

# Sinai Temple

## BULLETIN



*Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat*

## For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

Someone gave me a wonderful present a few weeks ago. Or perhaps it wasn't so much a present for me as it turns out to have been a present for her adult child. Let me explain.

One of our congregants came to see me to talk about her son. He grew up here at Sinai, became a Bar Mitzvah here, and was confirmed. Life then moved along so that, in his late 20's, our congregant's son married a woman where he lived in a small New England town. Together, they had a baby boy.

However, Mom didn't come to see me just to share the good news. Mom visited with me to share her concern about the Jewish future of her son and grandson because her daughter in law is not Jewish and their choice about religious identity for their family is not decided.

We had a long conversation, the details of which I won't share. What matters most is that I asked if it was OK for me to contact her son and talk. Permission granted. I made the call. Her son (my former student) and I talked. Again, the details of the conversation don't matter as much as what I was able to say at one point as the young man and I talked.

After we had discussed lots about life I commented, "Steven (fictional name), we don't need to come up with any decisions today. You don't need to do anything that you and Barbara (fictional name) don't have lots of time to consider. I just want you to know that if you want to talk more in one week or one year or three years I am here. I'm here for you forever because I am your rabbi for as long as you want a rabbi."

That was the gift to me!

I was able to let this Jewish boy who grew up at Sinai know that no matter where he was or how many years ago he was at Sinai I would be there for him. That was a gift because it allowed me to be someone's rabbi in a very sincere way. I think it may have been a gift to this young man because it allowed him to hear that the doors to Sinai and Judaism are always open. Once we form the bond, the bond stays.

Here's a final note: If this situation sounds at all familiar to you, give me a present. Get in touch, let's talk, let me be in touch with your child or you so that I can affirm our covenant: I am your rabbi and that's a commitment for life.

*Please note - This bulletin is an eight week bulletin - covering November AND December 2010.*

## Friday Evenings in November

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

**November 5**

It may look like a Family Service, but it's more than that. It's a "family friendly" service aimed at all age groups.

**Kabbalat Shabbat (Honoring Veteran's Day) at 6 p.m.**

**November 12**

In honor of Veteran's Day, we host Springfield's Jewish War Veterans. Temple member, Dr. Steven Kessler, lead psychiatrist and Chief of Inpatient Mental Health Services at the Northampton VA Medical Center, will speak about the emotional and psychological aspects of service. Dinner follows. See page 3.

**Tot Shabbat at 6 p.m.**

**November 19**

An early service for little people followed by dinner.

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

**November 19**

Extra musical forces to enhance our service.

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

**November 26**

Look at the weekly Torah portion, Rabbi will teach.

## Friday Evenings in December

**Chanukah Service, Dinner, and Program at 6 p.m.**

**December 3**

Bring your Chanukah (menorah) with 4 candles. Dinner follows with guest teacher. An evening for all ages. Reservations required. See page 5.

**Kabbalat Shabbat at 6 p.m.**

**December 10**

Veggies available at 5:30 p.m.

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

**December 17**

Extra music plus Rabbi Tammy Kohlberg from Israel.

**"Holiday" Fridays at 6 p.m.**

**December 24 & 31**

Special food, songs (!), and tales for the season.

## Saturday Mornings

Torah Study at 9:00 a.m.

Service at 10:30 a.m.

See page 2 for Bar and Bat Mitzvahs in November and December.

## November and December B'nai Mitzvah

*Service at 10:30 a.m.*

*Mazal Tov to our Bnai Mitzvah:*

**November 6** – Ben Skiest

Son of Dan Skiest and Suzette Damboise

**November 13** – Ryan O'Connor

Son of Martin and Cheryl O'Connor

**November 20** – Seth Brunell

Son of Tom and Joanne Brunell

**December 18** – Lucy Leavitt

Daughter of Rob Leavitt and Donna Fisher

### 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.

### Last Minute News!

## Something special added to Chanukah!

We're pleased to announce that, as part of our own Sinai "bright lights" night on Friday, December 3, we will be extending special honors to three of Sinai's brightest volunteer lights. We will be honoring Thais and Gunther Fischel as well as Mike Bader. The Fischels are being honored for their many, many years of work at the Judaica Shop. Mike is being honored for his many, many years as Membership Chair.

See you at the 6 p.m. service. Make your reservations for the Chanukah dinner that follows.

The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published monthly by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 3 for the year 2010-2011.

Mark Dov Shapiro ..... Rabbi  
Martin Levson ..... Cantor  
Sheila Shear ..... Director of Education  
Lisa Gittleman Udi ..... JOY and SPFTY Advisor  
Mark Stone ..... President  
Jeff Cossin ..... First Vice President  
Steve Sussman ..... Vice President  
Linda Kay ..... Vice President  
Bruce Leshine ..... Treasurer  
Laurie Weinberg ..... Financial Secretary  
Jackie Neiman ..... Recording Secretary  
Jack Henrie ..... Men of Sinai  
Ron Weiss ..... Cemetery Chair  
Jackie Neiman ..... Membership Recruitment Chair  
Visit our website: [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)



On Sunday, October 17, Third and Fourth Graders with their families went for a hike on Mt. Tom. That same weekend extra "social" programs were held for students from Kindergarten all the way through to Sixth Grade. Watch for more opportunities!

## Notes from Cantor Martin Levson

The next two sessions of Divrei Shir, the adult education Jewish music appreciation class, will be held on Wednesday, November 3 and 17, at 7:30 P.M. The topics for these sessions will be the relationship between music and sacred text, and "What is Jewish about this Music?" Each session is an independent unit; you can attend either (or both) sessions even if you missed the first session last month. There are a number of handouts involved with each session, so please call the Temple office to register so I can prepare enough materials for everyone. I hope to see you at Divrei Shir!

