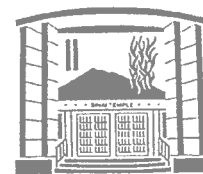


# Sinai Temple Bulletin



*Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat*

## For Your Consideration

**Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro**

As most of you know, (as of March 27) I was back from sabbatical. And as many of you may be wondering, "What did the guy do while he was away from the Temple?"

To be honest, one possible answer is that your rabbi simply took a break. One creative way I took my break involved taking a photograph every day of the sabbatical. I wanted to catch the essence of the days and create an artistic kind of diary for myself as each day took shape. The photography was a challenge and a great pleasure.

Of course, yours truly was not likely to have let the weeks of the sabbatical flow by like a vacation. So I most certainly did occupy myself with a series of weightier projects.

During January, for example, I returned to my study of the Book of Jeremiah. I've been interested in Jeremiah for many years, and on sabbatical, I was able to pull together my notes and reflections to create an academic article. It was actually a very intense process. On some days, it felt as if I never stopped reading and writing, but the results were very positive. I wrote the article I had wanted to write for over a decade.

And what else? In the second half of the sabbatical, I explored the connections between Judaism and science. My reading included Stephen Hawking on the quantum universe and creation and Stephen Jay Gould on evolution. I whet my appetite for more learning in this area. I began to wonder about creating a place at Sinai for me and many of you to read and talk about physics, evolution, and the religious quest.

The sabbatical was wonderful because it allowed me to answer some questions I've had forever and then launched me into asking new questions that will surely occupy me for quite some time to come.

Thank you to Sinai for the sabbatical opportunity. Let's talk and learn more together soon.

## Saturday Mornings

Every Saturday Morning  
Torah Study at 9:00 a.m.  
Service at 10:30 a.m.

## Mazal Tov to Bnai Mitzvah

May 5 – Travis Van Brewer, son of Britt Brewer and Judy Van Raalte  
May 19 – Ben Sherman, son of Scott and Rebecca  
June 2 – Sumner Lewis, daughter of Hank Lewis and Karen Mendelsohn  
June 9 – Shoshana Maniscalco, daughter of Buff and Jodi  
June 23 – Michael Cooper, son of Robert and Shari

## Friday Evenings in May

### May 4 at 6 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat Honoring Sheila Shear and our Teachers

Sheila has been our educator for seven years. Before she leaves us for Charleston SC, we want to wish her a wonderful farewell. Blessings and presentations will be followed by a congregational dinner. See page 5.

### May 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

We will honor this year's High School Seniors.

### May 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Make music; make happy. A true celebration of Shabbat.

### May 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Happy Long Weekend and Shabbat Shalom

## Friday Evenings in June

### June 1 at 6 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Snacks at 5:30 p.m. Blessings for those attending Jewish summer camp.

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

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

Please honor our finest High School students. Terrific Tenth Graders on the bimah.

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

INSTALLATION SERVICE

We honor incoming Temple leadership.

### June 22 & 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Look at the weekly Torah portion. Rabbi Shapiro will teach.

## Special Friday Evenings

TOT Shabbat – Fridays, May 25 & June 22 at 6 p.m.  
- Families with children from birth to five years of age meet for a service and dinner.

## A Message from President Jeff Cossin

I am writing this article after attending Passover morning services. It was good to see the Rabbi back and to feel the excitement in the full Sanctuary. However, as it should be, the Youth of our congregational community thrilled me and again convinced me that they are the future of our congregation and Judaism in the United States. The Confirmation class, Seventh graders and Third graders participated with pride in the service and “Shir Fun” again provided the music and spiritual excitement. Their singing of L’Dor V’Dor was outstanding and the soloists were wonderful. “Shir Fun’s” presentations are becoming ever more sophisticated. Their dedication is a testament to both their parents’ encouragement and to our Cantor who inspires them to greater accomplishments at every service they sing.

In the next few months you will see something totally new in the Temple Bulletin. We will be transitioning the advertising which historically has been in the Engagement Calendar to our Bulletin. This will give greater exposure to our advertisers who will be the lifeblood of this publication. I anticipate that the “calendar” will now be on the Temple Website and be updated frequently with the latest events and meetings. We honored all of the current and past Engagement Calendar volunteers last December as we now evolve this publication to a more modern format. If you or your business want to advertise in the Bulletin please call our Temple office at 736-3619.

I want to thank the following Temple Board Members who will be concluding their terms on the Board: Pam Kalman, Bonnie Thomas, Elaine Shusterman, Roberta Hillenberg-Gang and Shari Cooper. They have worked with great dedication for you and our Sinai Community and have all expressed a desire to continue to serve our Temple in the future.

