

# Sinai Temple Bulletin



*Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat*

## Getting Ready for Passover: New Insights for a Fabulous Seder



**Dr. Richard Freund,  
Maurice Greenberg Professor of History and Director  
of the Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies at  
the University of Hartford**

**Friday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Did the Exodus Happen: News from Recent  
Archaeology**

**Saturday, March 24 at 9:00 a.m.**

**The Greatest Archaeological Discovery:  
How the Dead Sea Scrolls Changed Judaism,  
Christianity and Islam**

Richard Freund is Director of six archaeological projects for the University of Hartford in Israel, including a site thought to be the “real” Mount Sinai. His latest work involves an international team of archaeologists searching for Atlantis in southern Spain and chronicled in National Geographic’s “Finding Atlantis.”

Dr. Freund is the author of hundreds of articles and eight books. From 1983-86 he directed the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano, the only rabbinical seminary of Latin America in Buenos Aires and was a member of the President of Argentina’s council on Human Rights.

**Please note – This bulletin is an eight week bulletin – covering  
March AND April 2012.**

**PASSOVER BEGINS FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 6  
PASSOVER ENDS AT SUNDOWN, FRIDAY, APRIL 13.**

## Friday Evenings March 2012

**March 2 at 6:00 p.m.**

Kabbalat Shabbat – Come from work before going home.

**March 9 at 6:00 p.m.**

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

**March 9 at 7:30 p.m.**

Service with a Story – A family friendly service for all age groups.

**March 16 at 7:30 p.m.**

Miriam’s Well – A Woman’s A Cappella Group will be at the center of this evening’s Shabbat Service. See page 3 for details.

**March 23 at 7:30 p.m.**

Richard Freund, Scholar in Residence, will speak.

**March 30 at 7:30 p.m.**

SPFTY, our High School Youth Group, will create and lead this fabulous Friday evening experience.

## Friday Evenings April 2012

**April 13 at 6:00 p.m.**

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

**April 13 at 7:30 p.m.**

Service with a Story – A family friendly service for all age groups.

**April 20 at 7:30 p.m.**

Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries – Champagne, chocolate, and blessings will be part of this service when we honor couples married in 2007, 2002 and so on back to 1957, 1952.

**April 27– at 7:30 p.m.**

Men of Sinai will participate in the service as we honor this year’s recipient of the Rabbi Herman E. Snyder Award.

## Saturday Mornings

Torah Study at 9:00 a.m.

Service at 10:30 a.m.

**Mazal Tov to Bar Mitzvah**

April 28 – Ben Black, son of Richard and Kim.

## A Message from President Jeff Cossin

The weekend on which I am writing this article is known as Shabbat Shira - the Shabbat of Song – the weekend that the Israelites crossed the Red Sea and celebrated with Miriam and her Timbrels and with Song. Shabbat at Sinai Temple was also celebratory with the Foreign Food and Foreign Film program with more than 115 of our congregants participating. I had the “nachas” of sitting in with the SPFTY group as they were conducting their own service in the Oneg Shabbat Room and then I was moved by the Cantor’s service in the Sanctuary. On Shabbat Morning “Shir Fun” participated in the service and I “quelled” as they davened in prayer and song.

We will be honoring and thanking Sheila Shear for her wonderful leadership of our Religious School on Friday evening, May 4, 2012. Details will follow. A search committee lead by Bernie Cohen is in place to find our new Religious School Director. I am confident that we will have that person in place for the new school year.

During this period of transition with the Religious School, I and the Sinai Board are thrilled to announce that Cantor Levson has signed a three year contract with us through June of 2015. I hope that you will congratulate our Cantor for this accomplishment and thank him for his hard work, beautiful music and his dedication to our children and to our Synagogue .

We also want to encourage our unaffiliated friends in the greater community to witness and experience what we do at Sinai. The Membership Committee is sponsoring “Taste of Sinai” on April 29, as an opportunity to showcase our Temple. Please invite your friends to join you and us in the Oneg Shabbat room on that Sunday morning. More details will be coming soon in the mail and in this Bulletin. Try A Synagogue has been a tremendous success with 18 of our 27 new household members so far this year part of that initiative. This program may just be the way to engage new members in Sinai Temple.

