



Sinai Temple Bulletin

*Take Back Your Time:
Rediscover Shabbat*

*March / April 2014
Adar I – Nisan 5774*

For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

I'm writing these words a few hours before Marsha and I head out to see the movie Frozen. Ever since the animated movie Aladdin appeared, that special category of adult/children entertainment has grown. As many of you will recall, movies like Aladdin and Lion King have been the impetus for several wonderful Purim plays at Sinai.

So on this mid-February Sunday, I'm on my way to check out Frozen. That's not because the Cantor and I don't have another idea for Purim. Back in December, we guessed that the 50th anniversary of the Beatles' arrival in America would be a terrific focus for Purim. We even drafted a script with plot twists based on the music and story of the Fab Four.

But here's the challenge: When Purim arrives in March, which cultural phenomenon will be more topical? Should we go Beatles or Frozen?

In a perfect world, I would always want to be in touch with the spirit of the day. Without being trendy for its own sake, I like to think Judaism and Jewish insights should always resonate with what is happening in our real lives as we live them.

It's with that approach in mind that I found myself reading the Torah portion during the February week of Sid Caesar's death. I was amazed to learn that Caesar, the great comedian of early television, had been an alcoholic and pill addict. His story wasn't all that different from that of Philip Seymour Hoffman who died from heroin only weeks earlier. There was, it turned out, something "broken" in both artists.

Lo and behold, the Torah portion of that week jumped off the page when I read it while thinking of Caesar and Hoffman. It was the portion in which Moses is told to prepare a new set of tablets for the Ten Commandments after shattering the first set. Here's the question asked by Jewish tradition: What happened to the broken tablets? The remarkable answer: They were not discarded. The broken tablets were put inside the Ark along with the new ones! They were preserved to remind us that there is always something a little bit broken in all of us.

That was exactly the truth about Caesar and Hoffman. Even with their genius, they were flawed. It's true about you and me too. In way or another, all of us carry some brokenness within. It's part of our human reality.

And that's how it goes for me: My Torah is topical. Judaism is as old as Moses but also as "new" as today.

(By the way, stay tuned for Purim 2014. And watch for the readings I'll be sharing soon in preparation for Passover 2014. "New" as today. That's my Torah.)

Friday Evenings March 2014

March 7 at 6:00 p.m.

National Day of Unplugging – Take back your time with an early service followed by dinner and conversation. See page 4.

March 14 at 6:00 p.m.

Kidz Kabbalat – Shabbat dinner and service for families with children in Kg and Grades 1 and 2.

March 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Congregational Shabbat Service

March 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Congregational Shabbat Service

March 28 at 6:00 p.m.

Tot Shabbat for families with children under five years of age.

March 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service – Take back your time

Friday Evenings April 2014

April 4 at 6:00 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat – Sixty delicious minutes preceded by snacks at 5:30 p.m.

April 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries – Honoring couples married in 2009, 2004 and back to 1959 and 1954. Our service will also include prayers for those in RECOVERY from any kind of substance abuse.

April 18 at 6:00 p.m.

Tot Shabbat for families with children under five years of age.

April 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Breathe deeply. Renew yourself at services.

April 25– at 7:30 p.m.

Men of Sinai will participate in the service as we honor this year's recipients of the Rabbi Herman E. Snyder Award. See page 9.

Saturday Mornings

Torah Study at 9:00 a.m.

Weekly Shabbat Service at 10:15 a.m.

(Bnai Mitzvah services starting at 10:30 a.m.)

Continued on page 2

Message from Jeff Cossin

Temple President

The Shabbat evening services were relaxing, a relief from a week of hard work at my office and at the Temple. The Shabbat meals were delicious and the films were enjoyable! Another cold winter of Foreign Food and Film was successful and I felt at home in the midst of my Sinai Community. This was a wonderful way to end the week and begin Shabbat. Thank you to Laurie Weinberg, Sarah Shtrax, Zel Lavin, and Carol Tivoli and their committees for putting this Festival together. I look forward to next year! And thank you to Ilene Conklin for putting together our Kugel Contest! Everyone had a delicious time and the competition was quite intense.