I want to thank the following members of our House Committee who spend countless hours keeping our Building secure and safe: Irwin Pers, Chair, Jay Mustain, and Jeffrey Rembrandt. Because of their hard work we will see a completely new roof installed to prevent leaking into the second floor of the Religious School and repair of the basement to prevent ground leaking there. Their expertise and professionalism should be recognized by all of us. If you would like to be part of this Committee, please call the Temple office 736-3619

And finally Todah Rabah to Cantor Levson for doing such a wonderful job during Rabbi Shapiro’s Sabbatical. We look forward to his performance and the performance of over 50 people in our Temple’s production of Oliver! Thank you to Sheri Levson for being Director. It could not be done without her professionalism and skill.

## Welcome to New Member:

- Jo Anne Zolotor

## Notes from Cantor Martin Levson

“I’m reviewing the situation...” As I write this bulletin article, we are about one month away from the opening performance of Sinai Temple’s production of “Oliver!” If you thought last year’s production of “The Music Man” was great, wait until you see “Oliver!” Please support this major fundraising effort of Sinai Temple by volunteering to help out in a variety of different ways, by coming to see the show, and by bringing lots of your friends and neighbors to see the show! Last year the final two performances were sold out; let’s see if together we can make this happen once again!

Once again, I am looking ahead to autumn. The High Holiday Choir will begin to rehearse in early August. The choir will sing for the evening services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, so choir members can sit with family and friends during the other services on the holidays. As always, we would love to welcome some new singers. Singing in the High Holiday Choir is a great way of deepening your appreciation of the liturgy, and it’s also a great way to make some new friends! No previous choral experience is required, and you don’t have to be able to read music (although you will learn a little bit!), you just need the desire to sing and learn. I will provide a CD of your vocal parts to anyone in the choir who would like to have one, so you can practice the music at home or in the car. If you would like to sing with the choir this year, please let me know soon!

A big part of the High Holidays is Sinai Temple’s tradition of lay Torah readers. It is once again my intention to have all the Torah readers chosen, and for everyone to have their portions and CDs in hand by June 1st. This will give readers more than 3 months to practice! If you would be interested in chanting Torah for the High Holidays, please let me know soon!

• *continued on page 11*

The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published every other month by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 1 for the year 2011-2012.

Mark Dov Shapiro ..... Rabbi  
Martin Levson ..... Cantor  
Sheila Shear ..... Director of Education  
Lisa Gittleman Udi ..... JOY and SPFTY Advisor  
Jeff Cossin ..... President  
Bruce Leshine ..... First Vice President  
Bobi Steingart ..... Vice President  
Alan Goldsmith ..... Treasurer  
Laurie Weinberg ..... Financial Secretary  
Patricia Gootzit ..... Recording Secretary  
Jack Henrie ..... President, Men of Sinai  
Ron Weiss ..... Cemetery Chair  
Karen Mendelsohn ..... Membershiip Committee Chair  
Visit our website: [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)



LIONEL BART'S  
**OLIVER!**

**SATURDAY, MAY 12 & MAY 19 7:00PM**

**SUNDAY, MAY 13 & MAY 20 2:00PM**

**SINAI TEMPLE  
1100 DICKINSON ST., SPRINGFIELD, MA**

**DIRECTOR:**  
SHERI LEVSON  
**MUSICAL DIRECTOR:**  
FRANK JACKSON  
**CHOREOGRAPHER:**  
STEPHANIE SIMPSON

Oliver! is presented through special  
arrangement with Tams-Witmark  
Music Library, Inc.

## **TICKET PRICES:**

<b>ORCHESTRA</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>REAR ORCHESTRA</b>	<b>\$15</b>

**TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE  
AT [WWW.SINAI-TEMPLE.ORG](http://WWW.SINAI-TEMPLE.ORG), BY  
CALLING SINAI AT 413-736-3619, OR  
IN PERSON AT THE SINAI OFFICE**

**CONSIDER YOURSELF ONE OF THE FAMILY!**

# Adult Opportunities

## **From Mount Sinai and into the Land of Israel:**

**A Shavuot Dialogue between Rabbi Amy Katz and Rabbi Mark Shapiro about Today's Israel Saturday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m. At Sinai Temple**

Please join us as Sinai Temple and Temple Beth El welcome the holiday of Shavuot. The evening will begin with a conversation between our rabbis about their recent experiences with Israel. Rabbi Katz was in Israel this winter. Rabbi Shapiro attended two conventions for major Jewish advocacy on behalf of Israel.

After the conversation and learning, we will turn to the prayers and themes of Shavuot followed by a delicious Oneg in honor of the holiday.

