

# Sinai Temple Bulletin



*Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat*

## For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

There probably aren't too many Sinai congregants who lie awake at night wondering if God does or doesn't exist. Very few of us probably anguish over God's presence or absence on a regular basis. We are not primarily theologians.

And yet the results of last year's God Survey do indicate that, although Sinai congregants don't regularly worry about God, Sinai congregants do ask serious questions about life and its purpose. Last year when the survey asked what kinds of questions you might want to ask God, many people asked questions like these: "What do you want me to do with my life? How can I find peace?"

It was as if thinking about God led people beyond God. Considering God becomes a kind of shorthand for pondering the ultimate questions of existence.

That is why I hope you'll be interested in two visitors to Sinai during October. Each will teach on a Saturday morning in place of Torah Study. I've invited each of them to talk about God, although I think the topic will actually lead way beyond God. If you believe a lot or a little, you'll be intrigued. If you are someone who sticks to reason, one of the speakers is for you. If you feel more poetic and more open to talk about faith, the other speaker is for you.

Actually, both are terrific and I've invited them because I'm not even sure which one will touch me more. I just know the debate will be important. There are always new ways to unpack the curious and mysterious notions of God and faith.

Visit on Saturday, October 20 to hear Rabbi Sheila Weinberg. Her topic...**From the Heart: A Spiritualist Looks at God.** Visit on October 27 to hear Rabbi Rifat Sonsino. His topic...**From the Head: A Rationalist Looks at God.**

You can't lose! Great speakers and an opportunity to ask all the hard questions you want. See page 5 for pictures and more details.

## Friday Evenings –

### October 5 at 6:00 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat with a taste of SUKKOT. A beautiful brief service. Come early for veggies and snacks. Home by 7 p.m.

### October 12 at 6:00 p.m.

#### Tot Shabbat

For STUFF – Sinai Temple under five families. Bring your littlest kids to Sinai.

### October 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Congregational Shabbat Service.

### October 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service with participation from Grades 5, 6, and 7.

### October 26 at 5:45 p.m.

We are joining together with Temple Beth El at Temple Beth El for our Shabbat service followed by a community Shabbat dinner. No service at Sinai this evening. All together over at Beth El. See page 4.

## Saturday Mornings -

### Services at 10:30 a.m.

See inside for special Saturday mornings in October. Pizza in the Hut...Forest Park Shabbat...Two visiting scholars!

## Raise the Roof Campaign

Please support the goal of raising \$50,000 this month to replenish our resources so that we are able to protect and renew our Temple building when future challenges arise. Mail a donation to Sinai or make a donation on-line at [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)

## Welcome to New Members:

- Morton (Pat) and Sylvia Barr
- Martin Baicker
- Dan Weiswasser and Trina Moskal and their sons Jacob and Alexander.
- Matthew and Lisa Landon and their sons Zachary and Alexander.
- Ari and Kirsten Berman and their children Isabel, Gabriel, and Matthew.

## The 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.

The Caring Community of Sinai Temple  
cordially invites you to attend  
A Holiday Luncheon  
for Sinai Senior Members  
Monday, October 1  
12:00 noon  
(Following the Sukkot Morning Service)

You're also invited to join the lunchtime conversation  
**FIFTY JEWISH THINGS TO DO BEFORE  
YOU'RE 90!**

There is no charge for this wonderful program.  
Please RSVP to the Temple Office at 736-3619

## Sinai Temple's Priorities for 2012-2013

At its June meeting, the Board of Trustees set seven priorities for the congregation this year. The Board hopes to shape the coming year around these priorities or goals. What follows are the "headlines." For details...if you would like to know more or help promote one of this year's goals, please contact Temple president Jeff Cossin at 567-7320.

1. Continue to expand and improve our IT from Facebook to E-vents.
2. Focus on Committee for Youth Engagement, Membership Committee, Fundraising Committee, and Interfaith Matters Committee. Populate each committee; set goals and implement.
3. Increase volunteerism...It's the lifeblood of our community...
4. Develop a leadership training program for the 12/13 year
5. Build community through social activities. Schedule at least one major social program.
6. Baby Boomers: Reach out to this important cohort in our community.
7. Increase Sinai Temple's public relations and publicity program.