Joyous Activities! “Oliver” is coming our way in May. There is a cast of over FIFTY individuals including Eighteen children from our Sinai Family! Sheri Levson has many opportunities for you to participate without having to be on stage. Please email her at [levsong@verizon.net](mailto:levsong@verizon.net) to tell her you want to help.

And finally, Todah Rabah to all of you who wear your name tags at services and continue to greet those you do NOT know FIRST!

*L' Shalom*

Jeff Cossin

## Notes from Cantor Martin Levson

I have had the privilege of giving a presentation on the subject of “Jews and Superheroes” a couple of times during the past few months. While at first glance, the idea of spandex-clad, cape-wearing crime fighters may have little to do with Judaism, there are some interesting things to consider. An overwhelming number of the people who created the classic American superheroes were Jewish! Superman (Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster), Captain America (Joe Simon and Jack “King” Kirby), The Fantastic Four, The Hulk, and The X-Men (Stan Lee and Jack Kirby) were all originally written and illustrated by Jews, the children of Eastern European immigrants! The character of Spiderman, created by Lee and Steve Ditko (who is not Jewish, but is of Eastern European immigrant descent) was very much the stereotype of the “Woody Allen” Jew of the 1960’s: Brilliant but socially inept high school kid living in Forest Hills, Queens with his overprotective aunt, who becomes a crime fighter out of guilt! While they weren’t intentionally trying to write “Jewish characters,” many of these classic American superheroes display a number of Jewish values and ideals in their never-ending battle for truth, justice, and the American way.

It is in this spirit that we will be celebrating a superhero-themed Purim this year. The shpiel will be a loving tribute to the classic superhero stories of the 1960s, as “Captain Mordechai” and “Bet-Woman” attempt to save the Jews of Shushanopolis from the dastardly designs of “Doctor Haman!” So channel your own inner superhero (or super-villain), wear a cape and a mask (spandex optional), dress up as a classic superhero or make up your own super-person, and join us on Wednesday, March 7 as we celebrate “Super Purim!” “Up, up, and Oy Vey!”

## Welcome New Members

- Deborah and Lisa Levheim and their son Max.
- Deborah Loomis
- Helene and Claudio Orefice
- Peter Zinger
- Craig and Nicole Schacher and their children Amber and Nicholas.
- Richard and Judith Seldow
- Marc Schmelkin
- Adam and Susan Goode and their children Benjamin, David and Alec.
- Melissa and Carl Johnson and their children Andrew and Catherine.
- Dara Bartlett and Matthew Levy.
- Edith Rubin
- Sar Churgin and Harold Sands and their children Jesse, Wynter and Jordan.



**Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's...**

# **SUPER PURIM!**

***Wear a costume! Dress as a Superhero or a Supervillain!  
A Super-Dinner (with Homemade Hamantaschen)  
will be served after the shpiel by the Mighty Men of Sinai!  
For Truth, Justice, and the Shushan way!***

*There will be no noisemakers at the Megillah Reading unless YOU bring them!  
Help blot out Doctor Haman's name and help stamp out hunger at the same time!  
Do a Super Mitzvah! Bring a box of Mac and Cheese to the Megillah Reading.  
We will shake the boxes as noisemakers, and then donate them to the Open Pantry!*

## *Miriam's Well*

*Friday, March 16, 7:30 P.M.*

*Miriam's Well is a new women's Jewish singing group from Western MA. A cappella harmonies of original compositions and familiar melodies will bring a sense of calm and joy to your Shabbat experience. Felicia Sloin (previously with Vocolot) created the group in 2011, which includes Sinai's own Sheri Levson! Occasional guitar and drum accompaniment are added to many songs to create a Mediterranean sound. Please join us as Sinai Temple welcomes Miriam's Well.*

