



Sinai Temple Bulletin

*Take Back Your Time:
Rediscover Shabbat*

January/February 2014
Tevet – Adar I 5774

For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

"I'm not sure. Am I Jewish?" That's how one of our High School students entered a conversation about identity last month. In anticipation of Christmas and the prominence of Christian stories and symbols at that time of year, we were talking about the origins of our sister religion. Another student had said, "You're not really born a Christian. You need to be baptized. But with Judaism, you get your identity from birth. You're born a Jew." To which the first student had responded, "How about me? I'm not sure. Am I Jewish?"

I know what this student meant. He has a Jewish father and a mother who isn't Jewish. Somewhere in the mists of time he had heard something about having to have a Jewish mother. So he asked, "Am I Jewish?"

The students and I looked around the table. Of the eight teenagers present, four had two parents who were Jewish. Four had a Jewish father married to a mom who wasn't Jewish.

Traditionally speaking, the answer was clear. A person is a Jew only if he is born of a Jewish mother.

But that's hardly the end of the story and here is what I told the students: It's true. According to the halacha (Judaism's legal background), you are a Jew if you have a Jewish mother (or if you convert to Judaism.) But the Reform movement hasn't closed the book on Jewish practice. Instead, we've maintained that the book needs to be open so that new chapters and understandings can be added.

Bearing that in mind, the Reform movement maintains that as long as a child has one Jewish parent (mom or dad) and as long as that child is raised as a Jew, that child is a Jew.

So were the four children around the table with one Jewish parent Jewish? Most definitely. Yes. For sure.

We can't take Judaism for granted. We can't be fully Jewish unless we live it and learn it and celebrate it. But the blessing of Reform is that we have open doors. We believe Judaism is a precious inheritance, and we want to share it as broadly and graciously as we can.

Yes, you're Jewish if you are raised as a Jew. Yes, you're Jewish if you continue to make it part of your life

And, yes, even if you're not Jewish, you are a part of this community. Together, we are living out a great vision. As the Temple mission statement says,

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.

Dear Friends – During the month of January, I will be on a modified sabbatical. I will be taking time for study and thought although I will still be devoting time to our fundraising campaign. My best wishes for 2014. See you in February.

Friday Evenings in January

All January services begin at 6 p.m.

January 3

Welcome to 2014 with melody and midrash.

January 10

Foreign Food and Film Festival, Part I. Starting at 6 p.m. See page 5.

January 17

Leading up to Martin Luther King Day, we will view video of the Civil Rights movement and Jewish involvement in the movement. (Tot Shabbat will take place at the same time in the Oneg Shabbat Room.)

January 24

A congregational service guaranteed to fight the winter cold.

January 31

Art Shabbat – As the Torah celebrates the first artists in Jewish history, we will celebrate the artists in our Religious School.

Friday Evenings in February

February 7 at 6:00 p.m.

Foreign Food & Film Festival, Part 2. See page 5.

February 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Charles Darwin was born on February 12. How about a conversation on science and religion to take the chill off the winter?

February 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Congregational Shabbat Service

February 28 at 6:00 p.m.

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

February 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Congregational Shabbat Service.

Message from Jeff Cossin

Temple President

I wrote this article on the evening of December 8, 2013, which completed seven wonderful days at Sinai Temple. Many projects which we have been working on this year culminated in success this week for our Sinai Community

- Our Visionary Jewish Education Task Force had its second meeting and everyone is working together, learning about each other's school, and working in groups to evaluate assumptions and expectations. Members of our leadership team have been meeting more often with our consultant and their counterparts at Temple Beth El.
- Our Temple Priority to work with the Boomers succeeded with a wonderful Chanukah party at Janice and Elliott Greenberg's house. It was a wonderful celebration in line with the theme of our Fundraising Campaign, **Celebrate Today...Create Tomorrow!**
- Our Shabbat Service on December 6 with singer, songwriter, and composer Michelle Citrin demonstrated what the future of American Judaism can be as she, along with Cantor Levson, created an exciting evening for over two hundred people of all generations. I experienced the same feeling with Ms. Citrin as I did more than twenty years ago when Debbie Freedman, of blessed memory, performed at Sinai Temple.
- Cantor Levson promoted our public relations efforts with a moving performance with the Springfield Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. The R'tzie Israel and L'Dor V'dor were very well received by the audience at Symphony Hall. There was a "gasp" of wonderment immediately after he completed the first piece. I was proud to be Jewish and proud to be a member of Sinai Temple.
- Many of our Congregants have been working very hard on our Fundraising Campaign, the result of the Sinai Temple 2015 Planning Group, one of our major priorities this year. Please respond generously when you are asked.
- We continued to build community with life cycle events this weekend, a Bat Mitzvah and Memorial Service.

