



# Sinai Temple Bulletin

*Take Back Your Time:  
Rediscover Shabbat*

October 2014  
Tishri / Cheshvan 5775

## For Your Consideration

*Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro*

Yom Kippur is coming, and this year it falls on a Saturday. That means our biggest day of the Jewish year takes place on Shabbat.

Seven (!) years ago when Yom Kippur and Shabbat also came together, I gave a sermon called "Next Friday Night." In my remarks I talked about what we all might be doing seven days later. I suggested that, as important as Shabbat Yom Kippur was, our involvement with the next just plain Shabbat (seven days later) might be even more significant.

A year later I returned to the theme of Shabbat for Yom Kippur. I asked you to imagine how much less frenzied our lives might be if we "pulled the plug" every seven days. I even distributed a booklet with no fewer than 52 creative ways to reframe the celebration of Shabbat. That sermon was called "Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat."

Perhaps you recall that a poster with these words stood in the Temple hallway for several months after Yom Kippur. That Fall we also developed space on our Temple website linked to Shabbat.

And what has happened since then?

The slogan (Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat) has remained on our bulletin masthead. A few years ago I included reflections on Shabbat in the bulletin.

And now comes Yom Kippur 2014 coinciding with Shabbat. To be honest, it's tempting to revisit Shabbat in a sermon this year. After all, Shabbat is the single most powerful focus for us if we want to enrich our lives as Jews. Shabbat comes around every seven days. 52 times a year we are given a chance to encounter candles, wine, Torah, spirit, and refreshment. It doesn't get better than this!

On the other hand, I think almost every one of us already knows that Shabbat makes sense in our lives. That means that my telling you about Shabbat once more will probably not make as much of a difference as I might wish.

So, let's make a deal. I propose to barely breath a word about Shabbat this Yom Kippur if you promise to check

out our website on Shabbat this month. Read. Consider. Try it out. [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)

Remember what the 19th century teacher Ahad Ha-am said, "More than the Jews have kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept the Jews."

And just for now, let me anticipate Friday/Saturday October 3/4 by wishing you....Shabbat Shalom. I really mean it.

## Shabbat in October

### Friday, October 3 at 8 p.m.

Kol Nidre – Yom Kippur begins

### Saturday, October 4 at 10 a.m.

Yom Kippur Day continues through to 6:30 p.m.

### Friday, October 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Our guests will be the choir of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Wilbraham. Come join the music.

### Saturday, October 11 at 10:30 a.m.

Pizza in the Hut preceded by a Forest Park hike. See page 3.

### Friday, October 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Shalom. A beautiful way to end an autumn week.

### Saturday, October 18 at 10:15 a.m.

Please join us for a 60-minute service in the OS Room.

### Friday, October 24 at 6 p.m.

We're Not Praying at Sinai!

We are joining with Temple Beth El for a service at Heritage Academy after which we will walk over to Bnai Torah for Shabbat Dinner. See page 6.

### Saturday, October 25 at 10:15 a.m.

Come to the OS Room for a very happy 60 minutes of worship and learning.

## From the Executive Committee...

The old saying goes, "It's what you learn after you know it all that counts". At Sinai, nowhere is this truer, than in our Confirmation class, the crowning jewel of our educational program. After the hard work of the B'nai Mitzvah, Confirmation is where individuals engage in Judaism, not just learn it. The Confirmation class has been so successful that this year, adults like me, who never had a Bar Mitzvah, can join a confirmation class for just for adults.

But how can we keep children engaged between the B'nai Mitzvah year and high school? This year, Sinai Temple is offering two exciting new post-B'nai Mitzvah opportunities. First, we will be starting a new Junior Youth Program for children in 7th and 8th grades. This will be a youth led group, separate from the high school aged SPFTY program. It will be guided by our youth advisor Matt Bertuzzi and will take part in activities throughout New England. Secondly, with so many graduates from our Junior Youth Choir program "Shir Fun", there has been a demand for an 8th-10th grade choir. This year Cantor Levson will initiate a Senior Youth Choir to meet on Tuesday nights.

