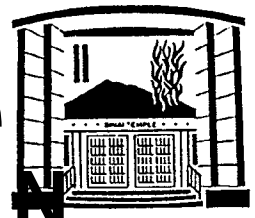


Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

2007 has arrived, and it brings along several exciting opportunities for our community.

First, after a very successful Fall for adults learning Hebrew at Sinai, we are offering a new semester of Hebrew language. If you would like to ask the Four Questions in Hebrew this Passover, our Hebrew program is for you. We'll be offering four different classes on three different days of the week so that you can study Hebrew when and how you wish. Over 75 people studied Hebrew this past Fall. If you missed out in September, this is your chance at any level.

There is more in store for Sinai.

Our Israel Travel Group is starting to take shape for the July 2007 trip. I've got a terrific DVD to show those of you who are interested. Scholarships are available. A detailed itinerary can also be read on our website. I'd love to share the Israel experience with you.

And if you are a woman, Sinai wants to offer you something special. Back in November, over 40 women gathered for a fascinating morning of conversation with Rabbi Nancy Flam. The group looked at Torah from the perspective of women and many of those present expressed interest in more opportunities for women to be together. So, here is the invitation. If you are interested in more women's learning, in a visit to the new mikveh in Boston, in an evening of mah jongg, or in a woman's Seder, please let me know.

Finally, our Religious School is contemplating an exciting change for the 2007-2008 school year. We believe we can enrich our children's experience of Judaism by restructuring our Sunday mornings. Sheila Shear mentioned the idea in her December bulletin article and she enlarges on the proposal this month. In brief, **the idea is to go to a Single Session on Sundays next year.** We would bring all students from Kindergarten through Seventh Grade together at the same time. In addition to our regular curriculum, we would offer Hebrew, several enrichment activities, plus some time for community building. I think the idea is totally terrific. Please read Sheila's article in this Bulletin and come to the parent meeting we'll be having this month to **learn more about Single Session Sundays!**

Saturday Torah Study

WICKED -
ANOTHER READING OF
THE KING SAUL AND KING DAVID
STORY
Torah Study with a "twist"
Starting January 13 at 9 a.m.

New Members Shabbat

Friday January 12 at 6 p.m.
If you're new to Sinai,
please be our honored guest
as we welcome Shabbat AND
you!!
Sinai is glad you've become a
member!!

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES - 76-88

FAMILY SERVICE at 7:00 p.m.
January 5
Songs, prayers, and a terrific story.

KABBALAT SHABBAT at 6:00 p.m.
January 12 - New Members Shabbat
A service of welcome for those who have recently joined our congregation! Veggies and snacks at 5:30 p.m..

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE at 8:00 p.m.
January 19
Music with a special style.

FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSIC at 8:00 p.m.
January 26
Shabbat Shalom with Gates of Prayer PLUS four of last Fall's Torah Chanting students will chant Torah this evening.

Mission Statement

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

Judaica Gift Shop Corner

Your Judaica Shop had a good Chanukah season. We have to thank all the volunteers who helped keep it open for longer hours.

Now we are looking ahead to all the spring happenings: B'nai Mitzvah, engagements, weddings and more. Appropriate giftware is starting to appear on our shelves.

**Thais Fischel786-9577
Bobbie Cossin.....565-9970**

**Thursdays2:00p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sundays 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Message from the President Steve Weiss

I wanted to let everyone know about some recent, very positive developments concerning Sinai's Cemetery.

About two years ago we realized that the perpetual care fund was not generating enough income to meet current operating expenses. We also realized that the problem needed to be fixed because, if left unsolved, the cash flow problems would become worse over time. So last year the Cemetery Committee investigated how best to remedy the situation. One obvious measure was to reduce expenses where possible, without diminishing the aesthetics of the cemetery. Second, and more significantly, we realized that the Cemetery had more land than we'd likely ever need. So, with the support of the Board of Directors, the Cemetery Committee undertook a quiet sales effort. Obviously, we were extremely conscious that the Sinai Cemetery is a spiritual, indeed sacred, place, and we took care to ensure that any sale would not be disruptive.

I'm pleased to advise that in December we sold an undeveloped portion of the Cemetery land. The net proceeds have been deposited into the perpetual care fund. The sale, coupled with reductions in operating expenses, brings us a long way toward our goal of making sure that the Cemetery has sufficient funds to provide for perpetual care and maintenance, so that we can fulfill our fiduciary duties to our congregants, past, present and future. So the next time you visit the Cemetery, you may notice the change, but I think you'll agree that the Cemetery continues to be a special space.

