

Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



Celebrating Israel @ 60

For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

I'm writing in order to "communicate" with you this month. First, I want to "communicate" a reminder about one of my favorite services. It's the Passover Morning Service that takes place on the first morning of Pesach. We always get a good turnout, but I'm also always concerned to be sure the current year is as successful as the previous year. Can you mark your calendar, then? The Seder is Saturday night, April 19 and the community service is Sunday, April 20 at 10:30 a.m.

If you're celebrating a five year anniversary, let me also "communicate" with you. Our Caring Community is planning to honor you on Friday, April 11 at the 6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat service. This is for real! If you are celebrating a 15th or 20th anniversary or any anniversary that is a multiple of five, we would like to share that happiness with you. We would like to do so because we envision Sinai at its best as a community, and your anniversary is certainly something for us to honor and highlight. Don't be shy. You should have received an invitation in the mail and we truly do want to see you on April 11.

There is one other "communication" I'd like to share with you; it relates very significantly to marriage and weddings. Back in December of 2006, I announced that I was adopting a new position on mixed marriages. Although I had previously not officiated at wedding ceremonies between a Jew and a non-Jew, I announced that I was going to begin officiating at some mixed ceremonies. I wrote a fairly long description of my proposal and received some very positive feedback. Since then I have officiated at one such ceremony and two others are on my calendar.

Here's the reason I'm writing again: I think not everyone at Sinai has picked up on this change in my policy. Conversations with some congregants have led me to believe that one "communication" on this matter wasn't sufficient. So, here is a second "communication." As we build our Jewish future and prepare for Passover, please read (or reread) my comments on mixed marriage. You'll find them on our website. Follow the link under rabbi.

My very best wishes for this season of freedom. Chag Sameach!

Childcare for Fridays

Available April 4 & 11
See page 10 for details.

Saturday Mornings

MAZAL TOV TO BNAI MITZVAH
Services at 10:30 a.m.

April 5 – Madalyn Cohen
Daughter of Amy Cohen

April 12 – Rebecca Locke
Daughter of Karen and Paul Locke

Passover

PASSOVER BEGINS SATURDAY
EVENING, APRIL 19.

PASSOVER ENDS AT SUNDOWN
SATURDAY, APRIL 26.

Passover Morning Service
Sunday, April 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Yizkor and Concluding Service
Saturday, April 26 at 10:30 a.m.

Women's Weekend

April 3, 5, & 6
See pages 3 and 11 for details.

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES - NOTE THE TIMES - 76-88

FAMILY SERVICE at 7:00 p.m.

April 4

Sinai OPEN HOUSE. (See page 5) Plus honoring our teachers plus the Rikudiyah. An opportunity to see our students in Israeli folk dance.

KABBALAT SHABBAT at 6:00 p.m.

April 11

Sinai OPEN HOUSE #2. Plus wedding anniversaries and L'chaim Shabbat - Wine tasting!

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE at 8:00 p.m.

April 18

Music with a special style.

EREV THE LAST NIGHT OF PASSOVER at 8:00 p.m.

April 25

Tonight begins the last day of Passover. Special service with special melodies.

Message from Dave Roberts, President of Sinai Temple

Dear Friends,

As I write this article at the beginning of March, the search for our new Cantor is not complete. I do, however, want to give you an update on the process and our progress.

First, I want to tell you that we are very fortunate to have dedicated and capable committee members who are willing to commit long hours to this important effort. They have been chosen because they represent the demographics of the congregation and they have tried to keep an open ear to congregation's comments. Led ably by Mel Chafetz, the committee has been meeting practically every week since the middle of January.

Initially, the committee completed an application describing the many positive attributes of Sinai Temple and our needs. This application was then posted on the American Conference of Cantors (ACC) website for potential candidates to see. This extensive document is very detailed and took considerable time to compile. I am very pleased to report that the feedback from the ACC indicates that our application is one of the strongest reviewed by potential candidates. We have also received very positive feedback about our website and the nature of our congregational community.

During January, the committee held two meetings open to the congregation to solicit further input from our members. With that additional information and the updated Cantor's job description, we then identified what specific attributes we would be looking for in our new Cantor.

Currently, we are reviewing applications and conducting phone interviews with candidates. After interviewing several candidates and listening to their CD's, we will invite a few candidates for vocal auditions and in-person interviews with the committee. When appropriate, some members of the Search Committee will visit the applicant's congregation to observe them in their home pulpit.

