

Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat

For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

Mah nisbtana - What makes this year different? It seems obvious. Everything is different. In many ways it feels as if the ground has shifted under our feet. A cloud of uncertainty about the future and our financial security hangs over us all.

Towards the middle of March, I was thinking these somber thoughts when the words of the Four Questions came to mind.

Mah nisbtana - What makes this night different? I've said those words hundreds of times since I was a child. They just never hit me as strongly as they do this year because this year it does feel as if so many aspects of life are in flux. We are all worried that this year is much, much too different from other years.

Or is it?

Maybe, when we step back and think about it, we can see that this year and this Passover in particular are really not that different. Smaller retirement portfolios, yes. Concern about budgets, yes.

But, when it comes to Passover, the blessing is that the holiday hasn't changed! Your Haggadah should have the same wine stains as last year. Matzah will crackle and crumble when you bite it this year. Your friends and family will probably love (and even aggravate) you much as they did last year. Children will be older. You will look older too.

But the great truth is that, in spite of everything outside that chips away at our confidence, our most precious assets on the inside are intact. We've got friends and family grown over many years. We've got people with whom we can celebrate, laugh, cry, complain, and sing no matter what concerns the outside world presents.

Mah nisbtana - What makes this year different?

A lot makes this year different, but even more remains the same. What remains the same is what really matters: traditions, poetry, song, hope, faith, and people. Have a very good Passover. You deserve it.

Saturday Torah Study

Torah Study at 9:00 a.m.
Every Week

Saturday Mornings

Services at 10:30 a.m.

Mazal Tov to our Bnai Mitzvah

April 4 - Jacob Freedman

Son of Michael and Tricia Freedman

April 18 - Shaina Gootzit

Daughter of Gary and Pat Gootzit

April 25 - Hannah Gordon

Daughter of Michael Gordon and
Elizabeth Frey

Passover

PASSOVER BEGINS WEDNESDAY
EVENING, APRIL 8.

PASSOVER ENDS AT SUNDOWN,
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15.

Passover Morning Service

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

Yizkor and Concluding Service

Fabulous Choral Music

Friday, April 24, the Connecticut
Z'mirah Chorale will visit Sinai to per-
form during our 8 p.m. evening service.

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES - NOTE THE TIMES - 76-88

FAMILY SERVICE at 7:00 p.m.

April 3

Gala Shabbat dinner for Grades Kg to 5 followed by
a service honoring our teachers.

KABBALAT SHABBAT at 6:00 p.m.

April 10

Veggies & snacks at 5:30 p.m.

ROSES & ROMANCE at 8 p.m.

April 17

This month's Friday Night Live will feature music and blessings
honoring those with special wedding anniversaries in 2009.

SHABBAT WITH TORAH at 8 p.m.

April 24

Connecticut Z'mirah Chorale performs Israeli music honoring
Israeli Independence Day!

Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat

Notes from the Cantor

As we prepare for Pesach, please check out our website! Thanks to the recording prowess of webmaster Howard Kalodner, there are a number of Pesach melodies now available for your listening and practicing pleasure! Listen to some “old favorites” and learn some new tunes to liven up your Passover Seder!

On the Saturday evening during Pesach (April 11), I will be joining some good friends of mine at Temple Sinai of Worcester. Robbi Sherwin, Scott Leader, and Steve Brodsky are collectively known as “Sababa!” and they will be giving a concert at 7:00 that evening, along with guests Ellen and Peter Allard, Yom Hadash, and yours truly. It’s a fundraiser for this Temple: tickets are \$18, \$10 for students and seniors. Kids under 10 are free! Come and hear some great contemporary Jewish music just a quick trip down the Pike! For directions and further info, call (508) 755-2519. And be sure to check out Sababa’s website at www.sababamusic.com to hear some samples of their music.

I am pleased to report that the Jewish Meditation sessions that began back in January are continuing! The “Shal-OM” group will be meeting up in the Magen David room on Saturday mornings at 10:00, right after Torah study, during the month of April. The group is open to anyone interested in learning about and practicing Jewish Meditation, and, as always, you don’t have to sit on the floor!