## Men of Sinai Golf Outing Sunday October 21st at 9:00 am

Men of Sinai is taking reservations for a group golf outing on Sunday October 21st at 9:00. Everyone is welcome; members and non-members; men and women; scratch golfers and first timers. Groups will be arranged for both 9 or 18 holes. If you are interest in join a four-some or for more information please contact Buff Maniscalco at [jodiman@comcast.net](mailto:jodiman@comcast.net) by October 14th.

The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published every other month by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 1 for the year 2012-2013.

Mark Dov Shapiro ..... Rabbi  
Martin Levson ..... Cantor  
Heather Sullivan ..... Director of Education  
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Ron Weiss ..... Cemetery Chair  
Karen Mendelsohn ..... Membership Committee Chair  
Visit our website: [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)

## SUKKOT & SIMCHAT TORAH 5773

At the Temple and at your Home

### EREV SUKKOT

Sunday, September 30

Let's start with a Family Dinner!!!

For parents and students Kindergarten through Grade 7 at 5:30 p.m.

Followed by the sukkah decorating and service at 6:30 p.m.

Everyone goes home by 7:15 p.m.

Reservations are required. Call the Religious School.

### SUKKOT DAY

Monday, October 1

At 10:30 a.m.

Lulav and etrog. Kiddush in the sukkah followed by holiday luncheon. See page 2 .

### PIZZA IN THE HUT

Saturday, October 6

10:30 to Noon

Rain or shine, we will celebrate the gifts of nature with a service outdoors in our Temple sukkah. Bring yourself and a smile. Maybe a jacket too. Followed by Kiddush and PIZZA lunch in the sukkah.

### IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME

Saturday afternoon October 6

Starting approximately 1 p.m.

Yes, that's the truth. Build a sukkah.

Let Rabbi and Cantor know you've done so and they will come to visit your sukkah bringing treats for your household. (Call the Temple office to let Rabbi and Cantor know you're expecting them.)

For information on building the easiest (and least expensive) sukkah in the world, please contact the Department of Booth Construction. Ask for Cantor Martin Levson. [mlevson@sinai-temple.org](mailto:mlevson@sinai-temple.org)

### EREV SIMCHAT TORAH

Sunday, October 7

At 7:00 p.m.

Conclude the reading of Torah. Start all over. March and dance with our Torah scrolls.

### SIMCHAT TORAH/YIZKOR SERVICE

Monday, October 8

At 10:30 a.m.

Mark the conclusion and beginning of the Torah cycle and also conduct a memorial service. Luncheon to follow.

# Adult Opportunities

**An Outdoor Shabbat in Forest Park  
For Adults (and kids can come along too)  
Saturday, October 13  
10:30 to Noon**

We celebrate the gifts of nature. This morning's service will not take place indoors. The "service" will be a hike led by naturalist and educator, Burt Freedman, along with the Rabbi and Cantor. Rain or shine. We will be outdoors for approximately 60 minutes of exploration and creativity. Back to nature. Followed by Kiddush in the OS Room.

## **A Community Shabbat Dinner**

**A Shared Experience for the Jewish Community  
Sinai Temple—Temple Beth El—  
Congregation Bnai Torah  
Friday, October 26**

At 5:30 p.m., Sinai and Beth El will worship together in the Chapel at Temple Beth El.

At 7:00 p.m., Shabbat dinner will begin with all three congregations together.

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Make your reservations now by mailing a check to Debbie Peskin c/o Jewish Federation, 1160 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA 01108.

\$20 per adult. \$10 per child 10 and under.  
\$54 max for a family.

## **Sinai Temple's Book Club: New Year...New Books**

*Wednesday October 3 - Friendly Fire by A.B. Yehoshua, a contemporary Israeli novelist very widely read in Israel; "...a rich, compassionate, rewarding novel in which sharply rendered details of modern Israeli life and age-old mysteries of human existence echo one another in complex and surprising ways."*

*Wednesday November 7 - Talking to the Enemy, short stories by an Israeli/Canadian. Short, easy to read but very thought provoking stories, covering a range of human experience, "that offer a rich multigenerational chronicle of Israel since its birth."*

*Wednesday December 5 - To The End of the Land by David Grossman, a long, dense, challenging but poetic novel that is both universal and very particular to Israeli life.*

**Remember to drink fair trade coffee. It's just as good as any other coffee plus it's not just a cup of coffee. It's a just cup of coffee.**

## **Israeli Literature as a Window to Israeli Society Taught by**

**Rabbis Amy Katz and Mark Dov Shapiro  
Starting on October 15 and October 17**

*(See below for discount to Sinai members.)*

This course of study offers an examination of Israeli society since the birth of the State in 1948. Through the pens of its leading writers, participants encounter Israeli society that is original, contemporary, honest and proud. Reflections of the mythic Israel are matched by poetry and prose that is challenging and self-critical, and both offer profound insight into the Israeli national psyche.

