

Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat

For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

Purim is coming. I think of it as our Jewish Mardi Gras. Our chance to wear costumes and behave outrageously as we tell the story of Esther and Mordecai.

Of course, that "story" can be told many ways. For example, it can be read or chanted word for word through the Book of Esther. (All 167 verses in Hebrew.)

Only one problem - When I've seen Purim done this way in a "traditional" setting, I've been bored to tears. That's why I delight in being a Reform Jew at Purim. I delight in Reform's courage and honesty that allows us to say, "Judaism has always been able to change. In our time, that means adapting our Megillah Reading. We take the best of tradition while balancing it with humor and creativity that allow our Purim to be as relevant in 2010 as it was in 1010."

I'm thinking such thoughts because I hope Sinai congregants fully appreciate the unique position we have here in our congregation.

We are a Reform synagogue - the only Reform presence in our community.

We're not here by default. Not here because we wish we could be "more religious." We're here because there is more than one way to be Jewish. For us, that way is Reform - an approach to Judaism stretching back 200 years that embraces the riches of our past while also adapting tradition for a modern, changing world.

I love Jewish history. I love learning how our ancestors lived Judaism in their day and age from Persia to France, Russia, and Turkey. But I also love being Jewish today. I love making Jewish history today. And I do so in the hope that other Jews will join me as we build Jewish lives for a vibrant future.

Saturday Mornings

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

February Friday Services

*Easier times to make it easier to
be at Temple on Friday
Remember 7 - 6 - 7:30*

Save These Dates

March 25 at 6 p.m. - Women's Seder at Sinai. We have the special Women's Haggadah created right here at Sinai.

April 25 at 7 p.m. - A Fund Raiser at the Majestic Theatre: "The Fantasticks," a family-friendly musical about young love. See page 6.

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES - NOTE THE TIMES - 7-6-7:30

Service with a Story at 7:00 p.m.

February 5

A story plus many smiles as we welcome a new month.

"Caribbean" Kabbalat Shabbat at 6 p.m.

February 12

Tonight's service will be followed by dinner and discussion led by Professor Ilan Stavans. See page 3

Service with a Band at 7:30 p.m.

February 19

Extra music and extra participation.

Service with the Torah at 7:30 p.m.

February 26

We'll read Torah together as part of our service.



Red Sox?
Yankees?
Dust off your uniforms.
Purim 2010!



Sunday morning, February 28!

Message from President Mark Stone

I would like to dedicate this article to what has been going on at Sinai since the summer. Some of our focus this year has been on connection and retention of our members. Since September we have had some wonderful events occur and I would like to share them with you. First, we have had some great happenings in our religious school through programs that involved our children and their parents. We learned with our children about prayer and what prayers mean to us. This was followed up by another program in January that incorporated why we do certain things in a service, information behind some of our familiar tunes and the different types of prayer. Both mornings were full of spirit and great opportunities to learn.

Adults have also had many opportunities for involvement over the last few months. Some of those that stand out to me were the Slichot Coffeehouse, our Chanukah "Light up the Night" dinner, and the musical performance of Nava Tehila on January 15. Each of these events demonstrated Sinai at its best. The energy that could be felt in the room with over 200 people attending each event was breathtaking. The organization between the service and the dinners that followed was masterful. Imagine a wonderful program, a lovely dinner and all that without waiting in line for the food with 200 of your Sinai friends. The Chanukah dinner exemplified the process perfectly. We had a fantastic turnout plus many volunteers working together to ensure a wonderful evening. Between the volunteers and those who attended, which was a multi generational crowd, you could definitely feel the sense of community in the room!! The next event a month later was the Nava Tehila performance. All I can say is WOW!! Standing room only, amazing music and again another multigenerational crowd enjoying the dinner that followed. I thank all of those who made both evenings possible.

We are doing it!! Our programming is exciting and our turnout is better than ever. Just ask a friend who has attended one of these events.