*Ivdu et Hashem B'simcha!*

*Serve the Holy One with JOY!*

## Events for the Little Kids

### Tot Shabbat November 19

### Chanukah Bagels & Blocks December 5

Join us for Tot Shabbat with Dinner on November 19th at 6p.m. Please RSVP to Melanie Courtemanche, [minkle17@gmail.com](mailto:minkle17@gmail.com), or 527-5723 by 11/14 to reserve your spots for dinner. On December 5th, from 9:15-10:30a.m., let's celebrate Chanukah with a special Bagels & Blocks program for little ones (18 months - 5 years). You do not need to be a current member to attend Tot events at Sinai. Please bring a friend!

## Martinis & Magic: Saturday night, February 5 At Sinai Temple

HOLD THE DATE - This is a pure fun evening. It was great last year and it's coming back. We'll be serving martinis of all kinds. Magic will surround the evening PLUS more. Stay tuned.

# What Does Judaism Say About...?

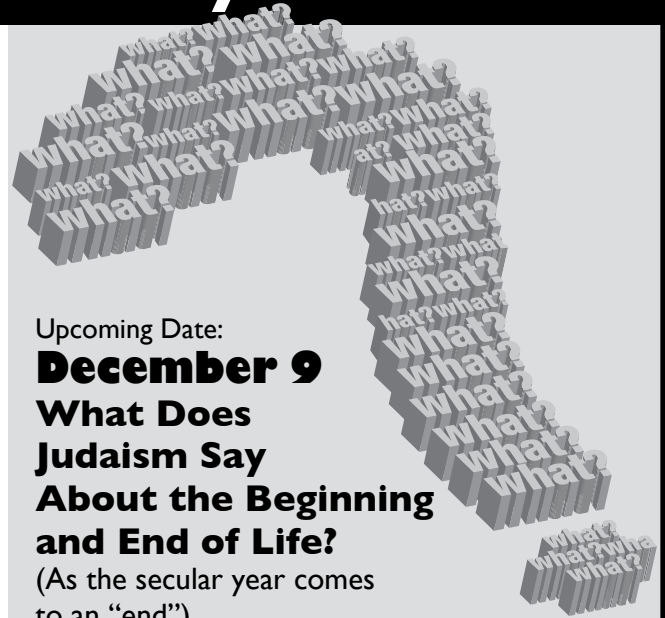
**Second Thursday Every Month  
From 6 to 7:30 p.m.**

(With a "lite bite" available each evening)

Are you curious about Judaism? Are you curious about our tradition's approach toward major modern issues? If you've got questions, this year Rabbi Shapiro will offer some answers. On the second Thursday of each month, come to Sinai. We'll feed you a light dinner and we'll take on one topic per month.

You can come once, all the time, or once in a while. Each Thursday conversation will be self-contained.

**November 11**  
**What Does Judaism**  
**Say About Homosexuality?**  
(As the matter of same sex marriage  
winds its way through the courts)



Upcoming Date:

**December 9**

**What Does**  
**Judaism Say**  
**About the Beginning**  
**and End of Life?**

(As the secular year comes  
to an "end")

Topics for the winter and spring will  
be announced in a few months.

*We are grateful to Leah and Jerry Gottlieb for  
underwriting this series of dinner conversations.*

**Dinner and Movie at Sinai:**  
**Some "Reel" Fun**  
**Friday, November 12**  
**Starting at 6 p.m.**

**The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with our  
Kabbalat Shabbat service honoring  
Veteran's Day. At 7 p.m., PIZZA & SALAD  
dinner. At 7:45 p.m. two events. A film for  
adults and an activity for kids.**

The movie is entitled FROM PHILADELPHIA TO THE FRONT. It tells the story of six Jewish men who remember growing up in Philadelphia and serving their country in World War II. Their experiences fighting anti-semitism both at home and abroad offer fascinating insights into the generation that transformed modern American Jewry. (We will invite responses from some of the veterans who will be with us that evening.)

**Divrei Shir:  
What Makes Jewish Music Work?  
Conversations with Cantor Levson  
Wednesday, November 3 & 17 at 7:30 p.m.**

Learn about Jewish music: history, styles, and spirituality. Please RSVP to the Cantor so that he can prepare materials for you.

**Springfield Celebrates the Global Day  
of Jewish Learning at the JCC  
Saturday, November 6  
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

Featuring  
Rabbi Max Davis—B'nai Torah  
Rabbi Amy Katz—Temple Beth El  
Rabbi Mark Shapiro—Sinai Temple

A panel conversation among the three rabbis followed by an opportunity to study Talmud (in English) with the rabbis on the topic:

“Arguing with God :A Jewish National Past-time”

Can you study Talmud? Yes, if you’ve got a questioning mind.

Can you enjoy Saturday night with Talmud? Yes, if your teacher has a sense of humor.

Can you be part of the Global Day of Jewish Learning? Yes, if you’re at the JCC on November 6.

To reserve your space and let us know about your childcare needs, call the JCC 739-4715.

**Torah Study for those who like Fiction!  
Saturday, November 13 at 9 a.m.  
With Guest Novelist, Patricia Friedberg**

A story of class distinction, people and traditions, a family and its fate, English and its fight against fascism, and a woman with a secret she must take to the grave.

Set in London, England’s, Jewish East End in the chaotic period between World War One and Two, *21 ALDGATE* by British Author, Patricia Friedberg is a story about a place in time that no longer exists except in rapidly fading memories.

A feature film based on the novel is in development by Progress Pictures, Ltd. in the UK. *21 ALDGATE*, Rainbow Books, Inc., Highland City, Florida, USA. 2010

Available on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), Barnes and Noble, Borders and in major bookstores.