## Message from Director of Education

Sheila Shear

*Shalom Chaverim*

As the winter months wear on with hardly a nod to winter weather (can't say I'm complaining) we continue to learn with and from our students. We continue to help them recognize that Judaism, ritual and Torah apply to their lives. Being Jewish is not always easy, is not always convenient and it is not always popular. What it is, is engaging, enlightening, holy and full of delight. We try to help our students recognize that Torah and Judaism have important things to say to them about living in 2012 and beyond. The lessons of Torah are not just for their grandparents and their parents. The lessons of Torah move us forward. Through curricula such as Sacred Choices, Jewish Lens, SPARK and Rosh Hodesh, through trips to the Religious Action Center, to Alabama and New Orleans, our children learn to view themselves as vital, important and special. They learn to live Jewishly. It's not about inconvenience, or sacrifice, it is about living a life fulfilled, a life of giving and sharing. Religious study is not for 5 years between the ages of 8 and 13, it is for living daily and life long learning.

## For High School and College students A Summer Program Making Money; The Susan M. Broh Tikkun Olam Award Applications due Monday, April 2

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 \$8.00 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 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.

## SPFTY News, by Shaina Gootzit, SPFTY Communications Vice President

SPFTY has been very busy this year. We have participated in every NFTY Northeast event so far, including NFTY Northeast's Summer Institute, the Leadership Training Institute, the Levi Leap dance, Fall Conclavette, and December Institute. We even sent a representative to the URJ Biennial Convention! For the first time ever, SPFTY members are also attending Winter Wonderland, a region wide ski weekend in New Hampshire. Our participation in NFTY-Northeast events has inspired us to create our own NFTY style service, held on Friday, February 3 for ourselves and our families. We even invited the 8<sup>th</sup> graders to attend!

With the many NFTY events we have attended we also managed to fit in several activities of our own here at Sinai Temple. We had a great time kidnapping the freshman at the annual "Freshman Kidnap." We headed over to McCray's to the haunted hayride, then to Denny's for Shabbat dinner and back to the temple for a late night Shabbat service and a shul-in full of activities. We held a challah baking activity in November. In December, we tried another kidnap... College Freshman Kidnap! Contacting the parents of the college freshman who were active in SPFTY last year and we organized another get-together by going to Denny's then back to the temple for old time sake. It was so great seeing them again! We also helped serve at the temple's annual Chanukah dinner in December and held a movie night in January.

Coming this spring, we are planning a TYGOR event March 30-31. A TYGOR event is a sub-regional activity that includes any TYG (Temple Youth Group) from Massachusetts and Connecticut about an hour away. Friday, March 30, SPFTY will lead a NFTY style service for the Sinai Temple Congregation and our guests from youth groups within our region. Later that night, we will present an interactive theatrical game based on the Clue board game and movie. We will dress up as the Clue characters and participants will attempt to solve our mystery! Some of NFTY Northeast's regional board members will also participate as characters in our game. After we solve the mystery, we are planning a shul-in for the participants with games and activities throughout the night. We are planning a social action component to this shul-in as well.

In March, SPFTY is planning a bake sale to benefit the American Jewish World Service. We will be attending NFTY's Northeast region wide Spring Conclavette and other TYGOR events hosted by synagogues in the area. Also in the spring, we are hoping to hold a car wash, plan an activity with Sinai Temple's 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and possibly participate in a program at a local nursing home or assisted living center.

# Adult Opportunities

Did the Exodus Happen: News from Recent Archaeology

Friday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m.

With Guest Scholar, Richard Freund

The most significant experience of the Israelites and biblical religion is the Exodus from Egypt of the ancient Israelites. It is the basis for Passover and the centerpiece for study and inspiration for over 2000 years in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Archaeologists have questions whether it really happened. In this presentation Dr. Freund will re-assess the evidence and add some new insights on the old data.

The Greatest Archaeological Discovery:

How the Dead Sea Scroll Changed Judaism, Christianity and Islam

Saturday, March 24 at 9:00 a.m.