But the best way to keep children engaged in Judaism is to start young. Tot Shabbat and Shalom Sunday are excellent opportunities for young children, parents and grandparents to share a Jewish experience and develop Jewish community. Personally, I like to go just because it's fun. I would like to thank Lindsey Weber, Alicia Snow, Laura Marx and Melanie Courtemanche and all the STUFF Families for allowing me and my family to play with your children twice a month.

If you would like to learn more about Sinai Temple's youth activities, check out the Temple web page or contact Matt Bertuzzi or Cantor Levson at the Temple Office. You are also welcome to share your ideas and feedback with the Committee on Youth Engagement. All committee meetings are open to everyone. The next meeting of the Committee on Youth Engagement will be Sunday morning, October 19, at 9:00 A.M. in the Kehillah Room.


*Buff Maniscalco, Recording Secretary*

The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published every other month by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 2 for 2014-2015.

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 Martin Levson .....Cantor  
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 Karen Mendelsohn.....Membership Committee Chair

Visit our website: [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)



Coming to the Sinai Temple stage in March!

**Auditions: December 7 & 10**

For more information, or to volunteer to help make this another successful production, contact Sheri Levson at [levsong@verizon.net](mailto:levsong@verizon.net) or 567-5789.

**Remember to drink fair trade coffee. It's just as good as any other coffee plus it's not just a cup of coffee. It's a just cup of coffee.**



# The Fall Holidays

## Kol Nidre

Friday, October 3 at 8 p.m.

## Yom Kippur Day

Saturday, October 4

Morning Service.....	10:00 a.m.
Musical Interlude .....	12:30 p.m.
Study Options .....	1:30 p.m.
Family Service.....	2:00 p.m.
Afternoon Service .....	3:00 p.m.
Yizkor Service.....	4:45 p.m.
Neilah/Closing Service .....	5:45 p.m.
Break Fast .....	6:15 p.m.

## Erev Sukkot

Wednesday, October 8 at 6 p.m.

Outdoors with Gourds and Corn Stalks  
Meet outdoors to decorate the sukkah followed by our Festival Service with lulav, etrog, and apples. Everyone goes home by 7:15 p.m.

## Sukkot Day

Thursday, October 9 at 10:30 a.m.

Lulav and etrog. Kiddush in the sukkah followed by holiday luncheon.

## Erev Simchat Torah

Wednesday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Conclude the reading of Torah. Start all over. March and dance with our Torah scrolls.

## Simchat Torah/Yizkor Service

Thursday, October 16 at 10:30 a.m.

Mark the conclusion and beginning of the Torah cycle and also conduct a memorial service. Luncheon for Seniors follows.

NOTE...SINAI IS PRINTING ONLY SIX BULLETINS THIS YEAR. COMING BULLETINS WILL BE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, JANUARY/FEBRUARY, MARCH/APRIL, MAY/JUNE. THIS IS A VERY STRONG REASON FOR OUR WANTING TO STAY IN TOUCH VIA E-MAIL. PLEASE SEND US YOUR E-MAIL.

## Bring Your Kids Back For Neilah

As the sky grows dark, we dim the lights and prepare for the closing of Yom Kippur's "Gates." It's a magical moment.

Bring your children and grandchildren for this concluding Neilah service and one final giant tekiah gedolah on the shofar.

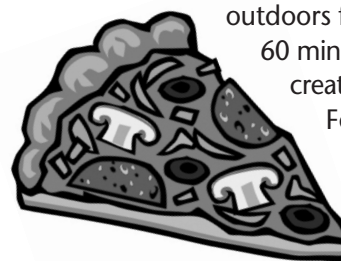
Neilah begins about 5:30 p.m. and concludes with the blast of the shofar and a brief Havdalah at 6:30 p.m.

Come with the kids at any time.

## Pizza in the Hut! Back to Nature: An Outdoor Shabbat

For Adults and Kids can come along too  
Saturday, October 11, 10:30 to Noon

During the middle of Sukkot, we will really celebrate the gifts of nature. The morning service will not take place indoors. The "service" will be a hike led by naturalist and educator, Juanita Martinez, along with the Rabbi and Cantor. Rain or shine. We will be



outdoors for approximately 60 minutes of exploration and creativity. Back to nature.