Kudos and thanks to Cantor Levson for being our clergy leader while Rabbi Shapiro was on Sabbatical. Mazel Tov to the Shir Fun singers for their upcoming television appearance on WGBY! We are very fortunate to have such talented Professionals and Amateurs in our Temple.

I recently signed all of the legal documents which will allow Verizon Wireless to move forward to secure the permits needed to construct a Cell Tower on our property. If the process goes smoothly, I hope to see the fruits of our labor late in 2014. I offer my thanks to the Board of Directors for allowing me to bring this project to this point. Thank you to all of you who took the time to email me your thoughts, encouragement and advice.

Our Celebrate Today...Create Tomorrow Campaign is completing its first stage as we are close to one million dollars in pledges as of February 13. We will be giving every member of our Temple Community the opportunity to participate in this project. We want everyone to feel that their gift, no matter what size, is important so that Sinai can create the future of Reform Judaism in Greater Springfield. The Campaign is just one important aspect of our future planning. The other part will be the formation of a Long Range Planning Committee to lead our efforts in this direction. The financial campaign allows this Committee to do its work without the threat of imminent financial restraints. I pledge to keep you informed about the progress that this committee is making.

I hope to see you all at our Purim Celebrations coming up soon!

Jeff Cossin, President

Continued from page 1

Mazal Tov to B'nai Mitzvah

March 29 – Nate Sullivan, son of Heather and Patrick Sullivan

April 5 – Leah Burstein, daughter of Jodi and David Burstein

April 12 – Aarin McCormick, daughter of Shira and Alan McCormick

April 26 – Noah Kantor, son of Bryan and Brenda Kantor

Notes from the Cantor

Last March on a Saturday evening, I was watching the WGBY program *Together in Song*. This television show highlights choirs from all over Western Massachusetts. I was watching the segment that my daughter, Liz, had recorded with the LHS Lyrics. (They were wonderful, as always.) I also saw that this program featured some younger choirs. So I turned to Liz and asked her, "What do you think? Could "Shir Fun!" be on this show next year?" She thought for a moment and said, "Well, maybe, but they would need to work really hard and tighten up some things musically." Well, on a cold Thursday evening back in early February, I (and a number of dedicated parents) brought the members of "Shir Fun!" down to the WGBY Studios in downtown Springfield to record a segment for Season 4 of *Together in Song!* These youngsters have worked very hard this year, they did a fantastic job in the studio, and we can't wait for you to see it! At the time this bulletin is going to press, I don't yet know the exact date this segment will air, but when I find out, I will be sure to let all of Sinai Temple know about it! Please watch the show, either when it airs, or on the WGBY website after it airs, and then be sure to "vote" for our delightful "Shir Fun!" singers!

On Saturday evening, March 15, please join me (and some of my talented musical friends) for *The Music of Manhattan!* This musical journey will take place right here in the comfort of Sinai Temple, so there's no need to drive three hours, fight traffic, and pay an arm and a leg to park! The program will open up with some art songs one might hear at a Carnegie Hall recital, and then... we are off to Broadway! You will hear selections from classic and contemporary musicals, and then (since it is Erev Purim) some comedy songs as well! Authentic NY Deli food will be part of the evening's festivities. Please see the flyer on page 3 of this bulletin, and please make your reservations on the Sinai Temple website or at the Temple office for *The Music of Manhattan!*

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

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

Steve KesslerVice President

Laurie WeinbergVice President

Alan GoldsmithTreasurer

Susanne SimonFinancial Secretary

Buff ManiscalcoRecording Secretary

Phil LesserPresident, Men of Sinai

Ron Weiss.....Cemetery Chair

Karen MendelsohnMembership Committee Chair

Matt BertuzziYouth Director

Visit our website: www.sinai-temple.org

★ Sinai Temple Presents ★



**STARRING
CANTOR
MARTIN LEVSON**

**APPEARING
ONE NIGHT
ONLY!**

*Please join us for
an adult evening of musical selections
from Carnegie Hall to Broadway!*

Saturday, March 15th, 2014

Doors open at 6:30, concert begins at 7:00

During intermission, enjoy NY Deli Delights

RSVP by March 9th - \$18 per person

*Reservations & payment may be made at the Sinai Temple office
or online at www.sinai-temple.org.*

(No tickets will be available at the door)

Adult Opportunities

Sinai Temple's Book Club: Great Reading for Spring

Wednesday, March 19...Wednesday, April 23

Our March selection (Wednesday March 19, 7 p.m.) is All Other Nights. This is Dara Horn's novel about Jews divided by the Civil War and brought near each other by the Seder. Our April (Wednesday April 23, 7 p.m.) selection is tentatively Homesick: A Novel, by a young Israeli novelist Eshkol Nevo. The book tells the fragmented stories of a group of women and men, Israeli and Palestinian, brought together by chance in a small Israeli neighborhood in 1995.