Friday evening, April 17 will be a beautiful celebration of love and music (and chocolate!) as I present some musical settings from the Song of Songs with my wife of over twenty years, Sheri, along with some special guests! Who are those guests, you may ask? You’ll just have to come to services that evening to find out!

Finally, Friday evening, April 24, will mark the Massachusetts debut of a group I occasionally sang with during the past few years, the Connecticut Z’mirah Chorale. Founded and directed by Dr. Kevin Mack, the CT Z’mirah Chorale performs a wide variety of Jewish choral music of the highest quality. This evening their program will focus on choral arrangements of Israeli songs, in celebration of Yom Ha’atzmaut, Israeli Independence Day! Please join me in welcoming this talented group of Connecticut musicians to the Bay State!

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

– Cantor Martin Levson

Prospective New Members for Sinai Temple:

You Can Help Build the Congregation

Every year people relocate to the greater Springfield area, or people who have lived in the area consider joining a Temple. Often these people, friends, colleagues, neighbors or relatives ask current members about Sinai Temple. You can help the Temple recruit these interested people by referring them to Mike Bader, Chairman of the Membership Committee. Mike has been helping new members for over thirty years. He has the information they need and can answer their questions. He can be reached weekday mornings at 737-3139 OR nights and weekends at 786-0319.

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 \$50,000 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. (We have increased the number of levels for the 09/10 season so that the jumps are smaller. We hope it will be easier to find a spot for yourself among the multiple levels.)

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

If you have questions or want to join the program, please call me at 567-7320.

Shalom,

Jeff Cossin, Sustaining Member Chair

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Sun Also Rises Wednesday, April 8 At 6 a.m.!!!!!!

A celebration of the sun, our planet, & our future.

Please join the Rabbi and Cantor up on the Temple's roof as we greet sun rise the day before Passover.

Jewish legend teaches that every 28 years the sun returns to the same place it was at the moment of creation. It's a legend, but provides us with a beautiful opportunity to explore little known prayers and some wonderful music as we honor the sun and the environment that really does sustain life on this planet.

Breakfast will be served around 6:30 a.m.

PS. Sinai is sharing this service with Rabbi Amy Katz and Chazan Steven Berke of Temple Beth El. One requirement — you must be able to climb approximately 15 steps up the internal ladder that leads to our roof.

You're Invited to a Wedding Event! Friday, April 17 At the 8 p.m. Shabbat Service

Sinai Temple's Caring Community happily invites you

To a ceremony celebrating

Your special wedding anniversary in 2009!

If you were married in 2009, 2004, 1999, 1994,

1989, 1984, 1979, 1974,

1969, 1964, 1959, 1954,

1949, 1944

Please join Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Levson

On Friday, April 17 at 8 p.m.

The Rabbi and Cantor will honor you as a group with blessings, sweet wine, & chocolates.

RSVP to Robin Blanchette Gage, Rabbi's Assistant, 736-3619, ext. 10

PASSOVER 2009

PASSOVER BEGINS WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 8.

PASSOVER ENDS AT SUNDOWN, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15.

COME PRAY...COME FILL

THE SANCTUARY PASSOVER MORNING

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

(Luncheon to follow.)

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

YIZKOR AND CONCLUDING SERVICE

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

We dedicate new plaques on our yahrzeit board and bid farewell to Passover.

A luncheon follows the service.

More on Passover 2009

Announcing the Passover Menu Corner

For those times when you can't face another piece of MATZA!

If you're hungry or desperate or curious, Sinai's Ritual Committee has developed a resource for YOU. It's called the PASSOVER MENU CORNER and it will include a variety of easy recipes for Passover meals and snacks. Visit our website to see what's available now - www.sinai-temple.org. Thanks for recipe providers: Lee Grayboff, Cheryl Blonder, and Linda Solomon.

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

Check out our Temple website. www.sinai-temple.org Rabbi Shapiro has collected a number of readings, games, and ideas that can bring new life to your Seder.

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

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

THE SINAI TEMPLE COOKBOOK
Is a great gift idea for Passover
Includes recipes for the holiday.
Buy one at Temple today.