With Guest Scholar, Richard Freund

The post WWII discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in a series of caves around the mysterious village of Qumran, revolutionized the study of the Bible, but it also changed the way we look at the beliefs of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Find out what new insights the Scrolls have based on the recent publication of all of the Scrolls.

## Sinai Book Club

Wednesday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Our March book is "The Beggar King and the Secret of Happiness" by Joel Ben Izzy. Not a traditional novel like our other selections, this book is highly recommended by Rachel Rembrandt.

Our April book is "The People of the Book." Historical fiction that follows the Sarajevo Haggadah, a medieval illustrated Haggadah.

\*\*

Our Book Club is in full swing!! New members are always welcome. The diversity of the group leads to lively conversation filled with varied opinions. We are a group of all ages and both genders; all are welcome, come regularly or drop in when you can. Two copies of each book will be in our Sinai library, and if the books are available in the public library system, more will be available at the Longmeadow Public library. All meetings are at 7 p.m. in the Oneg Shabbat Room.

## Sinai Women's Seder

Thursday, March 29, 6pm

Cost: \$10 Sinai members, \$12 community members

Seating is limited, advanced registration required and must be accompanied by payment. For more information, please see the flyer inserted in this bulletin.

## Champagne, Chocolate, and Blessings

Friday, April 20

At the 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

Sinai Temple's Caring Community

happily invites you

To a ceremony celebrating

Your special wedding anniversary in 2012!

If you were married in 2007, 2002, 1997, 1992,

1987, 1982, 1977, 1972,

1967, 1962, 1957, 1952,

1947, 1942

Please join Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Levson

On Friday, April 20 at 7:30 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

## What Time are Services at Sinai Temple?

### A New Answer to an Old Question

6:00 and 7:30 p.m.

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

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

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

## Monthly Morning Services

Wednesdays, March 7 & April 4

at 7:30 a.m.

A chance to start your day with a different focus. We meet on the bimah for a service of 20 minutes. Breakfast follows. Those who need to leave for the rest of the day are free no later than 8:15 a.m. Future "morning minyan" services will take place on Wednesdays, May 2 and June 6.

# Adult Opportunities

## TGIT

Thank God, It's Torah!

Come Learn Every Saturday at 9 a.m.

Exercise your brain. Enjoy the bagels. If you want to touch base with Judaism's basics, Torah Study is for you. Come once or come occasionally. Newcomers welcome. No prior knowledge necessary.

## Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat

Go to [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org). On our home page, you'll see the link Rediscover Shabbat. You'll find the blessings for Friday night, music plus other sources.

## Coming Soon To Venues Nearby: The Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival! March 14 - 29

Twenty films in seven towns. Dramas, docs, comedy to entertain, educate and inspire. More info at [www.pvjff.org](http://www.pvjff.org)

.....

## 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 Cheri Mustain, Chair of the Membership Recruitment Committee. We are very interested in recruiting new members....so please speak to Cheri or refer others to Cheri. She can be reached at 754-3106..

## Transportation Needed?

### Maybe you need The Sinai Shul Shuttle



Do you ever need a ride to the Temple? Have you ever missed a service or an adult education class or any other event because you couldn't find a ride?

Call the Temple office at least two business days in advance to make a reservation. The Caring Community Committee will connect you with a Temple member who will happily do the driving.

If you know someone who needs transportation or if you are someone who wants to volunteer as an occasional driver, please call the Temple office as well.

## InterFaith Matters Committee News

Next Meeting Sunday, March 25th at 9 a.m.

The InterFaith Matters Committee is committed to be inclusive of all congregational members of different faiths. We continue to strive to create learning opportunities, provide information, and offer support to interfaith households in our Sinai community.

Feel free to browse the library shelf, informational table in the lobby, or to check out the InterFaith links on the website.

There will be an upcoming 6th grade parent discussion regarding the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service scheduled after the retreat. Details and date to follow!

We need your input!! If you have any ideas or suggestions for programs, we would love to know! Feel free to join the committee for the next meeting or call/email with your thoughts and ideas.