Followed by lunch in the sukkah. Otherwise known as Pizza in the Hut.

## The Caring Community of Sinai Temple cordially invites you to attend

### A Holiday Luncheon for Sinai Senior Members

Thursday, October 16 at Noon

(Following the Simchat Torah/  
Yizkor Morning Service)

Anticipating the arrival of Fiddler on the Roof at Sinai next March, Rabbi Shapiro will comment on the author behind the great musical – Sholom Aleichem.

The Rabbi will share some of the original stories on which the musical Fiddler is based.

**There is no charge for this wonderful event.**

**Please RSVP to the Temple Office at 736-3619**

## Notes about the HOLIDAYS

### **Boris Kogan and Sofya Shainskaya Yom Kippur Afternoon at 12:30 p.m.**

Don't leave the building too quickly after this year's Morning Service. Take a deep breath and settle back in a sanctuary seat to listen to the cello/piano duet of Boris Kogan and Sofya Shainskaya. Boris plays Kol Nidre for us. Here is an opportunity to hear him and his wife, Sofia, making beautiful music for about an hour on Yom Kippur. Thank you to Joan Rosenbaum for underwriting this musical event.

### **Prayers and Blessings for Your Home**

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur begin at home with family meals. Appropriate blessings for the holidays are on our website. [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)

### **Music for Your Home**

High Holiday melodies are on the website. [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)

### **Rabbi Shapiro's Sermons**

If you would like to read any of the Rabbi's High Holiday sermons, please visit our website. [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org) The link for the sermons is under "Rabbi." Sermons and other writings from previous years are all found under that link.

### **Babysitting for Children through Kindergarten**

Babysitting for small children ages two through Kindergarten (no infants) will be available during the 10 a.m. service on Yom Kippur. Please contact the Temple office to reserve a spot for your child...736-3619.

### **Child Programming for Grades One & Two**

An age appropriate program for children in Grades 1 and 2 will be available during the 10 a.m. service on Yom Kippur. Reserve a spot for your child...736-3619.

### **Children in Grades Three & Four**

On Yom Kippur morning, we will also offer a service/program designed for this intermediate age group.

### **For Young Families**

#### **Yom Kippur Afternoon at 2 p.m.**

If you have young children (7 years and younger down to infancy), we've got something for you in the Oneg Shabbat Room. A brief service for the Day of Atonement. PLUS if you've got the energy, bring your kids back (all ages) to the Neilah/Concluding Service. Be there around 6:15 p.m. We end Yom Kippur by inviting all children onto the bimah for a final blast of the shofar.

### **I have children in college...No longer at home**

### **Learning...changing...Asking great questions**

The Temple would like to stay in touch with our youngest alumni. They've grown up under our roof. They've begun to learn what being Jewish means. Now – in the crucial college years - we don't want to lose contact.

Students on the ALUMNI LIST will receive "care" packages and occasional messages from the Temple and the Rabbi. We want to reach out to students in their college years. Please send your child's snail mail college address to the office c/o [rblanchettegag@sinai-temple.org](mailto:rblanchettegag@sinai-temple.org)

### **JUDAICA SHOP CORNER**

For the fall we are featuring our very beautiful tallises, and many appropriate B'nai Mitzvah gifts such as yads, frames, books and more.

For upcoming engagements and weddings we offer unique kiddush cups, candle holders, havdallah sets, challah plates and knives, and truly a great deal more.

Heading into fall and cooler weather we start thinking about CHANUKAH! We'll be ready for that in early November!!!

Thais Fischel  
786-9577



### **Do you know someone who might enjoy being at Sinai Temple?**

Maybe they are looking for a welcoming and vibrant Jewish spiritual home. Maybe they don't know what they are seeking. Maybe they don't feel they are seeking at all. Maybe they would be surprised by what they would find.

**You, the members of Sinai Temple, are the best ambassadors for our congregation.**

Think of co-workers, students and teachers and colleagues, fellow yoga attendees, parents of kids' friends, people in their 20s and 30s, and more! There are many ways to connect at Sinai Temple.

**Sometimes all it takes is an invitation.**

Invite someone to consider connecting with Sinai Temple. Call the Temple and let us know if we can be of any support.