**Monthly Morning Service  
Wednesdays, November 3 & December 1  
At 7:30 a.m.**

A chance to start your day with a different focus. We meet on the bimah for a service of 20 minutes. Breakfast follows. 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, January 5, February 2, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1.

**Saturday Morning Services  
Every Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m.**

We have a regular weekly Shabbat morning service. Even when there isn’t a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, there is a Saturday morning service (complete with the Yahrzeit list) every Saturday starting at 10:30 a.m.

**Sex, War, and Property:  
Torah Study with a Special Focus  
Saturdays at 9 a.m.**

**(With a guest presenter on November 13.  
See this page.)**

The Torah Portion starting at Deuteronomy Chapter 21:10 contains more laws on more topics than any other Torah Portion. From sex to war, theft, the environment, marriage, divorce, and raising children, everything is in these chapters from Deuteronomy.

If you are interested in any(!) of the topics above, Torah Study should be for you. Especially if you have never studied Torah, this will be a wonderful introduction.

**A Shabbat Service at Glenmeadow  
Friday, December 17 at 5 p.m.**

As the weather gets a bit more challenging, we were thinking it might be nice to bring Sinai to Glenmeadow. The Rabbi and Cantor will lead a Shabbat Service for our Glenmeadow members and their friends on December 17. You are invited to be there.

**Rabbi Tammy Kohlberg  
Friday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m.**

Tammy Kohlberg is the leader of the Reform congregation in Ra-a-nana, a Tel Aviv suburb. Sinai Temple has often sent tzedakah to the Ra-a-nana congregation. Our last Temple tour spent a terrific evening at Tammy’s congregation. Tammy will be in Springfield to attend the Bat Mitzvah of Lucy Leavitt. She will speak to us about Israel and the challenges and joys she encounters as a Reform Jew and Reform Rabbi in Israel.

**Chanukah – Light up the Night!  
Service, Dinner, Latkes, & Learning  
Friday, December 3**

**6:00 SERVICE WITH CHANUKAH MENORAH LIGHTING**

**7:00 DINNER WITH SURPRISE GUESTS**

**7:30 TIME FOR “THEATER” WITH GUEST TEACHER PETER PITZELE!!!**

**For all Ages!**

**For our whole community!**

**Reservations required for DINNER. \$5 per person or \$10 per family.  
Your check is your reservation.**

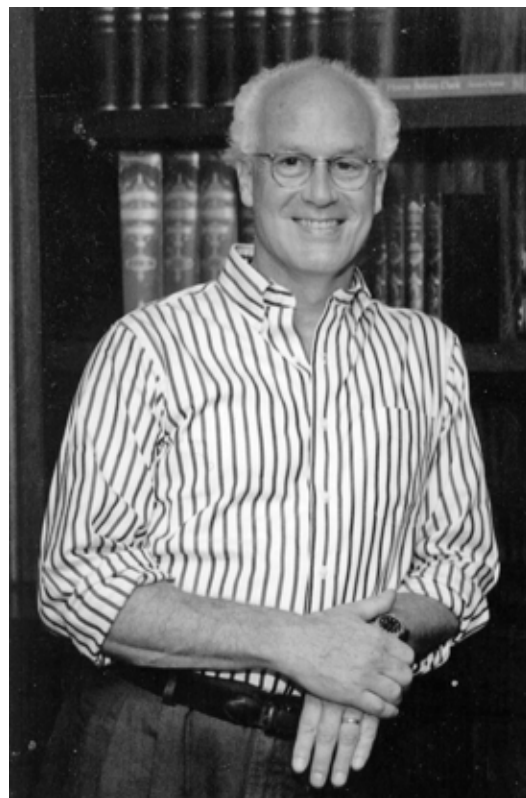
**Thanks to MEN OF SINAI for preparing the meal!!!**

*“I’ll never read a Bible story the same again.”*

*“He brings kids and adults together. You have to see it to believe it.”*

*“He calls it “bibliodrama.” But it’s not theater the way you expect it. He brings the stories alive so that the old stories really become our stories today.”*

*“Peter Pitzele is awesome.”*



**The Coat of Many Colors: Favoritism and Folly in the story of Joseph  
An interactive program to engage all generations  
and offer some surprising insights into the Joseph story**

Peter Pitzele has a Ph.D. from Harvard University. He taught literature and trained in improvisational drama. He was Director of Psychodrama at Four Winds Hospital in Katonah, New York where he developed BIBLIODRAMA – a form of biblical investigation that involves laughter, creativity, and play. He is nationally recognized as a teacher. Thanks to the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and Leah and Gerry Gottlieb for underwriting this evening.

## Message from Sheila Shear, Director of Education

*Shalom Chaverim,*

I am so excited about our new additions to the Religious School Pages of our Sinai Temple web site. [www.sinai-temple.org/Religious\\_School/startpage.php](http://www.sinai-temple.org/Religious_School/startpage.php)

Thanks to Howard Kalodner, our web guru (among other things), there are now two additional buttons to support our students. The first button says Mitkadem. When you press it you will get a listing of the prayers for each Ramah (level) of our Hebrew program chanted and read by Cantor Levson. When your child is practicing he or she can just click on the appropriate Ramah and will be able to practice reading/chanting along with the cantor. Just like a private session whenever you want it! The second addition is a button that brings you to our Sinai Temple Religious School Blog. It will keep you up to date with what your child is learning in classes. You may also leave a comment. I hope these additions will be helpful to you and your children.

What else has been going on? The Kindergarten through 2nd graders had a pizza, games and crafts night, the 3rd and 4th graders have gone on a mountain hike with a song session at the top of Mt. Tom, the 5th graders walked for Rays of Hope, and the 5th and 6th graders have participated in our Shabbat Service and had a special Ice Cream Oneg of their own. This and more to come.

## Jewish Summer Camping Can Make All the Difference in Preparing a Jewish Child for the Future

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 as soon as possible.