Special thanks in this complicated endeavor go to the Cemetery Committee, and especially to Dave Roberts, whose financial analysis and projections discovered the problem before it became a crisis. I also want to express my gratitude to my partner, Steve Shatz, who handled the legal work to complete the sale without any charge.

The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published monthly by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 2 for the year 2006-2007.

Mark Dov Shapiro..... Rabbi
Emily Sleeper Mekler..... Cantor, Music Director

Officers

Steve Weiss President
Roberta Hillenberg-Gang. Vice President
Elliot Greenberg Vice President
Rina Miller Vice President
Dave Roberts Treasurer
Bobi Steingart Financial Secretary
Ann Jacobs..... Recording Secretary
Mike Bader..... Membership Chair
Ron Weiss Cemetery Chair
Dan Cohn Brotherhood

Visit our website: www.sinai-temple.org

Join Brotherhood for a Men's Night!

Tuesday, February 27 at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a lively discussion led by our own illustrious Rabbi

A delicious Deli Dinner will be served!!

There will be no charge for this event provided you RSVP to the Temple office no later than February 23rd

You're Invited to Israel July 1 - 13, 2007

Dear Friends -

Let's go to Israel! I am eager to share the adventure with you. We are going to see old sites as well as very new sites. There will be museums as well as active days of kayaking on the Jordan River and exploring the Golan Heights by jeep.

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 \$3,499 to \$2,499.) Teenagers (starting at age 13) can receive a grant of 50% of the cost of our trip.

A detailed itinerary is on our website. www.sinai-temple.org

Shalom,

Rabbi Mark Shapiro

Our Tour will include:

- Roundtrip airfare from New York to Tel Aviv
- 2 nights in Tel Aviv, 2 nights in the Galilee
- 6 nights at the Inbal Hotel in Jerusalem
- Breakfast daily & five dinners
- Transfers, entrance fees, and portage
- Roundtrip bus transportation from Springfield to airport

Now is the time to register. Call Ayelet Tours, 19 Aviation Rd. Albany, NY 12205 * (800) 237-1517 * (518) 783-6001 * FAX (518) 783-6003 * E-mail: ayelet@ayelet.com

What is a Jewish Wedding Ceremony: How can it "work" if one partner isn't Jewish?

Sundays, January 21 & 28 at 9 a.m.

Rabbi Shapiro will lead us in a study of the Jewish wedding ceremony as we explore how it might be adapted for mixed marriage. We will also talk about the shape of our changing Jewish families and how we understand the very phrase - a Jewish family. If you are interested in this conversation, please plan on attending both sessions since they will be connected.

WICKED – ANOTHER READING OF THE KING SAUL AND KING DAVID STORY Torah Study with a "twist" Saturdays at 9 a.m. Starting January 13

No two biblical characters are more real to life than Saul and David. The life of each is filled with intrigue, adventure, triumph, and sorrow. Saturday mornings this Winter, Rabbi Shapiro will lead an exploration into the self and psyche of these two men. Everyone is welcome!

Monthly Morning Service Wednesday, January 3 at 7:30 a.m.

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, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, and June 6.

First Thursdays (mostly): Lunch and Learn Thursday, January 4 12:00 – 1:15 p.m.

Bring your lunch to the Oneg Shabbat room for a discussion of contemporary Jewish concern with Rabbi Shapiro. Future discussions are February 8, March 8, April 5, May 3, and June 7.

FOR BIKE RIDERS – Sinai Temple is Going on The Fourth Annual Riding4Reform Bike Ride March 18 – 22, 2007

Our Temple member, Andy Moskovitz, has committed to going on this amazing Israel ride! If you are interested, NOW is the time to make plans too.

Join Andy and many other riders from across the USA to see Israel the way you've never imagined it! Ride your bike from Jerusalem to the Sea of Galilee and on to Haifa. And, while you're at it, raise money for our Reform movement in Israel.

Interested? Visit riding4reform@impj.org.il. Or speak to Andy (413-533-9209) or Rabbi Shapiro.

From the Director of Education Sheila Shear

Shalom Chaverim,

Last month I wrote about working with a committee of parents in an ongoing process of new and creative ways for children to be engaged while learning here at Sinai Temple. We have been working on a way to change from two sessions of school each Sunday, to a Single Session. The subcommittee working on Single Session Sunday continues to work diligently on a plan to make learning at Sinai Temple Religious School a wonderful experience for our students. What are our goals for making this change?