So, looking ahead please consider attending one of our next events. On February 27, we have our Martinis & Magic, and, of course, this time of year would not be complete without Purim. Each year is different, filled with laughs and not just for kids.

As Six Flags promotes season passes by saying "More Flags, More Fun, Six Flags," I would like you to consider your membership to Sinai your seasons pass. We are having fun; please join us if you haven't yet!

And as always, I would like to thank you for considering what you can do for Sinai. It is my hope that together we will ensure Sinai will thrive for future generations.

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 Sinai Temple Bulletin is published monthly by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 5 for the year 2009-2010.

Mark Dov Shapiro Rabbi
Martin Levson Cantor
Sheila Shear Director of Education
Lisa Gittleman Udi JOY and SPFTY Advisor

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Visit our website: www.sinai-temple.org

Welcome to Sinai!

- John and Cheri Mustain and their two daughters Samantha and Danielle.
- Lori Robinson who has joined us to become our new Office Manager and Bookkeeper. Lori comes to us with extensive experience in synagogue life. Please stop by to visit and welcome her to Sinai.

Judaica Gift Shop Corner

A big thank you to all who helped make our Chanukah season a very good one!

Now we turn to spring and feature gifts for B'nai Mitzvah, engagements, weddings and more.

Do come by to see our extensive selection of tallism, Kiddush cups, candlesticks and jewelry. We are also showing a hint of Passover!!

Hours:

Tuesday and Thursdays 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Sundays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00

Thais Fischel 786-9577
Bobbie Cossin 565-9970

Big Questions: Jewish Answers

Why do they change the melodies every time I come to services?
Thurs., Feb. 11
From 6 to 7:30 p.m.

(With a "lite bite" available each evening)

Are you curious about the biggest kinds of questions we Jews ask?

This year Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Levson will offer some answers. On the second Thursday of each month, we'll feed you a light dinner and take on one topic per month.

Coming in March...

March 11 *What happens after I die?*

We're very grateful to Leah and Jerry Gottlieb for underwriting this series of dinner conversations.

*Sinai Temple Goes Caribbean:
Dinner, Service, & Speaker*

Friday, February 12, Starting at 6 p.m.

With Our Guest Professor Ilan Stavans, Amherst College

The evening will begin with our 6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat service.

At 7 p.m., dinner will have a Caribbean flair (including the drinks)!

At 7:45 p.m., Professor Ilan Stavans will speak on

"The Secret-Jews – How they hid in Latin America since 1492."

(From 7:45 to 8:30 p.m., childcare will be available for youngsters 18 months and older.)

Ilan Stavans received his Ph.D. from Columbia and has taught at Amherst College since 1993.

Stavans is editor of several anthologies including The Oxford Book of Jewish Stories and The Schocken Book of Modern Sephardic Literature which received the National Jewish Book Award. He was host of a syndicated PBS show which ran from 2001 to 2006. In 1997, Stavans was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship. He has also received the Latino Literature Prize, Chile's Presidential Medal, and the Rubén Darío Distinction.

FEBRUARY – WE CHANGE SERVICE TIMES FOR THE LAST TIME

After experimenting this Fall and in January, we are going to new “regular” service times for Friday nights. We’ve simply changed our “late” service from 8 p.m. to start at 7:30 p.m. Earlier and hopefully more congenial for everyone.

In a regular month...

First Friday service starts at 7 p.m.

Second Friday is Kabbalat Shabbat. Starts at 6 p.m.

Third & Fourth Fridays begin at 7:30 p.m.

This Passover Ask the Four Questions in Hebrew

(And Understand Them Too!)

Beginner’s Hebrew

Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

February 3, 10, 17, 24

March 3, 10, 17

Your time has arrived! You can do it!

Be the “wise” child at this year’s Seder.

Seven weeks (and a bit of homework) will let you enter this year’s Haggadah with the confidence and knowledge you’ve always wanted.

Before you even think about matzah, register TODAY for Beginner’s Hebrew.

Taught by Sheri Levson. Your cost (for the text) will be \$20.