Tricia Freedman, InterFaith Matters Chair  
567-6930  
[mikeandtricia@hotmail.com](mailto:mikeandtricia@hotmail.com)

## Men of Sinai

### Monthly Meetings

March 6 and April 3 at 7 p.m.

Men of Sinai general meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Meetings are open to all members. Anyone interested in MOS is welcome. Dinner is served at 7:00 and the meeting starts at 7:30. Please RSVP to Buff Maniscalco at [jodiman@comcast.net](mailto:jodiman@comcast.net).

## Sinai Temple Book Club

Sinai Temple's Book Club is in full swing!! New members are always welcome. Personally, I enjoy the diversity of the group which leads to lively conversation filled with varied opinions. We are a group of all ages and gender; all are welcome, come regularly or drop in when you can. Two copies of each book will be in our Sinai library, and if the books are available in the public library system, more will be available at the Longmeadow Public library. All meetings are at 7 p.m. in the Oneg Shabbat Room.

**February 15:** The Invisible Bridge, Julie Orringer, is a long novel which some have found it to be a quick and compelling read with well-drawn characters and details about how the Holocaust unfolded in Hungary.

**March 21:** The Beggar King and the Secret of Happiness, Joel Ben Izzy; not a traditional novel like our other selections, this book is highly recommended by Rachel Rembrandt.

**April 18:** The People of the Book, is historical fiction that follows the Sarajevo Haggadah, a medieval illustrated Haggadah.

## Teen Engagement Task Force Summary Report

A special “Teen Engagement” task force was formed at Sinai Temple last year. The stated objective of the group was to investigate the status of teen engagement at Sinai. Using the URJ’s “Planning Guide for Teen Engagement” as its guide, the first step the group took was to prepare an inventory and description of the current activities available to our teens. The task force then held three focus groups with parents and teens, ably facilitated by Steve Sussman. Input was sought regarding the quality of the offerings and where there were areas for improvement. The deliverable of the group was to prepare a findings report to be passed on to the board with recommendations.

There were a few recurring themes that came out of the sessions:

**Finding:** Sinai offers a wide variety of programming for our teens via both our Religious school and youth groups. Some parents were unaware of all of the programs and how they align with what the URJ describes as the Four Pillars of Teen Engagement: 1) Experiential Education 2) Classroom Curriculum 3) Social and Emotional Development and 4) Congregational Support.

**Recommendation:** Communication and education about the programs should be reviewed and enhanced.

**Finding:** JOY youth group programming primarily focuses on social gatherings and for some, there is a perception that SPFTY is primarily just social as well.

**Recommendation:** Review youth group programming to ensure a variety of ‘well-rounded’ offerings are planned and communicated for all age groups. Improve communications to better articulate the social action, leadership development, worship and educational aspects of the programming.

**Finding:** Kids are more likely to participate in events if they have friends who also attend them. It’s harder to form social relationships in later grades and sometimes the only time some of our kids see each other is during RS classes. If we want our teens to participate, we need to help them build the bonds of friendship early.

### **Recommendation:**

The RS Committee and Youth Committee will continue to work collaboratively, (as they did on this task force), to insure programming is designed to support all four of the URJ’s pillars of engagement.

### **Examples:**

SPARK/Heart/Action is a wonderful program that has run for several years now for our 8th graders. The students meet with senior citizens from our congregation and talk about how their lives are similar and different. We found that it’s a very popular program with both the kids and parents and it supports pillar 1 (Experiential Education) and pillar 3 (Social and Emotional Development).

Assess Sinai’s Youth Committee with an eye towards expanding its vision, mission, goals and objectives to include younger age groups to insure a continuity of social programming.

### **Example:**

“STUFF” (Sinai Temple Under Five Families) is a great new program run by parents of young children. They bring the families together for fun activities and the programs are well attended. These types of events support both pillar 3 (Social and Emotional Development) and pillar 4 (Congregational Support). As a congregation, we need to build on that type of enthusiasm and engagement to temple life for our youth through high school.