Regrettably, the ACC rules do not allow prospective Cantors to audition for the entire congregation. Accordingly, it is our intention to select one or two finalists to present to the Board of Directors for approval to hire. Hopefully, this process will be completed later this spring. Assuming that we do find the right candidate, we expect the new Cantor to be in place by September.

The Search Committee and the Board of Directors are committed to hiring only the right person; someone we feel fully meets the needs of our congregation—we will not hire just to fill the position. If an acceptable candidate is not found at this time, we will hire interim staff to lead music at our services and prepare our Bar/Bat Mitzvah students. In that event, we would repeat the search process at the beginning of 2009 when the ACC hiring season again opens. Due to certain ACC restrictions pertaining to confidentiality, the Search Committee members may not be able to answer your questions in more detail. For this reason, I hope to continue to update you in more formal ways through this newsletter and by other means.

You're Invited to a Wedding Event!

Friday, April 11

At the 6 p.m. Shabbat Service

Sinai Temple's Caring Community

happily invites you

To a ceremony celebrating

Your special wedding anniversary in 2008!

If you were married in 2008, 2003, 1998, 1993,
1988, 1983,

1978, 1973, 1968, 1963,

1958, 1953, 1948, or 1943,

Please join Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Mekler

On Friday, April 11 at 6 p.m.

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

RSVP to Stacey Osowski, Community Co-ordinator,
736-3619, ext. 13

You're Invited to a

Gala Evening of

Worship & Song

Honoring

Cantor Emily Sleeper Mekler

Friday, May 16, 2008

7 p.m.

Memories

Stories

Photos

Music

Oneg Shabbat

Your invitation will arrive soon in the mail.

**PASSOVER 2008
PASSOVER BEGINS SATURDAY
EVENING, APRIL 19
PASSOVER ENDS AT SUNDOWN,
SATURDAY, APRIL 26.**

**COME PRAY...COME FILL
THE SANCTUARY PASSOVER MORNING
Sunday, April 20 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
Saturday, April 26 at 10:30 a.m.**

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

A luncheon follows the service.

**Hosting a Seder....
Being a Guest at a Seder...**

If you like lots of people around your Passover table, but your kids have moved away....

OR

If you are new to the area OR your relatives don't live close by

OR

If you are looking for a warm, comfortable, welcoming table to share a Passover experience on Saturday night, April 19....

You should join Seder Match and experience Sinai's caring community!!!

Let us know if you are able to be a host or prefer to be a guest. Send your name to Temple or call Stacey Osowski, Community Co-ordinator at the Temple 736-3619, extension 13.

**Announcing the Passover Menu Corner
For those times when you can't face
another piece of MATZA!**

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

If you have a specific Passover question, call Temple member, Lee Grayboff at 746-3895. Lee loves to cook and will happily be your menu advisor!

Welcome to Sinai!

We're so glad you decided to join Sinai Temple in the past two months:

Chris Quatrone

Melissa Mehlman and Shannon Fitzgerald Mehlman and their two children Jack Henry and Dora Grace.

**A Special Shabbat Morning With
Dr. Judith Plaskow
Saturday, April 5**

9:00 to 10:00 a.m. – Torah Study open to men and women

10:15 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. – For Women Only from Bat Mitzvah age and up

Dr. Judith Plaskow will present the new *The Torah: A Women's Commentary*, recently published by the Union for Reform Judaism, for review.

Dr. Plaskow's extensive writing and research has centered on feminist theology. She co-edited *Womanspirit Rising: A Feminist Reader in Religion and Weaving the Visions: New Patterns in Feminist Spirituality* and also co-founded the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*. Her book *Standing Again at Sinai: Judaism from a Feminist Perspective* (1990) brought twenty years of feminist theological reflection to bear on the transformation of Judaism.

Light refreshments will be served at the women's session. This event has been generously underwritten by Leah and Gerry Gottleib.



**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.

Sinai Temple FUN RAISER 2008

This is your chance to attend spectacular events (choose one or more) and get to know other congregants, while raising funds for the programs we value at Sinai Temple

Excellent Food...Fine Wines...Family Fun...Learn New Things...Lots of Laughs!

Linda Berger 1-860-698-6159

Not Your Typical Wine Tasting!