Mission Statement

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

The Caring Community of Sinai Temple

Invites all Senior Members
to a

Passover Luncheon

12:00 noon,

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Sinai Temple

Guest Speaker:
Meredith Dragon,
Brand New Executive Director
of our Jewish Federation

Invitations will be sent out early April.

Make sure you get one and RSVP!

There is no charge for this wonderful luncheon.

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

Dear Parents: I know attending the Passover Morning Service on Thursday, April 9 (see pages 1 & 3) means having your child miss school, but having your child miss school for the sake of this positive Jewish experience can make a difference in his/her life. I offer you the following letter for expressing your commitments to your child's teacher:

Rabbi Shapiro.

Dear Teacher:

Please excuse my child from school for tomorrow morning, **Thursday, April 9**. He/She will be attending services at Sinai Temple.

As you know, tomorrow marks the first full day of Passover, and it is customary for the Jewish community to assemble together. Passover's morning service is not unlike the Rosh Hashanah morning service for which my child was also absent. I hope there will be no extra work assigned on April 9. Since my child enjoys our Temple services so much, I know he/she anticipates a wonderful learning experience on Passover morning.

Yours truly,

A concerned parent

We Are So Heavy

Open Pantry recently sent a letter to Sinai indicating that during the year 2008 we donated over 7,255 pounds of food.

Let's keep up the good work. We collect food for the needy all year round.

**Monthly Morning Service
Wednesday, April 1
at 7:30 a.m.**

Meet on the bimah for a service of 20 minutes. Breakfast follows. Those who need to leave for the rest of the day are free no later than 8:15 a.m.

Future “morning minyan” services will take place on Wednesdays, May 6 and June 3.

**First Thursdays:
Lunch and Learn
Thursday, April 2
12:00 – 1:15 p.m.**

Bring your lunch to the Oneg Shabbat room for a discussion of contemporary Jewish concern with Rabbi Shapiro. Future discussions are May 7 and June 4.

**When a Jew and a Non-Jew are
Married:
Conversations For Mixed Married
Couples
Wednesday, Tuesday, April 7
7:30 to 9:00 p.m.**

Have you got questions? Have you learned strategies you might want to share with others? Would you simply like to talk about the setting in which a Jew and non-Jew are married and members of Sinai Temple? Peter Zimmer, a former Vice President of Sinai and a skilled group facilitator, is leading a series of discussions for Sinai. You may come to only one session or more. The group will meet at Sinai, and will plan together the schedule and topics of discussion.

Please RSVP to the Temple office so that we know you are coming. For questions, you can contact Peter through the Temple office.

Home-Baked Chocolate Oneg!

You're Invited to a Wedding Event with Friday, April 17

At the 8 p.m. Shabbat Service on April 17, you are invited to the most delicious evening of love and romance ever presented at Sinai.

In addition to wedding anniversary celebrations, Cantor Levson will be offering a selection of fabulous love songs. Congregants will be preparing home-baked chocolate treats. Rabbi Shapiro will be serving up a selection of love poetry from Jewish sources.

Please be sure to bring a friend, an open heart, and your sweet tooth to this grand celebration.

**Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day)
Tuesday, April 21 at 7 p.m.
We are invited to Temple Beth El**

The annual community commemoration of Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) will take place Tuesday, April 21st at 7:00 p.m. at Temple Beth El.

The theme for this year's program will be “Voices From the Past”. Community members will present readings from the “Shoah Scroll”, a moving literary work of poetry, prose and prayer chronicling individual histories from the Holocaust.

Rabbi Shapiro will be participating in the service.

This event is co-sponsored by the Hatikvah Holocaust Education Center and the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts. It is free and open to the public. For further information contact Hatikvah at 413.734.7700.

**A HOME CEREMONY
FOR REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST
FROM RABBI SHAPIRO**

Dear Friends:

When Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) starts on the 27th of Nisan, the evening of Monday April 20, 2009, there is something simple and beautiful which you can do to commemorate the Holocaust. You can purchase and light a Yahrzeit/Memorial Candle in your home.