Your check is your registration sent to Sinai at 1100 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA 01108. Act today! Think aleph bet!

Learner’s Shabbat:

A Slowed-Down Service

A Chance to Ask All Your Questions!

Saturday, February 13 at 10:30 a.m.

After our first “Learner’s Shabbat” in January, we are back with a second service designed for you if your Hebrew runs a bit slower than you wish. Or if you don’t read Hebrew. Or if you can’t figure out how a service works. The Rabbi and Cantor will “slow down” the service. We’ll focus on only a few prayers and take time to discuss them as we go. This will be an adult service, but children are very welcome. Slow and easy with lots of explanation.

For Guys Only –

Dinner with Rabbi Shapiro

Tuesday Evening, February 16

At 6:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Men of Sinai

Open to all men in the congregation, this is a repeat of a program run by Men of Sinai in the past. We’ll do deli for dinner, dessert later and have a really interesting evening with the Rabbi. Subject matter to follow. Here is your chance to get to know the Rabbi better and have a great night out with the guys from Men of Sinai. Need a head count for food so call the office and RSVP now.

Torah Study –

Back to the weekly Torah Portion

Every Saturday morning at 9 a.m.

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

Saturday Morning Services

Every Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m.

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

Monthly Morning Service

Wednesday, February 3 at 7:30 a.m.

Meet in the sanctuary for a service of 20 minutes. Breakfast follows. The feeling of togetherness is wonderful. 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, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2.

Mark McGwire

Up to Bat at Sinai

Monday, February 30 at 11:59 p.m.

Former Major League Baseball player, Mark McGwire, will be making a onetime appearance in the Pioneer Valley. Mr. McGwire’s post-Purim lecture will be titled, “Better Living Through Chemistry.” McGwire holds a graduate degree in body building from Shushan University in Cooperstown, New York. Limited seating. Reservations must be made in advance at 736-3619, extension 613.

Join Us For a Fun-filled Evening

MARTINIS & MAGIC

Saturday, February 27, 2010

At Sinai

7:00 — 9:30 p.m.

Martinis, hors d'oeuvre, desserts
Live music, strolling magicians,
& a little Megillah Madness

Invitations have been mailed.
(Call the Temple office for details.)

\$25 per person

Proceeds will provide scholarships for Religious School Families



Purim Morning
The Megillah Reading
Sunday, February 28

at 9 a.m.

Religious School for all students

at 11:15 a.m.

Parents arrive

at 11:30 a.m.

THE MEGILLAH READING BEGINS

Students will be performing.
Costumes required for kids & adults.
Red Sox or Yankees.... You choose!!

Lunch follows the Megillah Reading

Noisemakers?

No noisemakers at the Megillah Reading unless you bring them.

Help STAMP OUT HAMAN'S NAME and help STAMP OUT HUNGER at the same time.

Bring a box of MACARONI AND CHEESE to the Megillah.

We will shake the noodles as our noisemakers. Then donate the food to the Open Pantry.

Rebecca Rubin Mother/Daughter Tea

On Sunday, January 10, 14 young members of Sinai Temple were joined by their mothers (and a grandmother) and their dolls for the first ever Rebecca Rubin Mother/Daughter Tea. Rebecca Rubin is the name of the first Jewish "American Girl Doll." Rebecca premiered this past Fall along with a series of novels describing her life on the Lower East Side of New York City early last century.