In May we are meeting jointly with the Hadassah book group to discuss Loose Ends by Anastasia Goodman. The author is a friend of one of the Hadassah group members and will speak at the meeting. Her novel is a mystery family saga about Russian American immigrants. That meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday May 19.

The conversation is always interesting whether or not you have read or liked the book. Any suggestions, please e-mail laurie Weinberg at sage.citrus@aol.com.

Monthly Morning Service

Wednesday, March 5 and April 2 at 7:30 a.m.

A chance to start your day with a different focus. We meet on the bimah for a service of 20 minutes. Breakfast follows. Those who need to leave for the rest of the day are free no later than 8:15 a.m.

The following "morning minyan" service will take place on Wednesday, May 7.

The National Day of Unplugging

Friday March 7 – Saturday, March 8

If you are hyper-connected, if you are hyper, if you are over-extended, the National Day of Unplugging is for you. We'll be celebrating NDU at Sinai when March arrives.

Unplug...Rediscover Shabbat

TGIT

Thank God, It's Torah!

Come Learn Every Saturday at 9 a.m.

Exercise your brain. Enjoy the bagels. 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.

Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat

Go to www.sinai-temple.org. On our home page, you'll see the link Rediscover Shabbat. You'll find the blessings for Friday night, music plus other sources.

Coming Soon To Venues Nearby: The Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival!

March 20 to April 6

The 9th annual Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival offers a two-week run with 20 fabulous films plus guest speakers, schmooze events, and a family concert. Among the new venues for this year, watch for Longmeadow High School. Full details at www.pvjff.org

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...

Become part of Mitzvah Day.

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

Sheri DelGallo... sdelgallo@live.com

Lynn Lesser... scoutmom346@yahoo.com



A Family Trip to Israel? A Trip for First Timers to Israel? How about July 2015?

Rabbi Shapiro is interested in putting together a Sinai Temple trip to Israel. Probably during the opening weeks of July 2015.

Are you interested?

If you would like to learn more, contact the Rabbi soon. The trip is an idea at this point. Your interest will help make it happen.

**PASSOVER BEGINS MONDAY EVENING
APRIL 14**

**PASSOVER ENDS AT SUNDOWN, MONDAY,
APRIL 21**

Dinner's the Deal

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

That's right!
Dinner's the Deal
Friday, March 7



End of the week. You don't have to cook.
No lines in a restaurant. Come to Sinai instead.

6 p.m. – Sixty minutes of song, prayer, and refreshment for your soul.

7 p.m. – Dinner (No Charge) is served, accompanied by commentary and song from Cantor Levson.

Take back your time. Rediscover Shabbat.

RSVP through the website <http://www.sinai-temple.org/>
or call the Temple at 736-3619
for a “lite” dinner and beautiful evening.

The Caring Community of Sinai Temple

Invites all Senior Members
to a

Passover Luncheon

12:00 noon,
Thursday, April 17 at 2014
Sinai Temple

**With Special Musical Presentation by our Cantor,
Martin Levson**

Invitations are on their way. RSVP required.
The Passover Luncheon is made possible
through contributions in memory of
our Temple member, Ben Rosenthal.

Champagne, Chocolate, and Blessings

Friday, April 11

At the 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

Sinai Temple's Caring Community happily invites you
To a ceremony celebrating Your special wedding
anniversary in 2014!

If you were married in 2009, 2004, 1999, 1994,
1989, 1984, 1979, 1974,
1969, 1964, 1959, 1954

**Please join Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Levson
On Friday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m.**

The Rabbi and Cantor will honor you as a group with
blessings, sweet wine, & chocolates. RSVP to Robin
Blanchette Gage, Rabbi's Assistant, 736-3619, ext. 10

NOTE...SINAI IS PRINTING ONLY SIX BULLETINS THIS YEAR. THE NEXT BULLETIN WILL BE MAY/JUNE. THIS IS A VERY STRONG REASON FOR OUR WANTING TO STAY IN TOUCH VIA E-MAIL. PLEASE SEND US YOUR E-MAIL.