Learn from Sinai's past president, Jim Aronson, what is considered a fine wine and explore in depth the wine region. Red wines will be highlighted. Enjoy a selection of cheese and crackers that will complement the wine.

- Hosts: Jim and Barbara Sadowsky
- Saturday, April 12 @ 7:30pm
- 7 Pendleton Lane, Longmeadow
- \$50 per person

Cello and Piano with Boris Kogan and Sofya Shainskaya

An intimate evening with Boris Kogan on cello and his wife, Sofya Shainskaya on piano. Boris and Sofya will perform and discuss the intricacies of their music as well as their own art. (Boris is the cellist who plays Kol Nidre at Sinai)

Followed by coffee, dessert and schmoozing!

- Hosts: Gerald and Leah Gottlieb
- Sunday, May 31 at 7:30pm
- 80 Eunice Drive, Longmeadow
- \$36 per person

Questions call:
Diane Friedberg 567-7653
Bonnie Engelman 565-9992

Family Magic

Have a magical afternoon with your family. Children in kindergarten through 2nd grade are invited to share an interactive magic show with magician Joe Bongio.

Drinks and snacks for everyone.

- Hostess: Stacey Osowski
- Sunday, April 13, 3-4:30pm
- 17 Wintergreen Lane, Westfield
- \$18 per family

Thanks to our hosts who have donated the cost of each event so that your contribution goes directly to the Temple.

Special thanks to Robyn Newhouse, Sinai Congregant, for helping underwrite this new program.

Reservations are required.

To make reservations, please call the Temple office 736-3619.

You can mail your check to Sinai Temple, 1100 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA 01108. Your check confirms your reservation. Space is limited. Don't delay!

Sinai Judaica Gift Shop

Passover is just about here! Please check our enclosed flyer for the expanded hours and for some suggestions to make your Seder or gift giving perfect.

Thais Fischel 786-9577
Bobbie Cossin 565-9970

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• THE FIRST 200 CONGREGANTS TO READ
• THIS BOX ARE INVITED TO FILL THE
• SANCTUARY ON PASSOVER MORNING,
• SUNDAY, APRIL 20.
•••••

OPEN HOUSES

APRIL 4 & 11

A chance to let the Pioneer Valley know who we are. A chance to open our doors for Jews who may never have thought about joining a synagogue.

Let their choice be Sinai.

Bring yourself; bring a friend.

Friday, April 4 at 7 p.m.

Friday, April 11 at 6 p.m.

When a Jew and a Non-Jew are Married: Conversations For Mixed Married Couples

Thursday, April 10

7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Have you got questions? Have you learned strategies you might want to share with others? Join Peter Zimmer, (a former Vice President of Sinai and a skilled group facilitator) for the second session of a discussion group for Sinai members. The group will meet at the Temple. Please RSVP to the Temple office so that we know you are coming. For questions, you can contact Peter through the Temple office.

L'Chaim Shabbat

Friday, April 11

At the 6 p.m. Service

Part of this month's Kabbalat Shabbat service will include an opportunity to make Kiddush with several different wines that are KOSHER for Passover. The evening will be a wine tasting! If you wish, you can also purchase the wines at the Bottle Shop in Longmeadow as a fundraiser for the Religious School.

Islam for Peace, Justice, and Non-Violence

Thursday, April 24

5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The Islamic Center of Western Massachusetts is holding an open house evening on the critical issue of peace. The evening is open to everyone. The invitation is for us at Sinai and for the rest of the Springfield community. You can bring yourself or as many friends as you wish.

The conversation will include a light dinner. The Center is at 377 Amostown Road, West Springfield. The program is co-sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Western Massachusetts.

You need to pre-register so the Center can plan for dinner. Please call the Islamic Center at 788-7546. Or e-mail www.masjidma@gmail.com.

www.sinai-temple.org

Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Are You Interested in Starting a New Class For A New Year? Orientation Session – Saturday, May 3 at 8 a.m.

Four groups of men and women have chosen to become Bar/Bat Mitzvah as adults over the last decade. Now might be your chance! You do not need to know Hebrew to begin this adventure. We are not attempting to become Harvard graduates. If you are at all interested in helping form another Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah class, please contact the Rabbi - markdov@sinai-temple.org

Stephen Berk To Return to Sinai Temple Sunday, June 8

Starting at 7 p.m.