## **Read a Great Book that Mingles the Present and the Past Wednesday June 6 at 7 p.m.**

Dear Sinai Readers - Drawing in the Dust by Rabbi Zoe Klein is contemporary fiction that combines the dilemma of Israelis and Palestinians trying to co-exist and reaches back to the biblical Book of Jeremiah. We'll meet on Wednesday June 6, 7 p.m.

## **What Time are Services at Sinai Temple? A New Answer to an Old Question 6:00 and 7:30 p.m.**

As of February, Friday evening services are taking place at only two times: either 6 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.

Our Kabbalat Shabbat service has moved to the first Friday of the month. Kabbalat Shabbat starts at 6 p.m. All other Friday evening services start at the same time, which is 7:30 p.m.

New times. 6 p.m. and then 7:30 p.m. for the rest of the month.

## **Monthly Morning Services Wednesdays, May 2 and June 6 at 7:30 a.m.**

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

## **Torah Study – We Feed You Weekly with the Weekly Torah Portion Every Saturday morning At 9 a.m.**

The best free breakfast in the Pioneer Valley coupled with a taste of Torah. Led by Rabbi Shapiro with a smile and good humor.

## **Saturday Morning Services Every Saturday morning At 10:30 a.m.**

A regular weekly Shabbat morning service. Even when there isn't a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, we meet at 10:30 a.m. complete with the Yahrzeit list.

Please note – Although Torah Study continues every Saturday at 9 a.m. in July and August, Saturday morning services will not take place in the summer. We will return to morning services on September 3.

## **Summer Services Every Friday in July and August**

Please join us throughout the summer for services that are brief, spirited, and full of joy. On July 6 and 13, services will take place outdoors after a picnic dinner starting at 6:00 p.m.

On all other July and August Friday evenings, services take place at 7:30 p.m.

## **Have You Got an Idea? Have You Got a Suggestion?**

As the programming year draws to a close, June becomes our most important month for planning next year's happenings at Sinai. Almost every one of our committees will be meeting to think about next year.

So...If you have an idea or a suggestion...Please call the office, Temple President, or the Rabbi and let us know. Better still...Call to find out when our committees are meeting and come to one meeting to share your thoughts.

The committees meeting in June are: Ritual, Adult Education, Religious School, Caring Community, and Social Action. Please visit the meeting(s) of your choice. Each committee would love to hear from you.

**Sinai Temple Invites You to Honor  
Sheila Shear, Director of Education**

Presentations, Farewells, Stories,  
Tears and Laughter  
As we say Shalom to our friend and leader.

Join us too  
As we honor all our  
Religious and Hebrew School Teachers  
**Friday, May 4**  
**Kabbalat Shabbat Service & presentatons at 6 p.m.**  
**Followed by Dinner and more presentations**

Cost: \$10 per person  
\$20 per family

Your check is your reservation. Required by Monday, April 30.  
Or visit the Sinai Temple website.

**Mitzvah Day.....Sunday, May 6**  
**SIGN UP TODAY**

**The Fourth Annual Bike Ride for Tzedahah**  
**Registration/Organizing at 8 a.m.**  
**Departure from the Temple at 8:30 a.m.**

21 miles. A donation of \$25 (payable on May 6) will be used to  
underwrite reforestation Springfield after last year's tornado.

**To register, contact Howard Dickstein...[haland@comcast.net](mailto:haland@comcast.net)**

**Blood Drive:**

**You Can Save a Life**  
**From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Baystate Health will be at Sinai requesting that adults give blood. Can you give blood?  
Anyone 17 years or older in good health, weighing a minimum of 110 pounds, can  
donate one pint of blood every 56 days.

For more information and registration:

**Contact Jane Engelman...[mejane300@aol.com](mailto:mejane300@aol.com)**

**Replanting Springfield!**

**(Starting at 9 am....10 volunteers needed.)**

Arbor Allies is affiliated with the Springfield City Forestry Department.  
Their goal is to plant 900 trees to make up for last year's tornado and  
October snow storm. We are going to help start the project.

**To register, conact Sandy Suib Dutcher...[h.dutcher@comcast.net](mailto:h.dutcher@comcast.net)**

**That Was the Year That Was  
2011 — 2012  
Sinai Temple's Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, June 12 at 7 p.m.**

You are invited to a unique retrospective on our programming year.

There will be a "business" part of the meeting.

There will also be a relaxed and entertaining part of the evening.

Songs, music, reflections, a story or two, a joke or two.

Sir Fun to sing.

Men's Chorus to sing.

The cast of Oliver! offering a reprise of its greatest hits.