Message from Heather Sullivan

Director of Education

I was recently sitting in on a meeting of the Joint Task Force Committee, for the exploration of the collaboration of education between Sinai Temple and Temple Beth El. Members were reporting back about some of the observations that they had made while spending time at both synagogues. One of the first comments that an observer had mentioned was, "our students (at both congregations) are smart!" I chuckled, thinking to myself that I already knew our Sinai students are extremely intelligent but I also felt a twinge of concern, knowing that some of our students are in fact struggling academically in our religious school. How is it that our students are so notably "smart," yet some of them are substandard within our learning community?

I believe the answer is two-fold and simple. The first reason is that Hebrew School/ Religious School/Supplementary School, whatever you want to call it, has been placed on the back burner to some other extracurricular activities in many families. This is not only concerning but also sad. When I consider the future of our students at Sinai Temple, including my own children, I know that these individuals will be Jews for life. It is so imperative to best prepare our future generations of Jews for life as Jews. Will Johnny be a skier when he is 25? Maybe, possibly even definitely, but I know for sure that he will be a Jew. Will Sally be a ballerina when she is 30? Maybe, but probably not, but I know for sure that she will be a Jew. Will Harry be a football/soccer star one day? Maybe, but he probably won't even play beyond his senior year in high school. I know for sure that he will be a Jew.

The other reason is that many families simply don't exercise their right and privilege of being Jewish. What I mean by this, for example, is that Shabbat has no real significance in the household or the term Kosher doesn't mean anything to the family or being enrolled in religious school past B'nai Mitzvah has become a choice not an "of course, it's just part of the lifelong Jewish learning path."

I challenge you to consider the concept of being a Jew for life and see if it helps you to enhance your household decisions. Start a new tradition in your house of a monthly Shabbat observance. Discuss the possibilities of Jewish overnight camp. Cancel a weekend trip for no other reason but to attend services as a family. Attend a Saturday morning Torah Study group to give yourself some Jewish reflection time. Whatever your course of action may be, start it with the mindfulness that we and our future generations are Jews for life.

I look forward to continuing to see you and your families.

L'Shalom,

Heather

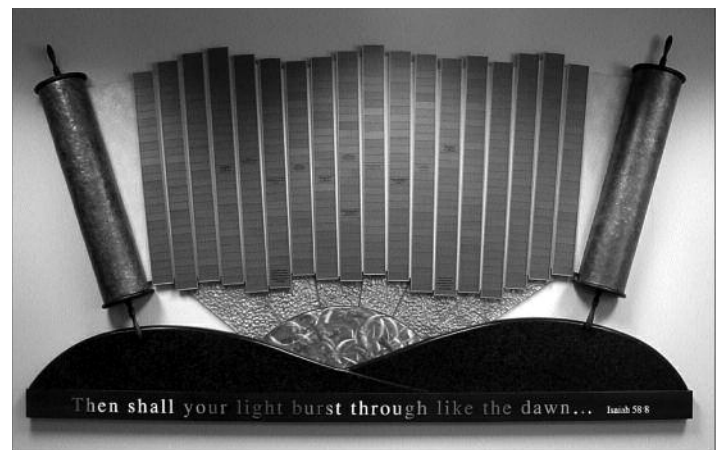
For High School and College students

A Summer Program Making Money; The Susan M. Broh Tikkun Olam

Award Applications due Tuesday, April 1

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. Call the office if you haven't received one. Those who are selected will be paid a salary of approximately \$8.00 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.



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.

Purim 5774: The Frozen Chosen



Sunday, March 21...
School starts at 9 a.m...Parents arrive at 11 a.m.