Monday evenings (October 15 to December 17) from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. (Rabbi Katz is the primary teacher for Monday.)

The same course Wednesday mornings (October 17 to December 19) from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. (Rabbi Shapiro is the primary Wednesday teacher, although both rabbis will be teaching at both times during the nine weeks.)

This course is part of the Melton Program.

The fee for the course is \$150. (Thanks to Ruth Weiss through whose generosity we are able to lower the standard fee from \$200.) If you need further subsidy, please speak to the Rabbi.

This special fee is for Sinai Temple members only. Contact Robin at Sinai's office. (736-3619 or [rblanchette-gage@sinai-temple.org](mailto:rblanchette-gage@sinai-temple.org)) Pre-registration is a requirement. *Sinai members must register through Sinai's office for either the Sunday or Wednesday sessions and the special fee.*

## **Developing Leaders:**

**Becoming a Leader at Sinai Temple  
Six Opportunities to learn about our Temple  
and how to be a leader in our Temple  
January – March 2013**

Our congregation needs active members. Our congregation needs people with a feeling for Reform Judaism and a desire to help build the Temple's future. If you would like to learn more about the nuts and bolts of Sinai and polish your ability to help with Sinai projects and even join a committee of your choice, this learning opportunity is for you.

Six evenings during the January – March time period. Learn with Rabbi Shapiro and others. To get involved, contact Ronnie Leavitt ([Ronnie.Leavitt@gmail.com](mailto:Ronnie.Leavitt@gmail.com)) or Michael Freedman ([mikeandtricia@hotmail.com](mailto:mikeandtricia@hotmail.com)).

*Adult Opportunities continued on page 6.*

## Three Guests at Sinai This Fall



### From the Heart: A Spiritualist Looks at God

Saturday morning, October 20 from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Rabbi Sheila Weinberg has served in multiple capacities in the Jewish community including Hillel director, day school teacher and community relations professional. She graduated from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and was rabbi at the Jewish Community of Amherst.

She has a special interest in mindfulness, yoga, and meditation and teaches for the Institute for Jewish Spirituality.

She has written extensively on Jewish spirituality, social justice, feminism and parenting. She is a major contributor to the Kol Haneshamah prayer book series. Her first book, *Surprisingly Happy: An Atypical Religious Memoir* was published in 2010.

Weinberg is not a rationalist and will speak about her approach to faith when she visits Sinai. (The appearance of both Sheila Weinberg and Rifat Sonsino is made possible by a gift from the family of the late Si and Lillian Skolnick.)



### From the Head: A Rationalist Looks at God

Saturday morning, October 27 from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Rabbi Rifat Sonsino, LLB, Ph.D., D.D, is Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth Shalom, Needham, MA and a faculty member at Boston College's Theology Department. Born in Turkey, he studied at Hebrew Union College for the rabbinate and received his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. He has served congregations from Argentina to Boston.

His articles on Bible and Judaica have appeared in many scholarly journals. He has written the books *Finding God: Selected Responses*, *What Happens After I Die? Jewish Views of Life After Death*, and *Six Jewish Spiritual Paths: A Rationalist Looks at Spirituality*.

Sonsino is a rationalist and will talk with us about his "rational" faith.



### The Time Capsules of the Warsaw Ghetto:

On the Seventieth Anniversary - The Secret Archive Revealed

Sunday morning, November 4 at 9:15 a.m.

Dr. Samuel Kassow, Trinity College

*(Sponsored by Men of Sinai. Breakfast will be served.)*

Samuel Kassow is the world's leading authority on Emanuel Ringelblum, who established a secret organization named Oyneg Shabes in Nazi-occupied Warsaw in 1940. Retrieved after World War II from metal boxes and milk cans buried beneath the ruins of the Warsaw ghetto, the Oyneg Shabes-Ringelblum Archive records and preserves the fate of Polish Jewry.