Finally, a most hilarious event occurred at our Executive Committee meeting at Laurie Weinberg's home. Her grandson, Gabe, was hanging out with us in the dining room before the meeting started. When her daughter came to get him so we could start the meeting, he declared, "I want to stay for the meeting!" We ARE Creating the Future of Sinai Temple!

Jeff Cossin, President

Notes from the Cantor

A number of people have asked me about the possibility of offering a Torah chanting class again. It proved to be logistically impossible during the fall, but I am please to announce that I will be offering the class once again beginning on Wednesday, January 15. The class will meet weekly over the period of about ten weeks, and will culminate with each of the graduates chanting a few verses of Torah during a Shabbat service. The ability to "decode" Hebrew (reading letters and vowels, not necessarily with comprehension) is a requirement for the class. For those congregants who are participating in "Chai Mitzvah," learning how to chant Torah would be an amazing Jewish learning project for the year! If you would like to participate, please send me an e-mail at mlevson@sinai-temple.org as soon as possible! We will be using the URJ book, "The Art of Torah Cantillation." The cost of the textbook is \$25. I look forward to teaching another group of adult Jews the sacred art of chanting Torah!

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



Sinai's Confirmation Class standing outside the Dexter Avenue Church in Montgomery, Alabama. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was pastor at this church from 1954 to 1960. The Montgomery bus boycott was organized here in December 1955.

The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published every other month by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 3 for the year 2013-2014.

Mark Dov ShapiroRabbi
Martin LevsonCantor
Heather SullivanDirector of Education
Jeff CossinPresident
Bruce LeshineFirst Vice President
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Alan GoldsmithTreasurer
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Ron WeissCemetery Chair
Karen MendelsohnMembership Committee Chair
Matt BertuzziYouth Director
Visit our website: www.sinai-temple.org

Celebrate Today Create Tomorrow



The Plan for Sinai Temple



The Campaign for our Future

For over 80 years, Sinai Temple has been our Jewish home.

You know it as the address for Jews of all ages as they walk through the seasons of a Jewish life. You and your family have been part of the laughter at Purim, the solemnity of Kol Nidre, the joy of Simchat Torah, and the comfort of Shabbat.

We have gathered as a community to pray, celebrate and share sorrows and triumphs.

Please join us as we create Sinai's future. The opportunity to make your campaign commitment will come soon.



Adult Opportunities

The MICAH Award Dinner Honoring Jennifer Metsch

Saturday, January 25 at 6 p.m.

At Sinai Temple

Sinai Temple is 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 2014 honoree will be JENNIFER METSCH.

To attend the dinner in honor of Jennifer, 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 Jennifer, please send a check for any amount payable to Sinai Temple to 1100 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA, 01108. Jennifer's donations will go to the Religious School Special Projects Fund.

Jennifer is a freelance project manager and writer. She has worked at College Advisor of New England, Northeast Utilities, Baystate Health System, and the Children's Study Home. She presently serves as the Hampden County Chapter President of the Children's International Summer Village. She is a Step Up Springfield volunteer. She is a Read Aloud and literacy volunteer. She has been involved with the Junior League of Springfield, the Affiliated Chambers of Greater Springfield, and the Human Service Forum. Among Jennifer's many Sinai commitments, she has been active on our Sinai Temple Religious School Committee, chairing the committee from 2009 to 2013. AND Jennifer is married to Adam as well as being the mother of Elizabeth and Sarah.

Women's Seder – It's Never Too Early

Wednesday, January 8 at 7 p.m.

Looking ahead, our fourth annual Women's Seder will be Wednesday, April 2, 2014, with Passover beginning Monday April 14. The Women's Seder has been a joyful evening of connection, commemoration, music, food, and the planning and preparation has been almost as good as the evening itself.