At that time, you might want to have a moment of silence, use the prayer that follows, or create something of your own. My family and I have used a yahrzeit candle for this purpose and found it to be a very moving experience. I hope you will allow the yahrzeit candle to become a new tradition for your household as well.

A limited number of candles will be available at the Temple office if you wish to pick one up there. You can also purchase a candle at a grocery store.

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

**Rabbi Shapiro and Rabbi Amy Walk Katz
of Temple Beth El
Teaching Together
On Israel Independence Day/Yom
Ha-Atzmaut
Wednesday, April 29
From Noon to 1 p.m.
At the Law Offices of
Shatz, Schwartz, and Fentin**

In honor of Israel's Independence, Rabbis Shapiro and Katz invite you to a lunch and learn session on the day celebrating Israel's 61st birthday. The rabbis will co-teach. We will order lunch when we arrive. We thank Steve Weiss, past president of Sinai, and Jonathan Goldsmith, current president of Beth El, for their support of this first ever joint learning event. Shatz, Schwartz, and Fentin is at 1441 Main Street, Springfield.

**The Andy Berger Art Contest 2009
For Young People
Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade**

All subjects in all areas of Judaism from holidays to the home to Israel are welcome.

Possible media include water colors, paint, markers, collage, or clay.

**Submit your work by
Sunday, April 12th.**

**Prizes awarded at our Family Service
on Friday, May 1st.**

**Mitzvah Day
Sunday, May 3
From 9 a.m. to Noon**

One day to make a difference in the community. Our Mitzvah Day Committee has begun planning for a giant day of social justice, social service projects. Adults, kids, families. Everyone and anyone will be able to participate in: a tzedakah bike ride, food collection for Open Pantry, a tzedakah car wash, outreach to our troops at war, spring cleaning for shut-ins, Forest Park Zoo events, Habitat for Humanity plus many other projects.

Men of Sinai

We had a great time Pirate Purim in early March where we served food to almost 250 folks and were left with only 4 hot dogs and some hamenstaschen. We also had a terrific time with the author Jon Shier at our March breakfast. He was very entertaining and I only wish more made it to that breakfast. As I write this it is unknown, but I am confident that we had a fine turnout for the Snyder Award dinner and service honoring Mel Chafetz, and that all who participated had a great time.

Our April 12th Breakfast will feature both a special menu for Pesach (Passover) and a topic of great interest to parents today. (Instead of bagels we will feature matzah brei, fruit, eggs, etc.) Our speaker will be Deborah Fein, Ph.D. a member of Sinai Temple, and the Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor in the Departments of Psychology and Pediatrics at the University of Connecticut. She is a world renowned authority on autism; author of over 100 articles and the recent book "Autism in Your Classroom", a guide for teachers. She will present a discussion of the basic symptoms of autism, what is known about the causes, best treatments, and outcome for the children. She will answer any questions the attendees have about the syndrome and latest research. Cost is still only \$5.

Please remember to make your reservation for our Sweetheart Ball on May 2nd. Details are basically the same with meat or chicken, plus a great DJ. A fine night for community and a nice way to spend it with your friends (even non-Sinai friends). We worked hard to keep the price low, only \$25 per person. 7:00PM for Hors D'oeuvres, Dinner and Dancing starting at 7:30 until 11PM. Call the temple office at 413.736.3619 or email our Secretary, David Amster at thevideoguy@cox.net. Specify if you want chicken or meat. Please join us.

Shortly, we will be announcing our Men's Only Seder for May. Stay tuned for information on this unique event.

Calendar:

April 2009

- 7th Board Meeting 7PM Food, 7:30 Meeting
- 12th Breakfast 9AM—11AM. Our speaker will be Deborah Fein, Ph.D. speaking on the topic of autism. (see fuller description above) This should be a very interesting session and I hope many parents of our religious school will join us. Charge: \$5 per person.

As always, you have an open invitation to please come join us and have fun, perhaps work a little, and get to network with other men of the congregation.