Stories from the Deep South and the Rabbi's Sabbatical

**AND A DESSERT RECEPTION FOR THE GRAND FINALE**

**SAVE THE DATE!!!!**

as the

Western MA State of Israel Bonds

*pays tribute to leaders in our community*

*at a*

Cocktail Buffet

**Sinai Temple's 2012 honorees are**

**Patty and Steve Sussman**

**Wednesday, June 13**

**5:30 p.m.**

*at Chez Josef in Agawam*

**For reservations & information, call the Israel Bonds office at 800-816-1918**

## Message from Director of Education Sheila Shear

*Shalom Chaverim,*

This spring has been a whirlwind of activity in the school. The trip to the Religious Action Center with the 9th and 10th graders, the 6th grade retreat, the annual school wide seder and the teacher appreciation dinner to name a few. I am happy to have been able to share so many special occasions with so many friends, old and new. These have been the special times, the trips and retreats, but they are not the only experiences that will stay in my heart. Sitting in my office, witnessing the jitters as our students chant the short blessings to me for the first time, and B'Nai Mitzvah students who require a lifesaver in order to chant the haftarah blessings, my weekly visits to the kindergarten and of course my frequent participation (disruptions really) in music sessions with the Cantor and endless short jokes from Rabbi. These will be the times that will stay in my heart.

It seems very fitting to me that the Parsha we will read on that Shabbat during which I will once again sit in the sanctuary as a congregant, with no professional responsibilities, is Nasso in the book of Numbers. My favorite blessing is found there, in Numbers 6:24-26. It is the blessing with which I leave you.

May Adonai bless you and protect you.

May Adonai deal kindly and graciously with you.

May Adonai bestow favor upon you and grant you Shalom, peace.

## News from SPFTY



SPFTY members had such a great time at our own Clue Night Shul-In, which took place March 30-31. We began with a Shabbat dinner and an awesome SPFTY led Shabbat service. We then played a game of Clue, but not with a game board. Ours was live with SPFTY members playing the parts of all the suspects. We danced, played games and watched movies all night and even managed to get a little sleep! The event was a big hit and all 20 participants from 6 different synagogues said they had a blast!

In the next couple of months SPFTY is booked! We are participating in the GRSly Chocolate Seder in Glastonbury April 13. Several SPFTY-ites will go to the Berkshires to NFTY Northeast's Senior Kallah April 29. Also many of us will be attending NUTSY's semi-formal dance in May in Newington, CT in May. For Sinai Temple's Mitzvah Day, SPFTY is planning on a car wash (May 6th) benefiting American Jewish World Service. It's also the time of year where we will be electing officers for 2012-2013. We will hold an "Elections" night on May 31. An event with the 8th graders is still being finalized but will be planned toward the end of the school year.

If you have a son/daughter in 9th-12th grade or you are in that age bracket by Fall, we would love to have you join and participate in SPFTY, newcomers are always welcome!

Shaina Gootzit

**Please Join Us For Confirmation 2012/5772  
Friday June 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Sinai Temple**

**WE WOULD LOVE TO SHARE OUR LEARNING WITH YOU!**

CASEY COEN

Daughter Of Scott Coen And Merle Zamansky-Coen

JACOB FREEMAN

Son Of Michael And Tricia Freedman

SHAINA GOOTZIT

Daughter Of Gary And Patricia Gootzit

HANNAH GORDON

Daughter Of Michael Gordon And Elizabeth Frey

ELIZABETH LEVSON

Daughter Of Cantor Martin And Sheri Levson

MICHAEL MUELLER

Son Of Stephen And Nancy Mueller

MICHAEL PLUMB

Son Of Jerry Plumb And Reva Kleppel

HANNAH REMBRANDT

Daughter Of Jeff And Rabbi Rachel Rembrandt

RACHEL SHERMAN

Daughter Of Scott And Rebecca Sherman

CASEY SIMON-PLUMB

Daughter Of Susanne Simon And Janet Plumb

ANDREW STONE

Son Of Mark And Melanie Stone

## Happy Graduation!

Mazal Tov to the following Sinai teenagers who have grown up at Sinai and are now graduating High School. Remember, we can stay in touch with our young people via our ALUMNI program. When next year's addresses are confirmed, please let the Temple office know. Packages and reminders from home will follow!