If you would like to be a part of the planning, mark your calendar for a meeting on Wednesday January 8, 7 p.m. There are lots of ways to participate. Being involved does not need to take a lot of time, and working together is as sweet as the event itself. Any questions, ideas, e-mail Laurie Weinberg at sagecitrus@aol.com

Sinai Temple's Book Club

Wednesday, January 15 at 7 p.m.

Our January book is "Rav Hisda's Daughter", historical fiction by Maggie Anton. The book is set in the historic Jewish community that produced the Babylonian Talmud. Come visit 6th century Iraq!

Our February book is "My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel," a New York Times 2013 notable book of the year by prominent Israeli journalist Ari Shavit. The author uses a range of sources, including his own family's story, to outline Israeli history through pivotal moments and then considers the current complex Israeli condition. **We will discuss this book on Wednesday February 12 at 7 p.m.**

Please join us. The conversation is always interesting whether you have read the book or not. Varied opinions welcome!

Jews and the Civil Rights Movement

Friday, January 17 at 6 p.m.

As part of our Shabbat service on January 17, we will be watching excerpts from the PBS video series, The Jewish Americans. Our focus will be the involvement of Jews in the civil rights movement. From the 1963 March on Washington to the Freedom Riders, lots to see and remember.

Darwin, Science, and Religion

Friday, February 14 at 7:30 p.m.

As part of our Shabbat service on February 14, we will hear from three Sinai congregants with an interest in science. At the season of Charles Darwin's birthday, the questions to be addressed will be: What's the best aspect of science? What do you love about science? Why does science matter to you?

Monthly Morning Service

Wednesday, January 8 and February 5 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 5, April 2, and May 7.

Saturday Morning Services - NEW TIME

Every Saturday morning at 10:15 a.m.

Although we will continue our Bar/Bat Mitvah services starting at 10:30 a.m., on those weeks when there is no Bar/Bat Mitvah we are going to start FIFTEEN MINUTES EARLIER. We pray in the Oneg Shabbat Room. The service lasts approximately one hour. Try it. Experiment. 10:15 a.m.!!!

FOREIGN FOOD AND FILM FESTIVAL PART ONE

Friday, January 10

CHICKEN, KUGEL, AND PICKLES!!!



6 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat Service
7 p.m. – Dinner the way it used to be

FOLLOWED BY **HAVA NAGILA – THE MOVIE**

It's an award-winning film about the song everyone knows. How did one song come to be so famous? How does Hava Nagila capture the American Jewish story...or does it?

Advance reservations are required. Your check is your reservation via snail mail to Sinai or through the website. www.sinai-temple.org

\$10 per person

FOREIGN FOOD AND FILM FESTIVAL PART TWO

Friday, February 7

CATERED BY MAITAL with "A TASTE OF SOUTH AMERICA"



6 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat Service
7 p.m. – Dinner catered by Maital with a "taste of South America"

FOLLOWED BY **THE JEWISH GAUCHOS OF ARGENTINA**

When millions of Jews fled Eastern Europe at the end of the 19th century, thousands headed south to Argentina for refuge. They became cowboys, ranchers, and cowboys. What was life like for them? What is life like today for Argentina's 200,000 Jews in the land of Pope Francis?

Advance reservations are required. Your check is your reservation via snail mail to Sinai or through the website. www.sinai-temple.org

\$10 per person

I ♥ Jewish Food!

ENTER THE CONTEST

Sinai Temple First Ever Kugel Contest

Sunday, January 26 at 11:30 a.m.

Do you make the best kugel?

We need your Kugel for our first-ever Kugel contest.

Entry open to all - members of Sinai & non-members.

E-mail Ilene Conklin (ilene_conklin@yahoo.com) by January 10 to enter. Entrants must provide two (9x13) pans of kugel for tasting. Kugels can be noodle, potato, veggie or any prize-winning recipe you have. The heated kugel needs to be in a disposable pan at Sinai by 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, January 26.

I ♥ Jewish Food!

YOU BE THE JUDGE

TASTE THE KUGEL AT SINAI'S

FIRST EVER KUGEL CONTEST

Sunday, January 26 at 11:30 a.m.