Scott M. Sherman, President

MEN OF SINAI

president@menofsinai.org

413.283.9696

Message from Sheila Shear Director of Education

Shalom Chaverim

Why is what students do here at Sinai beyond Bar and Bat Mitzvah important? Please read below the position paper recently delivered by three of our Sinai 9th graders who attended a L'Taken seminar at the Religious Action Center in Washington, D.C. Students delivered this paper at the offices of Congressman Richard Neal. It is just one of the ways post B'nai Mitzvah Jewish education is important to how we look at and respond to the world around us. I think looking at our world through a Jewish lens truly encourages the development of a student's healthy social conscience. Thanks to Hallie Goldstein, Mara Rockowitz and Sarah Breslau for representing us well and to Matt Bertuzzi for chaperoning this important trip.

Position Paper Delivered at the offices of Congressman Richard Neal March 2, 2009

Hallie Goldstein: Introduction

This nation needs gun control because nearly 30,000 Americans die each year from gun violence. According to the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, over \$20 Million has been given by the "gun rights" lobby to congress since 1990. This has led to weak federal gun control legislation that could have saved thousands of lives each year. According to the Brady Center, the 1994 Assault Weapons Act, that banned 19 different assault weapons, led to a 66% decrease in the use of those banned guns in violent crimes. This was great until September of 2004 when the AWA expired. Also, the Gun Show Loophole Closing Act would prevent criminals from obtaining firearms without background checks. Each day, eight Americans under the age of 19 die from gun violence.

Mara Rockowitz: A Personal Account

Mario Hornsby Jr. was 17 years old, a Springfield Central High School student, and my close friend. His death was a result of gang violence by teenagers. The shooters opened fire on the group of teens, including Mario. By supporting the Assault Weapons Ban and the Law Enforcement Protection Act, Congressman Neal would be renewing and strengthening the original 1994 ban and preventing dangerous high fire-power assault weapons from being available for criminal use. Also, supporting the Gun Show Loophole Closing Act when it is reintroduced would ensure the safety of law abiding citizens by preventing criminals and minors from obtaining firearms without a background check. With his support, we can keep future deaths like Mario's from

happening again.

As Jews, our tradition emphasizes the sanctity and value of human life. The carelessness with which human life is taken by guns stands in direct violation of those affirmations of our tradition. Rabbi Eric Yoffie, the President of the Union for Reform Judaism states, "First and foremost we need to see the control of guns not as a political problem but as a solemn religious obligation. Our gun-flooded society has turned weapons into idols, and the worship of Idols must be recognized for what it is - blasphemy. The only appropriate religious response to idolatry is sustained moral outrage." The URJ has long recognized the need for legislation "that would limit and control the sale and use of firearms." Over the years, the Union has spoken on gun control issues with particular passion, insisting that gun regulation and control is a "vital necessity."

Sarah Breslau: Conclusion

We would appreciate if Congressman Neal would co-sponsor the upcoming gun control legislation in the 111th Congress. We would like him to support the Assault Weapons Ban, the Law Enforcement Protection Act, and close the Gun Show Loophole, so we don't have a repeat of the story of Mario Hornsby Jr. Thanks for giving up your time to meet with us and have a great rest of the day!

Sinai Teens Make it Happen

Edited from an announcement at the SPFTY service on Feb 27

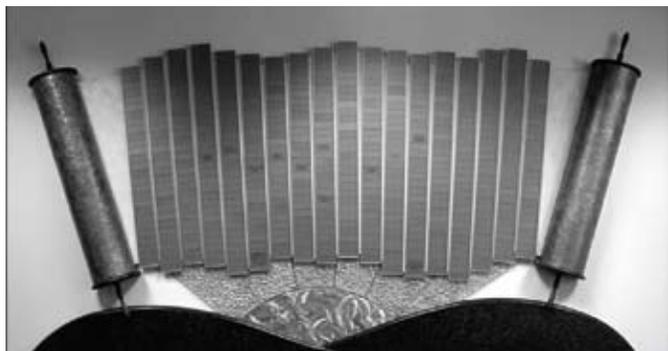
Seven months ago SPFTY had a vision. We would revisit and reenergize the SPFTY service. Mazel Tov to the group for a job well done tonight and to Cantor Levson for his guidance.