## Adult Opportunities

### Adult Confirmation: Developing Judaism for the Adult YOU

Adult Confirmation will be modeled on the Confirmation Class taught by Rabbi Shapiro.

In that setting the Rabbi explores the themes behind the "facts" of Judaism. What have Jews believed over the centuries about God, life's purposes, and prayer? What have Jews believed about texts from the Torah to the Mishnah, Talmud, and more? And how do modern Jews connect to it all? What can we "confirm" about our own Jewish identity?

*If those adult questions intrigue you, Adult Confirmation is for you.*

**Class Time** – Classes will meet from 8 to 9 a.m. Saturdays starting Saturday, October 18.

**Prerequisites** – Your curiosity.

**Age** - The ideal age is your age now. If you are 30, 50, or 70, Adult Confirmation is for you.

**Register** - Use the Temple website. [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)

### This Chanukah Give Yourself the Gift of Hebrew

#### For Beginners: A Ten Week Opportunity to Learn to Read Hebrew

#### Sunday mornings OR Thursday evenings

This is for you. Learn the difference between an ALEPH and a BET. Using a new primer for adults, we will move letter by letter so that, when Chanukah arrives in December, you will chant the blessings in Hebrew.

**Thursday evenings begins in October from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m.**

**October 9, 16, 23, 30; November 6, 13, 20; December 4, 11, 18**

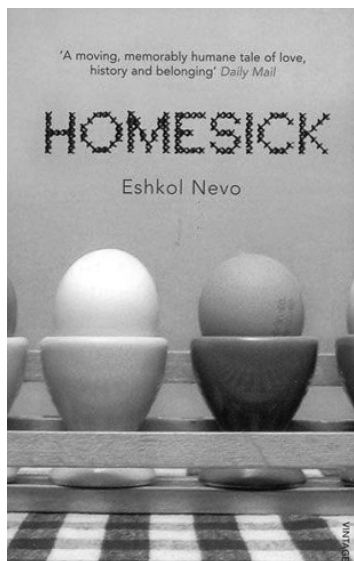
**Sunday mornings began in September from 9 to 10:15 a.m.**

**October 5, 19, 26; November 9, 16, 23; December 7, 14**

To register for the gift of Hebrew, send your check for \$25 to Sinai today. Include your name and phone number. There may NOT be room in the Sunday class by the time this bulletin arrives. Register using the Temple website. [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)

### The Book Club Continues Wednesday, October 22 at 7 p.m.

October's tentative selection is *Homesick* by Eshkol Nevo, a contemporary Israeli novel that presents intersecting and nuanced narratives of parallel lives and loves of people in conflict yet sharing the same geography. The Temple Library should have copies and copies should also be available through the public libraries.



### 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.

***"The average, healthy, well-adjusted adult gets up at 7:30 in the morning feeling just plain terrible."*** Jane Kerr, *Please Don't Eat the Daisies*

### But you can do it!

#### Monthly Morning Service Wednesday, October 1 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. The feeling of togetherness is wonderful. The spirit is unique. 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, November 5, December 3, January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3.



## **A Community Shabbat Dinner**

**A Shared Experience for the Jewish Community**

**Sinai Temple**

**Temple Beth El**

**Congregation Bnai Torah**

*Friday, October 24*

**At 6 p.m., Sinai and Beth El will worship together at Heritage Academy.**

*(At 6 p.m., there will also be a PJ Library program at Bnai Torah specially designed for our younger congregants.)*

**At 7:00 p.m., Shabbat dinner will begin with all three congregations together at Bnai Torah.**

Make your reservations now by mailing a check to Jewish Federation, 1160 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA 01108. \$20 per adult. \$10 per child 10 and under. \$60 max for a family.

## **You are cordially invited to A Social Hour**

with hors d'oeuvres, wine, and Havdalah

**Celebrating our New Members**

**Saturday, November 15**

**4:00 - 5:30 pm**

In the Temple's Oneg Shabbat Room

An activity for preschoolers will be available

Please RSVP through the Temple Office,

Robin: 413-736-3619, extension 100



**Shabbat Around the Table**

**Something Brand New**

**Everyone has a place at the table**

**Friday, November 7 at 6 p.m.**

Let's try something new and delicious and communal.