Details on how to eat (!) and how to judge and how to have a great lunch right after Religious School will follow.

**Prizes will be awarded for
1st, 2nd and 3rd place**

Message from Heather Sullivan

Director of Education

Here's the latest news from our busy Sinai Temple Religious School.

Our new computer lab is up and running! Our Tuesday Hebrew students are able to work on their Hebrew work either in the paper form or now online. This also allows for students to log-in from their home computers and work on the Mitkadem Hebrew program remotely.

The grade ten Confirmation class attended a 'Civil Rights Journey' with Rabbi Shapiro in Alabama. You can read about their trip and their reflections in this bulletin.

Recently our grade seven students attended the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide and Memory Study on the UMass Amherst campus. Students met with Debbie Roth, whose father is a Holocaust survivor. Students were able to follow a historical timeline of 5 families in Germany, throughout the exhibit. It was an interesting, informative and also a tasteful presentation of a very difficult subject, which could not have been any more appropriate for our preteen students.

We also wrapped up another successful SPARK: Heart Action Program. This program takes place for 6-8 weeks each fall for our students in grade eight and several senior members of our congregation. Students and adults alike enjoy the conversation, company, fun and learning that always takes place during this time of growth in our intergenerational program, SPARK: Heart Action. We ended this season, hoping to have a SPARK reunion picnic in the springtime. More details to follow...

On December 3, students in grades 3-6 and 7-10 enjoyed some time together at our special Chanukah dinner and program. Thanks to Ilene and Michael Conklin, Bernie Cohen and Suzette Damboise for making delicious latkes for us to enjoy!

I hope to see you all at the special Art Shabbat Service that we have planned for January 31, 2014! There will be some beautiful artwork on display created by our students, as well as, beautiful music for this special evening together.

L'Shalom,

Heather

Please join us for

AN ART SHABBAT

Friday, January 31 at 6:00 p.m.

Come and see the artistic side of our school! Works of art created by students will be on display, as well as, beautiful music performed by our religious school classes. It is sure to be a special evening.

Thank you to Leah Gottlieb for underwriting this project, in memory of Andrew Berger and his love of art.

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 confidential request should go to Rabbi Shapiro no later than February 1.

JUDAICA SHOP CORNER

With a lot of help and after a very busy season, we are setting our sights on spring.

We're showing new tallisim for men and women; a new pattern in pastels for the "woman of valor"; and lovely unbreakable glass challah boards, plus much, much more.

Our hours are back to: Sundays 9-12, Tuesdays 2-4:30 and always special appointments to meet your needs.

Thais Fischel 786-9577

NOTE...SINAI IS PRINTING ONLY SIX BULLETINS THIS YEAR.

COMING BULLETINS WILL BE MARCH/APRIL AND MAY/JUNE.

THIS IS A VERY STRONG REASON FOR OUR WANTING TO STAY IN TOUCH VIA E-MAIL. PLEASE SEND US YOUR E-MAIL.

Mardi Gras – Jewish Style

Purim Arrives Mid-March
Sunday, March 16 at 11:30 a.m.

(Right after Religious School)
Laughs, History, and Lunch Included

STUFF – Sinai Temple Under Five Families

At our October Shalom Sunday, families learned about the role of the mezuzah in a Jewish home. Rabbi Shapiro led us on a “Mezuzah Hunt,” to look for mezuzot throughout the synagogue. Each child made his or her own mezuzah from an upcycled glue stick, learned the blessing for hanging it up, and the rituals associated with passing by it. The book “A Mezuzah on the Door” was a fabulous ending for the morning.

The children learned about Chanukah at our November Shalom Sunday. They each made a candle hat and then joined together to sing and dance as a living, “human menorah.” For an open-ended art activity, the children dipped driedels in paint and spun them on large sheets of paper to see what type of design would appear. Our children were also excited to participate in the PJ Library Pajama Drive at the November Shalom Sunday. They brought in new winter pajamas and then walked proudly together to the donation bin. STUFF events always include a simple act of tzedakah (often putting some coins in a tzedakah box or donating food items) to teach our children about this mitzvah.