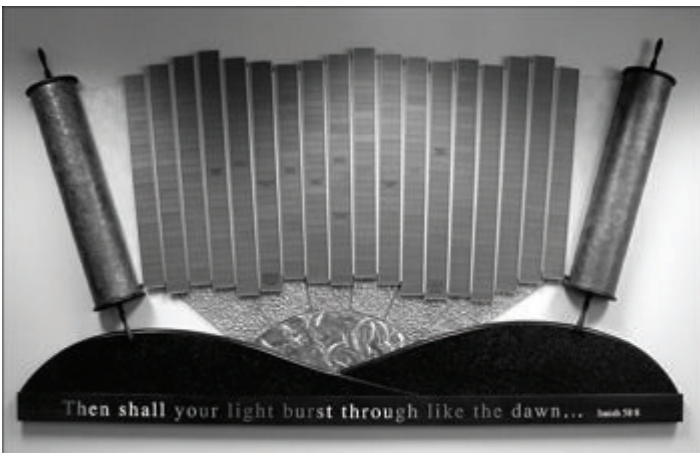


left to right...Sumner Lewis, Rachel Maniscalco, Shoshana Maniscalco, Emily Cooper



left to right..Danielle Mustain, Hannah Wald

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.

On Sunday, April 25 at 7 p.m.
Sinai Temple will hold its 3rd annual
Night at the Majestic Theater
in West Springfield.

This year's play will be
"The Fantasticks," a family-friendly
musical about young love.

Featuring the songs "Try to Remember"
and "Soon It's Gonna Rain," "The Fantasticks"
is the world's longest-running musical.

Tickets are \$25 and \$22 for adults
and \$22 and \$19 for seniors and students.

Season-ticket holders may change
the night they attend to be part of the Sinai event.
For reservations, call the box office at 413-747-7797.

Message from Sheila Shear, Director of Education

Is spring really on the way? One can only hope that warm sunny days lay ahead. We have had an exciting winter with much help from our volunteers. Our 7th-10th graders enjoyed dinner and a special program together to celebrate Chanukah, as did the 5th and 6th graders (with some help from 7th grade pizza eaters). We held our second very successful all school Family Learning Day, Prayer and Praying (and God too). And, we had a wonderful Mother-Daughter tea to welcome Rebecca Rubin and other dolls to our community.

The good news is, we are having a very successful year with our 2 1/2 hr. Sunday session, including full periods of Hebrew, Talmud Torah and special topics, along with an exciting schedule of special all school programming. We are looking forward to our spring programming, including our 9-10th grade trip to Washington, D.C. for a L'Taken seminar, an updated 6th grade retreat, a 3rd and 4th grade almost sleep over, Purim, our annual school wide Passover Seder, Baseball Sunday, and more.

Being part of our ever growing Religious School community is exciting, engaging and fun. Please be certain to join us for our upcoming events. Our community isn't a whole community without you and your child. Please watch for important announcements and updates in your emails.

Much thanks to those who helped make our recent Religious School programming a success:

- Melanie Stone who organized our Chanukah dinner for our 7th-10th graders, and Tricia Freedman, Bonnie Engelman, Pat Gootzit and Dee Torff who helped cook and serve
- To those who sewed together the prayer flags created at our November Family Learning Day, Sheri Mustain, Cheryl O'Connor, Karen Mendehlson, Becky Sherman, Pat Gootzit, and Ann Jacobs. They are just beautiful
- To those who organized, cooked, served and implemented our first Mother-Daughter tea to welcome Rebecca Rubin and other dolls to our community. Organizer, Karen Mendelsohn, and Jennifer Metsch, Merle Zemansky Coen, Gloria Wald and our teen helpers, Casey Coen, Rachel Sherman, Liz Levson, Elizabeth Metsch. .

Jewish Summer Camping And Scholarships for Free

Our Reform movement runs two remarkable summer camps in the Berkshires. One is called Eisner; the other is called Crane Lake. Last year several Sinai students attended each of the camps. Your child would love either camp. Scholarships are available for sessions in July or August. Please speak to Rabbi Shapiro no later than March 1.

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.

Red Sox Tickets!!!! Grandstand, Section 13

Starting in early February, two Red Sox tickets will be the prize in our first ever Baseball Raffle. The tickets are for a date to be determined. They are non-transferable. But they are for real. Call the School office for details.

Why Conversion - My Place within Judaism

Herbert Wood recently became Jewish. He wrote the following essay as part of the process.