## Scholarships for Free

If your son or daughter is planning to attend any kind of Jewish program this summer, please take advantage of the Temple scholarship program. Thanks to the Joseph Emanuel, Rabbi Herman Eliot and Adele Biederman Snyder Memorial Fund, scholarships are available in small and larger amounts. We are also thankful to the family of Edna Simon and Judy and Michael Cohen who support summer scholarships as well. Your confidential request should go to Rabbi Shapiro no later than March 1.

## What's Going On At Sinai For Kids?

Sinai is THE place for all of our children. In addition to SPFTY, our senior youth group, JOY, our junior youth group and Religious School and Hebrew School, there is a lot going on for our kids, from our young toddlers to our tweens.

Here is what is happening.

For our toddlers and preschoolers there are monthly TOT Shabbat Services followed by kid friendly dinners. For information you can contact Melanie Courtemanch at [mnkle17@gmail.com](mailto:mnkle17@gmail.com).

The parents of our Kindergarten through 6th grade students are planning the Social Season of the decade.

Our Kindergarten through 2nd grade students began the social season with a Pizza, games and craft night, to be followed in November by a Make Lunch and Story Time after Religious School. The 3rd and 4th graders began their social season with a hike up Mt. Tom with a song session at the top with the Cantor, followed by a kick ball game in November, and 5th and 6th grades began with and Ice Cream Oneg.

More events for all groups are in the planning stages. They include Bagels and Blocks for our tots and preschoolers in December, an Unbirthday Party for 5th and 6th graders, for 3rd and 4th graders, a Bring a Friend To Sinai Evening, and an Almost Sleepover are being planned. A separate but equal Almost Sleepover for the K-2 crowd is also being planned. Not part of the planning? Want to be? Contact Sheila [sshear@sinai-temple.org](mailto:sshear@sinai-temple.org) or call the Religious School Office.

## For Kids and For Families Saturday, December 11 10:30 a.m. to Noon

Come to a one hour service with lunch and s'mores to follow. This service is "free" and "fun." Admission requires a child between the ages of 6 and 12.

## Free Membership Offer to Join B'nai Tzedek Teen Philanthropy Program

Are you a teen who is interested in philanthropy? Are you looking for a way to meet other Jewish teens? Do you want to have fun while making a difference?

The B'nai Tzedek Teen Philanthropy Program gives local Jewish teens a way to get involved, take action and make a difference in their community through hands-on community service projects, fundraising and more.

To encourage even more young people to get involved, B'nai Tzedek is waiving the \$118 membership fee for those who sign up by December 31, 2010.

Visit [www.hgf.org](http://www.hgf.org) to find out more or go to <http://tinyurl.com/BTmembership> to fill out your membership form today.



# THE MUSIC MAN IS COMING TO SINAI TEMPLE

Auditions on December 12 and 13!

And you can be part of the show! We are ready to go!

You can be on stage or work behind the scenes.

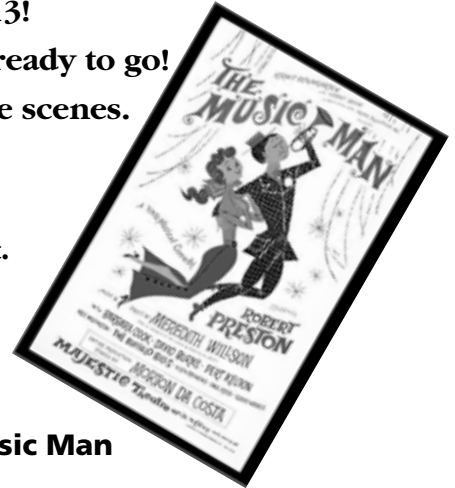
There are at least 76 ways for you or your children to participate.

If you are interested, please contact Sheri Levson: [levsong@verizon.net](mailto:levsong@verizon.net).

*Auditions are scheduled:*

*Sunday, December 12 at 7 p.m. and Monday, December 13 at 6 p.m.*

*Callbacks on Thursday, December 16.*



## Some of the 76 Ways to Get Involved with The Music Man

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Join the committee                        | Help design a backdrop                      |
| Stage Manager                             | Sell tickets the night of a show            |
| Help with costumes                        | Audition for the show in December           |
| Help clear the stage area before December | Bake something for the concession stand     |
| Be a liaison to a local marching band     | Help design the sets                        |
| Be the liaison to Ruth's House            | Loan us a trombone                          |
| coordinate the T-shirt sales              | Shlep your child to rehearsals              |
| Donate building materials                 | Learn more by watching the DVD of Music Man |
| Help with make-up                         | Set up dressing rooms                       |
| Pre-sell tickets                          | Design the program                          |
| Encourage your child to audition          | Help with the sound system                  |
| Assistant Director                        | Work backstage                              |
| Help build sets                           |   |

## What makes me happy to be a member of Sinai Temple?

I am happy to be a member of Sinai Temple with my family because it is a spiritual place where we can worship and feel comfortable in a welcoming atmosphere. When I attend services, it gives me a sense of peace and I enjoy the musical and religious fulfillment. I cherish watching my children grow and develop their ideas and morals as they become valued members of our community.

— *Mike Freedman*

When I walk through the door, I feel warm, comforted, nurtured, supported, and engaged. It is a second home for me. My child feels totally at home in the building, knowing that she is safe wherever she wanders, known by many people, and about to embark on some terrific experience.

— *Gloria Wald*

I like being a member of Sinai because .....It's another opportunity for David and me to get together with our friends whether it be to celebrate the holidays, go to Friday night services, study at Torah Study Saturday mornings or enjoy some of the special programing that the Rabbi or Cantor have planned.