We welcome all young families to join us for upcoming STUFF programs! Our STUFF coordinators are parents of young children, and they design lively, casual, engaging programs for children 0-5 years old and their families. Come to a STUFF event and see why so many families have become ‘regulars’: children dancing to Jewish songs, families sitting together and listening to stories from the Torah, and craft projects that bring Jewish holidays to life. If you want to introduce your young children to Jewish traditions or continue the traditions you already have in place, this is a wonderful place to start.

STUFF events are open to members and non-members... please spread the word and bring a friend!

Mark your calendars for Tot Shabbat/Dinner (starts at 6:00pm) on January 17, February 28, and March 28
Join us for Shalom Sunday (10:00-11:30am) on January 12, February 9, and March 9

For more information regarding STUFF events, please contact:
Melanie Courtemanche: mnkle17@gmail.com OR Leslie Kittredge: ljkrell@gmail.com



Chanukah Shalom Sunday

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.



Join us this summer for thrilling 4, 5 & 6 week
travel programs in Europe and Israel

www.nftyisrael.org

**PURIM
PURMI
PRUIM
RIMPU**

Can you spell fun?
Sunday, March 16 at 11:30 a.m.

Message from Philip Lesser

President, Men of Sinai

A revolution is coming! That's right, back by popular demand, we will be showing the movie "Soundtrack For A Revolution: The Music of the Civil Rights Movement" on Sunday January 26th! What a great program on the heels of MLK day, what a great program, open to all! Looking into the future, Tara Parrish from the Pioneer Valley Project will be here in March! Great programming, open to the entire congregation! Great food, great friends, great speakers! If you haven't been to any of our Men of Sinai Sunday morning breakfasts, that's what you have missed.

It's that time again! The annual Snyder award dinner is just around the corner. Nominate a deserving recipient that is dedicated to the community in general, Reform Judaism, and Sinai Temple! We want to hear from you, look for the nomination forms!

You may have missed hockey and havdalah, but there are many more opportunities to get out and have some fun! Movie night, bowling night, you name it, we can do it! Come join us! Let's have some fun!

Philip Lesser, President
Men of Sinai

"From the Sublime to the Ridiculous!"

Cantor Martin Levson (and friends!) in concert!

Saturday, March 15, 2014 -- A Sinai Temple Erev Purim Musical Event!

Featuring decadent desserts and adult libations!

Watch for further details in the e-vents and the March-April Sinai Bulletin.

"Be Happy! It's Adar!"

BEETLE-MANIA

It's coming to Sinai Temple

Purim Day – Sunday morning, March 16

For the very young and the not-so-young.

*Thrill to the music and lyrics you've loved for fifty years...
I wanna hold your wing...Here comes the buzz...Got to get
you into my hive...A taste of honey...I'll follow the sun...*

For the entomologists in your home.

If something is "bugging" you about life.

Don't miss PURIM DAY...BEETLE-MANIA.

Listen...do you want to know a secret...SHE BUGS ME!!!
Esther, Mordecai, Haman...on our bimah for a really
big show.

Men of Sinai

Breakfast Speaker Series

Soundtrack for a Revolution: The Music of the Civil Rights Movement "Every Generation Finds its Voice."

Sunday, January 26 at 9:30 a.m.

Men of Sinai offers breakfast at 9:30 a.m. The film will be introduced by Cantor Levson.

"Soundtrack" tells the story of the American civil rights movement during the 1960's. Recall this most significant time in our history and the music that gave people "the drive, the will, to go on, in spite of it all," explained Congressman John Lewis. "Soundtrack" is back at Sinai by popular demand. It has been shown to great acclaim at the Cannes Film Festival and around the world. Our date for the story and the music is Sunday Jan. 26 - between MLK Day and Black History month. Sponsored by Men of Sinai and the Social Action Committee. EVERYONE is invited.

Can Springfield Survive?

What Lies at the Heart of our City? How Can We be Part of the Solution?

Sunday, March 2 at 9:30 a.m.

Featured Speaker: Tara Parrish of the Pioneer Valley Project

Men of Sinai offers breakfast at 9:30 a.m. followed by our speaker.

Tara Parrish is the Lead Organizer at the Pioneer Valley Project, a coalition of congregations and labor unions organizing for community change in Springfield, Massachusetts. Sinai Temple has belonged to PVP since its founding over 15 years ago.