William Awad, Sarah Breslau, Margo Chanin, Alexa Engelman, Melanie Feen, Joshua Feinberg, Aaron Fisher, Hallie Goldstein, Jack Kamin, Joshua Kessler, Eva Landers, Abigail Leshine, Julia Lesser, Benjamin Levenson, Sean Meunier, Alexander Moskovitz, Aaron Neiman, Alex Novak, Alexandra Rubin, Erika Schwartz, Irina Smith, Samuel Torff, Leah Winer

## Plus Try-A-Synagogue Offers Reduced Rates For People Joining Any Local Synagogue.

*Please reach out. Let your unaffiliated family, friends, and neighbors know about the wonderful world of Sinai. Share the benefits of belonging to our community.*

*And if you refer someone to Sinai who becomes a member at any level, we will most certainly want to thank you.*

## Spread the News

Do you know Sinai Temple's membership incentives? What follows are the incentives developed over the last few years.

### Young Adult 18 – 30

Complimentary

### Ages 31 – 35

Reduced rates to make it easy to belong

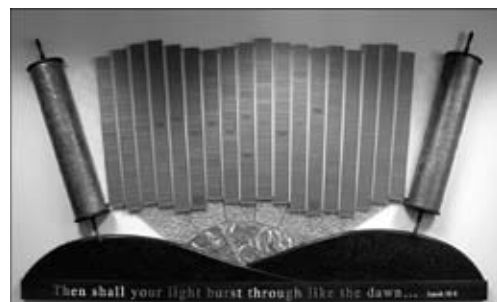
### Those who belong to another local synagogue!

Associate Membership reduced dues

### Those who live out of town!

An "out of town" membership is available

## The Scroll of Life



The Scroll of Life is a work of art in the Oneg Shabbat Room. It was created by Presentations Gallery of New York. The Isaiah quote at the bottom of the Scroll was taken from the Yom Kippur Haftarah as an expression of hope.

The Scroll has space on it so that Sinai members can commemorate either joyous events or memorialize loved ones. Each contribution of a plaque on the Scroll will be used to enrich the life and strength of Sinai. The cost of each plaque is \$200. The inscription may be 3-4 lines with a maximum of 27 spaces per line.



## STUFF: Sinai Temple Under Five Families

In February and March, Cantor Bim Bam led our Tot Shabbat services. The children love to dance and joyfully sing along with Cantor while he plays the guitar. Many children seem to be learning the prayers that we recite at every Tot



Fulfilling the mitzvah of Matanot La'evyonim at our Purim Bagels & Blocks by donating to the food collection basket

Shabbat service. At our February Tot Shabbat, we decorated kippot (yarmulkes) to add to our Shabbat at Home Kit. In March, the children sculpted their very own candlestick holders out of salt dough. Each child went home with two candles too. For Shabbat celebrations at home, the children now have a tote bag, a kippah (yarmulke), and candlestick holders. In the coming months, challah covers, kiddush cups, and more ritual items will be created and added to these special kits to encourage families to celebrate Shabbat at home. At our March Bagels & Blocks, we happily celebrated Purim by making graggers and covering them with tissue paper decoupage. We also made hamantashen-shaped mishloach manot filled with some favorite snacks. Cantor Bim Bam led us in cheerful

Purim songs and his special "it's not Shabbat" version of his favorite song, "Bim Bam." To fulfill the four mitzvot of Purim, we also listened attentively as Sheila told us the story of Purim and we went on a "tzedekah walk" to add food items to the collection basket by the front entrance to be donated to local families in need. In April, we celebrated Passover at Bagels & Blocks by lacing construction paper matzo covers and creating a Seder plate to be used at home. The children loved gluing the tissue paper and the pictures of the Seder plate items to the plate. Bonnie Gibson was our special guest for music and Sheila told us the story of Passover.



Painting a kippah (yarmulke) at our February Tot Shabbat



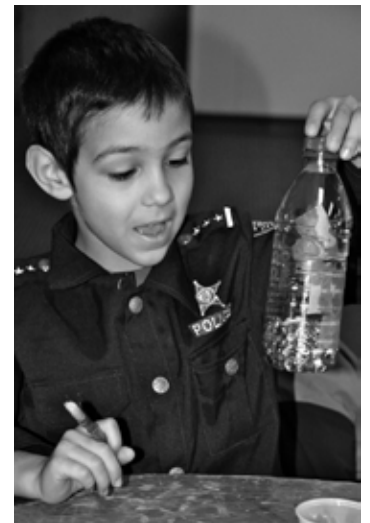
"Haman" and "Queen Esther" during the Purim story at our Purim Bagels & Blocks

### Upcoming STUFF Programs:

Sunday, May 6th, 10-11:30am: Shavuot Bagels & Blocks

Friday, May 25th, 6:00pm: Tot Shabbat and Dinner

Friday, June 22nd, 6:00pm: Tot Shabbat and Dinner



Dressed in costume and making a gragger at our Purim Bagels & Blocks

### Participating in and Supporting STUFF

If you have children or grandchildren who are five years-old or younger and would like to be added to our STUFF contact list, please contact Melanie Courtemanche at [mnkle17@gmail.com](mailto:mnkle17@gmail.com). If you would like to support STUFF programs, please consider making a donation to the Esther Pachman Fund for Programming for Children Under Five. This fund makes it possible for Sinai Temple to provide Tot Shabbat Services and Dinners, the Bagels & Blocks holiday programs, and other meaningful and engaging experiences for our youngest congregants (0-5 years old) and their families.

