



Sinai Temple Bulletin

*Take Back Your Time:
Rediscover Shabbat*

September 2014
Elul 5774/Tishri 5775

For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

A few weeks ago I was uploading photos from my cell phone when I realized something about myself. Apparently, I like to take pictures of flowers. When I looked over photos from the last several years, I saw images of flowers I had captured in just about every place I've been from New Mexico to Oregon, Israel, California, Quebec, and more.

It got me thinking: What is it about flowers that draws me in everywhere I go?

At the simplest level, flowers are beautiful. Why not carry home images with such color, symmetry, design, and variety?

The striking beauty of flowers lifts my spirits. When I use them as a screensaver, those roses, tulips, and daffodils always bring a little smile to my face.

And that's not so bad. As a friend of mine commented recently, "The world is on fire." From Syria to Iraq, Ukraine, and Sierra Leone, pain seems to be growing around the globe. And my heart has to break as I consider the full, painful reality of the conflict between Israel and what has happened in Gaza.

No wonder flowers have an appeal. No wonder the High Holidays which approach also have their never-ending appeal. I know the holidays call us to consider our shortcomings. Yom Kippur is a far cry from Thanksgiving. Introspection is not meant to be fun. "Holy Days" more than "Holidays" probably suggests the full gravity of the season that lies ahead of us.

And yet, there is something joyous and uplifting about the Tishri season. As much as we have to worry about and to regret, there is something hopeful about our gathering. White flowers on the bimah will remind us that we can all make new beginnings. White flowers – all flowers – suggest that beauty can be real. We can make our lives and our city and our world sources of goodness and holiness.

That's how I understand where we are going in the coming weeks. Find a flower. Search for beauty. Make some beauty. Let that be your task in the New Year. Shana Tova. May this year be worthy of the very best our hearts and souls can imagine.

Friday Evenings

September 5 at 6 p.m.

We're Not Praying at Sinai!

Please join Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Levson at Temple Beth El to launch the month of September. We will pray together with the members of Beth El. A combined service followed by refreshments.

September 12 at 6 p.m.

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

September 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Getting ready for the New Year. Shabbat shalom.

September 19 at 7:30 p.m.

"Back from Camp." Celebrating Shabbat as we honor youngsters who attended Jewish summer camp this past summer.

September 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Shuva. The Sabbath in between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. A beautiful introspective service.

Saturday Mornings

Torah Study at 9 a.m.

Weekly Shabbat Service at 10:15 a.m.
(Bar/Bat Mitzvah Services at 10:30 a.m.)

Mazal Tov to B'nai Mitzvah

September 6 – *Ranen Mirot, son of Adam and Chris Mirot*
September 13 – *Nathan Krevolin, son of Adam Krevolin and Robin Fein-Krevolin*

**To everything there is a season:
Celebrating the Music and Life
of Pete Seeger**

Saturday, September 20

8 to 9:30 p.m.

(Our annual pre-High Holiday Coffeehouse & Selichot Service)

This past year America and the world lost a great voice for justice. Pete Seeger gave us such songs as *Turn, Turn Turn*, *Where Have all the Flowers Gone*, and *If I Had a Hammer*. During the coffeehouse, we will weave Seeger's music and life story into our own preparations for the New Year. The evening will include conversation, Selichot, coffee, and refreshments.

Message from Jeff Cossin

Temple President

Karen and I attended several summer Shabbat evening services and were thrilled with the sense of close community feelings with our fellow congregants. In addition, we tried to make several guests feel welcome at Sinai. In turn, they commented on how they felt very welcome and wanted to come back in the future.

Sinai is our home and we wanted everyone to feel like it was their home. There is nothing more important than welcoming the stranger in our midst as the Torah states, "for we were strangers in the land of Egypt". One of our Board's major goals for the Temple for 5775 is to create the opportunity for all of our congregants to explore their spiritual journey and discover how Sinai can play a role in that journey. We believe that creating a thriving community is the key to our future success. You will hear more about this in the very near future. In the meantime please say hello to someone you don't know as soon as you enter the door of Sinai Temple. It is a true Mitzvah.