After a wonderful Scholar in Residence weekend last Fall, Professor Stephen Berk will be returning to Sinai Temple. Berk will be featured as part of our Annual Meeting evening. After a brief business session at 7 p.m., we will move to the sanctuary for a creative service marking the beginning of Shavuot. Professor Berk will speak after that. He will base his remarks on the knowledge he has gained from leading over 30 adult groups on tours of Eastern Europe. His topic will be: Warsaw, Vilna, and Prague: Touring the Old World to Understand Ourselves Today.

Torah Study

Every Saturday morning at 9 a.m. in the Oneg Shabbat Room. (Bagels are available!)

Monthly Morning Service

Wednesday, April 2

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 7 and June 4.

First Thursdays (mostly):

Lunch and Learn

Thursday, April 3

12:00 – 1:15 p.m.

Bring your lunch to the Oneg Shabbat room for a discussion of contemporary Jewish concern with Rabbi Shapiro. Future discussions are May 1 and June 5.

Reform Movement Sponsors Adult Study Retreat Focused on Israel

The Union for Reform Judaism's Adult Study Retreat will be held in July 2008 at Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, New Hampshire. As a part of the Israel at 60 Movement-wide initiative, the theme for this event will be Israel and the event will be co-sponsored by ARZA. The limud faculty includes ARZA Associate Director, Rabbi David Nelson and Anat Hoffman, Director of the Israel Religious Action Center, along with Mira Angrist, Sue Levi Elwell, Lisa Grant, Jan Katzew, Michael Morgan, Marc Rosenstein and Mark Washofsky. Registration is currently open for what is certain to be a wonderful opportunity for intellectual exploration and community spirit. For information and scholarships, please contact Rabbi Shapiro.

Sunday Morning Running: Stretch your legs in the great outdoors!

During Religious School come get a little exercise while the kids exercise their minds. We will meet at the back of the building at 9:15 every week there is Religious School. We will start with about 15 minutes of stretching and then jog/run. Everyone is welcome. No experience is necessary. All you need is desire and a pair of running shoes. We will start very slow and go only a short distance (0.5 to 1 mile) at first. Anyone who would like to go faster or further can pick it up from there. If you have a question, please contact Andy Moskovitz, 533-9209, agm@massmed.org.

Harold Grinspoon Foundation announces Jewish Experience Fund for Adults

This is an amazing new grant opportunity designed to encourage adults in Western Massachusetts to participate in Jewish life. Recipients may choose to attend Jewish retreats, shabbatons and conferences. Adults over twenty-one are eligible to apply for 50% of the cost of the program up to \$500.00. Please view the guidelines at www.hgf.org; Incentive Grants; Jewish Experience Fund for Adults. If you have any questions contact Rachel Jackowitz, Program Director, Rachel@hgf.org or 413-439-1942.

WHERE WILL YOU BE ON SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 20? HOW ABOUT TRYING THE PASSOVER MORNING SERVICE AT SINAI?

Community Yom HaShoah Commemoration in Springfield Monday evening, May 5, 2008 7:30 P.M. Congregation Kodimoh Theme: Remembering the Shoah and the Birth of the State of Israel

The 2008 Community Yom HaShoah Commemoration will commemorate Israel's 60th Anniversary with a traditional memorial service and program for those who died during the Holocaust and also remember the Birth of the State of Israel in 1948, which served as the permanent home for so many of the survivors of the Shoah.

Special recognition will be given to the Honorable Sidney M. Cooley, who served as military commander of a Displaced Persons' Camp in Bayreuth, Germany. Judge Cooley rehabilitated and trained over 300 Holocaust survivors who were resettled in Israel.

The Community Yom HaShoah Program is sponsored by Hatikvah Holocaust Education Center, under the auspices of Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, with support from the William and Lynn Foggole Holocaust Foundation.

Get Your Name in the Sinai Temple Engagement Calendar

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

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

Belle Rita Novak, Calendar Committee

Prospective New Members for Sinai Temple: You Can Help Build the Congregation

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

Announcing The First Annual Sinai Temple Dog Show!!! Saturday, October 18, 2008

Dear Friends of Canines - If you love dogs, if you own a dog, if you want to own a dog, mark your calendar for the Shabbat during Sukkot. Just as it is customary during Sukkot to open the sukkah to guests, Sinai will open its parking lot to your dogs! There will be dog tricks, dog games, and refreshments for all. If you are interested in helping plan this first-ever Sinai Dog Show, please contact the Temple office today. Speak to Robin at 736-3619, extension 10.