— *Carol Tivoli*

In one word I would say community. I love feeling a part of this community and I love the home-like familiarity I feel here. The longer we are members (11 years now) the more fond memories I have to look back on - annual family holiday events such as the Chanukah party, decorating the sukkah and dressing up at Purim, life cycle events such as my children becoming Bar and Bat Mitzvah and of course volunteer opportunities. I also love that we are ever changing and evolving and that there are always new people to meet and new initiatives, events and activities to become a part of.

— *Jackie Neiman*

## Chanukah, Chanukah 2010

### Get On Our Case: Through to December 10!

Have you got any children's books at home that your children no longer use? The books are still in good shape and you're wondering what to do with them? Bring your children's books (pre-school up to young adult) to the Temple. We are going to collect as many books as possible on the bookshelves in the Temple entrance. We will then donate the books so that our old books can be brand new material for other children. Please get your books on our case! There are plenty of young readers in Springfield waiting for your books.

### Chanukah Tzedakah: Ner Shel Tzedakah, Tuesday, December 7

Don't buy presents on December 7. On the SEVENTH night of Chanukah, December 7, the Social Action Committee encourage families to donate the value of the gifts they would ordinarily exchange (or the gifts themselves) to local or national organizations assisting the poor. Let this be an evening for NER SHEL TZEDAKAH - THE LIGHT OF TZEDAKAH

### The Green Menorah: A Commitment to "green" Chanukah

When the Maccabees rededicated the Jerusalem Temple in 165 B.C.E., legend tells us that one day's worth of oil kept the Temple menorah going for eight days! What if the "miracle" of Chanukah led us to use less oil in our day? Can we help today's world conserve energy? Perhaps we can rethink all those bags in which we will carry Chanukah gifts and food?

### Paper and Plastic Bags Contribute to Global Warming

Paper bags have the highest global warming impact per bag compared to other types of bags. 70% more global warming gasses are emitted making a paper bag than a plastic bag, and 50 times more water pollution. In 1999, Americans used 10 billion paper shopping bags, consuming 14 million trees.

Plastic bags are made from petroleum that could be used in other ways. The 300 billion plastic bags that American throw away each year are made from millions of barrels of petroleum.

### How about reusable bags?

Reusable bags reduce all these costs by a factor of hundreds. So...before you "bag" it this Chanukah, please THINK GREEN.

•••••  
• The Chanukah blessings are printed on page 16 of this Bulletin. The melodies can be heard on our website at  
• [http://www.sinai-temple.org/Chanukah/chanukah\\_blessings](http://www.sinai-temple.org/Chanukah/chanukah_blessings).  
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## Chanukah Questions and Answers

### When is Chanukah?

Chanukah begins Wednesday evening, December 1. The last candle is lit Wednesday, December 8.

### How do we observe Chanukah today?

Chanukah is almost entirely a time for celebration, although it can be more than that. This year, for example, how about implementing the new "tradition" of Ner Shel Tzedakah, which means dedicating one "ner/candle/night" to tzedakah. Make Tuesday, December 7 different by giving gifts of tzedakah.

### How do we prepare the candles when Chanukah arrives?

Place the candles in the chanukiah (Chanukah menorah) from right to left.

### How many candles are used?

On the first night of Chanukah one light is kindled. On the following night, two lights and so on until on the eighth night, eight lights are kindled. This does not, of course, include the shammas which is the candle used every night to light the other candles of the day.

### Where does the chanukiah go?

If possible the chanukiah should go near or at a window. In this way passersby can see the burning candles, which means according to Jewish tradition, that we have helped in the process of Pirsum Ha-nais—the Publicizing of the Chanukah Miracle and Story.

### How do we light the candles?

Just after nightfall, say the blessings. The first two are said every night. The third is only said on the first night. After the blessings light the candles by going from left to right so that the additional light of each night is kindled first.

### Do we do anything different on Shabbat - Friday evening, December 3?

Yes. On that night we light the chanukiah first and after that Shabbat candles are lit. However, for a really good time, don't light candles at home. Bring yourself and your candles to Temple for a 6 pm. service followed by dinner and an amazing evening with teacher (and entertainer) Peter Pitzele.

### Try a Synagogue Party - Saturday, December 4

Share the news with non-members. Those with little ones are invited to a party at Kiddly Winks in Longmeadow, 801 Williams Street. Details will follow. Help us do the outreach for this great opportunity.





Hallie Goldstein spent the summer in Israel with a NFTY - the National Federation of Temple Youth - our Reform youth group organization.

Ten Minutes of Torah  
From our Reform Movement  
The Union for Reform Judaism

Study that Matches Your Lifestyle – Sign up at [www.urj.org/ten](http://www.urj.org/ten) for a brief daily teaching or reflection. Each day has a different theme:

**Monday – Reform Ideas about the Weekly Torah Portion**

**Tuesday – Mishnah Day**

*(Easy intro in English to that “book” you’ve always heard about. You can learn Mishnah!!!)*

**Wednesday – Israel Connections**

**Thursdays – Delving into the Prayer Book**

*(Step by step introduction to how our prayers came to be!!!)*

**Friday – Jewish World and Social Action**

E - Study  
Torah on the Web:

[www.urj.org/torah](http://www.urj.org/torah) - An excellent commentary on the Torah portion.

[www.urj.org/shabbat](http://www.urj.org/shabbat) - The Reform Movement’s weekly commentary designed to inspire discussions at your Shabbat table.

[www.urj.org/torah/ten](http://www.urj.org/torah/ten) - 10 Minutes of Torah – Receive weekly emails of Torah commentary and reflections on current events (see above).