You will notice that we have changed the landscaping face of Sinai Temple both in the front and near the back entrance. Carol Tivoli spent many hours evaluating several landscapers and their designs and I want to thank her for her love and dedication to our community. The Merrill Family has honored us with a donation to make this possible in honor of their parents Eddie and Shirley. A donation from Bobbie Cossin's estate (my mother !) completed the project. I also want to thank Lee Grayboff and her family for making possible the rebuilding of the chimney in back of the Temple through the "Grayboff Fix It Fund". Howard Grayboff loved Sinai Temple and definitely would have approved this project.

The Executive Committee is in the process of reevaluating the roles of the officers so that each one can take on more responsibility for the running of the Temple. You will note in the next Bulletins that my fellow officers will be writing some of the articles that have traditionally been the role of the President only. We will be renaming the column "From the Executive Committee." I am excited by our new Board members and all of us will be focused on the importance of community.

Our Long Range Planning committee chaired by immediate Past President Mark Stone will be starting its deliberations in early September. Our Celebrate Today Create Tomorrow Campaign has given us the opportunity to explore the future direction of Sinai Temple. We have promised all of our donors

Continued on page 5

High Holidays 2014-5775

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Celebrating the Music and Life
of Pete Seeger**

**Saturday, September 20, 8 to 9:30 p.m.
(Our annual pre-High Holiday Coffeehouse &
Selichot Service)**

This past year America and the world lost a great voice for justice. Pete Seeger gave us such songs as *Turn, Turn Turn, Where Have all the Flowers Gone,* and *If I Had a Hammer.* He was also a tireless advocate for progressive causes. Seeger brought folk music to a wide American and international audience. During the coffeehouse, we will weave Seeger's music and life story into our own preparations for the New Year. The evening will include conversation, Selichot, coffee, and refreshments.

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 24

Evening Service at 8:00 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah Day

Thursday, September 25

Children's Service8:30-9:15 a.m.

(For families with children infant to 7 yrs.)

Congregational Service10-12:15 p.m.

(Childcare & program 10-12:15 p.m.)

Tashlich4:30 p.m.

Cemetery Memorial Service

Sunday, September 28 at 1:00 p.m.

At the Sinai Temple Cemetery

Kol Nidre

Friday, October 3 at 8 p.m.

Yom Kippur Day

Saturday, October 4

Morning Service10:00 a.m.

Musical Interlude12:30 p.m.

Study Options1:30 p.m.

Family Service.....2:00 p.m.

Afternoon Service3:00 p.m.

Yizkor Service4:45 p.m.

Neilah/Closing Service.....5:45 p.m.

Break Fast6:15 p.m.

The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published every other month by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 1 for 2014-2015.

Mark Dov Shapiro.....Rabbi
Martin Levson.....Cantor
Heather Sullivan.....Director of Education
Jeff Cossin.....President
Bruce Leshine.....First Vice President
Steve Kessler.....Vice President
Laurie Weinberg.....Vice President

Alan Goldsmith.....Treasurer
Susanne Simon.....Financial Secretary
Buff Maniscalco.....Recording Secretary
Phil Lesser & Jack Henrie.....Co-Presidents, Men of Sinai
Ron Weiss.....Cemetery Chair
Karen Mendelsohn.....Membership Committee Chair
Matt Bertuzzi.....Youth Director

Visit our website: www.sinai-temple.org

Sinai Temple High Holiday 2014 Ticket Policy

Ticket Requirements

- Tickets will be required for admission to each service.
- Tickets will be checked at the Temple entrance.
- Each member of the family should have his/her own ticket.

Tickets will be mailed automatically if any of the following are satisfied:

- A minimum of 2/3 of this year's dues, plus any past due amounts, have been paid.
- A payment schedule has been arranged with the treasurer or financial secretary.
- Arrangements have been made for credit card payments.

Childcare

- Please see page four.

30 and Under membership category

- In order to open the Temple as much as possible to young Jews, we gladly welcome members who are 30 years of age or under.
- Individuals 30 or under may become members at no cost.

Out of Town Guest policy

- Members of other congregations affiliated with the URJ should ask for a seating request from their home temple for seating at Sinai Temple.
- Members may request complimentary tickets for out of town guests by completing a request form obtained from the Temple office. Guest's home addresses must be supplied.
- Households new to the Western Mass/ Northern Connecticut area, not affiliated with a synagogue, may receive complimentary High Holiday tickets once upon request.

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.