Almost like a Seder, Shabbat Around the Table will take place around tables in the auditorium. It will be a "service" where congregants see each other face to face. There will be prayers but, like a Seder, there will be conversation. Only one "requirement." Please bring your own candlesticks and a kiddush cup too. We will be creating Shabbat face to face in community on November 7.

## Summer 2015 – July 5 to 17 Sinai Goes to Israel

Summer 2014 has been tragic and dispiriting and challenging, but the planning for a Sinai trip to Israel began before the War in Gaza and the plans are still there.

A group representing more than 20 travelers met in June and chose the July 2015 itinerary presented by the Rabbi. Details (including pricing) will follow. The Rabbi will have more to say on Yom Kippur. All of us together probably have very strong feelings about this last summer. Stay tuned. The trip we hope to run will be for first timers (all adults and families with kids are welcome), although those who have already been to Israel are also welcome.

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## Let's Pray; Let's Welcome Shabbat: Sinai Opens Doors for Families of all Ages

*Sharing the warmth and beauty of Judaism  
Families feeling part of the Sinai community*

### Tot Shabbat- For families with children from Birth to Five

- At 6 p.m. on Friday nights during the year
- Twenty minutes of Shabbat songs & stories making a very "joyful noise" (and followed by dinner too)

### Kidz Kabbalat- For families with children in Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade

- At 6 p.m. on several scheduled Friday nights during the year
- First Kidz service is Friday, November 21
- We take a step up with Kidz Kabbalat. Music and stories continue as we introduce an age appropriate prayerbook. Snacks will precede each 40 minute service.

### Congregational Shabbat - An opportunity for families with children in Grades 3 through 6

- Bring yourselves and your older children to any congregational Shabbat service and get the feeling of Sinai's community in worship.

#### *Attendance requirements for families with children in Grades 3 through 6*

Grade 3 students\* ... 3 services per year  
Grade 4 students\* ... 4 services per year  
Grade 5 students\* ... 5 services per year  
Grade 6 students\* ... 6 services per year  
Grade 7 students\* ... 7 services per year

\* Children should be accompanied by an adult

## LEGACY WHAT WILL YOURS BE?

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

**There is an answer.**

With your help, Sinai Temple will endure as a powerful voice, sustaining those beliefs you hold dear. Now. And for future generations. To obtain more information about remembering Sinai Temple in your will or estate, please contact: Steve Sussman or Rabbi Shapiro

## Where are you? May we talk?

There are still some Sinai households "out of the loop." We can't communicate electronically. It's not efficient and it's not green. So...Please...Share the wealth. One communication a week. It will be short and sweet and attractive too! **Send us your e-mail right away.** Best possible scenario: If there is more than one adult in your home, send us both e-mails. We really mean it and we really want it. **Please e-mail your e-mail to Robin Blanchette-Gage, the Rabbi's assistant, at [rblanchettegage@sinai-temple.org](mailto:rblanchettegage@sinai-temple.org)**

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## Cooking for the Homeless: We Could Use Your Help

Every year Sinai Temple volunteers cook a few meals for the LOAVES AND FISHES Soup Kitchen held at Court Square. The menu is simple and preset. It's a casserole. If you would be willing to prepare a casserole (recipe is provided) once this Fall, please let Bobi Steingart know. The dates for which we are cooking are December 3 and 22 and January 7. But the cooking can be done at your convenience and the casserole can be frozen weez.

To volunteer for LOAVES AND FISHES, call Bob at 413-896-9281 OR e-mail at [drblood50@comcast.net](mailto:drblood50@comcast.net). You can also call Robin in the office at 736-3619.

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## Thank you to:

The family of the late Howard Grayboff. Howard was a past president of Sinai who loved the congregation and the Sinai building itself. When Howard passed away, the family created a "Fix-it Fund" in his memory. The Fund has helped with many maintenance projects over the years. This Fall the Fund is helping with the reconstruction and repair of our chimney.