Tara has worked in developing grassroots leaders from rural south Louisiana to suburban Chicago, from Pueblo reservations in New Mexico to Hartford, Connecticut.

Most recently, Tara led organizing efforts that resulted in the passage of ground-breaking local and state immigrant rights legislation in Connecticut.

In addition to her organizing work, Tara has successfully pursued other interests which include starting Icing, a cupcake business, founding the Capitol Cinema Collective and directing the Hartford International Film Festival.

This Year's Confirmation Class on a Civil Rights Journey

Over the first weekend of November, this year's Confirmation Class journeyed down south to visit the central sites of the 1960's civil rights movement. The class went to Selma, Montgomery, and Birmingham, Alabama as well as Atlanta. The following reflections from class members summarize some of the trip's incredible highlights.

This journey was very important and enlightening. Seeing how passionate the activists were back then and how emotional they are today made the experience more powerful. I have met the most spiritual people I have ever met on this trip.

The service at Ebenezer Baptist Church was like nothing I had ever experienced and has made me more understanding of how important the idea of God is to some people. I think the message taken from our guide in Selma is that we can finish the puzzle and that "the dream" is still very much alive today. It's due to the fact that she made me realize that I am part of the future fight for civil rights. I had thought the movement was something more of the past. It is still alive.

Jesse Cohen-Lindfors

The trip means to me that people had to give their lives for people to have rights. On the trip, I learned to never give up. During the trip, I also got to stand where Rosa Parks entered the bus, where hoses were sprayed at people, and where Martin Luther King, Jr. met his people before the marches. I was able to walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. This is real history and real life.

Craig Conklin

Before coming on this trip to Georgia and Alabama, learning about the Civil Rights movement meant reading words while watching some videos. But being in the exact spots where the people made history changed my outlook on the events and the people. It made me realize how courageous you had to be to stand up and have an impact for something you wanted and deserved.

Being at the places where the history actually took place enhanced the learning because we were stepping on the footprints of history.

This is a trip I will remember for the rest of my life and I am thankful to have been able to take part in this journey.

Seth Conklin

This weekend I really enjoyed meeting and hearing the stories of the people who experienced the Civil Rights Movement. Martha Hawkins and her inspiring words and Joanne Bland with her stories of persistence; Bishop Wood's energy and moving poem about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. were all amazing parts of this weekend. I can't imagine ever living through and participating in what they did, and I don't know if I would have had the strength or bravery to fight for freedom as they did.

Julia Dash

I want to remember meeting all of the interesting, funny and wise people we encountered on our trip.

I want to remember most of all their wise minds and how they shared their firsthand look into the past and showed us what it was really like in the Civil Rights Movement and even up until today. Also that all of the people we met were so kind, spiritual, funny and welcoming was something I would not have expected. Coming from the worst and becoming happy and content is amazing to me. And that is how all those people were. They are so proud of the history and what they have achieved. Plus they are so very happy passing their story on.

Noah Kalman

What I found most interesting was the courage people had in the face of all the terror and violence. It is amazing how people could have such courage to do things like march across the bridge in Selma knowing that they would be beaten and have tear gas thrown at them. Also consider the people who rallied in Birmingham knowing that they would encounter attack dogs and fire hoses. I now see that all of these actions would have been impossible for only one man to do. Movements like this require a community and that was what arose in the South back in those days.

Benjamin Skiest

This weekend I learned that I hold the key to my life and that I have control over my life. When we were in Montgomery and visited the Southern Poverty Law Center, I saw that there are forty names on the memorial circle with one opening. That opening is there because the movement still goes on. There is room for more names – even our names – to be added.

Lauren Stone

On the trip, we met a woman named Martha Hawkins who runs a restaurant in Montgomery called Martha's Place. Martha's story really touched me. She went from being depressed, suicidal, and living on welfare to being a successful, loving mother, restaurant owner, and friend. She really inspired me to remember who I am and to be myself. Martha wanted us all to dream. Many adults would tell us the opposite. They would say think realistically about your future. But Martha put a smile on my face when she said we should all dream and strive to achieve all of our dreams.