My first true introduction to Judaism was through my relationship with my wife, Ronda. As our relationship developed, my experience with and understanding of Judaism expanded. I witnessed a community of close friends participating, supporting and living “Tikkun Olam,” a Hebrew phrase that means “repairing or perfecting the world.” I don’t think I understood the importance of this phrase until after a visit with my grandfather.

During a visit with my grandfather Edward Moran, before my wife and I were married, he asked me to sit at his small kitchen table. He started off, telling me that he thought Ronda was a wonderful person and I should marry her. He then brought out a box that he had saved from the Second World War. He said, I think you should see this. I found out that my grandfather was a medic who took part in the liberation of Buchenwald Concentration Camp. What I saw, what he witnessed were some of the most evil representations known to humanity. He showed me pictures that he had taken, (the ovens, bodies stacked like cordwood).

As our conversation neared its end, he told me he was most proud of the fact that not one person died after the Army arrived at the camp. To this day, I’m not sure why he chose that time to discuss what he had experienced. I believe it was his way of passing on the baton, it was my turn to make the world a better place. It was no longer OK to isolate myself from the needs of the world. Rabbi Tarfon taught: You are not required to complete the work, but neither are you at liberty to abstain from it.

So with a new vigor, I became more involved in the Jewish community. I began to support programs involving local concerns and issues abroad. I celebrated Jewish holidays with friends and family, but internally feeling like I was still missing something. Although accepted as a member of this community, I felt like an outsider. Not complete, not born as a Jew so not really Jewish. I decided embrace the religion, to truly make it my own. My journey involved learning more about the people, the traditions and the Torah. Judaism became the core of my being and it framed my day to day life.

As I experienced Judaism through a different lens, my focus changed from being an outsider to converting. I began to reevaluate my life. I believed I always had an innate ability to understand people and a desire to make a positive change. With a different perspective on life I was no longer satisfied with my career. I felt a strong need to reach out of the box. I left a career in automo-

tive management and went back to school. Since finishing my master’s, I have worked as special education teacher, a behavioral specialist, an assistant principle and now as the Director of Social Work for a Hospice.

With a renewed focus, my pursuit of conversion embracing Judaism has allowed me to do that. Hillel taught: Do not separate yourself from the community; do not be certain of yourself until the day you die; do not judge another until you are in his position...and do not say: “When I have leisure I shall study”—you may never have any leisure.

Why does being Jewish matter, because the Torah provides me with an understanding of mankind’s relationship with God. A road map with a steady moral compass. Because Judaism provides a commitment to social justice an emphasis on this world.

Why It’s Important To Be a Jew

The Mustain family recently became Jewish. Cheri and Jay wrote individual essays as part of the process.

Cheri Mustain -

I sat behind one of my uncles next to my husband, sister, and amongst my 34 cousins a year ago Thanksgiving. I said prayer after prayer without hesitation as did my sister. It had been at least 25 years since I’ve been to this particular church, not one prayer forgotten. The familiarity was overwhelming and comforting. I felt a sense of belonging that was incredible. I cried. Yes, I will miss Gramma, and I once again realize that we are here on Earth for just a moment in time. But those aren’t the only reasons I cried. The comfort, safety, and communal feeling brought on my tears. I didn’t have religion in my life right now. My attempts at raising my children in a Christian church weren’t very successful. Once the questions came I found too many contradictions in my beliefs. It just wasn’t working.

I live my life enjoying giving. Whether it’s my time, my ear, a gift, or help in some other fashion. To experience the giving that is a very integral part of the Jewish culture was awesome. It was a “Wow” moment for me.

I enjoy learning and questioning and then learning some more. To witness that at Torah study was absolutely incredible. It’s OK to challenge the meaning of the Torah. Many interpreters do as well as the members of the Temple! That was amazing to me. Wow, was I fitting in with my beliefs. Up until now, I was unable to question the Bible or the priest, it would be sinful. And I felt guilty or just plain “bad” if I even remotely thought about it. Guilt was a big part of my Catholic learning.