## Nomination for the Board of Directors

Dear Congregants:

I am pleased to present the slate of new Directors of Sinai Temple for the fiscal year ending (FYE) May 31, 2013. This leadership slate needs to be voted upon by the congregation at the annual meeting on Tuesday, June 12 at 7 p.m. These nominees have served on various committees and in leadership positions and all are deeply committed to Sinai Temple. The nominees have indicated that they would be honored to serve the Temple subject to your approval. In accordance with Sinai Temple's Bylaws, "additional nominations may be made in writing at least 14 days prior to such meeting by petition of at least 20 persons entitled to vote at meetings of the Congregation who are in good standing."

Many thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee for helping with the task of ensuring Sinai Temple's continued leadership. The members of this year's Nominating Committee are: Jeff Cossin, Steve Weiss, Shari Cooper, Sandy Suib Dutcher, Mike Freedman and Rabbi Shapiro.

Respectfully,

Bruce Leshine

First Vice President and Chairperson of the Nominating Committee

\*\*\*\*\*

The Nominating Committee respectfully proposes the following slate of new directors for election at the annual meeting:

*Directors – FYE 2014 (two year term)*

Bonnie Mikesh

*Directors – FYE 2015 (three year term)*

1. Jack Henrie
2. Ronnie Leavitt
3. Martin Lesser
4. Phil Lesser (as President of Men of Sinai)
5. Lewis Levenson
6. Jay Mustain
7. Jim Orenstein
8. Gary Weiner

These new directors will join our continuing Officers and Directors previously elected. Our Leadership, therefore, will consist of the following:

President .....Jeff Cossin  
First Vice President .....Bruce Leshine  
Vice President .....Bobbi Steingart  
Treasurer .....Alan Goldsmith  
Financial Secretary .....Laurie Weinberg  
Recording Secretary .....Patricia Gootzit

Board of Directors 2010-2013

Ilene Conklin  
Michael Freedman  
Belle Rita Novak  
Susanne Simon  
Esta Sobey  
Sherry Souliere  
Carol Tivoli

Board of Directors 2011-2014

Beth Chafetz  
Suzanne Giroux  
Todd Kadis  
Steven Kessler  
Ari Kugelmass  
Buff Maniscalco  
Bonnie Mikesh

Board of Directors 2012-2015

Jack Henrie  
Ronnie Leavitt  
Martin Lesser  
Phil Lesser (as President of Men of Sinai)  
Lewis Levenson  
Jay Mustain  
Jim Orenstein  
Gary Weiner

## Message from Cantor Martin Levson

*continued from page 2*

Last year at this time I offered the possibility of a Torah chanting class. A few people mentioned that they would be interested in such a class, but alas, it was not enough to make a viable group. But because this is such an important and holy task, I am going to offer the opportunity once again this fall, if there is sufficient interest. The class would meet weekly over a period of about 10 weeks, and yes, there will be “homework” assigned! (That’s the only way you can learn to do this!) The class would culminate with the graduates chanting some verses of Torah during a Shabbat service. If you can already “decode” Hebrew (reading letters and vowels, but not necessarily with any comprehension), and would like to learn the sacred art of chanting Torah, please let me know that you would be interested! If I get enough of a response this year, I will offer the class this autumn.

Finally, this May we shall bid a fond farewell, or “L’hitraot,” to Sheila Shear, our beloved Director of Education. During my more than 20 years as a Cantor, I have worked with many different educators. Some were very creative, and others were efficient administrators; but it was rare to find someone who could do both of these things well. Sheila Shear was one of these rare ones, and it has been my great privilege and pleasure to work with her during the past four years here at Sinai Temple. Sheila, we wish you the best of luck down in Charleston, but we will miss you!