Attending Services on the Telephone

Do you know someone who misses out on High Holiday Services because they are physically unable to attend? This year it will be possible to hear live Sinai Temple services by telephone from home or even from a hospital room. Sinai's Caring Community and TRZ Religious Services will be making this wonderful opportunity available.

This service is free of charge to members and will not be limited to the High Holidays. It can also be used to listen in on any service (i.e. Bar/Bat Mitzvah, wedding or funeral) that Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Levson lead from the bimah.



This High Holy Day Season, stand up for Israel. Invest in Israel Bonds.



Development Corporation for Israel
State of Israel Bonds
924 Farmington Avenue
Suite 205
West Hartford, CT 06107
860-236-4523 · 800-916-1918
www.israelbonds.com

This is not an offering, which can be made only by prospectus. Read the prospectus carefully before investing to fully evaluate the risks associated with investing in State of Israel bonds. Issues subject to availability. Photos: ©stockphoto.com

Notes about the HOLIDAYS

Prayers and Blessings for Your Home

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur begin at home with family meals. Your meal can become more than a pleasant dinner by making into a sacred occasion with the appropriate blessings for the holidays. Our website has everything you need in English, Hebrew, and transliteration. www.sinai-temple.org

Music for Your Home

High Holiday melodies that appear in our services are now available on the website. Listen and learn! www.sinai-temple.org

For Young Families

Rosh Hashanah Morning at 8:30 a.m.

If you have children 7 years and younger down to infancy, we've got something special for you in the Magen David Room. Come join the Rabbi and Cantor for a service designed to meet your young family's needs. We'll be sitting in a circle of chairs. Apples and honey will close the service around 9:15 a.m.

ONE Rosh Hashanah Morning Service

10:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

As was the case last year, there will be ONE morning service starting like Yom Kippur at 10 a.m. and ending at lunch time (!) around 12:15 p.m.

Babysitting for Children through Kindergarten

Babysitting for small children ages two through Kindergarten (no infants) will be available during the 10 a.m. services on Rosh Hashanah morning and Yom Kippur morning. We would also like to offer babysitting for infants IF there is real interest. Please contact the Temple office to reserve a spot for your child...736-3619. We will hire babysitters based on prior reservations.

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. services on Rosh Hashanah morning and Yom Kippur morning. Please contact the Temple office to reserve a spot for your child...736-3619.

Children in Grades Three & Four

On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur mornings, we will also be offering a service/program designed for this intermediate age group. Too old for a children's program; often too young for the full adult service. More information will follow.

Children in Grades Five & Six (PLEASE NOTE)

We will NOT be offering a service/program for this age group. Experience from previous years and conversations with parents indicate that most parents believe their 5th/6th grader can attend the adult services.

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. Noise is welcome. We'll end the whole day by inviting all children present onto the bimah for a final blast of the shofar.

Allergy-sufferers Request

Please refrain from excessive use of perfumes and colognes when attending services and events at Temple especially on the High Holidays. Those with allergies can be adversely affected and become uncomfortable when exposed to strong scents.

When purchasing bimah flowers for special occasions please be considerate of allergy-sufferers and order only non-scented arrangements.

Visiting the Sinai Temple Cemetery

It is traditional to visit the cemetery during the High Holiday period. Temple members with loved ones buried at Sinai's cemetery are welcome to visit the cemetery for a service conducted by the Rabbi and Cantor on Sunday, September 28. **THIS YEAR'S SERVICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT 1:00 p.m.**

**Tashlich – For Everyone –
An Outdoor
Rosh Hashanah Celebration!**
With kids...without kids...with grandchildren!
September 25 at 4:30 p.m.



Tashlich is a totally festive, happy opportunity. Based on the custom of "casting our sins" away, we gather at Laurel Pond in Longmeadow for 30 informal minutes. It's Rosh Hashanah in jeans and with a large smile. We sing. Share original prayers and poems. Taste challah dipped in honey. Tashlich is an active, joyful way of celebrating Rosh Hashanah outdoors. Come taste what's in store for you Rosh Hashanah afternoon, Thursday, September 25 at 4:30 p.m.

Something "New" for the New Year Erev Rosh Hashanah – Without a Prayerbook! (And for non-members a FREE ticket)

What if we could show ourselves to those many Jews who don't belong to synagogues? Many unaffiliated Jews are interested in the High Holidays. What if we opened up one of our holiday services to the unaffiliated?