There is a lot of additional rich information to cull through, assess and learn from. At this point, the data and findings will be turned over to the Youth Committee for continued review and action.

The task force would like to thank everyone who helped with this initiative, namely the Rabbi for having the foresight to form the committee, the Cantor for championing our Youth Committee, Sheila Shear for sharing her insight and knowledge, the representatives from both the Religious School and Youth Committees, all the volunteers who helped at the focus groups and additional feedback sessions, and the parents and teens who took time out their schedules to share their thoughts, comments and concerns. Your enthusiasm, encouragement and support of Sinai’s efforts to improve our teen engagement is not only appreciated, but necessary if we are to be successful at our goal of having our teens enjoy a rich and fulfilling Jewish life.

## Judaica Shop Corner

Purim and Passover – that means spring is here!

For Purim we have masks and books and some noisemakers.

For Passover, we go all out! Your shop will have Seder Plates, Haggadahs, Elijah and Miriam cups, and so very much more to make your seder perfect. And for children of all ages:

Toys, games, novelties; story and coloring books.

Please see our flyer for expanded hours and for great gifting ideas!

Thais Fischel

786-9577

## 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 Wednesday, April 18**, 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. 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”**

*If 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.*

## Men of Sinai Sunday, March 4 at 9:30 a.m. It’s Time for Breakfast and for Israel With speaker Shir Ricon

The Men of Sinai Breakfast is proud to welcome our regional Israeli cultural ambassador Shir Ricon. Shir would be discussing life and work in modern Israel. The event is open to the public for both men and women. It is free to Men of Sinai and \$5 for non-members.

## Richard Michelson – Speaking at Sinai Seniors Passover Luncheon Noon Tuesday, April 10 ~ See page 9



Richard Michelson is the Curator of Exhibitions at The National Yiddish Book Center and owns R. Michelson Galleries in Northampton, Massachusetts.

He is also a prize-winning poet and children’s book author.

In January 2009, “As Good As Anybody: Martin Luther King and Abraham Joshua Heschel’s Amazing March Toward Freedom,” was awarded the prestigious Sydney Taylor Award Gold Medal from the Association of Jewish Libraries, and “A is for Abraham,” was awarded the Silver Medal. This is the first time in the award’s 41-year history that one author has been honored with their top two awards. The Sydney Taylor Award is the most coveted award for writers of Jewish children’s literature.

In December 2010, Busing Brewster was selected by the NY Times as one of the 10 Best Illustrated Books of 2010, and one of 8 Notable Books of 2010; the only book to make both of their year-end lists.



Come watch over 2 dozen Sinai Temple members perform!  
(Tickets will go on sale in April.)

Performance Dates:

Saturdays: May 12 & 19 at 7:00 pm

Sundays: May 13 & 20 at 2:00 pm

Reserved seating: \$20

General Admission: \$15

For more information, to purchase tickets, or to learn more about volunteer opportunities,  
please contact Sheri Levson at 413-736-3619 or [levsong@verizon.net](mailto:levsong@verizon.net)

# Passover Highlights 2012

## **COME PRAY...COME FILL THE SANCTUARY PASSOVER MORNING**

**Saturday, April 7 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**

Friday, April 13 at 10:30 a.m.

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

A luncheon follows the service.

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

Starting March 19, visit our website ([www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)). Rabbi Shapiro has collected and added on to a large Sinai collection 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.

### **Looking for a new App?**

**Sinai has the Haggadah App for Your Seder This year!**

**And it won't cost you a cent!**

We've got over 100 copies of the Reform movement's Passover Haggadah just waiting for you to borrow and use. It's like a library. We've got them. We want you to use them. Borrow 5, 10, 15 or as many as you need for your Seder.

Visit the Temple office Monday to Friday or see Tina in the Library on Sunday mornings.

Dayenu? Have you got enough? Come see what's available for free.

## **The Caring Community of Sinai Temple**

Invites all Senior Members

to a

### **Passover Luncheon**

12:00 noon,

Tuesday, April 10, 2012

Sinai Temple

**With Guest speaker, writer, poet, and artist**

**Richard Michelson,**

Invitations will be mailed soon. RSVP required.