*“Ivdu et Hashem B’simcha!*

*Serve the Holy One with JOY!” (Psalm 100:2)*

Cantor Martin Levson



Cantor Martin Levson with “Miriam’s Well”: Sheri Levson, Meg Laird, Felicia Sloin, Sujata Konowitz, and Kim Erslev. Miriam’s Well performed at the Shabbat Service on March 16. Enjoy the video archive at [http://www.sinai-temple.org/movies/miriam's\\_well\\_vimeo.php](http://www.sinai-temple.org/movies/miriam's_well_vimeo.php)

## Message from Men of Sinai President Jack Henrie

You will have the benefit of reading this after the April 27th Rabbi Herman E. Snyder Award dinner and presentation, although this is written well before. Hopefully, you will have participated, along with 200-some people in our community, in honoring our esteemed award winners Judge Sidney and Anne Cooley.

The Men of Sinai’s next community event will begin about 11:30 on May 20th as MOS provides another barbeque in conjunction with the beginning and end of Sinai’s Religious School year. MOS barbeques, five in the past two years, are provided free to Sinai Temple and our community.

This is my final letter as President of the Men of Sinai. It has been an honor to serve as the Men of Sinai have become increasingly active in our community. In the last two years, the Men of Sinai have had 14 Sunday morning breakfasts with many outstanding speakers, have provided food for Sinai’s Purim parties, had the five BBQs, hosted two Hanukkah dinners (one of about 300 people was likely the largest such event in Sinai’s history), had wonderful evenings with our Rabbi and with our Cantor, and had dinners and presentations of the Rabbi Snyder Award to Robyn Newhouse, Steve Kaplan, Anne Cooley, and to Judge Sidney Cooley. We had nearly 500 people for the Fall Festival of Art which netted Sinai and the Men of Sinai about \$5,500, sponsored the Rabbi’s program of learning for interfaith clergy of the region, donated \$1,370 to Sinai’s Religious School Scholarship Fund, \$500 for Temple kitchen upgrades, and have supported other Sinai fundraising events such as Music Man and Oliver! (hope that you are planning to “pick a pocket or two”/attend the latter!). The Men of Sinai expect to continue this past year’s Hockey and Havdalah evening and similar family happenings.

Thankfully, we have had lots of support, and more have joined the Men of Sinai to help with all these activities. In the past two years our Board membership and our general membership have each grown by 30%, and we would gladly welcome many more!! Many thanks to all of you who have participated, and who will participate, in the Men of Sinai’s success in our support of Sinai and of our community!

### JUDAICA SHOP CORNER

We thank the volunteers who helped us during the Passover season. So many people were truly delighted with what we had to offer.

Now we are setting up for spring B’nai Mitzvah, wedding, engagements, graduations and all other wonderful occasions. We have returned to our regular hours of Tuesday and Thursday afternoons 2 to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday mornings from 9 to noon when there is Sunday school.

Thais Fischel, 786-9577

## Who Says You Can't Live Forever?

Immortality is possible when you Create a Jewish Legacy.

Your legacy gift ensures that Sinai Temple is provided for —according to your wishes—for generations to come.

To learn more, please call us at 413-736-3619 [www.jewishlegacywesternmass.org](http://www.jewishlegacywesternmass.org)

Jointly funded by the Jewish Endowment Foundation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. The Federations of Western Massachusetts and the Berkshires are program partners.

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Carolyn Mernoff in memory of Abraham Geffner
- Carolyn Mernoff in memory of Ellen Mernoff.
- Ruth Seldin in memory of Dan Schaffer.
- June Schreyer in memory of Dan Schaffer.
- Eileen Fox in memory of my beloved Mom on her yahrzeit.
- Carol and David Roberts congratulations to Fran and Jeff Ochs

## Interfaith Matters Committee Update

*Sunday, May 20 at 9 a.m.*

The last Interfaith Matters meeting of the year will be Sunday, May 20th at 9 a.m. All are welcome as we review the year and discuss ideas and programs for next year.

Look out for an Interfaith Family Survey coming in the mail. Please take the time to complete and send it back to Sinai. We would appreciate your feedback and ideas.

Tricia Freedman

Interfaith Matters Committee Chair

567-6930

## Thanks to the Hospitality Circle

Over the last year a broad and diverse group of congregants have volunteered their kitchen talents for an occasional cooking or baking assignment. A salad or a dessert. Once or maybe twice in the year. It has been a tasty and delicious experience. Thank you to these members of our "hospitality circle." If you would like to help out on a very occasional basis, let the office know. [rblanchette-gage@sinai-temple.org](mailto:rblanchette-gage@sinai-temple.org)

Members: Judy Aronson, Nancy Aronson, Salena Blake, Adele Citron, Joyce Fein, Shelly Fisher, Ellen Follett, Bonnie Gibson, Dianna Goldberg, Marlene Gordon, Janice Greenberg, Leslie Hager, Linda Kay, Steve Kessler, Zel Lavin, Liz Leshine, Debbie Levin, Jodie Maniscalco, Leslie Maple, Jackie Neiman, Robyn Newhouse, Belle Rita Novak, Ellen Rowles, Rachel Sampson, Helene Segool, Marsha Shapiro, Elaine Shusterman, Michael Solon, Bonnie Thomas, Carol Tivoli, Laurie Weinberg, Leslie Wetstone.