That's what we're doing for Erev Rosh Hashanah this year. Although members (as always) will need their tickets, non-members who call ahead will receive a **FREE ticket for this one OPEN service.**

A special committee has been planning publicity. Rabbi and Cantor are developing a service that will not use a prayerbook. **The entire service will be a visual experience up on a screen on the bimah.**

Do you know anyone (young or old) who might enjoy Sinai for the New Year? Have them contact the Temple office TODAY. Or, if you wish, you contact the office, share the name(s), and we will contact them to receive "free" tickets for Erev Rosh Hashanah 2014.

Blowing the Shofar

Would you like to blow the shofar at the conclusion of Yom Kippur services? Speak to Cantor Levson. You can learn to blow shofar in three sessions. Sundays, September 14, 21, and 28 at 11:30 a.m. Act fast and get your lungs ready

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.

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**

SUKKOT & SIMCHAT TORAH 5775

EREV SUKKOT

**Wednesday, October 8 at 6 p.m.
Outdoors with Gourds and Corn Stalks**

For parents and students Kindergarten through Grade 7. We'll 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 to follow.

Continued from page 2

and our community in general that this process will occur and that we will update you at frequent intervals.

Please let me know if you want to be more involved at any level in creating our Sinai Temple Community. This is YOUR temple and YOUR home. Don't be a guest here. Be a family member! Karen and I and our children Elizabeth (Jonathan), Talia (Gerardo), Zev (Ana), and Sumner wish you a healthy happy and sweet New Year. L'shana Tova.

Jeff Cossin, President

Welcome to New Members:

- Linda and Richard Goldrick.
- Susan Shuman.
- Sheri Cartun and Jeffrey Cartun and their daughters Avery and Maya.
- Laura Jackson and Darrell Oliveira and their children Sebastian, Aaron and Naomi.
- Marisol and Allan Robinson.
- Samantha and Shawn Schragger and their children Camryn and Delaney.

Adult Opportunities

Got Hammers? Got Guts? Sunday, September 7 at 9:00 a.m. The Great Sukkah-Building Demo! You CAN build a Sukkah! And we'll show you how!

*(At the beginning of the opening session
of Religious School)*

Building a Sukkah is a fun Jewish activity for the entire family!
The materials don't cost very much!
You don't need to have great skill with power tools!
PLUS Men of Sinai will do it for you this year if you wish.
Come see how easy it is on September 7. You can do it yourself OR order from Men of Sinai. See the ad entitled SUKKAH SALE on Page 8.

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.
Questions – Consult the brochure enclosed with this Bulletin for full details.

Israel, Gaza, and the Palestinians: How Did We Get into This Mess?

**A Special Kind of Torah Study – Two Saturday mornings
September 6 and 13 from 9 to 10 a.m.**

Rabbi Shapiro will lead these background information sessions as we delve into the history of Zionism, modern Israel, and the emergence of the Palestinian people. Have you read Israel's Declaration of Independence? Have you read the Charter of Hamas? Have you taken a good look at maps of the Israel/Palestine? What can they tell us about the future?

Beyond Borders: The History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict

18 Monday Evenings

Taught by Dalia Davis at the JCC

For a full-length exploration of the Middle East and Zionism, try this course. The Temple bulletin contains a flyer describing this course taught under the auspices of The Florence Melton School. (Other Melton offerings are also described on the flyers inside this bulletin.)

The Book Club Returns

Wednesday, September 17 at 7 p.m.

If you like to read books with Jewish content...please consider attending Sinai's monthly book conversations. No obligation. Come once. Try it out.

The group will gather on Wednesday September 17 to discuss "The UnAmericans", a collection of short stories by Molly Antopol, a National Book Foundation Five Under 35 author. Antopol's stories cover a range of contemporary Jewish experience and each is thought provoking. The Temple Library has two copies and copies should also be available at Storrs Library. Ideas for next books are always welcome.

Torah Study Returns: Bagels & Brains

Saturdays in September (and all year round) at 9 a.m.