Dress for the Weather
(Even in Shushan it sometimes gets cold)
Wear a Costume
Bring a box of Macaroni and Cheese for your
gregger/noisemaker.
***Lunch will be served by Men of Sinai
after the Megillah Reading***

Message from Philip Lesser

President, Men of Sinai

It's that time again! The annual Snyder award dinner is just around the corner. Thanks to your huge response we had many nominations for this year's awards! We are so pleased to announce our honorees this year are Linda Kay and Steve Weiss! Please join us as we honor them on April 25th and applaud them for their outstanding accomplishments and longstanding community service .

Tara Parish from the Pioneer Valley Project will be here on March 2nd! Come join us for our world renowned breakfast, and it's all 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.

Our mission to serve Sinai Temple will always be the same, but the way we approach it may change. We are having an open discussion at our March 4th meeting. We will be discussing how we can continue to grow and accomplish all the things we want, and be more inclusive of all the members of Sinai Temple. Please join us on March 4 at 7pm, and please RSVP to me so we can accommodate the group at lesserpl@Yahoo.com.

Don't miss out! Hockey and Havdalah, bowling, and movie nights, open to all! More opportunities coming up to get out and have some fun! Come join us!

Philip Lesser, President
Men of Sinai

Heart Health and Graceful Aging Hadassah Donor Brunch Sunday, April 27

The Greater Springfield Chapter of Hadassah is pleased to announce that its Donor Brunch will be held on Sunday, April 27 at Chez Josef from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. The theme of this fundraiser is entitled "Heart Health and Graceful Aging." This year's honoree is Anne Robinson, as she turns 90, who will be recognized for her outstanding volunteer work as an active member of Hadassah. During her 50 years of involvement, Anne has been responsible for selling countless trees in Israel, Hadassah cards and certificates, and more to raise money for the organization. The event will also feature a panel of experts on heart health, nutrition, and a geriatrician who will present information on staying healthy through lifestyle choices, nutritious eating and social activities. Dietary laws will be observed, and the heart-healthy menu will be prepared under the guidance of Nutritionist Sue Chanin. For more information, contact Reva Kleppel at (413) 567-8116.

Men of Sinai Breakfast Speaker Series

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.

Jews Telling Jokes: The Serious and Not-So-Serious Side of Jewish Humor Wednesday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Featuring Rabbi Shapiro as our Speaker & A Deli Dinner OR if you wish...A Deli Dinner followed by Rabbi Shapiro

Following on the death of the great Sid Caesar, Rabbi Shapiro will explore the connections between Jews and Humor. How did a people with such troubled history ever become connected with laughter? How did America and Jews develop the special connection of humor?

Bring along a joke you want to tell. We'll explore your jokes as well as others.

We'll do all this only a few days before Purim because the month of Purim is supposed to be a month dedicated to joy.

RSVP to the Temple office. 736-3619

Pastrami & corned beef mixed with laughter and a fine dill pickle!

*It is with great pleasure
that the Men of Sinai
announce the recipients
of the annual*

*Rabbi Herman Eliot Snyder
Service Award for the year 2014/5774*

Linda Kay and Steven Weiss

Please join us on

Friday night, April 25, 2014

for Dinner provided by the Men of Sinai

Followed by Erev Shabbat Service

As we honor the recipients for the quality

of their many years of service to

Sinai Temple and the community

Dinner: 6:00 PM - Service: 7:30 PM

Cost: \$10

Reservations Required by Monday, April 21st, 2014

Call the Sinai Temple office at 413.736.3619 or

Use the Sinai Temple website at www.sinai-temple.org

Passover Highlights 2014

COME PRAY...COME FILL THE SANCTUARY PASSOVER MORNING

Tuesday, April 15 at 10:30 a.m.

(Luncheon to follow.)

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

YIZKOR AND CONCLUDING SERVICE

Monday, April 21 at 10:30 a.m.

We dedicate new plaques on our yearzeit board and bid farewell to Passover.
A luncheon follows the service.

Are you getting bored with the same old prayers at your Seder?

Starting April 1, visit our website. www.sinai-temple.org Rabbi Shapiro has collected and added on to a large Sinai collection of readings, games, and ideas that can bring new life to your Seder.

Would you like to be known as someone who enjoyed a good meal, or as someone who helped provide others with something to eat?

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

Starting April 1...Looking for a new App?

Sinai has the Haggadah App for Your Seder This year!

And it won't cost you a cent!