## Message from Jack Henrie

*Co-President, Men of Sinai*

We had our traditional beginning of the Religious School year BBQ on September 7th. I want to thank all the people who helped with it in any way. When I arrived at the BBQ, I was unsure how we would handle drinks. Many thanks to Christine and Adam Mirot, parents of Ranen (mazel tov to all), who left the balance of their cake (great dessert to go with our watermelons), and many bottles of soda. Many people pitched in, some in inordinate ways – Buff and Jodi for so much, not least of which was getting the 33# of ground beef into right-sized patties, to Paul and Nelson for manning the grills, Richard and Robert, Buff and Jodi as servers, Donna and Angel for all their support, and countless others who helped as well.

On September 14th, we had our first Sunday breakfast of the year, and it featured Hilary Price as our speaker. Hilary is known for her award-winning comic strip Rhymes With Orange, and is the youngest woman ever to have a syndicated comic strip...now featured internationally in 400 papers. A great time was had by all; hope that you will join us for future breakfasts, the next of which will be October 26th at 9:30. We are working on speakers, but have an idea (thanks, Robert Chasen!) for what could be a very exciting breakfast panel.

Our speaker for our breakfast on December 7th will be Sy Shotland speaking, on the Day of Infamy, on WWII and CT Veterans. Our own Joe Berger will speak on his travels from the perspective of the photographer, cook, and scientific professor that he is, on February 1st. We hope to get Jeff Blumenfeld, author of *You Want to Go Where?: How to Get Someone to Pay for the Trip of Your Dreams*, to speak on April 12th. Jeff has traveled to some of the most remote places on Earth and has organized unique and incredible global events. Please let me know if you know of someone of interest who would be willing to speak.

MOS will be providing support for the Hanukah dinner and later for Purim and for the Snyder Award Dinner in April. We have several other events, all to be announced and including nights with the Rabbi and the Cantor, this year, and will conclude with the end of the Religious School year BBQ.

I want to thank all of you who have already joined MOS this year and all those who have pitched in to help us in any way. If you have not yet joined, we would love to have you, both men and women of Sinai. Look for dues cards to be sent soon (\$50 for individuals or couples brings you free breakfasts). We are looking forward to continuing an eventful year for MOS (more inclusive name coming soon) and supporting our Sinai community!!

Jack Henrie  
*President, [Evolving] MOS*

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## Message from Heather Sullivan

*Director of Education*

It's hard to believe but we're right back in the swing of things here at the religious school. Thanks to the Men of Sinai for a wonderful first day of school barbeque.

We have some exciting events planned for this year and I thought this would be the perfect opportunity to highlight just a few of the events that our Sinai community can partake in.

Join us on December 19 for the Family Chanukah Shabbat celebration. Service by candlelight (chanukiah light to be exact) at 6:00, followed by dinner.

If you know a boy who has an interest in space, then be sure to join us on February 12. Boys and their adult grown up are invited for a night of "Israel In Space," beginning at 6:00 p.m.

At the beginning of February, our 7th grade students will be creating beautiful artwork at Painting with a Twist, in East Longmeadow. Their work will be on display at our Shabbat

service on February 27. We hope you can join us for this night of art, featuring their artwork and Shir Fun on the bima

Hope to see you soon!

L'Shalom,

Heather

### **PACT on November 2, 9:00-11:30**

Something for our Parents and Children Together during Religious School on Sunday, November 2.

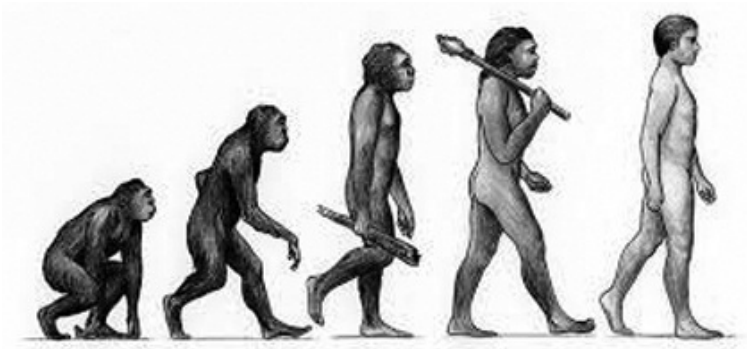
Please join us as we explore the curriculum used in our Kindergarten through seventh grade classrooms.