No guarantee on the brains, but the bagels are excellent and the conversation is open-ended and participatory. If you want to touch base with Judaism's basics, Torah Study is for you. Newcomers welcome. No prior knowledge necessary. *(This season's Torah Study begins with two sessions on Israel. We then continue with the Torah Portion of the week.)*

Monthly Morning Service

Starting Wednesday, September 3 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, October 1, November 5, December 3, January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3. *The Morning Minyan is underwritten through our Endowment Fund by a gift from the Family of Richard Lavin.*

This Chanukah Give Yourself the Gift of Hebrew

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

Sunday mornings OR Thursday evenings

It's been a few years since we offered the opportunity for beginners to learn the difference between an ALEPH and a BET. But this Fall is your chance. 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. You'll love it; you can do it.

Choose either Sunday OR Thursday...

Sundays mornings from 9 to 10:15 a.m.

September 21, 28; October 5, 19, 26; November 9, 16, 23; December 7, 14

Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m.

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

To register for the gift of Hebrew, send your check for \$25 to Sinai today. Include your name and phone number. OR Register using the Temple website. www.sinai-temple.org

Saturday Morning Services

Every Saturday morning (Starting September 6)

A regular weekly Shabbat morning service. When there isn't a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, we meet at 10:15 a.m. in the Oneg Shabbat Room for the service complete with the Yahrzeit list. Bar/Bat Mitzvah morning services begin at 10:30 a.m.

And Even Though It's Hard to Imagine...Summer 2015 (July 5 to 17) Sinai Goes to Israel

Summer 2014 has been tragic and dispiriting. It's hard to imagine next summer in Israel, 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. Over the High Holidays, the Rabbi will have more to say. 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.

One Hundred Years of Jewish Life: From the Shtetl to the Suburb

Tuesday, September 30 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Springfield JCC

An encore display of the 12 photographic panels from the Springfield Museum's recent exhibit will come to the JCC, and through a presentation by our guest curator, visitors will take an in-depth look at the struggles and triumphs of Jewish immigrants and their descendants in Springfield during the late 19th and early 20th century. Attendees will learn how this project was developed with participation from the greater Jewish community. Don't be surprised if you recognize places and people in this mesmerizing pictorial journey.

Speaker: Dr. Stuart Anfang, guest curator, is a past president of Temple Beth El. He is Medical Director of Adult Outpatient Psychiatry at Baystate and an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Tufts University.

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

Reservations will be made through the Jewish Federation, 1160 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA 01108. Stay tuned for details.

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.

Message from Jack Henrie

Co-President, Men of Sinai

Last year was another excellent one for the Men of Sinai as we had six breakfasts, two barbeques, Hockey and Havdalah, honored Linda Kay and Steve Weiss with the Rabbi Herman E. Snyder Award, and provided menus and support for Hanukkah, Purim, and the Snyder Award dinner. We also discussed changing our name and membership to be more reflective of the inclusiveness of our events at which women of Sinai are always welcome.

We will not rest on our laurels this year. We expect to help in Sinai's fundraising activities, to provide the Snyder Award and dinner, Shabbat Chanukah and Purim dinner support, and we have five scheduled breakfasts, two barbeques, and a number of events to be announced. Our first event will be our annual barbeque in conjunction with the start of Religious School on Sunday, September 7th. Our second will be the following Sunday, the 14th. Our first speaker is Rick Stromoski, a Suffield resident who writes and draws the nationally syndicated comic strip Soup to Nutz. It is sure to be a humorous beginning to our year of Sunday breakfasts and we hope that all of you, yes, men and women of Sinai and other members of the community will join us.

Many thanks to all of you who have participated in the Men of Sinai! Please join with us this year and grow our MOS community in support of Sinai!

Sinai Sukkah Sale



The Second Annual - Sinai Sukkah Sale 2014

For a **\$100** donation to Sinai Temple,
SPFTY and Men of Sinai will build a sukkah frame at
your house, suitable for decoration.

Sukkahs will be delivered and assembled on Sunday Oct 5th,
"**Super Sukkah Sunday**"

Place your order before Monday Sept 29th. Contact temple
office or Buff Maniscalco at jodiman@comcast.net for
orders or more information.

Message from Heather Sullivan

Director of Education

Hello!

My son recently returned from Jewish overnight camp, after being gone for a month. He walked through our front door, after my husband picked him up, into a barrage of hugs and overwhelming love from his siblings. This was so nice to see and hear, in contrast to the usual bickering which I knew would return to my home in most likely less than 24 hours. (It did.)