[www.myjewishlearning.com](http://www.myjewishlearning.com) – Resource on everything from holidays to mysticism

## Happenings With Men of Sinai

MOS just had over 400 people come to Sinai Temple for the Fall Festival of Art (see separate note)...a great time had by all! The Men of Sinai hosted our first of seven breakfasts as a meet and greet with discussion of future topics and speakers. We had our second BBQ of the year on October 24th in conjunction with an outing for the Religious School and Sinai community to the Springfield Public Forum for a presentation by the creator and director of Spirit and Opportunity, Mars land rover missions.

MOS will host a special breakfast on November 14th to network. If you own a business or know someone who owns a business, or are seeking to become a part of a business, this is for you!!! We want people to let us know about their businesses/what they are doing/ what they are seeking so we can promote one another’s businesses, buy from one another, help get more of our community more fully employed....While we may repeat this event, assuming its success, it would be best to be there with about a minute pitch, as if that is the only opportunity. Perhaps we could assemble a booklet with the aggregated Temple membership-businesses. Please see/call me with ideas on how further to make this best for all.

We will be providing a chicken dinner for Sinai’s Chanukah party on December 3rd. We will have our Temple’s (and Channel 40’s) sportscaster extraordinaire Scott Coen speaking for our breakfast on December 12th. Please remember that our breakfasts are open to all and are free to MOS members and are \$5 to all others.

Jack Henrie  
President, Men of Sinai

## Judaica Shop Corner

Chanukah is really, really early this year: We light the first candle on Wednesday night December 1st!!

Your Judaica Shop is brimming over with new, traditional, unusual and one-of-a kind gifts. Toys and games for the season will delight young and not so young. Our “Woman of Valor” collection has been expanded; the latke servers are here; our tallis selection has never been more extensive. Jewelry by young new crafts people has arrived.

See our enclosed flyer for ideas and expanded hours. Do come in to browse.

We are doing our annual Children’s Shopping Day on Sunday, November 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Any questions?...call Thais at 413-786-9577.

## The Fall Festival of Art

We received plenty of excellent feedback on the Fall Festival of Art show that was held at Sinai on October 10th and 11th. Stuart Warshaw was able to bring together three dozen of New England's best professional artists and artisans along with exhibits by five of the area schools. I want to thank all of our volunteers without whom the show could not have been nearly as successful. I would be remiss if I did not give special thanks to those who led committees and who made very special contributions of time and effort, in particular, along with Stuart and Judy Warshaw and Carol Levine, Karen Mernoff organized volunteers for the event, Ann Jacobs handled publicity, Sid Snegg made signs and helped Stuart and Jay Mustain with set up, Sheri Levson who captained all the volunteers during the event, David Amster who handled details behind the scenes and, as always in a major fund-raising at the Temple, Donna and Angel. If I have omitted you from this list, I apologize; there were many exceptional contributions of time and effort.

I hope that you were able to attend the show. It was a great time, and with more foot traffic, I am sure that we can do even better next year. We do not have final numbers yet, but estimate that Sinai Temple and the Men of Sinai grossed \$7,000 and netted over \$5,400 from this event.

Jack Henrie  
President, Men of Sinai

## JCC Maccabi Games Calling All Sinai Participants

Congratulations to the following Sinai members who participated in the 2010 JCC Maccabi Games in Denver this past August: Coach-Betsy Bertuzzi, Athletes-Hannah Skiest, Michael Plumb, Rachel Wetstone, Hayden Van Brewer, Andrew Cowen, Noah Hurwitz and Alex Calabrese.

Join them and many others as the Springfield Jewish Community Center hosts the 2011 JCC Maccabi Games August 14-19, 2011. The JCC Maccabi Games is the largest organized sports program for Jewish teenagers in the world. Registration is open now for all Jewish teens that will be between 12 and 16 on July 31, 2011. JCC membership is NOT required.

This will be a wonderful week of Jewish communal bonding, spirit and fun as we extend our Springfield hospitality to 850 visiting teens from all over the U.S., Israel and Mexico, as well as hundreds of visiting families and coaches. Adults and older teens are needed to be volunteers and host families. To register to participate, call the JCC at 739-4715.

## Fall Festival of Art Thanks to all

The Festival of Art was made possible through the combined efforts of Men of Sinai and the larger Temple community. Thanks to the creative spark and chair, Stuart Warshaw, plus Judy Warshaw, Carol Levine, Ann Jacobs, and Karen Mernoff.

Thanks as well to so many other helpers and volunteers:

Sheri Levson	Patti Goldstein	Jill Goldstein
David Amster	Sidney Snegg	Nelson Stone
Jack Henrie	Scott Sherman	Gunther Fischel
Sy Shotland	Bill Horowitz	Selena Blake
Ernie Blake	Ruth Corbert	Ann Rosenfield
Jeff Cossin	Jay Mustain	Judy Aronson
Henry Aronson	Helen Weiner	Bea Sussman
Marilyn Amster	Marcia Gordonstein	Adele Citron
Sherry Dickerman	Bob Kadis	Diane Friedberg
George Dickstein	Lynn Perlmutter	Stan Zimmermann
Joan Miller	Grace Hoff	Jay Berger
Kitty Berger	Lynn Solomon	Avi Knee
Ted Knee	Becky Sherman	Paul Grunthalt
Claire Cohen Stelzer	Phil Harris	

### PLUS ALL THE BAKERS

Linda Kay	Zel Lavin	Belle Rita Novak
Adele Citron	Laurie Weinberg	Judy Warshaw
Sandy Suib-Dutcher	Ann Jacobs	

AND

Donna and Angel Robin and Lori in the office

AND

Thanks to the JCC for lending us dividers and easels

## Transportation Needed? Introducing 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.



**2010 Literatour**  
Springfield Jewish Book Festival

**Events At a Glance:**

nov. 2	susan baruch	<i>paternity</i>
nov. 7	deborah lakritz	<i>say hello, lily</i>
nov. 9	kevin salwen	<i>the power of half</i>
nov. 14	mark oppenheimer	<i>wisenheimer</i>
nov. 16	ruth nemzoff	<i>don't bite your tongue</i>
nov. 21	lee kravitz	<i>unfinished business</i>
nov. 23	martin fletcher	<i>walking israel</i>
nov. 30	jeffrey zaslow	<i>the girls from ames</i>

Pick up a brochure at the Springfield JCC,  
or visit [www.SpringfieldJCC.org](http://www.SpringfieldJCC.org) for complete details.