We've got over 100 copies of the Reform movement's modern Passover Haggadah just waiting for you to borrow and use. It's like a library. PLUS we have a family Haggadah and 20 copies of a NEW HAGGADAH, also published by the Reform movement. We've got them all. We want you to use them. Borrow 5, 10, 15 or as many as you need for your Seder. Visit the Temple office Monday to Friday or see Tina in the Library on Sunday mornings.

Should my child miss school on the first morning of Passover?

Dear Parents:

I know attending the Passover Morning Service on Tuesday, April 15 means having your child miss school, but having your child miss school for the sake of this positive Jewish experience can make a difference in his/her life. I offer you the following letter for expressing your commitments to your child's teacher. Rabbi Shapiro.

Dear Teacher:

Please excuse my child from school for tomorrow morning, Tuesday, April 15. He/She will be attending services at Sinai Temple. As you know, tomorrow marks the first full day of Passover, and it is customary for the Jewish community to assemble together. Passover's morning service is not unlike the Rosh Hashanah morning service for which my child was also absent. I hope there will be no extra work assigned for April 15. Since my child enjoys our Temple services so much, I know he/she anticipates a wonderful learning experience on Passover morning.

Yours truly,

A concerned parent

Women Making a Difference!

Please join us for

Sinai Temple Women's Seder

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

6pm

Sinai Temple

1100 Dickinson St., Springfield, Massachusetts 01108

\$12 for Sinai members

\$ 15 for non-members

Cost includes a contribution to a social service agency in Afula, our Federation sister city in Israel.

Reservations no later than March 26: online at Sinai-Temple.org or by mailing the form below to the Temple office with a check.

We provide a chicken main dish, wine, Seder plates.

The rest of the meal is pot luck so we may enjoy each other's culinary creativity.

For general questions, e-mail Laurie Weinberg sagecitrus@aol.com.

(If the cost is an issue, please let us know.)

For food questions, e-mail Belle Rita Novak, bellerita@comcast.net

For any questions, call the Temple office at 736-3619

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I Would Like To Bring: Salad Vegetable Side Dish Dessert Beverage

Please bring enough to feed 8 to 10

Enclosed is my check

Payment was made on-line



AN EXCITING DAY OF VOLUNTEERISM THAT BENEFITS THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

Whether young or old, please join us on May 4th for Sinai Temple's community outreach effort!

Mitzvah Day will kick off at Sinai Temple at 9:00a.m. with an opening ceremony and then volunteers will depart for their various assignments.

One of the many wonderful aspects of Mitzvah Day is that participants will enjoy the opportunity to make a positive impact in our community by working together with Temple members - from your old friends to people you might not have met yet.

This year's projects include:

Decoration Making for the Springfield Public Library Summer Reading Program

Buck-A-Book Swap

Animal shelter towel collection

Gray House fence installation

Pantene Beautiful Locks

Blood Drive

Bake Sale

Car Wash

Open Pantry Sandwich Making

Bike Rides

Musical performance for the elderly

Coupon collection for Military Families

Pilates Wellness

Sinai Art/Youth Room Cleanup

Fleece Blanket Making for women's shelter

Don't forget to order your special Mitzvah Day t-shirt.

Proceeds will benefit Cancer Free Kids!

We hope everyone will be a part of this important Sinai Temple event.

If you have any questions or want to be a project captain, please contact event co-chairs, Sheri Delgallo at sdelgallo@live.com, or Lynn Lesser at scoutmom346@yahoo.com.

Look for a project registration form in this bulletin.

Mitzvah Day is underwritten by a gift from Deb Levheim in memory of her mother, Naomi Feldheim.

Battling the Winter Blues with STUFF

Contributed by Lindsey Weber, STUFF Parent

We were battling the winter blues, but then we found some STUFF to do!

Our STUFF (Sinai Temple Under Five Families) programs have delivered fun, learning, and friendship during this long winter. At our January Tot Shabbat, we enjoyed a special visit from Felicia Sloin, local musician and "entertain-ucator." Felicia led us in a lively service where we learned some new songs, and we all had fun with instruments. Her melodies brought our families to their feet!