There is no charge for this wonderful luncheon!

*Mitzvah Day 2012  
Sunday, May 6  
Make a Difference*

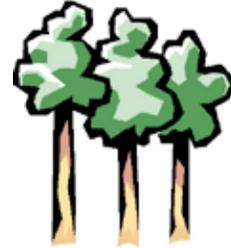


**The Fourth Annual Bike Ride  
for Tzedakah  
Starting at 8 a.m. from the Temple**

Get in shape! A 21 mile bike ride following up on the success of our last three rides. A registration fee of \$25 will be used to underwrite reforesting Springfield after last year's tornado. Last year over 30 people rode. We are hoping to see at least 40 riders this year.

**Blood Drive:  
You Can Save a Life  
From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
At the Temple On May 6**

Baystate Health will be at Sinai requesting that adults give blood. Can you give blood? Any adult in good health, weighing a minimum of 110 pounds, can donate one pint of blood every 56 days. If you take medications such as aspirin, birth control, hormones, antidepressants, diet pills, insulin, or cholesterol or blood pressure pills, you can still usually donate.



**Replanting Springfield!  
Bring your enthusiasm:  
We're planting trees on Mitzvah Day  
(At least 15 volunteers needed.)**

Arbor Allies is affiliated with the Springfield City Forestry Department. Their goal is to plant 900 trees to make up for last year's tornado and October snow storm. We are going to help start the project. Bring water, gloves and be prepared to get dirty!

Carwash  
SPFTY

Get your car washed for tzedakah.  
Any time on the morning of May 6.

***Fill a Room with Food for the Hungry:***

*You brought a bag of food on Yom Kippur, do it again for Passover!  
From April 1 to May 6*

*We would like to collect a ton of food during the month leading up to Mitzvah Day.  
Bring your bag(s) of non-perishable food to the room just outside the Temple office.  
Our goal is 500 bags or more.*

## From Generation to Generation

“A legacy gift is a simple and meaningful way to help insure a strong Jewish future for our community”....  
from a legacy site

WE DID IT! We became members of the Legacy Family and it feels just right!

WE DID IT because Sinai Temple has offered much to our family: religious education for the children, conversion for Helene, meaningful life cycle celebrations, a platform to work on social action projects with the Social Action Committee, this coming year a chance to meet new & old chavurah friends and overall, an opportunity to belong to a community that is very much alive and always striving to improve and grow.

WE DID IT because we wish Sinai Temple to be there for others for generations to come.

If you can, JUST DO IT! JOIN the LEGACY FAMILY... It feels just right!

It is OUR generation's LEGACY!

—Richard and Helene Segool



If you would like to explore joining Richard and Helene in the Sinai Legacy Society, your first step is to discuss opportunities with Rabbi Shapiro or members of the planned giving committee. Please give the office a call at 413-736-3619. There is no obligation in this conversation, and, of course, a gift of any size is welcome.

*Sinai Temple's*  
**L**egacy Society  
Our Turn to Create Sinai's Future  
*in Partnership with—*  
Create a Jewish Legacy of Western Massachusetts

## The Sustaining Membership Program

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

### What is a Sustaining Member?

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

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

Thank you to our current Sustaining Members. Thank you now – in advance – to those of you who may choose to join the program for next year.

If you are interested, please call David Kalman, SMP Chair at 565-2278 or the Temple office at 736-3619.

## In the Community

**Purim Carnival: Games, Food, and Fun**  
Sunday, March 4

12:30 to 3:00 p.m.

At the JCC

Don't miss this grand event. Everyone will have a terrific time.

**Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day)**  
Wednesday, April 18 at 7 p.m.

At Congregation B'nai Trah

The annual community commemoration of Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) will take place April 18 at Congregation B'nai Torah.

This event is co-sponsored by the Hatikvah Holocaust Education Center and the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts.