1. Community. Having students in the building at the same time will allow a higher level of engagement in full school and inter-grade activity and learning. We can offer family programming that is more inclusive, fun and interesting and integrate time for social clubs such as Alef Bet, Gimmel Dalet, Hey Vav and JOY into the offerings.

2. Enrichment. We will be able to include more practice for Hebrew skills as well as Chugim (interest groups) that would be of individual and age related interest such as music, art, School Newspaper, and even sports (all related to Judaism!) just to name a few. All of this, of course, with our talented teaching staff maintaining and expanding the integrity of our current program.

3. Convenience. Parents will have a single drop off and pick up. Sports and other extra curricular activities will be more easily reconciled with our proposed schedule.

Please join us on Sunday, January 28th to hear more, and share your thoughts. More information will follow shortly. If you would like to share your thoughts and ideas right now, we would love to hear them while we are in the planning stages of just what will be the right plan for Sinai Temple. Please speak to Joel Solomon, the chairperson of this sub committee (567-0073), or to me (736-3619).

L'Hitraot

Thinking Israel

On December 10, families from our Second Grade came together for a PACT program on Israel. The group created the following two poems along with a lot of other fun.

Israel is our Jewish homeland.
We saw horses, water, sun, and sand.
The trees are green and blue is the sea
Our trip to Israel brought us to the Galilee
So come join us in all of the fun.
We will see you by the wall in Jerusalem.

There once was a man named Abraham.
He was the first one to be Jewish which was kind
of "newish."
He moved to a land that had lots of sand.
He played in the sun and had lots of fun.

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 speak to Rabbi Shapiro as soon as possible.

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 March 15.

The Brotherhood is Seeking donations!

There will be no raffle this year. Instead, we will be having a Silent Auction and Buffet Supper. This is your chance for some free advertising! Well, cheap, anyway. For the price of your tax deductible donation, you will have a display card of your own design extolling the virtues of your business and be featured in the event program! We are accepting goods, services, gift certificates,

This Passover Ask the Four Questions in Hebrew (And Understand Them Too!) Sinai Temple's Project Hebrew Continues In January 2007

Did you begin studying Hebrew as part of Sinai's 75th Anniversary Celebration this Fall?
Did you advance in the Hebrew you already knew?
Did you miss this past Fall's Hebrew program, but now you want to join?

In January, February, and March (leading right up to Passover), the Adult Education Committee is bringing Hebrew learning your way.

Classes will be offered at different levels on three different days starting January 21. Please register by filling out the form on this page!

By learning Hebrew, this Passover you yourself can be the WISE CHILD!

*Schedule of Hebrew Classes for Winter 2007 on the following dates:

	Sunday	Tuesday	Wednesday
January	21, 28	23, 30	17, 24, 31
February	4, 11, 25	6, 13, 27	7, 28
March	4, 11, 18, 25	6, 13, 20, 27	
April	1		

Please enter your first and second choices in the "Choice" columns.

Choice	Day	Time	Teacher	Choice	Day	Time	Teacher
Beginner Hebrew – For those starting out. Learn to identify Hebrew letters and begin to put words together.				Advanced Beginner – Refresher course. Review the alphabet & basic reading; then on to reading & understanding basic prayers – special focus on the Haggadah. (Recommended for last Fall's beginners.)			
	Sun	9:00 – 10:00 am	Gloria Wald		Sun	9:00 – 10:00 am	Loren Hutner
	Tues	7:30 – 8:30 pm	Joan Narmontas		Tues	7:30 – 8:30 pm	Jeff Ochs
Advanced Beginner, Level Two. Last Fall's "advanced beginners" continue their learning here. Special focus on the Haggadah.				The Haggadah in Hebrew - The perfect course for those who can read and have begun to develop some comprehension of biblical or prayer book Hebrew.			
	Sun	9:00 – 10:00 am	TBA		Wed	8:00 - 9:00 pm	Rabbi Shapiro
	Tues	7:30 – 8:30 pm	Laurie Weinberg				

Dear Adult Education Committee:

Count me in! I want to be a Hebrew learner.

Enclosed please find my check for \$36 (payable to Sinai Temple) to cover the cost of my textbook.

Name _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Mail to: Sinai Temple, 1100 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA 01108



SHOWCASE SHABBAT

☆ A New Way to Experience Shabbat!
☆ A New Way to Experience Purim!

☆ Friday, March 2– Sunday, March 4 ☆

Like a multi-screen theater, Sinai Temple presents a variety of settings for a great weekend. Sports, laughter, food, drumming, yoga, prayer, and Torah will give everyone his or her own way to be at home in the Temple.