During our January Shalom Sunday, we used hands-on projects to learn about Tu B'Shevat. We all traced our hands on paper and then cut them out to become leaves on a giant STUFF Family Tree. Special thanks to Scott Kittredge for his artistic talents for the tree! The tree has been on display in the hallway and was also on display during the January Art Shabbat. The children also decorated small plastic containers and planted parsley seeds. Because the weather is not suitable for planting trees, we symbolized the meaning of Tu B'Shevat with growing parsley. We all hope to enjoy this parsley on our Passover Seder plates!

Our February Shalom Sunday was an exceptionally delicious experience! Chava Cohen, STUFF parent and challah-making expert led us in making challah. Every family went home with their own dough to rise, braid, and bake in their kitchen. Wee all watched in awe as Chava effortlessly demonstrated several ways to braid the challah. The children and their parents devoured three loaves of challah almost straight out of the oven. Yum!

If you have never experienced a STUFF program, we invite you to join us! Our coordinators design activities that are appropriate for children under 5 years old. We learn through songs, crafts, and stories. Parents, grandparents, and older siblings can join us too. The atmosphere is casual and welcoming. Join us at 10:30am for Shalom Sundays on March 9, April 6, May 11. Tot Shabbat and Dinner takes place at 6:00pm on February 28, March 28, April 18, May 23, and June 20.

For more information about STUFF, please contact our coordinators Melanie Courtemanche, mnkle17@gmail.com Leslie Kittredge, ljkrell@gmail.com



Our pots of parsley seeds



Kneading challah dough



"Shir Fun!" in the WGBY studio



Tot Shabbat with Felicia Sloin

**PURIM
PURMI
PRUIM
RIMPU**

Can you spell fun?
Sunday, March 16 at 11:00 a.m.

GIFT SHOP CORNER

We are looking ahead to spring: For Purim we'll have masks and books. Then on to Passover. There will be everything for your Seder table: Seder plates, Elijah and Miriam cups, Horseradish and Haroses servers, matzah covers, toys, games haggadahs and an endless selection of hostess gifts.

We'll send a flyer with ideas and extended hours. Come and browse.

Thais Fischel 786-9577

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

Every year people relocate to the greater Springfield area, or people who have lived in the area consider joining a Temple. Often these people, friends, colleagues, neighbors or relatives ask current members about Sinai Temple. You can help the Temple recruit these interested people by referring them to the Temple office. We are very interested in recruiting new members.

Make donations through 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.

A HOME CEREMONY FOR REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST FROM RABBI SHAPIRO

Dear Friends:

When Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) starts on the 27th of Nisan, **the evening of Sunday, April 27**, there is something simple and beautiful which you can do to commemorate the Holocaust. You can purchase and light a Yahrzeit/Memorial Candle in your home.

At that time, you might want to have a moment of silence, use the prayer that follows, or create something of your own. A limited number of candles will be available at the Temple office if you wish to pick one up there. You can also purchase a candle at a grocery store.

A Prayer for Lighting the "Holocaust Candle"

I/we light this memorial candle in order not to forget the lives of the Jewish men, women, and children who are symbolized by its flame. They were brutalized for no reason; their lives were taken in cruelty. May we be inspired to learn about our six million brothers and sisters as individuals and as communities; and may we recall not only the terror of their deaths, but the splendor of so many of their lives. May the memory of their lives inspire us to hallow our own lives, and to live meaningful Jewish lives so that we may help to ensure that part of who they were always endures.

**Mardi Gras – Jewish Style
Purim Arrives Mid-March
Sunday, March 16 at 11:00 a.m.
(As Religious School concludes...)
Laughs, History, and Lunch Included**

Announcing Something New for Preschool Families: The HGF Right Start Grant

The Harold Grinspoon Foundation is proud to inaugurate the Right Start Grant. The HGF Right Start Grant is a gift to your family! Tuition grants up to \$2000 are available to families who enroll a child in a Jewish preschool for the first time. If you or someone you know is considering Gan Keshet Jewish Community Preschool/Northampton, JCC Early Learning Center/Springfield, LYA Preschool/Longmeadow, or Ganon Amunim/Pittsfield, please contact the Grinspoon Foundation. Call Marla at 276-0728.

Ron and Ronnie Nadel Family Fund

- *Ronnie and Ron Nadel* wishing Mazel Tov to Jeff Cossin and Karen Mendelsohn on their engagement.