Literatour Book Store will be open Saturday evening, November 6;  
daily November 7 thru November 18 (except Saturdays);  
and in the evenings during author events



Springfield Jewish Community Center  
Neal Webber Building  
1160 Dickinson Street  
Springfield, MA 01108  
(413) 739-4715  
[www.SpringfieldJCC.org](http://www.SpringfieldJCC.org)

## Thanks for the Yom Kippur Shoes From Gray House

Thank you so much for once again organizing a shoe drive in conjunction with Rosh Hashanah. Your thoughtfulness in collecting 100 pairs of brand new shoes is heartwarming. Within just a couple of days of your delivery, all the shoes were picked up. The children were so excited to get brand new shoes for school and the parents were incredibly grateful for this gift.

In addition to seeing the overwhelming needs of our community, I also get to witness incredible generosity, which moves me. There is something so touching about this particular gift. I don't know if it's knowing how important a comfortable pair of shoes is or how nice it is for the children to get something brand new, but whatever it is others notice it too. Every year, my board president asks me if the shoes have come in. This year, a new staff member stood amazed at the stacks of shoe boxes the morning after they arrived.

Please know that your generosity and thoughtfulness are deeply appreciated. On behalf of The Gray House and especially the children, thank you for your compassion.

With gratitude & peaceful wishes,  
Dena Calvanese, Executive  
Director, The Gray House, Inc.

## Interfaith Outreach Committee News

The Interfaith Outreach Committee is continuing the work from last year of increasing strong membership connections for interfaith households that belong to Sinai Temple. One of the goals of the Sinai Temple mission statement is to be "a welcoming and inclusive Reform congregation." The Interfaith Outreach Committee is committed to supporting interfaith families within Sinai Temple so that everyone can feel comfortable and welcome.

Some of the changes and programs from last year that are already in place:

- A dedicated library shelf for books on interfaith topics. Five new books have already been added this year!

- A link on the website titled "InterFaith Matters" where all the updated events and programs are listed, both within Sinai and the surrounding community.

- The display and creation of brochures relating to interfaith and other topics of interest in the front lobby of Sinai.

- The Learner's Shabbat which took place on Friday, October 8th.

Stay tuned for future programs and updates in the coming year!

~Sinai's Interfaith Outreach Committee

(For more information please contact Tricia Freedman at 567-6930)

## Caring for our Loved Ones: What would you like to do?

On Rosh Hashanah, Rabbi Shapiro spoke about the challenges and rewards of caregiving. On October 28, the Rabbi was part of a community panel discussing caregiving.

What's next?

Sinai will continue its collaboration with Jewish Family Service. More programming is in preparation. Our Temple website also has resources on caregiving. Would you like there to be more conversation about caregiving: a support group, reading suggestion, consultations with Jewish Family Service? What can we do together to be better caregivers? Please speak to Rabbi Shapiro with your ideas. [markdov@sinai-temple.org](mailto:markdov@sinai-temple.org)

## Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat

It's possible to taste Shabbat in many ways. Here are some thoughts from Rabbi Susan Lippe of Los Altos, CA. She was speaking to High School students, but, with a little imagination, it becomes clear she speaks to adults as well.

I'm going to tell you the truth as I see it: Each of you matter. You are important. Your life right now matters, which means you need to take care of yourself.

Your first job is to take care of yourselves.

I know some of you are suffering too much to pay attention to anyone but yourself. Some people may call you selfish. But we know sometimes selfish is the only thing you can be. I know that there are days and weeks when it's all you can do to hold yourself together.

That's OK. Everyone has days when it's all we can do to make it through school or work. To brush our teeth. To find shoes that match.

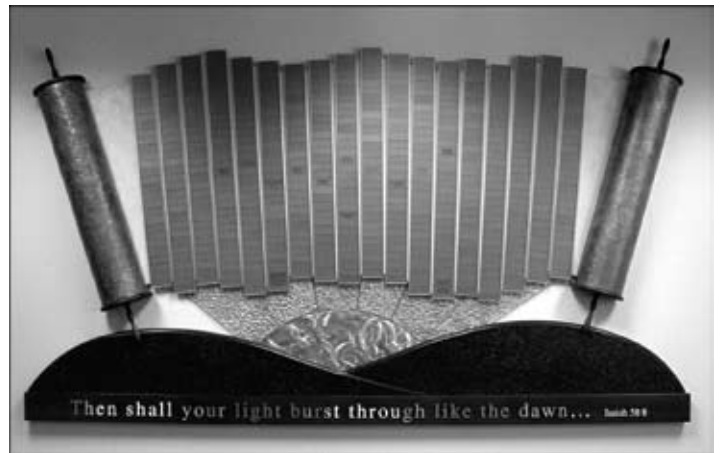
What you need is to give yourself a Minimum Day.

Really. It's not wrong to go easy on yourselves sometimes. Find a healthy way to get through the hard times. Take a breath. Take a break. Take a bath. Take a nap. Take a walk. Take a swim. Take good care of yourself. Take a MINIMUM DAY.

That's the main thing.



## 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.



## Rekindle Shabbat: For the REST of your week

Ever wished that life came with a "Pause" button? Here's a community program that might appeal to our Sinai Temple members.