We knew the Teen Lounge needed repair. Mason Dunn had an idea. "Why not fix the lounge?" So, Mason, his uncle who is a contractor, and Mason's Boy Scout buddies spent late August and most of September working downstairs. They scraped and stripped paint and rebuilt walls and floors and parts of the ceiling. Thank you to Mason for a job well done.

I would be remiss if I did not publicly thank the following people for their donations of furniture and their commitment of time and in moving the furniture. Out caretakers Donna and Angel, our Office Staff, Connie Kennedy, Karen Sprenkle and Robin Blanchette-Gage, Robin and Jack Henrie, Robin and Jeff Cossin and Robin Dunn, Bryant, Joan and Harry Miller, Sharyn, Greg, Matt, and Sarah Breslau, Bonnie Normand, Kyle Thomas, Larry Blake, Jared Bertuzzi, Josh Feinberg, Celia Gibson, Kevin Brenker, Pete Mancuso, Mark Stone, Joel Solomon and Sarah Chaet

Andy Chaet, SPFTY Advisor

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.

Do You Know Someone In Need of Care at Home?

Spectrum Home Health and Hospice Care, a program of Jewish Geriatric Services based in Longmeadow, is dedicated to providing adults of all faiths with professional rehabilitation, healthcare and hospice services, delivered in the privacy and comfort of their own home. These include skilled nursing services, physical, occupational and speech-language therapies, home health aides, home monitoring of vital signs through a Telemedicine program, medical social services, hospice, and spiritual care. JGS Family Care and House Calls provides physician and nurse practitioner home visits to frail elderly and homebound patients who are unable to come to a physician. To make an appointment or to learn more about Jewish Geriatric Services, please call (413) 567-6211 or visit www.jewishgeriatric.org.

Friday evening, April 24, 8:00 P.M.

The Connecticut Z'mirah Chorale
(Massachusetts debut!)

Performing choral arrangements of Israeli songs in celebration of *Yom Ha'atzmaut*,
Israeli Independence Day!

Sinai Temple Wish List: Are You Interested?

We need to replace many of our folding chairs. They are wobbling and telling us they need to go to chair "heaven." Cost - Approximately \$3,000

Our sound system (the microphones and speakers that let you hear the Rabbi and Cantor) often lets us down. We can "sound" better with your help. Cost - Approximately \$18,000

Please contact Karen Sprenkle in our Temple office (736-3619) if you would like to know more about these projects or others that can continue to bring new life to our congregation.

Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat

Go to www.sinai-temple.org. Find the link Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat. You'll see the blessings for Friday night plus other sources. Also an opportunity to share your own responses to the Shabbat initiative.

The Sinai Community Caring Fund. Created during this time of economic distress

Thank you to those congregants who have helped create this new resource for our Temple community. If you are unemployed or on the verge of economic meltdown, this fund is here for you and grocery money. Contact the Rabbi and funds will be made available confidentially. If you would like to make a donation to this fund, please send your check to the Temple office.

Be Famous!! Get Your Name in the Sinai Temple Engagement Calendar

You may not get your name in lights, but you can get it in print. Just get yourself listed as a "Friend of Sinai" and you'll be famous in the engagement calendar we publish every summer. While you're at it, you can also list your family's special dates...anniversaries, birthdays, yahrzeits, and anything else that you want to share. One year a good "friend" listed his dog's birthday! It was June 24.

For \$18 you can be a Friend; for \$36 you are a Super Friend; and for more, you can be a Benefactor for \$50 - and I'll come sing "Hey, Big Spender" to you! Fill out a form today or call the Temple office to get your name in print.

Shalom,
Belle Rita Novak, Calendar Committee



Confirmation Class Civil Rights Journey

Over the weekend of January 22-25, Rabbi Shapiro led this year's Tenth Graders on a journey in Alabama and Georgia. Sinai's students joined with a Confirmation Class from Schenectady, NY to visit Selma, Montgomery, Birmingham, and Atlanta. The students are pictured here in the Rosa Parks Museum which is built at the spot where Mrs. Parks refused to move to the back of the bus on December 1, 1955.