## STUFF: Sinai Temple Under Five Families

December's Chanukah Bagels & Blocks was a huge success with over 50 in attendance. We sang, danced, and spun like little dreidels while Cantor Bim Bam led us in traditional Chanukah tunes. We made edible dreidels that we devoured as soon as we put them together. We also painted wooden dreidels to play with at home. Miss Stacey read Eric A. Kimmel's *The Chanukkah Guest* while we enjoyed a bagel snack. At our January Tot Shabbat, Sheila told the story of Baby Moses in the River Nile. We each took a turn "reading" from the Torah. We learned that there is a special pointer called a yad that helps us keep our place while reading. Sheila explained that the word "yad" means "hand" in Hebrew. After our delicious pizza party dinner, we started the first project for our Shabbat at Home Kits. We used fabric paints and markers to decorate our very own tote bags. At each upcoming Tot Shabbat, we will create another ritual object to go into our bags to help us celebrate Shabbat at home. Tu B'Shevat was the theme of our January Bagels & Blocks. We pretended we were trees while singing and dancing to Debbie Friedman's "Plant a Tree for Tu B'Shevat" with Cantor Bim Bam. We decorated planters and then planted parsley seeds that we hope will sprout in time to be the karpas on our Passover Seder plates. We also buttered bagels and coated them with birdseed to hang outside for a special winter treat for the birds. Miss Stacey read us *Grandpa and Me* on Tu B'Shevat.



Planting seeds at our Tu B'Shevat Bagels & Blocks



Edible dreidels at our Chanukah Bagels & Blocks



Painting tote bags for Shabbat at Home Kit at our January Tot Shabbat

### Upcoming STUFF Programs:

Friday, March 9th, 6pm: Tot Shabbat & Dinner  
Sunday, March 18th, 10-11:30am: Purim Bagels & Blocks  
Sunday, April 1st, 10-11:30am: Passover Bagels & Blocks  
Friday, April 13th, 6pm: Tot Shabbat & Dinner

If you have children or grandchildren who are five years-old or younger and you would like to be added to our STUFF list, please contact Melanie Courtemanche at [mn-kle17@gmail.com](mailto:mn-kle17@gmail.com).

### Why do YOU attend STUFF Programs at Sinai?

*We're grateful for STUFF for creating age-appropriate opportunities that foster a sense of Jewish identity and a connection to Sinai in the youngest members of our congregation. We feel lucky to be a part of Bagels and Blocks and Tot Shabbat at this time largely due to the phenomenal job that Melanie, Alisha and Stacey do to make sure the kids are engaged and having fun!*

— Jayne Berman & Dianne Sneider, Aunt and Bubbie of Will DeMichele (3 ½ years)

*Maeve loves Bagels and Blocks as that's when she gets to go to "her Sunday School" while her big sisters are in their classes. She is already making friends in the temple and has fun learning about Jewish holidays. She especially enjoys the crafts.*

— Melissa & Miles Stern, parents of Maeve (2 ½ years)

*I like everything - bagels, challah, stories and the projects!*

— Emma Brunette (3 years)

*I like eating bagels!*

— Madeline Brunette (5 years)

*We like coming because it provides an opportunity for the girls to learn more about Judaism in a fun way - they love the songs, arts and crafts projects, and of course, the food. We like consistently taking them to temple at a young age so they can start to feel comfortable here.*

— Erica & Tom Brunette, parents of Madeline (5 years), Emma (3 years) and Will (9 months)

*Fun activities with our kids! Don't want to miss them!*

— Caroline & Robert Schapiro, parents of Mathieu (2 ½ years) and Alexandre (3 months)



"Reading" the torah at our January Tot Shabbat





1100 Dickinson Street  
Springfield, MA 01108  
(413) 736-3619  
<http://www.sinai-temple.org>

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**There are so many reasons to join Sinai Temple. Someone you know may need only one - an invitation to breakfast.**

**April 29th, 2011  
9:30am - 11am**

**We need your help - please start thinking of Jewish friends and acquaintances - who are not members of Sinai Temple - that you could invite to breakfast.**

**Lox more info to follow!**