The Rekindle Shabbat Program brings families together in homes across the Pioneer Valley for three catered celebrations, each an opportunity to learn more about Shabbat and other holidays. The program will match you with a host family or you can match yourself with friends. This year's dinner dates start in January, but registration is NOW. Interested households can get more information and sign up at [www.RekindleShabbat.org](http://www.RekindleShabbat.org).

## SPFTY Freshman Kidnap

Over night on Friday, October 22, 17 High School freshmen were "kidnapped" by 18 upper classmen for a fabulous overnight. Becky Sherman, Maddie Miller, and Becky Ehrlich helped chaperone. Ilanna Tariff created the theme of neon ninjas and many upper classmen wore black. We wore glow in the dark necklaces, tattoos, and face paint. A wild time was had by all, including the annual trip to the Haunted Hay Ride at McCray's Farm, late night Shabbat dinner at Denny's complete with Kiddush and Motzi. Micah Rembrandt, Celia Gibson, and Josh Feinberg led an incredible late night Shabbat service by candlelight. Sarah Klein and several board members led mixers and games. We played Rock Band and Apples to Apples and decorated commemorative t-shirts (which we are wearing in our "survivors" picture.) We played guitar and sang songs, and no one got much sleep. The all night program ended with donuts and a "survivors" picture.

## Why Young Families Come to Services

*Back in September, parents of our Religious School students spent the morning considering how we might strengthen our children's connections to Sinai Temple. Parents of different age children began to create a series of social programs for the children. Several of these "fun" offerings will be taking place this year for students from Kindergarten to Sixth Grade. (Youth groups begin with JOY in 7th and 8th grade.)*

During the morning, parents were also asked their feelings about Friday evening services. Several parents wrote these words to describe why they come to services with their children.

We come to services with our son because it gives us a chance to slow down from our week and regroup. We get to share in a community that has the same basic beliefs. We enjoy spending the time together with no outside interruptions.

We come to "family" service once per month: to teach, to pray, to sing, and to be with friends.

I most enjoy the Cantor singing accompanied with the guitar, piano, drums, flute, etc. It adds richness to the service and makes the experience more spiritual for me.

I like services – nice time to reflect and connect with spirituality. I like the music and being with others.

We try to go to services once a month. Usually the Family service as we have a daughter in Shir Fun. The music always draws us to services.

We come to services for the feeling of spiritual renewal – connection to God in the presence of the community. We like the upbeat energetic music, celebration of life at the end of a work week, jokes by the Rabbi, and the meaningful stories based on Torah readings.

Family night makes us come to services. Themes like baseball on Purim, etc. make it fun. The Cantor's music makes it fun – How about the Cantor redoing a song from the 70's or 80's to a Jewish theme or prayer. The parents are the key to getting the kids to services. If they (parents) knew every Friday night service there was going to be a redone classic song with a Jewish spin it could be exciting. (A lot of work I would imagine.)

We like to come to family services where we can hopefully get to know other families better and make new friends.

Why I come with my family: It gives a sense of community, a feeling of warmth, It helps teach my son to get that "Sababa" feeling in shul.

The more music the better. Friday Night Live was always a blast. The Onegs are always a plus – getting to chat with friends. Perhaps a Rekindle Shabbat within Sinai might work.



On October 22nd, the youngest worshippers at Sinai celebrated Tot Shabbat with Cantor Levson. Over 40 young children, parents, aunts, and bubbes gathered for an entertaining and musical service and a delicious dinner.

## First Day of Religious School 2010



Center: Men of Sinai prepared a wonderful barbeque. Left and right: Parents had a great morning.





## LEGACY WHAT WILL YOURS BE?

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

There is an answer.

With your help, Sinai Temple will endure as a powerful voice, sustaining those beliefs you hold dear. Now. And for future generations.

To obtain more information about remembering Sinai Temple in your will or estate, please contact:  
Steve Sussman, Vice President,  
Jeff Cossin, Vice President,  
Or Rabbi Shapiro

Seniors Luncheon September 30, 2010  
Sponsored by the Caring Community  
Committee



### **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 September 14 to October 7, 2010:*

- Vivienne Goldstein, aunt of Peter Zimmer.
- Sidney Weinstein, brother of Adele Citron.
- Eleanor Krasner, mother of Robin Cossin.
- Simon Skolnick, husband of Lillian Skolnick.

### **Thank you to:**

Marc and Susan Goldman for creating the Marc and Susan Goldman Break Fast Fund in Honor of our parents Rabbi Phil and Lilyan Schlenker and Gert and Charlie Goldman. Marc and Susan's gift will be used to ensure that Sinai has a Yom Kippur Break Fast for many, many years to come.

### **Mazal Tov To:**

Marc and Susan Goldman on the birth of their grandson, Noah Rollin Krichbaum. His proud parents are Arielle Goldman and Steve Krichbaum.

**Make donations through Sinai ONLINE!!!**

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

You learn about someone's success or someone's sadness. You want to make a contribution but it's so much trouble to write a check.

Now you can skip the check and the snail mail.

Go to Sinai's website [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org) and make the donation to any one of our funds ONLINE.

# Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



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

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## BLESSINGS FOR CHANUKAH

ברוך אתה, יי אלהינו, מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה.

*Blessed are You, Adonai our God, who has sanctified us with commandments and commanded us to light the Chanukah candles.*

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik neir shel Chanukah.

ברוך אתה, יי אלהינו, מלך העולם, שעשה נסים לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה.

*Blessed are You, Adonai our God, who performed great wonders for our ancestors in those days at this season.*

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, sheh-ah-sah nee-seem la-vo-tay-nu ba-ya-meem ha-haim baz-man ha-zeh.

ברוך אתה, יי אלהינו, מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.

*Blessed are You, Adonai our God, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this time.*

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam shehecheyanu ve-kee-ma-nu ve-hee-gee-ah-nu laz-man ha-zeh.