We will take a look at subject matter, as well as focusing on the idea that the world is sustained by three things.

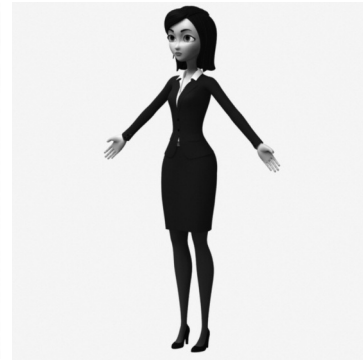
It will be a nice morning to share in together, as a school community. We look forward to seeing you there.



## The Evolution of Man



## What took you so long?



*"It is not the strongest or the most intelligent who will survive but those who can best manage change." Charles Darwin*

### **"Men" of Sinai is Going Co-Ed**

For years, you have known us as the men in the kitchen. Perhaps you have attended our monthly speaker's breakfast or join us for our biannual BBQ's. We also sponsor the annual Rabbi Snyder Awards Banquet honoring a distinguished Temple member and organize Purim and Chanukah dinners.

What makes these exclusively "Men" events? **NOTHING!**

So we are opening our membership and leadership to everyone.

We are a service group with a mission "To serve and promote Sinai Temple and Reform Judaism in Springfield". Our finances are strong and with 80 current members our membership is already 25% of the congregation.

If you are looking for opportunities to enhance your connection to Judaism and the Jewish Community of Springfield, join us. We meet the first Tuesday of each month.

- **October 7th @ 7:00 PM in the Sinai Temple Library**
- **November 4th @ 7:00 PM in the Sinai Temple Library**
- **December 2nd @ 7:00 PM in the Sinai Temple Library**

We had an outstanding speaker at our breakfast on September 14th, the award-winning writer and drawer of **Rhymes With Orange, Hilary Price**. She is having an Open Studio Event on November 8th 10-5 and 9th 10-3 at 221 Pine St, Florence, MA. Our next community breakfast will be held on Sunday, October 26th at 9:30 AM. Please check the e-Vents for speaker(s) to be announced...we hope to continue to excite!

For more information contact me at [ergo.llc@cox.net](mailto:ergo.llc@cox.net) or Buff Maniscalco at [jodiman@comcast.net](mailto:jodiman@comcast.net). Yes a name change will be coming soon.

Sincerely

Jack Henrie

*President, Men of Sinai*

## Notes from the Cantor

I would like to thank the dedicated members of the 5775 Sinai Temple High Holiday Adult Volunteer Choir: Marilyn Amster, Judy Aronson, Margaret Cohn, Bonnie Gibson, Cheri Haimowitz, Jack Henrie, Lisa Kessler, Steve Kessler, Margie Klein, Sheri Levson, Bonnie Mikesh, Robyn Newhouse (as always, our tireless rehearsal accompanist!), Ed Radding, and Ann Rosenfield. My thanks also go to the many other singers, musicians, and Torah readers who participated during the High Holidays. Your efforts and dedication helped to enrich our worship services in so many ways!

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for Friday, November 14, as we honor our wonderful accompanist, John Gerry-Karajanes, for his many years of dedicated service! Don't worry... this is NOT a retirement service! God willing, John will be with us here at Sinai Temple for

many more years to come! But on this special Friday evening we will say a much deserved "Thank You!" and "Yasher Koach!" (loose translation: "Way to Go!") to our kind and talented friend, John.

Finally, Sheri and I would like to express our thanks to the many members of Sinai Temple who have helped out during the past two months as Sheri has been recovering from her knee replacement. It is during challenging times in life that the importance of being a part of a caring community like Sinai Temple is made clear. Thank you for your care and concern, the calls and cards, the occasional schlepping to an appointment, and for the delicious meals! All of your help was greatly appreciated!

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

## A Great Start for STUFF

Our first Tot Shabbat of the season was filled with friends and lively music! Rabbi shared the PJ Library book 'The Shema in the Mezuzah' and told a story to illustrate why we hang our mezuzot at an angle. The children were standing up and lying down (and getting silly) to demonstrate! We talked about Rosh Hashanah, and Cantor Bim Bom blew the shofar. The children were captivated by its sounds. They are excited to hear more at the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur children's services! We concluded our Tot Shabbat with a pizza dinner and social time with friends.