Abby Solomon

Mazal Tov to:

- **Steve and Phyllis Katz** on the engagement of their son, Nicholas, to Jenn Martin. And more congratulations to Steve and Phyllis on the arrival of their first grandchild, Freddy Eugene Seal, son of Samantha (daughter of Steve and Phyllis) and Andrew Seal. He was born in Ogden, Utah on September 29.
- **Russ and Nancy Braun** on becoming grandparents. Their grandson, Levi Wolf Behle-Braun, was born on November 10. His parents are Lisa Braun & Maggie Behle, His great grandparents are Earl and Phyllis Winer
- **Armand and Sherry Souliere** on the engagements of their sons: Adam is engaged to Lauren Brodsky and Evan is engaged to Amanda Kelly.
- **Anne Weiss** on her engagement to Dave Charles.
- **David and Marilyn Amster** are now Great Aunt and Great Uncle to Jacob Sidney Quaranta, born on 11/7/13 to Rachel and Jed who live in North Carolina.
- **Penelope Reese Lavin** was born in Royal Oaks, Michigan on November 7. Her parents are Ashley and John Lavin; her grandparents are Bill and Shirley Lavin. Penelope is Zel Lavin's third great granddaughter.
- **Marilynn and Peter Smith** on their son, Jason's, engagement to Melissa Dorfman
- **Betsy and Joel Bertuzzi** on their son, Matt's, engagement to Allison Hirschowitz.
- **Donna Comstock** on becoming a great grandmother! Gavin Michael Casey was born on October 28. He is the son of Donna's grandson, Brennan, and Mary Casey.
- **Ron and Ronnie Nadel** on the birth of their grandson, Andrew Spencer, born October 14. Andrew's mom and dad are Michael and Ally.
- **Libby and Josh Dolman** on the birth of their second daughter. Zoey Marion Dolman was born on Tuesday, October 8. Her very happy grandparents are Steve and Patty Sussman.
- **Ian and Miranda Tucker** on the birth of their son, Maxwell Jennings Tucker. The young man was born on October 9.

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 7 to present:

- *Myra Haffer*, mother of Ila Shebar.
- *Nehoma Chebot*, mother of Bonnie Gibson.
- *Richard Farber*, cousin of Shari Cooper.
- *Esther Greenberg*, sister of Shirley Hersh.
- *Naomi Baron*, cousin of Marla Shelasky.

Celebrate Today Create Tomorrow

.....●●●●●●●●●●
The Plan for Sinai Temple

The Campaign for our Future

Looking into the coming years, Sinai wants to offer Judaism for the new century. We are the place where all members, regardless of their background, can feel at home as they explore the world of Jewish living.

As a Reform Temple, we shape music and worship that speak to the heart and soul of contemporary Jews. We build a strong Jewish identity for our children with programs that touch youngsters and their families at all ages. We reach out to Baby Boomers and seniors. We are at the forefront of outreach to interfaith families.

Please join us as we create Sinai's future. The opportunity to make your campaign commitment will come soon.

Brain Exercise!

Come Learn Every Saturday at 9 a.m.

Exercise your brain. Enjoy the bagels. It's Torah Study. If you want to touch base with Judaism's basics, Torah Study is for you. Come once or come occasionally. Newcomers welcome. No prior knowledge necessary.

Are you receiving our weekly e-mail updates?

Lots is happening in our community. Especially because we've reduced the frequency of our snail mail Temple bulletin, our E-vents is the best way to know what Sinai is about from week to week. If we don't have your e-mail, you're missing out. It would be even better in households with two adults for the office to have both adults' e-mails. Thank you.

Send your information to Robin, the Rabbi's Assistant.
rblanchettegage@sinai-temple.org



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mitzvah Day

Sunday Morning, May 4

**A beautiful day for everyone at Sinai Temple to volunteer
and make a better Springfield.**

If you've got long hair (save it for Locks of Love),
If you've got legs (save them for the tzedakah bike ride),
If you've got heart (save it for all the good we'll do together),
If you've got two hours on May 4...

Watch for all the details.

AND consider helping to plan Mitzvah Day.

Open Committee Meeting on Sunday, January 12 at 9 a.m.

For information and for inspiration, call our co-chairs.

Sheri DelGallo... sdelgallo@live.com

Lynn Lesser... scoutmom346@yahoo.com