Thanks for your support!

We are pleased to report that so far this fiscal year the following programs have raised a total of \$3741 for Sinai Temple:

- The Recycle Program (ongoing)
- The Majestic Theater
- SCRIP (ongoing)
- Big Y Gift cards (ongoing)
- Count Your Blessings for Sinai Temple

Thank you to those of you who have contributed and participated in these programs. Sinai needs and appreciates your support. We will continue the recycle program through June. The Majestic Theater was a great success and much fun was had by all.

Please don't forget to come into the Temple office to buy your Big Y gift cards and SCRIP. The best thing about these programs is that Sinai benefits as you do your shopping with no extra cost to you.

We can't do it without your support. Thank you!

Diane Friedberg,
Chair Fundraising Committee

Programs at Sinai help families with young children:

Wiggle Room – For kids who need to wiggle during the Family Service.

Sinai offers parents the chance to accompany their little ones to the Wiggle Room during Family Services (every 1st Friday of the month at 7 p.m.). This space (in the Kindergarten classroom) is available to bring your child should you find it necessary to take them out of the sanctuary for part of the service. Age appropriate toys are available.

Free Babysitting - Geared to families with young children during the Kabbalat Shabbat Service (every 2nd Friday of the month at 6 p.m.).

Sinai offers babysitting at the Kabbalat Shabbat Service. Come to temple as a family and mingle over snacks at 5:30 PM. Then enjoy Kabbalat Shabbat Services while your young children (toddler - 7 years), are cared for by members of Sinai's teen community down the hall in the Kindergarten Room.

Contact Sinai members Jackie Neiman at mjam4@comcast.net or Joe Dow at jhdow@comcast.net if you have any questions.

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 9, 2009 to March 9, 2009:

Anne Rutstein, mother of Joan Lissauer.

Albina Narmantas, mother of Steven Narmantas.

Mary Blake, grandmother of Lori Byrne and Seth Goodman.

Julius Gelfand, grandfather of Shari Cooper.

Softball Sunday is Coming! Sinai has challenged Temple Beth El Sunday, May 17

Do you play ball? Have you ever played softball? We need YOU! Sinai will be playing against Temple Beth El on May 17 in the first-ever intergenerational softball game in the Pioneer Valley. We need a team of 9 men, 9 women, plus children of all ages. Different age groups will play different innings. The winner will take home a yet-to-be-determined prize. For more information, please call Robin Blanchette-Gage in the Temple office today. 736-3619, ext 10. Details will follow.

Mazal Tov to:

Peter and Paula Zimmer on the marriage of their son, Eli, to Sugey Guridy.

Jim and Marlene Gordon and Richard and Karen Kessler on the engagement of their children, Beth and Jordan.

Steve and Chris Nuger on the engagement of their daughter, Rachel, to Toby Messinger.

Elaine Geha on the marriage of her daughter, Marla to Matthew Polly.

Pirate Purim was a grrrrreat success at Sinai. See you next year for an even more fun Purim.



Photo by Joel Solomon

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For High School and College students A Summer Program Making Money; The Susan M. Broh Tikkun Olam Award

This summer Sinai Temple invites students to get involved with tikkun olam – repairing the world. We would like to underwrite students who choose to spend their summer in a project that enriches the world. Interested students can get involved by thinking of a project or an area of interest related to tikkun olam/fixing the world. Applications should be in the mail. Call the office if you haven't received one. Those who are selected will be paid a salary of approximately \$7.50 an hour. (College students living outside the Pioneer Valley are welcome to find a project wherever they'll be spending the summer.)

Why is the Temple offering this program? We began this program several years ago to honor the memory of Susan M. Broh, a Temple member who died in September 2001. Susan began her career of "tikkun olam" by dedicating two years of her life to the Peace Corps. After that, Susan devoted her professional and volunteer life to making this world a better place. She believed passionately in the Jewish obligation of pursuing justice. Susan's friends and family have created this program to honor her memory and to encourage other Jews to strive for holiness as Jews must always do.