A prolific author, Professor Kassow's *Who Will Write Our History? Emanuel Ringelblum, the Warsaw Ghetto, and the Oyneg Shabes Archive* (2007) received the Orbis Prize and was a finalist for a National Jewish Book Award. A child of Holocaust survivors, Professor Kassow was born in a Displaced Persons camp in Germany. Kassow is Professor of History in Trinity College, holds a Ph.D. from Princeton University, and is a consultant to the Museum of the History of Polish Jews to be built in Warsaw.

*Thanks to Men of Sinai and Michael Harrison for underwriting Professor Kassow's appearance at Sinai.*



Adult Opportunities continued from page 4.

## TGIT...Thank God, It's Torah! Come Learn Every Saturday in September 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.

## 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.

## Monthly Morning Service Wednesday, October 3 at 7:30 a.m.

A chance to start your day with a different focus. We meet on the bimah for a service of 20 minutes. Breakfast follows. The feeling of togetherness is wonderful. The spirit is unique. Those who need to leave for the rest of the day are free no later than 8:15 a.m.

Future "morning minyan" services will take place on Wednesdays, November 7, December 5, January 2, February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5.

## Rabbi Shapiro's Sermons

If you would like to read or review any of the Rabbi's High Holiday sermons, please visit our website. [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org) The link for the sermons is under "Rabbi." Sermons and other writings from previous years are all found under that link.

### **A New Office Manager and Bookkeeper for Sinai Temple**

On September 4 we welcomed Jacqueline Nareau-Toti as our newest office member. She comes to Sinai with many years of experience in finance, office supervision, and sales as well. She will join Robin Blanchette-Gage in forming the team that greets members and opens the door to Sinai on a day-by-day basis.

## Israel Turns 65 This Year!!! Community Trip to Israel April 15-24, 2013



To celebrate Israel's 65th birthday next year, the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, in partnership with local agencies and synagogues, is sponsoring a community trip to Israel!

Join Rabbi Shapiro for these highlights...

- Celebrating Israel Independence Day in Israel;
- 3 days of touring in Tel Aviv;
- 4 days of exploring Jerusalem, including Shabbat;
- Visiting the Masada/Ein Gedi region;
- Exploring the Golan Heights & the mystical city of Tsfat in the north;
- Visiting our partnership community, the Afula/Gilboa region.

Generous subsidies are available through the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Jewish Endowment Foundation of Western Massachusetts. For more information about the trip, contact Rabbi Shapiro or Meredith Dragon at (413) 737-4313.

### **Pricing**

\$2,500 per person – Luxury 4 star accommodations (Land only, double occupancy)

\$3,000 per person – Luxury 5 star accommodations (Land only, double occupancy)

### **Available subsidies**

*Jewish Endowment Foundation:* \$40,000 has been made available for subsidies on a first-come, first-served basis. First timers will receive \$1,000 toward the trip and return visitors will receive \$500.

*Harold Grinspoon Foundation:* \$1,000 per person. HGF grants to individuals are non-needs based. However, if you are able to attend without the HGF's assistance, please let those who need the funding apply since funds are limited.

**To see a day-by-day itinerary....**  
**<http://www.jfwmtravel.org>**

## Message from Director of Education

Heather Sullivan

*Shalom*

On September 9th, we kicked off our 5773 school year. We had a fantastic first day of Religious School, with students, and staff alike, excited to be back at Sinai.

Some highlights of the day included welcoming our newest staff members, madrichim and students to the Religious School. The Religious School Committee welcomed back parents with coffee and scrumptious baked goods. Thanks to Marcia Gordenstein and Barbara Winer, the fifth grade class will be adding some new beautiful artwork to our sukkah this year. Also, thank you to Cantor Levson for his sukkah building demonstration and sukkah blueprint. Hopefully we will all see a few more sukkot out and about this year in our neighborhoods!

A delicious picnic prepared by Men of Sinai concluded our opening day of Religious School.

Hebrew for Grades 3-7 and Confirmation Class began on Tuesday, September 11th. We began our day by welcoming the new third graders to Hebrew School with some challah and honey, wishing all of the Hebrew students a sweet new year. We also welcomed two other newcomers to Tuesday afternoon. Ron and Noam, Israeli Emissaries, will both be helping out in our Hebrew classrooms.