I sat down with my son and we talked in depth about his time at camp, his friends, his counselors, the food... I felt his deep sadness as he spoke about these beloved individuals that were his family for the past 4 weeks. I felt myself getting choked up as I listened to his stories and watching him try to fight back his tears. He was heartbroken to be home and I was heartbroken to witness it.

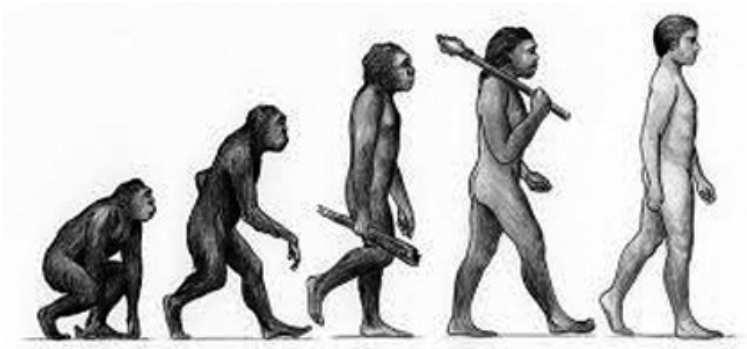
Anyone who has ever been to Jewish overnight camp or who has sent a child, you know exactly what I am talking

about. You also know that those feelings of sadness soon turn to "the best memories of my summer" and you can't wait for the next time. Luckily for my son, the next time was a mini-reunion at a fellow bunkmates Bar Mitzvah in late August, not even a month after camp ended.

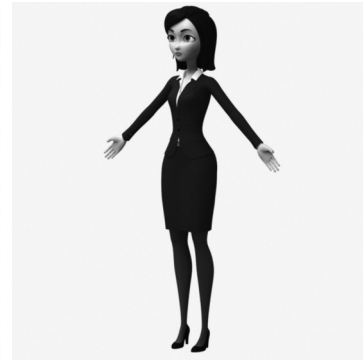
So why am I sharing this with you? Because JEWISH OVERNIGHT CAMP IS SPECIAL. There is something so unique and powerful about going away for two weeks, or four weeks, or two months without mom and dad and being with other Jews. It's camaraderie beyond compare. And it's living comfortably and confidently as a Jew beyond compare. So if you have ever toyed with the idea of sending your child to camp, do it! Start planning for next summer now. You won't regret it and your child will thank you.

L'Shalom,
Heather

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.

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

Also our first community breakfast will be held on Sunday, September 14th at 9:00 AM. Our speaker will be the **Rick Stromoski**, the creator of the comic strip **Soup to Nutz**.

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

Sincerely

Jack Henrie

President, Men of Sinai

Have you got a LOAF? Have you got a FISH?

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 weeks ahead.

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



VERIZON CELL TOWER UPDATE

Several months ago the Board of Trustees voted to lease land off of our parking lot for the construction of a cell tower. Verizon is still preparing for the project, securing permits etc. Stay tuned for details.



The single question I get asked the most is: "So... when will Sinai do another show?" We are thrilled to say that the long wait is finally over! *Fiddler on the Roof* is coming to Sinai Temple this spring! Many performers and volunteers will be needed to create another wonderful production in the "tradition" of *The Music Man* and *Oliver!* If you are interested in helping in any capacity on this show, please contact Sheri Levson at levsong@verizon.net or 413-567-5789.

Audition information will be available soon! "To Life!"

Sheri Levson, Producer/Director

Notes from the Cantor

On Sunday, September 14, 21 and 28, at 11:30 A.M; I will be once again hosting "The Shofar Blowers Workshop" for Sinai members Grade 5 through adults. Rabbi Shapiro and I would like to have a lots of shofarot at the very end of Neila services on Yom Kippur day. If you would like to be part of this cacophonous chorus, please join me for these workshops. Bring your own shofar, or you can borrow a shofar from Sinai Temple's collection. (First come, first blown, so please RSVP to the Temple office if you would like to borrow a shofar from the Temple.) Learn to blow the shofar this New Year! It's a great Jewish thing to do!