Oneg Shabbat Fund

- Donations made in memory of Shirley Hersh's sister, *Esther Greenberg: Ruth Seldin; Evelyn and Sid Baron* .
- Donations made in memory of Selva Aronson *Charlotte Meyer; Candy and Stanley Glazer; Steven Roberts*.
- *Eleanore Casden and family* in memory of Eva Cohen on her *yahrzeit*.
- *Mickey and David Schrair* in memory of Gertrude Will and David Shrair.
- *Claire Cohen-Stelzer and family* for the *yahrzeit* of Jeanette Levine.
- *Ellen and Bob Musen* in memory of Ruth Brasser.
- *Melvyn Altman* in memory of Ruth Brasser.
- *Sylvia Levine* in loving memory of my cousin, Issy Halpern.
- Donation made by *George and Sherry Dickerman*.

Esther Pachman Fund for Children Under Five

- Donation made by *Lauren Harvey and Morgan Terres*.
- Donation made by the *Steingart/Hanford family*.

Refugee Resettlement Fund

- *Belle Rita Novak* in memory of Sid Cooley.

Religious School Fund

- *Joan Rosenbaum* in memory of Adolph Hahn.
- *Judy and Henry Aronson* in memory of Ruth Kleiman.
- *Judy and Henry Aronson* in honor of Jeff Cossin and Karen Mendelsohn's engagement.
- Donations made in honor of Jennifer Metsch for receiving the Micha award: *Saul Finestone; Belle Rita Novak; Shari and Rob Cooper; John and Mary-Anne Stearns; Carol and David Tivoli; Brendan and Lisa Kelly; Tricia and Michael Freedman; Sandy Suib-Dutcher; Elizabeth Pickering; Zel Lavin; Ronnie Leavitt*.
- *Gloria and Michael Wald* in memory of David Wald.
- *Bea and Frank Hano* in honor of the birth of Russ and Nancy Braun's new grandchild.
- *Bea and Frank Hano* in honor of the birth of Phyllis and Earl Weiner's new grandchild.

Abe and Edna Simons Camp Fund

- *Rachel Freedman and the Freedman family* in honor of Rachel's Bat Mitzvah.
- *Judy and Mike Cohen* in memory of Arthur Levinson.
- *Judy and Mike Cohen* in memory of Art Bertram.
- *Judy and Mike Cohen* in memory of Susan Porter's mother.

Lucille and Calvert Stein Endowment Fund

- *Lynne Leavitt* in memory of Sidney Cooley.

Helen and Sy Weiner Children's Literature and Photographic Arts Fund

- *Claire Cohen-Stelzer* in memory of Sally Cohen on her *yahrzeit*.
- *Helen Weiner* in memory of Judge Sidney Cooley, a long time friend.

World Crisis Fund

- *Carol and Dave Roberts* in memory of Selva Aronson.
- *Judy Spitzer* in loving memory of Alan Spitzer.
- *Judy Spitzer* in loving memory of Harry Greenberg.
- *Carol and Dave Roberts* in memory of Sid Cooley.
- *Elaine and Matthew Weiner* in memory of Evelyn and Sidney Baron's granddaughter.
- Donation made by *Gloria Wald*.

Welcome to our New Members:

- David Morton
- Cheri Haimowitz

Mazel Tov to:

- **Elaine Geha** whose daughter, Marla, has received tenure at Yale University in the Department of Astrophysics.
- **Connie and Gary Rappaport** on the birth of their granddaughter Ariella Zoe Rappaport born on January 10. Her proud parents are Jeffrey and Michelle Rappaport.
- **Jeff Cossin and Karen Mendelsohn** on their engagement.

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 December 9 to present:

- *Ruth Brasser*
- *Sidney Cooley*, father of Michael, Debra and Larry Cooley.
- *Susan Daley*
- *Ruth Kleiman*, mother of Richard Kleiman

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.
rblanchettegag@sinai-temple.org



Sinai Temple Bulletin

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SPRINGFIELD, MA
PERMIT NO.537

1100 Dickinson Street
Springfield, MA 01108
(413) 736-3619
www.sinai-temple.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Celebrate Today **Create Tomorrow**



The Plan for Sinai Temple

**Let's come together
to build the future
for our Temple.**