Dog Show Planning Meeting

Sunday, April 27 at 9 a.m.

Temple member, Gary Gootzit, has agreed to chair our upcoming dog show. If you are interested in joining the planning committee, please come to the first open meeting on Sunday, April 27. We will begin to shape the afternoon for our beloved and obedient dogs! All human beings are welcome. Questions - Call Gary at 562-1123.

Volunteers Needed at Mercy Medical Center

Mercy Medical Center is looking for caring people to volunteer throughout the hospital. Many positions are available including Patient Advocates, Hospital Guides, Gift Shop Assistants, Clerical Assistants and many others. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old and able to give 4 hours a week of their time.

Additionally, we are also looking for volunteers to make small pillows, prayer shawls and blankets for patients as well as donations of used and new children's books. If you are interested, please contact the Mercy Medical Center Volunteer Department at 413-748-9074 or patty.milne@sphs.com

www.sinai-temple.org

Fun, Laughter, and Camaraderie: Majestic Theater Event Great Success

Those who came to see "Guys on Ice, The Ice Fishing Musical" at the Majestic Theater on February 10th know just how much fun this event turned out to be. I would like to thank the 100 Sinai congregants who purchased tickets and participated in this fundraiser-something NEW and well attended for a first time.

Apart from this being a very funny show, everyone enjoyed socializing in the Café before the show and at intermission. It was fun to see new and old faces and to reconnect in a very pleasant and relaxing environment. I'd say this was definitely the highlight of the evening.

A very special Thank You to Todd and Karen Kadis, and Todd's dad Robert Kadis for their very generous contribution to underwrite this program as a memorial to Robert's wife Betty, who had a great love for the theater. This performance was arranged specially for Sinai Temple by Todd who went to great lengths to make this work for Sinai. Thanks also goes to the Majestic Theater for their generous contribution enabling Sinai Temple to benefit financially from this show. What was so generous of the Majestic was that not only did we get back 60% of the tickets sold to Sinai members, but 60% of all tickets sold that night. As a result we made \$3,025. This was the most fun I have had raising that much money!

In addition, the Majestic Theater covered the cost of copying flyers, mailing a card describing the show, made special tickets with Sinai's name on for the show, provided ushers, set up the raffle and raffle posters all over the theater.

Our 50/50 raffle to all members of the audience was well received. We sold \$300 worth of tickets, of which we got \$150. Congratulations to Matthew Katz and Barbara Fitzgerald for winning the other half of the pot! The Majestic Theater also generously donated two sets of tickets each to the 2nd and 3rd names drawn from the pot.

Much appreciation and thanks also to Robin Blanchette-Gage and Karen Sprenkle in the Temple office for all their help and assistance with this event. Their help is invaluable.

I would also like to thank my fund raising committee for all their hard work and time brainstorming and developing this program-Betsy Bertuzzi, Carlin Trietsch, Carol Tivoli, Joe Berger, Robin Dunn and Stacy Osowski. And a big thank you to Ilene Conklin for helping me bring this program to fruition.

We are hoping to do this again next year-so if you missed it this year, you can come next time!

Diane Friedberg, Chair Fundraising Committee

P.S.

From Rabbi Shapiro - It was a terrific evening. My thanks to the Kadis family and the Majestic Theater. Plus thank you to all the Sinai people who worked to give us such a "majestic" evening.



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

Israel @
60

Get connected! Get excited! Get ready...

Celebrate Israel's 60th Birthday at



HOOP IT UP FOR ISRAEL!

Celebrate Israel's 60th Birthday
at the Basketball Hall of Fame

May 18, 2008

Noon - 4:00 pm

Naismith Memorial
Basketball Hall of Fame

Play with the players!
Tal Brody & Micki Berkovitch
(the two most famous Maccabi Tel Aviv players)

Special Exhibit on
Basketball in Israel

Israeli Dance

Face Painting

Bounce House

Arts and Crafts

Israeli Food

Special addresses by
U.S. Congressman Richard Neal &
Nadav Tamir, Consul General
of Israel to New England

Sponsored By:



In Partnership With:

HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION



Go to www.jewishwesternmass.org for details