Mazal Tov to all of our teachers and madrichim for a wonderful start to the new year. Thanks to Joel Solomon for taking class pictures for the Religious School.

I hope to see you all at our Sukkot and Simchat Torah celebrations in the coming weeks.

Please “like” us on Facebook and find out the latest news from the Religious School.

—Heather



### **The SPFTY group at Summer Institute at Eisner Camp**

Left to right: Lisa Gittleman-Udi (advisor), Jordan Udi, Elizabeth Metsch, Shaina Gootzit, Hannah Gordon, Casey Coen, Hannah Rembrandt, Liz Levson, and Eric Gibson.

## STUFF: Sinai Temple Under Five Families

At the end of August, Sinai Temple Under Five Families (STUFF) held its Annual Tot Shabbat Picnic. Families gathered on the lawn, sitting on blankets to sing and pray with Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Bim Bam. A special part of this monthly service is when the parents place their hands on the heads of their children while Rabbi and Cantor lead the blessing of the children. A warm family embrace follows the blessing. After a picnic dinner, children and parents excitedly enjoyed a make-your-own sundae bar.

More than 40 children, parents, and grandparents attended the High Holidays-themed Bagels and Blocks on September 9th. A highlight of this fun-filled morning was watching and listening as Cantor Bim Bam blew the shofar! The children created a blessings placemat and decorated it with apple prints made by dipping apples in paint. They also constructed their very own shofar and practiced blowing it just like Cantor.

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming STUFF Programs:

Tot Shabbat & Dinner, 6:00pm: October 12th, November 9th

Bagels & Blocks, 10:00-11:30am: October 21st, November 18th, December 9th

If you have children or grandchildren who are five years old or younger and you would like to be added to the STUFF list, please contact Melanie Courtemanche at [mnkle17@gmail.com](mailto:mnkle17@gmail.com).

## Report from SPFTY

SPFTY is excited to start a new and busy year! We have just gotten back from NFTY's Summer Institute, which eight of our board members were able to attend. We are looking forward to NFTY's Leadership Training Institute on September 23rd at the Springfield JCC. We hope to be able to host a NFTY event here next year! We are also looking forward to attending BATY's Levi Leap dance, which will be on October 20th in Framingham, Massachusetts. Levi Leap hosts over 400 teens, and is one of NFTY's biggest annual events. We had SPFTY elections last spring for this 2012-2013 year. Currently, Hannah Gordon is our President. Casey Coen is Religious and Cultural Vice President. Liz Levson is Programming Vice President. Hannah Rembrandt is Social Action Vice President. Shaina Gootzit and Elizabeth Metsch are Communications Co-Vice Presidents. Eric Gibson is Membership Vice President. Jordan Udi is NFTY Representative. And, Brenna Percy is our Historian. 9th graders, watch out! SPFTY will be hosting our annual Freshman Kidnap sometime this fall. We look forward to introducing more kids to SPFTY. L'shalom!

—Elizabeth Metsch and Shaina Gootzit, Communications Co-Vice Presidents

**Let's Pray; Let's Welcome Shabbat:**  
**Sinai Opens Doors for Families of all Ages**  
*Sharing the warmth and beauty of Judaism*  
*Families feeling part of the Sinai community*

**Tot Shabbat- For families with children from Birth to Five**

- At 6 p.m. on seven scheduled Friday nights during the year: Twenty minutes of Shabbat songs & stories making a very “joyful noise”.

**Kidz Kabbalat- For families with children in Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade**

- At 6 p.m. on four scheduled Friday nights during the year: We take a step up with Kidz Kabbalat. Music and stories continue as we introduce an age appropriate prayerbook. Snacks will precede each 40 minute service.

**Shabbat Shabbat- A new requirement for families with children in Grades 3 through 6**

- Bring yourselves and your older children to any congregational Shabbat service and get the feeling of Sinai's community in worship.

**Attendance requirements for families with children in Grades 3 through 6**

- Grade 3 students\* ... 3 services per year
- Grade 4 students\* ... 4 services per year
- Grade 5 students\* ... 5 services per year
- Grade 6 students\* ... 6 services per year

\* Children must be accompanied by an adult

**WORLD CLASS FRISBEE**  
**With TODD BRODUER**



Two-time World Freestyle Champion  
 A High Energy Evening for  
 Fathers, Sons, Grandfathers!  
 You are invited to an evening for guys.  
 Thursday, October 25  
 6 to 7:30 p.m.  
 We'll serve dinner and then  
 meet our Frisbee champion

Followed by a chance to Frisbee yourself.  
 This is a night for the guys.  
 Kids and their male grownups!