Those were the two most impressive aspects of Judaism for me as I was researching religions. There are many more. Each and every time I spend time at the

Temple I'm both honored and privileged to be part of the community. How awesome that a community that most are born into welcomes me and my family with open arms. Commendable.

There are of course a few struggles. My main struggle is my lack of attachment to Israel. I hope and anticipate that as I read this some day, it was just an initial phase. I long to feel the connection at a much deeper level. I anticipate that and assume that's where I may be at some point, which is exciting to look forward to.

I find now as I make the commitment to Judaism that it has become the very base of my daily life. I will look for Jewish recipes as I cook and Jewish lessons as I raise my children. In fact, as I was researching religions and was down to just three, I read *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee* by Wendy Mogel, Ph.d. I thought "Wow" somebody has put into actual practices how to raise your children with good morals and values. It works for me. I feel comfortable with the religion. I embrace it daily.

The day of my grandmother's funeral is now the day I consider the day she gave me my final gift. The day that I now view as the turning point in my spiritual life. I am happy and proud to offer myself and my children the gift of Judaism. I now sit once again next to my husband and children and give a quiet smile as I listen to them recite prayers that I know will never leave them. That one day will give them the comfort I received on the day my grandmother passed.

Jay Mustain -

God created man "In the image of God." Being Jewish is important to me because of the "image of God". The image of God is caring selfless leadership made possible by wisdom. A God that learns as well as teaches (Genesis 18:25) illustrates the first instance of a human being arguing with God. Abraham stated "must not the judge of all the earth do justly?" and thereby asked God to spare the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Man's ability to argue with God gives my life a depth and richness that is unachievable without this ability. Without this ability the distinction of who truly "leads" one's life is blurred. Is it God, a boss, a parent, law enforcement, media, etc.? This answer is clearly given to me that we are

responsible to lead our lives. We have the responsibility to gain wisdom, to teach, to lead and also to question anyone or anything if it appears unfair or unjust. This principle creates leaders and leadership thinking. It is clearly depicted in Genesis 18:25 that God wants us to lead our own lives. Anything less results in a life of inner turmoil and a life surely not suitable to meet the Creator's intention of "in the image of God".

CPR Training at Sinai Temple Sunday, April 11, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Did you know that over 700,000 people in the United States have been diagnosed with some form of heart disease? Learn what to do if someone you know goes into cardiac arrest: Join us for CPR Sunday!

Learn how to recognize and care for basic breathing and cardiac emergencies for "adult" victims ages 9 and over. This 4-hour course will include skills practice and manikins, video-driven instruction, and training materials. Participants who successfully demonstrate standardized skills and who pass short multiple choice written exams will be issued certificates in Adult CPR by the American Red Cross.

The class, given by the American Red Cross and sponsored by Sinai's Caring Community Committee, is being held at Sinai Temple from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. It is open to Sinai Temple members (and friends of members too.) The course costs \$25.00 (thanks to a subsidy from our Caring Community Fund).

Please register early since class size is limited. Register by calling Sinai Temple at 736-3619. Registration deadline is APRIL 1. If you have any questions call Lynn Solomon at 567-0073.

Saturday Morning Services – Come Try Us Out

As many of you know, we now have Sabbath morning services at Sinai. Whether in the sanctuary when there is a bar or bat mitzvah, or in the Oneg room around a table, some of us are there.

I have attended several of the services in the Oneg room. I am almost always there for Torah study, so staying for the service is easy; I don't have to make a special trip. I would like to encourage those of you who don't attend to do so.

These services are lovely. I happen to really like the new prayer book, "Mishkan T'fila." The readings can be different each week, so nothing is stale. Sometimes we ask questions about something in the service, or perhaps about the Torah portion. They are very "Hamish." It really is a nice way to begin the weekend.

—*Belle Rita Novak*

Kosher for Passover Wine Tasting & Sale Tuesday, March 2, 6 - 8 p.m.

Sample 40-50 wines.

Order from a selection of more than 150 wines.