Why this weekend? Because Purim 2007 takes place over the first weekend of March. Because Purim is funny and fun. Because Purim isn't just for kids.

Come to Temple once, twice, or three times when March arrives.

You won't want to miss

★ THE WHOLE MEGILLAH. ★

(This Showcase Shabbat inaugurates our first participation in Synaplex.)



Reservations please (Deadline February 21)

For Friday evening's dinner (We've only got room for the first 150 people)

Name(s) _____ Phone # _____

Adults _____ (\$15.00 each) # Children _____ (Ages 12-18 \$5.00 each/Under 12 Free)

For Saturday evening's Comedy Night (adults only)

Name(s) _____ Phone # _____

People _____ (\$5.00 includes admission & two drink tickets)

Please send your check to Sinai Temple, 1100 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA 01180

Thanks to the family of ARTHUR AND ARLINE ROGERS for underwriting Friday evening's Showcase events in their loving memory.



THE WHOLE MEGILLAH— A Purim Weekend for Adults, Teenagers, and Kids

Friday, March 2

- 5:30 p.m. Wine, Cheese, & Veggies
- 6:00 p.m. YOU CHOOSE...
A Shabbat service Featuring drums and drumming as a means to spirituality
Yoga with Lynne Greene, Heartsong Yoga Center
The Gilded Chamber: A Sumptuous Novel of Queen Esther
A book discussion with Rebecca Kohn, author of The Gilded Chamber. If you liked The Red Tent, this new novel will bring you into the world of Persia, Esther, and court intrigue. The book is for sale at the Temple.
Spring Training: It's Time to Watch Baseball When America needed heroes, a Jewish slugger stepped to the plate. We'll watch the movie, The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg. Temple member, Hal Haberman, will lead the conversation.
- 7:00 p.m. All of us together for the candle lighting, Kiddush, and motsi.
Followed by Shabbat Dinner with seating for adults, children, and our youth groups.
- 7:45 p.m. YOU CHOOSE...
For Kids – Arts & Crafts and a Tzedakah Project
For our Youth Groups – Activities of all sorts
For Adults – The Not Ready for Prime Time Purim Players
Improvisation at its best! Sinai members as you've never seen them!
- 8:30 p.m. Back together for ice cream sundaes, hamantaschen, home-made desserts, and coffee

Saturday, March 3

- 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. A Bawdy, Boisterous Torah Study
An hour of "adult" exploration into the "real" story behind Queen Esther.
- 7:30 p.m. Comedy Tonight! For adults
From The Marx Brothers to Sid Caesar, Alan King, and Billy Crystal, we'll watch some film and tell some jokes for the perfect Purim evening. Costumes are optional but welcome (Real prizes for the best costume.)
Beer, wine, soda, and munchies. Home-made hamantaschen for dessert.

★ Sunday, March 4 – Purim Day! ★

The Megillah gets read! Shushan Idol is our theme!!

- 9:00 a.m. One session of Religious School for all students (Kindergarten to Grade 7)
- 11:00 a.m. The WHOLE MEGILLAH
Reading and chanting as it's never been done before!
Every student will have a role in the Megillah!
Songs from the Beatles, The Music Man, The Wizard of Oz & more
A pie in the face for??
- 12:00 p.m. Purim lunch is served...Thank you Brotherhood

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.

From the Brotherhood President Dan Cohn

Hinei Matov - 'How good it is' when brothers come together and celebrate! That is what we do every year when we present the Snyder Award to a deserving individual, we celebrate their generosity and selflessness. Some kind soul that embodies the true meaning of what Brotherhood stands for, a true mensch, someone who gives of themselves without even realizing or noticing their own generosity. Please join us on March 23 when we bestow this award on such a person, a person that we can not honor; a person that honors us through their acts.

February 4th is the next Brotherhood breakfast. Join us at 9:00 AM when we host a great speaker and have a fantastic time! As of this writing I have absolutely no idea who the speaker will be. If anyone has any suggestions, please let me know!

This will be followed on April 29th by another superb breakfast with another marvelous speaker! Please don't miss it!

Finally, on May 19th we will be holding a silent auction and dinner. We are still looking for donations for the auction. Any donations will be tax deductible and unless you specify that they are to be anonymous will have your name or business name presented with them. Please get in touch with me regarding any items that you wish to donate. Remember, this event is going to take the place of our annual raffle, so let's make it a good one!

Shalom, everybody!

Dan Cohn
Brotherhood President
dcohn@sinaibrotherhood.org

Rummage Sale

February 25 – February 27

Look in your closets. Look under the bed. Then bring your rummage to the back door of the Temple. We're collecting clothes (and most other stuff as well). Your rummage is welcome.