RSVP right away to [rblanchettegage@sinai-temple.org](mailto:rblanchettegage@sinai-temple.org).  
 You can also call the Frisbee hotline....  
 736-3619, extension 10.

*This program is made possible by a memorial gift  
 from the family of Arlyne & Arthur Rogers.*

# Kidz Kabbalat

For families with children in Kindergarten, First, and Second Grades

Four fabulous Friday evenings

November 16, January 11, February 8, March 8

5:45 p.m. Snacks

6:00 p.m. A happy, energetic Shabbat Service

6:40 p.m. Time for the Kiddush

Kidz Kabbalat features music, stories, and a brand new “kidz” prayerbook for beginning readers brought to you with love and enthusiasm by Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Levson.

Kidz Kabbalat is another family-friendly, kid-friendly Sinai entry point into the world of Temple and Shabbat. When your little one(s) outgrow Tot Shabbat, Kidz Kabbalat is the next step to take for Sinai's praying, celebrating families.





## Message from Men of Sinai

### President Philip Lesser

Welcome back from a wonderful summer. As the new President of the Men of Sinai, this has been an exciting and fast summer as we have been planning an upcoming year full of open discussion and fun! Last year was a very busy and productive one for the Temple and for the Men of Sinai. We have again planned another busy year with several wonderful speakers, barbecues and events like "Hockey and Havdallah," family night out at the movies, golf, and bowling. Some of the speakers we are excited to present are Professor Kassow to speak on the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, and Jennifer Levi from GLADD who helped write the legislation for same sex marriage in Massachusetts.

With programs like these, we are in for a terrific year. Thank you to everyone that worked so hard on planning the upcoming year's events. We hope everyone enjoyed the Welcome Back Barbecue on the opening day of Religious School. More food to come during the upcoming year! If you have not joined Men Of Sinai yet there is still time. With more global and interesting topics, with more family events, don't miss out!

*Philip Lesser, President*

*Men of Sinai*

### JCC Macabi Games

For 1 week in August, the following Sinai members had the time of their lives competing, winning medals, making friends, and creating lots of RUACH when they traveled to Rockland County, NY for the 2012 JCC Maccabi Games.

*Coaches:*

Betsy Bertuzzi	Mark Hurwitz
Britt Brewer	

*Athletes:*

Jesse Cohen-Lindfors	Sam Freedman
Billy Gordenstein	Harry Gordenstein
Noah Hurwitz	Max Schepps
Ben Skiest	Hayden Van Brewer
Travis Van Brewer	Rachel Wetstone

If you will be between ages 13-16 on July 31, 2013, you can join Team Springfield as they travel to Orange County, CA! Call Amy Kimball or Raychel Setless at the JCC for details about registering. 413-739-4715.

### Mazal Tov To:

- Bill Radner on creating the upcoming exhibit, "The Magic Collection of Sidney Radner."
- Tony and Esta Sobey on the birth of their grandson, Ammiel Victor Sobey. The new baby is the son of Steven and Jordana Sobey. His sister is Shoshana.
- Bonnie and Bob Mikesh on the birth of their grandson, Ethan Gregory Monge. The baby is the son of Kate and Stephen Monge.
- Jeff Cossin and Robin Cossin on the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth to Jonathan Dubinsky.
- Seth and Kathy Roberts on the birth of their grandson, August Samuel Roberts, son of Frank and Elizabeth Roberts.
- Saul Finestone was honored by the Hampden County Chapter of Massachusetts Citizens Against the Death Penalty.

#### LEGACY

##### WHAT WILL YOURS BE?

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

There is an answer.

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

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

### JUDAICA SHOP CORNER

Judaica shop: We have returned to our regular hours of Tues. & Thurs. 2 to 4:30 PM and Sundays from 9 AM to 12 Noon.

For all the upcoming B'Nai Mitzvah there are tallisim for men and ladies, many appropriate gifts for young and old. Special gifts for engagements, weddings and other occasions. Do come in, visit us and see what is here.