## Your Telephone May Ring This Month: The Sustaining Membership Program

If you are among those congregants who pay full dues in your category, your telephone may ring this month. Members of the Sustaining Membership Committee will be calling you to ask that you become a Sustaining Member of Sinai.

### What is a Sustaining Member?

A Sustaining Member is someone who chooses to offer Sinai an extra amount of fund beyond dues. During the current fiscal year, over 90 Sinai households became Sustaining Members and contributed over \$60,000 to our budget.

By doing this, the Sustaining Members helped reduce the need to raise the fees for Temple members who cannot afford full dues. By assuming a kind of "fair share," the Sustaining Members also allowed Sinai to continue to offer a full and varied menu of programs.

Thank you to those who have become Sustaining Members. Thank you now – in advance – to those of you who may choose to join the program for next year. The levels of involvement are below. Each level assumes a member paying his/her dues and then adding on to those dues the following amounts.

Leader .....	\$3,000
Pillar .....	\$2,500
Chai Friend .....	\$1,800
Friend .....	\$1,500
Benefactor .....	\$1,000
Chai Sponsor .....	\$720
Sponsor .....	\$500
Chai Supporter .....	\$360
Supporter .....	\$250

If you have questions or want to join the program, please call me at 567-2278.

Shalom,  
David Kalman,  
Sustaining Member Chair

## Casseroles?

Dear Friends – Every Fall Sinai Temple cooks dinner on several occasions for the soup kitchen called Loaves and Fishes. We have a standard casserole with a fixed recipe that is easy to make and freeze ahead of time. If you've got one hour to make one casserole next Fall, could you please let us know now? We can give you exact dates and the recipe when September arrives, but, meanwhile, it would be great to know that YOU can help. Thank you.

Bobi Steingart 567-6327  
[drblood50@comcast.net](mailto:drblood50@comcast.net)

# Donations

## **Make donations through Sinai ONLINE!!!**

[www.sinai-temple.org](http://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](http://www.sinai-temple.org) and make the donation to any one of our funds ONLINE.

## **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 February 10, 2012 — present:

- Our congregant Daniel Schaffer.
- Dorothy Beitord, Carol and Jacob Royal's cousin.
- Bobbie Cossin, Jeff Cossin's mother.
- Our congregant Elaine Zerwitz.
- Goldie Erhard, Karen Mendelsohn's mother.
- Peter Krasnor, son of Marion Krasnor.

## **Mazal Tov To:**

- Richard and Bonnie Brown on the birth of their grandson Jack. Jack is great grandson of Norma Levine. Jack's proud parents are Mr. and Mrs. Scott Brown.
- Fran and Jeff Ochs on becoming grandparents. Their granddaughter, Noa Kathryn, was born on Saturday, February 4. The new parents are Rebecca and Jason Rabenn.
- Paula and Peter Zimmer on the birth of their grandson, Joshua Lucas Zimmer. The proud parents are Eli and Sughey Zimmer.
- Ronnie Leavitt on the engagement of her son Alan Leavitt to Jenni Caglayan.
- Beth and Jerry Green on the birth of their granddaughter, Bailey Goldman Green who was born March 11, 2012. Her proud parents are Lee Green and Leslie Goldman.
- Paul and Mary Scheer on the birth of their grandson, Ryan David Zalusky born Friday, March 23, 2012. Ryan's parents are Beth and Mike Zalusky of New Jersey.
- Patti and Steven Silver on the birth of their grandson, Simon Raoul Menzel who was born on March 31. Simon's proud parents are Johanna and Adam Menzel.
- Rachel and Alan Sampson on the birth of their grandson William. His proud parents are James and Laura Sampson.
- Nathan Kantor on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

# Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



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

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Sheila Shear and 9th and 10th Graders visit Congressman Neal's Office as part of their trip to the Religion Action Center during the first week of March. Sheila is sitting at the desk. Standing immediately behind her, from left to right, are Rachel Sherman, Shaina Gootzit, Hannah Rembrandt, Lucy Leavitt, Casey Coen, Elizabeth Metsch and Maddie Neiman. Standing in the back row from left to right are Matt Bertuzzi, Liz Levson, Andrew Stone Hannah Gordon, Jacob Freedman, and Tal Sarig.