If you can VOLUNTEER a day or even 10 minutes, please let the office know.

Attention Business Owners!

The Sinai Brotherhood is holding a Golf Tournament this spring
Now is your chance to be a sponsor!
Contact Jack Henrie
Before all the good spots are taken!!!

jhenrie@sinaibrotherhood.org

**The MICAH Award Dinner
Honoring Belle Rita Novak
Saturday, January 27
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. For this fourth MICAH Dinner, Sinai is also honored to be the HOST CONGREGATION. The dinner will take place in our own building.

Our 2007 honoree will be BELLE RITA NOVAK.

To attend the dinner in honor of Belle Rita, please send a check for \$30.00 per person to Pioneer Valley Project, 235 Eastern Avenue, Springfield, MA 01109. Make the check payable to PVP.

To make a donation in honor of Belle Rita, please send a check for any amount payable to Sinai Temple to 1100 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA, 01108. We will collect all gifts and then pass them on to PVP in honor of Belle Rita.

Belle Rita is a life-time member of Sinai. She has been a member of the Social Action Committee for many years and was recently appointed to Sinai's Board of Trustees. Belle Rita has also been involved with the Forest Park neighborhood for over two decades. She initiated a program to clean up graffiti in the neighborhood and went on to become president of the Forest Park Civic Association for three years. Nine years ago she organized the Forest Park Farmers' Market, which meets every Tuesday afternoon from the first Tuesday in May through the last Tuesday in October. She has been the market manager since its inception. Many people say that the Market is the best thing to happen in Forest Park in 20 years! She has also worked hard (often against the odds) to maintain a grocery store in Forest Park. Our Sinai community as well as the larger Springfield community is enriched by her presence and her good deeds.



**The Gilded Chamber:
A Sumptuous Novel of Queen Esther**

If you liked *The Red Tent*, a new novel in the same spirit has just appeared. *The Gilded Chamber* by Rebecca Kohn fills in the Bible's gaps and imagines who Esther, the young Jewish woman, might have really been. What did Persia look like to her? How did she enter the world of the palace? How did she win the heart of the king?

The Gilded Chamber is available for sale in our Temple office from Monday to Friday and in the Temple library on Sundays.

Rebecca Kohn will be at Sinai Temple to discuss her book on Friday, March 2 as part of this year's Showcase Shabbat. Read the book now and be ready to meet the author of this fascinating saga. See you Friday, March 2 at Showcase!!

**For further reading –
A Christian Partner's Perspective on
Raising a Jewish Family
By Jim Keen**

Our Reform movement is constantly offering new ways for us to understand the realities of mixed marriage. Two books have recently been published by the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism). *A Christian Partner's Perspective on Raising a Jewish Family* is written by Jim Keen who grew up as a Christian and maintains his Christian identity even though he is very committed to raising his children in a Jewish family. Another book published by the URJ is entitled *Mingled Roots: A Guide for Grandparents of Interfaith Children*. Both of these books are in our Temple library along with other books on intermarriage and Jewish parenting. You can also purchase URJ books on-line.

Seder Match

(Looking into April...)

You like lots of people around your Passover table....

Your kids have moved away....

You are new to the area....

Your relatives don't live close by....

Are you looking for a warm, comfortable, welcoming table to

share a Passover experience on

Monday, April 2, 2007?

Join Seder Match and experience Sinai's caring community!!!

Let us know if you are able to be a host or prefer to be a guest.

Send your name to Temple or call:

Denise Choquette at (413) 552-0784

or

Robyn Newhouse at (860) 668-4481

(robyn1860@cox.net)

or

Susan Goldman (413) 567-7474

(sugoldman@aol.com).

Mazal Tov to:

Rachel Weston who was elected as a Democratic Representative to the Vermont State legislature in November. Rachel is a Sinai alum, a graduate of Umass at Amherst and the University of Vermont MPA program. She is 25 years old. Rachel will be sworn in January 3, 2007. Proud parents are Hermine Levey Weston and Brian Weston of Hampden, MA.

Erica and Tom Brunette on the birth of their daughter, Madeline Elizabeth.

Charyne Cordeiro on the birth of a grandson, Kal-el Cordeiro. Proud father is Jonathan Cordeiro.

Sinai Temple

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<http://www.sinai-temple.org>

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- Mature Staff
- Arts
- Sports
- Pools and Lakes
- A Warm Caring
- Summer of Fun



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201-804-9700
www.uahcnecamps.org