Tot Shabbat and all STUFF programs are designed for families with children under 5 years old. Grandparents and older siblings are welcome too. Our programs are created by parents of young children to be lively, engaging, and fun. We hope you will join us at an upcoming STUFF event to learn more! Please contact Melanie at [mnk17@gmail.com](mailto:mnk17@gmail.com) for more information.

## Free Jewish Books for Your Child or Grandchild

Reading stories and listening to music with you child are among the most powerful and nurturing early childhood learning experiences. PJ Library transforms these moments into Jewish moments.

On a monthly basis, PJ Library gifts FREE high-quality, age-appropriate Jewish themed books and musical selections to families with children ages 6 months - age 8. Sign up today, [www.pjlibrary.org](http://www.pjlibrary.org) to start building your own treasury of Jewish children's books and music.

PJ Library is run locally by the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts and made possible to our community through the generosity of the Herold Grindspoon Foundation and local donors.

Contact Jillian Danishevsky, PJ Library Coordinator with questions or to learn more: [jdanishevsky@jewishwesternmass](mailto:jdanishevsky@jewishwesternmass) or 413-737-4313.

## Try a Synagogue Offers Temple Membership \$365 a Year: A Dollar a Day

As an incentive to grow our membership, Sinai is joining with Temple Beth El and Congregation B'nai Torah for a unique offer. For those who have not belonged to a synagogue in any of the last three years.

Join a synagogue this year for \$365.  
Share the news with a friend. Bring a friend.  
**Help grow Sinai.**

# **Let's Have a Conversation: Let's Build our Community: A 5775 Theme for Sinai Temple**

During this past year, Sinai spent much time saying to the congregation, "Let's give." The congregation was asked to "give" to help respond to a financial shortfall.

We are fortunate that the congregation responded positively to this fundraising. Enough funds have been pledged so that Sinai now has time to shape its future creatively and positively. To put us on the road towards building that future, a Long Range Planning Committee began meeting in September.

While that committee does its work, the life of the Temple will continue to develop. In particular, an ad hoc committee of the Board of Trustees meeting this past year recommended to the Board and the Executive that the activities of our coming year take place around a theme. Based on reading the book RELATIONAL JUDAISM by Ron Wolfson, this year's theme would be instead of saying, "Let's give," we ought to focus on Let's Have a Conversation: Let's Build our Community.

We want to "talk" because the success of our fundraising campaign indicates that many congregants care deeply about the Temple. However we aren't quite sure what that "caring" means. We aren't quite sure what the Temple means to congregants or what congregants want from the Temple.

We also want to talk because, in this very busy world, the Temple can be a place where we create an oasis for conversation that matters.

**To that end, the Board of Trustees voted at its August meeting that our Temple "theme" for the year 5775 ought to be conversation and community. We will:**

- Shape Shabbat services to include conversation and community.
- Focus on the winter months (when there are no Bnai Mitzvah) for Shabbat experiences that create conversation and community
- Program a few purely social, fun activities at the Temple.
- Renew the Chavurot program
- Highlight the Caring Community Committee
- Continue to focus on Baby Boomers
- The Rabbi and Cantor will do outreach to members 80+ years of age
- Organize several focus groups for conversation and community:
  - o For STUFF parents & parents of Religious School grades Kg to 7 or 10
  - o Plus two or three open focus groups



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## Warm the Winter: For You and Others!

Join the Religious School Raffle to keep our community warm. Ticket purchases fund two great programs: The Religious School Scholarship Fund and the Valley Opportunity Council Fuel Assistance Program. Grand prize is a beautiful queen size quilt. Other prizes of "warmth" include everything from warm fuzzy blankets to Ghiradelli hot chocolate. Tickets purchased on Sunday mornings during School OR through the main office.



**Ticket prices are 2 for \$5 or 5 for \$10.**  
For more information, email Sheri at [sdelgallo@live.com](mailto:sdelgallo@live.com).

*Religious School Tzedakah collected during the raffle will also be donated to the fuel assistance program.*