You CAN build a Sukkah, and you SHOULD build a Sukkah! Two years ago, we had two Sinai families build Sukkot in their backyards who had never done so before! Last year, three families were first time sukkah builders! This year, let's try for four... or more! Building a Sukkah is a fun activity for the entire family, it doesn't cost very much for the materials, and you don't need to have any great skill with power tools. Detailed plans and a handy "Sinai Sukkah

Kit" shopping list are available on our Sinai Temple website. But for those Sinai members who might need a little extra help, you can pre-order a Sukkah from the Men of Sinai, and on Sunday, October 5 ("Sukkah-Bowl Sunday!"), a crew of Men of Sinai and SPFTY folks will bring and assemble a Sukkah at your home! (Decorating it is up to you!) Build a Sukkah at your home! It's another great Jewish thing to do!

As I like to say every year at this time, one of my favorite High Holiday phrases is "*chadeysh yameinu kekedem.*" The traditional translation of these words is: "renew our days as of old," but I prefer this interpretive translation: "Don't engage in cheap nostalgia, let's make *these* days the ones we will want to remember!" Let's make 5775 a GREAT Jewish year! Sheri, Alec, Liz, Candy, and I wish our Sinai Temple family a "*Shana tovah u'mitukah,*" a New Year filled with goodness and sweetness!

Ivdu et Hashem B'simcha! Serve the Holy One with JOY!
(Psalm 100:2)

Fall into Fun with STUFF! (Sinai Temple Under Five Families)

If you are a family with young children - diapers, sippy cups, and sticky fingers - STUFF is the group for you! STUFF (Sinai Temple Under Five Families) holds events specifically designed for families with young children, aged 0-5 years old. Our STUFF coordinators are also parents of young children, and they design programs where Jewish education comes to life! We engage young children with stories, songs, and crafts.

Each month, we hold a "Tot Shabbat" service on a Friday night. We start with a 30-minute prayer service with Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Bim Bam complete with a kid's Kiddush and Motzi with challah. A family-friendly dinner of pizza, pasta, and other child favorites follows. There are always lively songs with children dancing and whole family participation. Cantor Bim Bam even brings Daniel the Dragon for a special Shabbat greeting!

To complement an upcoming Jewish holiday or value, we hold an event called "Shalom Sunday." We learn about the holiday or value through stories, interactive projects, crafts, songs, and snacks. Last year, our children made hats and gathered together to make a "live menorah" for Chanukah. In another memorable activity, we planted parsley seeds and created a STUFF family tree with our handprints to celebrate Tu B'Shevat. For Shavuot, we made our own ice cream by shaking cream and ice in a bag!

STUFF events are open to everyone in the community. Older siblings and grandparents are always welcome. The atmosphere is very casual. We hope you will join us on the following dates!

Tot Shabbat and Dinner:

Friday, September 12th 6:00pm

Shalom Sundays:

Sunday, September 21st 10-11:30am

Sunday, October 19th 10-11:30am

High Holiday services for STUFF:

Rosh Hashanah - Thursday, September 25th

8:30 a.m. to approx 9:15 a.m.

Yom Kippur - Saturday, September 4th

2 p.m.

Tashlich...4:30 p.m.

Now you can 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.

What's New at Sinai?

When you drive by the building, you'll see something "new." The overgrown bushes obscuring the front of our building have been replaced. The same has happened at the back entrance to the Temple. Overgrown bushes have been replaced. We've been able to accomplish this beautification of our building thanks to some generous donations over the summer. (For details, see Jeff Cossin's article.)

What Can You Do To Build Sinai Temple This New Year?

Be a Recruiter: If you know a member about to leave, encourage them to stay. If you have an unaffiliated friend, invite them to a Sinai event

Be a participant: If you come to services once a month, come twice.

If you come alone, bring a family member or a friend.

Be a Life Long Member: If you don't pay your dues, please pay them.

If your dues are abated and you can afford to, please increase your payment.

Continue your membership even after your Life Cycle event.

Judaica Gift Shop Corner

Starting Sunday Sept 7th, the shop will be open Sundays from 9:30 to 12 Noon, and Tuesdays from 2:30 to 4:30 P.M.

For Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur we have a beautiful expanded line of tallisim for men and women.

There are candlesticks, kiddush cups, challah boards, shofars, toys, games and so much more.

C'mon in and browse.

Thais Fischel 786-9577



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Images from a fabulous Confirmation. June 2014