Wines provided by Gordon's Fine Wines & Liquors
Informal tasting will be held on March 3 and 4 in the lobby of the Springfield Jewish Community Center.

Pssst, have you heard?????????

The new Interfaith Outreach Committee at Sinai is working to ensure that we are a welcoming and supportive community for all of our interfaith families.

As we turn our calendars to a new year, the Interfaith Outreach Committee has begun its second step toward strengthening our Sinai community. We have been hosting focus groups geared toward learning what we have been doing right and where we have room for improvement with regard to making our interfaith families feel that Sinai is their home. Our final focus group, scheduled for Wednesday, March 3, is an opportunity for unaffiliated interfaith families to share their ideas with us. If you know someone who may be interested in participating please let us know.

And when you get a chance please check out these changes...

Surf the new interfaith webpage and related links on Sinai's website.

Check out one of the new book titles on our interfaith library shelf.

Take a copy of one of our brochures from the new display in the temple lobby.

Want to learn more?

Please contact Tricia Freedman (567-6930) or Jackie Neiman (567-7978)

The work of the Interfaith Outreach Committee is underwritten by a gift from the family of the late George Katz.



Mmmmm Food!!!

A Tasty Opportunity for Purim!!!

Would you like to eat freshly baked hamantaschen?

Bake hamantaschen?

Help mail hamantaschen to members of the congregation?

If you can say yes to any of the above, here's something sweet to anticipate for Purim.

It's called the **MITZVAH OF MISHLOACH MANOT – THE SENDING OF FOOD!**

This year we're going to fulfill the mitzvah of Mishloach Manot by preparing food baskets for Temple members, including baking enough hamantaschen for the Religious School.

So...here's your chance. You can be part of this great event in several ways....

Make a recipe of dough and bring it unbaked to the Temple refrigerator. (We'll give you an easy recipe. See below. OR

Come help bake in the Temple kitchen near Purim on an afternoon or evening soon to be designated. OR

Help package Mishloach Manot food baskets on a Sunday near Purim. Come to the Temple that morning and we'll give you directions for packaging.

For information, recipes, questions, and if you're free to package the goodies, please call Robin Blanchette-Gage at Sinai...736-3619, ext. 10.

P.S. No experience is needed! Just good spirits

P.P.S. Mishloach Manot means "the sending of portions (of food)." It's a Purim custom to share small gifts of food with friends and family.

Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat

Last year Sinai distributed a booklet with 52 ideas for "tasting" Shabbat. Here are some new options. First time they appear at Sinai.



Rent a DVD or video of a favorite movie – or one you've wanted to see but haven't taken the time for yet. Indulge yourself. Make it an oldie that you haven't made time for until today.

Offer to take someone "without wheels" for a drive. Stop somewhere and get an ice-cream cone.

Write a letter (with real ink and paper!) to someone with whom you've lost contact. A famous American novelist had a life-long habit of spending Sunday morning at her desk writing letters in what she called "my Sunday religious service, devoted to friendship." Take some of Saturday and do the same.

Make a long-distance call to someone you've been wanting to refresh your acquaintance with, but have kept putting it off.

Make a point today to eat very slowly, savoring each bite of food. Especially if you tend to overeat or eat impulsively, pause frequently to ask yourself, "Am I still hungry? Is this a good place to stop?"

AN INVITATION To You Who

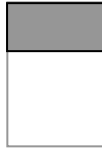
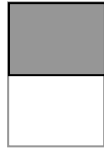
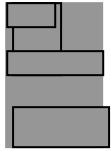
- **Own a Business**
- **Are Professionals**
- **Provide A Service**

You are invited to place an ad in the 2010 - 2011 Sinai Temple Engagement Calendar. Our calendar has proved to be a great source for referrals and business for our advertisers.

ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR 2010-2011

1. ORDER INFORMATION: (Please enter our order for the following space)

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page
<small>(4 ¼ x 7 ½)</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> Half Page
<small>(4 ¼ x 3 ¾)</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> 2/5 Page
<small>(4 ¼ x 3)</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> 1/5 Page
<small>(3 x 2 OR 4 ¼ x 1 ½)</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> 1/10 Page
<small>(1 ½ x 2 OR 4 ¼ x ¾)</small> |
| \$225 | \$125 | \$100 | \$75 | \$50 |



- Business Listing **ONLY \$18** (listing in the yellow pages):

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: (____) ____ - _____ Fax: (____) ____ - _____

Contact Person: _____

List me in the yellow pages as: _____

2. COPY INFORMATION: (What do you want your ad to look like?)

- Same as attached New Copy – attached or email Will send

Special Instructions:

- ### 3. PAYMENT METHOD:
- Please Bill (amount billed \$_____)
- Cash Check attached (payable to *Sinai Temple Engagement Calendar*)

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Solicitor: _____

The Memory of the Righteous is a Blessing

All of us at Sinai Temple extend condolences as we remember the following. Their memories are precious to their relatives, their friends and to each of us who form the community of Sinai Temple.

We remember those who have passed away from December 16, 2009 to January 11, 2010

- Florence Dow, mother of Joseph Dow.
- Evelyn Rome, mother of David and Andrew Rome.
- Tessa Harvey, grandmother of Lauren Harvey.
- Justin Margolskee, brother of Lillian Skolnick.

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

Please contact Lori Robinson, Office Manager, in our Temple office (736-3619) if you would like to know more about this project or others that can continue to bring new life to our congregation.

Mazal Tov To:

- Sally and Michael Ginsburg on the engagement of their daughter, Jillian, to Ross Palash.
- Nan Rubin Weisenberg on the engagement of her daughter, Leslie Rubin, to Eric Fields.
- Adele Citron on the birth of her great grandson, Max Bitkower. Her parents are Jody Morse and David Bitkower. Max is the grandnephew of David Morse.
- Dale Cotton on becoming a grandfather. The proud parents are Lee and Catherine Cotton. The lucky baby is Joseph Vasquez Cotton.

Thank you to:

- Thank you to the family of the late Howard Grayboff for generously supporting the "Howard Grayboff Fix-It Fund" with ongoing contributions.
- Thank you to Joan Katz and family who are going to underwrite the work of our new Interfaith Outreach Committee. Joan's contribution is in memory of George Katz who was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather.
- Jayne and Geoff Berman for underwriting the appearance of musical guests, Nava Tehilah, at our Friday, January 15 Kabbalat Shabbat evening. Jayne and Geoff's sponsorship of this event was made possible by the fund they created several years ago, the Berman Snieder Fund for Israel Education.

The B'nai Mitzvah Class of 2009

We did it! What a glorious experience it was to celebrate our learning and to read from the Torah. There were only 5 of us, so we got to know each other fairly well during the 18 months that we met as a class. Everyone who has been down this path previously told us how much they enjoyed the journey and they were right. Often I heard people say that they were sorry that their classes ended.

If you go onto Sinai's website you will see some pictures from our December service.

Taking Hebrew classes was interesting also. Putting together letters to make words, and being able to follow along in the prayer book is most enjoyable. We're all still learning, so it's definitely a process.

If you have thought about becoming an Adult B'nai mitzvah, don't be apprehensive. It's worth the time and effort that you have to put in.

We thank all of you for your good wishes and many donations to various funds. We all feel very honored by your love, kindness and generosity.

—Belle Rita Novak, Cary Dash, Thais Fischel, Sherry Souliere, and Deidra Torff

Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



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Springfield, MA 01108
(413) 736-3619
<http://www.sinai-temple.org>

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The Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class of 2009/5770 Singing the Closing Song



*Left to right: Belle Rita Novak, Thais Fischel, Cary Dash, Sherry Souliere, Deidre Torff and Rabbi Shapiro. The closing song, which the Adult B'nai Mitzvah class chose, was Peter Yarrow's *Don't Let the Lights Go Out*.*