Temple scholarship program. Thanks to the Joseph Emanuel, Rabbi Herman Eliot and Adele Biederman Snyder Memorial Fund, scholarships are available in small and larger amounts. We are also thankful to the family of Edna Simon and Judy and Michael Cohen who support summer scholarships as well.

Your request should go to the Rabbi's assistant., rblanchettegage@sinai-temple.org no later than February 15.

#### 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 related to tikkun olam/fixing the world. Applications should be in the mail soon. Call the office if you haven't received one. 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 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. PURIM
PURMI
PRUIM
RIMPU
Can you spell fun?
Sunday, February 24 at 11 a.m.

#### The MICAH Award Dinner Honoring Ronnie Leavitt Saturday, January 26 6 p.m. At Sinai Temple

Sinai Temple is very pleased to join forces with the Pioneer Valley Project for a community dinner honoring Springfield citizens who exemplify the words of the Prophet Micah: What does the Lord require of you: to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God. Sinai is also honored to be the HOST CONGREGATION. The dinner will take place in our own building.

Our 2013 honoree will be RONNIE LEAVITT.

To attend the dinner in honor of Ronnie, please send a check for \$35.00 per person to Sinai at 1100 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA 01108. Make the check payable to PVP – Pioneer Valley Project.

To make a donation in honor of Ronnie, please send a check for any amount payable to Sinai Temple to 1100 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA, 01108. Ronnie's donations will go to Sinai's fund helping with our Somali and Iraqi family connections.

Ronnie is a long time member of Sinai. During this time, she has been a member and chair of the social action committee. Ronnie now sits on Sinai's Board of Trustees. She has also had a leadership role at Jewish Federation.

In addition, Ronnie has been involved in social justice activities throughout our community and around the world. The 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.

#### LEGACY WHAT WILL YOURS BE?

What will you bequeath to future generations? How will the ideals you cherish now be sustained then? Who will articulate your principles for the sake of your grandchildren, your faith, your community and your country?

There is an answer.

With your help, Sinai Temple will endure as a powerful voice, sustaining those beliefs you hold dear. Now. And for future generations.

To obtain more information about remembering Sinai Temple in your will or estate, please contact: Steve Sussman or Rabbi Shapiro

#### Thank you to:

Michael and Linda Meyers for a generous gift to Sinai in honor of their  $50^{th}$  wedding anniversary. Part of the Meyers' gift was used to make possible the publication of our new Sinai Temple Membership Directory.

#### 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 from October 15 - present:

- Ben Rosenthal, husband of Fredi Rosenthal and father of Charlene Cutler.
- Muriel (Sherman) Wilson, Aunt of Scott Sherman.
- Gayle Kushner, sister-in-law of Sandy Lotterman.
- Dorothy Katz, Morton Katz's wife.
- Ellen Knox. Julie Mnich's mother
- Sherry Gordon, Jill Wright's mother.
- Rita Idelson, Janine Idelson's mother.
- Rena Weeks, Jane Lindfors-Cohen's aunt.
- Isidore (Pete) Engelman, Richard Engelman's uncle.

Now you can make donations to Sinai ONLINE!!! www.sinai-temple.org

You learn about someone's success or someone's sadness. You want to make a contribution but it's so much trouble to write a check.

Now you can skip the check and the snail mail.

Go to Sinai's website www.sinai-temple.org and make the donation to any one of our funds ONLINE.

#### Mazal Tov To:

- Billy and Alisha Snow are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Aidric Healy, on November 15. Aidric's very happy brothers are Atticus and Ansel.
- Ronda Parish and Herb Wood on the birth of a new granddaughter. Aleyah Eve Ulbin was born on October
  3. Her mom and dad are Jayme and Matt Ulbin. Her big sister is Natalia.
- Lisa Katz on the engagement of her son, Matthew, to Kelly Mercer.

#### **Congratulations to:**

Bruce Leshine for receiving the Sadowsky Visionary Award from the Jimmy Fund Council of Western Massachusetts. Bruce was honored for creating Mass Dash which has raised a total of \$325,000 for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.





### **IRWIN PERS,** GRI, CBR REALTOR<sup>®</sup>

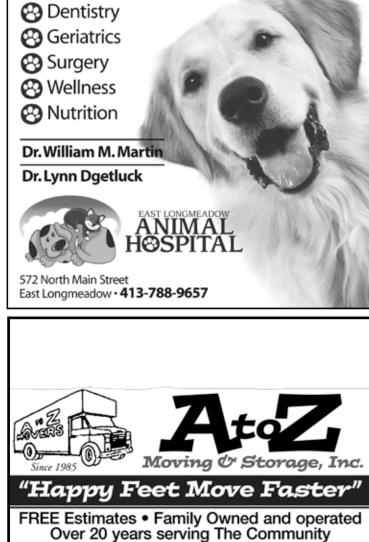
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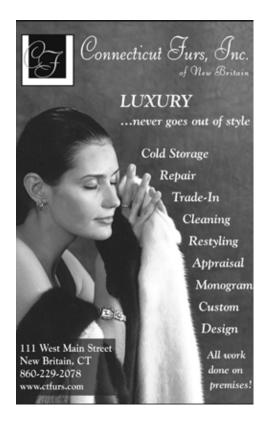
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Hershel and the Chanukah Goblins December 16, 2012