Thais Fischel 786-9577

## Notes from Cantor Martin Levson

A big Sinai Temple “Todah Rabah!” (Thank you so much!) goes out to the members of the 5773 Sinai Temple High Holiday Adult Volunteer Choir: Marilyn Amster, Judy Aronson, Scyrus Cartwright, George Dickstein, Bonnie Gibson, Jack Henrie, Robin Henrie, Margie Klein, Bonnie Mikes, Robyn Newhouse (who is also our wonderful rehearsal accompanist!), and Ann Rosenfield. There will be a few opportunities for the Adult Choir to sing in the coming months, and we would love to welcome some new members who enjoy singing – no previous choral experience is necessary! Please let me know if you would like to join us in the future. Big thanks also go to the many other singers, musicians, shofar blowers, and Torah readers who participated during the High Holidays. Your efforts and dedication helped to enrich our worship services in so many ways!

Did you build a Sukkah this year? You CAN build a Sukkah, and you SHOULD build a Sukkah! The Great Sukkah Building Demo was a great success, and the demonstration model was on display on the auditorium stage during the High Holidays. Pictures of the construction process and the instructions are on our Sinai Temple Facebook page. Build a Sukkah! It’s a great Jewish thing to do!

Once the Tishrei holidays are over, I will be offering a Torah chanting class! The class will meet (almost) weekly during October, November, and early December, beginning on Wednesday evening, October 10 at 7:30. The class will culminate with the “graduates” chanting some verses of Torah during a Shabbat service. We will be using *The Art of Torah Cantillation* as our textbook, and I will need to pre-order copies of the book from the URJ. (The cost of the book is \$25.) If you can “decode” Hebrew (reading letters and vowels, but not necessarily with comprehension), and would like to learn the sacred art of chanting Torah, please let me know soon if you would like to be a part of the class. Make 5773 the year that you learned to chant Torah! *Ivdu et Hashem B’simcha! Serve the Holy One with Joy!*

## Where are you? May we talk?

There are still some Sinai households “out of the loop.” We can’t communicate electronically. It’s not efficient and it’s not green.

So...Please...Share the wealth.

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*Please e-mail your e-mail to Robin Blanchette-Gage, the Rabbi’s assistant, at [rblanchettegage@sinai-temple.org](mailto:rblanchettegage@sinai-temple.org)*

Now you can make donations to 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.

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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.

## Community Caring Fund:

### Are You in Need of Assistance?

### A Note from Rabbi Shapiro

Dear Sinai – A few years ago you very generously helped create the Caring Community Fund through your contributions. We created this fund when the economic dislocations of 2008/2009 were at their worst. The idea was that congregants in financial distress could approach me confidentially for short-term assistance with basics such as food or clothing or rent.

Here’s my report back to you: Requests for assistance have been very modest. Even though all requests are totally confidential (no one but me knows about the request), it seems that our congregants are still extremely reluctant about sharing their difficulties.

So, let me reach out and say that I do welcome requests for support. The Caring Community Fund really exists!

If you are someone in a situation you thought you might never encounter...if you are in need of assistance...if you can’t make ends meet, contact me.

Belonging to Sinai means that we do want to be there for you in bad times as well as the good times. My very best wishes!

## I have children in college...No longer at home Learning...changing...Asking great questions

The Temple would like to stay in touch with our youngest alumni. They’ve grown up under our roof. They’ve begun to learn what being Jewish means. Now – in the crucial college years - we don’t want to lose contact.

Students on the ALUMNI LIST will receive “care” packages and occasional messages from the Temple and the Rabbi. We want to reach out to students in their first three years of college this coming. Please send your child’s snail mail college address to the office c/o [rblanchettegage@sinai-temple.org](mailto:rblanchettegage@sinai-temple.org)

NOTE...SINAI IS PRINTING ONLY SIX BULLETINS THIS YEAR. COMING BULLETINS WILL BE NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER, JANUARY/FEBRUARY, MARCH/APRIL, MAY/ JUNE. PLEASE SEND US YOUR E-MAIL — WE WANT TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOU.

## 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 August 10 to September 14:

- Rebecca Finestone, sister-in law of Saul Finestone.
- Henry Cohan, father of Brenna Sadowsky,
- Philip Persky, grandfather of Jackie Neiman.
- Ernie Blake, husband of Salena Blake.
- Ben Rosenthal, husband of Fredi Rosenthal.
- Rosalie Greenberg, mother of Suzi Meunier.

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